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WATERSHED WATCH

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

April 10, 2018

Maryland Extends Tax Credits to Individuals

Save Money - Recycle Oyster Shell

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- >>A River Affair
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A River Affair
BUY TICKETS
A River Affair



A bill in the legislature this year to extend tax credits for recycling oyster shells has won unanimous support in both houses and will head to the Governor's desk. HB 572 (SB 153) was introduced by Delegate Deb Rey with the hopes of extending legislation passed in 2013 that was to expire June 30 this year. Rey was joined in co-sponsorship by 73 delegates making this one of the more popular bills this year. The expiring regulations allowed commercial entities, such as restaurants, to recover up to \$750 each year for recycling oyster shells exclusively through the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP).

"The bill doubles the tax credit businesses and individuals will receive when oyster shells are recycled to organizations performing oyster restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay, such as the Oyster Recovery Partnership," wrote Delegate Deb Rey in an email to her constituents.

Over the past five years the program was not well utilized, state officials have noted, as restaurants would have to recycle 150 bushels of shells in order to recoup the \$750 in income taxes. ORP was the only certified recipient who could receive the shells and they did not have the manpower to pick up shells throughout the state. This year's extension bill, on which the St. Mary's River Watershed Association worked with Rey, increases the maximum annual deduction to \$1,500. Additionally, it requires the state to set up regulations that allow other entities, such as certain businesses, landfills, and non-profits, to also receive recycled shells and document the process.



"We look forward to becoming a certified shell recycling facility", said Bob Lewis, executive director for the Association, "so we can include



individuals in this worthy program. We are currently accepting shells for recycling and will issue tax letters at the end of this year."

A River Affair

Monday, May 28

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Ruddy Duck Seafood &
Alehouse
St. George Island



Join us for the eighth anniversary celebration of the St. Mary's River and our campaign for clean water. This event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations from local vendors. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased in advance by check or via PayPal. All proceeds benefit the restoration of the St. Mary's River. For more information email us at BobLewis@StMarysRiver.org or call at (301) 904-2387. [Learn more and buy tickets.](#)

Science for Citizens Speaker Series

Spring Dates: March 27, April 3, April 10, April 17, April 24

Fall Dates: September 25, October 2, October 9, October 16, October 23

Time: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted

Where: CBL's Bernie Fowler Lab, 142 Williams Street, Solomons, MD 20688.

[View a campus map.](#)

Cost: Free. No pre-registration necessary. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who: Members of the general public. No scientific background needed; everyone is welcome!

Why: Learn something new and interesting while celebrating science on scenic Solomons Island

April 10, 2018

Sea Level Rise, Changing Tides and Stronger Storm Surges in the Chesapeake Bay

Presented by Dr. Ming Li

Climate change, sea level rise, and associated storms are putting Maryland's people, property, natural resources, and public investments at risk. Sea level rise and ocean warming may produce unexpectedly high sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay and cause extensive flooding in Maryland. Dr. Li will describe his current research into the regional impact of climate change and extreme weather events on the Chesapeake Bay. He will also show how different coastline management options lead to dramatic differences in the response of tidal ranges and storm surges to sea level rise.

April 17, 2018

Solomons Island Bay Grasses

Presented by Dr. Jeremy Testa

In the summer of 2017, Bay grasses appeared in front of CBL on Solomons Island for the first time in over four decades. Often considered a 'canary in a coal mine', Bay grasses are often an indicator of improving or degrading water conditions and their appearance off Solomons reflects a recent improvement in Chesapeake Bay water quality. Dr. Jeremy Testa will tell the story of Bay grasses in the Patuxent, and will describe how it plays into a wider picture of change in Chesapeake Bay over the past several decades.

April 24, 2018

Seminars from 2:00-3:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

DolphinWatch: Dolphins in the Chesapeake Bay

Presented by Dr. Helen Bailey

Little is known about how often dolphins come into the Chesapeake Bay, how long they spend there, what areas they are using and why. Dr. Bailey and her team have been frequently detecting dolphin calls in the Bay and last summer, citizen scientists reported more than 900 dolphin sightings on Dr. Bailey's newly launched DolphinWatch website. In this talk, Dr. Bailey will present what she has learnt about the Bay's dolphins so far, describe upgrades to the sighting app, and explain how you can participate in this research effort.

Upcoming Events:

- Earth Day on the Square



OUR MISSION

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.

We're on the web!

www.smrwa.org



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Sunday, April 22

Noon to 4:30

Leonardtwn Square and Wharf
Maryland

- [DNR's Fishing Rodeo](#)

Saturday, May 12

8:00 am to Noon

St. Mary's Lake

- *[A River Affair](#)*

Monday, May 28

(Memorial Day)

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Ruddy Duck Seafood

St. George Island

- [Potomac River Swim](#)

Saturday, June 2

Swimmers come in about 10 am to 3 pm

Point Lookout State Park

- [St. Mary's Crab Festival](#)

Saturday, June 9

10 am to 7 pm

Fairgrounds

- [Juneteenth](#)

Saturday, June 16

Noon to 8 pm

John Lancaster Park

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