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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

December 23, 2015

Happy Holidays!

Rain Gardens

Get 'Em While They're Hot!

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Rain Gardens

Sanctuary Stewardship

Annual Membership
Drive

**Need a Last
Minute Christmas
Gift?**



On Friday, October 31, volunteers helped install a rain garden in our watershed for homeowners, Bill and Kathryn Fry. On Monday, December 22, we installed another rain garden for homeowners, Owen and Barb Lewis. Both of these rain gardens will serve to clean our waterways; the Fry garden captures the runoff from their new garage and half of the house and the Lewis rain garden captures all the rain from their entire home. Thanks to all of our diligent volunteers as many hands make for light work!



A satisfying gift to a healthier St. Mary's River - one Reef Ball will be etched with the giftee's name and installed into the St. Mary's River where up to 1000 oysters will

You can have your very own rain garden too! A rain garden is a natural water filtration system. The gardens that we install are made up of native plants and bark mulch. Each garden is

make it their home.
[Download form.](#) or
[purchase online:](#)
Download and print this
graphic for under your
tree.



To:

With
Love,



designed professionally taking into account the soil condition, impervious area treated, and the topography. Rain gardens beautify your landscape and help tremendously with reducing runoff pollution, which would otherwise go directly into our beloved river. Our program is 50-50 cost share with the homeowner (up to a cap amount). If you are interested, please contact us about a soil infiltration survey and location consultation. You must be within the St. Mary's River watershed to qualify for the program. If installation is not an option for you but would still like to help, volunteers are always welcomed and greatly appreciated! Contact us at (301) 737-2903 or through [Facebook](#).

[Please email us today!](#)

Catch a Poacher Hotline

1-800-635-6124

Oyster Sanctuary Stewardship

On Thursday, December 10 members of Save our Sanctuary (SOS) and the St. Mary's River Watershed Association attended a meeting to learn how to be good stewards of our oyster sanctuary. Maryland permits oyster aquaculture operations within the sanctuaries. This creates a concern because the public has little ability to determine whether authorized operations or poaching is happening when they see work vessels out in the sanctuary.

The talk, "Catch a Poacher," was presented by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. DNR staffers, Karl Rascher and Katie Busch, handed out information and talked about who to contact if we think someone is poaching. They also listed some of the regulations the aquaculture lease holders must follow (including a 48 hour notification to DNR before dredging on private leases with a sanctuary), and how DNR is watching the sanctuaries by camera. They discussed the monthly reports that lease holders must turned into DNR. Those reports track the work being done on the lease area and if no work is done (or reports are not sent in) for an entire year, the lease will be revoked. This is a new regulation and has already been implemented a few times.



Dredging seed oysters in the upper St. Mary's River in 1966 - Captain Art Daniels maneuvers the heavily laden skipjack *City of Crisfield* while the buyboats *Sarah Conway* and *Carol Ann* watch from a distance. Some days back in the sixties as many as fifteen schooners could be seen dredging in the St. Mary's River.

One of the frustrations for those attending was that there is no list of the boats that will be working leases in the St. Mary's River. Attendees were told to watch for "normal" activity and then report any deviation from that activity. When in doubt, though, all are asked to call the Poacher Hotline at 1-800-635-6124. Give a description of the vessel and , if possible, report the license number which is usually displayed on the side of the hull or cabin.

Year End Campaign & Membership Drive

We are grateful for your support and generosity. Your support makes what we do possible!

St. Mary's River Watershed Association is currently in the middle of their annual membership drive. Your membership dues and donations enable us to carry out projects that help the environment. Please read our [2015 Year in Review](#).

[Donate Now](#)

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association's mission is 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. The Association is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) non-profit

organization and our federal identification number is 20-2518203. Your donation to us is tax deductible!



We're on the web!
www.smrwa.org



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Upcoming Events:

- TBA - An Oyster Lovers Social will be held in March at the Ruddy Duck
- St. Mary's River Clean Up
9:00 April 16
RSVP
- TBA - *A River Affair*
May-June timeframe - stay tuned
- RiverFest
11:00 to 4:00 September 24
Historic St. Mary's City

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