



Shore Conservor

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

May 2015

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Urban Forestry—One Tree at a Time

Urban Forestry refers to the care and planning of trees in an urban or city setting. Cities are much more populated with people than rural areas; therefore, the spaces are filled with buildings and concrete for living spaces, businesses, parking and walking. After the impacts of acid rain, stormwater runoff, smog, and global warming, people have realized that trees are beneficial to the environment especially in urban areas.



There are a wealth of reasons for including trees in the landscaping of a city including reducing energy costs, helping keep the air clean, increasing property values, preventing erosion, and providing food and shelter for wildlife.

Trees reduce electricity use and energy costs by providing shade for a home in summer or a windbreak in the winter. Planting trees on the south and west side of your home can reduce air temperature and lower air conditioning bills by up to 50%, and windbreak trees (such as evergreens) can reduce winter heating bills by up to 30%.¹ It has been proven that cities with little to no vegetation maintain an average temperature of 12 degrees hotter than its surrounding areas.² Trees can help counter this urban "heat island" effect. Trees reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than manmade surfaces like streets and roofs.

Trees help cleanse the air because they remove carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air and release oxygen through photosynthesis. "One acre of trees provides enough oxygen for 18 people, and absorbs as much carbon dioxide as a car produces in 26,000 miles." Trees also absorb sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, two components of acid rain, smog and ozone pollution.¹ So trees are very good to have around to keep the air fresh and replenished with oxygen. Trees reduce noise pollution by acting as a buffer and absorbing urban

noise. A U.S. Department of Energy study reports a 100 ft wide and 45 ft tall patch of trees can reduce noise levels by 50%.¹

Migrating birds rest and feed in trees along their long journey. Trees provide shelter from the weather and cover from predators. Native trees to an area often produce berries or fruit that are nourishing for migrating birds. The Downy Serviceberry grows 15-30 feet, and produces a fruit that attracts cardinals, waxwings and over 35 species of birds. The Common Hackberry grows 30-100 feet tall and provides shelter and a sweet fruit to woodpeckers. The Eastern Redbud and Sweetbay Magnolia are stunning ornamentals that could be used in front of an office building or along the road. Trees often provide food for people as well as animals such as pecan and walnut trees. Pecan and walnut trees attract squirrels because of the nuts and shelter the trees provide.

Trees attract not only songbirds, but birds of prey such as owls and hawks whose main diet consists of rodents like mice and rats, small mammals and fish. Owls and hawks help keep rat populations down. This is especially good where rodents can be a problem in the cities. Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed hawks have been known to live in residential areas and urban environments. Barred Owls can live in a tree cavity or even in a nest box attached to a tree. Red-tailed hawks make their nests in trees 15-70 feet tall at the edge of wooded areas or in the open. Where there are no trees, red-tail hawks will build their nests on buildings. Some small birds such as house sparrows actually live in active red-tailed hawk nests!

Trees increase property values by 15%² adding beauty to the landscaping with their greenery; some with their colorful fruits and flowers. Many trees attract birds and butterflies which also adds to the beauty of the land. Trees give property buyers a sense of stability and warmth due to the care and length of time it takes grow a tree.

Continued on page 2...

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

Starting July 13, 2015 through August 14, 2015 accepting FY16 Cover Crop Sign-up.

2015 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

2015 Poster Contest Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators

There were over 300 posters entered in this year's Conservation Poster Contest. Judging was done by the Eastern Shore Community College students of Phi Theta Kappa. The conservation poster contest winners were recognized at the Eastern Shore Science Fair on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Continued from pg 1.. **Urban Forestry**



Urban Forestry can be useful for soil erosion prevention. For newly developed sites, the Sassafras is an easy tree to grow in disturbed infertile soils. Some trees such as the River Birch are useful for erosion control because it has deep roots to stabilize the soil and it thrives in moist soils. Trees also absorb storm water that might otherwise result in flash flooding. According to the USDA Forest Service "A city's urban forest can reduce peak storm runoff by 10-20%."¹

A silver maple or poplar tree has shallow roots and a huge trunk when mature, so it may break up a sidewalk as it grows but they make great canopies in neighborhoods to provide shade and beauty. Urban Forestry planning is necessary, because not all trees are the same and cannot be used in the same manner. However, whether you live in an urban or rural area, trees benefit us all.

1. "What Do Trees Do", <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/youth/sftrc/lesson-plan-pdfs/what-do-trees-do>

2. "Ten Reasons Living Trees are Valuable", http://forestry.about.com/od/treephysiology/tp/tree_value.htm

Grades K-1

1st Place



Noah Pruitt
Shore Christian Academy

2nd Place



Stella Lusk
Montessori Children's
House of Franktown

3rd Place



Chase Custis
Shore Christian Academy

4th Place



Kinley Brady
Kiptopeke Elementary

Grades 2-3



Sophia Macca
Shore Christian Academy



Marrielle Warren
Shore Christian Academy



Caleb Perry
Homeschool



Patrick Sullivan
Kiptopeke Elementary

2015 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

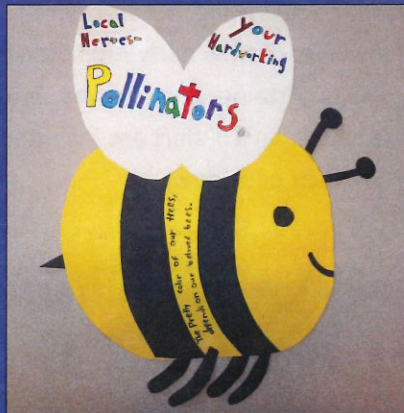
Grades 4-6



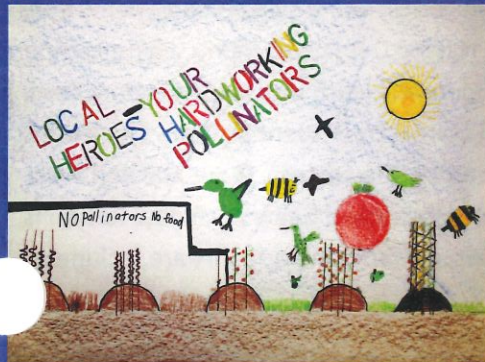
Jamonte Baines
Pungoteague Elementary



Abigail Killmon
Nandua Middle School



Thea Fisk
Homeschool



Garrett Miles
Broadwater Academy

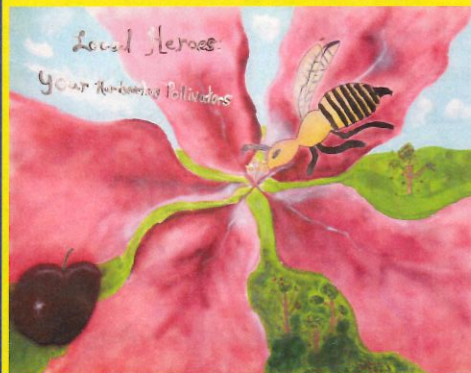
Grades 7-9



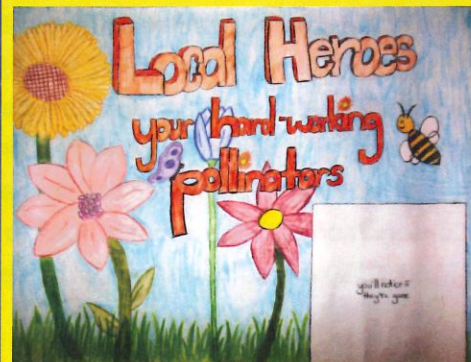
Nia Imani Richardson
Northampton High School



Lauren McClaskey
Broadwater Academy

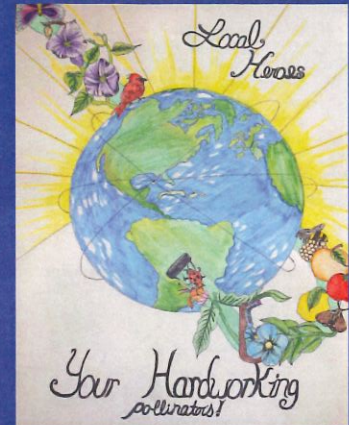


Madison Wessells
Broadwater Academy



Courtney Floyd
Broadwater Academy

Grades 10-12



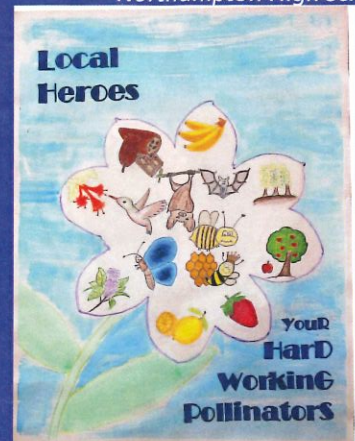
Lakeysha Goffigan
Northampton High School



Kelsie Paglia
Northampton High School



Dylan Bennett
Northampton High School



Jiali Xu
Broadwater Academy



Summer Fun at Ker Place

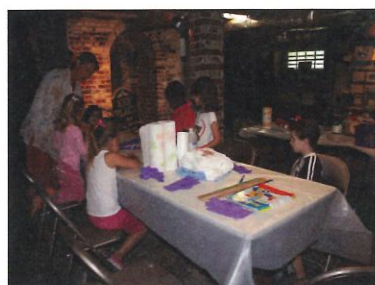
History Camp registration is open and is filling up fast.

Register early as all camps are limited to 20 children! Scholarships are available. For more information and to register please contact Randy Stuart through email: education@shorehistory.org or by phone: 757-787-8012

little crafters

June 22 – June 26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Little Crafters offers our youngest campers **ages 3-6** the opportunity to make bread, cakes, toys and play games just like their 18th and 19th century contemporaries did. Campers also will create and play an "old time" musical instrument. Tuition is \$130 (\$115 for members) and all materials, a daily snack, and a camp T-shirt are included.



19TH CENTURY KIDS

July 6 – July 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Campers **ages 7-11** will be transported to a time when young people took an active part in keeping the family home and business going strong. A number of household items will be created and campers will learn how early Americans bartered for goods, traveled around the Shore, and entertained themselves. Tuition is \$165 (\$150 for members) and all materials, a snack, and a T-shirt are included.

Campers need to bring a packed lunch each day.

ADVANCED AMERICAN SPIES & NATURE DETECTIVES

August 3 – August 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Campers **ages 9-13** will spend the first part of the day honing espionage techniques the first Americans used in late 18th through mid-19th centuries. Campers will make and use invisible ink; create communication codes; and travel behind enemy lines. The second part of the day will be spent in Nature Detectives Camp where campers will investigate the wonders of nature. Campers will learn bird identification, testing water quality, cooking with solar heat and animal track identification. The Nature Detectives Camp is presented and sponsored by The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District. Campers need to bring a packed lunch each day. Tuition is \$165 (\$150 for members) and all materials, a snack, and a T-shirt are included.



Dominion 2015 ENVIROTHON



Pictured above are the winning Envirothon team, Arcadia High School with Coach Marianne Simko on the right.

The 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 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 Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Wallops Island, VA. The local high schools that participated were Arcadia (Coach Marianne Simko), Broadwater Academy (Coach Sandra Thornton), Chincoteague (Coach Fred Gers), Nandua (Coach Ashley Weaver) and Northampton (Coach Kelsey Gaskins). **Arcadia High School** placed first at this year's Local Dominion Envirothon Competition and second at the Area VI Envirothon. They will go on to compete at the State Competition at Longwood College, Longwood, VA May 17-18, 2015.

On training day the students visited different stations to learn about the subject areas. Trainers for the local 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 (Forestry and Special Topic) Mike Aherron of the VA Dept. of Forestry, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater from VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, and (Aquatics) Anne Armstrong from Chincoteague Bay Field Station.

On testing day, the students were tested on each subject and the special topic, Urban Forestry. The teams also presented a 20-minute oral presentation to a panel of judges on how Urban Forestry could improve a community. The panel of judges included: Sally Richardson, a retired Northampton County Teacher; Rikki Sterrett, retired 4-H Extension Agent; Jenny Templeton, NRCS Soil Conservationist; Christina Ruszczuk-Murray, Northampton 4-H Extension Agent; Mike Aherron; and Tony Noreika, Deputy Regional Forester. Thanks to Sheila Faith and Tamsey Ellis and the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and everyone who participated in this year's Local Dominion Envirothon.

T-Shirt Design Contest

Each year ESSWCD holds a Dominion Envirothon t-shirt design contest that rotates annually between the local high schools. The winning T-shirt design is then featured as the back of the Dominion Envirothon t-shirt.

This year's contest was held at Chincoteague High School. The winning design was created by **Katelyn McCollum**. Bonnie Mahl, Eastern Shore SWCD Education Director presented Katelyn with a \$50 cash award and a t-shirt.



Katelyn McCollum holds a certificate for winning the 2015 Envirothon T-shirt Design Contest. Standing with her is Art Teacher, Carol Payne of Chincoteague H.S.

Spring Grants Awarded

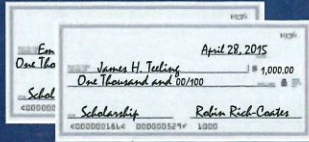


The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment Committee awarded **\$1,500 in Spring Grants** this year.

These grants are funding small but far-reaching and long-term educational projects. This year the grants are funding a Virginia Living Museum Field Trip taken by Kiptopeke Elementary second graders, a Garden Beds project by Northampton County 4-H Extension and Kiptopeke Elementary School, Vegetable and Native Plant Garden at Montessori Children's House of Franktown and a Dedicated Pollinator Garden by No Limits. Previous grants have funded a Bay Lab, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, butterfly plantings, materials for water quality testing, a soils curriculum, schoolyard birdfeeders, 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 2016 and awarded by March 2016. 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 Two \$1000 Scholarships

Each year 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 available only to Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who are full-time students or who have applied to a college undergraduate level curriculum related to natural resources conservation. This year, the Endowment Committee has awarded two \$1,000 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarships. The recipients are **James H. Teeling**, a senior at Northampton High School planning to major in Biology/Environmental Science at James Madison University. The other recipient is **Emily P. Haugh**, a senior at Chincoteague High School attending the University of Virginia in the fall and planning to major in Environmental Studies.



EASTERN SHORE YOUNG FARMERS PRESENTS

RUN THE FARM 2015

5K RUN/WALK
1 MILE FAMILY FUN WALK

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TOUR THE FARM WHILE YOU
RUN ON THE DIRT AND LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT
CROPS GROWN ON THE SHORE!

WHEN

June 6th, 2015

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

AN ALL-AGES
EVENT!

REGISTRATION
BY MAY 29TH

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



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 Accomack, 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.

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