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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

August 16, 2016

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Oyster Restoration and Oyster Sanctuary Effectiveness

INSIDE THIS EDITION

[Oyster Report](#)

[Call for Garden Hosts](#)

[Ken's Back!](#)

Last January, Governor Hogan dismissed the Army Corps from continuing restoration of tributaries on the Eastern Shore saying that until we had a long-expected five-year report on the matter, Maryland was suspending the program. That report is now in and can be found at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/oysters/5-Year-Oyster-Review-Report.aspx>



NEXT VOLUNTEER EVENT

SATURDAY, AUG 27
MGO CAGE REFILL
11:30AM - 1PM
COLLEGE
WATERFRONT call 301-
904-2387
or email
info@stmarysriver.org
for more information.





In summary, the report states that most of Maryland's sanctuaries are performing well with an increase in biomass and multiple class animals (different age groups). Sanctuaries that have been restored by the Corps over the past three years have been extremely successful, according to the report, bringing Governor's Hogan decision to suspend restoration into question.

The report also suggested that sanctuaries that were ineffective could be returned to the public fishery for harvest. In this case the report suggested other more viable acreage should become sanctuary to offset the loss. In all, Maryland should maintain 20% to 30% of its thriving oyster bars in sanctuaries.

The report lists the St. Mary's River as a Tier 1 sanctuary—the highest ranking awarded to any sanctuary—with an increase in biomass and excellent recruitment over the past five years (2011-2015).

Calling All St. Mary's River Watershed Homeowners! Rain Garden Installation

There are numerous ways to positively impact our beloved river from collecting trash to arresting rainwater runoff *before* it reaches the river. Rain gardens are one type of storm water mitigation practices that helps manage the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen—two of the leading pollutants in our river—before they become a detriment to the wildlife inhabiting the St. Mary's River and its watershed.

This summer alone, we have installed six sizable rain gardens throughout the watershed! The great news is that it's not too late: YOU could have one this fall with our compromising 50/50 cost share program! This natural water filtration system is not only aesthetically appealing, but also a big help in

reducing runoff by catching storm water from impervious surfaces on your property, such as your roof or driveway, and filtering it through plant use and organic materials. And best of all—we still have grant funding to assist you in designing and building your dream rain garden!



St. Mary's County might not have the most forgiving soils, but don't let that discourage you. We would be more than happy to come and survey your property and assess whether or not you could be the new owner of your very own rain garden. You must be within our watershed to qualify for our program. If you are interested, are unsure about your location qualifications, or have questions concerning a rain garden, please contact us at

Email: meghan.m.webster@gmail.com

Phone: (301) 904-2387 | [Facebook](#)

A Little Dirt Never Hurt Nobody

A familiar face lent a helping hand in our sixth rain garden installation of the summer. Former Program Director, Ken Gill, spent his week back home from college playing in the mud (helping us dig a depression for this garden). "Whenever I'm on my way home, it's probably a good idea to check with Bob and see what he has planned and how I can help," said Gill excitedly. His enthusiasm for the Association's work is commendable and Ken will be dearly missed as he heads back to University of Oklahoma, where he's studying environmental policy and non-profit management.

Don't be bashful! Be like Ken — come help us out!



Upcoming Events:

- **SMCM Orientation/
MGO Redistribution**
August 27
11:30 to 3:00
St. Mary's College waterfront

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



• 11:00 to 4:00 September 24
Historic St. Mary's City

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

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