



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 2019

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Edwin R. Long

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District Personnel

Carmie M. Savage

District Manager

carmie.savage@esswcd.org

Bill Savage

Conservation Specialist

bill.savage@esswcd.org

Vacant

Education Director

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jane Corson-Lassiter

District Conservationist

(757) 302-4432

Jenny Templeton

Soil Conservationist



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2019 Dominion Energy Envirothon

The Virginia Dominion Energy 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 Virginia Dominion Energy Local Envirothon Competition was sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District (Eastern Shore SWCD) and was partly funded by Dominion Energy. The competition occurred in two days — an intense day of training followed a month later by another intense day of testing. Both training and testing days were held at the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Station in Oyster, VA. Participating local high schools who competed included Broadwater Academy (two teams— Coach Sandra Thornton), Chincoteague High School (Coach Fred Gers), Nandua High School (Coach Julie Head) and Northampton High School (two teams—Coach Kelsey Gaskins).

Broadwater Academy's Team Gold placed first overall and Chincoteague High School placed second overall at this year's local competition. First and second overall winners would normally go on to compete in the Area Competition but due to scheduling conflicts, Chincoteague High School was unable to compete. Broadwater Academy's Team Green who placed third overall was able to compete along with Broadwater Academy's first place team. The Dominion Energy Area VI Envirothon competition was held on April 24th at Windsor Castle Park in Smithfield and was hosted by the Peanut SWCD.

The Eastern Shore SWCD would like to thank the trainers and judges who participated in the local Eastern Shore competition: (Soils) H.L. Kellam, USDA Farm Service Agency and Bill Savage, Eastern Shore SWCD, (Forestry) Robbie Lewis and Kenny Midget, VA Dept. of Forestry, (Special Topic) Kyle Sturgis, (Wildlife) Jeremy Tarwater, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and (Aquatics) Cora Johnston, Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Station. Also thanks to the presentation judges: Robin Rich-Coates, Larry Breech, Ursula Deitch, Rikki Sterrett and Sans Gayle. Many thanks to Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Station for hosting and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.



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

Starting July 15, 2019 through August 16, 2019 accepting FY19 Sign-up

History Camp: Advanced Spy Camp/Nature Detective Camp



Are you curious about nature, your environment or just want to have some fun? Well, the Nature Detective Camp is for you. The camp is for ages 8-13 and is held 9:00am-4:00pm in conjunction with Advanced American Spies Camp at Ker Place, Onancock, VA.

Advanced American Spies & Nature Detectives Camp (**July 29 – August 2, 2019 from 9am – 4pm for ages 8-13**) is a joint presentation of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Historical Society. It challenges 21st century campers to use their powers of observation, deception and imagination in Spy training. Nature Detectives will hone their observation skills and look closer at the world around them to discover nature's mysteries. During this camp travel behind enemy lines, learn to decode messages and create invisible ink using the same techniques as spies in the Civil War. As a nature detective explore the ecology of the Eastern Shore through kayaking on Onancock Creek, nature journaling and investigation. The week culminates in the completion of a mission and some intriguing arts and crafts.

Campers need to bring their lunch every day. Tuition is \$165 (\$150 for members). All materials, a snack, and a t-shirt are included. Come to Ker Place this summer and discover your hidden talents without the help of today's technology. To register, contact Stephanie Templin at (757)787-8012 or education@shorehistory.org. Registration deadline in July 22, 2019.

Ellis-Humphreys Memorial Camp Scholarship Opportunity

In 2019 the District's sponsored Environmental Education Council (EE Council) wanted to recognize the passion for environmental education and the wonderful work that Tamsey Ellis and Jack Humphreys had for the Eastern Shore community and beyond so the Ellis-Humphreys Memorial Camp Scholarship was created. Each year the EE Council will sponsor one camper to a local, nature-based day camp.

This year the scholarship will sponsor one camper to attend Advanced American Spies and Nature Detectives camp at Ker Place in Onancock (see above article). Scholarship applicants must be Eastern Shore residents. To apply please fill out and submit the application found at www.esswcd.org/environmental-education-council or contact Carmie Savage, District Manager at (757) 302-4431 or carmie.savage@esswcd.org. Application deadline is July 3, 2019.

Dominion Envirothon T-shirt Design Contest

Each year ESSWCD holds a local T-shirt contest for the local VA Dominion Energy Envirothon competition. The contest rotates annually between the local high schools. The winning T-Shirt design is then featured on the Envirothon T-shirt and given out at the testing day to all the teams, trainers, judges and volunteers.

The winning design was created by Carly Wardius of Broadwater Academy. Eastern Shore SWCD awarded Carly a \$50 cash prize and t-shirts for her and her family. Pictured to the right is Carly and Broadwater Academy's Art teacher, Gina Ames.



Billie Fitzgerald Memorial Spring Grants Awarded

In April, the Eastern Shore SWCD's Endowment Committee awarded \$1,136.01 in Spring Conservation Grants. These grants are small, but fund local educational projects.

This year the grants are funding a Monarch Waystation for Accomack County Parks and Recreation, a community pollinator garden for No Limits Eastern Shore, a playground earth project for Cape Charles Christian School and a weather station for New Roots Youth Garden. Educators use these projects to teach environmental conservation in a way that brings science to life for children and the community.

Eastern Shore SWCD Awards Local Scholarships

The Eastern Shore SWCD's Endowment Committee recently selected two applicants as recipients of 2019 District Scholarships totaling \$1,500.

William "Toby" Hamilton of Melfa, VA was selected to receive \$750 as the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship recipient. Toby is graduating from Nandua High School in June and will be attending VA Tech in the fall.

Erica Head of Cape Charles, VA was selected to receive \$750 as the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship recipient. Erica attends James Madison University.

District says goodbye to Environmental Education Director- Mary Melson...



Mary Melson has accepted the position of Center Director of Fortson 4-H which is a 77 acre residential Environmental Education facility located 25 miles south of Georgia. Her last day with the District was March 29, 2019.

Mary has a true heart for education and promoting conservation and it shows in everything she does. She is greatly missed but is wished great success in her new position.!

District Awards Local Conservation Poster Contest Winners

The annual Conservation Poster Contest provides K-12th grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. The theme each year follows the annual National Association Conservation Districts (NACD) Stewardship theme with this year's theme being "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper". The conservation poster contest starts at the local soil and water conservation district level with first place winners in each grade category then submitted to the VA Association of Conservation Districts (VASWCD) to be considered for placement at the VA State level. Finally, State winners advance to the National Contest. This year, seven schools participated in the local competition resulting in 127 entries. Participating schools included Kitptokepe Elementary School, Northampton High School, Cape Charles Christian School, Montessori Children's House of Franktown, Shore Christian Academy, Broadwater Academy, and Nandua Middle On April 27th, Eastern Shore SWCD awarded a total of \$500 in cash prizes to 1st - 4th place entries in five grade categories during the Science Fair held at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, VA where winning posters were also on display.

K - 1st Grade Category Winners:



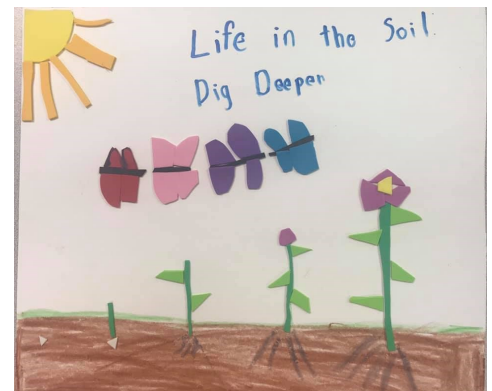
1st PLACE: Callen Justice
Shore Christian Academy



2nd PLACE: Rhiella Cowling
Shore Christian Academy



3rd PLACE: Harper Wessells
Shore Christian Academy



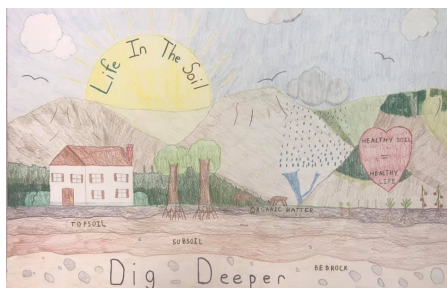
4th PLACE: Charlotte McDonald
Shore Christian Academy



Winning Posters on display during the Eastern Shore Community College Science Fair in Melfa, VA

2nd - 3rd Grade

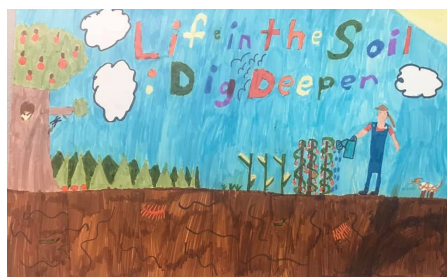
Category Winners:



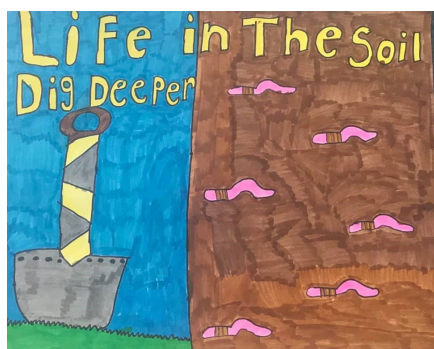
1st PLACE: Ashlyn Mears
Shore Christian Academy



2nd PLACE: Taylor Frey
Shore Christian Academy



3rd PLACE: Mary Langley
Shore Christian Academy



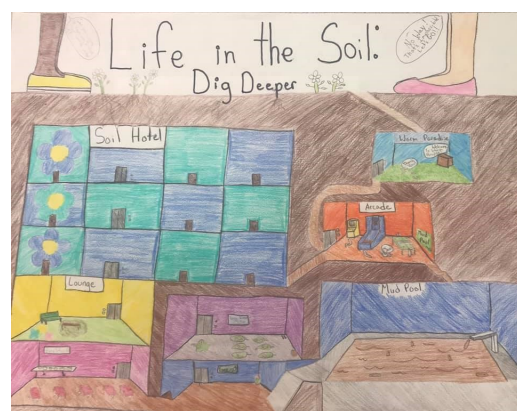
4th PLACE: Ruby Buck
Cape Charles Christian School

4th - 6th Grade

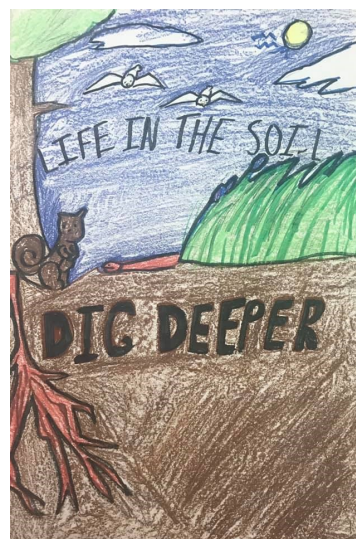
Category Winners:



1st PLACE: Victoria Arvidson
Broadwater Academy



2nd PLACE: Summer Charnock
Cape Charles Christian School

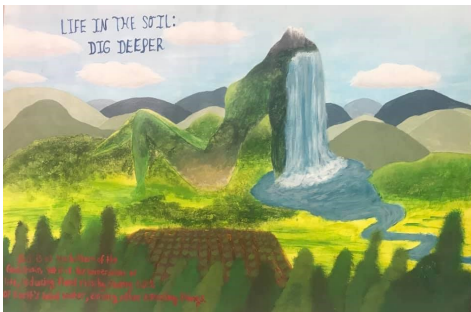


3rd PLACE: Allison Lecato
Broadwater Academy

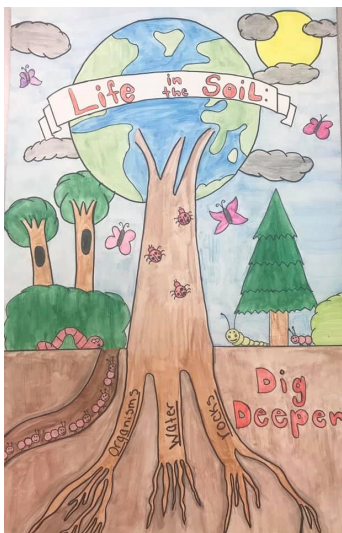


4th PLACE: Aaliyah Collins
Nandua Middle School

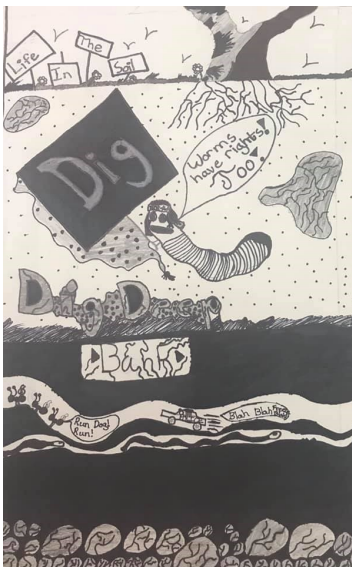
7th - 9th Grade Category Winners:



1st PLACE:
Rocio Pineda
Northampton
High School



2nd PLACE:
Katelyn Leatherbury
Northampton High School

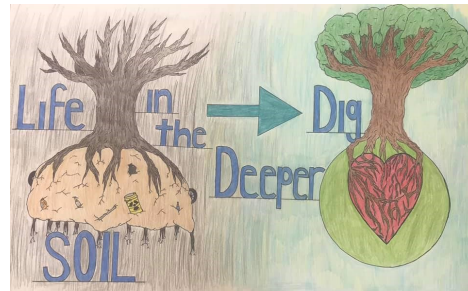


4th PLACE: Conner Lee
Nandua Middle School



3rd PLACE: Cheyanne Custis
Nandua Middle School

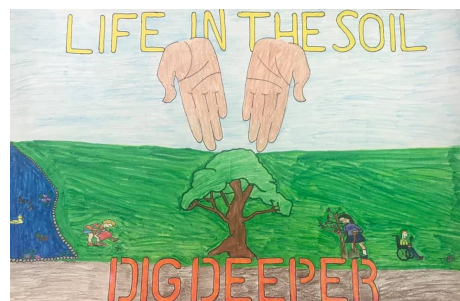
10th - 12th Grade Category Winners:



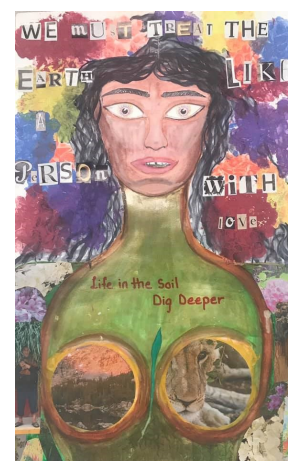
1st PLACE:
Oakley Davis
Northampton
High School



2nd PLACE: Amber Early
Northampton High School



3rd PLACE:
Imani Banks
Northampton
High School



4th PLACE: Genesis Guerren
Northampton High School

Successful 2019 Watershed Festival for Accomack and Northampton County 6th Grade Students:

The Watershed Festival is one segment of a three-part Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) sponsored by the Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council (EE Council) under the umbrella of the Eastern Shore SWCD. Six grade students from both Accomack and Northampton Counties focused on how humans' use of the watershed can impact various aspects negatively or positively. On April 9th and 10th over 300 6th graders from Arcadia Middle School and Nandua Middle School attended the Accomack Watershed Festival held at Makemie Memorial Park. On April 11th 148 6th graders from Broadwater Academy, Kiptopeke Elementary, Occohannock Elementary, and Cape Charles Christian School visited Kiptopeke State Park for the Northampton Watershed Festival.

At both sites students rotated through stations including soils, water quality, wildlife, planning & zoning and history. Information and data collected during both events aided students in creating presentations on how

land at each site should be developed. Prior to the festival in-class presentations were given by members of the EE Council in each school. Following the Watershed Festival students worked together in their classrooms and students from some schools gave class presentations on how each site could be developed to members of the EE Council.

A BIG thank you to our station exhibitors and volunteers: Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Northampton County, Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Kiptopeke State Park, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Tech Agricultural Research Extension Center, Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Station, Northampton County VCE & 4-H, ES Resource Conservation & Development, Fitz Godwin, Nick & Jessica Thomas, Bill Dyas, Bob Toner, Sandy Schultz, Steve Rulison, Kathy Fountaine, Sally Dickinson and Phil Hernandez. Our partners and volunteers are who truly make the Watershed Festival a successful event!



Eastern Shore SWCD Thanks Theresa Pittman For Years of Service

Accomack County VA Cooperative Extension (VCE) Agent, Theresa Pittman, served as VCE Appointed Director to the Eastern Shore SWCD Board from March 26, 2013 through January 16, 2019. The Eastern Shore SWCD thanks Theresa for her support and years of service to the District. The District looks forward to a continued partnership with Accomack County VCE.

Eastern Shore SWCD Welcomes Its Newest Directors— Ursula Deitch and Nick Thomas

At its March 20, 2019 meeting, the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board approved two new director appointments to the Eastern Shore SWCD Board of Directors.

Northampton County VA Cooperative Extension (VCE) Agent, Ursula Deitch, was approved as the VCE Appointed Director to the Board. She is filling the unexpired term of Accomack County VCE Extension Agent, Theresa Pittman. Ursula's term will expire on January 1, 2022.

Ursula lives in Parksley, VA with her husband and two daughters. She enjoys going to the beach, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

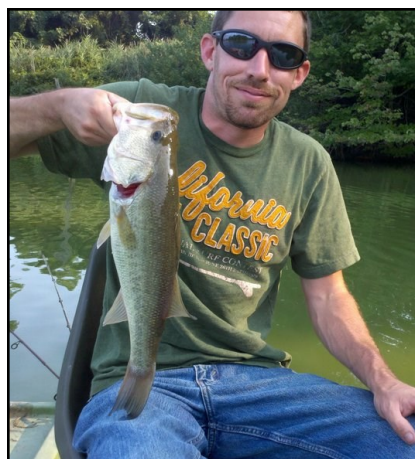
Nick Thomas, owner and operator of 3 poultry farms in Accomack County, was approved as the At-Large Director appointment to the Board. Nick's term will expire on January 1, 2023.

He lives in Atlantic, VA with his wife and three children. Nick enjoys fresh water fishing, hunting, and activities with his wife and children.

The Eastern Shore SWCD thanks both Ursula and Nick for agreeing to serve and bringing a wealth of knowledge to the Eastern Shore SWCD Board.



Ursula Deitch—
VCE Appointed
Director



Nick Thomas—
At-Large
Appointed
Director

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

Starting July 15, 2019 through August 16, 2019 accepting FY19 Sign-up

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Eastern Shore SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia 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, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion/religious creed, veteran status, or genetics. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.