



Shore Conserver

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

promoting locally led conservation

22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301 (757)302-4431 www.esswcd.org

February 2023

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2022 Grand Coastal Basin Award Winner- Evans Farms

From the pool of VA Clean Water Farm Award recipients, up to 10 Grand Basin winners representing VA's major river basins are selected each year. Jim Evans of Evans Farms was nominated by the Eastern Shore SWCD for the VA Grand Basin Award in the Coastal Basin category and won. Grand Basin Award winners must meet criteria of the Clean Water Farm Award as well as demonstrate exceptional conservation on the land and in managing operations. The winners' conservation practices and dedication to protecting natural resources make them role models for producers across the state.

The Grand Coastal Basin Award was presented during the 2022 VA Association of Conservation District's Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on December 5, 2022 held in Roanoke, VA. Nick Thomas, Eastern Shore SWCD accepted the award on Jim's behalf.



Pictured Jim and Cheryl Evans and their children Claire and Jake of Evans Farms)

Accepting the award on Jim Evan's behalf is Nick Thomas, ESSWCD Chair (center). On the left is Travis Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. To the right is Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Ag & Forestry)



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2022 Conservation Awards

2022 VCAP Individual Leadership Award- John Malbon



The Eastern Shore SWCD nominated John Malbon for the 2022 VCAP Individual Leadership Award. This State award is presented to a VCAP participant demonstrating a significant commitment to conservation through installation of best management practices in the Chesapeake Bay.

John won and was recognized during the 2022 VASWCD Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on December 5, 2022 in Roanoke, VA. Bill Savage, ESSWCD Conservation Specialist accepted the award on John's behalf.

Picture: Bill Savage, ESSWCD Conservation Specialist, Kendall Tyree, Executive Director, VASWCD..

2022 Legislator of the Year Award- Delegate Rob Bloxom

The Legislator of the Year Award is given in recognition of exceptional support to Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This year, the VA Association of Conservation Districts awarded Delegate Rob Bloxom as Legislator of the Year during the 2022 Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on December 5, 2022 at Hotel Roanoke.

Picture: Delegate Rob Bloxom, Lynn Graves, VASWCD President



Classroom Programs



New 4th and 5th Grade Programs

At the request of 4th and 5th grade teachers from Accawmacke and Chincoteague Elementary Schools, the District's Education Director has developed a number of new programs aimed at 4th and 5th grade SOL's.

Graphing the Ocean Floor - Students learn about the ocean floor and it's features while also practicing their graphing skills.

Dichotomous Keys - Students practice using dichotomous keys while also learning about local creatures including reptiles, insects, and marine creatures.

Food Webs - students learn about food webs using local organisms.

Wind and Water Power - students will use critical thinking skills to design and engineer a structure that is capable of lifting objects using wind or water power.

Natural Resources - using everyday objects, students must determine which natural resource they come from

Weather Stations and Rainfall - Students act as rainfall stations and then graph their results across the Eastern Shore.

SOL Review Programs

Virginia Geography and Regions

Looking for a hands-on, interactive review of Virginia geography, [products, and regions? The district has a large vinyl floor map and a lesson that covers a number of 4th grade SOL's.



Students also enjoy soil painting the regions of Virginia with soil from each region. All materials provided. Contact julie.head@esswcd.org.

Customized Bingo



Looking for a fun, interactive review for SOL's? Let us know what topics you would like to cover and our Education Director will create a bingo game on those topics.. Contact Julie Head at julie.head@esswcd.org

2023 Conservation Poster Contest



Open to all public, private, and homeschooled students who reside in Accomack or Northampton Counties.

Contest categories for hand drawn posters are:

- K - 1st Grade
- 2nd - 3rd Grade
- 4th - 6th Grade
- 7th - 9th Grade
- 12th - 12th Grade

Digitally created posters may be submitted for:

- 7th - 9th Grades
- 10th - 12th Grades

Entries are due to the ESSWCD office by 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2023

[Contest rules and entry forms can be found at:
https://www.esswcd.org/conservation-poster-contest](https://www.esswcd.org/conservation-poster-contest)

In person presentations, virtual presentations, and classroom materials on the importance of trees are available. For more information please contact Julie Head, Education Director at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433.

We are located in Accomac, VA, at 22545 Center Parkway.

2023 Spring Grants & Contests

Conservation Grants Now Available!

Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023



Are you or your organization involved in environmental education on Virginia's Eastern Shore? Do you need funds to help provide these opportunities? You might want to apply for the Billie Fitzgerald Memorial Conservation Grants through the ESSWCD. Schools, teachers, scouts, community groups and other organizations in Accomack and Northampton Counties are eligible to apply.

Funding up to \$400 is available for projects such as outdoor classrooms, nature trails, storm drain stenciling, recycling programs, butterfly gardens, birdfeeders, worm composters, rain gardens, or other environmental projects. We do not fund beautification projects, food, or textbooks.



Applications can be found on the ESSWCD website under the education tab or by clicking [here](#). You may also contact Julie Head at 757-302-4433 or julie.head@esswcd.org.



2023 VASWCD Photo Contest



The VASWCD is committed to conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs and we want to see it through your eyes. the theme this year is "Conservation Big and Small". Capture those vibrant moments and express what conservation looks like through your lens! The contest is open from February 1 – August 1, 2023. To learn more about the contest please click [here](#). All photographs must be taken within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Photographs taken outside the state of Virginia will be disqualified.

2023 Scholarships

Scholarships Available!

Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023



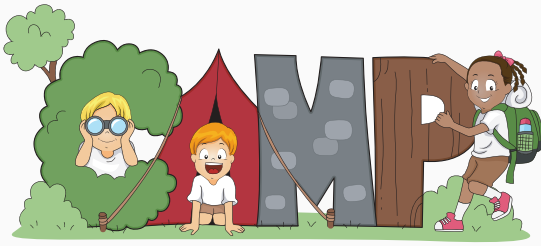
Do you know a current college student or a high school student planning to attend college in the fall of 2023. The W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship are available to Eastern Shore of Virginia residents who will be full-time undergraduate college students in the fall of 2023. The scholarships are administered by the Endowment Committee of the ESSWCD.

Up to \$1000 will be available for scholarships to be awarded to two students, depending upon the qualification of the applicants. Friday, March 31, 2023, is the deadline to apply for the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship and the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship.

Application materials may be obtained from the District office in Accomac by calling 757-302-4433, by email at julie.head@esswcd.org or by visiting <https://www.esswcd.org/scholarships>



Upcoming Camps



Who: Students currently in 9th - 12th grade

When: July 9 - 15, 2023

Where: Virginia Tech

9th through 12th grade students who live on the Eastern Shore of Virginia are invited to apply to attend Youth Conservation Camp. The Fred Holland Memorial Youth Conservation Camp scholarship is available from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District for those who are selected to attend. The scholarship covers the full cost of camp. To apply, please get an application at <https://www.esswcd.org/youth-conservation-camp> or contact Julie Head, Education Director, at julie.head@esswcd.org or 757-302-4433.

Ag Camp at the Barrier Islands Center Farm

Tuesday, August 1 - Wednesday, August 2, 2023

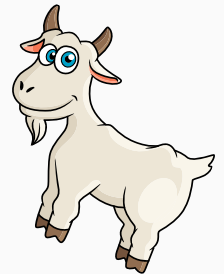
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ages 8 - 12, \$40 per camper



Campers will make their own butter and ice cream and interact with real sheep, goats, and calves. Other activities will be based on the AgBadge Program from National Ag In The Classroom.

Campers should bring a lunch both days, wear close toed shoes, and clothes that they can get dirty in. ESSWCD, BIC, and 4-H are partnering together for this educational fun on the farm camp.



New This Year - Junior Ag Camp

Ages 5 - 7

Thursday, July 28 - Friday, July 28, 2023

Ages 5 - 7, \$20 per camper

Registration open soon at barrierislandscenter.org

Water Wise Home Challenge



Protecting Our Planet Starts with You!

Take the Water-Wise Home Challenge from the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and see how you can help protect our natural resources.

Do your part!

Everyone has a part to play in protecting our natural resources. Adopt at least three of the challenge actions to receive your Water-Wise Home garden flag or sign to proudly display on your property.

Water Wise Home Challenge – scan the QR code for more information!

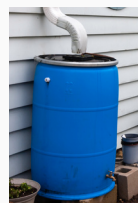
Plant a Pollinator Pocket



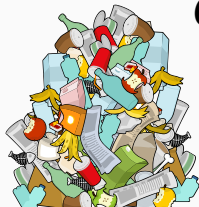
Commit to Scoop the Poop



Install a Rain Barrel



Participate in a litter Clean-Up Day



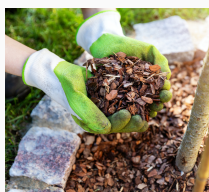
Start a Vermicomposter



Reduce or Eliminate Your Use of Fertilizer or Pesticides



Install Conservation Landscaping



Plant Three Native Plants



Mulch Leaves and Grass



Claim Your Flag

Once you have adopted at least three of the action challenges, let us know about it. Contact us at julie.head@esswcd.org, and we'll send your flag or sign. Please allow several weeks for delivery.

While we encourage everyone to participate in the Water Wise Home Challenge, yard flags and signs are only available to residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties

The Commonwealth of VA supports the Eastern Shore SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Eastern Shore SWCD programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of disability, race or color, national origin, traits historically associated with race or religion including traits associated with hair, religion or creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy status, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, veteran status, whistleblower status or genetic information.