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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 94  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

February 16, 2023

## Annual Member's Meeting- March 18th

[Join or Renew](#)

Join us for our annual member's meeting where we'll hold nominations and elections for SMRWA's board of directors. This event is free and open to the public. If you'd like to become a member, please click [here](#).

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Save the Date!

10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 18, 2023  
Ruddy Duck Seafood & Alehouse—St. George Island  
Light Refreshments Served

Olivia Caretti (SMCM '14) will discuss her work at the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP). ORP is leading oyster restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay. In 2022, ORP and their partners completed phase one restoration on 25 acres of sanctuary reefs in the St. Mary's River, Maryland's fourth restoration tributary under the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Olivia will provide an overview of this accomplishment and discuss other ongoing work and opportunities for collaboration focused on the St. Mary's River.



### *A River Affair*



Mark your calendars for May 29th and enjoy frosty libations, great food, live music, and unique live auction items.

## Innovating Water Quality Monitoring in Southern Maryland

Norm and Shelly O'Foran are volunteers for the Friends of St. Clements Bay (FSCB) water quality monitoring program. Every other week, Norm, Shelly, and other volunteers travel to the streams and the bays of Breton Bay in kayaks to take water quality measurements and collect water samples for lab analysis. This process is time consuming. Remote water quality monitoring devices are very expensive, but Norm and Shelly are working on a better way.

Norm began the complicated process of designing his own water quality monitors. He's used open-source technology and individual water quality sensors to make buoys that can measure water temperature, pH, conductivity, salinity, total dissolved solids, and dissolved oxygen. These sensors transmit the





data to the internet using cellular.



Norm, Shelly (a retired teacher), and FSCB have been working with the Forrest Tech Center Natural Resource Management class to assemble and troubleshoot seven buoys for Breton Bay. When St. Mary's River Watershed Association learned about this project, we decided to start a similar project in the St. Mary's River.

Norm, Shelly, and SMRWA applied for the Oyster Innovation Grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust and received \$10,000 to add five water quality monitoring buoys to the St. Mary's River Oyster Sanctuary. We are planning to use the data collected from these buoys to improve oyster restoration success.



## Leonardtwn Rotary Supports Reef Ball Build at Greenwell Fishing Camp



With generous support from the Leonardtown Rotary, the St. Mary's River Watershed Association built 16 oyster reef balls with twenty-eight campers in the Greenwell State Park fishing camp. These hands-on learning activities provide the 7- to 12-year-olds the opportunity to improve the environment by building something tangible.



*Left: Future Bay Leader and Great Mills High School student intern, Morgan Watkins, helps Greenwell Foundation fishing campers use work tools at our build in July.*

Right: *Fred Millhiser teaches Greenwell State Park fishing campers about how oysters provide habitat for the fish they are hoping to catch at camp.*



OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We're on the web!

[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Save The Date:

- Shell Bagging  
9am- Noon March 11  
19089 Point Lookout Rd  
RSVP by text 301-904-2387
  
- Shell Bagging  
9am- Noon March 18  
19089 Point Lookout Rd  
RSVP by text 301-904-2387
  
- Bay2Bay Cage Building  
11am- 2 pm April 2  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Goodpasture Hall Loading Dock  
Inquire by text 301-904-2387
  
- St. Mary's River Clean Up  
9am- Noon April 15  
St. Mary's City  
RSVP by text 301-904-2387
  
- Earth Day Festival  
11am- 4pm April 22  
Somerset Farm, Hollywood

- *A River Affair*

May 29

[More Info/Buy Tickets](#)

Inquire by text 301-904-2387

- Crab Festival

10am- 7pm June 10

Fairgrounds

- Juneteenth Festival

Noon- 5pm June 17

Lancaster Park, Lexington Park



- 11am- 4pm September 23, 2023

Inquire by text 301-904-2387

[Learn more](#)

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