



# Watershed Watch

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

Volume 8, Issue 2  
September 2013

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT—

Dear Friends of the St. Mary's,

I hope you all are well as the summer of 2013 grudgingly gives up its grip on St. Mary's County, and fall winds from Canada begin to cool our night air and make sleeping a pleasure once again.

Dedication. Passion. Hard work. Results. . . . . These words pretty much sum up our summer's work on the St. Mary's River.

Bob Lewis and his energetic crew of staff, interns, hundreds of volunteers accomplished more than one would think possible during this past summer.

Together our St. Mary's River team filled 1800 bags with shell and struck spat onto them, installed four rain gardens, constructed over 400 reef balls, collected and planted over 600 Marylanders Grow Oysters cages into our river, filled and redistributed 600 MGO cages for folks to grow this coming year, manually constructed one reef ball mound and one concrete rubble mound for the oyster reef, assisted our contractor, Colliflower Peterson, in the construction of six more reef mounds, performed 8 weeks of sediment and water quality monitoring, and if that wasn't enough, planted over five million baby oysters in the St. Mary's River. And this is just some of the things they accomplished.

The river sends special thanks to our indomitable executive director, Bob Lewis and our summer team – Allison Rugilla, David Wood, Levi Willett, Ken Gill, Jared Kimmey, and Matthew Mitchell who worked in the sun,

rain, and wind, and endured countless jellyfish stings to make the river's future brighter.

For those of us who live on the river, or enjoy it for fishing, boating, swimming, bird watching or contemplation – the results of years of hard work are tangible – the St. Mary's is getting cleaner.

And we were especially blessed this summer by the generosity of our friends in the community, which allows us to do what we do for the river.

In June, Richard Holden and his crew put together the very best "A River Affair" yet, which was enjoyed by hundreds of our friends, and to top it off in July, our good friends Michael and Lisa Kelly, and Carlos and Emily Yanez hosted a special opening of their terrific new restaurant on St. George Island, "The Ruddy Duck Seafood and Alehouse," and generously donated the proceeds from that evening to the Watershed Association. Please stop by The Ruddy Duck when you can and enjoy the great food, service and incomparable views.

Great staff, great board, great volunteers, great community, great river.

Thanks again for all you do and I'll see you on the river, or as was often the case with Bob Lewis this summer, in the river.

Take care,  
Joe



*Joe Anderson*

### Special points of interest:

- *Riverfest 2013 - Sept. 21, 11 – 4 p.m. at Historic St. Mary's City - Free Admission*

### Inside this issue:

Oyster Reef	2
A River Affair	3
Ruddy Duck Launch	3
Upcoming Events	4



## Oyster Reef

The five-acre oyster reef installation continues to move forward and has now entered the second phase of the design created by St. Mary's College of Maryland professors Chris Tanner and Bob Paul.

Following the installation of the first six mounds in March of this year, volunteers have helped with installing veneers of oyster shell and spat on shell onto the reefs and have begun construction on a second set of six mounds, having completed two by press time.

In April, the Rotaract students from St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) veneered two concrete rubble and reef ball mounds with 135 bushels of shell.

In May, the Leonardtown High School National Honors Society students began their morning moving 14 tons of concrete rubble to the college waterfront, loading it onto a barge (all 14 tons), installing it as a mound in the St. Mary's River, and then veneering the new mound with 75,000 oysters grown in cages by volunteers in the Marylanders Grow Oysters program. Jim & Karen Nutter donated the rubble from their former patio floor.

In June, the SMCM class, Environmental Science & Justice for the Chesapeake, planted 30,000 oysters grown in our nursery tank onto two mounds which were installed March by contractor Colliflower & Peterson Inc.

Also in June, 44 student delegates from Leadership Southern Maryland LEAD Teen Leadership program planted the oysters from the remaining 600 MGO cages onto the adjacent flat bar (experiment control), adding approximately 600,000 oysters.

In July and August, our staff began building the next reef ball mound, consisting of 31 reef balls all placed by hand and the next concrete rubble mound with concrete remnants from the reef ball manufacturing project (see next newsletter). Ongoing water quality monitoring, sedimentation study, and spat recruitment and growth study are also underway in partnership with the SMCM and local Rotary clubs.

August witnessed the return of our contractor, Colliflower & Peterson, installing the third six reef mounds in deeper water. As we continue this project, we will be seeking more volunteer effort from our community to complete phase 2 and monitor the benefits of this project on the St. Mary's River.

We are grateful to so many for keeping this project going through their generosity—most notable the local Rotary Clubs, Colliflower & Peterson, Carruth & Son, Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.



*SMCM Rotaract shell veneering with volunteer videographer David Taylor of Phocus Video Communications. (April)*



*LEAD delegates plant oysters from MGO cages. (June)*



*NHS students build concrete rubble mound as volunteer captain Charlie Sirico looks on. (May)*

# A River Affair—again a huge success

Hats off to Event Director Richard Holden and his event committee for an outstanding fundraiser brunch and auction, which was held June 2nd at Historic St. Mary’s City. Expressions of St. Mary’s provided excellent treats complimented by Slack wines and brews from Guy Distributing.

The weather was perfect and the crowd was generous thus providing gross revenues for the day of about \$28,000, which will be used to continue to restore the St. Mary’s River. Top “prizes” included all transportation costs and a week’s stay in Pagosa Springs Colorado, dinner for four at Restaurant Nora (America’s First Certified Organic Restaurant), and a Colby Caldwell photograph. More than sixty winners left with their prizes and smiles on their faces. All of the auction items were donated by more than 40 generous supporters of our Association.



Perennial water rat, Bob Lewis, was the honoree this year and was also recognized by the county commissioners, the Maryland Senate and House, Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, Congressman Steny Hoyer, and most notably—Bob was bestowed the honor of “Chesapeake Bay Ambassador” by Governor Martin O’Malley.

We’d love to recognize each and every volunteer, donor, and bidder—but paper costs money and this newsletter would become a book. So thanks to everyone who participated in this very successful day!

## Ruddy Duck Dinner

Ruddy Duck Seafood & Alehouse on St. Georges Island held an invitation-only “launch” dinner on July 25th in which those that dined were asked to make a donation to the St. Mary’s River Watershed Association. The dinner generated \$3,270 in support of a cleaner river.



Everyone was delighted with the microbrews and the fine food, many folks complimenting the staff in person before leaving the establishment. The official grand opening followed the next evening.

A hearty thank you to Michael & Lisa Kelley and Carlos & Emily Yanez for thinking of us and hosting a superb event!

Please support the Ruddy Duck Seafood and Alehouse on St. George Island.

### I would like to become a member of the SMRWA

Annual Membership Options	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$1,003.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$303.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$103.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate <i>suggested</i>	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer an electronic newsletter.

Please make checks payable to: St. Mary’s River Watershed Association and mail this form along with your check to:

SMRWA  
PO Box 94  
St. Mary’s City, MD 20686

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone



**OUR 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,



**Upcoming events:**

- *Currently*—MGO cage distribution—please call us right away if you have not gotten your cages! c301-247-6047
- September 9 through 20—volunteers build oyster reef mounds on weekdays—please call or email us to volunteer.
- September 21, 11 AM until 4 PM RiverFest—A Celebration of the St. Mary's River—at Historic St. Mary's City. *Free Admission*
- October 7th on—TBD—we will be building and veneering mounds for the oyster reef project.



HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

