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WATERSHED WATCH

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

November 2, 2023

[Join or Renew](#)

🌿 Giving Season Begins! 🌿

As the holiday season approaches, we are filled with gratitude for our supporters. Together, we persist towards a sustainable St. Mary's River.

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Help continue our progress by including the St. Mary's River Watershed Association in your annual giving plans. Every donation supports our mission to protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River and its watershed.

This giving season, you can support our mission through:

1. Year-End Giving: Make a one-time, tax-deductible gift to the St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) or work with your financial institution to donate monthly. Donations can be made [online](#) or via a check sent to the address listed above.
2. Purchasing Reef Balls: Need a holiday gift? Give an ecosystem! Reef balls can be purchased [online](#) for \$100. Reef balls can be personalized with an inscription of your loved one's name (less than 24 characters).
3. Legacy Giving: Secure our river's future by including the St. Mary's River Watershed Association in your estate planning. Contact Bob Lewis at bobSMRWA@gmail.com to discuss this opportunity.



To:

With
Love,



Thank you for joining us to safeguard "Maryland's River!"



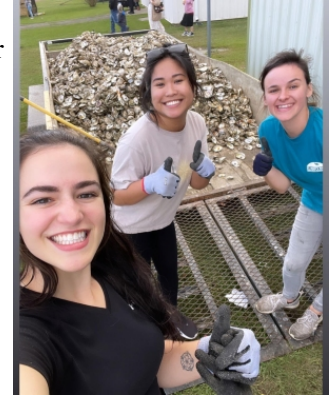
[October Recap: Oysters and Outreach](#)



At the US Oyster Festival on October 21-22, volunteers and staff collected 145 bushels of oyster shells. These shells will be the foundation of our 2024 oyster restoration efforts. We also gave away 50 native River Birch saplings to festival goers. While most attendees were savoring oysters for their taste, our oyster tank and display boards showcased oysters' ecological importance as natural water filters

and vital habitat for aquatic life.

On October 26th, we presented our remote water quality monitoring devices to 460 oyster professionals at the Chesapeake Oyster Science Symposium presented by the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance. You can read more about this project in our [February](#) and [July](#) newsletters



On October 28th, we brought conservation STEM to the St. Mary's County Public School STEAM Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Students participated in our annual St. Mary's River oyster reproduction survey by counting "spat" (baby oysters) that collected on our traps over the summer.



In Case You Missed It...

Some of you may have missed our October newsletter due to a server error. We've included it here so you can stay up to date on all things SMRWA!

Oysters Return to Breton Bay

On Saturday, September 30th, volunteers planted one million baby oysters, known as "spat", off of Lover's Point for the second annual "One Million Oysters for Breton Bay." The volunteers included [Shore Thing Shellfish LLC](#), [Bell Marine Services](#), [Last Look Outfitters](#), and more than three dozen community members.



In 2017, the [Friends of St. Clements Bay](#) launched the Lover's Point oyster restoration project in the Breton Bay shellfish sanctuary. With help from the St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) and the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, the Friends have planted more than three million oysters at Lover's Point.



At the event on Saturday, the Friends and SMRWA announced that for the first time in decades oyster reproduction was occurring in Breton Bay!

Read the press release [here!](#)

Thank You- RiverFest Sponsors!

While we couldn't host RiverFest, we are grateful to our sponsors! These sponsors not only support RiverFest, but also support our work to protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River all year long. Please support our business partners.

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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



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