

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Background & Introduction

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was incorporated in March of 2005 and elected its first Board of Directors in April of that year. Nancy McAllister became the organization's first president. In March of 2006, the Association was granted non-profit status under section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Association protects, improves, and promotes the well-being of the St. Mary's River watershed in ways that also revitalize the economic, social, and cultural health of the community.

The Association strives to establish a sustainable and beneficial relationship between the ecology of the St. Mary's River and the communities in the watershed.



Johnson Pond

Board of Directors

- Joe Anderson—President
- Bob Paul—Vice President
- Ray de Leon—Treasurer
- Todd Rudolph—Secretary
- Will Gates
- John Guisti
- Richard Holden
- Suellen Keiner
- Patrick Murphy
- Karen Nutter
- Paula Riner
- Patricia Samford
- Elaine Szymkowiak
- Scott Taylor
- Sue Veith
- David Waring
- Nancy McAllister—Emeritus
- Roger Stone—Emeritus

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.

Staff

- Bob Lewis—Executive Director
- Allison Rugila—Student Intern
- Kalin Hanson—Student Intern

Standing Committees—Chairpersons

- Membership—Bob Lewis 301-862-3517
- Public Policy—Suellen Keiner
- Backyard Conservation / Education—Elaine Szymkowiak
- Strategic Planning—Joe Anderson
- Science/Restoration—Bob Paul
- Development—Richard Holden

Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Project

- Bob Paul—Project Co-Leader
- Sue Veith—Project Co-Leader



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NFWF Grant Funds Partnership

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation awarded a \$134,000 Small Watershed grant to our partner organization, the Center for Watershed Protection. The partnership, which also includes the Maryland Sea Grant Extension, chose the Center as the lead applicant and award recipient due to their organizational capacity and long term relationship with NFWF.

The completion of the watershed restoration action strategy (WRAS) for the St. Mary's River is the primary focus of the grant. Additionally, four model storm water projects were funded and will be completed in the second year of this two-year grant program.

The watershed plan is expected to be presented to the public for comments in early 2012. Storm water projects at Great Mills High School, county-run apartments on Military Lane, and St. Mary's College of Maryland will be completed in spring 2012.



A River Affair Fundraiser Launched May 15

The turn out for brunch at the Brome Howard Inn on the banks of the St. Mary's River was indeed a splendid occasion with good food, great entertainment, and more than forty exciting items in the silent auction. Oysters-on-the-half-shell rounded out a delightful menu prepared by Michael and Lisa Kelley of Canard's Catering.

The honor of Emeritus Director was bestowed upon Nancy McAllister and Roger Stone. Thanks go out to Richard Holden and Tricia Samford who led the team in planning the event. Gross proceeds exceeded \$46,000... Hats Off!! (David Norris won the Knaggs guitar raffle.)

Oyster Restoration Takes Off

Two million (and counting) oysters were planted in the St. Mary's River in 2010-2011. More than 215 volunteers have stepped up to assist in this project and nearly 100 homeowners are hosting cages at their piers. Beginning with Governor O'Malley's Marylanders Grow Oysters program in the fall of 2009, the St. Mary's River sanctuary restoration program has expanded three-fold thanks to generous donations from Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship and Tidewater Dental. In the fall, we submitted a proposal to the state to reclaim fifteen acres of unproductive bottom which will be hardened and seeded with oysters over the coming three years.

Early last year we formalized a partnership with local Rotary clubs and St. Mary's College of Maryland to pursue

a living laboratory and restoration project adjacent to the college. This five-acre project will create a two-acre reef with three-dimensional structure simulating historic oyster reefs once found throughout the southern Bay. An additional two acres will be developed as shell bar typical of state-run restoration projects. The goals are: 1) to monitor, evaluate, and compare the benefits, weaknesses, and detriments to both habitats, compare varied reef designs, and provide model criteria for project duplication elsewhere; 2) to provide opportunity for outreach and education to area schools and youth groups, and, 3) to provide ecological and recreational benefits through habitat restoration.

Oyster Sanctuary Plan Questioned

Last August, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources began accepting applications for aquaculture bottom leases within the Bay's oyster sanctuaries. In the St. Mary's River, five applications have been submitted for more than 80 acres of currently productive oyster bars. Beginning the last week of July, the Association has been in

talks with DNR and Delegate John Bohanan in an effort to understand how these proposed operations will be compatible with the goals and objectives of the sanctuary designation. The Association is committed to protecting wild oysters within the sanctuary.

Financial Report

Members and Corporate Donors Step Up to Fill Void Left by Economic Downturn

Competition for government and private grant support reach an all-time high due to the economic climate. For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011, actual cash revenue from government grants dropped to 3% of the operating budget—down from 14% in FY2010, and a high of 53% in FY2008. We were able to offset this significant reduction through a partnership grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$134,000, which was awarded to the Center for Watershed Protection for work entirely within the St. Mary's River watershed.

Membership and corporate donations filled the gap admirably providing essential funding to maintain programs and operations. Member donations accounted for 45% of total cash revenues, up from just 8% in FY2008. Corporate donations provided 41%, an increase from 9% in FY2008. Average donations from members increased nearly 40% from FY2010 and 110% compared to FY2008.

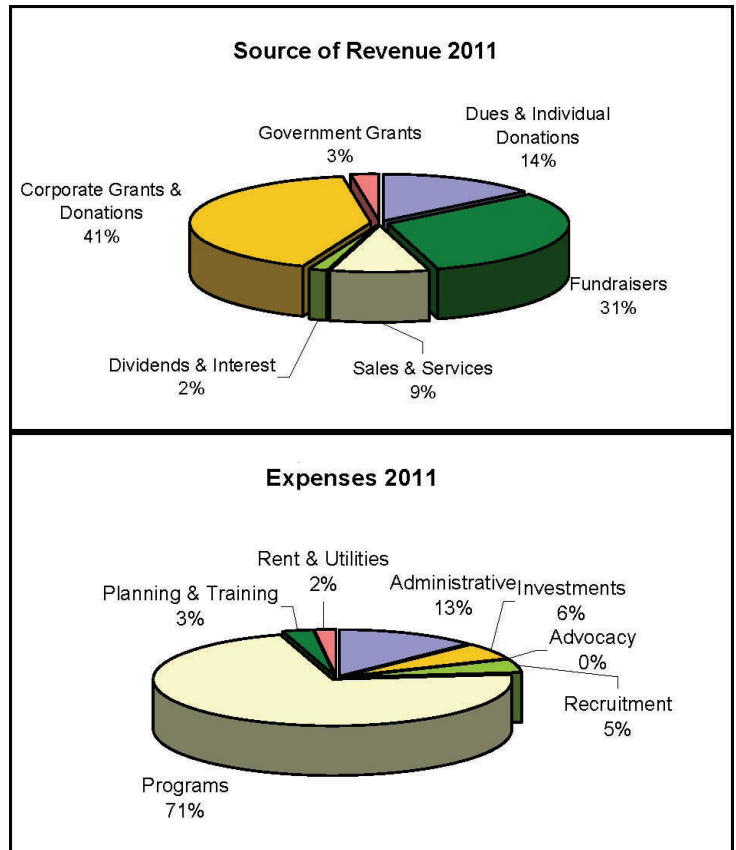
Members stepped up even more for the year-end appeal contributing an average \$173 per household—a 124% increase above the prior year.

Generally, average corporate giving remained level in FY2011 due to the increased need from non-profits strained by government cutbacks and a slow economy. Of note, Boeing and Tidewater Dental each doubled their giving in FY2011 in support of oyster restoration programming.



as of December 31, 2011

<u>Liquid Assets</u>	
Old Line Bank	\$38,989
Petty cash	\$ 0
<u>Investments</u>	
Fidelity Services	\$34,718
<u>Equipment & Furniture</u>	
Headquarters	\$ 1,541
<u>Bills Receivable</u>	
Contractual	\$ 1,500
Total Assets	\$76,748
<u>Obligations & Debts</u>	
	\$ 0
Total Liabilities	\$ 0



Lindsey Paul Rudolph Intern Endowment 2011 Donors

- anonymous -

- anonymous -

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- Chesapeake Public Charter School
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- Communications Facilities
- The Community Foundation
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- Gen-On
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- Good Earth Natural Foods
- The Greenery
- Greenwell Foundation
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- Hilltop Graphics
- Historic St. Mary's City
- Imagine One
- ICPRB
- John Hanson Licensed Acupuncturist
- Johnny Oyster Seed
- KeThink sfs
- Liberty Homes—Welcome Home Realty
- Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
- Maryland Sea Grant Extension
- Maryland State Arts Council
- Maryland Stormwater Consortium
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- Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The Patuxent Partnership
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- Phocus Video
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- River Networks
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- Rotary Club—Leonardtwn
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- SAIC
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- St. Mary's County Arts Council
- St. Mary's River Yacht Club
- Shore Thing Shellfish
- Smartronix
- SMECO
- Southern Maryland Oyster
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www.SMRWA.org

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