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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

May 21, 2015

SMRWA Attends Choose Clean Water Conference

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Staffers Bob Lewis, Ken Gill, and Allison Rugila attended the 6th Annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference earlier this week in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which is located along the Susquehanna River. This mighty river supplies about half of the fresh water input to the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed is host to four million people. Known as the largest "non-navigable" waterway in the country, the Susquehanna is shallow providing excellent paddling and rowing opportunities. Once a major recreational venue for small mouth bass, the river's bass population has declined dramatically in recent decades due to unknown causes.

Once a state of care-free concerns over environmental degradation, attendees learned that Pennsylvania is still a leading polluter of the Chesapeake Bay and that the political climate there is changing toward becoming better stewards of our rivers and Bay. Responding to residents' desires and the EPA's strong arm tactics,

Pennsylvania is moving forward with implementation of pollutant-reduction efforts in compliance with the Bay TMDL (EPA's pollution diet).

This year's conference addressed many topics including diversifying community groups, storm water runoff mitigation, fracking/pipelines and climate change. Featured was an all afternoon workshop on sea level rise including how to combat current and anticipated flooding and storm inundation through mitigation practices and shoreline resiliency. Land use planning is a key component in community readiness. Current science predicts a minimal sea level rise of four feet by 2100. Here in the St. Mary's River watershed, we'll need to plan for this flooding especially at the end of Atkins Road where a low-income community resides, throughout much of Piney Point, and all of St. George Island.

Anticipating a four foot rise in sea level is just the beginning of critical planning efforts. Storm inundation in addition to higher sea levels will be difficult to predict and results may be catastrophic for some landowners.



Brownies and Fishing Rodeo



The St. Mary's River Watershed Association was in attendance at the Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo held on May 9th at St. Mary's River State Park. Children and teens participating in this event stopped by the SMRWA display to see local macroinvertebrates and learn about water quality issues and habitat restoration.

On Saturday, May 16th we hosted a field trip for Brownie Troops #6996 and 4882 at the St. Mary's College of Maryland waterfront to learn about oyster reef ecology, witness local oyster restoration efforts, and observe fish native to the St. Mary's River.

Upcoming Events:

- **Shell Bagging**
Sunday, May 24, 2015
Please RSVP
8-11 am
At Bob's House
- **Shell Bagging**
Sunday, May 31, 2015
Please RSVP
8-11 am
At Bob's House
- **MGO Cage Collection**
First two weeks of June
at the SMCM Waterfront
Please RSVP
- **POTOMAC RIVER SWIM**
Saturday, June 6, 2015
Point Lookout State Park
Bring a dish to share -
lunch begins at 10:00 am
More info 301-737-2903.
- **A RIVER AFFAIR**
Sunday, June 7, 2015



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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1:00 to 4:00 pm
State House at Historic St.
Mary's City
[BUY TICKETS ONLINE](#)

- **NATIONAL ENVIROTHON**

OYSTER PLANTING
Tuesday, June 17, 2015
6:00 pm 'til Dark **[NEW TIME]**
College Waterfront

- **SAVE THE DATE**



Saturday, September 26, 2015
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
State House,
Historic St. Mary's City
More info 301-737-2903

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