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WATERSHED WATCH

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

September 13, 2023

RiverFest- September 23 - FREE ADMISSION

[Join or Renew](#)

Our 17th annual RiverFest is just around the corner! Come celebrate the St. Mary's River on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 11 am to 4 pm, rain or shine, at Historic St. Mary's City Museum.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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Don't miss the featured performance by [the High and Wides](#), a popular Maryland bluegrass band deemed the "apostles of hillbilly boogie" by [The Washington Post](#) from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Additional performances include Chesapeake Public Charter School Choir at 1 pm, soloist Billy Breslin at 2 pm, and perennial favorite Indian Summer at 3 pm.



Enjoy kayaking, oyster tonging, fish seining, live animals, and environmental exhibits and local vendors! The ceremonial River Wade-In will be held at 2 pm. Bring your white sneakers!

Save the Date!

RiverFest is free, open to the public, and family friendly. [Learn more here...](#)

We still need volunteers to help with set up from 8 am to 11 am. Please let us know if you can lend a hand by contacting Emma at emmaSMRWA@gmail.com or 301-395-5757.



One Million Oysters for Breton Bay (Volunteers Needed)



Show your support for a cleaner, more vibrant, and healthier Breton Bay by joining us on September 30th!

Saturday, September 30th at 10 am (rain date: October 1st at 10 am) join the St. Mary's River Watershed Association, Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, Shore Thing Shellfish, LLC., and Friends of St. Clements Bay at Abell's Wharf to plant one million baby oysters in the Breton Bay Oyster Sanctuary. Bring the kids, bring a lifejacket, and join the fun!



11 am - 4pm
September 23, 2023
Historic St Mary's City
[Learn more](#)

We will unload 200 bushels of spat-on-shell (baby oysters) from trucks, load them onto work vessels, and transport the oysters by boat to their new home at Lover's Point.



To RSVP, contact Emma Green, St. Mary's River Watershed Association, at emmaSMRWA@gmail.com or 301-395-5757. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors by sharing [this flyer](#). Learn more [here...](#)



Summer Wrap Up

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association's summer was filled with oysters, water quality monitoring, reef balls, mentoring five Future Bay Leaders, and a lot of fun!

Our summer by the numbers...

- **547 volunteers** participated in **1,675 hours** of oyster habitat restoration this summer. These volunteers included...
 - 24 teachers from all over the country participating in SMCM's Project Ocean
 - 16 sailors with disabilities from Brendan Sailing
 - 44 campers attending Greenwell Foundation's fishing camp
 - 58 students from Chesapeake Public Charter School
 - 15 Girl Scouts from St. Mary's County
- **478 Marylanders Grow Oysters** cages with spat-on-shell were collected, and the **106,000 oysters** were planted at Box Oak oyster bar (North Snow Hill Manor)
- **272 Reef Balls built** and **318 Reef Balls deployed** in the St. Mary's River
- **1,285 one-half bushel bags** filled with shells and washed for our oyster nursery
- **1.4 million oysters** planted west of Horseshoe Point and **92,000 oysters** planted by Martin's Point
- **393 water quality readings taken** by SMRWA and the St. Mary's River Yacht Club
- **5 remote water quality monitoring buoys** built and deployed. Check out the live data [here!](#)
- **5 acres** of the St. Mary's River, our oyster reef project, surveyed for compliance with state oyster restoration criteria (look for our report this winter)



Save The Date:



OUR MISSION



September 23, 2023

11am - 4pm

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!](#)

Historic St. Mary's City
Inquire by text 301-395-5757

[Learn more](#)

- Breton Bay Oyster Planting
September 30, 2023
10am - 12pm
Abell's Wharf
Inquire by text 301-395-5757
- US Oyster Festival
October 21-22
10am - 12pm
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

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