

COMPLETED PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

AREA PLAN GOAL 3 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

- *Invasive Species Workshops (Harrisonburg and Woodstock)*
- *North Fork Shenandoah Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Workshop*
- *Partnering Request: 2005 Stevens Amendment (Firewise Landscaping)*
- *Poultry House Lighting Audit*
- *Waste Solutions Forum Intern*
- *Shenandoah Valley Sustainable Cropping Systems Research Study Phase I*
- *Field Crop Summer Intern II*
- *Candidates' Public Forum*
- The *Crop Tree Release with Shiitake Mushrooms as a Management Opportunity for Landowners* project demonstrated the potential for increasing income on forestland using crop tree release coupled with shiitake mushroom production. The goal was to perpetuate Virginia's forests by showing landowners the potential for sustainable forest management with alternative forest land crops and specific management tools. The activities to meet that goal included demonstration plots, workshops, and field tours to ongoing demonstration sites.



Matt Yancey, Virginia Cooperative Extension Forester, explains the process of growing shiitake mushrooms on inoculated oak logs at the *Marketing and Management for the Small Woodlot Owner* workshop held in June of 2007.

MISSION

The Shenandoah RC&D's mission is to sponsor and promote projects and programs that improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources, primarily in the Shenandoah River Watershed, by providing volunteer leadership, technical resources, and financial assistance.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

City of Waynesboro
DuBose Egleston
Mercer Enterprises
Jim Nichols
Ntelos
Sterling Printing Services, Inc.
Waynesboro Downtown Development, Inc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cash Received From:	
Grants (Restricted):	\$255,077
Firewise:	\$5,771
Dues:	\$3,000
Reimbursements:	\$5,583
Total:	\$269,431

Expenses in FY2008:	
Projects:	\$138,490
Administration:	\$12,194
Total:	\$150,684

The finances of the Shenandoah RC&D Council were reviewed by Thorpe & Helsley, PLLC.

Shenandoah RC&D filed an IRS Form 990 as a statement of financial activity in FY07.

Shenandoah RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and received \$139,197 in technical support through the National Resources Conservation Service.

SPONSORS AND ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

SPONSORS

Headwaters SWCD
Lord Fairfax SWCD
Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Valley Conservation Council
Farm Bureau
Shenandoah Valley Pure Water Forum
Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
At-Large Members:
Maria Papadakis
Esteban Nieto

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

Virginia Dairymen's Association
Virginia Poultry Federation
Potomac Conservancy
Page County

OFFICERS

Jim Lawrence, Chair
John Eckman, Vice-Chair
Joan Comanor, Immediate Past Chair
Roy Stephenson, Secretary/Treasurer

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2008 Annual Report



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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Jim Lawrence

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area lies between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains in northwestern Virginia. It includes seven counties and the towns within them: Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren counties. These counties also comprise Virginia's Shenandoah River watershed which drains to the Chesapeake Bay. The Valley boasts four of the top five agricultural counties in Virginia in terms of agricultural receipts. The four independent cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro and Winchester are also a major part of the Shenandoah RC&D Area.

This past year has brought many challenges to the RC&D program nationally. Fortunately Congress has restored funding to this vital program which fills the gaps in existing programs and leverages so much volunteer time, technical assistance and funding to complete projects in our rural areas. With strong support from the Virginia state office of NRCS, we can continue to work to fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources in our Area.

Finally, I would like to extend a strong thanks to all our project partners who have helped "make things happen" in the Shenandoah RC&D Area and beyond. We could not have accomplished all we have without your ongoing support and work toward shared goals.

Jim Lawrence, Chair

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Agua Fund, Inc.
Chesapeake Bay Funders' Network
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
USDA - NRCS
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Environmental Endowment

YEAR IN REVIEW

- The Shenandoah RC&D Council changed chairpersons over this past year, Jim Lawrence, representing the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District, took over as RC&D chair replacing Joan Comanor, who has chaired the Council over the past three years.
- The Shenandoah RC&D Council completed 15 projects during FY2008, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The value of those completed projects was over \$595,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.
- The Council leveraged over \$1 m during federal FY 2008 for both ongoing and completed projects.
- Nineteen new Shenandoah RC&D projects were begun this fiscal year.
- The Shenandoah RC&D Council currently has 24 ongoing projects.
- The Shenandoah RC&D Council was honored by receiving two statewide awards this year from the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils:

Joan Comanor, immediate past chair, won the Outstanding Council Member award. Joan's knowledge of how the RC&D program operates nationally, helped the Shenandoah RC&D program get off to a running start.



Joan Comanor



Bobby Whitescarver

Bobby Whitescarver, District Conservationist with NRCS in Verona, took the Exemplary Assistance to the RC&D Program by an Individual award. Bobby was instrumental in putting together the Shenandoah RC&D and his enthusiasm for the program is contagious.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

AREA PLAN GOAL 1 MANAGED GROWTH AND LAND PROTECTION

- The *Community Financing for Local Land and Water Protection* project worked with partners and interested localities in the Shenandoah Valley to come up with strategies and structures for long-term financing to achieve natural resource protection goals. Project partners included the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center and Evergreen Capital Advisers. A website on financing local greenways and an Initial Action Plan to finance the Staunton Frontier Trail, a proposed greenway through Staunton, are resources available to the public at: <http://www.efc.umd.edu/financinggreenways.html>



A *Greenways Financing Charette* was part of the *Local Financing for Land and Water Protection* project. Pictured is the Luray Hawksbill Greenway in Luray.

- This year's *Farm Transition Management Workshop III* was actually two intensive six-week workshops on planning for passing on the family farm. It was organized by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and funded in part by Shenandoah RC&D for the third year. Workshop topics included: goal and retirement planning; estate management, tax and insurance issues; power of attorney, advance medical directives, and wills.

AREA PLAN GOAL 2 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Two *Farm Safety Day* workshops were held in Augusta and Rockingham Counties to promote safety on farms including learning about tractor safety, manure and silo gases, and respiratory health. Over 500 people attended these two workshops, organized by VCE.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (CONT'D)

- The *Strengthening Valley Farmers' Markets* workshop, co-sponsored with VCE, was targeted to anyone with the desire and capacity to enhance local Farmers' Markets. Shenandoah Farms provided lunch featuring locally-produced soups and salads.
- The *Harrisonburg Farmers Market (HFM)* project helped strengthen local direct markets, food networks, and support local producers by providing salary support for the HFM market manager to recruit new vendors and expand market-related businesses.



A vendor at the Harrisonburg Farmers Market.

- In partnership with VCE, RC&D helped sponsor the *2008 Women in Agriculture Conference* for 175 Virginia women. This year's conference highlighted local foods and featured speakers who discussed how farmers could reap economic benefits for their agricultural operations from regional food systems.



Ian Boden and crew, Staunton Grocery, prepared a "local foods" lunch at the *2008 Women in Agriculture Conference*.