



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 2013

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Collect Rain Before It Becomes Runoff



*Barrel used in ESSWCD/ESWN
Rainbarrel Workshops*

The primary use for a rain barrel is to collect rain water before it runs off your land into a ditch to a perennial stream and into the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean. Runoff is the number one source of pollutants entering our waterways. When it rains, water that is not soaked up in the ground or captured, runs across our driveways, lawn, roadways and parking lots picking up toxins such as oil/petroleum products on the road that has dripped from our cars, nutrients from excess fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides applied to our lawns, bacteria from dog waste left on the ground and trash. Once the water is in the ocean, it is no longer useable for drinking water or watering your plants which need fresh water, not salt water. Even washing your car, you need fresh water, because salt water will cause it to rust.

With the rising cost of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing much of the United States during the summer months, harvesting rainwater saves money and protects this precious natural resource. More than 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water but only 0.3% of all water is freshwater accessible for use by humans. The rest is saltwater, locked in glaciers or in the form of clouds. The Eastern Shore has a shallow water aquifer and a deep water aquifer, the Columbia and the Yorktown-Eastover Aquifers respectively. Rain water is the only way to recharge these aquifers. The Columbia Aquifer's recharge rate is estimated to be approximately only 13 inches per year and the Yorktown-Eastover Aquifer, 0.7 inches per year. Pumping out more water than the aquifer can recharge may lead to saltwater intrusion. The Columbia Aquifer begins at the water table 6-20 feet under the surface basically right under our feet. It is not confined on the top so it effectively absorbs about half our annual rainfall. The remaining precipitation is lost to runoff and evaporation. So rather than draw the water from the well which would take thousands of years to recharge, why not use the rain water that is readily available for use as it falls to the earth?



Example of a painted rainbarrel

Rain barrels come in all shapes and sizes, some are made of metal, while others are of plastic. A key thing to remember: make sure the barrel is safe to collect water that can be used to water your plants, water your lawn, or wash your car. You would not want to drink any of the water from your rain barrel. You also want to make sure that your rain barrel is covered with a screen of some type so as not to become a major breeding ground for mosquitoes. The Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District (ESSWCD) in partnership with the Eastern Shore Watersheds Network (ESWN) have been holding rain barrel workshops throughout the year all along the Shore. At these workshops....

Continued on page 4...

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

Starting July 15, 2013 through August 30, 2013 accepting FY14 Cover Crop sign-up.

2013 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

Grades K-1

1st Place



Marielle Warren
Shore Christian
Academy
Grade Category K-1
1st Place

2nd Place

Reghan K. Hintz
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
2nd Place

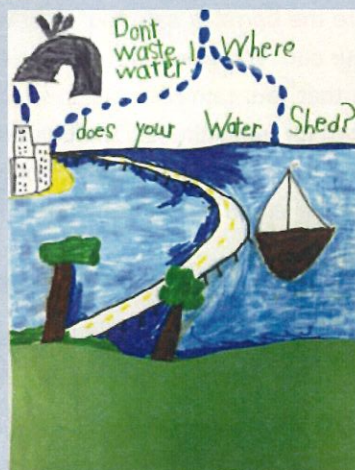


3rd Place



Ashlynn Crockett
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
3rd Place

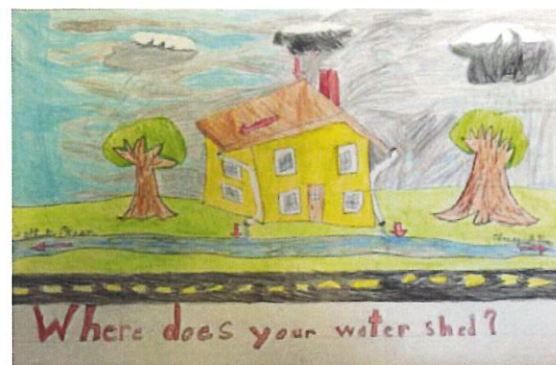
4th Place



Ella Roache
Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category K-1
4th Place

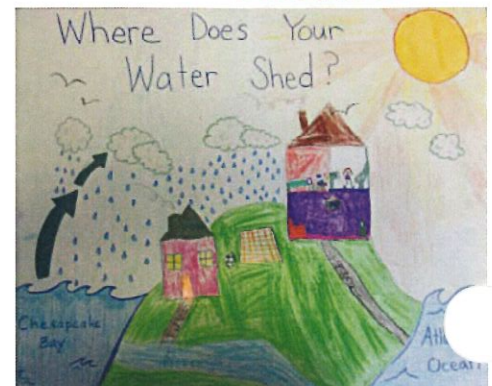
Grades 2-3

1st Place



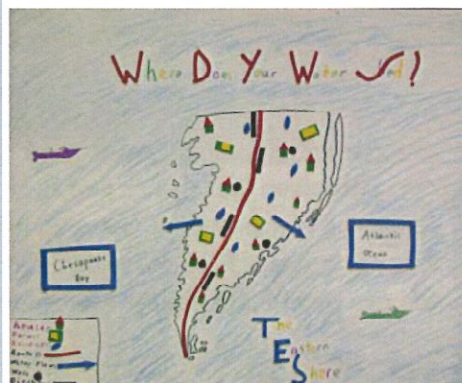
David Warren III, Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category 2-3, 1st Place

2nd Place



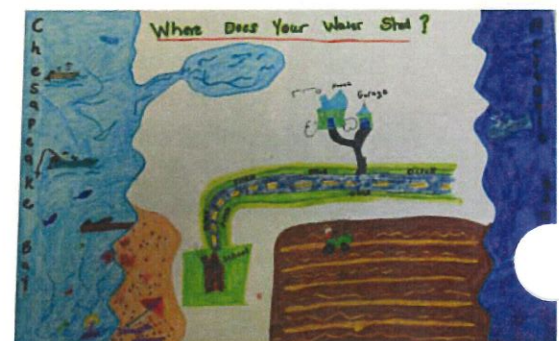
Bethany Carpenter
Shore Christian
Academy
Grade Category 2-3
2nd Place

3rd Place



Kolby Evans
Shore Christian
Academy
Grade Category 2-3
3rd Place

4th Place

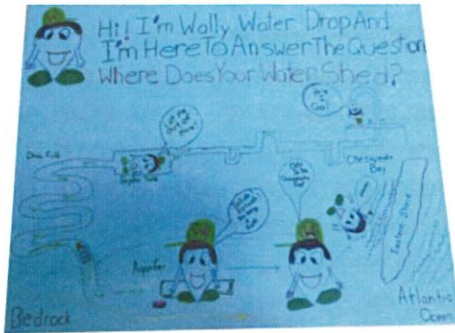


Madison Killmon, Shore Christian Academy
Grade Category 2-3, 4th Place

2013 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

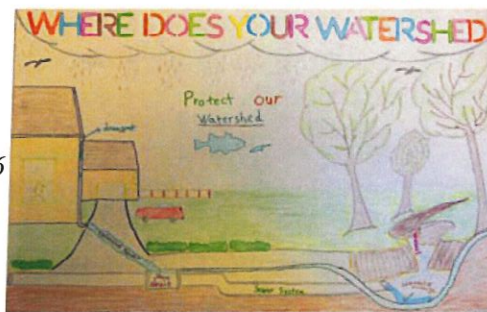
Grades 4-6

1st Place



Victoria Spence
Shore Christian
Academy
Grade Category 4-6
1st Place

2nd Place



Krupa Patel
Shore Christian
Academy
Grade Category 4-6

3rd Place



Kylen Wharton, SPARK, Grade Category 4-6, 3rd Place

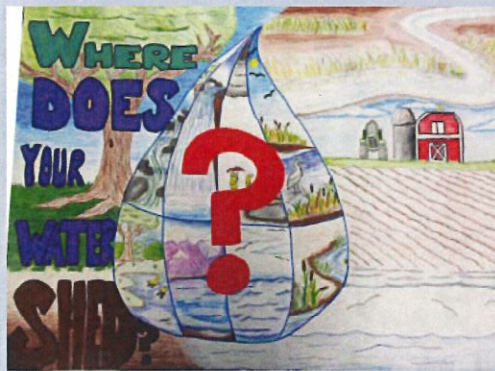
4th Place

Katie Brown
Broadwater Academy
Grade Category 4-6
4th Place



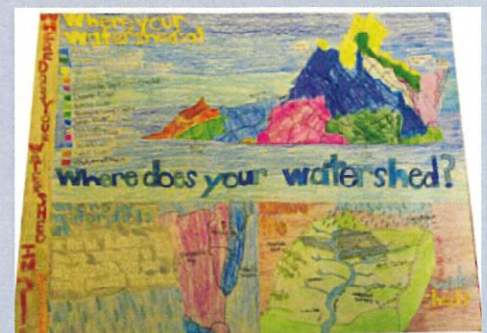
Grades 7-9

1st Place



Matthew Teasley
Nandua Middle
School
Grade Category 7-9
1st Place

2nd Place



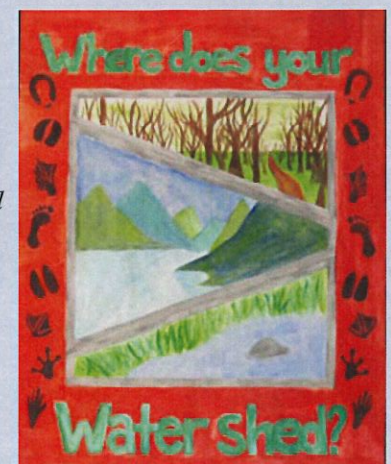
Michaela Bloxom
Nandua Middle
School
Grade Category 7-9
2nd Place

3rd Place



Alicia Eckloff
Arcadia High School
Grade Category 7-9
3rd Place

4th Place

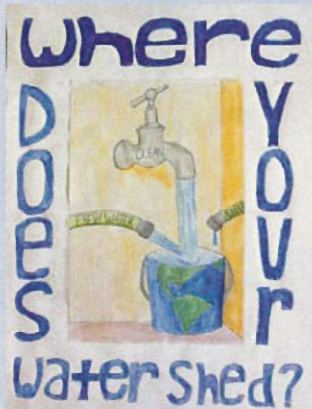


Lindsay Kennedy
Northampton High School
Grade Category 7-9
4th Place

2013 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

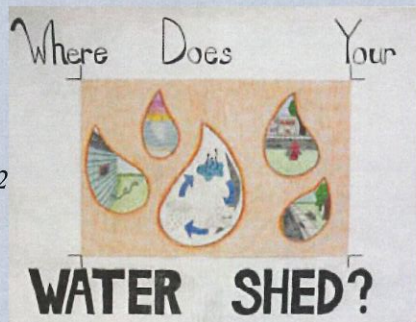
Grades 10-12

1st Place



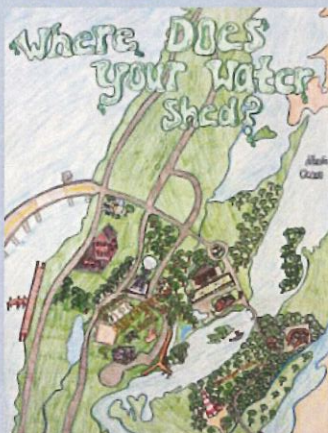
Michael Thomas
Northampton High School
Grade Category 10-12
1st Place

2nd Place



Kayla Colonna
Northampton High School
Grade Category 10-12
2nd Place

3rd Place



Allysin Mason
Arcadia High School
Grade Category 10-12
3rd Place

4th Place



Sean Ingram
Northampton High School
Grade Category 10-12
4th Place

District Endowment Committee Awards Spring Grants

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Endowment Committee awarded \$861 in Spring Grants this year. Educators, schools and community groups in Accomack and Northampton Counties are eligible for these grants. These grants are funding small but far-reaching and long-term educational projects. These grants are funding a Butterfly/Bird Garden, a Bay Lab, and a project demonstrating scientific method in action. Previous grants have helped fund outdoor classrooms, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, recycling programs, butterfly plantings, materials for water quality testing, birdfeeders for the schoolyard, and field trips for environmental study just to name a few. 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.

The grant funds represent interest from an endowment established in 1987 with proceeds from the sale of the District's heavy equipment. This grant was established in honor of the first Education Director for the ESSWCD, Billie Fitzgerald. Applications will be made available on the District website January of 2014 at www.esswcd.org and awarded by March 2014. Look for an advertisement in your local Eastern Shore News, The Eastern Shore Post or visit the ESSWCD website.



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Collect Rain Before It Becomes Runoff

...participants learn how to make their very own rainbarrel, install the overflow spout and the faucet. At the end of the workshop the participants have their very own rain barrel to take home and start collecting rain water. The barrels used in the workshop are recycled olive barrels, so they are safe to use in your yard, on your plants, and on your vehicles. The barrels are a dark gray, but can be painted to blend with your landscape or become an ornamental centerpiece of your lawn. If you choose to paint your rain barrel, just use paint specifically for plastic or metal, dependent of which your barrel is made. For more information about the ESSWCD/ESWN Rain Barrel Workshops contact Bonnie Mahl at bonnie.mahl@esswcd.org; 757-787-0918 ext 129 or 22545 Center Parkway, Accomack, VA 23301. ■



Example of a painted rainbarrel



Arcadia and Chincoteague High School 2013 Envirothon teams wearing t-shirts with the 2013 Envirothon design on the back

Envirothon 2013

The Dominion Envirothon is a natural resources competition that tests teams on soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife and a special topic chosen each year. As students prepare for the Envirothon, they learn about natural resources and conservation. Pictured above are the two Eastern Shore teams that participated in the local Envirothon Competition consisting of a training day and a testing day which was hosted by the ESSWCD and partly funded by Dominion Power Company. Pictured above are the two Eastern Shore teams Arcadia High School (Marianne Simko-Coach) and Chincoteague High School (Fred Gers-Coach) that participated in the local Dominion Envirothon Competition. Teams attended a training day and testing day that were sponsored in part by the Eastern Shore SWCD and by Dominion Power Company. Arcadia High School place first at the local competition and went on to compete at the State Competition at Virginia State University in Petersburg, VA. The State Competition was held on May 19-20, 2013 and Arcadia placed 11th out of 18 teams.

Besides the soils, forestry, aquatics and wildlife tests, this year's special topic was about Sustainable Grassland and Pastureland Management. The question posed to the teams was as stated, "Your team has been tasked with creating a marketing and outreach plan to address how grasslands can be managed for maximum mixed use benefits in the Upper Hazel River watershed- specifically Rappahannock County. Your Plan will be presented to a panel of land owners and managers in the community." To answer this question, the teams give a 20-minute oral presentation to a panel of judges. In order to prepare for State competition, the teams have to perform their presentation at the local competition first to a panel of judges who included Jennie Lewis from Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Tatum Ford from The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Jenny Templeton from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wanda Thornton an Accomack County Superintendent and Rick Hubbard a Northampton Superintendent.

Trainers for the local Envirothon Competition were: H.L. Kellam from USDA Farm Service Agency (Soils), Cole Charnock from the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District (Soils), Robbie Lewis and Donnie Davis from the VA Dept. of Forestry (Forestry), Jeremy Tarwater from the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries (Wildlife), Anne Armstrong and Alex Vandermeys from the Marine Science Consortium (aquatics), and Tina Jerome from the USDA National Resources Conservation Service (Special Topic). The training and testing days took place at the Eastern Shore Community College. Thank you to everyone who participated and was a part of this year's Envirothon.

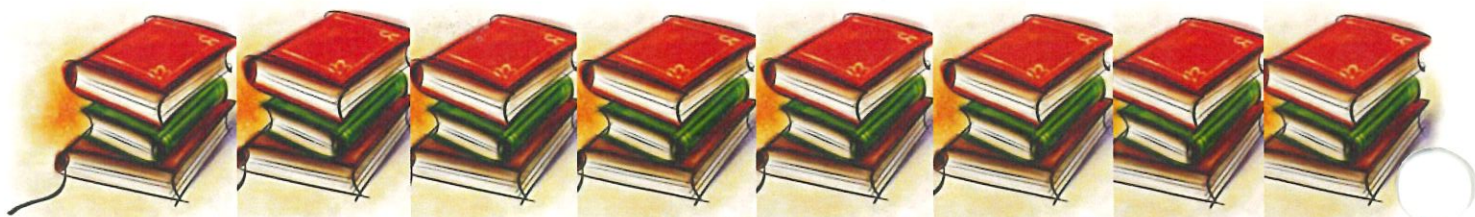
T-Shirt Design Contest

The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District started the Envirothon Program in Virginia. The first competition has held 1993 with Arcadia, Chincoteague, Nandua and Northampton High Schools competing. This was also the start of the T-shirt Design Contest. Each year the Eastern Soil and Water Conservation District holds a t-shirt design competition that rotates annually for local high school art students. The students are asked to create a T-Shirt design for the local Dominion Envirothon competition. The design must portray the four major subject areas of the Envirothon competition; aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife. The winning T-shirt design is then printed and worn by the Envirothon teams during the competition.

This year's Dominion Envirothon T-shirt Logo competition was held at Arcadia High School and the winning design was created by senior Autum Gabriele. Bonnie Mahl, Education Director from the Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District presented Autum with a \$50 cash prize and four t-shirts.



Pictured is Arcadia Art Teacher Mrs. Garbacz and T-shirt design winner, Autum Gabriele. Autum is holding the winning design featured on the 2013 Envirothon t-shirts.



ESSWCD Awards 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 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarships worth \$500 each. The recipients are Jeffery Logan Holland, a senior at Broadwater Academy attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in the fall and planning to major in Soil Agronomy. The other recipient is Kelsey A. Bisker, a senior at Northampton High School attending Clemson University in the fall and planning to major in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology.

District Recognizes William Shockley



Carmie Duer, District Manager, presented Bill Shockley with a plaque and a District totebag, shirt and padfolio.

William E. Shockley retired as the Northampton County Extension Agent in 2012 and was recognized by several partner agencies at the Annual Spring Agricultural Research Extension Center (AREC) Farm Field Day. The Farm Field Day was held partly at the AREC and partly on Sturgis Farms, Painter, VA on May 16, 2013. The District recognized Bill for his years of service and dedication on the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors where he as a Director, served from 2005 to 2012 and still serves as an Associate Director. William Shockley attended NC State and received his masters at Virginia Tech. Bill still farms part time on his farm—Woodside Farms in lower Northampton County.

The Shore Conservator 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 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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