

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association is a new non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and promoting the well-being of the St. Mary's River Watershed. In order to accomplish this mission, economic, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders collaborate to form consensus on issues facing the watershed.

The association grew out of the work of the St. Mary's River Project, a federally-funded study of water quality in the streams and tidal portion of the watershed. In 2002, a coalition of citizens completed a comprehensive watershed management plan for Hilton Run, a subwatershed of the St. Mary's River. The association strives to establish win-win partnerships that guide growth and preserve the natural, cultural, and economic characteristics most-valued to St. Mary's County citizens. The association is open to everyone, and individual annual memberships are \$35. The mailing address for the association is P.O. Box 94, St. Mary's City, MD 20686, and a newly established web site can be found at: www.stmaryswatershed.org

The 73.8 square mile St. Mary's River watershed encompasses almost a quarter of St. Mary's County's 296 square miles. Over 100 miles of streams in 16 subwatersheds drain into the St. Mary's River before the river becomes tidal. The tidal estuary extends down stream from Tippetty Witchity Island for about 8 miles before it empties into the Potomac River at St. George Island and Kitts Point at the mouth of Smith Creek. Northern reaches of the watershed extend from the county airport and westward along Route 4. Route 235 delineates the eastern boundary while 5 approximates the western boundary.

