



# 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](http://www.esswcd.org)

## February 2020

### Board of Directors

Robin Rich-Coates  
James Evans  
Kyle Sturgis  
Fred Holland II  
Ursula T. Deitch  
Nick Thomas

### Associate Directors

Robbie Lewis  
Richard Davis  
Richard F Hall, III  
Edwin R. Long  
William Shockley

### District Personnel

Carmie M. Savage  
District Manger  
[carmie.savage@esswcd.org](mailto:carmie.savage@esswcd.org)

Bill Savage  
Conservation Specialist  
[bill.savage@esswcd.org](mailto:bill.savage@esswcd.org)

Norman Pitt  
Conservation Technician  
[norman.pitt@esswcd.org](mailto:norman.pitt@esswcd.org)

Julie Head  
Education Director  
[julie.head@esswcd.org](mailto:julie.head@esswcd.org)

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jane Corson-Lassiter  
District Conservationist  
(757)302-4432

Jenny Templeton  
Soil Conservationist  
(757)302-4435

Brad Carter  
Soil Conservationist  
(757)302-4434

## David Rew recipient of Grand Coastal Basin Award

A native of Onley, Virginia, David Rew grew up helping his uncle on a 600-acre farm. In the 1980's, he took ownership of the farm and grew it into a 3,500-acre operation. Mr. Rew manages the entire acreage with conservation tillage methods. High levels of crop residue are left on the fields, including wheat residue, which he does not bale in order to maintain the high biomass and nutrients that are found in the straw. Each year, more than 700 acres of soybean, oat, and barley cover are incorporated into his operation to add soil carbon, reduce nitrogen loss, and prevent erosion.

Mr. Rew participates in state and federal conservation programs, which have helped result in a model clean-water conservation farm. He recently planted 5 acres of pollinator habitat, a portion of which is being monitored as part of an NRCS study on plant salt resistance and tolerance.



VASWCD President Chip Jones, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring, David Rew, and Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler.



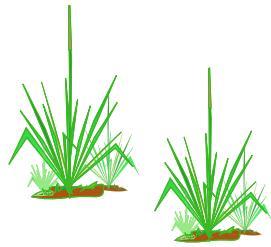
ESSWCD Chair Robin Rich-Coates, David and Alice Rew

# Important Dates & Grants

## Important Deadlines From NRCS

- February 28, 2020 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program - covering a number of practices that may benefit your farm including poultry litter storage, soil health practices, forest management, and wildlife habitat including pollinator and American Black duck.
- March 10, 2020 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - covering enrollment of your land in a 30-year or perpetual easement to conserve working agricultural land under an Agricultural Land Easement or to restore wetlands under a Wetland Reserve Easement.
- May 29, 2020 - Conservation Stewardship Program - covering stewardship on your entire farming operation under a 5-year agreement to maintain and notch up your management practices.

For additional information about these programs and the work of NRCS in your community, please contact the USDA NRCS staff in the Accomac Service Center at 22545 Center Parkway, Accomac, VA, 757-302-4432.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Billie Fitzgerald Environmental Education Grants

Involved in environmental education on Virginia's Eastern Shore? Do you need funds to help provide these opportunities?

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 18, 2020.

Project funding is available up to \$350 for projects such as outdoor classrooms, nature trails, recycling programs, butterfly plantings, storm drain stenciling, water quality testing, bird feeders for the schoolyard, and field trips for environmental study. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District does not fund beautification projects, food, or money for textbooks.

Interested parties may obtain an application form from the District office in Accomac, by email at [julie.head@esswcd.org](mailto:julie.head@esswcd.org), or by phone 757-302-4433.



# Contests, Scholarships, & Camps

## Conservation 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.

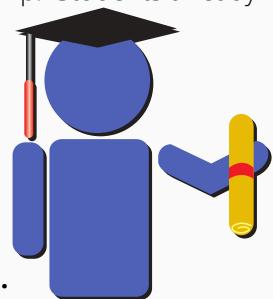
Contest categories are K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-9th grade and 10th-12th grade. Winning entries will be awarded a cash prize and entered in the state level competition.

**Posters are due the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District by 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2020.**

## Two \$750 Scholarships Available

The 2020 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship are available to Eastern Shore of VA residents who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in agriculture, conservation, or environmental studies.

The Eastern Shore SWCD's endowment committee offers these awards annually. Graduating seniors enrolling as a full-time college student can apply for the W. Foster Fletcher Scholarship. Students already enrolled in undergraduate or graduate school are invited to apply for the William H. Beasley, Sr., Memorial Scholarship.



**Applications are due by Wednesday, March 19, 2020..**

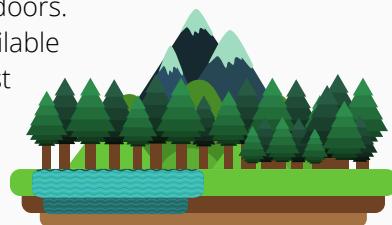
## Youth Conservation Camp

**July 12-18, 2020**

### **Virginia Tech**

For 43 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students (currently enrolled in grades 9-12) on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together about 70 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of registration.

**Applications are due to ESSWCD by May 1, 2020.**



## Camp Woods & Wildlife

Do you know students who are interested in natural resource careers? Camp Woods & Wildlife offers them a unique learning experience in the natural classroom of Virginia's largest State Forest. The 74th annual camp will be held June 22-27 at Holiday lake 4-H Center near Appomattox.

Camp is open to any Virginia student aged 13-16 who has not attended before. Please see [www.dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/forestry/camp/) for more information. Nominations are due by April 10. Scholarships of \$200 are available to offset most of the cost of registration. **Nominations are due by April 10, 2020 to VDOF,**

For more information, or applications, on any of these activities please contact the Eastern Shore SWCD, 225454 Center Parkway, Accomac, VA 23301, (757)302-4433 or by email at [julie.head@esswcd.org](mailto:julie.head@esswcd.org)

**Despite all of our accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.**



## **ESSWCD says goodbye to longtime Director, Rawlings Scott.**

After 15 years of dedicated service, W. Rawlings Scott, Jr. stepped down as a board director for the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District. At the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association of SWCD, Scott was recognized for the length of his commitment to agriculture and the environment with a pin. He is pictured with ESSWCD Chair Robin Rich-Coates receiving a plaque from the district for his service.

We wish him all the best as he continues farming in Northampton County among his many other endeavors. Your local soil and water conservation districts depend on local leadership to drive local conservation efforts. Thank you for your years of service!

## **ESSWCD welcomes Kyle Sturgis as it's newest board member**

S. Kyle Sturgis is the newest director of the ESSWCD board. Sturgis works on the family farm along with his father and brother. The family farm consists of 1,000 acres of row crops and vegetables. The family is a partner in an aquaculture operation that raises clams and oysters. Their newest venture is a hydroponic greenhouse where they are growing lettuce and herbs.

Sturgis is a graduate of Ferrum College where he majored in horticulture with a minor in environmental science. Sturgis and his wife, Emily, enjoy hunting and fishing alongside their two labrador retrievers, Gus and Belle.

Welcome Kyle! We look forward to your input and leadership.



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, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion/ religious creed, veteran status, or genetics. An equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer.