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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

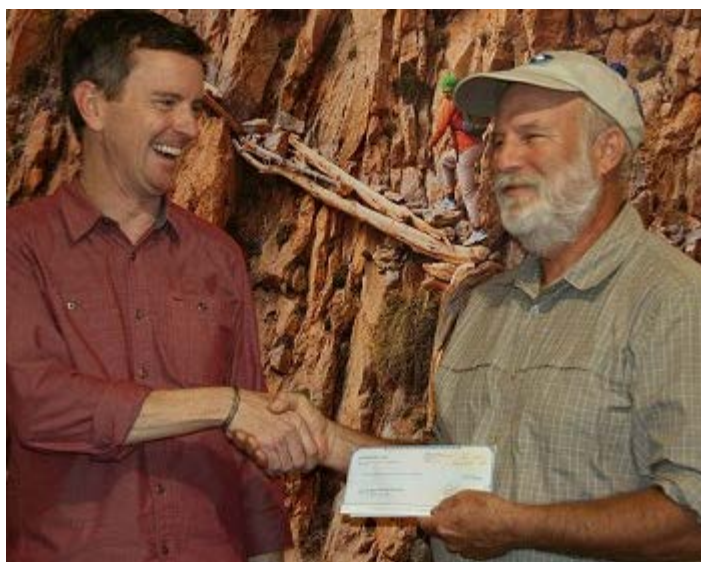
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

November 12, 2015

International Clothing Company Awards \$11,453 for Oyster Restoration

November 11, 2015—The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was honored at Patagonia's Washington DC store last month with a grant earmarked for the oyster reef restoration project located adjacent to St. Mary's College of Maryland.

"We have about \$34,000 to give away this fiscal year in two rounds—October and February," said DC store manager Mark Stevens at the award presentation. "This round we awarded nearly \$18,000 to five organizations. My staff was so excited when they reviewed the St. Mary's River proposal. It is something they all want to get involved in, 'I want to do this' was their chant. It was certainly our #1 pick."



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The oyster reef project is a partnership project of the Leonardtown Rotary Club, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. Already more than 950 volunteers have worked on the project over the past three years. Please call 301-737-2903 or email info@StMarysRiver.org to join our volunteer call list. Youth groups and school groups are encouraged to get involved.

Please visit [Patagonia's](#) DC store and tell them "thank you" for their support of our St. Mary's River. They have high quality sportswear - so bring your checkbook too.

[Read the full Press Release](#)

Water Clarity Breaks Old Record

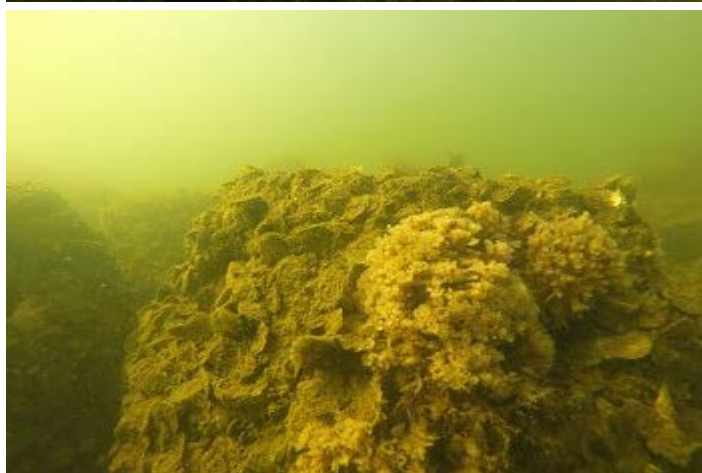
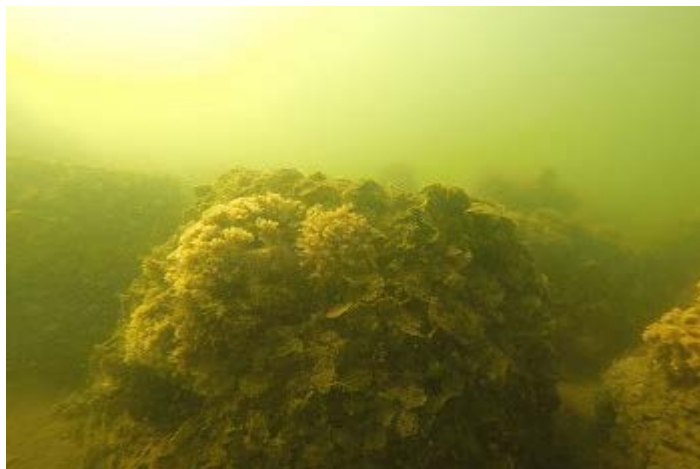
Water clarity has been exceptional this fall and we have been rewarded with awesome underwater photos of our reef project. On October 22 the Secchi disk reading for water clarity was 3.5 meters or about 11.5 feet. That is more than 1 1/2 feet greater than the previous record for clarity set November 6, 2014. We measure water clarity on (or near) our reef restoration site in order to document the impact of our work. The restoration site is actually only about nine feet deep at its deepest point, so the reading was taken offshore about 20 yards.

"The reefs are thriving with oysters—some areas are so dense with oysters that the underlying structures cannot be seen," said project director Bob Lewis after diving on the project site on October 9th and 11th. Sponges, mussels, and barnacles fill in the spaces left between the oysters, as can be seen in the photos below.

"Seeing the natural strike and the oysters growing so quickly is so rewarding," said student intern Meghan Webster who dove with Lewis last month. "I'm so lucky to be a part of this exciting project."

The Association has planted nearly 30 million spat (baby oysters) in the five-acre project area. But the photos below appear to indicate that natural recruitment on the reef structures is outpacing the Association's plantings.





OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability

Upcoming Events:

- Sotterley Speaker Series:
3 PM Sunday Nov 15 in the barn
Richard Moe - Roosevelt's Second Act:
The Election of 1940 & The Politics of War
FREE ADMISSION - [More Info](#)
- Rain Garden Installation
tentative 9 AM Saturday Nov 21
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

info@StMarysRiver.org

- Mark your calendar!
RiverFest 2016
Saturday September 24, 2016
Historic St. Mary's City

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



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