



RC&D SOUTHERN MARYLAND

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007

BOARD EXECUTIVES

Jim Bardsley
Ron Black
Bill Clark
Jennifer David
Pat Pinnell
Olga Walter
Bruce Young

BOARD MEMBERS

Stanley Boothe
Jack Brown
John Czajkowski
Luis Dieguez
John Downs
Luke Gridley
Phillip Jones
Michael Pellegrino
Edward Sinnes
Tom Tudor
Deborah Wright

RC&D STAFF

Seth Berry
Denitra Brawner

NRCS STAFF

Jeremy West

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Potomac Heritage Trail Project Underway

For the last few months Southern Maryland RC&D and the National Park Service have been working together to extend the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) into Charles and St. Mary's Counties. The 425-mile PHNST currently runs from Piscataway Park in Prince George's County to the Forks of the Ohio River in Pennsylvania. The trail corridor is dynamic, with such diverse trail segments as the C&O Canal, Ohiopyle State Park and Great Allegheny Passage.

PHNST Park Superintendent Don Briggs first contacted RC&D Coordinator Jeremy West last fall to discuss partnership opportunities. Before long, the Southern Maryland RC&D Board, led by Chair Ron Black and Board Members Jennifer David and Tom Tudor were working closely with the Superintendent to develop a Cooperative Agreement between Southern Maryland RC&D and the National Park Service. This Cooperative Agreement will help fund much needed staff support to implement the project.



Visit www.potomactrace.org for more information.

St. Mary's County resident Melanie Anderson was selected by the Board to complete the application for National Scenic Trail Designation, the next step in making our Counties part of this dynamic, interpretive trail-experience. We hope to submit the application to the Park Service in January 2008.

Southern Maryland RC&D is excited to work with such partners as the Charles and St. Mary's Counties Commissioners, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium to make this project happen.

2007 Annual Awards Dinner

In April, the Southern Maryland RC&D Board of Directors held its annual awards dinner in Crownsville. Jim Bardsley, an Executive Committee member and resident of Anne Arundel County was recognized as Board Member of the Year and Naomi Wright, a student Board Member from St. Mary's County received a Certificate of Appreciation for her volunteer service. Heather Campbell, the Southern Maryland Representative for Senator Ben Cardin was in attendance and presented Jim and Naomi with Certificates of Appreciation for Senator Cardin.

RC&D Coordinator Jeremy West gave dinner attendees a tour of the new RC&D website, launched earlier this year. The site will be a great resource for project partners



Heather Campbell (center) with Board Members Jim Bardsley and Naomi Wright.

and community members to keep up to date on RC&D's latest project activities. Also in attendance was Wayne Clark, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

Joan Lucini Retires!



Joan early in her career with RC&D.

On October 25th Theresa Joan Lucini retired after 24 years of service to Southern Maryland RC&D.

Joan began working with RC&D as a county employee in 1984. In 1995 Joan became a federal employee, working for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Since 1995 Joan has worked with seven RC&D Coordinators and countless RC&D Board Members and community volunteers. Joan has been involved with the implementation of hundreds of conservation and community development projects.

Joan's exemplary service was recognized at a

November 19th retirement party. "Joan has been a friend and mentor to all of us at Southern Maryland RC&D," said Coordinator Jeremy West. "She will be missed."

We all wish Joan success in her post-RC&D activities.

\$4.8 Million Awarded to RC&D

For the last 15 years Southern Maryland RC&D and the United States Navy have partnered to implement a wide variety of conservation and historic preservation projects on Southern Maryland's Naval facilities. On October 24th RC&D was awarded a \$4.8 million Cooperative Agreement to implement large-scale shoreline restoration efforts along 3,900 feet of Potomac Shoreline at Naval Support Facility Indian Head.

"This is by far the largest Cooperative Agreement we've ever had with

the Navy," said Chair Ron Black. "We are excited to take on this project and look forward to many future partnership opportunities with the Navy."

This project is actually the second phase of a much larger shoreline restoration effort at NSF Indian Head. Phase I is currently underway, with Jim Gunn of Coastal Design already building the breakwater core along some critical areas. Charles Soil Conservation District is working with Southern Maryland RC&D to implement this project.



A road undercut by erosion at the

Both project phases will involve fin fish surveys and shoreline plantings of native species. The anticipated date of completion for Phase I is June 2009. Phase II should begin construction in October 2008.



Seth Berry inspects severe erosion immediately adjacent to base buildings at the Phase I project site.

Open Board Positions

Southern Maryland RC&D is currently searching for Board Members to serve our communities. There are a total of four open positions, with representative needed for the Calvert Forest Conservancy District Board, Anne Arundel County and Anne Arundel County Students. Additional Board Appointee positions are also open.

Board Members serve for a period of three years and have numerous opportunities to develop both professionally and personally, working with a talented group of professionals from Southern Maryland's four-county area.

For more information, please contact Jeremy West at (301) 932-4638.

Board Members meet with our elected officials every year to promote the RC&D program.



From the Chair

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and a healthy, happy and prosperous year in 2007. I hope you have a wonderful 2008 and that this year will bring you happiness and prosperity.

As we start 2008, many of us will make resolutions to make an attempt at self improvement. We at RC&D have made our resolutions and among them are to continue to offer assistance and programs to meet the needs of a changing community in Southern Maryland and to make citizens of Southern Maryland more aware of services offered by RC&D.

In closing, we look forward to working with you this year.



Ron Black joined the RC&D Board of Directors in 1997. He has served as Chair since 2002.

RC&D Area Plan In Development

Southern Maryland RC&D has recently begun the process of developing its Area Plan, or five-year strategic plan. The Area Planning process is collaborative to ensure that RC&D's activities are addressing community defined needs. One of the most important and challenging elements of Area Plan development is getting YOUR feedback. We need to hear from every

citizen in Southern Maryland. What are the challenges that you and your neighbors face? What kinds of projects do you have in mind to help your community? How can RC&D improve your quality of life?

Please check our website for information about how you can help us ensure our efforts are collaborative and our vision shared.

To find out how you can help us complete our Area Plan, check out our website at:

www.somdrcd.org

or call (301) 932-4638 for more information.



Jeremy West joined Southern Maryland RC&D as their RC&D Coordinator in November 2005.

From the Coordinator

It's been an exciting last few months at Southern Maryland RC&D. In addition to being awarded the largest Cooperative Agreement in the Board's 36-year history, we are closer than ever to building the Board's first professional program staff. Part of a \$4.8 million dollar Cooperative Agreement with the Navy is earmarked to hire a Natural Resources Specialist to work onsite at NSF Indian Head, coordinating the many activities associated with project implementation. Anticipated Cooperative Agreement dollars from both the Navy and the National Park Service will allow the Board to hire a full-time Program Director to work with me in implementing the Board's many and diverse projects. We have much work ahead of us as we develop personnel policies and make room for incoming staff members. I expect that next year will be even more exciting than this year as RC&D grows by leaps and bounds. Please keep up to date on our growth through our website. Or, call me at (301) 932-4638.

Dates to Remember...

January 17 - Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting, Waldorf.

February 2 - St. Mary's County Science Fair, Great Mills High School.

February 22 - St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Cooperators' Dinner, Callaway.

February 23 - Calvert County Science Fair, Calvert High School.

February 25-27 - National Association of RC&D Councils Leadership Forum, Washington DC.

March 1 - Charles County Science Fair, North Point High School.

March 7-8 - Charles County History Day, La Plata High School.

April 17 - Southern Maryland RC&D Annual Dinner Meeting, location TBD.

Our Sponsors...

Anne Arundel County Board of Education
Anne Arundel Forest Conservancy District Board
Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District

Calvert County Board of Education
Calvert County Commissioners
Calvert Forest Conservancy District Board
Calvert Soil Conservation District

Charles County Board of Education
Charles County Commissioners
Charles Forest Conservancy District Board
Charles Soil Conservation District

St. Mary's County Board of Education
St. Mary's County Commissioners
St. Mary's Forest Conservancy District Board
St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

Tri County Council for Southern Maryland



Southern Maryland RC&D Board, Inc.

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All RC&D programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, age, marital or familial status, political beliefs or disability.