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For immediate release
May 27, 2014

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Boeing Funds Oyster Restoration for the 5th Year

The Boeing Company awarded a \$25,000 grant to St. Mary's River Watershed Association enabling the Association to carry on oyster restoration and storm water mitigation projects within the watershed. The projects always involve volunteers, many from local youth groups and schools, and provide hands-on experiences that make environmental stewardship more personal and compelling.

Last year through Boeing support, the Association was able to engage 409 volunteers in over 1300 hours of community service installing five rain gardens, manufacturing over 400 oyster reef balls, surveying oyster bars, monitoring water quality, and striking and planting ten million oysters in the St. Mary's River Oyster Sanctuary.

A major focus of Boeing support is to engage diverse communities of youths and youth groups in hands-on experiences and structured education about our environment.

The first big event under the Boeing grant will be on June 24, when about 40 teenagers from the Leadership Southern Maryland Teen Leadership Conference will learn about oyster culture and the importance of clean water, followed by the planting of a half million, ten-month old oysters. The public is invited to the St. Mary's College of Maryland waterfront to witness and participate in this exciting event. The result is cleaner waters in St. Mary's River, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.

Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship local community investor, Oscar Ocasio, is usually lending a hand and this is a chance to personally thank Boeing for their extensive support throughout the St. Mary's County community.

"We are more effective and can inform a greater audience through the support of Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship. Oscar is truly dedicated to making our youth into stewards and productive citizens and we are honored that Boeing has selected the Association to carry on this important work," said Association Executive Director Bob Lewis.

Since 2004, the St. Mary's River Watershed Association has stimulated new efforts to protect and enhance the watershed in ways that also revitalize the economic, social, and cultural health of the community.

