

Shore Conservor

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

February 2016

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Plant a Tree Today for a Better Future

by Latonya Justice

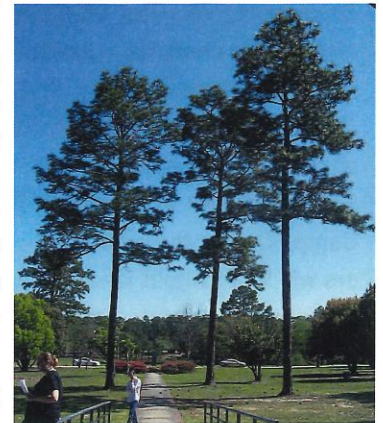
Valentine's Day celebrates love, July the 4th commemorates our independence, birthdays celebrate when we were born and of course we know what Christmas celebrates, but what about Arbor Day? Well, Arbor Day highlights trees and what they mean to us. Trees are so important, at least 41 countries around the world have a holiday comparable to Arbor Day. Since you were five years old, people have said that trees are a good thing. But what do trees do for us? While phytoplankton in the oceans provide about 2/3 of our oxygen; trees, shrubs and grass provide the other third of the planet's oxygen. I can tell you their roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. They protect our watersheds and aquifers by slowing down rainwater and filtering out pesticides, nitrogen, and sediment improving the water quality of both surface water and groundwater. Of course we also use the wood from trees to make our houses and furniture. The trees can act as windbreaks and reduce electricity costs for heating.

I could even mention they provide food, shade and shelter for people and wildlife. But the life-altering reason why we should fight to keep trees alive and thriving is because they provide much of our oxygen needed to breathe! When you think about it like that, it makes you want to go out and plant a tree, doesn't it? Not only do they provide oxygen, but trees filter odors, smog, carbons, and air pollutants such as ammonia, sulfur dioxide (naturally occurring in volcanos), and nitrogen oxides (from car emissions) out of our air keeping it fresh. Trees help filter the air and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen in their photosynthetic processes.

Carbon Dioxide is a greenhouse gas. The more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the more the planet heats up (Global warming). There are less trees than in previous centuries due to development and deforestation for housing contributing to this dilemma as well. When I was in high school there were approximately 4 billion people on the earth. Today, only 28 years later, there are approximately 7.4 billion people all exhaling carbon dioxide. That's a significant increase in population and in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Global Warming causes a rise in sea temperature killing off phytoplankton. Planting more trees and sustainable harvesting will help reduce the Greenhouse Effect thus reducing phytoplankton kills. So if you are looking to breathe a little easier and make this world a better place, a simple way to do that is to plant a tree.

But all trees are not made alike. Some trees such as a Willow or Bald Cypress are better at taking up water such as for use as in a rain garden or

an area in your yard that is always wet or flooding. One of the oldest trees in North America lives in Bladen County, North Carolina—a 1,620 year old Bald Cypress tree! Red Maples are often used as shade trees with beautiful red foliage in the fall and because they can live in wet, dry, poor or most any kind of soil. While other trees can be ornamental producing large flowers and beautifying your landscaping such as Camellias, Magnolias or Tulip Poplars. That's why ESSWCD is celebrating Arbor Day and giving away trees! Please see our flyer for Arbor Day giveaways on page 3.



Longleaf pine is used in shipbuilding.



Red Maple tree in autumn

Two \$500 Fletcher/Beasley Scholarships Available

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Announces the 2016 Fletcher/Beasley Scholarship. For a Graduating Senior, an Undergraduate or Graduate College Student pursuing a curriculum related to Conservation, Environmental Studies or Agriculture. For Eastern Shore residents only.

For an application

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

www.esswcd.org/Scholarships

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301

Ph (757) 787-0918 x129, Fax (757) 787-3769

bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org

Deadline: April 15, 2016



Scholarship for Conservation Camp Available

The VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts is sponsoring a week-long Conservation Camp, July 10-16, 2016 on the Virginia Tech Campus in Blacksburg, VA. The Camp is for current high school students in grades 9-12.

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to send one Eastern Shore High School Student to the Youth Conservation Camp. During the week long camp, campers will learn about lake ecology, fisheries management and stream morphology through hands-on experiences. There will be tours of the Forest Products Center, Swine Center and Veterinary Teaching Hospital. If hiking to the Cascades Waterfall, swimming, fishing, tree and insect identification and canoeing sound like something you would enjoy, then this camp is for you! Apply by April 15, 2016.

To see pictures from last year's camp and an application please visit the Eastern Shore SWCD webpage: www.esswcd.org/camp.html or contact Bonnie Mahl at (757)787-0918 x129 or bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org.



SATURDAY MAY 7TH 2016 ESVA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

UP TO 50 POUNDS FOR FREE!!!

Why participate? - household products containing toxic chemicals like pesticides, solvents, cleaning products, & weed killers can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash as the toxic chemicals may harm sanitation workers, or result in fires in collection vehicles. It is also not safe to pour them into a sink, ditch, or storm drain as they can end up in the environment polluting the air, water, or soil.



**ADDITIONAL WASTE WILL COST \$1.00/LB
DISPOSAL OF THE FIRST 50 POUNDS FOR FREE
WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY AS FUNDS ALLOW.**

First come, first served... Arrive early to ensure your spot!!!



Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission 787-2936 salexander@anpdc.org
This community service event is sponsored by the ESVA Ground Water Committee. It is made possible by funding from Accomack & Northampton Counties, A-NPDC, VA Coastal Zone Management Program, & NOAA & volunteer work from Waste Watchers of the Eastern Shore. This event is not open to business, industry, or institutions.

10am-2pm Rain or Shine! 3 Locations:

**NORTHERN ACCOMACK:
HORNTOWN
CONVENIENCE CENTER
5536 FLEMING ROAD,
HORNTOWN (CLOSE TO
CHINCOTEAGUE)**

**CENTRAL ACCOMACK:
GRANGEVILLE
CONVENIENCE CENTER
31138 SEASIDE
ROAD, KELLER
(SEASIDE RD &
WACHAPREAGUE RD JCT)**

**NORTHAMPTON:
BIRDSNEST
CONVENIENCE CENTER
9005 BIRDSNEST
DRIVE, BIRDSNEST**

If no words indicate it is a hazardous product, it likely isn't. Dispose of it in your regular trash!

Bring:	Do NOT bring:
Garden chemicals	Commercial waste
Poisons	Car batteries
Repellants	Tires
Fuel	Motor Oil
Fungicides	Medicines
Wood stain, preservative	Empty containers
Paint remover	Biological/Medical waste
Epoxy	PCBs, Freon
Asbestos	Propane tanks

PAINT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
Paint can be discarded by removing lid, allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (kitty litter, wood chips, etc.) until no longer a liquid & discarded in plastic bag.

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating

Arbor Day

Free Trees!

Yes, we are giving away
9 species of tree seedlings including:

Cypress, Bald
Oak, Sawtooth
Persimmon
Yellow Poplar
Orchard Loblolly Pine/Long Leaf Pine

Maple, Red
Oak, White
Common Button bush
Short leaf Pine

on
Saturday, April 30, 2016
9am-12pm

at the
Eastern Shore Community College
Front Lawn, Melfa, VA

and the
Northampton County
Courthouse Greens, Eastville, VA,

Foresters will be onsite for any questions.

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is today.
— Old Chinese proverb

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 – First Place Prize: \$50 in each category, Second Place: \$25, Third Place: \$15 and Fourth Place: \$10. This year's theme is about trees and posters must have the title: "We All Need Trees" somewhere in the drawing. **Posters must be submitted to ESSWCD by Friday, April 8, 2016 with a 2016 Conservation Poster Contest Entry Form attached to the back.**

Winning posters will be on display and awards will be given during the ES Science Fair held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Eastern Shore Community College. For entry forms and complete rules and tips on how to make an effective poster, contact your art teacher or Bonnie Mahl at Bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org or 757-787-0918 x129.

ES State Winner

Eastern Shore students entered their posters into the 2015 Conservation Poster contest. Of the 370 entries, 5 were chosen as first place winners in categories of K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. These five first place winners were sent to the VASWCD State Poster Contest. At the State level **Nia Imani Richardson of Northampton High School** was awarded 1st place in the 7th-9th grade category. Congratulations Nia for a job well done! Nia's poster also received honorable mention at the National Association of Conservation District annual meeting in February 2016.



Poster by Nia Imani Richardson of Northampton High School

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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Organization
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Change Service Requested

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