

PLEASE BE SURE TO ADD INFO@STMARYSRIVER.ORG TO YOUR ADDRESS BOOK.
TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, SCROLL TO BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.



WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

October 22, 2014

INSIDE THIS EDITION

[Oyster Reef Building Update](#)

[Nature's Water Filter](#)

[Sotterly Speaker Series:
"SPAT: Bringing
Oysters Back to the
Chesapeake Bay"](#)

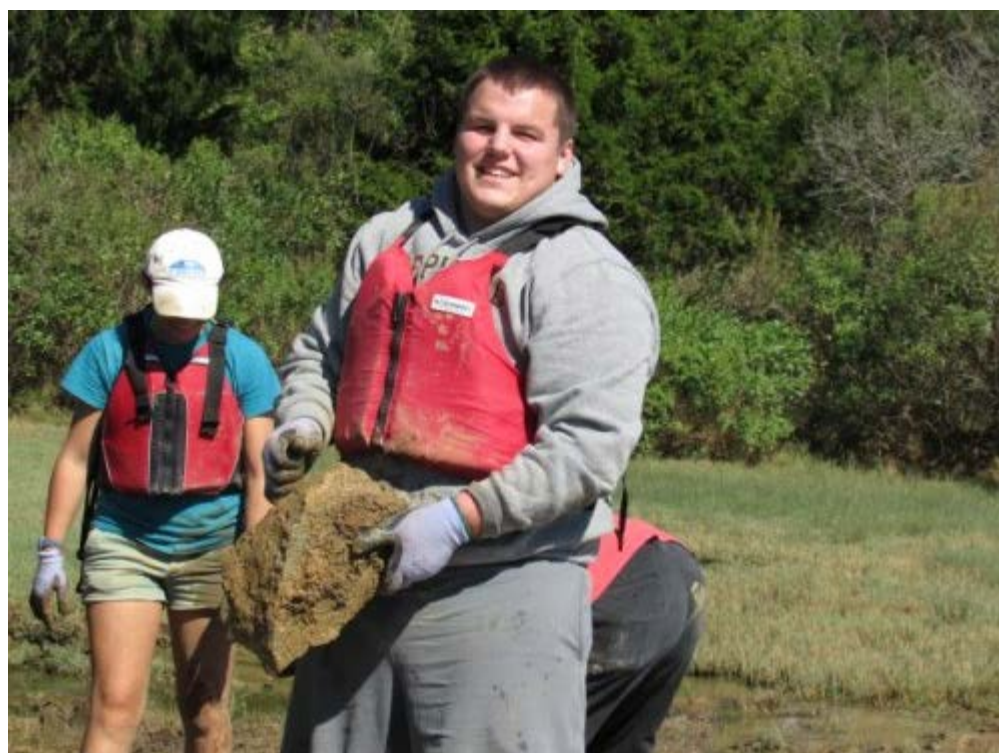
[Join or Renew Today!](#)



Recycling Concrete to Create Habitat

So how does an oyster reef building event start out? Coach Adam Werblow and Bob Lewis were at the College waterfront, and started discussing a problem at Adam's house - his concrete patio has sunk next to his house, and his basement was taking on water. Bob told Adam, "Find a concrete company, tear the old patio out, and install a new one that will drain away from the house. And when you do, let's build an oyster reef with the old patio."

On Sunday, October 5, fifteen volunteers loaded 25 tons of concrete onto the barge, Whiskers (operated by Captain Craig Kelley), who motored it into placed where each piece made a huge splash as it settled down in Horseshoe Bend creating habitat for oysters and other marine animals. Two trips were necessary to place all the concrete, and the group finished their work before 1:00 p.m.





Horshoe Bend, Oct 22—Many of you have commented that the river is finally clearing up again. Today we could see down to the bottom in eight feet of water! This is good news. The bad news is that this past summer had significant algae growth clouding the waters and causing intermittent low-oxygen episodes. These conditions are very hard on underwater sea grasses and many of our beds have died back. Underwater grasses are keystone species; they clear the waters of sediments, provide oxygen and reduce carbon dioxide, and they provide safe habitat for crabs and small fish.

Nature's Water Filter

Below are two photos with the timestamp on them - 2 and 1/2 hours apart. This is an incredible visual of what the oysters can do to cleanse the Chesapeake Bay and our surrounding waters. Let's help them all we can!



Please join us in our efforts to clean the St. Mary's River and our surrounding waters by joining or renewing your membership today, or by donating generously. Please visit our webpage at smrwa.org Thank you!

Thank You!

St. Mary's River Watershed Association cannot begin to thank all the volunteers who helped out at all our events this year, beginning with the Chancellor's Park Clean Up, The River Clean Up, A River Affair, RiverFest, Oyster Reef Building, Oyster Planting, Marylanders Grow Oysters Program, and so much more!

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association's mission is 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. The Association is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and our federal identification number is 20-2518203.

Sotterley Speaker Series

Sotterley Plantation is proud to partner with The Boeing Company in announcing the upcoming 2014 Speaker Series presentation: Sandy Cannon-Brown "SPAT: Bringing Oysters Back to the Chesapeake Bay" Wednesday, October 29 | 7:00 p.m. in the Barn

After centuries of over-harvesting, and recurring bouts of devastating diseases, oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay plummeted along with the profits of the industry and the health of the Bay. In 2013, more than a billion hatchery-raised baby oysters were added to the Bay and new breeds of disease-resistant, meatier, faster-growing oysters are thriving in commercial aquaculture. Culture and ecology clash in this captivating story about one of the Bay's most important critters. "SPAT: Bringing Oysters Back to the Chesapeake Bay" is directed and produced by Sandy Cannon-Brown, who is passionate about the vitality of ecosystems and the protection and health of their inhabitants.

Ms. Canon-Brown's personal awards include the prestigious Woman of Vision award from Women in Film & Video and Special Achievement Awards for script writing and directing from TIVA (Television, Internet and Video Association of DC). She has also earned dozens of top awards in international festivals. This event is FREE to the public. Advance reservations are required due to limited seating. Call 301-373-2280 to make your reservation.

[Join or Renew Today!](#)



OUR MISSION

Upcoming Events:

- 2014 Speaker Series presentation:
Film by Sandy Cannon-Brown
"SPAT: Bringing Oysters Back to the Chesapeake Bay"
Wednesday, October 29 | 7:00 p.m. in the Barn
- [*Fracking PA: Documentary Practice and*](#)

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



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

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.

[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)