

WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PO Box 94, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2
SEPTEMBER 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT—

Dear Friends of the St. Mary's River,

I hope that you all had a great (if terribly hot & dry) summer.

Thankfully, signs of autumn have begun to appear at long last – heavy morning dews, geese in flight, crickets' evening serenade, and those billowing clouds rolling across the late summer sky.

All in all, it's been a pretty good summer for the St. Mary's River. After a year of careful nurturing by over 150 volunteers working at 88 piers in our watershed, over 275,000 baby oysters, aka spat, were lovingly placed in the new St. Mary's River oyster sanctuary. Thanks to all the Marylanders Grow Oysters volunteers who made this possible, and very special thanks to our governor and state officials for expanding the size and number of oyster sanctuaries in the Chesapeake Bay—and, most of all, designating the upper St. Mary's River as an oyster sanctuary.

We're gearing up for another year of Marylanders Grow(ing) Oysters as once again we will fill our 650 cages with oyster spat. This will happen on Saturday, September 18 down at the St. Mary's

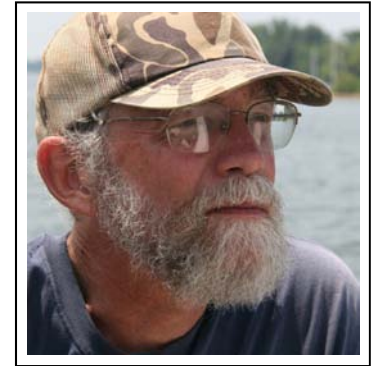
College waterfront, and we need your help to fill those cages and to grow the oysters as well. Our goal is to have 100 piers growing oysters and to produce over 400,000 oysters for the sanctuary.

Thanks to a generous grant from Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship, a second oyster planting occurred on August 28 when student volunteers from St. Mary's College and the St. Mary's Watershed Association placed over a half million baby oysters on the rapidly expanding St. Mary's River oyster sanctuary.

We still have a long way to go, but each oyster we raise and give a home in the river helps us get closer to our goal of getting the St. Mary's removed from the EPA's impaired rivers list forever, with abundant and healthy oysters, fish, and crabs once again sustaining a healthy ecosystem. With your help, I know that we can do it!

Onward to a healthy St. Mary's River!

Sincerely,
Joe Anderson



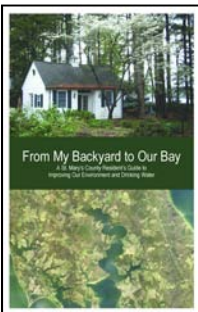
Joe Anderson

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *MGO Oyster Cage Distribution—8 AM to Noon, Sept. 18 at St. Mary's College Waterfront*
- *RiverFest—Get Onboard! 10 AM to 5 PM, Sept. 25 at Historic St. Mary's City*
- *3rd Annual St. Mary's River Wade-In with Bernie Fowler, 2 PM Sept. 25 at Historic St. Mary's City*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BACKYARD GUIDE	1
MEMORIAL FUND	2
OYSTER PLANTING	2
MGO OYSTERS	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	4



FREE

New Homeowner's Guide to Conservation Available Free at RiverFest—Sept. 25th.

Forty pages of conservation techniques that will save money and reduce your impact on our rivers and streams. Generously funded by the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, The Printing Press Inc., Chesapeake Bay Trust, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, David A. Reumont CPA PC, and John & Julie McAllister.



Lindsey Paul Rudolph Student Internship Update

Donors for 2010

Susan & Bob Paul	In Honor of Andy & Becky Boyles
Anonymous	Charles & Barbara Shifley
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Dana & Steve Van Abbema	Suzanne & Mike Sakach

Our endowment fund has grown tremendously thanks to the generous donations from our members and friends. We are sincerely grateful to Susan and Bob Paul for matching all donations received January 1 through June 30. Our fund has now grown to more than \$21,000.



The Lindsey Paul Rudolph Student Internship, which is awarded to a St. Mary's College student each year, is a part-time position that will focus on education outreach and building sustainable family environments.



Grant-Funded Oyster Restoration

Constellation Energy awarded SMRWA a \$5,000 Eco-Star grant to create a five-acre demonstration bar in the St. Mary's River. Due to changes in regulations at the state level and a backlog of applications for lease bars, this project has been delayed until next spring.

Boeing Global Corporate Citizenship awarded SMRWA a \$10,000 grant last December, which was used to plant 500,000 oysters in the St. Mary's River sanctuary on August 28 (photos above). Thirty incoming college students joined with nine SMRWA volunteers to lift, haul, and shovel oysters overboard near Church Point.



Marylanders Grow Oysters in the St. Mary's River

MGO '09-10 was an enormously successful program thanks to the dedication of more than 150 volunteers at 88 private piers. Volunteers stewarded baby oysters through their vulnerable first year of life.

In June, participants planted more than 275,000 one-year old MGO oysters at two sites in the St. Mary's River sanctuary.

Next year's program begins on September 18, 2010. From 8 a.m. until noon at St. Mary's College, we will distribute 300,000 spat-on-shell in 650 cages to more than 100 volunteer homeowners. If you are signed on, please pick up your cages. If you have not signed on, call us and become a part of Marylanders Grow Oysters. 301-862-3517



Marylanders Grow Oysters plantings on June 11-15, 2010.



I would like to become a member of the SMRWA

Annual Membership Options	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	\$1,003.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward	\$303.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$103.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Limited Income	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate <i>suggested</i>	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

Total: _____

I prefer an electronic newsletter.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Mary's River Watershed
Association and mail this form
along with your check to:

SMRWA
PO Box 94
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Name

Address

Email Address

Phone

PayPal



Donate
Online!

www.SMRWA.org



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.



Upcoming Events:

- Marylanders Grow Oysters Cage Distribution—September 18 from 8 AM to Noon at St. Mary's College of Maryland Waterfront
- **RiverFest**—September 25 from 10AM to 5 PM at Historic St. Mary's City, *FREE ADMISSION*
- Sotterley Winefest—October 2-3 from Noon to 6 PM at Sotterley Plantation, Tickets \$20 (\$17 in advance)
- St. Mary's River Clean Up—April 9 from 9 AM until 1 PM (bring your canoe or kayak) Great Mills Canoe & Kayak Launch

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If there is a red dot on your mailing label, then your membership has expired. In these times of economic uncertainty, your membership dues are more important than ever. Please visit our Web site to donate online, or fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it to us with your donation.

