Join or Renew Today!

Give the Gift of a Living Reef for St. Patrick's Day

Really GO GREEN this year. Give a satisfying gift for a healthier St. Mary's River on St. Patrick's Day! One Reef Ball will be etched with your name and installed in the St. Mary's River where up to 1000 oysters will make it their home. Download form: or purchase online.

Many Thanks

St. Mary's River Watershed Association is grateful to everyone who sent in their membership renewals over the past holiday season, and to our new members who joined after our last e-newsbrief. If you have not done so, we encourage you to renew your membership, or join our Association today. It's easy, and a great way to help save our environment. We are only as effective as our membership empowers us to be—we cannot do what we do without you!

Oyster Reef Project Continues Despite Wind, Snow, and Ice

Our marine contractor, Colliflower & Peterson, Inc. were hard at work in January and February of this year installing three reef mounds made of 140 tons of concrete rubble, which was donated by Carruth & Son, Inc. Many of you called or emailed us (and sent us photographs - thanks!) after seeing them working in the snow in Horseshoe Bend in front of St. Mary's College. These latest installations are the tallest mounds in our design and rise seven feet off the bottom. Bottom oysters are under greater stress from siltation, predators, and low oxygen than oysters growing up off the bottom on reefs. By some accounts, historically more than 80% of oysters made their home well above the bottom.
Ongoing monitoring and research by the college and area students will determine if three dimensional structures, as opposed to bottom cultivation, is a viable restoration method. They will look at the ecological benefits, the sustainability of the reef ecosystem, and the economics of building structural oyster reefs. Over the course of the next few years we hope to develop enough reliable data to inform restoration projects elsewhere in the Bay.

In September and October, our partner the Institute of Maritime History assisted with the installation of 280 reef balls into 17 mounds - many of these stacks of reef balls are nearly six feet tall. Currently we have installed eleven concrete rubble mounds and seventeen reef ball mounds. This spring and summer we will continue to make and install reef balls and build another concrete rubble mound—all with volunteers. We're looking to begin the two weekends after Mother's Day and complete the full reef as designed by August 1. Please take a look at your calendar, and email us at info@stmarysriver.org to volunteer. We need your help!

The St. Mary's River Oyster Reef is a partnership project of the local Rotary clubs and Rotary District 7620, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the St. Mary's River Watershed Association.

Volunteers Needed for the 6th Annual
St. Mary's River Clean Up
Saturday, April 5

Enjoy a wonderful paddle while helping clean up the St. Mary's River, Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 12 noon during the St. Mary's River Cleanup hosted by the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. Volunteers will paddle up and down the St. Mary's River Water Trail from the end of Adkins Road. The public is invited to participate.

Last year, 24 volunteers paddled their way along the St. Mary's River to rid her waters and banks of unsightly and hazardous trash. All told, 17 bags of recyclables, 11 bags of trash, 19 tires, 980 pounds of loose trash - including a mattress, a dinosaur and an empty wallet - were collected during the three-hour outing.
Meet at the end of Adkins Road, off MD Route 5, at 9 a.m. Bring your own boat, canoe, or kayak, life vest, and paddling gear. Help cleanup the St. Mary's River and improve your watershed! Registration is required for this event. Send an email to info@stmarysriver.org or call us at 301-737-2903.

Want to help your Watershed?

Your membership dues and donations enable us to carry out projects that help the environment. Come volunteer and help us do the work that needs to be done. Attend the events throughout the year, and bring your family and friends. This helps to spread the word about the work we are doing! Thank you so much for your continued support.

Join or Renew Today!

Upcoming Events:

- Chancellor's Run Park Clean Up
  Thursday, April 3, 2014 - after school
  Call to register to volunteer at info@stmarysriver.org

- Join us for the 6th Annual RIVER CLEAN UP
  Saturday, April 5, 2014 - 9 am to noon
  Call to register to volunteer at info@stmarysriver.org

- Earth Day on the Leonardtown Square
  Sunday, April 13, 2014, 12:30 to 4 pm

- Potomac River Swim
  Saturday, May 31, 2014
  Point Lookout State Park
  Bring a dish to share - lunch begins at 10 am
  More info 301-737-2903.
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

A River Affair

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 1 to 4 pm
The Inn at Broome-Howard
Historic St. Mary's City
More info 301-737-2903.

• LEAD Teen Oyster Planting
Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 9 am to noon
College Waterfront

• SAVE THE DATE

RiverFest 2014

Saturday, September 27, 2014, 11 am to 4 pm
State House, Historic St. Mary's City
More info 301-737-2903.

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