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WATERSHED WATCH

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

April 14, 2020

Will A River Affair Take Place May 25?

[Join or Renew](#)

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A River Affair

The Development Committee will meet on April 28 and the agenda will begin with a discussion on whether A River Affair will need to be postponed. Currently, we are under Governor Hogan's orders to stay at home and to not assemble. A River Affair is six weeks away - maybe things will get better. Stay tuned.

A River Affair

Monday, May 25, 2020

1 to 4 pm

Ruddy Duck Seafood &
Alehouse

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Covid-19 Delays Action on *PFAS* Threat

We are all living a Hollywood horror plot line as we attempt to avoid getting and spreading Covid-19. While the Association is effectively closed for much business, we have been busy putting together a plan for PFAS testing and a white paper on the PFAS threat. Soon we will publish this paper on our website although it will remain a living document over the next few months as we continue to research and gather information.



The Maryland Department of the Environment released a statement earlier this month indicating that they have developed a plan to test in the St. Inigoes area in April with results to be made public in May. But due to the Governor's stay-at-home order, the testing is being postponed, according to an April 6 article in the Bay Journal, "[MD to test water, oysters in St. Mary's River for toxic chemicals.](#)"

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association Board of Directors met last week and decided that additional independent testing was necessary in order to provide transparency to the testing process and to validate results. The Association is looking to test for 28 PFAS chemicals using an independent EPA-certified lab and qualified sampling technicians. This will be very costly. Quotes from certified labs run around \$1,000 per site to test water and oysters. This threat surfaced in February with a test result at Rosecroft Point (this test is questioned and needs to be verified). We did not budget for PFAS testing and our annual fund raiser may not occur due to Covid-19 stay-at-home protocols. Therefore, we are asking our members to consider making a donation to help cover this cost. We'd like to test 15 sites and have already raised \$2500 leaving us significantly short of funding. Please help if you can - [DONATE HERE.](#)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that include PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s, according to the EPA's website. PFAS has been used extensively in fire-fighting foams at both Patuxent NAS and Webster Field. Minute amounts of PFAS are a known health concern especially for pregnant women and their unborn children. PFAS levels are



Source: Australian Department of Defence

reported in parts per trillion (ppt) or in nanograms per gram dry weight. PFAS are found in some clothing, food packaging, stain guard formulas, non-stick frying pans, and other household items. Therefore the sampling can be easily contaminated resulting in both false positive tests and results lower than actually present.

To learn more about PFAS and the dangers to human health, visit the EPA's web page: <https://www.epa.gov/PFAS/basic-information-PFAS>



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



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Upcoming Events:

- River Clean Up
Saturday April 18
CANCELLED
Chancellor's Point Community Center
- Earth Day on the Square
Sunday April 19
CANCELLED
Leonardtwn
- A River Affair
TO BE DETERMINED
Monday, May 25
1:00 to 4:00 pm
Ruddy Duck Seafood & Alehouse
[Purchase Tickets](#)
- RiverFest 2020
Saturday, September 26
SAVE THE DATE
11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Historic St. Mary's City

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