

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

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## Volunteers Give the St. Mary's River a Spring Cleaning

More than 20 volunteers paddled the St. Mary's River Water Trail between Great Mills Canoe/Kayak Launch and Adkins Road on Saturday, April 14, 2012 collecting trash during the

4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup. Volunteers collected 32 tires, 20 bags of trash and recyclables, and 800 lbs of loose trash.



"It was a beautiful day to paddle," said Lindsay Tempinson, St. Mary's River Watershed Association member. "The water level was lower than previous years but that made it easier to spot tires and other trash sunk to the bottom of the river!"

The St. Mary's River Cleanup is hosted by the St. Mary's River Watershed

Association (<http://www.smrwa.org>), and is part of the [Alice Ferguson Foundation 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup](#).

There were nearly 350 cleanup sites in Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. As of 6 a.m., with 141 sites reporting, more than 3,000 volunteers had collected 13,774 cigarette butts, 648 tires, 32,247 plastic bags, 65.4 tons of loose trash, and 67,900 recyclable beverage containers from the Potomac River Watershed.

Trash and litter has negative effects in many areas of life in the region:

It harms wildlife;

- costs taxpayers precious funds for cleanup and removal;
- is a public health threat by increasing breeding grounds for virus carrying insects and rodents;
- decreases property values;
- and hurts businesses, recreation, and tourism.







**Photo 1 Caption:** Volunteers paddle the St. Mary's River collecting trash during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup.

**Photo 2 Caption:** James Waltz pulls a tire from the St. Mary's River and loads it into his canoe during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup. A total of 32 tires were removed from the river by volunteers.

**Photo 3 Caption:** Andy Shaw (left) and Will Gates with a canoe full of trash collected from the St. Mary's River during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's River Cleanup.

**Photo 4 Caption:** Some of the volunteers who assisted with the clean up pose with their catch. *From left in rear:* Paula Riner, James Waltz, Justin Hodges, Bob Lewis, Will Gates, Lindsay Tempinson, Dave Ludwig, Andy Shaw; *In front:* Kevin Findley, Hailey Findley, and Caitlin Findley.

