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For immediate release  
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## Volunteers Sought for the St. Mary's River Cleanup April 8

Enjoy a wonderful hike or paddle while helping cleanup the St. Mary's River, Saturday, **April 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup hosted by the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. Volunteers will hike or paddle around Saint Inigoes State Forest on the St. Mary's River Water Trail. The public is invited to participate. Registration is required.



Volunteers pose with trash collected from the St. Mary's River on Saturday, April 5, 2014 before it is hauled off for proper disposal at the St. Andrew's Landfill. Thirty-seven volunteers pulled 11 tires, 82 bags of trash and recyclables, and 1,320 lbs. of loose trash from the St. Mary's River during the 6th Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup.

Last year, 19 volunteers walked or paddled their way along the St. Mary's River to rid her waters and banks of unsightly and hazardous trash. In addition to 16 bags of trash and recyclables, volunteers removed over 200 pounds of bulky items during the two-hour outing.

Registered participants will meet in the second parking area on the right as you enter the state forest, which is located at the end of Beachville Road, off MD Route 5, at 9:00 a.m. Bring your own drinking water, hat, and sunscreen – and a canoe or kayak, life vest, and paddling gear if you wish to paddle. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Help cleanup the St. Mary's River and improve your watershed!

Please text 301-904-2387 or email [info@StMarysRiver.org](mailto:info@StMarysRiver.org) to Register.



Trash and litter has negative effects in many areas of life in the region:

- it harms wildlife;
- costs taxpayers precious funds for cleanup and removal;
- is a public health threat by increasing breeding grounds for virus carrying insects and rodents;
- decreases property values; and
- hurts businesses, recreation, and tourism.

The St. Mary's River Cleanup is part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation 29th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, <http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/>. There are more than 600 cleanup sites in Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, and clean up days vary from site to site.