



# SOUTHERN MARYLAND RC&D

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

## The New Face of Southern Maryland RC&D

As many of you may already know, Southern Maryland RC&D has experienced many changes over the course of the last few months. We are getting settled in our new office in Leonardtown, MD, and Franklin Holley will be leaving her position as Executive Director as of July 1. In her place, we welcome Al Stewart, formerly the District Conservationist in St. Mary's County with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Please come by anytime to meet Al and to see our new home! Our new address is 26737 Radio Station Way, Suite D in Leonardtown, MD 20650. We do have a new phone number as well: (301) 475-8427, extension 6. Al can be reached via email at [al.stewart@somdrccd.org](mailto:al.stewart@somdrccd.org) and our dedicated Office Associate, Denitra Brawner, can be reached at [denitra.brawner@somdrccd.org](mailto:denitra.brawner@somdrccd.org). Our website remains [www.somdrccd.org](http://www.somdrccd.org).

In less positive news, we were informed in May that the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service would no longer continue to fund the RC&D program nationally, and as a result, RC&D councils, including ours, have lost valuable financial support as well as the services of the USDA-NRCS Coordinator. Southern Maryland RC&D, however, will continue to operate, and we look forward to a new and different future for our organization!

Please spread the word about the importance of Southern Maryland RC&D to the region and, now more than ever, we ask for your support! You may go online and donate to RC&D electronically ([www.somdrccd.org](http://www.somdrccd.org)) or call us, and we will send you a donation form. As always, your donation to Southern Maryland RC&D is tax-deductible, and if you so choose you may specify that it go towards a particular project or initiative. And, Thanks!

In light of her departure, Franklin includes the following message:

*Dear Friends and Colleagues,*

*I'm taking this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to work with Southern Maryland RC&D and serve this community, first as Program Officer and later as the organization's first Executive Director. I have enjoyed working with and learning from the Board of Directors, as well as our diverse and enthusiastic project partners.*

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### BOARD EXECUTIVES

Jim Bardsley  
Bill Clark  
John Czajkowski  
Jennifer David  
Pat Pinnell  
Olga Walter  
Bruce Young

### BOARD MEMBERS

Stanley Boothe  
Luis Dieguez  
John Downs  
John Gray  
Phillip Jones  
Michael Pellegrino  
Tommy Wright  
Khadijah Brooks (Student)

### RC&D STAFF

Denitra Brawner  
Franklin Holley  
Al Stewart

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Suite D  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
(301) 475-8427 ext. 6  
[www.somdrccd.org](http://www.somdrccd.org)

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.



## 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) 475-8427 ext 6.

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*We have made much progress in recent years with our Navy partnerships, we have improved our transparency and organizational capacity, and we have begun new collaborations that will be beneficial for the Southern Maryland community, our project partners, as well as for RC&D. I wish each and every one of you success in your endeavors, and I look forward to keeping in touch and watching RC&D progress and develop from afar.*

*Best wishes and warm regards,*

*Franklin*

## Feeding the Hungry, Controlling Deer in Charles County

Southern Maryland RC&D is happy to announce that we, in partnership with Southern Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH), are the recipients of a grant award from the Community Foundation of Charles County. Funds from this grant award will go towards the processing and distribution of donated venison to area food banks and pantries. As a result, we will be able to provide an estimated 15,000 high protein, low fat meal supplements to disadvantaged Charles County residents.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Charles County, and we look forward to our continued partnership with Southern Maryland FHFH.



*Pictured from left: Gretchen Heinze Hardman, Executive Director; Kevin Wedding, Chairman (Community Foundation of Charles County); Steve White, Coordinator (Southern Maryland FHFH); Olga Walter, Treasurer (Southern Maryland RC&D); Charlie Gardiner, Grants Committee Member (Community Foundation of Charles County).*

## RC&D Annual Awards Dinner Held

On April 26, 2011, Southern Maryland RC&D held its annual Awards Dinner. This year's host was Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Anne Arundel County. Awards were given to six Board Members (Bill Clark, John Czajkowski, Jennifer David, Patricia Pinnell, Olga Walter, Bruce Young), and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to staff and project partners, including the US Navy and National Park Service.

Though he could not attend, Don Briggs, Superintendent for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail has the follow to say: "*The partnership between Southern Maryland RC&D and the National Park Service reflects the essence of the Potomac Heritage Trail - without such partnerships, we would never be able to realize a continuous route, recognize so many outstanding resources, and apply the Trail concept in a way that provides maximum benefits to community in the Trail corridor.*" Southern Maryland RC&D would not exist without such partnerships, and we look forward to creating new ones and strengthening existing ties over the next year!

## Millbrook Farm Grist Mill Receives Donation

Southern Maryland RC&D wishes to thank the Charles County Antique Arts Association for their generous contribution to efforts to restore Charles County's last standing water-powered grist mill. The Millbrook Farm Grist Mill, located in Nanjemoy, MD, is an agricultural timepiece of great value in our area; however, it is in great danger of future damage if nothing is done to protect it.

RC&D is currently partnering with the owners of the Mill, Charles County Planning and Growth Management, the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, and other community groups and individuals to raise awareness and funds towards the restoration of the Millbrook Farm Grist Mill. If you are interested in learning more, contact us!

*Pictured from left: Marianna Schwein, Chair (Charles County Antique Arts Association); John Gray, Board Member; John Downs, Board Member (Southern Maryland RC&D).*





## 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) 475-8427 ext. 6.

## RC&D Tech Updates

**Donate Now Online!** Southern Maryland RC&D can now receive your tax-deductible donations online securely and easily via PayPal. 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 by clicking the Donate button to the right and follow the links from our homepage. 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](http://www.somdrccd.org) or by contacting our office at (301) 475-8427 ext. 6.



**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](http://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) 475-8427 ext. 6 or emailing [somdrccd@somdrccd.org](mailto:somdrccd@somdrccd.org)!

## Notes from the Chair

The past month has been a very exciting time with a lot of things going on. We discovered that the federal funding has totally zeroed out RC&D in the budget. With this realization we have found ourselves without a coordinator, rent and other commitments from NRCS. Being the wonderful organization that we are, this did not change our enthusiasm for RC&D. Southern Maryland RC&D is extremely active, and we will move forward with a lot of gusto and excitement. With the departure of Buddy Bowling, whom we thank very much for his contributions to the RC&D program, it is with great pride that we welcome Al Stewart with the same open arms as we welcomed Franklin Holley two years ago. We wish Franklin many successes and look forward to seeing her as she continues her career path.

Sincerely,

Patricia S. Pinnell, Chair



## Dates to Remember...

July 4 - Holiday, RC&D Office Closed

July 19-21 - Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Meeting

July 28 - Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting, Leonardtown, MD @ 7 pm

September 14-18 - Anne Arundel County Fair

September 15-18 - Charles County Fair

September 22-25 - St. Mary's County Fair

September 28 - October 2 - Calvert County Fair

## 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.somdrcd.org](http://www.somdrcd.org)

### Southern Maryland RC&D Board, Inc.

26737 Radio Station Way, Suite D  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

