

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RC&D

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010



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RC&D STAFF

Denitra Brawner
Franklin Holley

NRCS STAFF

Buddy Bowling

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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.

Jeremy West, Former RC&D Coordinator, Receives Promotion to National Plant Materials Center

Southern Maryland RC&D would like to thank our former Coordinator, Jeremy West, for his years of service and commitment to RC&D. We wish him well in his new position.

Departing Note from Jeremy

This will be my last contribution to Southern Maryland RC&D's newsletter as Coordinator. On September 14, 2009 I began my new role at NRCS as the Manager of the Norman A. Berg National Plants Material Center in Beltsville. Working with the Southern Maryland RC&D Board of Directors these last four years was an absolutely wonderful experience. It was a joy to work with such talented and dedicated people,

volunteering their time and giving of themselves to make Southern Maryland a better place to live, work and play. I learned a lot from them, and I hope they learned at least a little from me. But, this isn't the end.

I look forward to continuing to support RC&D's important work from my new position. I feel there are many projects that we can continue to collaborate on in the future and there is certainly much work to be done. A new Coordinator will be taking my place soon. I wish him the best of luck and am certain that he will find the experience of working with this Board rewarding and meaningful.



**CONGRATULATIONS
AND GOOD LUCK IN
YOUR NEW POSITION**

RC&D Welcomes New Coordinator, Gilbert "Buddy" Bowling

Southern Maryland RC&D welcomes Gilbert "Buddy" Bowling, Jr. as our new Coordinator. Buddy's previous assignments included serving as Special Assistant to the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Commission, as well as the Department's Public Outreach Coordinator. Buddy also served as the Agricultural Administrator/Environmental Planner with the Charles County Government/County Planning and Growth Management Department, working on agricultural preservation initiatives and other environmental programs. Buddy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture/Agronomy from the University of Maryland and is a third generation farmer. He has developed a passion for emergency management/homeland security after performing agricultural field assessments following the La Plata tornado and served as the Co-Coordinator of the Center for Agrosecurity and Emergency Management.

RC&D and Southern Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry Awarded National Association of RC&D Councils Outreach Award



Thanks to an Outreach mini-grant of \$5,000 from the National Association of RC&D Councils, Southern Maryland RC&D and Southern Maryland Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) have begun a partnership to address hunger in Southern Maryland. These funds will go towards increasing the number of high-protein meals provided to underprivileged populations in Southern Maryland while simultaneously contributing to improved local deer habitat and herd health through deer population control.

Like RC&D, FHFH is also a national program with regional organizations to coordinate local activities. Hunters and

landowners donate harvested deer and other big-game to qualified, inspected meat processors participating in the program. FHFH then raises money to pay these processors to cut, package, and freeze the donated meat. The high-protein, low-fat meat is then distributed free of charge to community food banks and other food distribution centers serving the needy. The meat is generally distributed in the same county where it is donated.

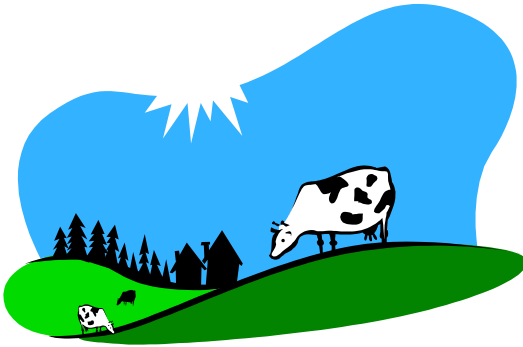
Last year, Southern Maryland FHFH assisted with the processing of 490 deer. Since each deer generally provides about 200 meals, FHFH was able to provide approximately 98,000 meals to under-

served Southern Marylanders. The additional \$5,000 from this National RC&D grant will extend the time period in which Southern Maryland FHFH can provide meat to local pantries and food donors and provide an estimated 17,000 meals to needy families. Additionally, RC&D and FHFH will be working together to spread the word about their partnership and organizations through press releases, presentations at distribution centers, and the development of Spanish-language materials. Since both organizations exist nationwide, Southern Maryland RC&D and FHFH hope to spur partnerships that reach beyond Southern Maryland.

2010 Mid Atlantic RC&D Conference

Maryland will be hosting the 2010 Mid Atlantic RC&D Conference. It will be held September 15-17, 2010 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. The event is still in the planning stages so please check out our website at www.somdrctd.org often for updated information.

RC&D Renews Agreement with NRCS for Grazing Specialist for 2010



Dr. Les Vough, a University and Extension Specialist with over 20 years of forage agronomy experience in Maryland, is the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Coalition's Grazing Specialist, providing Maryland's farming community with forage agronomist technical assistance to prepare and implement grazing plans.

Dr. Vough also works with NRCS and the National Plants Material Center in Beltsville with the Forage Variety Evaluation Trials and Simulated Grazing Growth Curve Development projects. As part of the 2009 agreement, Dr. Vough will be providing field technology transfer to farmers throughout the state and animal husbandry assistance. His services are available in every county in the state of Maryland.

Potomacallegheny.org Launched to Promote Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

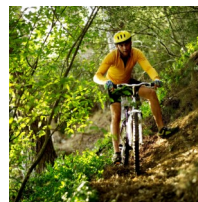
As the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) gains popularity and notoriety, growing numbers of visitors will participate in the Trail experience through bicycle, walking and canoe/kayaking adventures. But, just what is the PHNST experience, and how do you chose what part of the Trail to visit?

To help visitors decide where and how to visit the PHNST, the Potomac Allegheny Alliance has launched [www.potomac](http://www.potomacallegheny.org)

[allegheny.org](http://www.potomacallegheny.org). The site features itineraries of various lengths all along the Trail from Pennsylvania to Point Lookout State Park in Southern Maryland to accommodate visitors' diverse interests and expectations. New itineraries are added regularly.

Links to sites along the trail and photos are plentiful as well. Visitors to the site can search by "Things to Do or See," "Word or Place Name," and leave comments about a particular itinerary or experience.

Please visit the site and take advantage of this wonderful resource to assist in your heritage and adventure travel planning.



**Visit
www.potomacallegheny.org
to take
advantage of
this wonderful
adventure
travel
resource !**

RC&D in the News



Charles County Re-Instates Financial Contribution to RC&D amidst Economic Challenges

Southern MD RC&D received a letter from Charles County Administrator stating that as a result of state budget cuts there would be a reduction for the RC&D Board. RC&D sent a letter to the County Administrator asking for an exemption from the reduction and mentioning many of the RC&D projects that benefit the Charles County community. The Commissioners met and decided not to cut the Board's budget. Click on the link to read the whole article.

http://www.somdnews.com/stories/11112009/indymor114820_32262.shtml

Dry Fire Hydrant

Calvert Recorder Jeff Newman wrote a great article on the Dry Fire hydrants in Drum Point. He pointed out that the Drum Point Property Owners Association had installed three dry hydrants on community property. Click on the link to read the whole article.

<http://www.somdnews.com/stories/10092009/>

RC&D Week

Southern Maryland RC&D recently had an article in the paper about the proclamation they received from Charles County Commissioners for National RC&D Week. Click on the link to read the whole article. http://www.somdnews.com/stories/12162009/indymor152140_32211.shtml



RC&D Seeks Student Representatives for Next School Year!

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 Charles, 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.

Open 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 Con-

servancy 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.

National RC&D Week a Success!

Southern Maryland RC&D celebrated National RC&D Week from September 20-26, 2009. Proclamations were received from Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Maryland Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, Anne Arundel County Executive, Calvert County Commissioners, Charles County Commissioners, and St. Mary's County Commissioners. Also during National RC&D Week a coloring/poster contest was held for students in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. RC&D Coloring and Poster Contest information was sent out to the Public Schools. Elementary school students were asked to color a coloring sheet and send it into the RC&D office. Middle and High school students were asked to create a poster with the theme being "Southern Maryland: Our Resources, Our Home." Prizes were given to First, Second and Third place winners. Over 700 entries were received. Click on the link to view the winning coloring sheets and posters.



[http://www.somdrctd.org/articles/publish/news/Southern MD RC D Week - Recap.shtml](http://www.somdrctd.org/articles/publish/news/Southern_MD_RC_D_Week_-_Recap.shtml)

Contest Winners

Kindergarten – First Grade Category

- 1st Place: Brandon Marion – Mary B. Neal Elementary School
- 2nd Place: Zaria Webb – Indian Head Elementary School
- 3rd Place: Louis Walker – JC Parks Elementary School

Second – Third Grade Category

- 1st Place: Clare Thompson – Mutual Elementary School
- 2nd Place: Ajhanea Montgomery – JC Parks Elementary School
- 3rd Place: Samantha Murillo – JC Parks Elementary School

Fourth – Fifth Grade Category

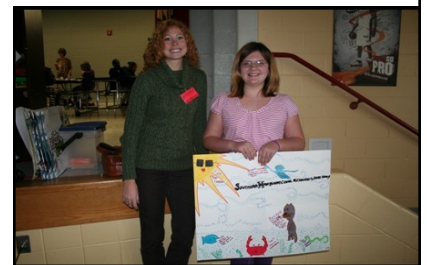
- 1st Place: Ayesha Qureshi – JC Parks Elementary School
- 2nd Place: AJ Longshore – JC Parks Elementary School
- 3rd Place: Donovan Sherer – JC Parks Elementary School

Middle School/High School Poster Contest

- 1st Place: Hanna Smith – Plum Point Middle School
- 2nd Place: Amy Walker – Plum Point Middle School
- 3rd Place: Grace Cary – Windy Hill Middle School



Denitra Brawner, Brandon Marion and Franklin Holley.



Franklin Holley and Grace Cary



St. Mary's County Commissioners present Proclamation to Denitra Brawner, Franklin Holley, Bruce Young and Olga Walter for RC&D.



Calvert County Commissioner Barbara Stinnett and Senator Barbary Mikulski's Representative Dick Myers present RC&D with a Proclamations.



Charles County Commissioners present Proclamation to Luis Dieguez, John Downs, Denitra Brawner and Olga Walter for RC&D.



RC&D Activities at NSF Indian Head Gain Speed

In addition to the ongoing shoreline protection and restoration projects at Naval Support Facility Indian Head, RC&D has been awarded a Cooperative Agreement to provide fish passages that will allow the upstream movement of fish into stream headwaters. Such passages are currently blocked by elevated and collapsed culverts in streams flowing into the Mattawoman and Chicamuxen Creeks and Potomac River. These streams may provide spawning habitat and shelter for freshwater fish species once the current blockages are removed and fish passages are constructed. Southern Maryland RC&D is excited to continue working with the Charles and Anne Arundel Soil Conservation Districts on this important project.

Resident eagle populations and migrant eagles are found on the tidal fresh reaches of the Potomac River. 2009 was a successful season for Bald Eagle monitoring at NSF Indian Head, and RC&D and the Navy have agreed to extend the study into another year. These studies serve to document the status, distribution, and productivity of eagles at NSF Indian Head; to test for the presence of West Nile Viruses and others; and to measure the levels of environmental contaminants in addled eggs, nestling blood and feather samples. RC&D is looking forward to a third season with the College of William & Mary Center for Conservation Biology in 2010.

Construction is set to begin on approximately 5,400 feet of shoreline to provide erosion protection at NSF Indian Head in the New Year. RC&D has been working closely with the Charles Soil Conservation District, Coastline Design, P.C. and the Navy on this phase of the NSFIH shoreline management plan. RC&D is pleased to announce that Coastal Design & Construction, Inc. was awarded the construction portion of the project. We anticipated their experience and expertise will result in a successful shoreline protection project.

Note from the Chair - Patricia Pinnell

I would like to thank Jeremy for all that he has done for RC&D as Coordinator. He has given RC&D a lot of his writing expertise and talent to grow. We will miss him and wish him luck as he embarks on his new journey. We are also very pleased to have our new Coordinator, Buddy Bowling. He brings a world of knowledge and experience to Southern Maryland RC&D. We hope to have a smooth transition as the Board gets to know Buddy and start to work with him.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we leave behind an exciting 2009! We hired our first Program Officer, Franklin Holley, and we have started work on many Navy shoreline and natural resource projects. We have also formed a new partnership with Southern Maryland Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry as a result of a grant from the National Association of RC&D Councils. Again, Thank You to Jeremy for all he has done for RC&D, and Welcome to Buddy. We look forward to working with you!

Dates to Remember...

January 20, 2010 - Southern Maryland Pasture and Hay Conference – Waldorf, MD

January 21, 2010- Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting

February 6, 2010 - St. Mary's County Science Fair

March 1-2, 2010 – NARC&DC Leadership Forum – Washington, DC

March 6, 2010 - Calvert County Science Fair

March 19-20, 2010 - Charles County History Day

April 9-10, 2010 - Charles County Science Fair

April 2010 (day TBD) – Southern Maryland RC&D Annual Dinner

September 15-17, 2010 - Mid Atlantic RC&D Conference – Annapolis, MD

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

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