

PLEASE BE SURE TO ADD NEWSLETTER@SMRWA.ORG TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK.
TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, SCROLL TO BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.



WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PO Box 94
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

May 21, 2020

[Join or Renew](#)

A River Affair

You're Invited!

Online Conversation In Lieu of Gathering

[INSIDE THIS EDITION](#)

- >>Operations Resume
- >>A River Affair Online Social

We are very disappointed to be cancelling our annual fundraiser, A River Affair, initially on the calendar for Memorial Day, Monday May 25. We always look forward to this event which gives us a chance to be together to celebrate and support our St. Mary's River.

A River Affair

Monday, May 25, 2020
Event gathering cancelled



In lieu of A River Affair, on May 25 beginning at 1:30 PM we will host an informal Zoom meeting social. You are invited to "attend" and to speak on your concerns and your desires. Tell us how you can continue to assist us in protecting our St. Mary's River. We will answer questions, talk about topics you suggest, and show a few very brief videos of our past programming. Login

information is below.

Our members, partners, and supporters are so important to us. Donations from you provide 40% of our annual revenues and are essential to our success. A River Affair provides most of this revenue



share thanks to your and others' willingness to attend this exciting event to support our programming. In light of the fact that A River Affair will not be held this year, we are asking you to support us through your donation either online or mailed to us in the enclosed envelope. Your generous donation, hopefully in line with what you had budgeted to spend to attend and at A River Affair, is critical in this time of limited funding potential and increased threats to our St. Mary's River.

Your [donation](#) will support a number of important projects that are continuing to be implemented throughout this pandemic crisis.

- Our oyster nursery will operate at the college waterfront setting over four million oysters onto oyster shells.
- In partnership with Friends of St. Clement's Bay (who provided the labor), one million spat will be donated to the Friends and will be planted in Breton Bay at Lover's Point - adding to the plantings there over the past three years.
- 3 ½ million spat-on-shell will be planted in the St. Mary's River shellfish sanctuary on sites that the State will not restore during their large-scale restoration efforts.
- The third annual spatfall survey, or Recruitment Study, will be completed in partnership with St. Mary's College of Maryland and Maryland DNR Shellfish Division. Data generated will inform 1) science regarding larval drift and settlement, 2) industry decisions on reserve areas and public harvest, and 3) policy decisions on oyster fishery management.
- We will continue to effectively advocate for better fisheries management and press for credible and enforceable restrictions on seafood harvests in areas of pollution.
- We will contract an EPA-certified laboratory to test St. Mary's River waters and oysters for PFAS compound pollutants in order to determine if there is a threat to safety. If the test results



indicate PFAS contaminants, we will aggressively pressure the Maryland Department of the Environment to post warnings. Additionally, we will insist that MDE pursue further testing in order to identify the source and to clean up this dangerous pollutant.

- Communications with our members and constituents is an essential program and we will continue to inform the public of our programming and our findings.



Hannah Jarboe launches a reef ball while Jack O'Brien and Lisabeth Stewart look on waiting to position it on the river bottom.

Our members and partners are essential to our success. We rely on your generosity and your commitment to fulfill our mission: 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. We are in a time of crisis as the pandemic threatens our health and safety, our economic well-being, and our environment. Funding for environmental protection is at risk putting our long term goals in jeopardy. Your support at this time is necessary so that we can continue to make strides, to push forward with restoring the St. Mary's River. To let up on our aggressive programming is to move backward in

time—we must push forward.

As you consider a mid-year donation in lieu of attending or supporting A River Affair, we ask that you reach deep and give at the highest level you can afford. Remember you are saving on ticket costs and you won't be spending on auction items, which so many of you are perennial winners.

We hope you will join us on the 25th at 1:30 pm to celebrate our river virtually-favorite libation in hand if you wish.

We are grateful for your support. Please use the enclosed envelope to return your donation to us. Or you can donate via PayPal online at www.SMRWA.org and click on the [DONATE NOW](#) button at the top left. To choose your level of support, on the next page click on the "Donate" button and enter your amount. Let's all be winners in 2020. Thank you!

SMRWA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: A River Affair - Informal Social

Time: May 25, 2020 01:30 PM to 2:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84865375407?
pwd=TWdySjNvY01HZ0JXcUFRUm5LdDZndz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84865375407?pwd=TWdySjNvY01HZ0JXcUFRUm5LdDZndz09)

Meeting ID: 848 6537 5407

Password: 301705

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84865375407#,,1#,301705# US (Germantown)
+19292056099,,84865375407#,,1#,301705# US (New York)

Dial in +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 848 6537 5407

Password: 301705

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcQsydi0Yc>



OUR MISSION

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.

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Upcoming Events:

- A River Affair
Gathering Cancelled
Monday, May 25
1:30 to 2:30 Online Social
- RiverFest 2020
Saturday, September 26
TO BE DETERMINED
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Historic St. Mary's City

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND TYPE INTO THE SUBJECT LINE - UNSUBSCRIBE.
OR EMAIL US AT newsletter@smrwa.org AND REQUEST TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS E-NEWSLETTER LISTSERV.

