



**PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and are essential components of our rich natural heritage and resilient ecosystems; and*

*WHEREAS native plants are vital for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water, and stabilizing soils; and*

*WHEREAS native plants are well-adapted to specific soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment, and adapting to its changes; and*

*WHEREAS native plants provide food, including nectar, pollen, seeds, and foliage, for native birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and*

*WHEREAS St. Mary's County is home to hundreds of native plant species, which include large shade trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses, and wildflowers; and*

*WHEREAS habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants; and*

*WHEREAS it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy, and to the health and sustainability of local fragile ecosystems.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, do hereby proclaim the month of May as NATIVE PLANT MONTH in St. Mary's County and encourage all citizens to observe the month by removing non-native invasive plants in our yards and communities; planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers; and educating others about the many benefits of native plants.*

**THIS DATE:**

**May 1, 2026**



COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

*James R. Guy*  
James Randy Guy, President

*Michael Alderson, Jr.*  
Michael Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

*Eric S. Colvin*  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

*Michael L. Hewitt*  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

*Scott R. Ostrow*  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner