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# WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 94  
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

May 7, 2020

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## Governor Amends Stay at Home Order Expands Outdoor Recreation

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>Governor Expands Water  
Activities

>>A River Affair moves  
online

>>Back to Work

### *A River Affair*

Monday, May 25, 2020

Event gathering cancelled

We are developing an online program to chat and answer questions and talk about our ongoing work. We will ask for donations to help cover our summer activities.

Please watch the US mail and these newsletters for further details.

May 6, 2020—Governor Hogan announced amended rules for his stay-at-home order. Outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running, biking, or individual and small group sports such as golfing, tennis, and similar activities; outdoor fitness instruction; recreational fishing, hunting, shooting, and archery; recreational boating; horseback riding; and visiting cemeteries are now permitted as long as the Maryland Department of Health guidelines are followed. Social distancing and gatherings of less than ten people must be observed. Read his order [here](#).

Non-essential business activities are permitted to maintain operations. The Association will resume activities related directly to the maintenance of operations.

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### *A River Affair*

Our gathering at the Ruddy Duck is cancelled  
Online forum planned



We are so sad to cancel our fundraising A River Affair. Looking at projections, it appears that a fall event would likely be under-attended, if it happened. On May 25 we are planning to host an online Zoom meeting for folks to call in and talk about our beautiful St. Mary's River. On this venue, we will likely show some mini videos of our work, slides of our program success, and maybe even a brief talk or two on interesting subjects. We invite you to sign in for a few minutes or to hang out for awhile.



More information about this May 25 online event will be sent via US postal service and within these newsletters as we finalize our plans. In this way we will ask for your support and your ongoing commitment to the health of the St. Mary's River.

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## Work Resumes - PFAS testing, Oyster Nursery, Spatfall Study, and Reef Restoration

Our program activities have been ongoing although limited to mostly planning and purchasing. This coming week we will begin to



resume essential activities related to our basic operations. No one will dispute the

importance of PFAS testing—we all want and need to know if our St. Mary's River seafood is safe to eat. Our oyster nursery will be set up at the end of this month and we will begin to produce spat for the restoration efforts. The recruitment (spatfall) study is in it's third year and some watermen have told us they think this will be a good year - therefore it is essential that we get our study traps deployed by June 1. All of these activities can easily be handled individually - one person doing a job. Our summer staff is currently planned as three part-time workers...and we will switch off on jobs to maintain distancing and progress. Volunteering will be limited this summer. Each volunteer will need to request a time slot and fulfill duties without the typical support. Please reach out to Bob, if you want to volunteer - [Bobsmrwa@gmail.com](mailto:Bobsmrwa@gmail.com)

At this time we are unsure whether we will engage larger numbers of volunteers building reef balls at the concrete plant in July and August. If the pandemic continues to subside, we'll need three to five volunteers each day beginning July 5 or 6. If not, then we anticipate maintaining limited volunteer activities building reef balls in July-August.

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We apologize for the broken link in our last newsletter: 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](http://www.smrwa.org)



[Join or Renew Today!](#)

### Upcoming Events:

- A River Affair  
**Gathering Cancelled**  
Monday, May 25  
1:30 Online informal forum  
TO BE DETERMINED
- RiverFest 2020  
Saturday, September 26  
TO BE DETERMINED  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Historic St. Mary's City

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