



Shore Conserver

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

promoting locally led conservation

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301 (757)302-4431 www.esswcd.org

February 2021

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Chesapeake Bay Farm Voluntary BMP Survey

Virginia is embarking on a survey to help us learn more about voluntary conservation practices on Virginia farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed...like yours! The information you provide in response to the survey will help Virginia tell the story of what farmers are doing to conserve soil and improve water quality. This is incredibly important information that can help agriculture achieve its water quality goals for the Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay.

If you farm any land on the bayside it is crucial that you fill out the Chesapeake Bay Farm Voluntary Ag BMP Survey. The documentation of these practices will let government officials know that producers on the Eastern Shore and Virginia are working tirelessly to meet the WIP III goals. Every documented acre will be entered into the Chesapeake Bay model and we will be given "credit" for each practice. Our hope is that we can provide evidence that growers are working to meet our goals and not have further regulatory legislation passed. For more information about the survey, including answers to frequently asked questions as well as the survey link, please visit <https://vaswcd.org/virginia-farm-voluntary-agricultural-bmp-inventory>

If you have any questions about the survey or need assistance, please contact your County Agent or your local SWCD office.

**Eastern Shore VCE:
Accomack County ANR Agent**

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Ursula & Theresa



www.facebook.com/ESSWCD

In Remembrance

Tribute to ESSWCD Vice-Chair Fred Holland April 5, 1966 - January 26, 2021

The full obituary can be found here:

[https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delmarvanow/obituary.aspx?
n=frederick-holland-fred&pid=197617614&fhid=7878](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/delmarvanow/obituary.aspx?n=frederick-holland-fred&pid=197617614&fhid=7878)



"Fred and I served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation Board for the past 17 years. During that time, I came to rely on Fred for his practical and wise advice. His knowledge of agriculture and the farming community was invaluable to the Board. I learned so much from Fred. We once had an hour-long discussion of the value of radishes as a crop! Although he was conservative and traditional in his approach, he was also willing to take risks and be innovative to employ state-of-the-art methods. Fred was interested in getting conservation on the ground and ensuring that the techniques used were effective in conserving the soil and the water. I valued that fact that Fred loved the Eastern Shore and was a champion in preserving its natural resources. Fred rarely skipped a meeting and we could always count on his dry humor for a good laugh. He will be sorely missed."

Robin Rich-Coates, ESSWCD Chair



2021 Poster Contest



Open to all students in grades K-12. You may enter through your school, scout group, or other organization. Also open to home-schooled students. Posters must be no bigger than 11"x17"

Contest categories are K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-9th grade and 10th-12th grade. Winning entries will be awarded a cash prize and entered in the state level competition.

Posters are due to the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District by 4:30 p.m. on April 30,2021.

For more information contact Julie Head, Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433

General Rules

- Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials.
- All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students. Entry must be contestant's original creation and may not be traced from photographs or other artists' published works.
- The 2021 Stewardship theme "Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities" must be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest
- Additional guidelines and rules may be found at <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2021-NACD-Poster-Contest-Rules.pdf>

2021 Spring Grants & Contests

Conservation Grants Now Available!

Deadline: Thursday, April 1, 2021



Are you or your organization involved in environmental education on Virginia's Eastern Shore? Do you need funds to help provide these opportunities? You might want to apply for the Billie Fitzgerald Memorial Conservation Grants through the ESSWCD. Schools, teachers, scouts, community groups and other organizations in Accomack and Northampton Counties are eligible to apply.

Funding up to \$400 is available for projects such as outdoor classrooms, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, recycling programs, butterfly gardens, birdfeeders, worm composters, rain gardens, or other environmental projects. We do not fund beautification projects, food, or textbooks.



Applications can be found on the ESSWCD website under the education tab or by visiting <https://www.esswcd.org/spring-conservation-grants>. You may also contact Julie Head, Education Director, at 757-302-4433 or julie.head@esswcd.org.



2021 VASWCD Photo Contest Submissions is OPEN!

The VASWCD is committed to conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs and we want to see it through your eyes. the theme this year is "Conservation through the local lens". Capture those vibrant moments and express what conservation looks like through your lens! The contest is open from February 1 – July 30, 2021. To learn more about the contest please [click here](#). All photographs must be taken within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Scholarships and VCAP

Scholarships Available!

Deadline: Thursday, April 1, 2021



Do you know a current college student or a high school student planning to attend college in the fall of 2021. The W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship are available to Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who will be full-time undergraduate college students in the fall of 2021. The scholarships are administered by the Endowment Committee of the ESSWCD.

Up to \$1000 will be available for scholarships to be awarded to two students, depending upon the qualification of the applicants. Thursday, April 1, 2021, is the deadline to apply for the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

Application materials may be obtained from the District office in Accomac by calling 757-302-4433, by email at julie.head@esswcd.org or by visiting <https://www.esswcd.org/scholarships>

VCAP sign-ups continue through March 31, 2021

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is a cost-share program for homeowners and landowners that provides financial reimbursement to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMP's) in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur.



Living Shorelines



Rain Gardens



Rainwater Harvesting



Conservation Landscaping

For more information contact Norman Pitt, Conservation Technician, at norman.pitt@esswcd.org or 757-302-4431.

Educational Programs



Make Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop

April 24, 2021
Kiptopeke State Park
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Due to COVID restrictions, class size is limited to 8.
For cost, reservations, or more information contact Julie Head,
Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433

A PLATEFUL OF PLASTIC

A brand new web quest is available for middle and high school students on the problem of plastic in our lives. This unit has everything you need to help students understand how pervasive plastic pollution is. They start by looking at all the ways they use plastic in their every day live, research problems and solutions related to plastic use, and finish with a student led action project. Contact Julie Head, Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org for more information or to get a copy!



My body needs what?

Another brand new unit for middle and high school, this lesson uses both hands on and web based learning to teach students about the importance of minerals in their body and where those minerals come from. All minerals ultimately come from the soil. Humans get them by eating plants and animals that eat plants. Plants get them from the soil. Contact Julie Head, Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org for more information or to get a copy!

The Commonwealth of VA supports the Eastern Shore SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Eastern Shore SWCD programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of disability, race or color, national origin, traits historically associated with race or religion including traits associated with hair, religion or creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy status, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, veteran status, whistleblower status or genetic information.