



RC&D SOUTHERN MARYLAND

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

RC&D Area Planning Meeting

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On June 28th, Southern Maryland RC&D held an Area Planning Workshop at the SMECO Meeting Room in Hughesville. The Area Planning meeting was well attended with representatives from Drum Point Community Association, African American Heritage House, Southern Maryland Foods LLC, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service and several RC&D Board Members.

This meeting follows the Area Planning survey distributed to our community members and partners in March and was designed to help us develop Goals, Objectives and Strategies from the survey responses.

RC&D Coordinator Jeremy West facilitated the meeting beginning with training and group exercises on SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound) planning and led the group in developing SMART Goals from the survey responses. Considerable emphasis was placed on Community Development and Land Conservation Goals, with most survey responses focusing on



Community members and Board Members alike worked hard to turn survey responses into Goals, Objectives and Strategies.

these two topics. A total of 8 Goals were developed by the group. Board Members Tom Tudor and Jim Bardsley then led breakout sessions to develop SMART Objectives. By day's end survey responsive SMART Goals and Objectives were in hand. The next step is to develop Strategies. Please check out our website for more regular updates.

MBPAC Supports Potomac Heritage Trail

On June 13th, RC&D Coordinator Jeremy West and project partner Jim Hudnall from the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, made a presentation on the proposed Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) to the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC). According to their website, MBPAC advises state government agencies on issues related to bicycling and pedestrian activities, including funding, safety and education. MBPAC is seen as a vital partner to successfully bringing the Potomac Heritage Trail corridor into Charles and St.

Mary's Counties, essentially extending the trail by approximately 150-miles with on-road bicycling routes.

West explained to the assembled committee members that the proposed PHNST will utilize existing facilities and will create wonderful opportunities for the counties to showcase areas of natural and historic importance. The pair were questioned about the impact of drawing additional bicyclists to our county roads. Hudnall explained that they are already here, enjoying Southern Maryland's scenic beauty. *Continued...*

For more information on the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club, please visit them at www.ohbike.org.

MBPAC...

The committee members voted unanimously to support Southern Maryland RC&D's and the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club's request for a letter of support in their effort to get official

National Scenic Trail designation from the National Park Service. MBPAC's letter to the Maryland Secretary of Transportation states, "This on-road facility will promote increased awareness of Southern Maryland's historical, cultural, recreational and environmental re-

sources..."

It is anticipated that official National Scenic Trail designation may be approved by the National Park Service as early as this fall. Hudnall is already planning a century-ride on a portion of the proposed route. Please check our website for updates.

Chesapeake Bay Field Lab Shoreline Photos



From left to right, Bob Taylor and Ange Funya from the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab and RC&D Coordinator Jeremy West staking out the severely receding shoreline at the Field Lab. The marsh has lost approximately 35 feet over the last 20 years.



The Field Lab, RC&D and St. Mary's Soil Conservation District have partnered to find an innovative way to protect and restore this vital educational and natural resource. For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab, please visit www.thebaylab.org.

Mill Point Stormwater Retrofit

Much of the Mill Point community remains flooded for days after a rain storm. This standing water has long impaired the communities health and prosperity.



Southern Maryland RC&D and St. Mary's Soil Conservation District have joined forces to bring stormwater retrofits to Mill Point, located near Chaptico. For over 30 years, this pre-stormwater management community has suffered from flooding that has limited community development and also exacerbated pollution and sedimentation in

adjacent Chaptico Bay and Wicomico River.

A concept design calling for stream restoration was prepared by Underwood and Associates, creating 5 acres of wetland and restoring 2,600 linear feet of shoreline. This restoration project has a holding capacity of 100,000 cubic feet of water. Please check our website for updates.

Navy Shoreline Plantings A Success!

The National Aquarium in Baltimore, in a dynamic partnership with Southern Maryland RC&D, Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County Master Gardeners, and community volunteers, has worked hard to restore a coastal riparian buffer along a roughly 3,000 linear foot section of the Potomac River at Naval Support Facility Indian Head.

The planting activities are an important element of the ongoing shoreline restoration project being implemented by Southern Maryland RC&D, Charles Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Navy. This multi-phase effort will eventually restore and stabilize up to 30,000 linear feet of Potomac shoreline, keeping tens of thousands of tons of sediment out of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

Restoration of the 8 acre riparian buffer will take place in two separate events beginning with the wetland planting held on July 11 and 12, 2008. The two day event was assisted by a total of 32 volunteers from the Navy, Charles County Master Gardeners, Maryland Conservation Corps, Aquarium Conservation Team and community volunteers dedicating well

over 200 hours of volunteer service to the planting. During the July event 9,979 native wetland grasses were planted along the coast including *Spartina pectinata*, *Scirpus tabernaemontani*, and *Juncus militaris*.

The Aquarium will return to the site October 21 through 24 to complete the restoration by planting 31 different species of native trees and shrubs and grasses totaling 6,800 plants. The October project will again be completed with the help of volunteers. It is anticipated that as many as 700 volunteer hours will be used to complete this planting project.

Planting our restored and stabilized shorelines is essential. These riparian buffers are instrumental in water quality improvement for both surface runoff and water flowing into streams through subsurface or groundwater flow. They support soil conservation and have a positive influence on aquatic ecosystems.

The National Aquarium's staff plans to revisit the site in 2009 to monitor the success of its growth.

For information about how you can volunteer at the October 21 through 24 planting session, visit our website at www.somdrd.org.



A picture taken shortly after the summer 2008 planting session. A follow-up picture will be taken during the spring 2009 survival survey. Please check our Summer 2009 Newsletter for a side-by-side comparison.



The Charles County Master Gardeners brought considerable expertise to help our partners from the National Aquarium. Here we see Master Gardeners getting briefed by Aquarium staff before planting.



RC&D's Natural Resources Specialist Seth Berry hard at work with a dibble bar.

Dates to Remember...

September 22-26 - National RC&D Week

October 2-3 - MASCD Secretaries' Workshop, North East.

October 16 - Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting, Waldorf.

January 15 - Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting, Waldorf.

January 31 - St. Mary's County Science Fair, Great Mills High School.

February 6-7 - National Association of RC&D Councils Leadership Forum, Washington DC.

February 27 - St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Cooperators' Dinner.

February 28 - Calvert County Science Fair, Calvert High School.

March 6-7 - Charles County History Day, La Plata High School.

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