



Shore Conservor

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

May 2014

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Managing for a Cleaner Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) was enacted by the VA General Assembly in 1988 as a critical element of Virginia's non-point source management plan. The CBPA was designed to show that economic development and water quality protection were integrally related. Thus, the goal of the CBPA was the protection of the public interest in the Chesapeake Bay.

There are two types of environmentally sensitive lands identified in the CBPA: Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) and Resource Management Areas (RMAs). RPAs protect water quality, while RMAs have the potential to damage water quality without proper management. Tidewater local governments, including Accomack and Northampton counties, were required to create maps which delineate these Preservation Areas. Lands within the RPA must include a 100 foot vegetated buffer area located next to and landward of other RPA components and along both sides of any water body with perennial flow. Generally, the buffer area shall be measured 100 feet landward from that point where there is a distinct change from wetland vegetation to non-wetland vegetation or from the top of the stream bank. The 100 foot buffer is to achieve a 75% reduction of sediments and 40% reduction of nutrients. Agricultural buffers within the RPA shall be managed to prevent concentrated flows of surface water and noxious weeds. Agricultural activities may encroach into the buffer either 50 feet or 75 feet of the original 100 feet requirement when certain best management practices (BMPs) are being implemented. The buffer area is not required to be next to agricultural drainage ditches if the adjacent agricultural land has in place at least one BMP as considered by the Eastern Shore SWCD to address the more predominant water quality issue on the adjacent land - either erosion control or nutrient management. Originally the provisions applied to just the portion of the County in the Chesapeake Bay watershed but both Accomack and Northampton Counties extended the

original provisions to include the portion of their counties which also drain into the Atlantic Ocean.

Assessments of active agricultural lands are required to ensure buffer requirements set forth by the CBPA are being followed. The responsibility for implementation and compliance for these assessments falls upon the landowner not an agricultural producer or lease holder. To help landowners meet the CBPA assessment requirement, the Eastern Shore SWCD was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) to conduct assessments over the next two-year period. This assessment process includes assessing what BMPs are in place and providing options for future implementation of BMPs where they may be necessary to attain CBPA compliance. Through funds provided by NFWF, the District will be outsourcing the assessment field work to Water Stewardship Inc. (WSI), a private, non-profit corporation that provides science based, independent party assessments and verification of conservation practices producing positive water quality benefits. Their mission is to strengthen private and public sector efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution of rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. WSI has worked in the Shenandoah Valley doing similar assessments for years and has sustained a healthy relationship with the agricultural and environmental communities.

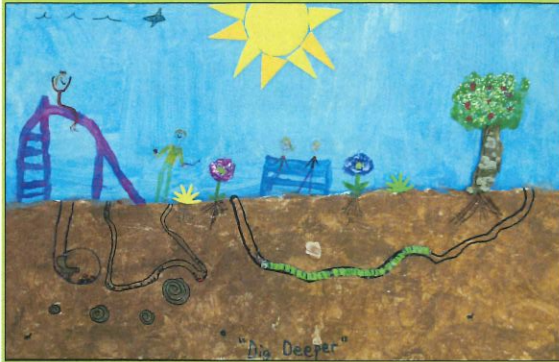
The Eastern Shore SWCD strives to be in a proactive position. Through this process the District hopes to highlight the positive things that landowners and farmers have accomplished and if issues are identified, be there to work with the landowners to address them in a cooperative voluntary fashion. To be good stewards of our land and waters, allowing us to pass a cleaner Bay to the next generation is a goal we all strive to meet. For more information, please reference the CBPA Section 10.1-2100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia or the CBPA Area Designation and Management Regulations §9VAC20-10 et seq.

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

Starting July 14, 2014 through August 29, 2014 accepting FY15 Cover Crop Sign-up.

2014 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

1st Place

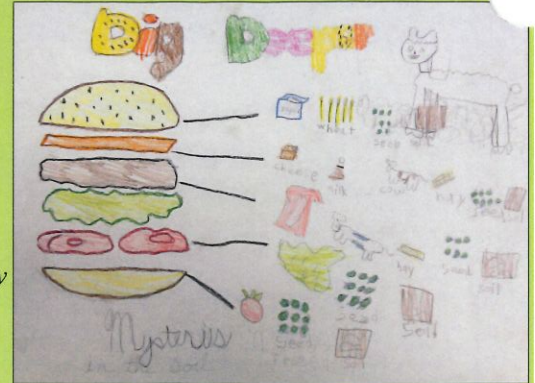


Grades K-1

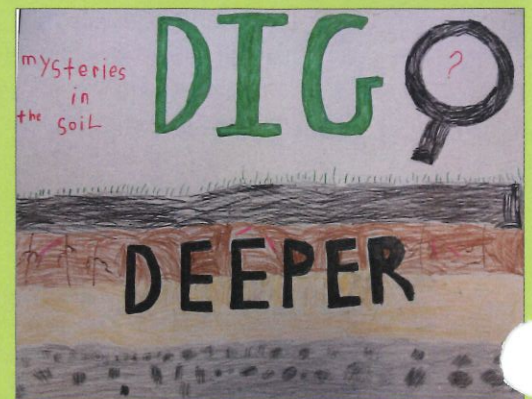
Sophia Macca
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
1st Place

Sarah Taylor
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
2nd Place

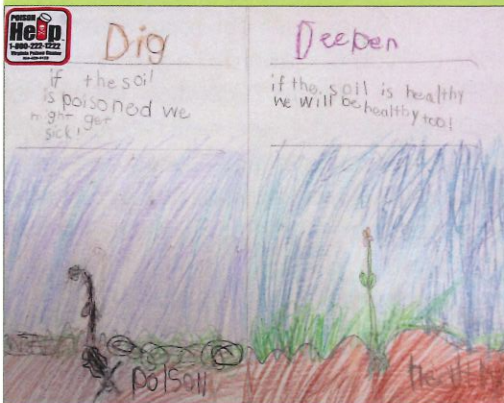
2nd Place



4th Place



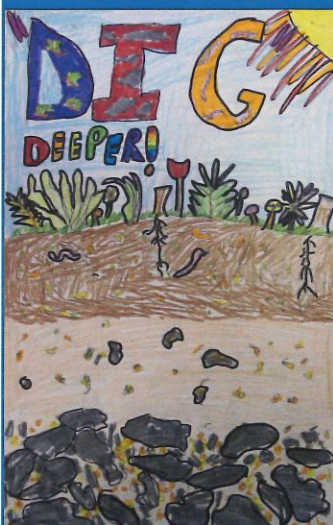
3rd Place



Travis Ayres
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
3rd Place

Noah Pruitt
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
4th Place

1st Place



Samantha Marshall
Kiptopeke Elementary
Grade Category 2-3
1st Place

Kaley Aigner
Pungoteague Elementary
Grade Category 2-3
2nd Place

3rd Place



Chauncey Smith
Homeschool
Grade Category 2-3
3rd Place

2nd Place



4th Place



Marguerite Custis
Broadwater Academy
Grade Category 2-3
4th Place



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2014 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

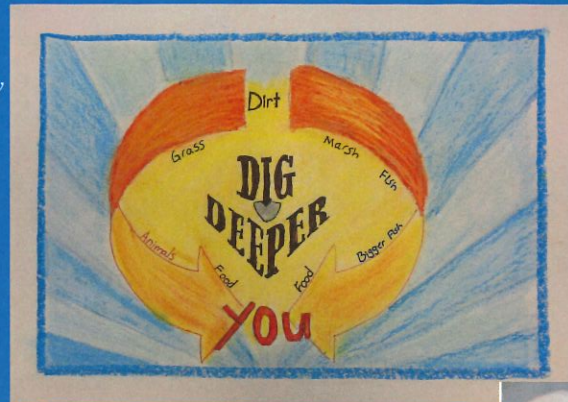
1st Place



Bethany Carpenter
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category 4-6
1st Place

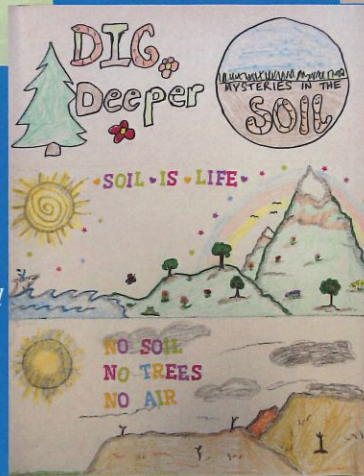
Grades 4-6

2nd Place



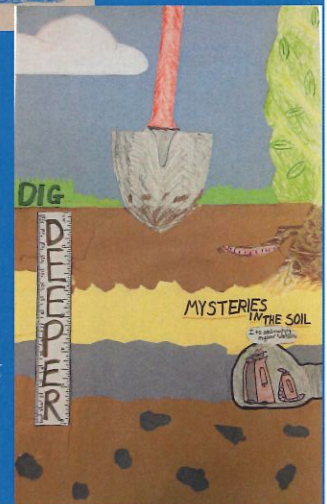
Jesse McCaleb
Shore Christian Academy

3rd Place



Roxanna Ritter
Chincoteague Homeschool
Grade Category 4-6

4th Place



Elan Hess
Homeschool
Grade Category 4-6

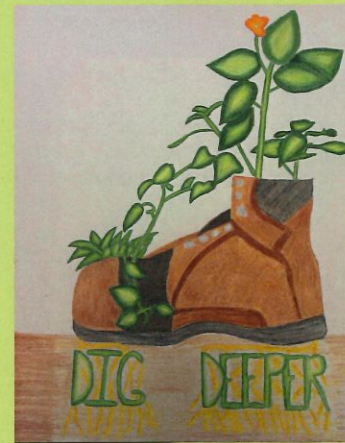
1st Place



Quintara Lyons
Northampton High School
Grade Category 7-9

Grades 7-9

2nd Place



Jose Solis
Arcadia High School
Grade Category 7-9

3rd Place



Hayley Pham
Northampton High School
Grade Category 7-9

4th Place

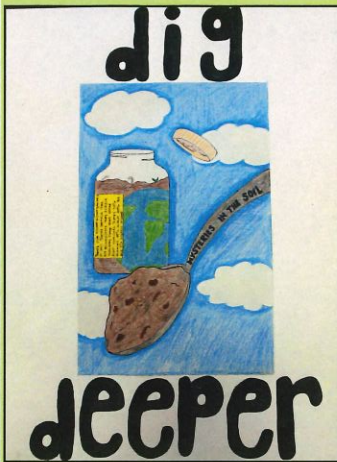


Heaven Hess
Northampton Middle
Grade Category 7-9

2014 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Grades 10-

1st Place



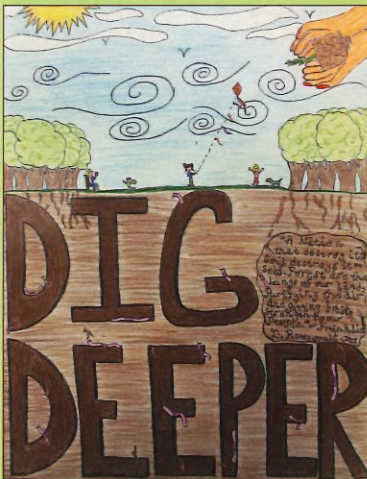
*Diana Rueda-Arzate
Northampton High School
Grade Category 10-12*

2nd Place

*Nadia Hughes
Northampton
High School
Grade
Category 10-12*



3rd Place



*Jenna Parks
Central Baptist Academy
Grade Category 10-12
3rd Place*

4th Place

*Martina Shedrick
Northampton
High School
Grade*



Spring Grants Awarded

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District (ESSWCD) Endowment Committee awarded \$1,080 in Spring Grants this year. These grants are funding small but far-reaching and long-term educational projects. This year the grants are funding a Courtyard Learning Center at Pungoteague Elementary, Plant Growth Light at the Montessori Children's House of Franktown, a new Soils Curriculum for 5th & 6th graders at Shore Christian Academy, an Outdoor Learning Center/School Garden at Kiptopeke Elementary, a Composter and Recycle Bins for No Limits Eastern Shore and Operation Growing Roots program at Northampton High School. Previous grants have funded a Bay Lab, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, butterfly plantings, materials for water quality testing, schoolyard birdfeeders, environmental field trips, etc. 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. This grant fund was established in honor of the first Education Director for the ESSWCD, Billie Fitzgerald. Applications will be available January of 2015 and awarded by March 2015. Look for an advertisement in your local Eastern Shore News, The Eastern Shore Post or visit the ESSWCD website at www.esswcd.org/education.html.



No Limits Composter

A Row For the Hungry

Season-long produce drive for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore

We know that many of you are still planting spring crops in May! Please plant a row or bed on your farm or garden to help the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore distribute fresh spring and summer vegetables to your neighbors who really need it!

Contact branch manager Charmin Horton at:

757.787.2557 to drop off at:

24530 Coastal Boulevard, Tasley, VA or for possible pick up



 **Foodbank**
of Southeastern Virginia
and the Eastern Shore

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is a proud member of



Dominion 2014 ENVIROTHON

The 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. Teams can be created through school club, classes, home school groups, 4-H groups, scout troops, local nature centers, etc. The only requirements of a team are a minimum of five students and one adult advisor or chaperone.

The Local Envirothon Competition event sponsored by the Eastern Shore SWCD and partly funded by Dominion Power Company occurs over two days – an intense day of training and a testing day. The local high schools that participated were Arcadia (Coach Marine Simko), Broadwater Academy (Coach Sandra Thornton), Chincoteague (Coach Fred Gers), and Northampton (Coach Kelsey Gaskins). Arcadia High School placed first at this year's Local Dominion Envirothon Competition and will go on to compete at the State Competition at Sweet Briar College, Sweet



Students from Arcadia, Northampton and Chincoteague High Schools and Broadwater Academy at the 2014 local Dominion Envirothon Competition

Briar, VA on May 18-19, 2014.

The training and testing days took place at the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Extension Center in Painter, VA. On the training day the students visited different stations to learn more about the subject areas. Trainers for the local Envirothon Competition were: (Soils) H.L. Kellam from USDA Farm Service Agency and Cole Charnock from the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District, (Forestry) Robbie Lewis and Mike Aherron from the VA Dept. of Forestry, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater from the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, (Aquatics) Anne Armstrong from the Chincoteague Bay Field Station, and (Special Topic Panel) Steve Sturgis, a Northampton Farmer, Davis Lovell of Old Mill Poultry Farm, Arthur

Upshur of Copper Cricket Farms and Rick Felker of Mattawoman Creek Farms.

On testing day, the students are tested on aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife and the special topic which was Sustainable/Local Agriculture. The teams also presented a 20-minute oral presentation to a panel of judges about the topic answering the question how they would sustainably farm a 40-acre plot. The panel of judges included: Sally Richardson, a retired Northampton County Teacher, Carol Upshur of Copper Cricket Farm, Jay Ford, the Eastern Shore ShoreKeeper/Shine & Rise Farm, Dr. Mark Reiter, a Virginia Tech Soils Professor and Ursula Deitch, a Northampton County Extension Agent. Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Local Dominion Envirothon.

T-Shirt Design Contest



Broadwater Art Teacher, Ms. Morgan, left and T-shirt design winner, Julie Xiong, right, holding the 2014 Envirothon t-shirt featuring Julie's design.

Each year the Eastern Soil and Water Conservation District holds a Envirothon t-shirt design contest that rotates annually between the local high schools.

The winning T-shirt design is then featured as the back of the Envirothon t-shirt.

This year's contest was held at Broadwater Academy. The winning design was created by sophomore Julie Xiong. Bonnie Mahl, Eastern Shore SWCD Education Director presented Julie with a \$50 cash award and a t-shirt.

Anniversary and Retirement Celebration



Please come join in the celebration at the Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 33446 Research DR, Painter, VA on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 5:00pm to celebrate the service given to the Shore by Dr. Henry Wilson (pictured above). Dr. Wilson began

assisting Eastern Shore producers as a Plant Physiologist in 1967 when he began employment at the Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station in Painter. Henry began his retirement March 2014. Also, we will celebrate the **100th Anniversary** of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act; which officially established the National Cooperative Extension system. Dinner will be served. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/esarec-100> or call 757-414-0724 x10. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/EasternShore>



District Awards \$500 Scholarships

Each year 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 available only to Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who are full-time students or who have applied to a college undergraduate level curriculum related to natural resources conservation. This year, the Endowment Committee has awarded two \$500 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarships. The recipients are **Charlotte Olmsted**, a senior at Nandua High School planning to major in Environmental Engineering at either Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University or the University of Virginia. The other recipient is **Zuri Ana Gagnon**, a senior at Northampton High School attending George Mason University in the fall and planning to major in Biology with a concentration in environmental and conservation biology.



Early American Spies & Nature Detective Camp

July 28-August 1 from 9 am to 4 pm. Ages 7-12

Spend the first part of the day honing espionage techniques the first Americans used in late 18th - mid 19th centuries. In this Early American Spies Camp sponsored by the Eastern Shore Virginia Historical Society, campers will make and use invisible ink; create communication codes; and travel behind enemy lines. The second part of the day will be spent in Nature Detectives Camp where campers will investigate the wonders of nature. Campers will learn bird identification, water quality testing, solar heat cooking and animal track identification. The Nature Detectives Camp is presented and sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District. Camp will be held at Ker Place in Onancock, VA. Campers need to bring a packed lunch each day. Tuition is \$165. All materials, a snack, and a T-shirt are included. To sign up, contact Randy Stuart at Ker Place: education@shorehistory.org or 757-787-8012. The deadline for sign-up is Friday, July 11, 2014.



Governor McAuliffe Visits the Shore

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District was in attendance to hear Delegate Robert Bloxom, State Senator Lynwood Lewis, Jr., and Governor Terry McAuliffe speak on the 'State of the Shore' and their outlook for Virginia's future at the Eastern Shore Community College on Tuesday, April 15th. Pictured with Gov. McAuliffe is Latonya Justice (left) and Carmie Savage of the District.

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.

Change Service Requested

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Conservation District
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