



Shore Conservor

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

March 2012

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Soil Conservationist

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Arbor Day—What Does It Mean to You?

National Arbor Day is the last Friday of April each year. Some states celebrate Arbor Day on different dates to coincide with the best tree-planting weather in their area. These dates range from January in the south to May in the far north? Some states like California set aside an entire week. (For a list of Arbor Day dates and state trees for neighboring states, see page 2.)

Arbor Day was first proposed in 1872 by Julius S. Morton, who later served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland. Julius Morton was a pioneer in Nebraska after having traveled from Detroit, MI. He started planting orchards and shade trees on his own farm and encouraged his neighbors to follow suit. Trees were needed for fuel, building materials, shade from the sun and as windbreaks to keep the soil in place—pretty much the same uses as today. On January 4, 1872 at the State Board of Agriculture meeting, he proposed a tree planting holiday called Arbor Day. This was held on April 10, 1872 where prizes were given to individuals and counties who properly planted the largest amount of trees. It was estimated over one million trees were planted in Nebraska on that first unofficial Arbor Day. Julius Morton once said, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." He thought trees much superior to cold marble as a memorial to persons or events. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting." April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for Nebraska's Arbor Day permanent observance. Most states select a day of the month (such as the last Friday) rather than having a permanent set date that does not change from year to year. This holiday has spread beyond the US. Many countries observe this holiday, such as Japan's 'Greening Week' and 'New Year's Days of Trees' in Israel.

For the homeowner, Arbor Day is an excellent time to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future. Trees are a part of our green infrastructure providing wind, heat and erosion protection. They also improve your landscaping. The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) states trees are vital to quality of life and the environment by helping to clean the air we breathe and water we drink as well as help conserve energy in homes. According to the USDA Forest Service "during a 50-year life span, one tree will recycle a value of \$37,500 worth of water, control \$31,250 worth of soil erosion and clean up \$62,000 worth of air pollution". In a year one tree can absorb 48lbs of carbon dioxide and produce enough oxygen to support two people. Anyone who steps under the shade of a tree on a hot summer day knows the cooling effect of trees. The Arbor Day Foundation states that the shade created by one healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners running 20hrs/day. Trees placed effectively around the outside of your home can save

Local Plant Give-away



Saturday, April 28, 2012
come by the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa or the Old Courthouse Green in Eastville between 9:30am-3:00pm to pick up some of the many varieties of FREE trees and ornamentals provided by our ES Nurserymen's Association and ESSWCD. The Master Naturalists and the VA Department of Forestry will be on hand to help you choose the right plant for the right place. Many native plants will be available which might include Flowering Dogwood

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...Arbor Day

you money by reducing your energy costs by 25% annually. Trees are more effective in flood damage protection and nutrient retention than grasses or shrubs. A recent VA Tech study indicated the roots from one mature tree increased the amount of water entering the groundwater supply by 153% over bare ground reducing the likelihood of flooding.

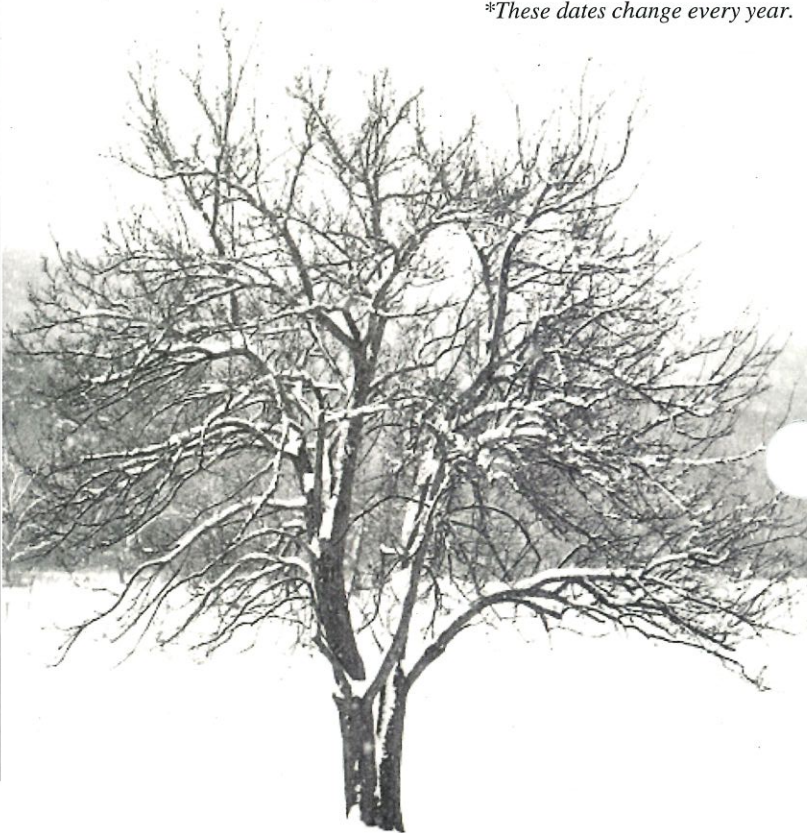
The Surface Combat System Center military installation at Wallops Island and the town of Onancock with 55 other towns and military installations across Virginia have earned Tree City USA certification from the Arbor Day Foundation. Criteria for certification includes having a tree board, a tree care ordinance, an Arbor Day observance and a community forestry program. To learn more how your community can become Tree City USA certified, visit the Arbor Day Foundation at <http://www.arborday.org/index.cfm> or contact your local VDOF forester, Robbie Lewis at Robbie.lewis@dof.virginia.gov or (757)787-5812.

Celebrate Arbor Day with the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, E.S. Nurserymen's Assoc., VDOF, Master Naturalist and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) on Saturday, April 28, 2012. It will be held from 9:30am to 3:00pm at ESCC and the Northampton Courthouse Green. A-NPDC is providing a truck for **household hazardous waste disposal at the Northampton County site**. For more information contact ESSWCD.■

Arbor Day—Different Days for VA's Neighboring States

| State | State Tree | Arbor Day Holiday |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Virginia | Flowering Dogwood | April 13, 2012 |
| Maryland | White Oak | April 4, 2012 |
| Delaware | American Holly | April 27, 2012 |
| New York | Sugar Maple | April 27, 2012 |
| Pennsylvania | Eastern Hemlock | April 27, 2012 |
| Tennessee | Yellow Poplar | March 2, 2012 |
| North Carolina | Pine | March 16, 2012 |
| District of Columbia | Scarlet Oak | April 27, 2012 |
| West Virginia | Sugar Maple | April 13, 2012 |
| New Jersey | Northern Red Oak | April 27, 2012 |
| Kentucky | Tulip Poplar | April 6, 2012 |

**These dates change every year.*



Conservation Youth Camp

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is sponsoring a week-long summer conservation camp, July 8-14, 2012 on the Virginia Tech campus for high school students **all expenses paid**. The \$550 tuition will be paid by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District. Most of the instruction is outdoors and hands-on. If hiking to the Cascades Waterfall, canoeing, and stimulating educational tours sounds like something you would enjoy, this is the camp for you! You would have a variety of fun-filled activities while learning about cave geology, lake ecology, forestry, and agriculture. If you know a student with a keen interest in the environment, please encourage them to apply by April 16, 2012 to the District. For a more complete description of camp, this year's schedule and application, check out the VASWCD Conservation Camp website at www.vaswcd.org/youthcamp or contact Tamsey Ellis at (757)787-0918 x129 at ESSWCD.



Fletcher/Beasley \$1000 Scholarship Available

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District announces the 2012 Fletcher/Beasley Scholarship.

For a Graduating Senior, an Undergraduate or Graduate College Student pursuing a curriculum related to
Conservation, Environmental Studies or Agriculture



Contact your School Guidance Office or the
Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District
For an Application

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301
(757) 787-0918 x129 Fax (757) 787-8142
tamsey.ellis@esswcd.org

Deadline: April 16, 2012

Conservation Poster Contest

The ESSWCD Conservation Poster Contest is open to all local students, grades K-12. Cash prizes will be given for 1st-4th place in each of the five grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 — Top Prize: \$50 in each category. Posters must be completed with this year's theme: "Soil to Spoon" and submitted to ESSWCD by Thursday, April 19, 2012 with a 2012 Conservation Poster Contest Entry Form attached on the back.

Poster awards will be given during the ES Science Fair held on April 28, 2012 at the Eastern Shore Community College. Winning posters will be displayed in the Accomack Public Library. For complete rules and tips on how to make an effective poster and entry forms, contact your art teacher or Tamsey Ellis at 757-787-0918 x129 or go to www.esswcd.org.

Broadwater, New Associate Director



Brian Broadwater standing in front of one of his Broadwater Farms trucks.

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District would like to welcome Brian Broadwater as our newest Associate Director! Brian Broadwater farms in northern Accomack County and operates an excavation and poultry house clean out business. Brian studied Agricultural Business and Economics at Virginia Tech.

He lives in Temperanceville, VA with his wife, Karen, and children, Madison, Matthew & Meagan. With very little time for hobbies outside of work, Brian tries to spend quality time with the family as much as possible. They enjoy the beach behind their family property and hang out there often.

Unique Funding Opportunities through NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is still taking applications for some new and unique practices such as transitioning land to organic production, energy audits, high tunnel hoop houses, pollinator habitat, use of the Greenseeker and even innovative winter cover like forage radish. By using the Greenseeker, producers can save money on nitrogen by placing precisely what they need, where they need it, with little to no loss. Using the forage radish as an alternative cover, compacted land gets the benefit of this deeply penetrating taproot. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, NRCS will cost-share with agricultural producers to implement these practices and more! Come see Tina, Jenny or Bob at the Accomac USDA Service Center or call (757) 787-0918 today. The next application deadline is Friday, March 30th!!!



A high tunnel hoop house

Welcome NRCS's New Soil Conservationist

The District welcomes Jenny Templeton to NRCS as their new Soil Conservationist. NRCS is co-located with the District at the USDA Service Center in Accomac, VA. Jenny is originally from Rockbridge County, Virginia—about a five hour ride from the Eastern Shore. Jenny worked for the Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District as a BMP/Education Technician in Lexington and NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in Lexington. Attending Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA, Jenny received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies. She is concurrently working on her Masters of Science in Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. Jenny loves the outdoors where she spends much of her time kayaking, gardening, fishing and biking. She also enjoys cooking and spending time with her family, friends and dogs.



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 x119.

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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