



May 2018

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Dominion Energy

2018 ENVIROTHON

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



Participating Envirothon teams on training day: Arcadia High School (H.S.), Broadwater Academy, Chincoteague H.S., Nandua H.S. and Northampton H.S.

The Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon is a natural resources competition that tests teams on soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife and a special topic chosen each year that allows the students to work to solve real world environmental problems. This year's Virginia Dominion Energy Local Envirothon Competition event sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and partly funded by Dominion Energy occurred in two days – an intense day of training and a testing day at the Herbert H. Bateman Educational & Administrative Center at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Assateague, VA. All local high schools participated including Arcadia High School (Coach Marianne Simko), Broadwater Academy (two teams— Coach Sandra Thornton), Chincoteague High School (Coach Fred Gers), Nandua High School (Coach Julie Head) and Northampton High Schools (two teams—Coach Kelsey Gaskins and Coach Andrea McCready).

Arcadia High School placed first and Broadwater Academy placed second at this year's

Local Dominion Energy Envirothon Competition. Arcadia High School and Broadwater Academy both competed at the Area VI Envirothon at Virginia State University's Randolph Farm in Petersburg, VA. Arcadia High School placed third and will head to the State competition at Ferrum College, on May 20-21, 2018.

The Eastern Shore SWCD would like to thank the trainers and judges who participated in the local competition: (Soils) H.L. Kellam from USDA Farm Service Agency and Cole Charnock from ESSWCD, (Forestry) Robbie Lewis and Kenny Midget from the VA Dept. of Forestry and (Special Topic) Jenny Templeton from NRCS, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater from Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, (Aquatics) Alex Ramey from Chincoteague Bay Field Station, and (Presentation Judges) Sally Richardson, Laurel Wilkerson, Ursula Deitch, Theresa Pittman and Tamsey Ellis. Many thanks to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge for hosting and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.

Sign-up for State Cost-share \$\$\$!

Starting July 16, 2018 through August 17, 2018 accepting FY19 Cover Crop Sign-up.

History Camp: Advanced Spy Camp/Nature Detective Camp



Are you curious about nature, your environment or just want to have some fun? Well, the Nature Detective Camp is for you. The camp is for ages 9-13 and is held 9:00am-4:00pm in conjunction with Advanced American Spies Camp at Ker Place, Onancock, VA.

Advanced American Spies & Nature Detectives Camp (July 30 – August 3, 2018 from 9am – 4pm for ages 9-13) is a joint presentation of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Historical Society. It challenges 21st century campers to use their powers of observation, deception and imagination in Spy training. Nature Detectives will hone their observation skills and look closer at the world around them to discover nature's mysteries. Campers will create advanced codes, complete reconnaissance assignments, master the art of disguise, learn to travel behind enemy lines, learn to identify animal tracks, birds and trees as well as mastering solar cooking techniques. The week culminates in the completion of a mission and some intriguing arts and crafts.

Campers need to bring their lunch every day. Tuition is \$165 (\$150 for members). All materials, a snack, and a t-shirt are included. Come to Ker Place this summer and discover your hidden talents without the help of today's technology. To register, contact Stephanie Templin at (757)787-8012 or education@shorehistory.org.

Spring Grants Awarded

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment Committee **awarded \$2,500 in Spring Grants** this year. These grants are funding small but far-reaching and long-term educational projects.

This year the grants are funding a Monarch Waystation for Parks and Rec, Butterfly Garden Expansion for Arcadia High School Ecology Club, a field trip to the VA Living Museum for Kiptopeke Elementary students, a Butterfly Lifecycle Project for Accawmacke Elementary, a pre-K Pollinator Garden and Insect Project for Broadwater Academy, a film called Hometown Habitat for Master Gardeners, Field trip to VA Living

Museum for Kiptopeke Elementary, a garden classroom for Metompkin Elementary, equipment for nature on the Big Screen for Friends of Kiptopeke State Park (KSP), Birding in the Building project at Kegotank Elementary, a Migrant Student Bird Program for Friends of KSP and Raised Bed Soil Monitors for New Roots Youth Garden. Educators use these projects to teach environmental conservation in a way that brings science to life for children.



2018 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

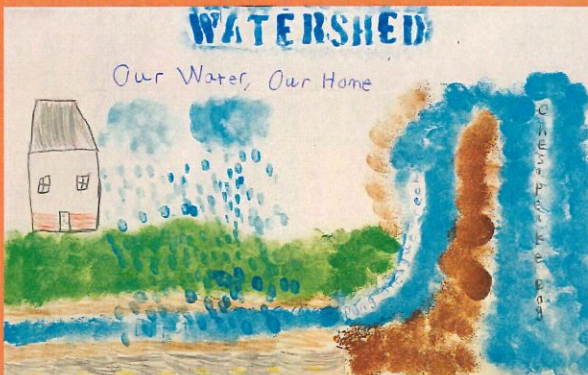
Grades K-1

1st Place

Laurna Kellam,
Accawmacke Elementary

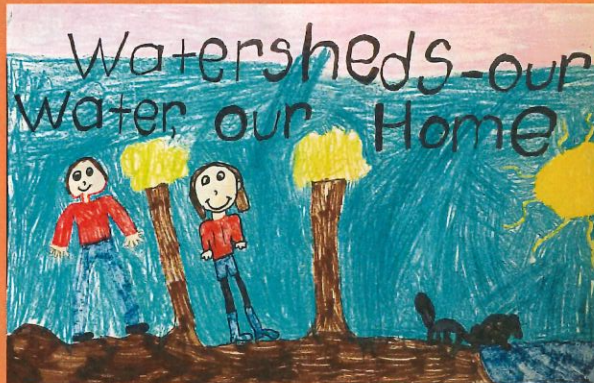


2nd Place



Orion Lored, Shore Christian Academy

3rd Place



Ruby Buck, Cape Charles Christian

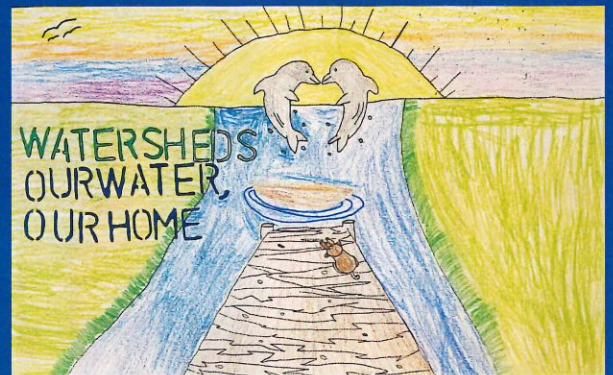
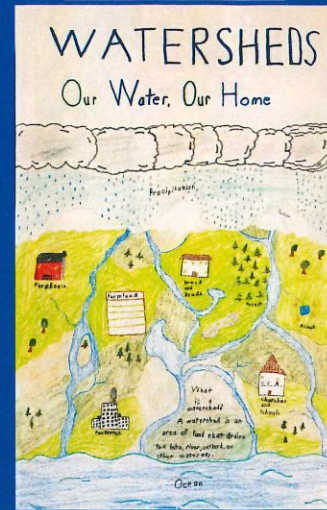
4th Place



Peyton Long, Montessori Children's House of Franktown

Grades 2-3

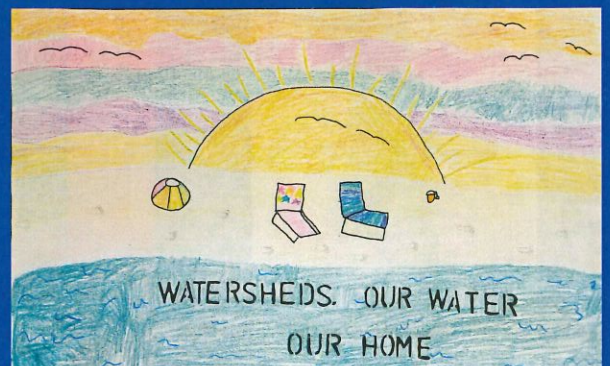
Ashlyn Mears,
Shore Christian Academy



Taylor Young, Broadwater Academy



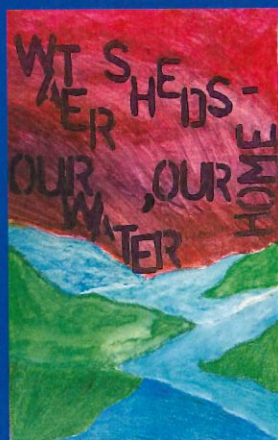
Noah Steele, Shore Christian Academy



Mariah Moore, Broadwater Academy

2018 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

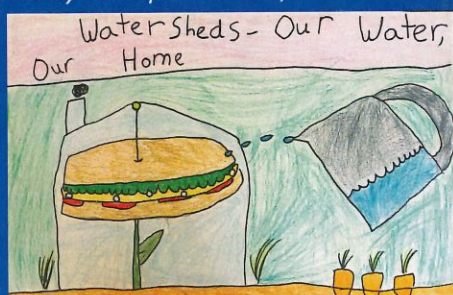
Grades 4-6



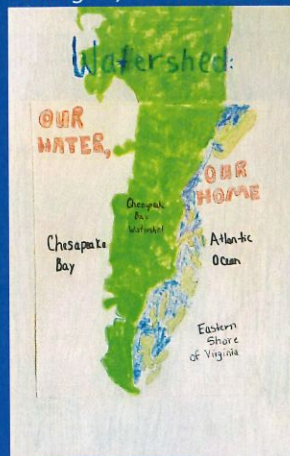
Ciara Onley, Nandua Middle School



Yaretzy Velasquez Roblero, Nandua Middle

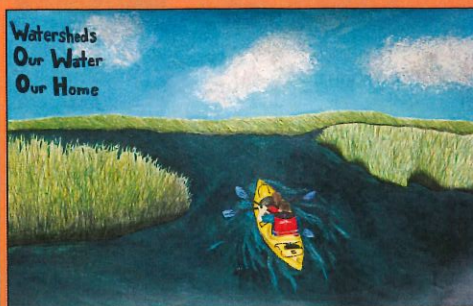


Benjamin Stodghill, Nandua Middle School

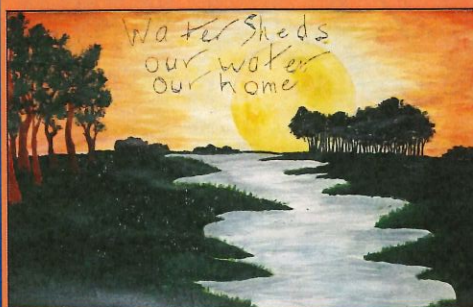


Annistin Cordoza, Shore Christian Academy

Grades 7-9



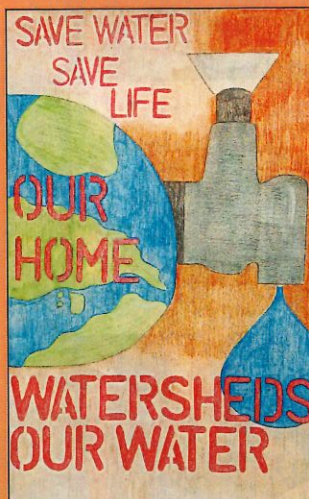
Bella Ochsner, Broadwater Academy



Michelle Eno, Broadwater Academy



Ashley Burns, Broadwater

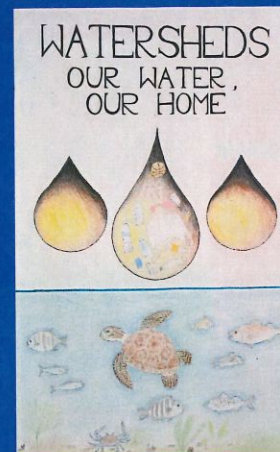


Jaquari Bailey, Nandua Middle School

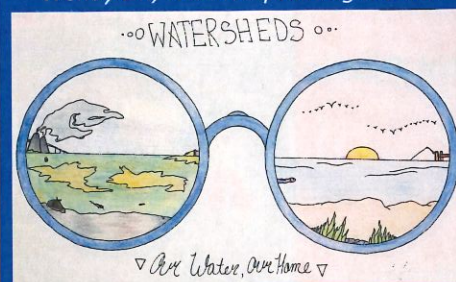
Grades 10-12



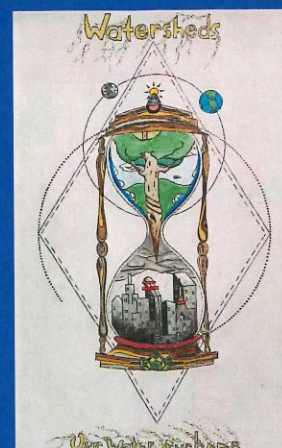
Nia-Imani Richardson, Northampton H.S.



Wendy Lin, Northampton High School



Amber Early, Northampton High School

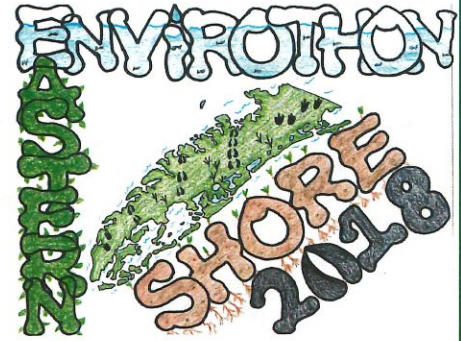


Jordan Jacobs, Northampton High School

T-shirt Design Contest

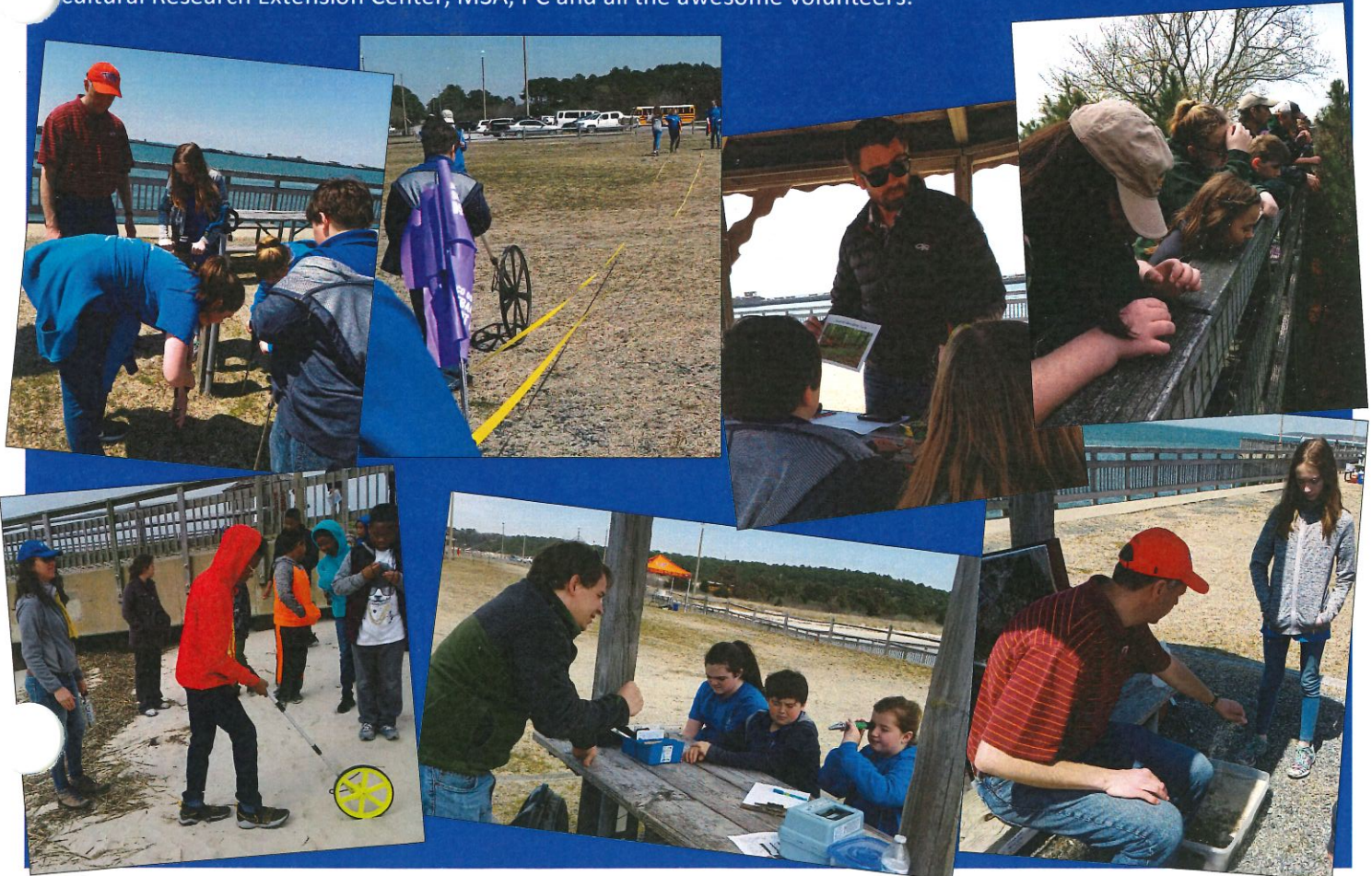
Each year ESSWCD holds a local T-shirt contest for the local Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon competition. The contest rotates annually between the local high schools. The winning T-Shirt design is then featured on the Envirothon T-shirt given out at the testing day to all the teams, trainers, judges and volunteers.

The winning design (right) was created by **Aaleah Midgett of Arcadia High School**. ESSWCD awarded Aaleah a \$50 cash prize and t-shirts for her and her family.



Spring Watershed Festival

On Thursday, April 12, 2018, 140 6th graders from Broadwater Academy, Kiptopeke Elementary, Occohanock Elementary, Montessori Children's House of Franktown, Cape Charles Christian School and Shore Christian Academy visited Kiptopeke State Park (KSP) for the 2018 Northampton Watershed Festival. The Watershed Festival is one segment of a three-part Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience sponsored by the Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council under the umbrella of the District. Students focused on how humans' use of the watershed can impact various aspects negatively or positively. At KSP students rotated through stations including soils, water quality, wildlife, planning & zoning and a watershed history hike. Information and data collected at KSP aided students in creating presentations on how 33 acres of land at KSP should be developed. A big thank you to our station exhibitors Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Northampton County, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Kiptopeke State Park, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Barrier Islands Center, Virginia Tech Agricultural Research Extension Center, MSA, PC and all the awesome volunteers.



Welcome ESSWCD's Newest Associate Director—Richard Davis



Richard was born in Starkville, Mississippi and raised in Wiggins, Mississippi. Growing up, Richard helped raise 80 head of cattle for a beef operation and also grew watermelon and other vegetables. He obtained a degree in Agriculture Education from Mississippi State and began to teach, but after just 7 months he realized farming was his true ambition. Mr. Davis' background with Gargiulo-a tomato operation in South Florida-as well as Six Ls and Kuzzens here on the Shore has given him over 25 years of vegetable production experience. He and Lipman Family Farms were awarded the Clean Water Farm Award in 2016 recognizing their ongoing efforts in soil and water quality. The District is pleased to welcome Richard Davis as its newest Associate Director!

The Shore Conserver is published quarterly by the Eastern Shore SWCD to provide information to land users. The District customarily meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm at the USDA Service Center in Accomac, VA. The public is welcome to attend. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the District office at 757-787-0918.

All programs and services of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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