



Shore Conservor

Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District • promoting locally led conservation
22545 Center Parkway • Accomac, VA 23301 • (757)787-0918

February 2014

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Plant a Native Tree for Arbor Day

To celebrate Arbor Day, the District is giving away trees and local donated nursery shrubs and flowers on **Saturday, April 5, 2014** at two locations: **Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, VA** and **Northampton Courthouse Grounds, Eastville, VA** from 10:00am—3:00pm!

Arbor Day was first recognized April 8, 1874 proposed by President Grover Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture, Julius S. Morton. It is estimated over one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first Arbor Day. Julius Morton once said, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." He thought trees much superior to cold marble as a memorial to persons or events. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting."

Arbor Day has spread beyond the US and most countries observe this holiday, such as Israel's New Year of the Trees day, Iceland's Afforestation Day, Mexico's Dia del Arbol—Day of the Tree, and Brazil who celebrates it September 21 to coincide with the beginning of spring in the Southern Hemisphere. California and even some countries set aside a whole week; Japan calls it Greening Week.

For the homeowner, Arbor Day is an excellent time to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future. Trees improve your landscaping and provide wind and heat protection (shade for you and your home). Native trees provide food and habitat for local wildlife; but not all trees are made the same. You may want really tall trees (80-110 ft) like the Tulip-Poplar, Black Walnut, Sweetgum, Red Maple or Southern Red Oak that will canopy your property. These trees are great for larger landscapes. Black Walnut trees secrete a toxic chemical called *juglone*, which prevents many other species from growing near them. Loblolly pine, another tall tree, drops its needles which suppress grass growth. Loblolly pines are a common nesting site for ospreys and bald eagles. Pine stands provide habitat for pine warbler, brown-headed nuthatch, turkeys, quail, deer and gray and fox squirrels.

In smaller yards, tall trees may present a hazard in big storms. Strong winds and heavy rain could topple a large tree onto your house. In this case, you may consider a small (20-30 ft) ornamental tree like a Flowering Dogwood, Sassafras or Sweetbay. Sweetbay (or Swamp Magnolia) grows best in low, wet areas and stays green very late into winter, almost evergreen in the far south. More than 35 species of birds and many large and small mammals eat the fruit of the Dogwood which is Virginia's state tree and flower. Deer and rabbits enjoy its foliage and twigs.

There may be other reasons you would choose a tree. Pawpaw trees are the only food source for Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillars. Eastern Redcedar is planted for erosion control and used as Christmas trees. The Redcedar's berries are a favorite food of many birds such as waxwings and bobwhite quail. Its dense foliage provides excellent roosting and nesting cover for birds. The natural oils in the Eastern Redcedar repel insects.

ESSWCD will offer a variety of native trees, large and small, with information about each tree available at the two locations mentioned above on April 5, 2014. There will also be a **Rainbarrel Workshop at the Eastville location** from 9:30am—10:30am. Read more about this on page 4.

Virginia Department of Forestry, [Common Native Trees of Virginia—Tree Identification Guide](#), (Charlottesville, VA: Virginia Department of Forestry, 2007)



Flowering Dogwood Tree—Va's State Tree and Flower



2-\$500 Fletcher/Beasley Scholarships Available

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District announces the 2014 Fletcher/Beasley Scholarship.

For a Graduating Senior, an Undergraduate or Graduate College

Student pursuing a curriculum related to
Conservation, Environmental Studies or Agriculture.

For an application

Contact your School Guidance Office or the
Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

www.esswcd.org

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301
Ph (757) 787-0918 x129, Fax (757) 787-8142

bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org

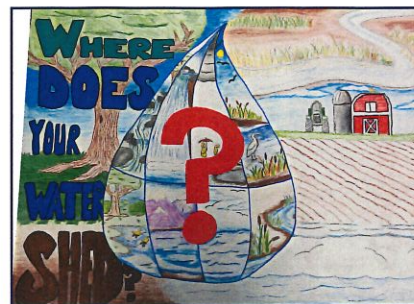
Deadline: April 15, 2014

State Winners from the Eastern Shore



Poster by David Warren III of Shore Christian Academy

Students from local schools entered their posters into the 2013 local poster contest. Of the 275+ entries last year, 5 were chosen as first place winners in categories of grades K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. These five first place winners were sent to the State Poster Contest. **David Warren III of Shore Christian Academy** was awarded first place and \$100 in the grades 2-3 category in the State competition. **Matthew Teasley of Nandua Middle School** was awarded first place and \$100 in the 7-9th grades category in the State competition. Congratulations David and Matthew for a job well done!



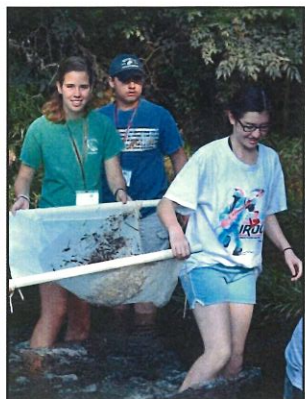
Poster by Matthew Teasley of Nandua Middle School

Conservation Poster Contest

The ESSWCD Conservation Poster Contest is open to all local students, grades K-12. **Cash prizes** will be given for 1st-4th place in each of the five grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 — Top Prize: \$50 in each category. Posters must be completed with this year's theme: "Dig Deep: Mysteries in the Soil" and submitted to ESSWCD by Friday, March 28, 2014 with a 2014 Conservation Poster Contest Entry Form attached on the back.

Poster awards will be given during the ES Science Fair held on April 5, 2014 at the Eastern Shore Community College. Winning posters will be displayed in the Accomack Public Library. For entry forms and complete rules and tips on how to make an effective poster, contact your art teacher or Bonnie Mahl at Bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org, 757-787-0918 x129 or go to www.esswcd.org.

Conservation Youth Camp



Charlotte Olmsted, one of the two 2013 campers is pictured here in the green shirt. Evan Lawrence not pictured

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts is sponsoring a week-long summer conservation camp, July 13-19, 2014 on the Virginia Tech Campus in Blacksburg, VA. The Camp is for high school students in grades 9-12. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District is offering **two scholarships** to send two Eastern Shore High School Students to the Conservation Youth Camp. At the Conservation Camp, students learn about the environment and conservation through hands-on experiences. There will be hikes, swimming, canoeing, tours of Virginia Campus and Science Centers and other outdoor fun! If hiking to the Cascades Waterfall and stimulating educational tours sounds like something you would enjoy, then this camp is for you! If you know a student with keen interest in the environment, please encourage them to apply by April 15, 2014 to the District. For a more complete description of the camp, this year's schedule and application, please visit the VASWCD Conservation Camp website at www.vaswcd.org/youthcamp or contact Bonnie Mahl at (757)787-0918 x129 or bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org.

Small Farmer Workshop Series

Specialty Crops

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

9 am—3:30 pm; registration begins at 8:30

Please join us for a FREE all-day workshop geared towards non-traditional and small-operation specialty crop producers

Come learn more about:

- SNAP certification
(ID and SS# required)
- Farm Recordkeeping
- Composting
- Virginia Grown Campaign
- Farmer Perspectives
- Pollinator Habitat
- Funding Opportunities



Lunch Provided

Exhibitors

Location:

Eastern Shore Community College
Workforce Development Center
29300 Lankford Hwy
Melfa, VA

Contact:

Tina Jerome, USDA-NRCS
(757) 787-0918 x120

Partners and Sponsors





Rainbarrel Workshop at Northampton Courthouse Grounds



The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the Eastern Shore Watersheds Network (ESWN) are holding a rain barrel workshop, on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 9:30-10:30am and on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 1:00pm. The collection of rain water into rain barrels helps prevent storm water runoff and erosion. Some people prefer to use this water on their cars and plants because it is "soft" water, water that does not contain minerals or chemicals such as chlorine, calcium or fluoride. Plants respond best to this water and it is less harsh on your vehicle's paint. At the workshops participants will learn to make their very own rainbarrel, install the overflow spout and the faucet. At the end of the hour long workshop, the participants may take their barrel home and start collecting rainwater. The barrels used in the workshop are

recycled olive barrels, so the collected water is safe to use in your yard, on your plants and on your vehicles. The barrels can be painted. For more information contact Bonnie Mahl at 757-787-0918 x129 or bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org.

The Shore Conservor 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 x119.

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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