



Virginia Current Developments

From the Office of the
State Conservationist
John A. Bricker



Dear Conservationists,

In May, Chief Dave White spoke to all employees about the history of NRCS, the qualities that have made us a strong organization, and the challenges we face. I would like build on some of his points.

We know that victory is won where the rubber meets the road. However, it takes not only the skill of the driver, but the added talents of the pit crew. In NRCS, field employees and support staff combined make the winning conservation team.

Our field employees are the first point of contact for our customers. This is where the relationship between NRCS and the landowner begins, and where conservation is applied through "boots on the ground."

With fewer people at all levels of the organization it's important for managers to set the tone, to empower employees to get the job done, and to show them how important their work is to the mission of the agency. We need to maximize our organizational talent by calling together teams and encouraging everyone to get involved.

Decisions must be based on facts. That's why we are revisiting the Work-load Analysis. The three year plan developed using the last WLA has been implemented. In 2008, a team representing various disciplines and areas began updating the WLA. They are nearly finished and expect to roll it out in the next couple of months. This new WLA and a new Long Term Strategy which was developed by another team, will help guide future decisions.

I am proud of the team we have in Virginia. We are known as the private lands conservation outfit. We are also an agency with a high level of integrity. We came through the audit with flying colors, and you are to be congratulated on this high level of integrity. When the Farm Bill came, there were delays and unknowns, yet we have obligated most of the funds. And now we are getting to work to spend \$5 million in new Recovery Act funds.

We've remained nimble. Despite all the demands, we've been able to meet the challenge. The greater challenge now is to make everyone in the organization successful. We can't afford to lose anyone.



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Berry Hill Plantation



Congressman Periello



Jack Bricker and Ward Burton



Dave Roberts



Left to right: Ray Rosenberger, Jack Bricker, Lorraine Cormier, Greg Cross, **Donald Goodwin** for the City of Franklin, Mary Jones, Kathy Holms, Ray Dorsett and Bonnie Chandler for the Northern Neck Farm Museum.

Award Winners for 2008

- Outstanding RC&D Council: New River Highlands*
- Outstanding RC&D Coordinator: Kathy Holms*
- Outstanding RC&D Staff Member: Lorraine Cormier*
- Exemplary Service by an Individual: Greg Cross*
- Outstanding Supporting Organization: City of Franklin*
- Outstanding RC&D Project: Northern Neck Farm Museum*
- Outstanding Council Member: Sandy Heart Mears*
- Outstanding Youth Involvement: South Centre Corridors*

Virginia RC&D's meet in Southside for 2009 Spring Conference

In May, Old Dominion RC&D Council hosted the Virginia Association of RC&D Council's at Berry Hill Plantation in South Boston. More than 40 members and guests representing eight RC&D Councils attended the three-day meeting. The theme was "Sustainable Community Partnerships."

The agenda included business meetings, a tour of local RC&D projects, awards, and a dinner where Congressman Tom Periello (D-5th) spoke about concerns in his district. Among these are the economic downturn, need for clean and alternative energy, and the importance of infrastructure investment.

The National Association of RC&D's provided training on "Sustainable RC&D Councils" and each

of the eight Virginia RC&Ds gave an update on their projects. Partners from NRCS, FSA and the Council for Rural Virginia were also on hand to report on activities.

During a tour of the area, participants visited projects in Halifax and Charlotte County. Ward Burton described his various wetland and wildlife projects and how easement programs helped protect land from future development. The group traveled to the Staunton River Battlefield State Park for a lunch sponsored by the Halifax SWCD. In the afternoon, stops included a walking trail converted from an abandoned mine railway and Edmunds Park, site of several RC&D projects and the future site of the Sports Museum and Hall of Fame.



Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Meets at Historic Mount Vernon

Governor Tim Kaine hosted the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council in May. At the meeting, the Council set new short-term goals to reduce pollution to the Bay. Each of the seven jurisdictions —Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, New York and the District of Columbia agreed to accelerate efforts to reduce nutrient pollution to the Bay over the next three years. Virginia’s 2011 milestone commitment is to reduce nitrogen by 3.39 million pounds and phosphorus by 470,000 pounds. Estimates of funding from federal and state sources to achieve these milestones include \$38 million from the Farm Bill.

President Issues Executive Order

President Barak Obama added weight to the federal government’s commitment to the Bay by issuing an Executive Order on May 12 calling for the federal government to take the lead in reducing pollution to the Bay and protecting wildlife habitat within the region. The order establishes a Federal Leadership Committee chaired by EPA and comprised of representatives from several departments including USDA. The committee is charged with developing and coordinating programs involved with Bay restoration and publishing an annual Chesapeake Bay Action Plan outlining how federal funds will be used to help restore the Bay in the upcoming year.



Sign Up for Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Takes Off

One of the surprises in the 2008 Farm Bill was a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. Chesapeake Bay champions fought hard to secure \$144 million over the next five years to help farmers reduce runoff from agricultural land. The funds which come through the EQIP program, amount to \$5.6 million for Virginia farmers this year alone.

NRCS worked with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to select watersheds and key practices that would complement the state’s on-going bay restoration efforts. As with all new programs, there were many challenges to getting CBWI implemented, not the least of which was letting farmers know about it.

Now, the first round of applications have been ranked and it looks like farmers are getting the word. So far, there are 165 approved applications totaling \$4,736,836. Here are the figures:

- Potomac River Basin—30*
- Shenandoah River Basin—23*
- Rest of the Bay—85*
- Beginning Farmers—23*
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmers—4*

Enrollment numbers are expected to pick up, especially in the cover crop option to “piggy back” SWCD efforts. Landowners still have time to apply. The next evaluation period for CBWI applications will be conducted on July 1.



Eligible CBWI practices include aerial cover crop seeding. Photo courtesy: Debbie Bullock

Small Farm Wins Virginia Clean Water Award

by Lacey Gaw

Jim and Ellie Arroyo operate a cow/calf operation with about 40 registered Angus brood cows and 200 acres of hardwoods and planted pine timber in Lunenburg County. They have worked closely with NRCS, the Southside SWCD and Virginia Cooperative Extension to ensure that natural resources are protected. In 2008 they were recognized with the Clean Water Farm Award for the Chowan River Basin.

The Arroyo's pride themselves on intensive management of the farm and the conservation work they have done. The cattle are fenced out of all surface water on the farm. They have installed 9 sets of frost-free watering troughs to distribute water to the paddocks. Jim and Ellie use rotational grazing to manage their forage production. When needed, the pastures are reseeded using a no-till drill. They follow a nutrient management plan and soil test results on their pastureland and hayland. They planted a hardwood riparian buffer along one stream to filter pasture runoff and have been very diligent in controlling severe gully erosion.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation selected them for the Clean Water Farm Award in recognition of their efforts to follow a nutrient management plan and implement best management practices that help protect the Commonwealth's soil and water.

ACES Helps Get Conservation on the Ground

This year, more than ever, field offices need help. One program that has been going strong in Virginia and is a valuable aid to the field is the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services program. Virginia was one of the original pilot states. We currently have eight ACES enrollees around the state. There are five technicians serving in Verona, Strasburg, Gate City, Rustburg and Harrisonburg. There are two biologists, one in Richmond and one in Dinwiddie, and one forester in Louisa.

These enrollees come from various federal, state and local agencies. They have professional skills in a number of technical areas. They work 24 hours of week using these skills to help implement Farm Bill programs and provide critical support to the field. Kudos to our ACES team!

Martha Cowles, Verona
Wayne Webb, Strasburg
David Graves, Gate City
Lyle Shelton, Rustburg

Greg Moser, Richmond
Mike Jones, Dinwiddie
Jim Starr, Louisa
Richard Lahman, Harrisonburg



The Arroyos use rotational grazing and grow hay to feed their cattle .



Conservation is clearly part of the management plan for the Arroyos.





Cultural Diversity Day Highlights Asian Culture
 August 5, 2009 —
 Norfolk, Virginia

- *The event will be held at The Pagoda — a building constructed as a gift to the City of Norfolk from Taiwan.*
- *Speakers will talk about Asian culture and customs.*
- *There will be a walking tour of the General Douglas A. McArthur Memorial.*

Black History Museum Warrants A Trip

As part of their quarterly meeting, the Virginia EO/CR Committee drove to downtown Richmond to visit the Black History Museum. No one had been there before and everyone was impressed by the collections on display.

Exhibits cover a variety of topics — chronicles of the migration of people of African descent to America; the history of the Negro (baseball) Leagues, 1920-1960; a display of memorabilia from the people and businesses of Jackson Ward who helped spur the growth of black capitalism. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Museum is located on Clay Street in Richmond.



The staff are surprised at the variety of collections.

NHQ CR/EO Staff Visit Farms

Three NHQ staff spent a week in May conducting a national CR/EO review. The team visited the SO, five Service Centers (Dinwiddie, Harrisonburg, Culpeper, Buckingham and Halifax), and Virginia State University.

They also visited at least one farmer at every office to interview them about service delivery and customer satisfaction. The trip gave the team an opportunity to see different types of agriculture in the state and different types of programs.

All the findings were very positive. The farmers spoke very highly of the services received from NRCS field staff. There were ten commendable items and three findings. A FAC team is already working on one of the findings to ensure that offices meet handicapped access requirements.



left to right are Gordon Barnes, Chip Bain (farmer), Anthony Howell, Samora Bennerman-Johnson (Chief, Affirmative Employment & Compliance Branch), Wytonya Johnson (EO Specialist) and Kimberly Rogers (EO Assistant).

New From LANDCARE



Land Care has two new items for field offices. The new poster above, “Pollinator Equation,” shows how pollinators help produce food, flowers and plants. They come 200 to a box but you do not need to order a full box. If you want to send a short “thank you” note to producers or partners, the new card shown at left displays the national campaign slogan, “Conservation...Our Purpose, Our Passion.”

Order these and 350 other items off the LANDCARE webpage at <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Or, e-mail your request to landcare@usda.gov or call 1-888-LANDCARE.



Volunteers from Mary Baldwin college pose with landowner.

College Students on a Mission

Twenty students from Mary Baldwin College volunteered to help an NRCS farm bill client rid her field of invasive weeds. The thistle outbreak occurred on the Higgenson Farm located in Augusta County. The owner had put in 8.4 acres of native prairie or wildflower meadow.

As with most tall fescue conversions there was a thistle invasion the following year. Armed with hoes and other implements, the students eradicated the invasive weeds to help reduce competition to the newly established plants. Altogether, the volunteers contributed 120 hours of service.

Happenings in the Field



James spiny mussel



As part of their life cycle, young mussels “hitch a ride” on the gills of fish before settling in the stream bed. To help these mussels hook up with their fish host, you and the biologists will collect fish and hold them in tanks while baby mussels attach to the fish’s gills.

NRCS Joins in Mussel Fest

Information provided by Chuck Cummings

Looking for something different to do on Father’s Day? How about going to the 3rd Annual Mussel Fest? Before you start smacking your lips and remembering your last oyster festival, let me suggest you pack a lunch. The point of this event is conservation not cuisine.

It seems that a few years ago biologists discovered the *James spiny mussel* in the Cowpasture River near Fort Lewis Lodge in Bath County. This small mollusk is particular about where it lives. The only place on the planet it likes is the streams of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

Mussels are amazing critters. They can filter algae, bacteria and other small particles out of water, making them unique because they can actually **improve** water quality. But they are declining. NRCS is working with many partners and the public to keep these endangered species here by releasing baby mussels into the river. For more information e-mail Chuck Cummings at the Harrisonburg Area Office or Warm Springs Service Center.



Mike Jones with snake



Soil profiles bring smiles.

Third Graders—Learning and Having Fun Down on the Farm

It was cool and breezy in when third graders from Greensville Elementary school headed by Jesse and Sue Harrell’s farm in Greensville County.

The 250 students were divided into groups and the groups rotated through 12 learning stations. These included field

to plate, farm wildlife, swine, crops and hayride, forestry, small ruminants, bees, cattle, aquaculture, soil tunnel, soil tubes and water quality.

The Greensville/Emporia Extension Office in cooperation with the Chowan Basin Soil and Water and the Greensville Farm

Bureau Women’s Committee organized the event. Financial sponsor Colonial Farm Credit provided lunch and a portable restroom.

The presenters included Virginia Cooperative Extension, NRCS, Department of Forestry, VSU and Chowan Basin SWCD.



DC Buddy Gilmer and landowner Jerry Elliott with watering trough installed under EQIP

Forest Landowner Opportunities

The 2008 Farm Bill provides greater emphasis on forested lands and forest management than ever before. This means opportunities for farmers.

VDOF forester Randy Short says, “there is a good amount of funding set aside for forestry practices such as timber stand improvement, livestock exclusion, hardwood and pine planting, and invasive species control. Good forest management is sometimes overlooked due to the long term investment required to produce a mature stand of hardwoods,” added Short. “However prudent managers know the value of steady returns that a well managed forest provides year after year.”

Dave Reichert, RC&D Forester for VDOF says, “timber stand improvement is a long-term investment where the forest landowner removes poor quality or otherwise undesirable trees from the stand. These removals will improve the grow rates of high quality trees and in the long-term increase the economic value of the forest.”

In current economic times, where the market price of timber is well below average, harvesting timber may not be an attractive option to manage an overstocked forest. However, these cost-share funds for timber stand improvement can help a landowner manage an overstocked forest at a reduced cost in anticipation of stronger markets in the future.

A forester marks a “crop tree” for release from unwanted competition. The tree with the poor form on the right hand side of the photos will be removed to improve the timber value of the stand.



Promoting Conservation

By RC&D Coordinator Blaine Delaney

When Buddy Gilmer told me the Scott County signup was going slower than he would like, I arranged for him to meet with Lisa McCarty, editor and publisher of the Scott County Virginia Star. She interviewed Buddy for a full hour for her story. I took a few photos of Buddy and a local farmer for the story.

Lisa said she would like to send out a reporter to meet with a farmer or two for “testimonials” about how they liked the EQIP program. Buddy suggested a couple of farmers including Jerry Elliott. While we were riding in the truck, Buddy noted “we encourage people to sign up for both (NRCS and state cost-share programs) when they come to our office.”

The personal contact with the newspaper yielded positive results. The story and the photo appeared the following day in the paper.

Lisa had not met Buddy before so hopefully this will be an opportunity for him to work more closely with her in the future. As an astute businesswoman she knows the value from “the multiplier effect” that the impact of additional EQIP dollars for Scott County farmers has on the local economy.



Flail-mowing a vetch cover crop on Mt. Olympus



Project partners (l. to r.) Extension Agent Mac Saphir, DC Brian Wooden, and farmer Ken West



Dr. Ron Morse stands by no-till vegetable transplanter of his design



NRCS Agronomist, Chris Lawrence



No-till tomatoes planted at the event

No-Till Vegetables Topic for Twilight Tour

Article by Chris Lawrence, Photos by Ron Wood

Conservation partners joined farmers recently to look at the initial results of an exciting conservation horticulture demonstration at Mt. Olympus Farm in Caroline County. The project is a team effort by farmer Ken West, NRCS, Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Hanover-Caroline SWCD, and VA Tech no-till vegetable expert Dr. Ron Morse. The goal of the three-year project is to evaluate and demonstrate an intensive cover cropping, continuous no-till, controlled traffic system for vegetables such as tomatoes and broccoli.

Host Ken West explained that his motive for taking on the project was his concern about the health of his soil and the long term sustainability of his operation. NRCS EQIP funds are helping support the effort.

The project's focus is to try restoring soil quality on a small field that has been degraded by more than a decade of heavy tillage and traditional plasticulture vegetable production — without rotating away from vegetables! The strategy involves planting summer and fall vegetables into high biomass mulches of cover crops such as hairy vetch/rye using little or no tillage. A key element of the plan is to keep all wheel traffic off of the permanent raised beds on which crops are grown.

At the tour, Dr. Morse described cover crops as the foundation to any conservation vegetable production system. No-till vegetable production is a highly innovative practice that may be beyond the reach of many farmers in the near term. Nevertheless, Dr. Morse emphasized that any farmer can move towards improved soil quality and sustainability by adding more cover crops to their production systems.

To learn more about the project, contact NRCS Agronomist Chris Lawrence at 804/287-1680 or chris.lawrence@va.usda.gov.

Preserving our Heritage

Photos by Rachel Havens, Big Walker SWCD, District Manager

Over 100 NRCS and SWCD employees from Area I and II learned about cultural resource policies and procedures during a special training conducted by E. J. Fanning, NRCS Cultural Resources Coordinator.

The employees had a chance to view artifacts, see a new video and tour a historic site as part of the training.

In Area I, the group toured Montpelier, home of President James Madison and his wife Dolly. They saw an excavation of the west kitchen, the slave cemetery and the archaeology lab.

In Area II, employees visited New River Trail State Park. Among the park's historic resources are furnaces and a shot tower from the early 1800's, and a hotel dating back to the 1880's. A shot tower was a structure used to produce lead shot for muskets and other arms. Molten lead was dropped down a 300 foot tower. As it cooled, it formed the shot which was collected underground. The park ranger also presented information on wildlife, fisheries and recreation opportunities.



E.J. Fanning conducts Area II Cultural Resources Training.



Participants examine artifacts from Royal Lake site.

Royal Lake—One for the History Books

A unique aspect of NRCS work involves protecting cultural resources whenever land disturbing activities are planned. We work closely with the state's Historic Preservation officials, tribes, and others in this process.



URS Corporation archaeologist and E.J. Fanning

In 2007, NRCS began rehabilitating Royal Lake dam. An initial investigation revealed artifacts dating back 2-4,000 years. With help from Fairfax County and professional archaeologists, NRCS ensured that these artifacts were removed and preserved before construction. Thanks to these partnership efforts the project was not delayed and the cultural resources were preserved for future generations.

A video showing the project at Royal lake is now available from your Area Office or you can contact E.J. Fanning at the State Office.



Artifacts from Royal Lake

New Faces



Hunter Musser



Sean Kimmel



STC Jack Bricker with Lexi Clark and Leah Marshall

Career Intern-Soil Conservationist

Growing up in Rural Retreat, VA (Wythe County), Hunter is a native son. His family operates a beef farm and custom meat processing operation.

When Hunter applied to Big Walker SWCD for a scholarship the staff was so impressed with his application they suggested he apply for the NRCS WAE position. Altogether Hunter spent about 3 years as a WAE in the Wytheville and Christiansburg offices.

In 2008 Hunter was selected as a soil conservationist under the Career Intern program. He began working in the Verona office in September. "The agriculture here is very similar to where I grew up," says Hunter. "The biggest difference is the poultry industry and more confined feeding operations."

"I love this job because I have the best of both worlds — working with farmers and helping protect our farmland and our natural resources.

Area III Engineer

Sean is a newcomer to NRCS. He previously worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He grew up in Madison and says he has always wanted to be involved with farming.

Sean attended Purdue University where he received a degree in agricultural and biological engineering. He also has a degree in Sustainable Agriculture from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC.

He says this is the job he wanted when he graduated and got married. He had met some people who were engineers with NRCS and they loved their jobs, so when he saw the opening for the Area Engineer's position in Farmville, Virginia, he applied.

Sean and his wife are enjoying the move to Virginia although they weren't too pleased with the snow-storm that greeted their arrival. "We have family and friends here and I really like the people I work with in the area," says Sean. What he likes most about the job is getting out and working with the farmers. Sean and his wife have an 11-year-old son and 7-1/2 month old daughter.

USDA 1890 Scholar/Summer Intern

"Leah Marshall is a summer intern in the Fredericksburg Service Center. She is a sophomore at North Carolina A&T majoring in biological engineering. She also has the distinction of being a USDA 1890 Scholar.

"My aunt encouraged me to apply," says Leah. "I didn't know anything about program." USDA partners with Historically Black 1890 Land Grant Universities to provide 4 year scholarships to outstanding students who are selected based on their academic achievements. The students spend each summer working in an USDA office and agree to work for USDA for 4 years after graduation.

"I think the work is very interesting and I am learning a lot. What I really like is the experience. I get to see what I will be doing after I graduate and go to work for USDA."

Welcome to NRCS, Leah.

News From Our Partners

VSU Hosts USDA Conference



Keith Boyd and Patrick Vincent staffed NRCS and RC&D exhibits throughout the day to answer questions about USDA programs.

About 150 people turned out for USDA's second annual outreach conference held at Virginia State University in March. The event was aimed at providing small farmers and community based organizations with information on programs available under the 2008 Farm Bill.

ASTC (O) Ray Dorsett gave an overview of NRCS services during the morning panel and ASTC (P) Ken Carter presented the afternoon workshop on conservation provisions in the Farm Bill. During a producers panel, Cliff Slade praised the service he had received from DC Mike Faulk and told how conservation practices had benefited the operation.

VSU also handed out their USDA At-A-Glance Guide. The brochure explains USDA services available to small and beginning farmers. If you would like a copy e-mail Extension Specialist Theresa Nartea at:

nartea@vsu.edu



Left to right: Todd Wells, Marissa Lubkowski, Kara Abshire, Greg Wright, Lorelai MacKensie, Megan Wagner & Jessica Jarvis from Fort Defiance team sponsored by Headwaters SWCD

ENVIROTHON

By Pat Paul, Public Affairs Specialist

A steady rain didn't dampen the spirits of the 16 High School teams that traveled to Wakefield to compete in the statewide Envirothon on May 17. NRCS has supported this event ever since it began in 1995 under the leadership of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Yamika Stokes, Brian Saunders and myself were among the 12 agency representatives who would be judging the oral presentations during the first part of the two-day competition. John Nicholson, was also there checking out the soils pit that would be used the following day when teams were tested on their knowledge in soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics and biodiversity.

The state winner for the second year in a row was Fort Defiance High School from Augusta County. Last year Fort Defiance placed sixth at the national competition in Arizona and each team member received a \$1,400 scholarship. Best wishes to the team in this year's national competition in Asheville, North Carolina.

If you want to help with next year's Envirothon, let your supervisor know. It's a great way to reach out to students who may become our future conservationists!



RC&D Project Helps “Build” Gardening Skills

By Yamika Stokes



Left to right: Neil Clark, Rex Cotton and Glen Slade from Extension, Brian Saunders, Robert Williams, Yamika Stokes, Greg Hammer, Harvey Baker, Eva Hunter (ET Volunteer and Master Gardener), Gary Banks, and Jim Wright from NRCS, with Judy (RC&D chair) and James Lyttle build planting boxes for Tidewater House.

The South Hampton Roads RC&D Council received a \$4550 grant from the Norfolk Foundation to purchase gardening supplies and building materials for the Western Tidewater Community Services Board in Suffolk, Virginia. The facility houses mental health and substance abuse consumers and provides classes and training to teach them life skills that can be used to generate income.

The Council decided to take on this project to assist in teaching the members about vegetable and flower production. There are several greenhouse and nursery operations within a five mile radius of the facility and many landscaping companies recruit consumers of the WTCSB and pay them for daily work. They acquired skills like lawn equipment operation, landscaping, and pruning onsite.

The Council held two planting sessions for the construction of the raised seedbeds and planting of the vegetables. Over the course of

that time, 42 volunteer hours were recorded for a group Earth Team Volunteer Project. There were also NRCS, SWCD, and Virginia Cooperative Extension employees who were allowed to work on the project during their normal business hours.

Volunteers assisted from the RC&D Council, the Suffolk Master Gardeners, private citizens, and one NRCS employee who assisted on his non-workday. Through the volunteer efforts, the team was able to build ten raised seedbeds at various heights to accommodate members including those who are wheel chair bound. They planted items like spinach, lettuce, Swiss chard, onions, tomatoes, herbs, yarrow, sunflower, and many other vegetables.

The members have taken pride in their gardens and take turns watering the beds and caring for the plants as needed. The Council relied solely on local businesses to purchase supplies and transport materials and was proud to be able to help stimulate the local economy.



National Pollinator Week June 22-28, 2009

NRCS is part of the national pollinator partnership. NRCS can work with private landowners who

want to improve pollinator habitat. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program also offers financial assistance to plant trees, shrubs and wildflowers that provide food and cover for pollinators.

Governor Tim Kaine has issued a proclamation supporting National Pollinator Week in Virginia. Local events are occurring around the state to educate students and landowners.

Many materials are available to help with this effort. You can download a Pollinator Week Kit filled with ideas and information at <http://www.pollinator.org/> There are fact sheets for farmers, gardeners and others.

Wondering what plants are suitable for Virginia? Check out a new series of guides being developed by the partnership for every region in the U.S.—30 in all. They can be viewed at <http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm> Or take a look at the movie “Pollinators At Risk” which is on the same site.



Upcoming Events

Check the partnership calendar at: <http://www.vaswcd.org/> for training and other events

June 2009

- 6/19 State Fair Meeting of Natural Resource Agencies, Doswell, VA
- 6/23 BSA Jamboree Committee Meeting, SO, Richmond, 10:00 a.m.
- 6/24 Virginia NRCS Retirees Luncheon, Richmond State Office, 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Rachel Hollins
rhollin@louisiana.net
- 6/26 Chesapeake Bay State Conservationists Meeting, Martinsburg, West Virginia.
- 6/30 Workload Analysis Committee Meeting, Richmond SO, 9:30 a.m.

July 2009

Note: JED sessions are cancelled for July.

- 7/11-15 National Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting, Dearborn, Michigan
- 7/12-18 33rd VASWCD Annual Youth Conservation Camp - Virginia Tech
- 7/22 EO/CR Committee Meeting, SVFA, Doswell, VA (Caroline County)



Personnel Actions

New Hires:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Ann Evans, WAE in Rustburg, VA, was selected for the Soil Conservation Technician position in Appomattox, VA. | Effective 5/24/09 |
| Bradley Puffenbarger, WAE, was selected for the Soil Conservation, Technician position in Warm Springs, VA. | Effective 5/11/09 |
| Brandon Stuart, WAE, was selected for the Soil Conservation Technician position in Wytheville, VA. | Effective 5/27/09 |
| Irby Wesley, WAE, was selected for the Soil Conservation Technician , position in Farmville, VA | Effective 6/8/09 |

Promotion:

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| Barry Mason, Construction Inspector, Farmville, promoted to Engineering Technician (Civil), GS-9, Farmville, VA. | Effective 5/24/09 |
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Reassignment:

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|---|-------------------|
| David Harris, Soil Conservationist (DC), Amelia was reassigned to Soil Conservationist (DC), GS-11, Buckingham, VA. | Effective 4/12/09 |
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Retired:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Marian Huber, RC&D Coordinator, Accomac, VA, | Effective 4/3/09 |
| Cephas Hobbs, Visual Information Specialist, Richmond, VA, | Effective 4/3/09 |

Transfers:

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| Simon Mkrтчhyan, Civil Engineer, Verona, VA transferred to the Department of Navy. | Effective 4/5/09 |
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Employee Left Virginia NRCS:

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|---|------------------|
| Sally Swenson, Engineering Technician (Civil), Verona, VA resigned. | Effective 4/3/09 |
|---|------------------|

Current Developments is published bi-monthly. Please send comments or articles to:
Pat Paul, USDA-NRCS, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, VA 23229