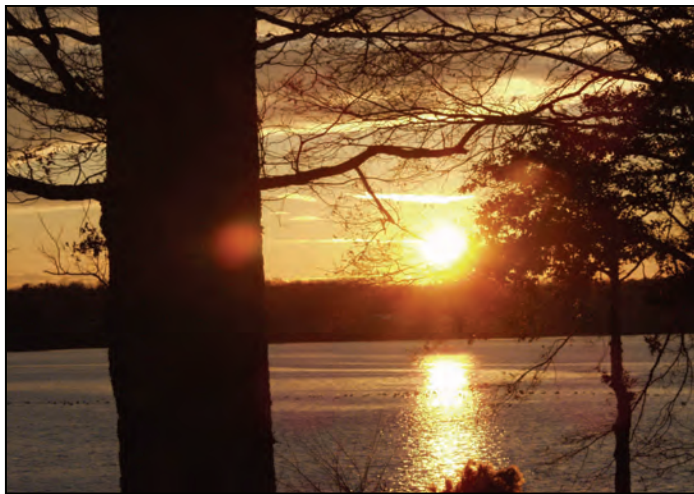




2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Background & Introduction

Beginning in 2002, a group of people gathered together in order to advocate for the St. Mary's River. They studied a sub-watershed—the Hilton Run. In 2004 with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, they published a *Management Plan for the Hilton Run Subwatershed*.

<http://www.smrwa.org/pub/HiltonRunPlan.html>

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was incorporated in March of 2005 and elected its first Board of Directors in April of that year. Nancy McAllister became the organization's first president. In March of 2006, the Association was granted non-profit status under section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Association protects, improves and promotes the well-being of the St. Mary's River watershed in ways that also revitalize the economic, social, and cultural health of the community.

The Association strives to establish a sustainable and beneficial relationship between the ecology of the St. Mary's River and the communities in the watershed.

Board of Directors

- Frank Allen
- Joe Anderson
- Raymond de Leon
- Will Gates
- Cindy Greb
- Jim Hardin
- Richard Holden
- Gary Hunt
- Suellen Keiner
- Nancy McAllister
- Bob Paul
- Joan Poor
- Todd Rudolph
- Roger Stone
- Jim Swift
- Elaine Szymkowiak
- Sue Veith
- David Waring
- Gary Williams
- Linda Williams



Morning view of the tidal St. Mary's River

Mission:

To Protect, Improve, and Promote the well-being of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

Executive Director

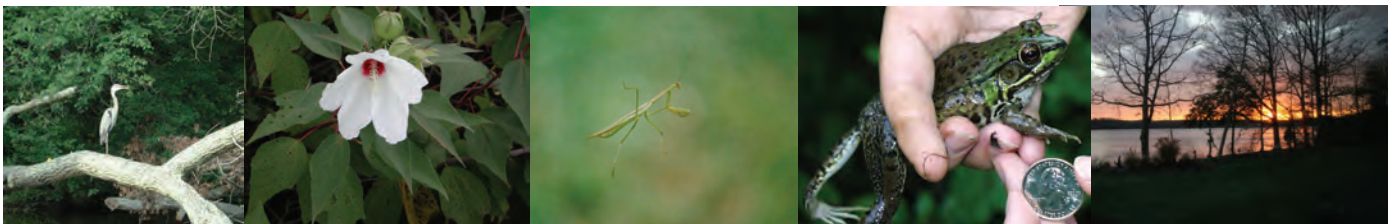
- Bob Lewis

Standing Committees—Chairpersons

- Membership—Ray de Leon 301-866-9322
- Public Policy—Suellen Keiner 301-862-3517
- Backyard Conservation—Frank Allen 301-862-3421
- RiverFest—Elaine Szymkowiak
- Strategic Planning—Gary Williams
- Development—Richard Holden

Oyster Recovery Assessment Project

- Roger Stone—Project Leader
- Bob Paul—Professional Advisor
- Henry Bush & Amy Drohan—Research Coordinators



The Watershed

wa-ter-shed - [waw-ter-shed, wot-er-shed]

the region or area drained by a river, stream, etc.; drainage area.

Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2006

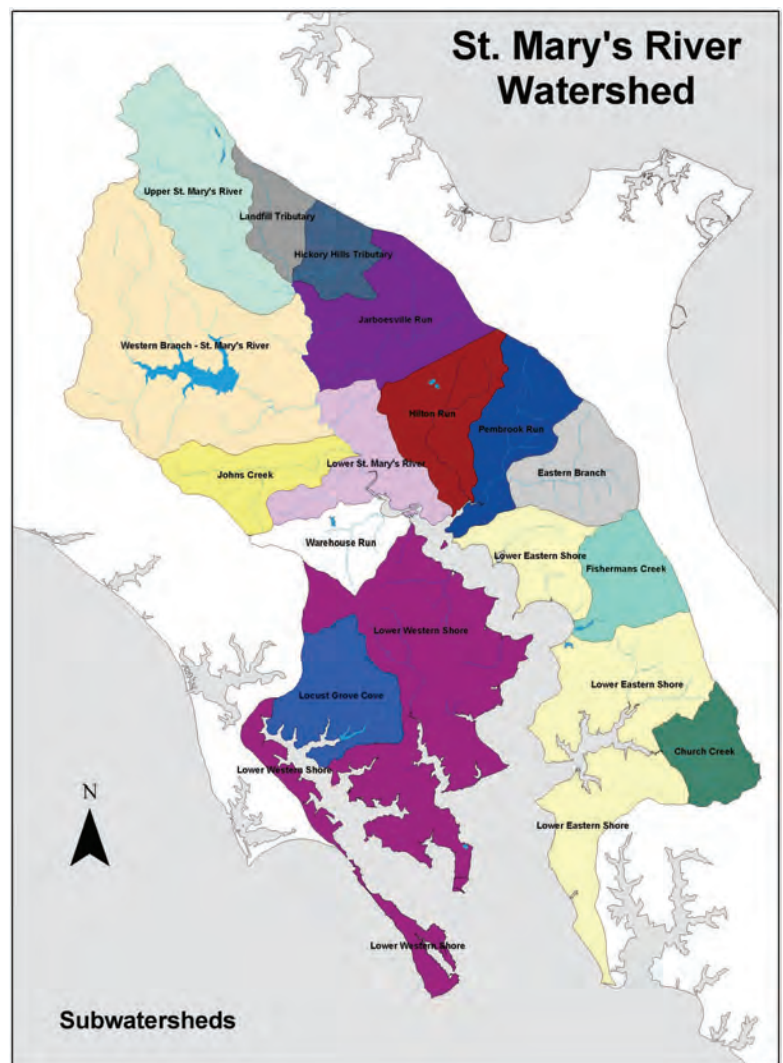
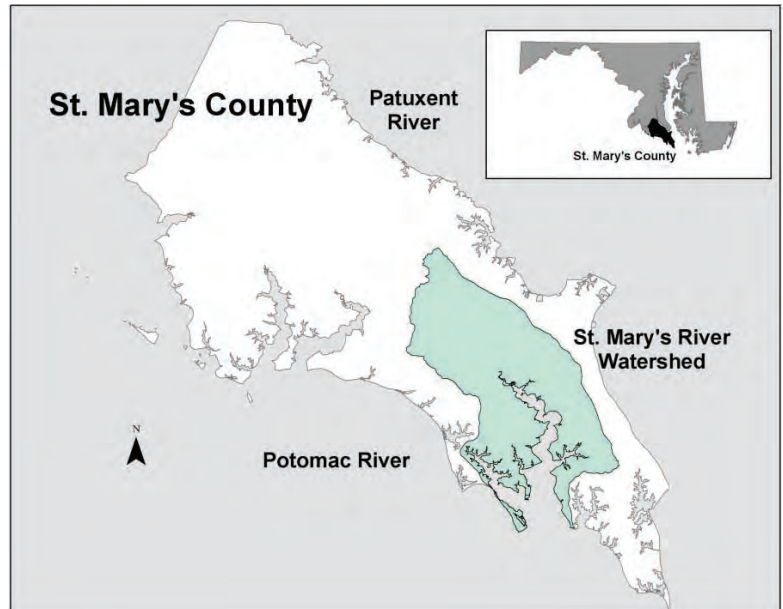
The 73.78 square mile St. Mary's River Watershed encompasses almost a quarter of St. Mary's County's 296 square miles. Over 100 miles of streams in 16 subwatersheds drain into the St. Mary's River before the river becomes tidal at Tippity Witchity Island. Other small streams give their fresh-water directly to the tidal estuary.

The estuary extends downstream from the island for about another eight miles before emptying into the Potomac River. The watershed extends from the Route 4 and Route 235 intersection south to St. George Island and Kitt's Point at the mouth of Smith creek.

Nearly half of the St. Mary's County population - 46,000 people - live within the St. Mary's River watershed. Development in the Lexington Park development district and along Route 235 corridor to California has been intensive in recent years, with resulting threats to its environmental health, particularly as a result of a rapid increase in paved or otherwise impervious surfaces making the river run faster and dirtier. Although the environmental quality of the St. Mary's River and its tributaries remains generally good, inappropriate management will lead to rapid deterioration with adverse economic as well as environmental consequences.

Visit us on the web:
www.SMRWA.org

Illustrations Courtesy St. Mary's River Project.



RiverFest

It was a fine, sunny day at the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab on St. George's Island where young and old alike enjoyed RiverFest. The estimated attendance of 800 partook of the food and drinks, and participated in activities highlighting the St. Mary's River's role and place in our vibrant community.

Throughout the day, *The Dee of St. Mary's* took groups of 50 people on rides around the river to showcase the natural beauty of the river and to inform the passengers about the river. Meanwhile on dry land many families enjoyed balloon animals from Mr. Bumblebritches the Clown on the lawn while others painted pumpkins inside the Field Lab building. The Department of Natural Resources wowed with its Birds of Prey exhibit featuring a Red-Tailed Hawk, and a Barred and a Screech Owl.

Musically, the day kicked off with Lois Stephenson and Michael Smith of *Indian Summer* and continued with Carrie and Michael Kline. After a short break the final band of the afternoon: Gary Rue, Dan Harbin and the Rounders played a fantastic set.

At the end of the day, winners were announced for the centerpiece of the event: The St. Mary's River Raffle. The 7th District Optimists Club won First Prize of a chartered fishing excursion on North Star Charter. Ms. Catherine Thompson won Second Prize of a Kayak, provided by Bike Doctor.

RiverFest 2007 was our largest and most successful ever and we are all already looking forward to next year's event, which will be held at a new location: Historic St. Mary's City.

Mark your calendars because RiverFest 2008 is going to be even better—September 27 at Historic St. Mary's City. **FREE ADMISSION**



Education, Advocacy, & Partnerships

The Association holds periodic forums to inform community members on conservation practices. In the spring of 2007 we began a new program designed to reach people in the workplace. *Brown Bag Lunch Workshops* proved to be a great opportunity to provide homeowners with green tools that could be practiced in their landscapes. Emphasizing the use of native plants—which provide adequate aesthetic and environmental qualities, as well as the ability to withstand the periodic stress of drought, tropical rainstorms, windstorms, and pests—homeowners gained valuable knowledge about the drawbacks of more typical imported plants such as honeysuckle, English Ivy, and Bradford pears. These plants, as well as many other non-natives, while quite hardy and able to thrive despite periodic pest invasions, aggressively spread and dominate the native flora, thereby changing the habitat. These newly altered habitats then fail to provide the necessary shelter and food for our native animals, and so they move away. Also emphasized are the negative effects of some of the more standard gardening practices such as the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which flow into our streams killing aquatic life forms. And don't forget to pick up that pest waste and dispose of it properly—placing it into the commode for treatment in our municipal treatment facilities or personal septic systems. While seeming to be a distasteful chore, pet waste is one of the more prevalent sources of pollutants to our streams. But it is easily solved with a bit of courage and a nose clip.

In the fall, a series of five Rain Barrel Workshops offered free rain barrels to new members or rain barrels at greatly reduced rates to member who renewed for an additional year. Forty-six rain barrels were distributed.

In the spring, we joined a new advocacy network, Maryland Stormwater Coalition, and actively advocated for strong and effective stormwater control regulations, which are being drafted by the Maryland Department of the Environment as a result of the 2007 Assembly's passage of the Maryland Stormwater Act. More than sixty organizations combined forces and provided valuable insight to the process, as well as leading several campaigns to lobby government officials. Our work is not done.

Another active pursuit of the Association was to meet and form partnerships with local land use professionals including planners, builders, developers, realtors, and financial institutions. Formal meetings and discussions took place with two developers leading to suggestions as to how to make their projects more friendly to the watershed. These meetings were very productive.



Groundbreaking ceremony at the new Silver Leed school, Evergreen Elementary School



Rain barrel workshop



Polar bear splash at St. Mary's College of Maryland



Oysters in the St. Mary's River

Introduction

Wholly contained within St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's River historically was one of the most pristine watersheds on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay and supported a commercially viable oyster fishery. Though still among the cleanest waterbodies on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay, the St. Mary's River watershed is beset by the consequences of rapid development in recent years: increasing pollution and erosion, and declines in water quality and biological diversity.

One important casualty in the St. Mary's River is the native oyster (*Cassostrea virginica*). In the mid-twentieth century the species remained so abundant in the river that the oysters "did not grow to large size, presumably because of overcrowding."¹ But by the mid-1980s the local mortality rate reached 80% for a combination of reasons including principally the arrival of the parasitic diseases MSX and Dermo.

Spat settlement on wild oyster reefs in the river has been poor in recent years, far from sufficient for the river to make a proportional contribution to Maryland's ambitious goal to increase oyster biomass tenfold by 2010 from a 1994 baseline. For this reason, wrote Dr. Donald W. Meritt, program director at the Horn Point Lab at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences, that "plans are to greatly expand efforts using hatcheries as tools for oyster rehabilitation in Maryland."

Richard Pelz, founder and proprietor of the Circle C Oyster Ranch on St. Jerome Creek in St. Mary's County, places seed oysters in plastic nets and attaches these to floats where they grow not on the seafloor but close to the surface, somewhat protected from blue crabs by polyurethane mesh. Over 15 years of oyster farming in St. Jerome Creek, though no scientific analysis confirms this, Pelz alleges biodiversity increases near Circle C's cluster of floats. Water quality has also improved, he claims.

The extent to which oysters can "clean up" water is often exaggerated: though their filtration ability is prodigious, they can filter only what comes to them. Nonetheless, Pelz says that improvements in St. Jerome Creek's water quality vouch for their impressive capabilities. The SMRWA-led oyster restoration project, conducted between the fall of 2006 and the fall of 2007, served the broad need to test these assertions and the efficacy of using this method to improve water quality and oyster production in the St. Mary's River. What follows is an abbreviated version of the scientific report prepared after the completion of extensive field studies and lab work.



Figure 1. Locations of SMRWA sites where Circle C oyster floats were placed.



Figure 2. Research coordinator, Henry Bush, pulls a float from the St. Mary's River while student volunteers record data.

Oysters in the St. Mary's River continued

Procedures

In the principal SMRWA experiment, ten Circle C kits (each including a 3' by 6' float, three bags containing a total of about 600 seed oysters and securing devices) were deployed in the river near St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) by October 30, 2006. Each of 10 waterfront homeowners who have docks along the St. Mary's River north of St. Inigoes Creek and south of the freshwater St. Mary's River (Tippity Witchity Island) agreed to "host" a Circle C float as well as an adjacent second float containing shells but no live oysters. Owners and locations (Figure 1) of these properties are as follows: Peter and Susan Messitte, Jim and Karen Nutter, Russell and Flavienne Crenshaw, Doug and Cynthia Gardiner, Gary and Linda Williams, Doug and Robin Cook, Richard Timbie / John and Gail Harmon, Tom Schmidt, Robert Maddox, and Elmer and Johnie Brown.

During the winter of 2007, while the live oysters in the floats remained dormant because of 40 degree F or lower temperature water the floats were given regular checks to assure moorings and floats were weathering the winter. Thanks to the combination of very cold weather, ice formation, and very low tides during February 2007, however, most of our original oysters literally froze to death. At three docks we experienced 100% mortality. At only two of the docks did high percentages of oysters survive. We replaced the dead oysters in the early spring of 2007.

Last summer we measured the diversity of organisms colonizing all oyster bags at each site on five different cruises. On each sampling date we left the college dock by 9d's a.m. and used the St. Mary's College of Maryland's 25 foot C-Hawk vessel to pull floats from the water.



Growing Oysters in the Mesocosm Tanks

Results

At the conclusion of preliminary experiments, we opened all bags used in all 10 trials. Our objective was to determine if there were significant differences between the bags with live oysters and between the bags with non-living shell. What became clear was that oyster shell that is contained in bags and fastened to floats develops a complex community of surface-dwelling organisms that is similar to a community that would be associated with naturally occurring oyster bars. More specifically, our experiment on the river—as well as smaller concurrent experiments conducted under more controllable conditions at the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab and at St. Mary's College of Maryland—confirm that:

- ⇒ In controlled experiments at CBFL, farm-raised Circle C oysters in bags out-performed bags that contained dead shell in filtering and removing material from the water. This may seem like a nonsensical result, but dead oyster shells are colonized by organisms that filter water just as oysters do. If this filtration is not assessed, then the results of other experiments can be misinterpreted.
- ⇒ In controlled lab experiments individual farm-raised Circle C oysters removed significantly greater amounts of sediments and algae from St. Mary's River water than did individual oysters from native oyster beds in the St. Mary's River.

We expected that the bags with living oyster shell, deployed on the river, would attract a different community of organisms compared to the dead bags. However, this was not the case; there was no difference in content between living and dead bags deployed on the floats. Therefore, the presence of living oysters does not make a significant difference in attracting organisms.

However, the community of organisms found in both living oyster bags and dead shell bags was quite similar to the community of organisms that would be associated with natural oyster bottom. Therefore, floating aquaculture bags provides a good habitat and refuge for other organisms in the estuary (mostly oyster bed-dwelling fish and invertebrates).

Visit us on the web:
www.SMRWA.org

Oysters in the St. Mary's River continued

The most important scientific finding of this study was that suspended bags of selectively-bred, Circle C oysters in the St. Mary's River behave very much like native oysters do in the bottom oyster beds. They attract the same surface-dwelling organisms, as well as motile invertebrates, and fish that one would find in bottom oyster communities. It seems that the structure of oyster shells within bags provides a good and complex habitat for colonization, regardless of whether the shell is alive or not. Therefore, **floats promote and sustain oyster reef biological diversity.**

We also found, to our considerable surprise, that non-



living shell (and its associated surface colonizing community) filters significant amounts of St. Mary's River water to remove total suspended solids (TSS). Living oysters, however, compared to their non-living counterparts, have a significantly greater capacity to remove TSS from the water column. While we expect that the water quality of the St. Mary's River could be drastically improved by using oyster aquaculture techniques and floats, it is unclear

how many floats would be necessary to purge the river of unwanted algae and sediments. Inorganic sediments washing into the river as a consequence of erosion and storm events need to be controlled in other ways.

It is also clear that selectively bred, Circle C oysters are **not the panacea** for all the ills that befall the native *Crassostrea virginica* oyster because winter mortality was significant in this project. This mortality also thwarted our attempts to study Circle C oyster growth in the St. Mary's River. While the reasons for the death of our oysters on floats remains obscure, we do know that using oysters on aquaculture floats has its own set of idiosyncratic problems. For example, native oysters are largely immune to the problem of long exposure to freezing air temperatures, but oysters stranded on floats during extremely low tides will likely be killed.

Financial Support

The major financial support needed to conduct our experiments came in the form of a \$35,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Most welcome supporting grants of \$5,000 each came from the Abell and Spring Creek Foundations and the project could not have been completed without the enthusiastic participation of numerous student and other volunteers.

Conclusion

As oyster aquaculture experiments proliferate around the Bay, we hope and expect that these results will provide guidance to others. Our full report will soon be posted on the SMRWA website, and also made available free of charge on a CD.

¹ Kennedy, Victor S. and Linda L. Breisch, "Maryland's Oysters: Research and Management." Maryland Sea Grant College, 1981



Field teams survey life forms associated with oyster floats to determine prevalence and diversity.



Fundraising & Planning

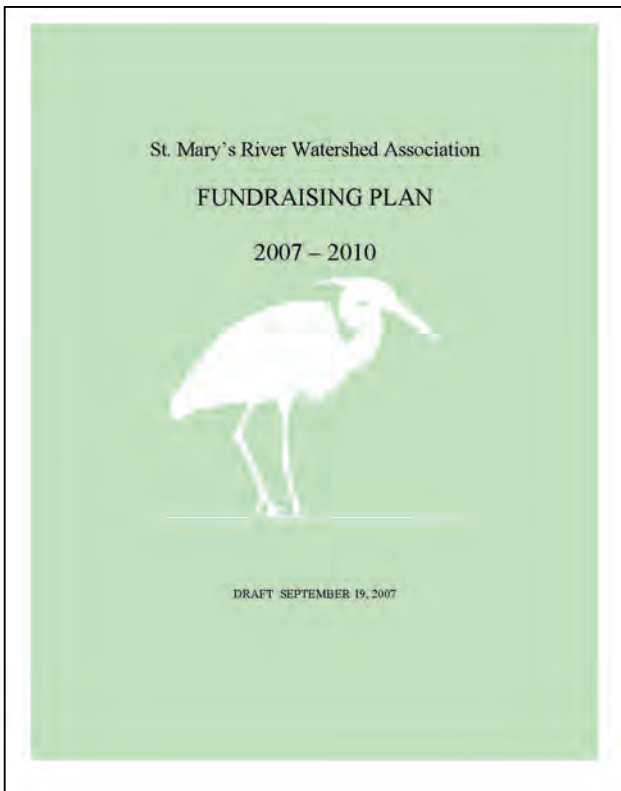
Fiscal growth is a vital part of any new organization. From our beginnings in 2004, our revenues increased substantially in 2005, 2006, and again in 2007. Expenses exceeded revenues in calendar year 2006 due to the fact that grant monies were received late in 2005.

In 2007, Government, Foundation, and Trust monies accounted for 75% of all revenues while individual dues and contributions contributed 16%. Our success in seeking grant awards was fundamental to our fiscal growth and our financial success.

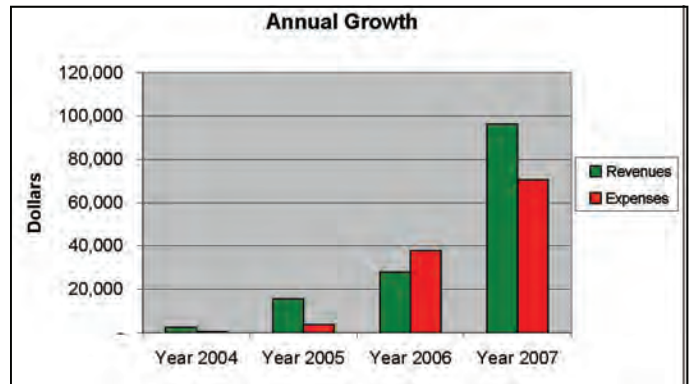
The Oyster Recovery Assessment Project made up the biggest portion of our expenses at 46%. Our second and third largest expenses were our fundraiser, RiverFest, and recruitment of new members—vital necessities for any new organization.

Under the leadership of Board member Richard Holden, the Association developed a fundraising plan. This plan stresses the need for reliable and unrestricted funding, and identified the best sources of that fund as you, our members and corporate partners. We urge you to review our fundraising plan. You can download it in Adobe PDF format at:

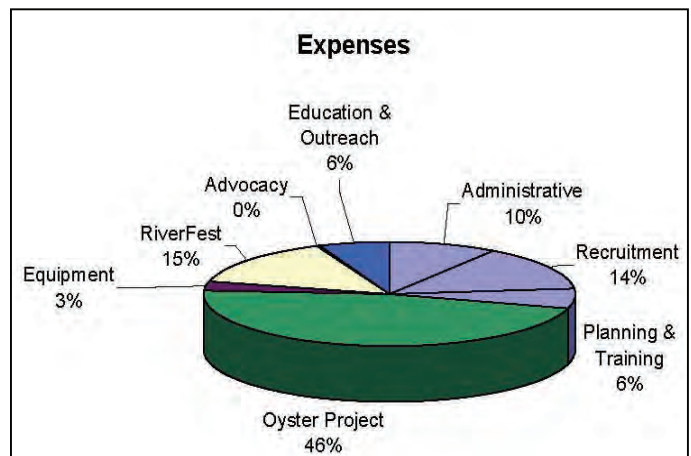
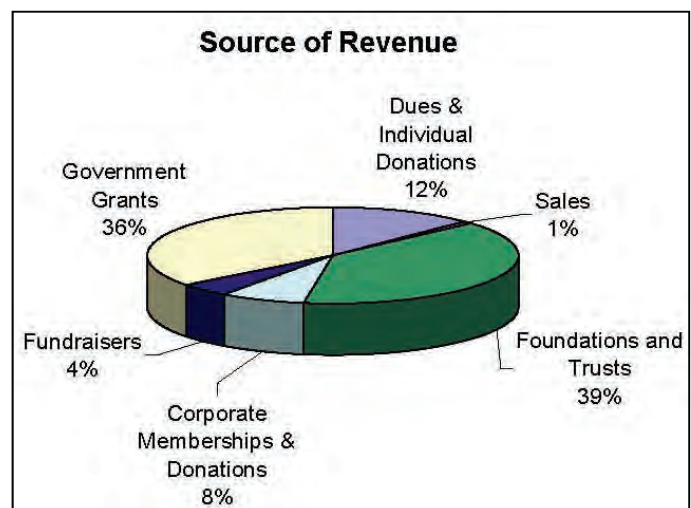
<http://www.smrwa.org/pdfdocs/FundraisingPlan2007-2010.pdf>



Download PDF-formatted Strategic Plan document at:
<http://www.smrwa.org/pdfdocs/FundraisingPlan2007-2010.pdf>



Note: Expenses outpaced revenues in 2006 due to the fact that program grant monies were received late in the year 2005.



Board of Directors

Frank Allen—Backyard Conservation

Frank is a physicist by training, now working in technology development for NAVAIR. Earlier job experience has included environmental engineering/industrial noise control, U. S. Coast Guard boat coxswain, commercial lobstering, and marina work. Frank sits on the St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment, and is vice president of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust. He and his wife, Christina, have a homestead in Park Hall where they raise sheep, chickens, and heritage turkeys as well as tending a large organic vegetable garden and fruit orchard.

Joe Anderson—President

Joe Anderson is the president of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from Tufts University, and is a program manager for the Computer Sciences Corporation in Lexington Park, Maryland. Joe came to St. Mary's County from Connecticut in 1974 as a Vista volunteer, and has devoted much of the last 30 years to community service. He served as a St. Mary's County Commissioner (1998-2002) and is a past member of the St. Mary's County Planning Commission.

Raymond de Leon—Membership

Raymond de Leon received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning. He is a strong advocate of improving local aquatic ecosystems through community outreach programs. Ray works as a Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist at Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. He enjoys being outdoors (running, camping, biking and playing soccer) with his wife and two children.

Will Gates

Captain Will Gates holds the title of "Maritime Curator" at the Historic St. Mary's City Museum, but is better known for his main responsibility as the Master (skipper) of the replica ship *Maryland Dove*. He has served in this capacity since 1989, having previously worked on the *Mayflower* replica in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and for several years in the educational windjammer trade. He apprenticed as a rigger at Mystic Seaport, and was later schooled in archaeology, but soon discovered that, as the bumper sticker says, "He'd rather be Sailing!"

Cindy Greb

Cindy Greb is a principle at Compass Pointe LLC, a local residential and commercial real estate development company.

Jim Hardin—Treasurer

Jim Hardin enjoyed a varied career with the federal government working with human tolerance thresholds for toxic substances. Now retired, Jim is the fencing coach at St. Mary's College of Maryland and advisor to the fencing club which meets three evenings a week. Jim and his first mate Suzanne enjoy sailing on the St. Mary's River and growing oysters in floats under their pier.

Richard Holden—Development

Richard Holden received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and completed the course work for a Masters in Education at Loyola in Baltimore before becoming a professional photographer. He was recently presented the Arthur B. Hansen Award by US Sailing for his part in the rescue of a fisherman off the coast of Florida. Racing in the Governor's Cup was his introduction to St. Mary's County. In 2002, Richard became a county resident. He now lives on the St. Mary's River in sight of the finish line of the race.

Gary Hunt

Gary Hunt received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a concentration in Limnology from Franklin Pierce College. He has worked as an environmental technician monitoring onsite fresh and salt marsh health and as quality control inspector and performance management analyst for strategic planning and change management. Gary chairs the Wildlife Habitat Environment Group-sponsored site team responsible for monitoring and enhancing 2000+ acres of Bay-front green space.



Photograph
Unavailable



Photograph
Unavailable

Board of Directors continued

Suellen Keiner—Public Policy

Suellen Keiner received a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center. She has worked as litigator, solicitor, counsel, and consultant for a variety of environmental and civil rights organizations. Currently, she serves as Chief Operating Officer for The State of the USA and she serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Israel's Environment and the Institute for Conservation Leadership, among others.

Nancy McAllister (founding President)

Nancy McAllister received a Master of Science in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland. She has taught middle and high school science. In her work with the non-profit Wildlife Habitat Council, she set up environmental education programs and outdoor classrooms for school systems across the country. Nancy was recently recognized by the Southern Maryland Audubon Society as the 2006 *Conservationist of the Year* for her work as founding president of the St. Mary's River Watershed

Bob Paul—Vice President

Bob Paul is the Steven Muller Distinguished Professor of Science and has been at St. Mary's College of Maryland since 1977. He received a Ph.D. in Zoology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His specialty includes aquatic ecology and the application of Geographical Information System (GIS) technology to land use and ecological problems. Since 1999, Bob has co-directed the St. Mary's River Project, a long-term, federally-funded water quality monitoring study of the St. Mary's River and its watershed. He serves on the St. Mary's

Joan Poor—Treasurer

Joan Poor received a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in natural and environmental resource economics. She is currently an Associate Professor of Economics and the Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Some of her current research activities include non-market valuation of the preservation benefits associated with cultural heritage sites, rural land-use and preservation issues, and valuation of local watershed quality and benefits.

Todd Rudolph

Todd Rudolph received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Washington University in St. Louis. He has taken to enjoying the fruits of the St. Mary's River since he moved to Lexington Park from Chicago with his wife. He is a lifelong environmentalist, a trait passed down by his outdoorsman father.

Roger Stone—Oyster Restoration

Roger Stone is a Yale University graduate and former US Naval Aviator. He worked as a news bureau chief and publishing executive at Time Magazine, later becoming Vice President for International Communications at the Chase Manhattan Bank, President of the Center for Inter-American Relations in New York, and Vice President for Communications at the World Wildlife Fund. Roger is the author of five published books on environmental-economic linkages and he serves on the Board for Sotterley Foundation and as CEO of the Washington DC-based Sustainable Development Institute.

Jim Swift

Since 1997, Jim Swift has worked as a Natural Resources Specialist at NAS Patuxent River. He is a 1995 graduate of Virginia Tech with degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. He has worked with the Institute for Bird Populations with their MAPS program and with the National Park Service as a part of their fisheries crew. Jim currently resides in the St. Mary's City area with his wife, Kristin, and their kids, Jake and Sadie.

Photograph
Unavailable



Board of Directors continued

Elaine Szymkowiak—RiverFest

Elaine Szymkowiak received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland. Since 1981, she has served as Biology Laboratory Coordinator and instructor in scanning electron microscopy at the College. She is the advisor to the student club, Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC). Elaine has an avid interest in conservation issues and a life long love of nature. She enjoys spending free time on outdoor activities including hiking, nature study, sailing, skiing and gardening.

Sue Veith

Sue Veith received a Bachelor of Science in architecture and a Masters in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. Sue served as a Critical Area reviewer and then as the Environmental Planner for St. Mary's County, the position that she still fills today. She is certified as a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and skilled in using GIS for site review and planning analysis. She serves as the vice-chair of the state's Coastal Watershed Resources Advisory Committee. She loves sailing, gardening, and just "being outdoors."

David Waring

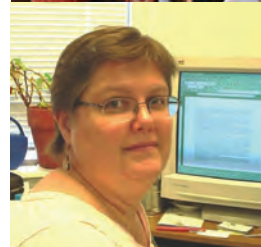
David Waring received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Economics, and History from Western Maryland College. A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, he has been a real estate professional since graduating. David has been involved with Maryland's Tributary Strategies Teams for the past 10 years and currently serves as Vice Chair for the Lower Potomac Trib Team. Public outreach and education have been in the forefront of David's efforts in Annapolis.

Gary Williams—Strategic Planning

Gary Williams is a senior associate with The Clark Group in Washington DC, an adjunct professor at St. Mary's College (teaching Environmental Sociology), and a lead instructor with the Duke Environmental Leadership Program at Duke's Nicholas School of Environment. He is currently serving on the Advisory Board for Christmas in April and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity where he is currently President.

Linda Williams—Secretary

Linda Williams retired as an award-winning elementary school teacher in Arlington County, Virginia. She was a founding teacher in the Arlington Science Focus School and established their "Investigation Station" Science and Engineering Lab. She has taught the Oyster Bar Community section in the shoreside program at the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab, including hand-tonging for oysters, since spring 2003. She is a Master Gardener, former Vice President of the St. Mary's Garden Club, and active in her church.



**Show Your Passion
Buy The Plate**

The popular Treasure the Chesapeake license plate is now bolder and brighter and features both the blue heron and the Maryland blue crab.



Staff & Affiliates

Bob Lewis—Executive Director

Bob Lewis received a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and Music Composition from the State University of New York, as well as certificates in arts administration, personnel management, and communications technology. He was recognized in 2006 as the *Environmentalist of the Year* by the Potomac River Association. Bob holds three awards for service from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He currently serves on the boards of the Potomac River Association (former Co-President), the St. Mary's County Branch of the NAACP, and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions. In 2006, Bob chaired the Cultural Diversity Task Force for the county superintendent of public schools.

Henry Bush—Research Coordinator

Henry Bush received a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Resources from the University of Vermont. He served as lead technician for the Louisiana University Marine Consortium monitoring program and as marine technician on board the research vessel, Pelican. He currently serves as Research Coordinator for the St. Mary's River Project at St. Mary's College of Maryland and as Research Coordinator for the Oyster Restoration Assessment Project.

Amy Drohan—Research Coordinator

Amy Drohan received a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science from Richard Stockton State College and her Masters of Science in Biology from Hofstra University while working for the Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium in Brooklyn. Her thesis researched the synergistic effects of high temperature and UV-B light on a soft coral found in the Caribbean. Amy joined the St. Mary's River Project in the summer of 2007 as its new Aquatic Biologist/ Research Coordinator.



Partnerships & Major Donors

Major Donors, Grants, and Corporate Sponsors

- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Abell Foundation
- Spring Creek Foundation
- Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The Community Foundation
- Eagan McAllister Associates
- Computer Science Corporation
- Chaney Enterprises
- Cook's Liquor & Deli
- Bailey's Party Rentals
- WLP Consulting
- The Greenery
- United Site Services
- Hewitt's Service Center
- Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
- Silver Hill Farm
- David A. Reumont, CPA, PC
- Maryland Bank & Trust
- Planet
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Ramberg Design
- North Star Charters
- Cherry Cove
- Hewitt's Service Center
- Bike Doctor
- Chesapeake Custom Embroidery
- Glazed Pines / Liberty Homes
- Wayne's Signs
- Hillside Ride at Breton Bay
- bluehaven piers
- Tidewater Dental
- United Site Services
- Sawyer & Meyerberg
- Denise Pennell Hair Stylist
- Panera's
- hair it is
- Hilltop Graphics
- Cheeseburger Paradise

Affiliations and Memberships

- St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce
- Patuxent Partnership
- Chesapeake Bay Field Lab
- Potomac Riverkeeper
- Potomac River Association
- River Network
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Institute for Conservation Leadership
- St. Mary's Parish Outreach Committee
- St. Mary's County Garden Club
-



Membership

Association Members

- Support the Association's work to improve the watershed through education, research, and restoration.
- Experience opportunities to know and appreciate the St. Mary's River and its environs and learn what can be done to keep it healthy.
- Enjoy quarterly newsletter with articles about research, upcoming events, and ways to be a smart consumer while helping our environment.

Membership Growth

The Association began in 2004 with a vision and fourteen people. Under the guidance and non-profit status of the Washington DC-based *Sustainable Development Institute*, membership grew to 43 during 2005.

With the help of a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant, the Association was able to build its membership to more than 500 by the end of 2007.

How to Join

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association welcomes new members!

Please fill out the form below and mail it, with your check payable to "SMRWA," to:

St. Mary's River Watershed Association
 PO Box 94
 St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Contact us at:
 Voice: (301) 862-3517
 E-mail: smwatershed@yahoo.com



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to become an active member/volunteer. Please keep me informed of ways I can help!

\$50 Family \$35 Individual \$20 Senior \$10 Student Other \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____
OPTIONAL

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____
OPTIONAL

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

I would like to volunteer. My interest is in _____

Suggested Corporate Membership is \$500