



# Shore Conserver

Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District • promoting locally led conservation

22545 Center Parkway • Accomac, VA 23301 • (757)787-0918

**June 2010**

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## State Envirothon Founded by Eastern Shore SWCD

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District (ESSWCD) has been a leader in environmental education since its first meeting on January 4, 1946. The mission statement is to "Develop leadership in natural resource conservation on the Eastern Shore of Virginia through technical assistance, education, the promotion of cooperative programs and meeting the needs of diverse clients". Long before the 2000 mandate of providing a "meaningful watershed experience" to all students and Richard Louv's 2005 book "Last Child in the Woods", ESSWCD has been involved in educating the general public, including our children, on ways to help conserve the Shore's unique and valuable natural resources.

In the early 1980's, the District hired its first Education Director, Billie Lou Fitzgerald. She introduced the District to many environmental education programs that were being conducted in other conservation districts across the Nation including teacher training, the Conservation Poster Contest for all school age children and the Envirothon. Originally called the Environmental Olympics, the Envirothon was established by one Pennsylvanian county in 1979.

It is a hands-on, outdoor educational program which today is an international competition reaching over 500,000 high school students nationally.

Envirothon teams consist of five members and up to two alternates. Throughout the year each team develops their skills in the following disciplines: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and a team oral presentation (on an environmental issue that varies every year). During their training and studies, they often receive help from their Soil and Water District along with environmental leaders such as professional foresters, soil scientists, and wildlife experts.

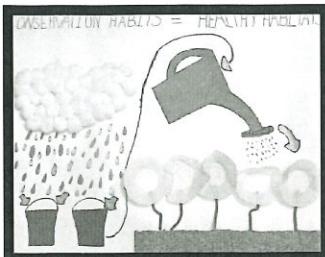
In 1992, with the help of Robin Rich-Coates (an ESSWCD Director), Sally Richardson (Northampton High science teacher), and Billie convinced local schools to create teams and support the program. They found financial support from the Joy Foundation for Ecological Education and Research, Chincoteague, VA. In 1993 Arcadia, Chincoteague, Nandua and Northampton participated in the first Envirothon competition in Virginia. Billie had experts from the Virginia Institute of Marine

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## 2010 Conservation Poster Contest Winners!



Caleb Pruitt, 1st Place  
Grades K-1, Shore Christian Academy



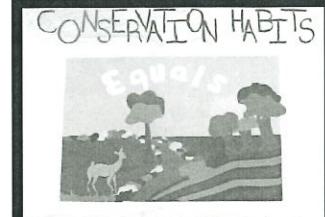
Avreigh Becton, 1st Place  
Grades 2-3, Shore Christian Academy



Sarah Cashwell, 1st Place  
Grades 4-6, Broadwater Academy



Michael Thomas, 1st Place  
Grades 7-9, Northampton High



Natasha Joynes, 1st Place  
Grades 10-12, Northampton High

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

Starting July 15, 2010 through August 31, 2010 we are accepting sign-up for Cover Crop. Come in the office to discuss the FY2011 Nutrient Management Planning, Conservation Tillage, Record Keeping and Animal Waste Facility programs.

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### Envirothon Founded

...Science, Dept. of Forestry-Accomac Office, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Shore Soil and Water and USDA Soil Conservation Service help with the training and testing of the teams. This first District training and competition was held at Kiptopeke State Park on April 28 and May 13 respectively. Northampton won the competition and went to the National Competition at Niagara Falls where they took first place for the rookie teams.

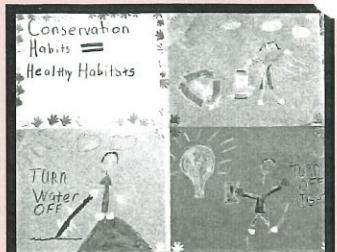
In 1994 other teams in the Tidewater Area (Area VI) entered the competition. Northampton High had won first place, with Nandua placing second, in our District competition but Nandua Nature Nurturers (N3) placed 1st in the Area competition and thus represented Virginia at the National level. This resulted in Virginia changing their rules in 1995 so that only one team from each district could compete at the area competition. Billie served as the Envirothon Coordinator and contact person for Virginia. She was called on to help with the

1995 State Competition arrangements at Douthat State Park near Clifton Forge on May 24, the first true state competition.

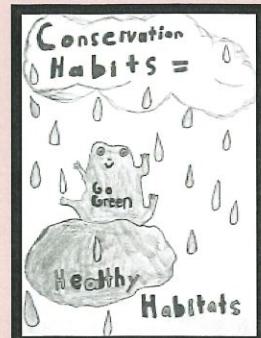
The Eastern Shore SWCD has remained a leader in this program. The current Education Director, Tamsey Ellis, has been the author of three of the last four special issues. This year's special topic was "Groundwater Protection through Agricultural, Urban and Environmental Planning". Northampton County was used for the background information. From this small grassroots beginning of four local schools and three determined women on the Eastern Shore, all 47 Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts now participate in the State Envirothon. It should be noted that the 21st annual Eastern Shore Envirothon held on April 12, 2010, ended with Northampton taking first place. Nandua 2nd and Arcadia placing 3rd. The Northampton team advanced to the State competition in Wirtz, VA at the Skelton 4-H Center on Smith Mountain Lake, May 16-17, 2010. In the statewide competition,

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### 2010 Conservation Poster Winners!



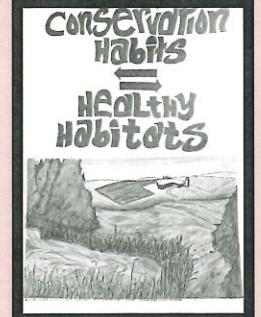
*Victoria Spence, 2nd Place  
Grades K-1, Shore Christian Academy*



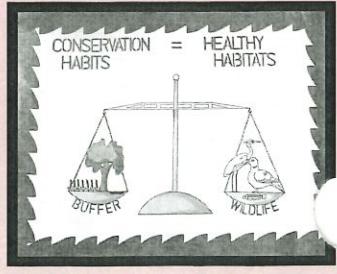
*Darby Lunger, 2nd Place  
Grades 2-3, Broadwater Academy*



*Hayden Mabalot, 2nd Place  
Grades 4-6, Broadwater Academy*



*Derrick Stratton, 2nd Place  
Grades 7-9, Northampton High*



*Elizabeth Marshall, 2nd Place  
Grades 10-12, Northampton High*



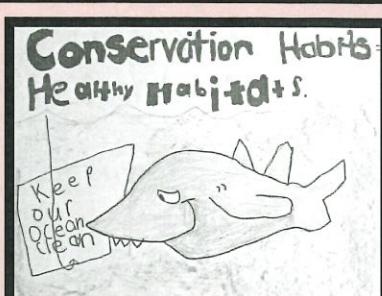
*Pictured below is a group picture of the outstanding 2010 high school Envirothon teams on the Shore. Can you find someone you know?*

### Environmental Education Council Awarded

Resource Conservation and Development awarded the Environmental Education Council "Outstanding Supporting Group". Tamsey Ellis accepted the plaque on behalf of the EE Council at an awards banquet in Smithfield, VA on April 28, 2010.



Ryan Romano, 3rd Place  
Grades K-1, Broadwater Acad.



Ann Davis, 3rd Place  
Grades 2-3, Broadwater Academy



John Casey Wescoat, 3rd Place  
Grades 4-6, Broadwater Academy



Charlotte Olmstead, 3rd place  
Grades 7-9, Nandua Middle



Amni Wejung, 4th Place  
Grades K-1, Broadwater Acad.



Pictured left: The Northampton Envirothon team taking the Wildlife portion of the exam during the State competition. Pictured from left to right: Kendall Combs, Mitra English, Kelsie Burkhard, Jason Floyd. Jessica Lee not shown.

continued from page 2...

#### State Envirothon Founded

...Northampton High placed 3rd in the Oral Presentation and 7th in the State Overall category. Congratulations, Northampton!

Jamestown High School representing Williamsburg-James City County and sponsored by Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District placed first overall and will be representing Virginia in the Canon National Envirothon. This will be held in Fresno, CA August 1-7, 2010.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Envirothon team at your high school, discuss it with your science teacher or contact the District at (757)787-0918 x129. For more information on this program, go to [www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org). ■



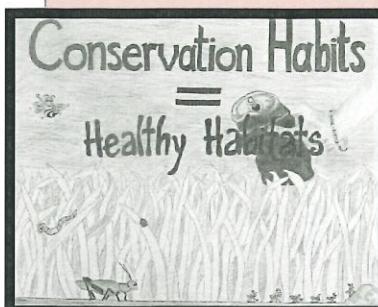
Kaitlynn Parkes, 4th Place  
Grades 2-3, Broadwater Academy



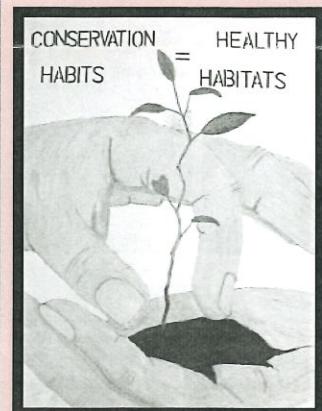
Leah Fluhart, 4th Place  
Grades 4-6, Shore Christian Academy



Lidia Areala, 4th Place  
Grades 7-9, Nandua Middle



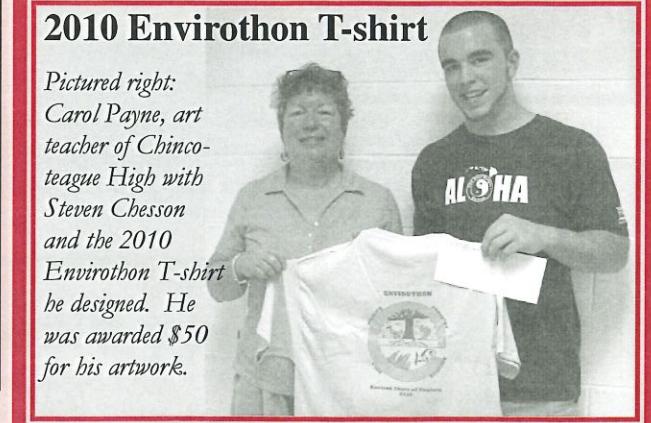
Annie Jones, 3rd place  
Grades 10-12, Broadwater Academy



Whitney Knapp, 4th Place  
Grades 10-12, Broadwater Academy

#### 2010 Envirothon T-shirt

Pictured right:  
Carol Payne, art  
teacher of Chinco-  
teague High with  
Steven Chesson  
and the 2010  
Envirothon T-shirt  
he designed. He  
was awarded \$50  
for his artwork.



## New Seafood Building Groundbreaking - Soil and Water's New Location

The Eastern Shore Marketing Cooperative took part in the groundbreaking ceremony held by the Virginia Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services to announce the new Robert S. Bloxom Eastern Shore Seafood Market. The groundbreaking was held May 5, 2010 at 10:00AM next to the Farmer's Market on Airport RD in Melfa, VA. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District will be relocating to their new building also being built next to the Farmers' Market office building. The new ESSWCD building is scheduled to be completed June 2011.

*Pictured Right: After the initial ceremony, Carmie Duer, ESSWCD Manager talks with Governor McDonald about current issues.*



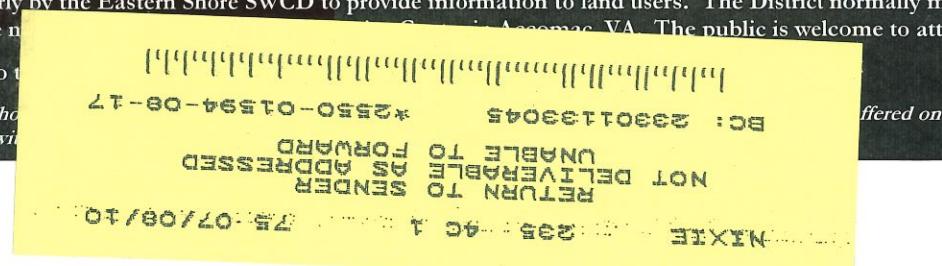
*Pictured above: Addison Nottingham, President of the Eastern Shore Marketing Cooperative and Conservation Specialist of the District (far left), is helping Governor McDonald (far right) break ground for the Robert S. Bloxom ES Seafood Market.*



The Shore Conserver is published quarterly by the Eastern Shore SWCD to provide information to land users. The District normally meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

To be added to the mailing list, contact the office.

*All programs and services of the Eastern Shore SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, gender, or national origin.*



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Wm

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