



June 2017

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Shore Conserver

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



The Virginia Dominion 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 Local Envirothon Competition event sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and partly funded by Dominion Power Company occurred in two days — an intense day of training and a testing day at the Agricultural Research Extension Center, Painter, VA. The local high schools that participated in the training were Arcadia (Coach Marianne Simko), Broadwater Academy (Coach Sandra Thornton), Chincoteague (Coach Fred Gers), and Northampton (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 Envirothon Competition. Arcadia placed fourth and Broadwater placed fifth at Area VI Envirothon which the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District hosted. The Area VI Envirothon testing was held at Kiptopeke State Park on April 26, 2017. Dinwiddie High School won first place and went on to compete at the State Competition at Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA May 21-22, 2016 and placed 4th overall.

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 Midgett from the VA Dept. of Forestry and (Special Topic) Carmie Savage from ESSWCD, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater from VA Dept of Game and Inland Fisher-



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

ies, (Aquatics) Derrick Smith from Chincoteague Bay Field Station, and (Presentation Judges) Sally Richardson, John Mason, Richard Sterrett, Tamsey Ellis, and Carol Upshur. Eastern Shore SWCD would also like to thank the judges who participated in the Area VI Competition (Soils) Mark Reiter from VT Eastern Shore AREC, (Forestry) Molly O'Liddy from the VA Dept. of Forestry, (Special Topic) Roy Flanagan, ANR Extension Agent for Virginia Beach, (Wildlife) Robert Glennon from USDA & VA Tech, ((Aquatics) P.G. Ross from Virginia Institute of Marine Science and (Presentation Judges) Christina Ruszczyk-Murray, Lynn Gayle, Les Cascell, Steve Rideout, & Stephanie Drzal. A special thanks goes out to Justin Pope from Dominion Power who attended the Area VI Dominion Envirothon at Kiptopeke State Park. Thanks to the AREC and everyone who participated in this year's Local Dominion Envirothon and thanks to Kiptopeke State Park and all the volunteers who served a part in this year's Area VI Dominion Envirothon.



Dinwiddie H.S. Envirothon Team, Placed 1st at Area VI Envirothon, Justin Pope, Dominion Rep on the far right

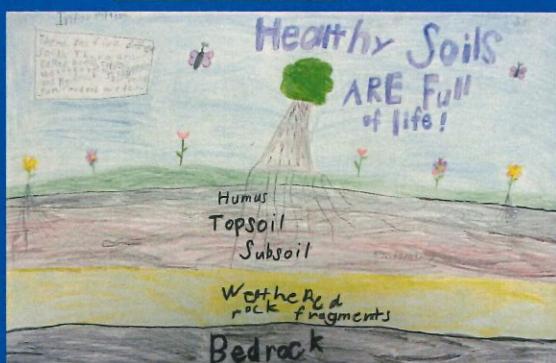
Sign-up for State Cost-share \$\$\$!

Starting July 10, 2017 through August 11, 2017 accepting FY18 Cover Crop Sign-up.

2017 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

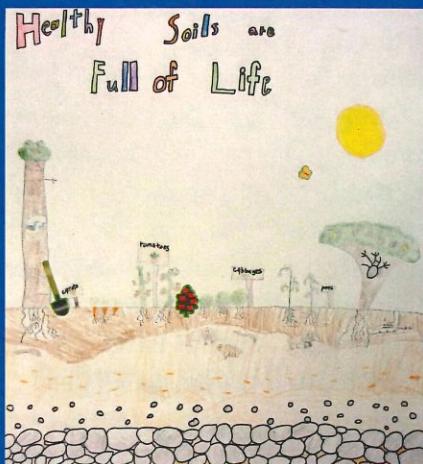
Grades K-1

1st Place



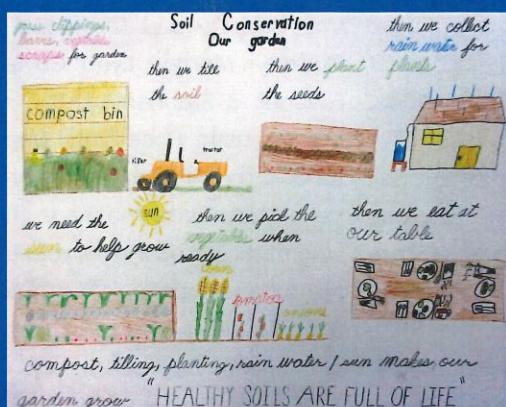
Siddhi Patel, Shore Christian Academy

2nd Place



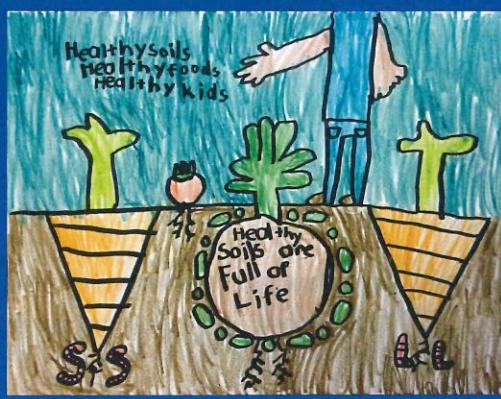
Rylee Giddings, SPARK/Chincoteague Elem

3rd Place



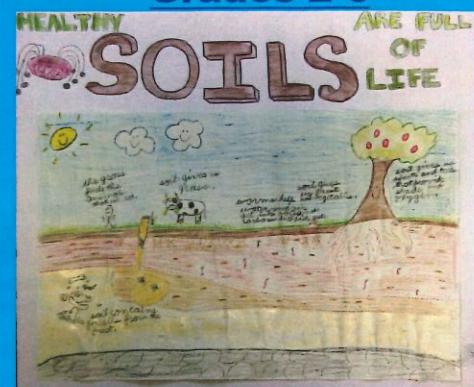
Ashlyn Mears, Shore Christian Academy

4th Place

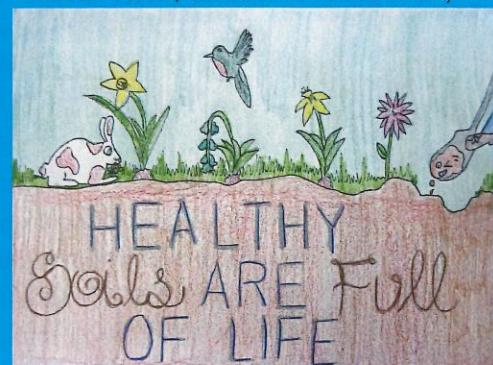


Selwyn Llanto, Shore Christian Academy

Grades 2-3



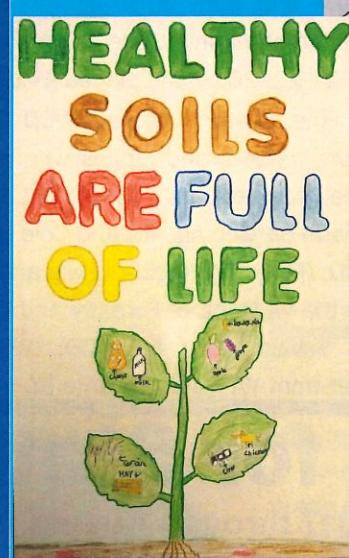
Noah Steele, Shore Christian Academy



Virginia Custis, Broadwater Academy



Sarah Bentley,
Pungoteague Elementary
(above)



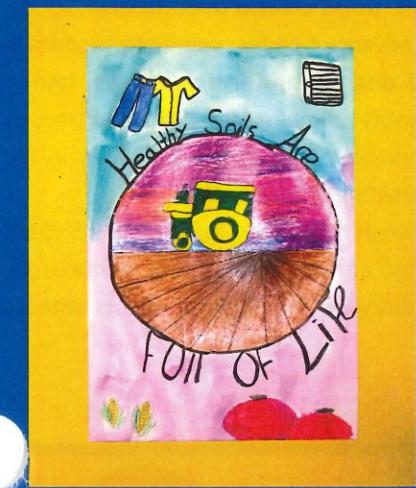
Noah Pruitt,
Shore Christian Academy

2017 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

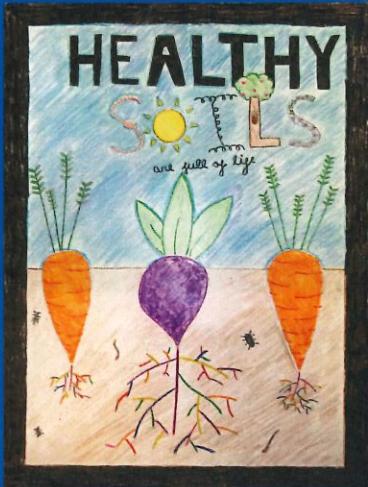
Grades 4-6



Cameron Lafayette, Chincoteague Elem



Emma McCluskey, Nandua Middle School



Kaley Aigner, Nandua Middle School

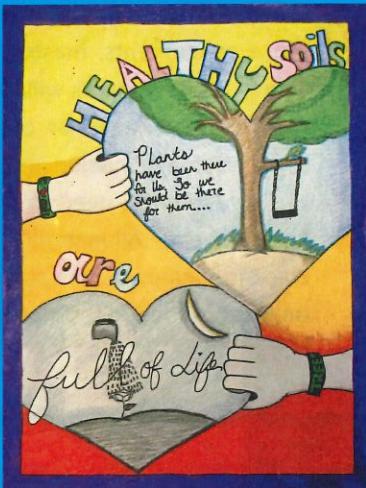


Isaac Stodghill, Montessori Children's

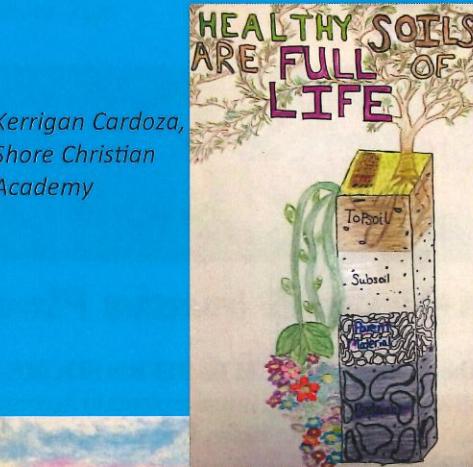
Grades 7-9



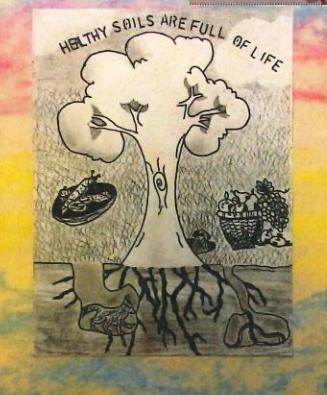
Katie Higgins, Nandua Middle School



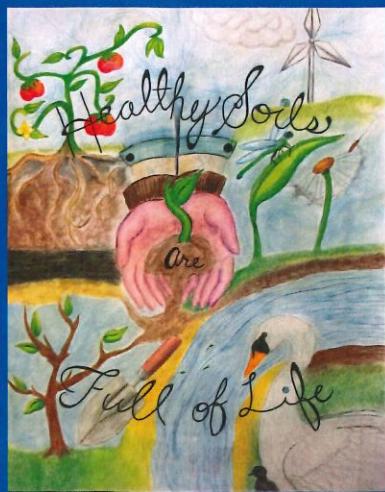
Michelle Castaneda, Nandua Middle School



Benjamin Stodghill,
Nandua
Middle
School



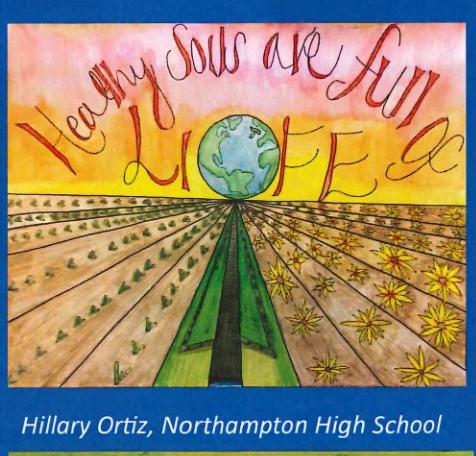
Grades 10-12



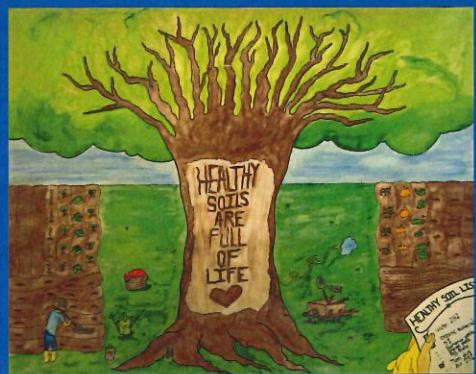
Megan Escalera, Northampton High School



Kayla Kraske, Chincoteague High School



Hillary Ortiz, Northampton High School



Esperanza Anzualda, Northampton High

History Camp: Advanced Spy Camp & Nature Detective Camp



**History Camp registration is open and is filling up fast.
Register early as all camps are limited to 20 children!**

Scholarships are available. For more information and to register please contact Stephanie Templin through email:

education@shorehistory.org or by phone:

757-787-8012

www.shorehistory.org

**Historical
SOCIETY**
EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

Young Adventurers Wanted: Have you ever wondered what kids did in summer 200 years ago? What fun could they possibly have had without video games, waterskiing behind speedboats, eating a fine dinner of burgers and pizza before seeing a movie, or taking all the rides at the Wachapreague carnival?

Advanced American Spies & Nature Detectives Camp (August 7 – August 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 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 and learn to travel behind enemy lines. Campers will 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 interesting 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 in Onancock this summer and discover your hidden talents without the help of today's technology.¹

¹ Flyer and information written by ES Historical Society



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

*Plant
ES Natives*
They're Shore Beautiful!



Native, Non-Native & Invasive Plant Workshop

Join us on **JULY 6** at the **VIRGINIA TECH EASTERN SHORE AREC**, Painter, VA, to learn more about native, non-native, and invasive plants in Accomack and Northampton Counties. The workshop will be led by Dot Fields, Research Coordinator from DCR and Bob Glennon, Private Lands Biologist.

Topics will include:

- Availability & cost of native plants
- Local resources
- Establishment of natives
- Identification and removal of invasives

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY • Register.vt.edu

8:30—11:00 am • JULY 6, 2017

Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC
33446 Research Dr.
Painter, VA 23420

This program is sponsored in part by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District



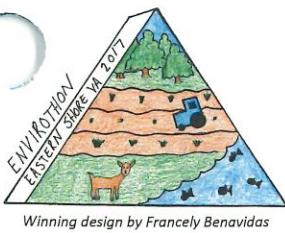
If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Theresa Pittman, Accomack County Office at (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8:30 am. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

*Photo Credits: Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton Counties. Plant ES Natives Guide.



T-shirt Design Contest



Winning design by Francely Benavidas

Each year ESSWCD holds a local T-shirt contest for the local Virginia Dominion 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 (above left) was created by **Francely Benavidas of Northampton High School**. Francely received a \$50 cash award and t-shirts for her and her family. Mary Melson, ESSWCD Education Director, presented Francely her award and t-Shirts.



(Left) Mary Melson, ESSWCD Education Director and Francely Benavidas of Northampton High School.

Spring Grants Awarded

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment Committee awarded **\$1,800 in Spring Grants** this year. These grants are funding small but far-reaching and long-term educational projects.

This year the grants are funding an Educational Landscape Film Series for Master Gardeners, a Caterpillar to Butterfly Program at Broadwater Academy, a field trip for Kiptopeke Elementary students, a Butterfly Garden for the Eastern Shore Ecology Club, a Littles Garden for ages 3-5 for New Roots Youth Garden, a Monarch Butterflies Educational Program for summer migrant students at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an expansion of the Eastern Shore Native Plant and Pollinator Garden created by No Limits and a field trip to Kiptopeke State Park for Kiptopeke Elementary. These projects help educators extend knowledge of environmental conservation in a way that brings science to life for the children that impacts them for a lifetime. Applications will be available January of 2018 and awarded by March 2018. Look

for an announcement in your local Eastern Shore News, The Eastern Shore Post or visit the ESSWCD website at www.esswcd.org/education.html.

Spring Watershed Festival

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 140 6th graders from Broadwater Academy, Kiptopeke Elementary, and Occohannock Elementary visited Kiptopeke State Park, attending the Watershed Festival for Northampton County. The Festival was held for Accomack County in the fall. The theme was how the Chesapeake Bay in the 1600s differs from the Chesapeake Bay of today. The students rotated through seven different stations where they went on a hike, saw seining, participated in hands-on activities learning about oysters, bird banding, barrier islands, water movement and our groundwater. The stations were led by AN-PDC, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge, Northampton County 4-H, The Nature Conservancy, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries and Kiptopeke State Park.



Local Eastern Shore Producer Earns Edward H. Ralph DPI Medal of Achievement



(Left) Bill Satterfield, Executive Director of DPI and (Right) Davis Lovell, Edward H. Ralph DPI Medal of Achievement recipient.

At the Delmarva Poultry Industry's Booster Banquet in Salisbury, MD, on April 18, 2017, the Edward H. Ralph DPI Medal of Achievement was presented to Dave Lovell of Melfa, Virginia. The award goes to a non-elected person for outstanding service on behalf of Delmarva's chicken industry.

Mr. Lovell, who served on DPI's board of directors, has been raising chickens since 1991, and he owns eight chicken houses on his farm, Old Mill Farms in Melfa, VA. He has been an innovator in putting environmentally friendly features into practice on his farm and has been deeply involved in sustainability issues that affect the entire industry. He is an active Director of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and has worked with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to promote understanding of the chicken industry.

Mr. Lovell also participates in the Delmarva Land & Litter Challenge, a private-sector group working to find new ways to use chicken litter while preserving the chicken industry and improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

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 x101.

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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