Donate Now

Join or Renew Today!

INSIDE THIS EDITION
A River Affair
Legislation Update

Save The Date For

A River Affair

Sunday June 7th from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
at the State House - Historic St. Mary's City

Join us for the fifth anniversary celebration of the St. Mary's River and our campaign for clean water. This event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations from local vendors.

Tickets are $70 per person and can be purchased in advance by check or via PayPal. All proceeds benefit the restoration of the St. Mary's River. For more information call us at (301)904-2387.

SMRWA Legislation Update

HB 638 Withdrawn - Sanctuaries Saved

HB 0638, which proposed the re-designation of the upper St. Mary's River to allow for commercial oyster harvesting, was held on March 4th. This bill was met with overwhelming opposition from the public and was withdrawn that evening by sponsor Delegate Holmes after receiving an unfavorable report from the Environment and Transportation committee. We
can't thank you enough for taking action. Because of your efforts, our sanctuary is saved.

SB 919 - Limiting the WIPs

The SMRWA is in opposition to SB 919 which would have placed a two year prohibition on actions to clean up the Bay under the county Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). On March 27th the bill was killed after receiving a unanimous unfavorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee. Programs and strategies that would help Maryland to meet Bay restoration goals will still be able to continue.

HB 551/SB 620 - The Bag Bill

The SMRWA supports the Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2015 (HB 0551) which bans most plastic shopping bags and requires a fee of 10 cents per bag for those who choose to use store-supplied paper bags. Participating stores can credit consumers 5 cents per reusable bag. Nearly 50% of all fees collected are earmarked for local community greening projects. This bill was heard by the senate on March 10th.

SB 684 - The Bottle Bill

The SMRWA supports the bottle bill, a recycling program that will refund consumers 5 cents per bottle they return, increasing the overall amount recycled and directly cutting down on litter. The senate hearing for this bill was held on March 10th and still no decision has been announced.

Upcoming Events:

- STREAM SAMPLING
  TBD
  March thru April 2015
  Email Bob to get on the schedule
  Bob Lewis@stmarysriver.org

- Join us for the
  7th Annual
  RIVER CLEAN UP
  Saturday, April 11, 2015
  9 am to noon
  Paddling event
  Call to register to volunteer at
  info@stmarysriver.org
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!

- EARTH DAY on the Leonardtown Square
  Sunday, April 19, 2015
  12:30 - 4:00 pm

- ARTS FESTIVAL
  Saturday, May 2, 2015
  Time TBD
  Chesapeake Charter School

- YOUTH FISHING RODEO
  Saturday, May 9, 2015
  St. Mary's River State Park

- POTOMAC RIVER SWIM
  Saturday, June 6, 2015
  Point Lookout State Park
  Bring a dish to share - lunch begins at 10:00 am
  More info 301-737-2903.

- NATIONAL ENVIROTHON OYSTER PLANTING
  Tuesday, June 17, 2015
  1:00 pm on
  College Waterfront

- SAVE THE DATE
  Saturday, September 26, 2015
  11:00 am to 4:00 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.