

PLEASE BE SURE TO ADD NEWSLETTER@SMRWA.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

April 21, 2021

## Navy to Report PFAS at Webster Field Threatens River and Seafood

[Join or Renew](#)

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>Navy Announces PFAS Threats

>>River Clean Up Wrap Up

>>[Annual Report available](#)

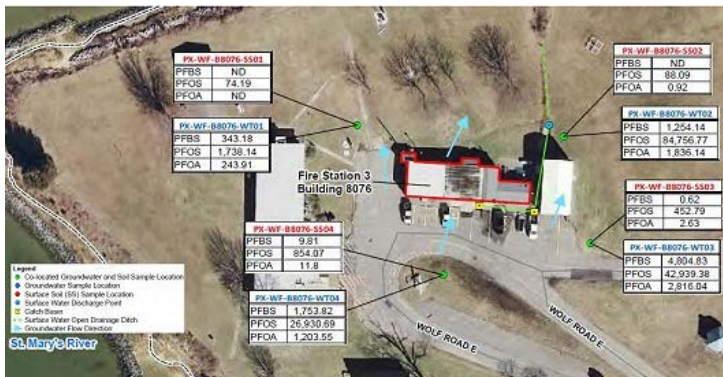
CANCELLED

*A River Affair*



The Navy will hold a virtual meeting April 28 to announce its findings regarding PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds) contamination in soils and ground water at both the Patuxent Naval Air Station and at Webster Outlying Field. The meeting will begin at 6:00 and go to 7:00 pm. For a link to join the meeting and for additional information, visit:

[https://www.navfac.navy.mil/products\\_and\\_services/ev/products\\_and\\_services/env\\_restoration/installation\\_map/navfac\\_atlantic/washington/nas\\_patuxent\\_river.html](https://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/env_restoration/installation_map/navfac_atlantic/washington/nas_patuxent_river.html)



From the Navy's meeting announcement "NAS Patuxent River to Hold Virtual Restoration Advisory Board Meeting April 28" Accessed April 20, 2021.

"We have to be vigilant and demand that the Navy quickly determines the extend of PFAS contamination at Fire Station 3, limits further spread of these toxins, and cleans them up as soon as possible," said Bob Lewis, executive director of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. "Our river and seafood are economic and recreational assets that we often take for granted. But both are threatened by heavily contaminated soils and ground water that is less than 200 feet from the river's edge."

Ground water and soils at four sites surrounding Firehouse 3 Webster Field were tested for just three PFAS compounds. The heaviest concentration was 84,756 parts per trillion of Perfluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOS was used as an ingredient in fire fighting foams but has been discontinued. A spokesperson for the Navy told us that foams containing PFOS are no longer used or stored at either Navy facility. PFOS has been widely studied for toxicity and human and animal health effects can be acute and chronic. According to EPA's website, studies indicate that PFOS is associated with reproductive and developmental abnormalities including low infant birth weights, liver and kidney damage, and immunological depression, tumors, and thyroid hormone disruption in animals.



## Annual River Clean Up Resumes

Twenty-seven volunteers from four organization met last Saturday April 17 and picked up trash along the St. Mary's River shoreline from Wherritts Pond to Chancellors Point. One college student joined members of the St. Mary's River Rowing Club, St. Mary's River Yacht Club, and St. Mary's River Watershed Association to collect 8 bags of trash and 11 bags of recyclables, plus a 14' chain, a drain tile, 5-gallon bucket, and lots of treated wood. Thank you to all participants and to Historic St. Mary's City Museum and Trinity Church for providing access and assistance - your efforts make difference!



---

Membership renewals are now due

[Click here to renew your membership online.](#)

---



### 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!](#)

### Upcoming Events:

- A River Affair  
Will Not Be Held May 31  
Due to Covid
- RiverFest 2021  
Saturday September 25  
11 am to 4 pm  
Historic St. Mary's City Museum

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS E-NEWSBRIEF, REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND TYPE INTO THE SUBJECT LINE - UNSUBSCRIBE.

OR EMAIL US AT [newsletter@smrwa.org](mailto:newsletter@smrwa.org) AND REQUEST TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS E-NEWSLETTER LISTSERV.