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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

September 3, 2014

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Marylanders  
Grow Oysters  
Cage Refill



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

## WANTED



SPONSORS

EXHIBITORS - VENDORS

Saturday, September 27

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For more information,  
please call 301-737-2903

## NEXT VOLUNTEER EVENT

Date to be decided  
(will be a Sunday this fall)  
REEF BUILDING &  
PLANTING OYSTERS  
Registration required - call  
301-737-2903

## Volunteers Fill Oyster Cages Dockowners to Steward Baby Oysters for Fifth Year

The Marylanders Grow Oysters Program started off the 2014-2015 year this past Saturday with more than thirty volunteers filling 600 oyster cages with five tons of spat-on-shell (500,000 baby oysters) grown here at the College Waterfront in the blue nursery tank that we fondly call the "Oyster Jacuzzi."



First - we couldn't have done it without you! St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) is grateful to the incoming college students and community members who helped Saturday morning, and to the 100 dock owners who picked up cages and will care for the oysters for the next ten months.

Henry Ford would have been proud of the assembly-line as volunteers grabbed the empty cages, filled them, and put them on wagons to be hauled to curbside as local dock owners picked up an average of six cages each. [\[VIEW VIDEO\]](#) After two hours of hard labor, the volunteers were wet, dirty, and encouraged from the experience as they learned about stewardship from Bob Lewis, Executive Director here at SMRWA. Bob questioned the volunteers on our Bay's natural filtering system, made

or email  
[info@stmarysriver.org](mailto:info@stmarysriver.org)  
for more information.



sure they understood the cleansing power of oysters, and that the second most important cleansing system in our Bay - wetlands - were very much endangered by sea level rise.

Approximately 100 dock owners work with us in the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program. There is no charge to be part of this opportunity and adventure. There are about 340 docks in the St. Mary's River - so that means there is room for growth. We are hoping that if you are one of the current volunteers in the program, you will talk to your neighbors and make sure they join you growing oysters to help cleanse the river.



Throughout the year, participants in the program will be reminded via email to dunk, roll, and bang the cages at their docks to make sure the oysters don't become too attached to the cage and to keep growth from fouling the cages. This is done every two weeks or so.



Did you like this story? Please share it or our cage-fill [video](#) on [Facebook](#).

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**We need your help!**

***Please join St. Mary's Watershed Association as a member.*** A family membership is only \$50.00 a year. Your membership dues and donations enable us to carry out projects that help the environment - like the oyster restoration that you can see every day at the College waterfront.

Come volunteer and help us do the work that needs to be done. Please 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!](#)



#### 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.

We're on the web!  
[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Building Reefs and Planting Oysters**  
Date to be decided  
Stay tuned for more information!

- ***YOU'RE INVITED!!!***



Saturday, September 27, 2014,  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
State House, Historic St. Mary's City  
More info 301-737-2903

- [\*Fracking PA: Documentary Practice and Environmental Activism\*](#)  
November 19, 2014, 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Screening and Discussion with Filmmakers  
Boyden Gallery, St. Mary's College of Maryland  
More info (240) 895-4246  
(an SMCM event)

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