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WATERSHED WATCH

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

July 5, 2023

Future Bay Leaders 2023

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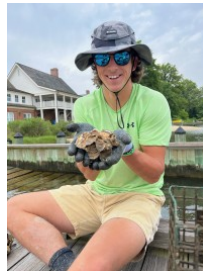
Save the Date!



11am - 4pm
September 23, 2023
Historic St Mary's City
[Learn more](#)



This summer, we welcomed four new interns to our team! In addition to our returning Field Technician, Morgan Watkins, SMRWA hired two new Field Technicians from St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM). Nathaniel Richardson is a rising senior at SMCM currently majoring in Marine Science, and Isabella "Bella" Ramirez is a rising sophomore who plans to major in Environmental Studies and Spanish.



Two students from Great Mills High School's STEM Academy began their STEM internship this year: Anna Redman and Wes Boyers. Over the next few months, these students will begin a capstone project which they will continue as a research paper during their senior year. You can read more about these Future Bay Leaders at <https://smrwa.org/board.html>. We are also lucky to have Michael Werblow, a dedicated volunteer and oyster enthusiast, join us two days a week.

College and high school interns participate in the Future Bay Leaders program, founded in 2013 by Executive Director, Bob Lewis. Throughout the summer they'll learn leadership and work skills through hands-on activities and projects.



Update: Remote Water Quality Monitoring Buoys are Deployed!

In our February newsletter, we introduced to two incredible volunteers, Norm and Shelly O'Foran. Thanks to funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Chesapeake Oyster Alliance, they've been hard at work building five remote water quality monitoring buoys for the St. Mary's River. Commercial remote water quality monitoring devices often cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000, but Norm and Shelly found a way to create similar devices for less than \$1,000.



The first three buoys have been deployed! Live data can be accessed on the [ThingSpeak website](#) under the *smrwa* tag, or can be found [here](#). SB-01 is located at the St. Mary's College of Maryland dock, and SB-02 and SB-03 are located west of Horseshoe Point and off Nach T farm, respectively, at two of the sites where we are currently restoring oysters. We are working to determine the accuracy of these devices (which is why they may be offline at times) and look forward to using the data collected from these buoys to improve oyster restoration success.



Reef Ball Build at Greenwell Fishing Camp

Last week, we completed our first of three reef ball builds with fishing campers at Greenwell State Park. The campers spent the early part of the week learning how to tie and cast a line and about the fish species that live in the Chesapeake Bay. On Wednesday, we introduced them to another Chesapeake Bay species, the Eastern

Oyster, and how they provide habitat for the fish they are hoping to catch. We also discussed their role as ecosystem engineers, natural filters, and an economic driver in our region.



After a short presentation with live oysters and the critters associated with them, the campers went to work building reef balls. They assembled the molds, mixed concrete, and poured six "perfect" reef balls.

We are so grateful to the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, Chaney Enterprises, and Greenwell State Park for giving these campers the opportunity to make a tangible difference in te St. Mary's River.



Save The Date:



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



[Join or Renew Today!](#)



• September 23, 2023
11am- 4pm
Historic St. Mary's City
Inquire by text 301-395-5757
[Learn more](#)

• Breton Bay Oyster Planting
September 30, 2023
10am- 12pm
Abell's Wharf
Inquire by text 301-395-5757

• US Oyster Festival
October 21-22
10am- 12pm
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

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