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WATERSHED WATCH

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

July 5, 2019

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Local Students Build Reef Balls

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Counter-clockwise from top left—

(1) Sixth graders from Chesapeake Public Charter School remove the molds to hatch their reef ball. A total of 52 CPCS students made sixteen reef balls over two days in June.

(2) On a rainy day, students from Chopticon High School hand mix cement for reef balls. The wet weather didn't stop the 16 students from making eight reef

balls.

(3) Students at the Greenwell Fishing Camp (Supported by the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization) built and hatched fourteen reef balls over two days in late June.

(4) Great Mills High School STEM Academy students and physics teacher, Allen Skinner, pour concrete into a reef ball mold. The GMHS students were excited to help build 27 reef balls over two days in May, and earn some extra credit for class.

Oyster Restoration Popular with Funders

St. Mary's River--The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded a two-year grant of \$71,435 for the restoration of oysters in the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary. This grant supports a partnership program, [Living Reef Action Campaign](#), with existing lead Coastal Conservation Association Maryland Chapter and the [Friends of St. Clement's Bay](#). The thrust of the Campaign is to educate teachers, students, and youth groups on the importance of clean water and the critical ecosystem services provided by oysters. In this process, students learn how to increase essential hard-surface habitat for oysters by building reef balls.

Boeing continues to support our Future Bay Leaders program with a \$10,000 grant. Now in its seventh year, Future Bay Leaders provides hand-on work experience in STEM-related activities as well as leadership skills and team building. This year our team includes two high school seniors and three college students.



Hannah Jarboe launches a reef ball while Jack O'Brien and Lisabeth Stewart look on waiting to position it on the river bottom.

Our third annual award from Patagonia DC Store for \$9,000 dovetails into our NFWF grant and supports the aquatic-field side of the oyster restoration activities-specifically, growing oysters in our nursery and installing reef balls on our St. Mary's River Oyster Reef Project.

As always, the St. Mary's County Arts Council awarded \$800 to support artistic performers at our RiverFest celebration on September 28 at Historic St. Mary's City. This year we are pleased to bring back two superb artists from several years ago - Janie Meneely and Ben Connelly. Also performing this year will be the Chesapeake Public Charter School Chorus, Don Kenefick, and Indian Summer. Hope to see you all at RiverFest 2019 - admission is FREE!

WIN A KAYAK!!

\$2 a chance, 6 for \$10

Our Raffle is open to participants!

This year we are raffling off a brand new 10' Pelican Kayak. The drawing takes place September 28, 2019 at 4:00p.m. at RiverFest.

[Buy tickets here!](#) All proceeds go to SMRWA.



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



Upcoming Events:

- Reef Ball Building
Come build reef balls with us at our field site almost every day in July (except Mondays).
Call for daily specifics - 301-904-2387.
Bob's farm in Park Hall
- Reef Ball Building
Saturday July 13
8:30 am until about Noon
Bob's farm in Park Hall
Info: 301-904-2387
- Reef Ball Building
Saturday July 20
8:30 am until about Noon
Bob's farm in Park Hall
Info: 301-904-2387
- Governor's Cup Yacht Race
Saturday, August 3
St. Mary's College of Maryland Waterfront
- RiverFest 2019
Saturday, September 28
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Historic St. Mary's City

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