Dear Friends of the St. Mary’s River,

I hope that you all are having a great summer! All the rain we’ve had so far certainly has been a blessing for the farmers and gardeners – this time last year it looked like the middle of August.

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to speed on an exciting and important project that the St. Mary’s River Watershed Association has embarked upon in partnership with St. Mary’s County Government, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and with several local businesses. Over the next two years we will complete a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the St. Mary’s River.

A WRAS is a comprehensive, natural resource-based prioritized action plan that states specific goals, objectives, and commitments to guide actions of the public, watershed organizations, land trusts, and government to preserve and restore habitat and water quality in a watershed. Our WRAS will point out specific areas, issues, and actions that can result in measurable environmental improvements in the St. Mary’s River watershed. The first step in developing the WRAS is to bring together all existing study data relating to natural resources and quality of life and then to update this information. This first phase, referred to as the "characterization" of the watershed, is currently underway. We have also established a steering committee for the project, that will meet on a monthly basis to provide input and comments. Informational meetings will be held periodically to keep the community informed about the project’s progress and to answer questions and receive input.  

[Continued page 2]
The WRAS program is required under the Clean Water Act. Through the leadership of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association, St. Mary's County will be at the forefront in gaining compliance with federal laws, thereby establishing us as leaders in watershed planning and restoration in Maryland. This will give St. Mary's County an advantage over other jurisdictions in seeking public and private funding for watershed restoration projects. As you know, many government-financed and supported program have their critics, and this WRAS program is no exception. While some local residents declined to allow workers to survey streams located on their property, this will have little impact on the overall assessment of the waterways, and of course their wishes have been respected.

One concern voiced was that as a result of the WRAS, homeowners would be forced into strict compliance with environmental laws, into the greening of their properties, and into fines and restoration expenses that they cannot afford. This is emphatically not the case. While the WRAS documents and process will be completely transparent and an open public process, no part of the WRAS program will be enforcement related. It’s important to note also that for every person who has come forward with concerns, we have had several more call or email in support for the WRAS program.

Our goal is to identify win-win solutions that will increase awareness of the need to foster greater environmental protections, and the identification of potential restoration projects that will result in enhanced quality of life in the St. Mary's River watershed, and indeed assure the sustainability of the watershed itself.

[continued page 3, right column]
Greening - continued from previous page

Organic vegetable patch in Park Hall.

diseases such as Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, and Toxocariasis, each as unpleasant as its name.

So, your options:
- Seal it in a plastic bag and place in garbage (or use biodegradable BioBags available in pet stores)
- Flush it down the toilet
- Bury it in a 5” deep hole away from vegetable gardens
- Do not compost! (those harmful bacteria won’t die)

Now see how green you can make your home and backyard!

Sources:
—Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning. http://www.howardcountymd.gov/dpz/environment/environment.htm
—Maryland Department of the Environment http://www.mde.state.md.us/
—Zandonella, Catherine. “Grass Roots: Easy Organic Lawn Care.”

Remembering Erik Jansson
1940 - 2008

“Environmentalist, scholar, author, ethicist, lecturer, leader, preservationist, humanist—all that. An incredibly industrious, determined, and successful advocate for the rights of everyday people.”

“Erik was a Leo . . . who take their responsibilities so seriously, they have to be dragged out of the office, handed a beer and fed dinner on the threat of bodily harm.”

“Erik was for me a stormy petrel—small, trim, and indomitable, a lonely spirit defying every tempest with unfeigned grace; to have him alight and visit was a rare privilege. . . .this remarkable, unassuming champion.”

“Every now and then, someone like Erik Janssen comes along and insists on being the conscience of a system that otherwise would never dream of having one.”

“The forces of nature and people of the world lost a great friend and hero and the heavens gained a worthy comrade.”

“. . .Erik’s spirit soaring through the air, no longer carrying his earthly worries, now free to enjoy this wondrous planet. Soar high, dear Erik, and thank you for being you! In fondest memory and deep appreciation of Mother Nature’s loving son, Erik Torvald Jansson.”

—Bob Lewis, Eric Francis Coppolino, Carol Van Strum, Eric Francis Coppolino, Joe Stewart, David Shiah

[President’s Letter from page 2]

The WRAS program will launch a web site this summer: www.StMarysRiver.org. The web site will be the first step in making this WRAS program transparent and will allow the public to participate in its completion. I encourage you to follow the progress of this project as we move forward. For more information, please contact us at SMwatershed@yahoo.com.

Finally, on a sad note I’d like to express sorrow at the recent passing of Erik Jansson and deep appreciation for the many years that Erik worked so effectively with compassion, intelligence, and perseverance to help make St. Mary’s County a better place to live for us all. Erik was a good friend of the St. Mary’s River Watershed Association and someone who loved St. Mary’s County very much. He will be missed.

Sincerely,
Joe Anderson, President

I would like to become a member of the SMRWA

Annual Membership Options

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<th>Option</th>
<th>Price</th>
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Total: ________

☐ Yes, I would like to become an active member/volunteer

Please make checks payable to: St. Mary’s River Watershed Association and mail this form along with your check to the address below:
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, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

We’re on the web!
www.smrwa.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Sept. 27
10 AM until 5 PM
Historic St. Mary’s City
FREE ADMISSION

- Live Music—Piney Point Playboys, Indian Summer, & Dance Hall Ghost
- Games, prizes, foods, & drinks
- Kayaking, seining, touch-tanks
- Great fun for every age: children's hour at noon with special entertainment by Magpie
- Exhibits, vendors, & demonstrations
- Free Skipjack rides (1st come, 1st served)