



# Shore Conserver

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

**June 2009**

## **Board of Directors**

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Newsletter Staff Writer

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USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Tina Jerome  
NRCS District Conservationist

Bob Smith  
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician

## **ESSWCD thanks its volunteers who lead local conservation**

The ESSWCD would like to honor its Board of Directors and Associate Directors. These producers and professionals volunteer their time year-round to serve area landowners and community members by promoting the conservation of our area's outstanding natural resources.

In addition to a volunteer-based board, ESSWCD also relies on other volunteers to make our programs successful. This year numerous committee members assisted the ESSWCD with various events and projects that balance resource conservation with diverse community needs and resource-base consumers.

The ESSWCD proved to be exceptionally successful this year throughout all its projects and we would like to recognize those who are committed to the mission of conserving our natural resources. These volunteers are part of a group of leaders across the country that are instrumental in every aspect of conserving and preserving our nation's natural resources, ensuring there will be clean air, clean water, productive soil and healthy habitat for generations to come.

The work of these volunteers is continuous. Every day a volunteer lends a helping hand to make conservation programs and practices beneficial to the residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties and to citizens across the nation.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, call (757)787-0918 ext 6.

## **Special Thanks**

**to our volunteers**

**on the District committees**

## **Technical Committee**

Will Atkinson

Greg Etheridge

Danny Mills

Mike Paglia

David Rew

## **Endowment Committee**

Frank Moore

Bea Nelson

## **Environmental Education Council**

Richard Ayers	Jack Humphries
Ruth Boettcher	Jody Humphries
Jenny Budd	Gretchen Knapp
Dave Burden	Pat Morrison
Bill Burnham	Kathleen Overman
Grace Cormons	Amber Parker
John Chubb	Christine Petersen
Jack Collins	Yvonne Schultz
Dot Field	Rikki Sterrett
Kit Fechtig	Joseph Spagnolo
Aubrey Hall	Becky Wolff
Patsy Hand	

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

Starting July 1st through September 4th we are accepting sign-up for Cover Crop (Rates on pg 3). Come in the office to discuss the FY2010 Nutrient Management Planning, Conservation Tillage, Record-Keeping and Animal Waste Facility programs.

# Envirothon 2009

Congratulations, Nandua Newts! The 20th annual Eastern Shore Envirothon on March 19 ended with Nandua Newts taking first place. Arcadia Jolly Green Giants placed second and Broadwater Academy's team took third. The Nandua Newts advanced to the state-wide competition in Wakefield, VA, May 17-18, at the Airfield 4-H Center. Nandua Newts placed tenth overall in the State competition.

This year's special topic was "Biodiversity in a Changing World". The teams gave their oral presentations on setting aside a Heritage Area Preserve in Big Woods, a 4,900 acre tract in Sussex County near the Wakefield 4-H Center. Some of the issues that the students tackled included maximizing biodiversity, water quality, recreational effects, invasive species control, logging



**Below, Pictured from left to right:** Back row - Coach Debby Milburn, Melody Vaughn, Ben Gorske, Maggi MacDade, Tyler Thorne, Coach Sally Richardson, Zachary Figg, Tiffany Young, Coach Marianne Simko, David Weitzel, Zack Hoverson, James Neblett, Jeffery Hall, Coach Fred Gers, Mason Karafa. Front Standing Row: K.C. Carrier, Troy Anderson, Jason Floyd, Jennifer Rasmussen, Taylor Gray, Emily Milner, Coach Gail Lee, Ian Bottone, Ethan Bottone, Liz Cathey, Jordan Nock, Hillary Chesson. Row Sitting: Rebecca Ward, Raven Sobel, Hanna O'Toole, Steven Chesson. **Not pictured:** Unikeque Gibbs, Brooke Stacey, Joseph Cornwell, Kristin Jones, Megan Craig, Christopher Head, Daniel Basuel, Kelly Turner, Stephanie Lipuma, Caitlin Sisk, Blake Selpk.

opportunities, and the impact on the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, the rarest bird in the state of Virginia. The teams had to design a public outreach campaign describing why and how they chose their particular site and what management tools they would use to encourage wise resource use.

## Special Thanks to the coaches, trainers and judges

### Coaches

Marianne Simko, Arcadia  
Debby Milburn, Broadwater  
Sally Richardson, Northampton  
Fred Gers, Chincoteague  
Dr. Gail Lee, Nandua

### Trainers

Yvonne Schultz, Wildlife  
Dot Field and Richard Ayers, Aquatics  
DCR-Natural Heritage  
Toni Norieka and Robbie Lewis, Forestry  
VA Dept of Forestry  
Bo Lusk, 2009 Issue, Nature Conservancy  
H.L. Kellam, Soil, Farm Services Agency  
Add Nottingham, Soil, ESSWCD

### Judges

Rikki Sterrett, 4-H Coordinator  
Bill Shockley, Director ESSWCD  
Tina Jerome, NRCS Conservationist  
Bo Lusk, The Nature Conservancy

*Left: Using a soil map, the students are determining the soil type of the two soil pits dug by East Coast Tomato Company.*



*Above: Robbie Lewis and students use a Biltmore Stick to measure the board feet of a tree.*

Congratulations are due to all the local students who participated in the 20th annual Envirothon program. They work hard and devote extracurricular time to the study of our area's natural resources. Pictured below are the outstanding high school student teams preparing for the state-wide competition. For more pictures, visit the District's website at [www.esswcd.org](http://www.esswcd.org). ■



## Visit the Native Plants Garden at the Wildlife Observation Platform in Willis Wharf...

The Native Plants Campaign has had a great start. "Eastern Shore Native Plants are Shore Beautiful" is the Native Plant Campaign slogan. Working with the Coastal Zone Management Program, the District has encouraged the local nurseries to place the plant stakes shown below in native plant varieties making it easier for the consumer to locate and purchase native plants for their landscaping.

A media event at the Willis Wharf Viewing Platform on Arbor Day, April 24, 2009 was the official kick-off for the Native Plants Campaign. Local dignitaries added plants to a demonstration native plant landscape and lucky raffle winners took home a Serviceberry, also known as Juneberry

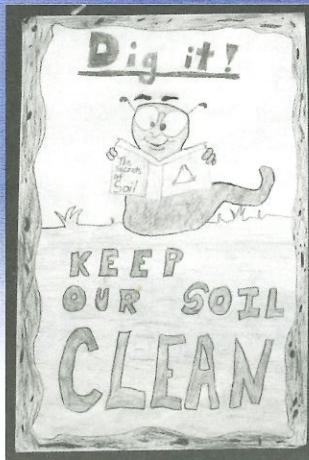
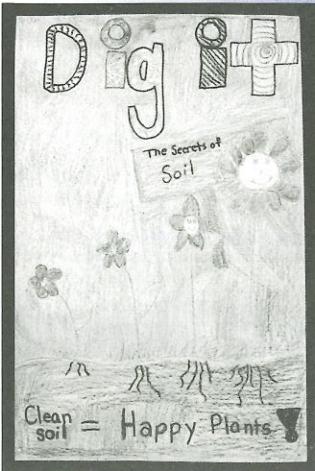


*The platform was dedicated in September during the 16th Annual Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival.*

or Shadblush which is the signature plant for the campaign. Jeff Klingel of Appleseed Nurseries & Landscape designed and planted the native demonstration garden at Willis Wharf. The wildlife viewing platform is a great place to visit. The 64' x 24' platform has sets of attached binoculars which you can use to see the surrounding wetlands and various shorebirds of the Eastern Shore.



*District distinguishes native plants at local nurseries with use of plant stakes like the one shown above.*



## New Cover Crop Rates for fall 2009

### SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop

\$25/acre

\$25/acre early planting

\$10/acre Abruzzi Rye

### SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop

\$25/acre (limit 300 acres)

### SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Cropland

\$35/acre (vegetables)

### WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop (Vetch)

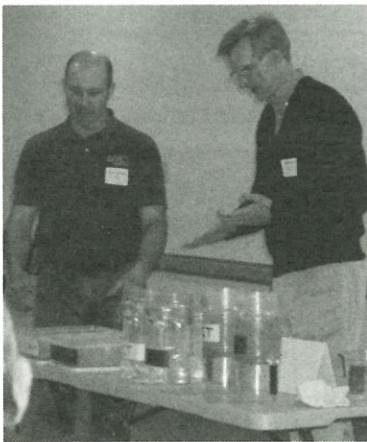
\$35/acre

*From left to right—Top Row:  
Regina Cullen, Grades 10-12  
Annie Jones, Grades 7-9  
Bottom Row:  
Catherine Long, Grades 4-6  
Matthew Teasley, Grades 2-3 and  
Sophie Watson, Grades K-1*

## Poster Contest 1st Place Winners Congratulations!



## AREA VI SPRING MEETING



*Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Bloxom helps Chris Lawrence with a demonstration on soil aggregates in tilled vs. no tilled soil.*

ESSWCD sponsored the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area VI Spring Meeting on March 13, 2009 in the workforce development center of the Eastern Shore Community College. The meeting started with opening remarks by Area VI Chairman Keith Seward of Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District, followed by a talk on the future of Virginia's agriculture from Bob Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture. Butch Nottingham and Bill Shockley

presented "The Changing Face of Agriculture" and the "History of Eastern Shore Agriculture". The meeting was attended by NRCS, RC&D, AREC and ESSWCD employees. In the afternoon, NRCS's Chris Lawrence gave rainfall and wind simulator demonstrations. The rainfall demonstration illustrated how no-till increases rain infiltration and organic matter in the soil. Both demonstrated how residue prevents erosion.

## District Manager Awarded

Jane Corson-Lassiter was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding a Dedicated Service from the Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers, Inc. After reading a biography of Jane's outstanding work, Steve Sturgis, President of the Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers presented the award during lunch at the 20th Annual Eastern Shore Ag Conference and Trade Show, Thursday, January 8, 2009 at the Moose Lodge in Belle Haven, Virginia.



*Steve Sturgis hands Jane Corson-Lassiter her award.*

The Shore Conserver is published quarterly by the Eastern Shore SWCD to provide information to land users. The District meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. 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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