



Shore Conservor

Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District • Promoting locally led conservation.
22545 Center Parkway • Accomac, VA 23301 • (757)302-4431

February 2019

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Long Grain and Livestock Wins State Award for Protecting Water Quality



David Long, 2018 Clean Water Award



David Long & Matthew Strickler, VA Secretary of Natural Resources, 2018 Coastal Basin Grand Winner

The District annually awards members of the local community who have been remarkable stewards of the land and/or outstanding advocates of conservation. The **Clean Water Farm Award**, a State award sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, is given to Virginia farmers who implement nutrient management plans and are exemplary in their protection of the State's soil and water resources. Clean Water Farm nominees may be chosen to represent any of the 94 counties and 18 cities of Virginia. From the pool of Virginia Clean Water Farm Award recipients, up to 10 grand winners representing Virginia's major river basins are selected each year.

This year's Clean Water Farm Award was awarded to **David Long of Long Grain & Livestock** who then was **awarded the Grand Basin Coastal Award**. David Long was born and raised in Cape Charles. He graduated from Broadwater Academy in 1973. In 1975 he obtained an Associates Degree in Swine Management from Morgan County Community College in Colorado. He returned to the Eastern Shore and started Long Grain & Livestock. He raised hogs and cattle while custom farming acres in Northampton County, eventually acquiring and tending his own crops. He began to grow tomatoes, potatoes, and eventually cotton. He currently serves on the Virginia Irish Potato Board and previously served on the Virginia Cotton Board. Long

Grain & Livestock has grown to 2,000 acres with diverse production including cotton, sweet corn, field corn, wheat, soybeans and potatoes.

Mr. Long is a regular participant in the District's annual small grain cover crop program and maintains a current nutrient management plan. In addition to cover crop enrolled in District programs, he also has 400 acres enrolled in NRCS small grain cover crop program. A comprehensive resource management plan has been developed for his farm which has been reviewed and approved by the District. He is working toward having the plan certified by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Through a grant obtained by the District from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, 2,300 feet of buffers on Mr. Long's farmland were found to be in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. All of his cropland has a minimum 35' buffer width to reduce non-point source runoff and remove excess nitrogen and phosphorous into our local waterways. He maintains nine irrigation ponds to water crops in times of drought and a minimum 15' buffer around pond edges enables native plants to thrive and filters additional run-off. In 2014, he established a 2.3 acres pollinator habitat and plans to plant an additional 9 acres.

Thank you Long Grain & Livestock for all that you do to conserve and preserve our natural resources.

Youth Conservation Camp Scholarship Available



This will be the 43rd year the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Applicants must be in grades 9-12 during the 2018-2019 school year. Twelfth graders who graduate in May, June, July or August are eligible to attend. Campers that have previously attended cannot attend for a second time. This year the camp will be held July 7-13, 2019. The program brings together students from across the State for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty at Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors.

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and Ye Accawmacke Garden Club are offering scholarships to send two Eastern Shore high school students to Youth Conservation Camp. During the week long camp, campers will learn about lake ecology, fisheries management and stream morphology through hands-on experiences. There will be tours of the Forest Products Center, Swine Center and Veterinary Teaching Hospital. If hiking to the Cascades Waterfall, tree identification, swimming, fishing, insect identification and canoeing sound like something you would enjoy, then this camp is for you! Apply by Friday, April 12, 2019. Please direct all camp related questions to Mary Melson at (757) 302-4433 or mary.melson@esswcd.org.

Scholarships Available to Virginia Students

Virginia residents enrolled in or having applied to a college curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental sciences may apply for scholarship funding from state sources. The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will award **four \$1,000 scholarships**.

Guidelines and application materials may be obtained from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District office in Accomac by calling 757-302-4433 or e-mailing mary.melson@esswcd.org. Completed applications must be returned to Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District by Friday, March 1, 2019.



Two \$750 Fletcher & Beasley Scholarships Available

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Announces the 2019 Fletcher Scholarship and 2019 Beasley Scholarship. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District's Endowment Committee offers the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship annually. Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who are pursuing an undergraduate college degree in agriculture, conservation or environmental related studies are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Graduating seniors enrolling as a full-time college student can apply for the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship. Students already enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate school can apply for the William H. Beasley, Sr., Memorial Scholarship.

For an application contact your School Guidance Office or Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, 22545 Center Parkway, Accomac, VA 23301, (757) 302-4433 or email at mary.melson@esswcd.org. **Deadline: April 12, 2019.**

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. This year's theme is "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". Posters must have this year's theme somewhere on the poster. **Posters must be submitted to ESSWCD by Friday, April 5, 2019 with a signed 2019 Conservation Poster Contest Entry Form** attached to the back.

Winning posters will be on display and awards will be given during the ES Science Fair held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Eastern Shore Community College. For entry forms, complete rules and tips on how to make an effective poster, contact Mary Melson at mary.melson@esswcd.org or (757) 302-4433.



Conservation Grants Available for Environmental Education

Are you or is your organization involved in environmental education on Virginia's Eastern Shore? Do you need funds to help provide these opportunities? Then apply for the Billie Fitzgerald Spring Grant!

Schools, Scout Troops, Community groups and other organizations in Accomack and Northampton Counties are eligible to apply for grant funding. Applications are available at Eastern Shore SWCD and are due by March 1, 2019.

Project funding is available up to **\$250** for projects such as outdoor classrooms, nature trails, recycling programs, butterfly plantings, storm drain stenciling, water quality testing, birdfeeders for the schoolyard, and field trips for environmental study. This year the Endowment Committee funded a field trip to VA Living Museum for Kiptopeke Elementary, a landscape Educational Film Series for Master Gardeners, a summer Butterflies Educational Program for US Fish & Wildlife Service and much more! The Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District Endowment Committee does not fund beautification projects, food or money for textbooks.

Interested parties may obtain an application form from the District office in Accomack, by email at mary.melson@esswcd.org or by phone 757-302-4433.



District Manager, Carmie Savage, Recognized for 15 Years of Service

Carmie Savage was recognized for 15 years of service at Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District by the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE). VACDE presented a pen in case to commemorate 15 years of service at the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December 2018.

Carmie is the District Manager at Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District. She does a little bit of everything including administering the VA Ag BMP Cost Share Program, balancing the budget and assisting with educational events. The District Board and Staff appreciate Carmie's dedication and hard work at the District for so many years.



Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council offers Ellis Humphreys Memorial Camp Scholarship to Local Students

The Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council is pleased to announce the creation of the **Ellis Humphreys Memorial Camp Scholarship!** This scholarship will be offered to Eastern Shore students for local day camps offered by ES Environmental Education Council members. One scholarship will be provided in 2019 to the Advanced Spy and Nature Detective Camp at Ker Place. This camp is run by Ker Place and the District each July. If you are between of the ages of 8-13, like to get outside and solve a good mystery, then this camp is for you! If you are interested in applying for the Ellis Humphreys Memorial Camp Scholarship please contact Mary Melson at (757)302-4433 or by email at mary.melson@esswcd.org to receive an application. Applications will be due to the District on **May 13th**.



Tamsey Ellis served as Education Director for the District for 7 years providing Accomack and Northampton County students with environmental education programs. After Tamsey left the District she was an active member of the Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council and VA Master Naturalists. She regularly acted as a volunteer for District events such as Envirothon. Tamsey's love of the Chesapeake Bay and passion to educate will be missed by everyone on the Shore!

Jack Humphreys was a volunteer the District could always count on! He regularly assisted with the Arbor Day Plant Give Away, Envirothon and the Watershed Festival. Jack was a member of the VA Master Naturalists, VA Master Gardeners and Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council. His advice and input will be missed by everyone who knew him. In 2016, Jack was recognized as the ESSWCD Conservation Educator of the year. Jack always took the time to educate those around him about the wonderful Eastern Shore. We will all miss hearing him on the radio every week!

The ES Environmental Education Council hopes to honor their memory, passion for education and love of the Eastern Shore with this scholarship.



Photo: Jen Davis/TNC



Welcome to the District Bill

The District wants to extend a warm welcome to Bill Savage our new Conservation Specialist! Raised on his family farm outside of Painter, Bill grew up with an interest in farming and agricultural history. As the founder and first president of Peninsula Tractor Organization (PTO), he set a goal to help preserve the rich agricultural history of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Bill also annually grows a type of heirloom corn to create Pungo Creek Mills cornmeal. In Bill's new role at the District, his knowledge of storm water drainage and local geography should prove to be an important asset to the District. He is looking forward to working with the farming community to help promote conservation to protect our local waterways.

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 Accomack, VA. The public is welcome to attend. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the District office at 757-302-4431. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. 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.