



# RUNOFF

HANOVER-CAROLINE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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## Go Native!



Fall was a great time for getting native plants in the ground! The District was a part of two planting projects. The State Fair of Virginia was looking to expand its riparian buffer along a section of the North Anna River. In partnership with the Virginia Department of Forestry, the District put together a plan to plant 55 native trees and shrubs in the area that houses the natural resources agencies during the State Fair. Species included willow oak, loblolly pine, burr oak, holly, wax myrtle, and dogwood. The planting project turned into an educational opportunity when environmental studies students joined in the effort. The students learned about the importance of riparian buffers and helped to plant the trees and shrubs. A local print shop, We Think in Ink, located in Ashland, donated \$500 to purchase the plants. We Think in Ink is dedicated to offsetting their paper use and the District looks forward to partnering with them again in the future.



The District administered a \$500 grant from Virginia Cooperative Extension (Hanover) for a native planting project at Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Hanover County. Sixth grade teacher Lynn Shope took the initiative to plan a butterfly garden in the courtyard of the school. She and her students researched native plants and chose the best species for the site. Some of those species included butterfly weed, purple coneflower, black-eyed susan, and phlox. The goal was to enhance the aesthetics of the courtyard while attracting pollinators and creating an outdoor learning space. Students practice observation skills in finding the chrysalis of the monarch butterfly. They bring the chrysalis inside and watch the development of the monarch. Lynn says “Students are learning that the courtyard needs to have plants for each stage of the butterflies life cycle in order to attract and see more butterflies”. The Garden Club is increasing the number of native plants in the interior courtyard. 40 students participate in the Club which meets every Thursday in Oct. and Nov. The Club starts again in the spring.





# Conservation Awards

At the 2010 annual Conservation Awards Banquet, Hanover-Caroline SWCD recognized three outstanding conservationists in Caroline County. We commend each of these award recipients and thank them for their dedication to the conservation and improvement of soil and water.

## Clean Water/Bay Friendly Farm Award

### *Smith Dairy Farm*

Smith Dairy Farm serves as a model for agricultural diversity and conservation, operating a private hunt reserve called Charity Hill, raising registered Walkers, selling Holstein steers, and growing grain crops. All of this is done with a focus towards wildlife preservation, soil conservation and water quality improvement. An overall snapshot of Steve Smith's conservation practices would show implementation of strip-cropping, cover crops, grassed waterways, field borders, filter strips, continuous no-till, rotational grazing, CREP practices, regular soil testing, nutrient and manure management, precision farming with yield monitors and GPS, and regular pest scouting. Smith Dairy Farm went on to receive the York Watershed Grand Basin Award for the state of Virginia!

*Steve & Cindy Smith (center) receive the award from Wayne Davis, Dept of Conservation & Recreation, and District Manager Sharon Conner.*



## Urban Award

### *G.H. Watts Construction*

G H Watts Construction was nominated and chosen for this award because of a consistency of adoption, implementation and integration of good best management practices that not only protect and preserve soil and water resources, but also enhance the fit, finish and function of the products they produce. Practices such as the integration of landscaped natural areas, natural buffers, proper sighting and grading, with due consideration for how the work will affect the local environment and the homeowner. The consistent attention to detail in the landscape preparation and finish is quickly apparent. Little details like directing roof top runoff away from sensitive areas by drainage pipes below or above ground.

*Mr. & Mrs. GH Watts (center) receive the award from Chairman Park Dodd (left) and Conservation Specialist Jim Tate (right)*



## Clean Water/Bay Friendly Farm Award

### *Douglas Garrett*

Douglas Garrett and his wife Pat, together with his father James and brother Wayne, farm Hazlewood Farm in the Rappahannock River Valley of Caroline County. Douglas has farmed all of his adult life, and he and his brother Wayne are sixth generation farmers. The Garretts farm approximately 3000 acres in Caroline and Spotsylvania counties. They raise primarily corn, soybeans and wheat along the Route 17 corridor. All of their farmland drains to the Rappahannock River, thus excellent buffers, field borders and filter strips are imperative. An enthusiastic user of no-till, nutrient management planning and soil testing, the Garrett family was among the first of Caroline County producers to have Chesapeake Bay Plans written and implemented.

*Douglas and Pat Garrett (center) receive the award from Wayne Davis, Dept of Conservation & Recreation, and Conservation Specialist Marian Moody.*



Hanover-Caroline SWCD staff also received awards in 2010. The entire staff received the **Outstanding District Challenge Award** for Area III. This award recognized the staff as leaders in conservation in Virginia because of the important projects, technical assistance, and educational events that the District undertook in 2010.



*Marian Moody (right) accepts the Outstanding District Professional Award from VACDE Vice-President Suzie Brown.*

Conservation Specialist Marian Moody was named the **Outstanding District Professional** by the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE). This award is given annually to one soil & water conservation district employee in Virginia and recognizes them for outstanding efforts to conserve Virginia's natural resources.



*Three District staff members were present to accept the Area III District Challenge Award. Pictured left to right with District Directors: Don Wells, Joseph Stepp, Rebecca Jones, Park Dodd, Sharon Conner, Wayne Davis, DCR, Marian Moody*



## New Cost-Share Funding

Available for livestock owners

Would you like to fence your livestock out of streams and provide them with a clean, safe, alternative source of water? Would you like to successfully manage your pastureland and forage production capabilities? Would you like to better manage on-farm generated manure? For a limited time the District is taking applications for new grazing systems. Cost-sharing is provided at 75% for stream exclusions, alternative waterers, fencing, animal trails, sacrifice areas and more.

The **DEADLINE** for applications is January 18<sup>th</sup>!



Are you interested in competition, the environment, being outdoors and a chance to earn scholarships? If so, you may be interested in...



### What is Envirothon?

Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school students. Teams compete in five areas: soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. The 2011 Environmental Issue is **Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries**. The competition is held in the field and teams will have the opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

### How do you form a team?

Teams consist of five members. Members must be in grades 9-12. FFA, 4-H and home school groups are also eligible. Coaches may be a teacher or any enthusiastic adult willing to help.

### Competition Structure:

Local competition :hosted by local soil & water conservation district

Regional/Area competition: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams will go on to compete at the VA State Competition.

VA State Competition: teams from all regions of Virginia compete.

The 1st place team from the State competition goes onto the 2011 Canon Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada to compete for scholarship money and prizes.

### Why should you participate?

Learn about important environmental issues

Gain hands on experience in solving real-world problems

Great for college and job applications

Potential to win scholarships and prizes at the national level!

### Interested in starting a team or learning more about the program?

Contact Rebecca at the District: [rtjones@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:rtjones@co.hanover.va.us)

## Conservation Equipment Rental



Are you interested in better soil quality, water infiltration and residue management? If so, take advantage of the benefits of no-till planting. Contact the District office to inquire about renting a no-till drill (7 or 10-foot). The minimum rental rate is \$100 plus tax, which covers the first 10 acres. Each additional acre is \$7 plus tax.

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