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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

December 8, 2015

Happy Holidays!

Boeing Funds Oyster Restoration & Outreach to Youth Groups for the 7th Year

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Boeing Grant awarded to
SMRWA for 7th year

Annual Membership
Drive

Oysters at HES

DNR Hosts Sanctuary
Talk Dec. 10

**Need a Last
Minute Christmas
Gift?**



A satisfying gift to a
healthier St. Mary's
River - one Reef Ball
will be etched with the

The Boeing Company awarded a \$20,000 grant to St. Mary's River Watershed Association, enabling the Association to carry on oyster restoration and storm water mitigation projects within the watershed. Volunteers, many from local youth groups and schools, make up the workforce, take ownership of the project, and benefit from hands-on experiences. These personal connections with the natural environment enhance understanding of our place and foster stewardship.

Over the past seven years through Boeing support, the Association was able to engage more than 1500 volunteers in over 4,100 hours of community service designing and installing rain gardens, manufacturing oyster reef balls, surveying oyster bars, monitoring water quality, and striking and planting twenty-six million oysters in the St. Mary's River oyster sanctuary.

giftee's name and installed into the St. Mary's River where up to 1000 oysters will make it their home. [Download form.](#) or [purchase online:](#) Download and print this graphic for under your tree.



To: _____

With Love,



[Please email us today!](#)

Year End Campaign & Membership Drive

We are grateful for your support and generosity. Your support makes what we do possible!

St. Mary's River Watershed Association is currently in the middle of their annual membership drive. Your membership dues and donations enable us to carry out projects that help the environment. Please read our [2015 Year in Review](#).

[*Donate Now*](#)

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association's mission is 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. The Association is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and our federal identification number is 20-2518203. Your donation to us is tax deductible!

Oysters in the Classroom

There were many eager and hungry eyes when an aquarium of St. Mary's River oysters was set up at Hollywood Elementary School in Ms. Molina's 4th grade class about a month ago. Many kids inquired "can we



eat them?" and it was then that we explained the St. Mary's River Watershed Association's mission. The kids learned what oysters do for the river, what animals depend on oyster reefs for habitat and food, and why restoration is necessary. The discussion included what the students can do around their home and community to help clean our Bay and live sustainably.



"I see a lot of potential for future bay leaders in that class," says SMRWA's outreach coordinator, Meghan Webster. "Being aware of our surroundings and having enthusiasm for change is what we need and it's what these kids have."

The oysters will be returning home soon to the St. Mary's River.



We're on the web!
www.smrwa.org



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

DNR to Discuss Stewardship of Oyster Sanctuary - December 10

5:00 p.m. at the Muldoon River Center in St. Mary's City (Free Event)

Officials from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will hold an informal meeting to talk about how residents along the St. Mary's River can assist with protecting the oyster sanctuary. Designated a shellfish sanctuary on October 1, 2010, the St. Mary's River north of Church Point is currently off limits to the public commercial fishery. Native oysters, clams, and mussels cannot be harvested, unless...

In summer of 2013, DNR began issuing permits for aquaculture within the oyster sanctuaries. Many folks along the river were not happy with the sanctuary being opened for commercial use. "Sanctuary means that the animals are protected from harvest," they said. This led to a lot of confusion. Who has the right to harvest? Where? When? and so on.

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