

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RC&D

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



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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.

Partnership to Assess Marine Habitat Continues at Indian Head for 2011



Photo by Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.

this now three-year study will be groundbreaking, considering estimates that 95% of private and governmental shoreline restoration efforts remain unevaluated as to their effectiveness and persistence over time ((Bernhardt et al. 2005; Palmer et al. 2005). Discovering the long term ecological impact of the shoreline stabilization structures at NSFIIH will thus be the focus of this partnership.

Ecosystems Solution's 2011 study is complex and will include a community analysis to assess the effect of shoreline construction on fish community dynamics. Sampling will take place seasonally during spring, early summer, late summer, and fall at six sites along the Potomac River and Mattawoman Creek. Data will be collected to document the nearshore fish community, the habitat description, and the environmental conditions.

Analyzing fish diet as an indicator of habitat quality will be another important component of this study, as will evaluating the movement of fish through breakwaters and gaps to indicate the effects of breakwater and gap size on aquatic habitat. Because hardened shoreline structures may also alter the sediment material, which in turn affects aquatic ecosystems, Ecosystem Solutions will be examining sediment grain size and organic content to determine if shoreline stabiliza-

Southern Maryland RC&D is happy to announce that we will be continuing our partnership with [Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.](#), a nonprofit ecological research organization dedicated to progressive environmental study and education, to implement yet another year of post-shoreline restoration aquatic habitat assessment at Naval Support Facility Indian Head (NSFIIH). The results of

Continued on page 2....



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.

tion has changed this aspect of the fish community. Lastly, the team will investigate sub-aquatic vegetation habitat in order to determine what the optimal structure gap size is if SAV habitat creation is a desired outcome of a shoreline restoration project.

RC&D's role in this project is to manage and administer the cooperative agreement between RC&D and the US Navy that funds this interesting work as part of the larger Phase II 3,800 linear foot Shoreline Stabilization project at NSFIIH. You might also spot us in the field on sunny days trying to net fish with the Ecosystem Solution's crew. We look forward to the results of the study in order to apply this new information to our future shoreline stabilization projects and improve our efforts at NSFIIH and around Southern Maryland.



Photos by Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.



Three-year Bald Eagle Study Comes to a Close

The Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, in partnership with RC&D and the US Navy, has completed a three-year Bald Eagle monitoring effort at Naval Support Facility Indian Head. This research was conducted as a result of a series of bald eagle electrocutions and line strikes at the Naval Base.

After a flyover to locate nesting sites, 49 eagle nests were accessed via bucket year period, 49 eagle and measured. Blood were collected, and for West Nile virus, PCB, and other contaminants. This project



derway. This project Wildlife Biologist, Libby Mojica, from the Center for Conservation Biology. [Click here to read more about Libby and see a list of relevant publications.](#)

cate the eagle nests and activity at NSFIIH, accessed by arborists or trucks. Over the three nestlings were banded and feather samples the eaglets were tested mercury, heavy metals, taminants. Efforts to report are currently un-

Other RC&D Navy Project Updates...

Construction Complete on Nearly a Mile of Shoreline Stabilization at Indian Head

Thanks to the diligent work of Coastal Design & Construction, Inc., we are proud to say that in 2010, we were able to complete 5,000 linear feet of shoreline stabilization structures at Naval Support Facility Indian Head. This work is part of Phases II and III of our partnership with the US Navy, Charles Soil Conservation District, Coastline Design, P.C., and the National Aquarium in Baltimore to implement large scale shoreline restoration and erosion control measures at NSFIH along the Potomac River. We reported in our last newsletter that the Aquarium had begun their volunteer planting efforts, and we expect those to be completed for Phase II and part of Phase III in May of this year. If you are interested in volunteering for the spring planting event, please let us know.

When we published our last issue, Coastal Design & Construction, Inc., had only recently mobilized at the Point No Point Theodolite Tracking Station to begin shoreline work. This site (shown right) and the shoreline in front of the Bay Forest Theodolite Tracking Station are now stabilized thanks to all of our partners' hard work throughout the cold winter.

Construction Complete to Protect Theodolite Tracking Stations and Chesapeake Bay Shoreline

As part of a smaller, but equally important shoreline stabilization project to reduce erosion into the Chesapeake Bay and protect two Navy Theodolite Tracking Stations (technology that monitors mission performance in offshore airspace), RC&D partnered with Naval Air Station Patuxent River, the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District, Coastline Design, P.C., and Coastal Design & Construction, Inc. Construction is now complete on both sites, easing worries of further severe erosion. A final walk through took place in early February, and as-built drawings are in production.



RC&D Week Awards Presented



In our last issue, we announced the winners of the 2010 National RC&D Week Coloring & Poster Contest. Since then, awards have been distributed to all 15 of our contest winners. We'd like to thank those area schools that participated, and give a special thanks to Milton Somers Middle School, Piccowaxen Middle School and Neal Elementary School for inviting RC&D into the classroom to present our RC&D Week awards. Congratulations to all the winners, and we are looking forward to a creative RC&D Week 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 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.somdrcd.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.somdrcd.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 somdrcd@somdrcd.org!

E-Resources to get YOU on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail!



Thanks to our partners at the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, we now have route maps for both Charles and St. Mary's Counties available for download on our website. [Click here to take a look and take a ride!](#) You can also find regional interactive maps online from the [Potomac Heritage Explorer](#). These maps are new, and, pending future funding, will be further developed.

If you're feeling like getting off road and into the water along the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has a new online Public Boating Access webpage dedicated to providing users with maps of public boating access points. This is an easy and fast way to find a good spot to launch your kayak or canoe and set off down the Potomac or one of its beautiful tributaries. To find points for Charles County, visit: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/ch.asp>. For St. Mary's County, go to: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/sm.asp>.

Enjoy! And, if you take a trip that you want to share with us, please send us an email or give us a call. We'd love to post your trip and photos on the Potomac Heritage Explorer!

PARTNER TRAIL UPDATES!

MDOT Bike-Ped Director Visits Town of Indian Head

The Town of Indian Head continues in its progress towards becoming a Trail Town. On December 14, 2010, Maryland Department of Transportation's Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access, Michael Jackson, visited the Indian Head Rail Trail (IHRT) and met with elected Town officials, Charles County Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service and RC&D. It was a bitterly cold day with temperatures in the 20s, but Jackson and the group braved the winter weather to walk a segment of the Rail Trail and discuss future possibilities for signage, improved pedestrian access, and trail & Town facilities for IHRT users. The new arch (pictures below) welcomes trail visitors to the Town of Indian Head.

Make your plans now to get out and take advantage of the Indian Head Rail Trail (also a section of the [Southern Maryland Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail](#)) and amenities in the Town of Indian Head. As spring approaches, if you feel like experiencing the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Indian Head area by water, don't miss out on unique paddling experiences along the Mattawoman Creek. [Click here for some ideas to get you started!](#)



Religious Freedom Scenic Byway on YouTube!

As evidence of the rich cultural history and stunning landscapes in Southern Maryland, our partners along the Religious Freedom Scenic Byway share much of the route with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Learn more about the Byway and the history of religious freedom in Southern Maryland from a new video introduction and invitation online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jwuf6AHW5a8>.

Notes from the Chair

Dear Southern Maryland RC&D friends, partners, and supporters,

What if Southern Maryland RC&D earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

[GoodSearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you download the GoodSearch – Southern Maryland RC&D toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the Southern Maryland RC&D toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/mode/>

Alternatively, here's the format for a link that will pre-select Southern Maryland RC&D on the GoodSearch homepage: <http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=928562>. You can also click the GoodSearch icon below.

As always, Thanks for your continued support!



We also want to let everyone know that we anticipate our move to the St. Mary's County Agricultural Services Center to take place mid-March. Should you experience any IT or staff delay, please be patient with us. We'll be back in operation in St. Mary's County as soon as we can to continue serving Southern Maryland from our new office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. Pinnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Pinnell, Chair

Dates to Remember...

March 2 - Maryland Non-Profits Annual Conference: Sustaining Leadership

March 5 - Charles County Science Fair

March 8 - TEDCO Agriculture & Rural Business Innovation Forum, Solomons

March 25-26 - Charles County History Day

April 17 - Leonardtown Earth Day Celebration

April 21 - Southern Maryland RC&D Quarterly Board Meeting

April 26 - Southern Maryland RC&D Annual Dinner, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, West River, MD

Our Sponsors...

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

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Calvert County Commissioners
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Charles County Commissioners
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Tri County Council for Southern Maryland

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

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