



Shore Conserver

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

May 2016

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www.facebook.com/ESSWCD

New Financial Assistance Opportunity for Small Landowners

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is a new program that provides financial reimbursement to property owners installing specific conservation practices. VCAP provides financial help to small landowners in urban, suburban and rural areas to control erosion and runoff on their non-agricultural properties. VCAP cannot be used to meet any regulatory requirements (if you do the project to meet regulatory standards, you are not eligible for reimbursement).

A project plan is first proposed to the District, after which a site visit verifies the project's eligibility. The plans and VCAP forms filled out by the District and participant are sent to the VCAP Steering Committee for approval. Once approved, installation can begin. The project plans must meet all local ordinances, codes, policies and permits. These practices can be installed in small acreage settings, at the source of stormwater discharges. All non-agricultural property owners in the identified districts are eligible to apply – residential, business, public, and private. The participant would accept all responsibility of maintenance. Most of the practices are required to be installed and functioning for 10 years.

This program is to engage residential property owners in conservation efforts. A lack of conservation measures on urban and residential property was identified as a gap in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase I. Additionally, Virginia's Phase II WIP recognizes urban/residential Best Management Practices (BMPs) in its "Local Implementation Strategies for Urban/Suburban Source Sector".

Beginning in December 2015, the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts received a grant in partnership with the VCAP Steering Committee to expand the VCAP program.

There are Nonstructural Best Management Practices that reduce pollutant generation at the source. There are some simple non-structural practices that homeowners can implement themselves such as downspout disconnection, sheet flow to open space, grass channels, replacing managed turf with native plants, and soil amendments.

Structural BMPs are engineered systems that control the peak flow, reduce runoff volume, and improve stormwater quality. Some examples of these are bioretention areas, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, and constructed wetlands. Some other examples of VCAP BMPs are:

- Tree Planting
- Impervious Surface Removal
- Mulch Bed
- Meadow
- Rain Garden
- Conservation Landscaping
- Dry Well
- Wet or Dry Swale
- Permeable Pavement

Sites should have a known water quality issue and BMP objectives should be limited to practices that capture and reuse or treat stormwater. Typically, measures to reduce flooding will not be eligible for cost share. Some examples are: 1) Sites with known erosion problems and poor drainage could consider improving the stormwater conveyance system. Or 2) Sites with water volume issues and have an onsite need for water could consider rainwater harvesting to reuse stormwater.¹

So if you are having any stormwater issues, consider contacting the District to help install a BMP to reuse or slow down the stormwater at 757-787-0918.



Picture of a wet swale (left) and a dry swale (right).

¹ Virginia Association Soil and Water Conservation District Website, <http://vaswcd.org/?s=vcap>, 2016

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

Starting July 13, 2016 through August 12, 2016 accepting FY17 Cover Crop Sign-up.

2016 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Grades K-1

1st Place



Noah Steele, Shore Christian Academy

2nd Place



Aarav Patel, Shore Christian Academy

3rd Place



Amalie Bjorlo, Shore Christian Academy

4th Place



Daniel Macca, Shore Christian Academy

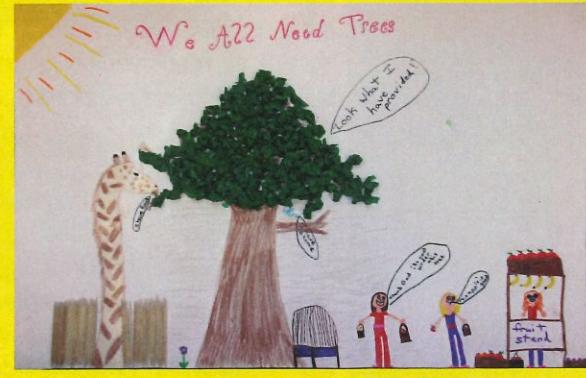
Grades 2-3



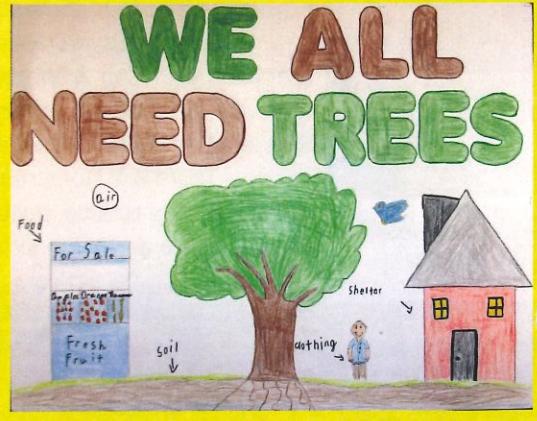
Caleb Perry, Metompkin Elementary



Meya Charnock, Cape Charles Christian Academy



Sophia Macca, Shore Christian Academy



Noah Pruitt, Shore Christian Academy

2016 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Grades 4-6



Patrick Sullivan, Kiptopeke Elementary



Lucy Lusk, Montessori Children's House of Franktown



Bethany Carpenter, Shore Christian Academy



Aspen Perry, Metompkin Elementary

Grades 7-9



Ja'Miah Robinson, Northampton High



Francely Benavides, Northampton High

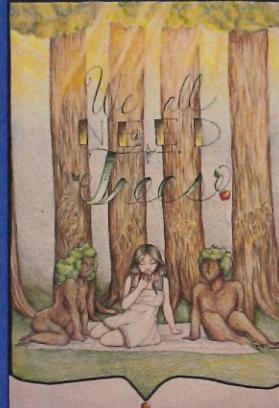


Carolyn Kio, Nandua Middle School



Carly Wardius, Broadwater Academy

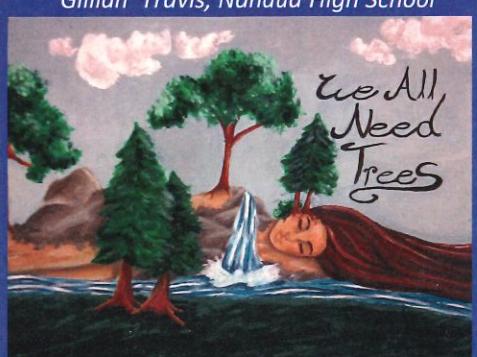
Grades 10-12



Arrington Johnson, Nandua High School



Gillian Travis, Nandua High School



Kirsten Travis, Nandua High School



Our roots don't just end with humans
We all need trees

Jordan Jacobs, Northampton High School

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 the summertime 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 8 – August 12 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 a variety of 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

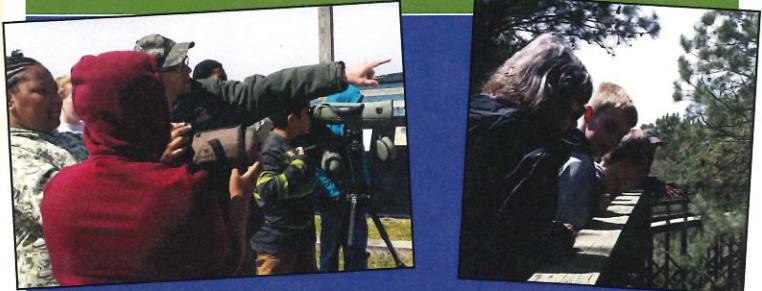
¹ Flyer and information written by ES Historical Society

T-shirt Design Contest



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.

This year's contest was held at Nandua High School. The winning design was created by junior **Michaela Bloxom**. Michaela received a \$50 cash award and t-shirts for her and her family. Bonnie Mahl, ESSWCD Education Director, presented Michaela her award and t-Shirts.



Spring Watershed Festival

The Watershed Festival was extended this year to all the Northampton County sixth graders. The Festival was held for Accomack County in the fall. The theme was how is the Chesapeake Bay different now than in the 1600's. On Friday, April 15, 2016, 180 6th graders from Broadwater Academy, Kiptopeke Elementary, Montessori Children's House of Franktown, Ocohannock Elementary and Shore Christian Academy attended the Watershed Festival at Kiptopeke State Park. The students rotated through six different stations where they went on a hike, saw seining, and had hands-on activities learning about oysters, bird banding, overfishing and water conservation. The stations were led by Kiptopeke State Park Staff, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, The Nature Conservancy, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries, Northampton County 4-H and Erica Head (VASWCD Youth Conservation Leadership Institute). The Watershed Festival serves as a MWEE—Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience required once for every student.



2016 ENVIROTHON

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



Pictured above are the participating Envirothon teams on testing day: Arcadia High School, Broadwater Academy, Nandua High School and Northampton High School.

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 Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, 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 Julie Head). **Arcadia High School** placed first at this year's Local Dominion Envirothon Competition and second at the Area VI Envirothon. They went on to compete at the State Competition at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA May 15-16, 2016 and placed 10th overall.

On training day the stu-

dents visited different stations to learn about the subject areas. Trainers for the local Dominion Envirothon Competition were: (Soils) H.L. Kellam from USDA Farm Service Agency and Cole Charnock from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, (Forestry) Robbie Lewis and Kenny Midget from the VA Dept. of Forestry and (Special Topic) volunteer Sheila Faith, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater from VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, and (Aquatics) Mary McCumber from Chincoteague Bay Field Station.

On testing day, the students were tested on each subject and gave an oral 20-minute presentation to a panel of judges on Invasive Species. The panel of judges included: Sally Richardson, a retired Northampton County Teacher; Richard Sterrett, retired Director of Northampton County Social Services; Dot Field of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Richard Ayres of DCR; and Tamsey Ellis, a retired ESSWCD Education Director. Thanks to the Eastern Shore Community College and everyone who participated in this year's Local Dominion Envirothon.

Spring Grants Awarded



The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment Committee awarded \$1,105 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 Caterpillar to Butterfly Program at Broadwater Academy, a Greenhouse and Outdoor Classroom at Arcadia High School with the fruits and vegetables donated to the Food Bank, an expansion of the Eastern Shore Native Plant and Pollinator Garden created by No Limits, Composting at Cape Charles Christian and a Carbon Measuring Project for Broadwater Academy. Previous grants have funded schoolyard birdfeeders, a Bay Lab, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, butterfly plantings, materials for water quality testing, a soils curriculum, 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 2017 and awarded by March 2017. 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.

District Awards Four \$500 Scholarships



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.

This year, the Endowment Committee has awarded three \$500 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarships. The 2016 recipients are as follows:

Tucker Spady, a senior at Northampton High School planning to major in Environmental Science at Warren Wilson College, NC.

Carolyn Olmsted, a senior at Nandua High School, is planning to attend VA Tech to major in Environmental/Civil Engineering.

Erica Head, a senior at Northampton High School is planning to study Biology at James Madison University.

The Endowment Committee also awarded **Benjamin Holland**, a sophomore at Virginia Tech studying agribusiness management, a \$500 William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

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.

AN ALL-AGES EVENT!

REGISTRATION BY MAY 27TH

INCLUDES T-SHIRT, PLACEMENT AWARDS, AND REFRESHMENTS

5K:

\$20 Per Person

1 mile family fun walk:

\$15 Per Person

Children under 8:

Free

For More Information:

Call Accomack County Farm Bureau 757/787-4208



EASTERN SHORE YOUNG FARMERS PRESENTS

RUN THE FARM 2016

**5K RUN/WALK
1 MILE FAMILY FUN WALK**

TOUR THE FARM WHILE YOU RUN ON THE CROSS-COUNTRY-STYLE COURSE AND LEARN ABOUT FARMING ON THE SHORE!

WHEN

June 4th, 2016

7 am Check In

8 am 5k

8:30 am Fun Walk

WHERE

Virginia Tech's Eastern Shore Agriculture Research & Extension Center

33446 Research Drive, Painter, Virginia 23420

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RUNTHEFARM5K

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
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Dunwoody, VA



Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District
2245 Center Parkway
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