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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94

St. Mary's City, MD 20686

March 23, 2016

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## Future Bay Leaders SMRWA Supports STEM

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### Ridge Elementary STEM Team Wins Excellence Award

Ridge Elementary School Robotics Team won the Regional and State Excellence Award with their STEM Research Project on the Bay being one of the key factors. The judges absolutely loved the project and the kids did an exceptional job. Last fall, SMRWA hosted the team for a field trip to the St. Mary's River to talk about and interact with oysters and oyster habitat.

"Using the SMRWA as our main source of reference material was a big plus," wrote team mentor Sarah Cannavo in an email. "Judges liked the photos and the fact that the kids went out in the field to explore the topic."

The team is now preparing for the World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky, April 19 – 23. A dress rehearsal is planned for the SMRWA Board of Directors' meeting on April 7.



## Great Mills High STEM Capstones Feature Our Interns

On Tuesday, March 1, two of our 2015 interns presented their summer experience and their goals for careers in environmental sustainability at their CAPSTONE presentation at Great Mills High School. STEM Academy students, Chandler Wyatt and Emerson Schaeffer, did a wonderful job highlighting the fun they had and the hard work they accomplished this past summer.



They showcased SMRWA's mission and how the summer's workload informed their studies while rewarding us with actual, as well as feel-good, improvement in the health of our watershed. They also presented their findings from individual research projects. Both described how the

data they collected might aid in oyster restoration by providing a better understanding of biotic diversity and oyster recruitment on our oyster reefs.

Both Chandler and Emerson expressed that their experience with SMRWA has solidified their choice of career path. Chandler has been accepted to St. Mary's College of Maryland and is enrolled in the fall of 2016. He hopes to pursue a career in Environmental Management, Marine Ecology, or Paleontology. Emerson is deciding on a college to attend in the fall of 2016 with hopes to pursue a career in Environmental Sustainability and Business Management.

We appreciate the hard work we have seen from previous STEM Academy students and have opened up opportunities to host 2016 summer internships.

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## St. Mary's County Launches Watershed Stewards Academy

The University of Maryland Extension Program and St. Mary's County Government are excited to announce the first St. Mary's County Watershed

# **BECOME A CERTIFIED MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD**

Stewards Academy (WSA) certification course. This is an adult education program that runs Thursday evenings beginning April 28, 2016. Stewards will gain hands-on and classroom training in a diverse range of topics including: watershed processes, installation and maintenance of

stormwater best management practices, project funding and permitting, community engagement, and much, much more! Participants will receive the tools and resources necessary to assess watersheds, identify pollution sources and restoration opportunities, and educate their community on current water quality issues. Visit <http://ter.ps/SMWSA> for more information!



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## **Chesapeake Bay Field Lab Lectures Science for Citizens Seminar Series**

The Spring 2016 series will be presented by University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science faculty members about their research on a Bay-related topic, and this season, they will also feature a screening of the new movie “Beautiful Swimmers Revisited,” which includes CBL blue crab research. Covering a diversity of issues with broad interest, many of the topics will be locally relevant as well. All seminars are free and open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm in the Bernie Fowler Lab. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.umces.edu/cbl/outreach-seminars>



- March 29, 2016 - Atlantic Menhaden: Stories from Early Life  
Presented by Dr. Tom Miller
- April 05, 2016 - Oyster Restoration in Maryland  
Presented by Dr. Kennedy Paynter
- April 12, 2016 - Why Does Blue Crab Abundance Change Year to

- Year? - Presented by Dr. Eric Schott
- April 19, 2016 - Beautiful Swimmers Revisited Film Screening  
Presented by film interviewee Dr. Tom Miller
  - April 26, 2016 - The Gathering Storm: Flooding the Chesapeake Bay - Presented by Dr. William Boicourt
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We're on the web!  
[www.smrwa.org](http://www.smrwa.org)



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

## Upcoming Events:

- An Oyster Lovers Social has been rescheduled for sometime this Fall at the Ruddy Duck
- Earth Day on the Square  
Noon to 4:30 Leonardtown
- St. Mary's River Clean Up  
9:00 April 23  
RSVP

- SAVE THE DATE!

*A River Affair*

1:00 to 4:00 June 5  
Historic St. Mary's City



- 11:00 to 4:00 September 24  
Historic St. Mary's City

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