



SOUTHERN MARYLAND RC&D

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

BOARD EXECUTIVES

Jim Bardsley
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John Czajkowski
Jennifer David
Pat Pinnell
Olga Walter
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John Downs
John Gray
Phillip Jones
Michael Pellegrino
Tommy Wright
Khadijah Brooks (Student)

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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.

Naval Support Facility Indian Head Volunteer Shoreline Planting a Success!

Construction is nearly 100% complete on Phase II of RC&D's partnership with the Charles Soil Conservation District to implement 3,800 linear feet of shoreline erosion control and stabilization at Naval Support Facility Indian Head. To complete the project, however, RC&D has partnered with the National Aquarium of Baltimore to plant approximately 1,500 trees, 50 shrubs, and 17,200 wetland plugs with help from the Maryland Conservation Corps, Charles County Master Gardeners, and other volunteers. The first planting event took place over three days in late October. Our devoted partners with the Aquarium camped at Smallwood State Park all week long and managed a crew of 24 volunteers to plant the trees and shrubs. In the spring of 2011, after the site has had time to settle, the Aquarium and its volunteers will plant the wetland plugs to help us bring the project to a close. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering in the spring.



Above: Maryland Conservation Corps & National Aquarium staff install protection from deer browse around newly planted trees. Right: A Charles County Master Gardner finishes planting a tree. The 24 volunteers put in a grand total of 222 hours of time during the October planting event. Thanks to everyone, and congratulations for a job well done!





RC&D Seeks Student Members!

The Southern Maryland RC&D Board has exciting and rewarding opportunities for high school juniors to serve on our Board! We currently have vacancies for St. Mary's, Calvert and Anne Arundel county representatives. A successful applicant should be a junior and should have project ideas to bring before the board. One student representative will be chosen from each county for this unique position. If you or someone you know would like to serve on our Board, please contact the RC&D office at (301) 932-4638.

RC&D Week Contest Winners Announced!



In honor of National RC&D Week 2010, Southern Maryland RC&D held a coloring and poster contest in area schools to provide our youth with activities that honor Southern Maryland and highlight RC&D programs. This year's contest theme, "People and the Environment in Harmony in Southern Maryland," represents the vision of Southern Maryland RC&D.

Two hundred and nineteen contest entries were received from seven Southern Maryland schools. The winning students have been notified through their schools, and arrangements are currently being made to present prizes to the contest winners.

[Click here to view the winning entries.](#)

Congratulations to all our contest winners!

Coloring Contest Winners

Kindergarten-First Grade

- First Place – Emma Guy, Leonardtown Elementary
- Second Place – Laura Vance, Neal Elementary
- Third Place – Julianna Schilling, Leonardtown Elementary

Second-Third Grade

- First Place – Sabrina Wilson, White Marsh Elementary
- Second Place – Gene Moreland, White Marsh Elementary
- Third Place – Darnika Woodland, Leonardtown Elementary

Fourth-Fifth Grade

- First Place – Haedn Rho, JP Ryon Elementary
- Second Place – Becca Smith, White Marsh Elementary
- Third Place – Kyle McAllister, White Marsh Elementary

Poster Contest Winners

Sixth Grade

- First Place – Thomas Still, Milton Somers Middle (*pictured above*)
- Second Place – Anna Lahman, Milton Somers Middle
- Third Place – Craig Lindsay, Milton Somers Middle

Seventh Grade

- First Place – Lexy Bryant, Piccowaxen Middle
- Second Place – Sidney Saunders, Piccowaxen Middle
- Third Place – Yelena McAfee, John Hanson Middle

Southern Maryland RC&D Awarded Mini-Grant to Develop Interpretive Materials for Millbrook Farm Grist Mill

In our spring 2010 issue, we reported on RC&D's efforts to protect and restore the Millbrook Farm Grist Mill, Charles County's last surviving water powered mill. At that time, the Millbrook Mill had recently been selected as one of the top Endangered Sites of 2010 by Preservation Maryland. Since then, RC&D and our partners at the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management and the mill owner, Joan Silbaugh, have applied for and received funding from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to develop interpretive outreach materials about the Mill's history and relevance to our Southern Maryland agricultural heritage. We will be producing brochures and adding a page to our website featuring the Millbrook Mill, so please visit our website frequently to learn more!

Other RC&D Navy Project Updates...

NAS Patuxent River Shoreline Protection Begins

As a result of bidding late this summer, Coastal Design & Construction, Inc. was selected as the contractor for RC&D's project at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in partnership with the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District and Coastline Design, P.C. Construction efforts began late October to stabilize severely eroding shorelines in front of two Theodolite tracking stations. Crews will first complete protection of buried fiber optic lines and then stabilize the shoreline at Point No Point. They will then complete the installment of shoreline stabilization measures at the second site, Bay Forest. The project includes 280 feet of shoreline repair and is planned for completion by April of 2011.

Coastal Design & Construction, Inc., mobilized quickly and began work at Point No Point to protect the shoreline from further erosion that could endanger the location of important US Navy Theodolite tracking stations.

RC&D Awarded Agreement for 3,000 Feet of Shoreline Repair in Calvert County

In September, RC&D was awarded a \$3 million Cooperative Agreement to implement riparian buffer and wetland habitat protection via a 3,000 linear foot shoreline protection project at the Chesapeake Bay Detachment Naval Research Laboratory in Calvert County. RC&D will be partnering with the Calvert Soil Conservation District on this effort to provide contracting services and construction management. The project is still in the design stages, but RC&D anticipates construction will begin in 2011.





Open RC&D Board Positions

Southern Maryland RC&D is currently searching for Board Members to serve our communities. There are a total of seven open positions, with representatives needed for the Calvert Forest Conservancy District Board, Calvert County Student, Charles Forest Conservancy District Board, Charles County Student, County of Anne Arundel, Anne Arundel County Student and St. Mary's County Student. 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 the RC&D office at (301) 932-4638.

RC&D Tech Updates

Donate Now Online! Southern Maryland RC&D can now receive your tax-deductible donations online securely and easily. If you've been considering making your charitable donation to Southern Maryland RC&D, but just haven't had the time to print and mail the donation form, please take advantage of this fast, safe, and easy method of payment online. Or, for those who prefer traditional mail or would like to make an anonymous donation, the printable donation form is still available online at www.somdrccd.org or by contacting our office at (301) 932-4638.



Publicize Your Event! Southern Maryland RC&D now has an events calendar on our website featuring activities happening in Southern Maryland. Please visit the calendar often at www.somdrccd.org/calendar.php to see what might be happening in your neck of the woods. Or, if you have an event you'd like to add, please let us know by calling (301) 932-4638 or emailing somdrccd@somdrccd.org!

New Living Shoreline Resources Page Added to Website! Please visit [Living Shorelines: A more natural erosion control alternative](#) on our website to find links to valuable resources about the living shorelines, their pros and cons, and how to get started should a living shoreline be beneficial to your property.



RC&D in the News

"This 'n' that:: Coloring and poster contest announced." Susan Craton. *The Enterprise*, September 29, 2010. Online: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/09292010/entefea162100_32304.shtml

"Students win coloring contest." *The Enterprise*, November 3, 2010. Online: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/11032010/entemor172314_32298.shtml

"Conservation poster contest winners announced." *The Independent*, November 3, 2010. Online: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/11032010/indysch161413_32387.shtml

"News of note: RC&D helping town with trail plans." Joel Davis. *The Independent*, September 24, 2010. Online: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/09242010/indyfea151236_32367.shtml

"RC&D holds drawing contest." *The Independent*, September 15, 2010. Online: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/09152010/indyfea171222_32390.shtml

Coordinator Updates

Forage Agronomy

During the fall of 2010 Southern Maryland RC&D was awarded another cooperative agreement from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to provide professional forage agronomy services to Maryland's agricultural producers. This cooperative agreement is a continuation of the important work done by the forage agronomist, Dr. Les Vough for RC&D during the spring and summer of 2010. We are delighted to provide this type of technical service along with educational information to our producers.

This project brings assistance to a larger core of producers throughout the State of Maryland in an effort to enhance forage and pasture management practices as well as foster a vegetative landscape that protects the water of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Dr. Vough will be working with NRCS Field Service Centers, Soil Conservation Districts, numerous regional conferences, and many other county/state agricultural groups in Maryland. In addition, Dr. Vough will spend time working with the NRCS National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville.



Dr. Vough will also be spending time working with agricultural professionals networking and building capacity, however, most of his time will be spent with producers talking about practices and management strategies associated with forage production.



Dr. Vough plans on performing field visits, pasture walks and developing technical outreach products. All of this work will benefit the agricultural producers throughout the state in their forage management schemes and planning. *(Images: left - Dr. Vough harvests from experimental forage techniques at the PMC. Above - Dr. Vough discusses production with producers at Wye Angus Farm).*

Civil Rights Advisory Committee Meeting

Southern Maryland RC&D hosted the October meeting of the Maryland Civil Rights Advisory Committee. In addition, the Board sponsored a field trip to the Charles County African American Heritage House that showed the positive impact that RC&D'S have on their local communities. The group was greeted by Ms. Dorothea Smith; Colonel Mary Boyd; Ms. Mary Louise Webb and Mr. George Smith. These individuals provided a brief history of the Heritage House and talked about some of the instrumental individuals who have contributed to this facility's development.

Mobile Science Labs in Charles County

RC&D and Charles County Public Schools are working on a grant proposal to the Maryland Grain Producers to secure a Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Mobile Science Lab for elementary schools in this region of Southern Maryland. A mobile science lab would afford teachers an opportunity to deepen student knowledge and provide hands on science education.

RC&D Joins Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Marketing Alliance



The network of communities and attractions in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor celebrates the history and heritage of the Potomac and upper Ohio River basins and offers endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. For some ideas on ways to experience the Trail corridor, go to www.potomacheritage.net. For more on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, go to www.nps.gov/pohc.

As many of our readers know, Southern Maryland RC&D is partnering with the National Park Service and many other county agencies, heritage tourism, and recreational organizations to develop the Southern Maryland segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST). The PHNST is a trail corridor stretching from Pittsburgh, PA to Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County, Maryland that celebrates the importance of the Potomac River and its cultural and natural landscapes through non-motorist, heritage tourism. In Southern Maryland, much of the PHNST parallels or intersects with the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway, the Indian Head Rail Trail and the Three Notch Trail making it both an on-road and off-road paved trail experience.

The distance between Point Lookout State Park and Pittsburgh, PA, however, offers a seemingly endless array of recreational opportunities, whether by bicycle, on foot or with a paddle. But, with so many options, where does one start? Begin your plans for experiencing the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail online with the Potomac Heritage Explorer (www.potomacheritage.net), an itinerary-based travel and information blog highlighting sites along the entire length of the PHNST corridor.

Formerly Potomac Allegheny Passages, Potomac Heritage Explorer is managed by the PHNST marketing alliance, of which RC&D is now a member. Trips range from short cycling adventures, to day trips for birders, overnight stays at historic lock houses, and paddling excursions in the Potomac and its watershed. Check back often for new posts and outdoor heritage and adventure tourism ideas!

RC&D Welcomes New Student Board Member!

Southern Maryland RC&D welcomes aboard Khadijah Brooks as a Student Board Member. Ms. Brooks is a senior at Thomas Stone High School. She is interested in pursuing a career in Environmental Science or Environmental Engineering. RC&D looks forward to having Ms. Brooks's perspective and input over the coming year.

Dates to Remember...

January 20 - Southern Maryland RC&D Quarterly Board Meeting

February 5 - St. Mary's County Science Fair

February 14-15 - National RC&D Leadership Forum

February 26 - Calvert County Science Fair

March 4-5 - Charles County Science Fair

March 25-26 - Charles County History Day

April 2011 - Southern Maryland RC&D Annual Dinner (Exact date 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

We're on the web!
www.somdrctd.org

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