

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

June 7, 2018

[Join or Renew](#)

## *A River Affair*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- >>A River Affair  
THANK YOU!
- >>Reef Survives Cold  
Winter



What a fantastic turnout this year at our eighth annual A River Affair! We had over 150 in attendance and raised over \$35,000! A River Affair was held on May 28th, Memorial Day, at the Ruddy Duck Seafood and Alehouse on St. George Island. Amazing food, drinks, and music by the Gretchen Ritchie Jazz Cabaret kept folks nourished and competitive in our silent and live auctions. We hope everyone in attendance had as wonderful a day as we did!



This day is so important to us as it is our biggest fund raiser of the year and supports our restoration efforts on the St. Mary's River. We are so grateful to those who could not attend but supported our fund raiser with their donations and services. Many thanks to our

attendees, auction winners, generous donors, and our hosts: Diana Mendes & Mark Bassett, John & Karen Garner, Mary Barber & Curtis von Kann, and David A. Reumont CPA, PC—we could have not done it without you!



Congratulations to the 2018 River Champions—Karen Nutter and Ann & Dan Raley. Thank you for your continuous support over the many years of our organization. Join us next year for our ninth annual A River Affair and check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos from this year's event!

## Diving to Find Oysters Thriving



We recently went diving on our oyster reef project in front of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The tide was low, the water was clear,

and weather conditions were favorable allowing for successful underwater photography. We were excited to observe an abundance of aquatic life, including the blue crab pictured. We saw striped bass (rockfish) eels, and white perch. It is reaffirming to find such biodiversity, a positive indicator of the health of the area, as well as the health of the oyster reefs themselves. The oyster population of the reefs continues to expand, a particularly encouraging sign considering the erratic weather our region underwent this past winter. Despite some harsh and variable conditions with extreme low tides coinciding with well below freezing temperatures, our hard-shelled friends were hard at work filtering an increasing volume of water as they grow in size and number.

The growth and health of oysters is being studied by Dr. Laura Eierman, among others, who joined us on the dive. Laura collected samples of oysters attached to plastic and will be analyzing the samples to determine whether the close proximity to plastic affects the genetic makeup and genetic expression of oysters. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with researchers to improve scientific understanding of aquatic health, and we look forward to hearing the results of this research.



[More photos on Instagram.](#)



### Upcoming Events:

- [Crab Festival](#)  
Saturday, June 9  
10:00 to 7:00  
County Fairgrounds

## 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](http://www.smrwa.org)



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

- MGO Cage Collection  
Sunday, June 10
- Shell Bagging - Need Volunteers  
Saturday June 16  
8:30 to 11:30 am  
Please [RSVP](#)
- Father's Day Oyster Planting  
Sunday June 17  
9:00 to Noon  
College Waterfront  
Need Volunteers  
Please [RSVP](#)

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND TYPE INTO THE SUBJECT LINE - UNSUBSCRIBE.  
OR EMAIL US AT [INFO@STMARYSRIVER.ORG](mailto:INFO@STMARYSRIVER.ORG) AND REQUEST TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS E-NEWSLETTER LISTSERV.