



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

February 2022

Board of Directors

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Ursula T. Deitch
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Sands Gayle

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Richard F Hall, III
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Chip Turlington

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Recently, the ESSWCD had the privilege of honoring Robin Rich-Coates and Rick Hall for 30 years of service on the District Board. We asked them to reflect on the last 30 years and the changes they have seen by asking a few questions. Their answers are on page 2.



Robin Rich-Coates
District Chair



Richard F Hall III
Associate Director

***Thank you for 30
years of service***

continued on page 2



www.facebook.com/ESSWCD

Thank you for 30 years of service!

Robin Rich-Coates, Board Chairman

Why did you choose to get involved with ESSWCD? My original reason for getting on the board was to find judges for the science fair at the community college. I was appointed as an associate director. Later on there was a position for an elected director and I ran as a write in candidate.

What is the biggest change you have seen in your years with the ESSWCD? We have seen a lot of growth in the educational programs that we offer. Our programs now span from pre-K through adults and connect them with soil and water conservation on the shore and how they can help. I think my background in education has helped this to be an important part of our mission.

What is your favorite memory from the time you served with the ESSWCD? I have met and worked with so many great people. It has helped me to think outside my box and I have learned so much about agriculture. When I started I had no idea that people went to college to be a farmer.

What challenges do you see for agriculture and conservation in the future? There has been such an increase in pressure on farmers from all angles and this is going to continue. The red tape, paperwork, and public perception all play such a big role in agriculture. Farming has changed so much and it is very difficult for people to stay in agriculture.

Any other observations or comments from your time on the board? It is exciting to see the participation of so many women. When I started with ESSWCD I was the first woman to serve on the board. More women are involved in agriculture and environmental education than ever before and I find that very encouraging as we move forward.

Rick Hall, Associate Director

Why did you choose to get involved with ESSWCD? I was asked by Pete Davis, chairman at the time and Jim Belote, County Extension Agent, to consider Holland Scott's appointed director spot. I said yes, was appointed, and 30 years later I am still active as an associate director.

What is the biggest change you have seen in your years with the ESSWCD? Employee retention. ESSWCD was a stepping stone to other jobs for a long time. We have been able to increase salaries to be more competitive. We have a great and knowledgeable staff and I hope we keep them for a while.

What is your favorite memory from the time you have served with ESSWCD? Taking my children to Davis Wharf at Pete's house for the summer awards picnic. They enjoyed playing with the other kids and Cissy and I enjoyed the company.

What challenges do you see for agriculture and conservation in the future? Agriculture is such a capital intensive business and the weather is so volatile that it remains hard to be profitable. That said, I think all farmers are conservationists but finances make some decisions tough. Cost share rates need to increase.

Any other observations or comments from your time on the board? It has been a pleasure to have Robin serve as the chairman of ESSWCD. She has given our district greater credibility because she is an educator and not a farm that is participating in our programs. Thank you Robin!

Cost Share Opportunity

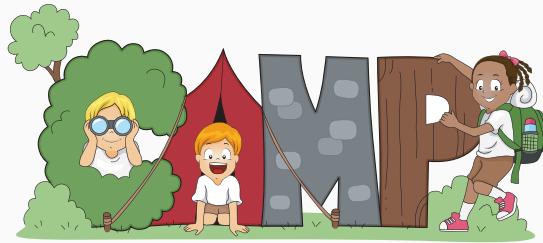
Cost Share Opportunity for Acres Already using No-till Planting Methods

Continuing Conservation Initiative (CCI-CNT): LONG TERM CONTINUOUS NO-TILL PLANTING SYSTEMS

- This long term continuous no-till planting systems reporting practice is designed to provide a financial incentive to assure that lands already being managed under continuous no-till planting systems are being reported.
- Lifespan of Practice- 5 years- All crops must be planted using no-till methods
- In order to be eligible for cost-share, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field on which this practice will be implemented.
- Eligible land must be managed under a continuous no-till planting system that results in a minimum of 60% residue cover on all of the enrolled acres and must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice (5 years). District staff will verify that no-till planting methods have been utilized on site and that 60% cover exists on the land prior to authorization.
- Land enrolled in an active SL-15A (BMP for converting from conventional tillage to no-till) practice is not eligible for CCI- CNT.
- All eligible fields must have a cropping history two out of the past five years.
- Small grain crops may be harvested for grain only. Straw must remain on the field.
- Permanent grass or hay land is not considered cropland.
- The practice will increase biomass/soil quality and manage the residue to reduce the movement of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediments and runoff with the use of no-till planting systems.
- The long-term implementation rate is an incentive payment of \$5 per acre for the life of the practice. Payment for the five year contract will be made the first year of the contract and will be calculated at (\$5/acre) x (number of acres in the contract) x (5 years).

If you would like more information on the CCI-CNT practice, please contact Carmie Savage at 757-302-4431, carmie.savage@esswcd.org or Bill Savage at 757-302-4437, bill.savage@esswcd.org

Upcoming Programming and Events



Who: Students currently in 9th - 12th grade

When: July 10 - 16, 2022

Where: Virginia Tech

9th through 12th grade students who live on the Eastern Shore of Virginia are invited to apply to attend Youth Conservation Camp. Full scholarships are available from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District for those who are selected to attend. To apply, please get an application at <https://www.esswcd.org/youth-conservation-camp> or contact Julie Head, Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433.

Grow Your Own Garden



wednesday, April 30, 2022

Ages 9 - 12, \$10 per camper

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Barrier Islands Center, Machipongo VA



Come join us for a day of learning all about soil, seeds, and what it takes to grow your own garden. Campers should bring a bag lunch and be prepared to get dirty. We will provide an afternoon snack. Registration opening soon at barrierislandscenter.com

Ag Camp at the Barrier Islands Center Farm

Tuesday, August 2, 2022 - Wednesday, August 3, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages 8 - 12, \$40 per camper



Campers will make their own butter and ice cream and interact with real sheep, goats, and calves. Other activities include dyeing wool, making cornhusk dolls and scientifically investigating a variety of seeds. Campers should bring a lunch both days, wear close toed shoes, and clothes that they can get dirty in. ESSWCD, BIC, and 4-H are partnering together for this educational fun on the farm camp.



Registration open soon at barrierislandscenter.org

2022 Conservation Poster Contest

Healthy Soil: Healthy Life



Open to all public, private, and homeschooled students who reside in Accomack or Northampton Counties.

Contest categories for hand drawn posters are:

K -1st Grade
2nd - 3rd Grade
4th - 6th Grade
7th - 9th Grade
12th - 12th Grade

Digitally created posters may be submitted for:

7th - 9th Grades
10th - 12th Grades

Entries are due to the ESSWCD office by 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2022

Contest rules and entry forms can be found at:
<https://www.esswcd.org/conservation-poster-contest>

In person presentations, virtual presentations, and classroom materials on the importance of trees are available. For more information please contact Julie Head, Education Director at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433.

We are located in Accomac, VA, at 22545 Center Parkway.

2022 Scholarships

Scholarships Available!

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022



Do you know a current college student or a high school student planning to attend college in the fall of 2022. The W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship are available to Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who will be full-time undergraduate college students in the fall of 2022. The scholarships are administered by the Endowment Committee of the ESSWCD.

Up to \$1000 will be available for scholarships to be awarded to two students, depending upon the qualification of the applicants. Friday, April 1, 2022, is the deadline to apply for the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

Application materials may be obtained from the District office in Accomac by calling 757-302-4433, by email at julie.head@esswcd.org or by visiting <https://www.esswcd.org/scholarships>



2022 Spring Grants & Contests

Conservation Grants Now Available!

Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022



Are you or your organization involved in environmental education on Virginia's Eastern Shore? Do you need funds to help provide these opportunities? You might want to apply for the Billie Fitzgerald Memorial Conservation Grants through the ESSWCD. Schools, teachers, scouts, community groups and other organizations in Accomack and Northampton Counties are eligible to apply.

Funding up to \$400 is available for projects such as outdoor classrooms, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, recycling programs, butterfly gardens, birdfeeders, worm composters, rain gardens, or other environmental projects. We do not fund beautification projects, food, or textbooks.



Applications can be found on the ESSWCD website under the education tab or by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Julie Head at 757-302-4433 or julie.head@esswcd.org.



2022 VASWCD Photo Contest



The VASWCD is committed to conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs and we want to see it through your eyes. The theme this year is "Conservation through the local lens". Capture those vibrant moments and express what conservation looks like through your lens! The contest is open from January – August 1, 2022. To learn more about the contest please click [here](#). All photographs must be taken within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Photographs taken outside the state of Virginia will be disqualified.

Water Wise Home Challenge



Protecting Our Planet Starts with You!

Take the Water-Wise Home Challenge from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and see how you can help protect our natural resources.

Do your part!

Everyone has a part to play in protecting our natural resources. Adopt at least three of the challenge actions to receive your Water-Wise Home garden flag or sign to proudly display on your property.

Water Wise Home Challenge – scan the QR code for more information!

Plant a Pollinator Pocket



Commit to Scoop the Poop



Install a Rain Barrel



Participate in a litter Clean-Up Day



Start a Vermicomposter



Reduce or Eliminate Your Use of Fertilizer or Pesticides



Install Conservation Landscaping



Plant Three Native Plants



Mulch Leaves and Grass



Claim Your Flag

Once you have adopted at least three of the action challenges, let us know about it. Contact us at julie.head@esswcd.org, and we'll send your flag or sign. Please allow several weeks for delivery.

While we encourage everyone to participate in the Water Wise Home Challenge, yard flags and signs are only available to residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties

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 or color, national origin, traits historically associated with race or religion including traits associated with hair, religion or creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy status, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, veteran status, whistleblower status or genetic information.