



` * * * * * * * PRESS RELEASE * * * * * * *

For immediate release November 11, 2015

Contact: Bob Lewis 301-904-2387 or Joe Anderson 301-737-5708

Patagonia Awards Grant for Oyster Reef Project

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was honored at Patagonia's Washington DC store last month with a grant earmarked for the oyster reef restoration project located adjacent to St. Mary's College of Maryland.



"We are awarding you a grant of \$11,453 to be used on your Oyster Reef Sustainability Project. We are excited to be able to support St. Mary's River Watershed Association's work," said Rebecca Goodstein, Patagonia's Washington DC environmental coordinator for the region.

Since 1973, Patagonia has awarded more than \$70 million in cash and in-kind services to thousands of community-based groups working to create positive change for the planet in their own

backyards. The grants are modest, averaging less than \$8,400, and are awarded to organizations that identify and work on the root causes of problems and approach issues with a commitment to long-term change, according to criteria published on their website www.Patagonia.com. "Because we believe that the most direct path to real change is through building grassroots momentum, our funding focuses on organizations that create a strong base of citizen support."

This year Patagonia awarded \$6.2 million to 741 organizations in the United States, Canada, Japan, Chile, Argentina, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Germany, France, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Australia and the Czech Republic. For applicants within a Patagonia retail outlet's reach, store employees are tasked with the decision of who gets grants and how much to award.

"We have about \$34,000 to give away this fiscal year in two rounds—October and February," said DC store manager Mark Stevens at the award presentation. "This round we awarded nearly \$18,000 to five organizations. My staff was so excited when they reviewed the St. Mary's River proposal. It is something they all want to get involved in, 'I want to do this' was their chant. It was certainly our #1 pick."

"We are honored to receive this generous grant from Patagonia, an international corporation that's founded on the principle of sustainability and gives back 1% of gross revenue to the community," said Association president Joe Anderson. "In return we ask our members and all who care about the St. Mary's River to drop in at Patagonia's DC store in Georgetown and thank them for supporting the St. Mary's River oyster reef project. Please support them with your business."



"I enjoyed meeting some of the DC store's staff—they are so excited and committed to helping us on the reef project," said Bob Lewis who serves as executive director for the Association. "The reef project is an enormous undertaking for us and we need all the helpers we can get."

The oyster reef project is a partnership project of the Leonardtown Rotary Club, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. Already more than 950 volunteers have worked on the project over the past three years. Please call 301-737-2903 or email info@StMarysRiver.org to join our volunteer call list. Youth groups and school groups are encouraged to get involved.

PHOTO CAPTION: Patagonia store manager Mark Stevens (left) awards a grant for \$11,453 to St. Mary's River Watershed Association for continuing their work on the five-acre oyster reef project adjacent to St. Mary's College of Maryland. Executive director Bob Lewis (right) received the award at the DC store last month.