

Farm Field Days

We are excited to announce the 27th annual Farm Field Days, October 12th & 13th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Every year, 4th graders from the County and Manassas City Schools participate in a hands on farm experience. For some of these students this is the first time they are exposed to farming and livestock, as they learn where their food comes from. This is the place to be in October, a wonderful day out for the students and volunteers. If you have volunteered previously we look forward to seeing you again. If you have never volunteered please consider it, no experience required! It's a fun and rewarding experience. For more information please contact: education@pwsxcd.org



New Fiscal Year, New Cost-Share

July 1 starts off the new fiscal year for the cost-share program. Most of the cost-share practices are the same as previous years, but there are some changes, and even a new practice:

- SL-8B—Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management
 - ◊ Winter hardy oats is now an eligible cover crop to plant
 - ◊ No manure or nutrients can be applied
- SL-8H—Harvestable Cover Crop
 - ◊ Implementation increased to 600 acres
 - ◊ Of the 600 acres, 300 may receive manure, if qualified
- WQ-12—Roof Runoff Management System
 - ◊ NEW practice
 - ◊ Designed to help manage roof runoff from agricultural structures where the runoff has created a water quality concern
 - ◊ Practice covers costs for cisterns and/or storage tanks

If you want to know what practices are available, please call our office at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail conservation@pwsxcd.org, jayyankey@pwsxcd.org, or nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org. You can also visit the cost-share website at: dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbman/agbmptoc.htm.

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District programs and employment are open to all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, or would prefer to receive it by e-mail, call 571-379-7514, or e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org. For our events calendar at www.pwsxcd.org or visit our website at pwsxcd.org or visit our mailing list, e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org and board meeting dates, visit www.pwsxcd.org/calendar.html (board meetings are open to the public). PWSWCD is a non-regulatory political subdivision funded by Prince William County Public Works and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Board Members: Jim Gehlsen, Chairman John Price, Vice Chairman Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer Paige Thacker, Secretary Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Sandra McLean	Associate Directors: Deb Oliver Harrison Glasgow Steve Danziger	Staff: Jay Yankey, District Manager Jeanne Heflin, Office Manager Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist Mike Miller, Conservation Planner Alice Markewicz, Education & Outreach Specialist Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator
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8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 • (571) 379-7514 • pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org • www.pwsxcd.org • facebook.com/PrinceWilliamSWCD

Conservation InFARMation

The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance information and education.

2015 Award Gathering
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Busy Summer at the District!

2015 Award Gathering

On June 21, 2016 the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) held our annual awards dinner and recognized the following individuals for their outstanding contributions to the District over the past year.

- **DCR's Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm** – Carl Heflin, *The Cedars Farm*

The Heflins have excluded their cattle from all the streams on their farm with 35' buffers, follow a nutrient management plan, and practice rotational grazing. This award recognizes local farmers who have gone to great lengths to protect natural resources on their properties.

- **Water Quality Monitoring Pioneers** – Blythe Merritt and Elaine Wilson

Blythe and Elaine were recognized for their many years of voluntary water quality monitoring efforts on county waterways.

- **Adopt-A-Stream Partner** – Lynda Silverstrand, *Woodbridge Potomac CCA*

Lynda has been organizing an annual Adopt-A-Stream cleanup on Neabsco Creek since 2009.

- **Educators of the Year** – Jessica Hruska and Rich Smith, *Stonewall Jackson High School (SJHS)*

Jessica and Rich are the sponsors of the Ecology Club at SJHS. They have been bringing their club members to Farm Field Days since 2008. The students serve as volunteer instructors, teaching the fourth graders about various agriculture and natural resources conservation topics. Since starting, the SJHS Ecology Club has presented to over 12,650 county 4th grade students.

- **Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience Leader** – Pam Popovich

Pam volunteers her time to coordinate Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) field trips for PWSWCD. In the past few years over 1000 local third grade students have participated in these natural resources education field trips at Windy Knoll Farm in Nokesville.

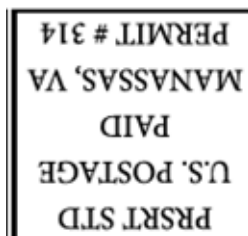
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From left to right: Jim Gehlsen (District Director), Elaine Wilson & Blythe Merritt (Water Quality Monitoring Pioneers), and Veronica Tangiri (Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator)



Deb Oliver (Associate Director) and Rich Smith (Educator of the Year)



...2015 Award Gathering; continued from page 1

Youth Leader of the Year – Seth Hatfield

Seth volunteered numerous hours as part of the statewide Youth Conservation Leadership Institute. He helped coordinate our District Envirothon Team, assisted with water quality monitoring projects, participated in stream cleanups, and served as an instructor at our MWEE field trips.

FFD Volunteers of the Year – Mary Griffith and Joanie Shepherd, Hospitality Ladies

Mary and Joanie have volunteered at Farm Field Days for decades. They run the hospitality booth, making sure that the needs of the 100+ volunteers at this event are accommodated.

PWSWCD Volunteer Recognition – Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator

Veronica put in over 740 hours of volunteer service to PWSWCD organizing our Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program in 2015.



From left to right: Jim Gehlsen (District Director), Joanie Shepherd & Mary Griffith (FFD Volunteers of the Year), and Jay Yankey (District Manager)

The District in 2nd Place Statewide in the DCR Adopt-A-Stream Program

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recognized the District's Adopt-A-Stream program as ranking 2nd place statewide. The program includes thirteen counties/cities participating for the second quarter (April-June) of 2016. The District ranked first place in the mileage of waterways cleaned, which represents 35% of the total miles covered under the program in Virginia.

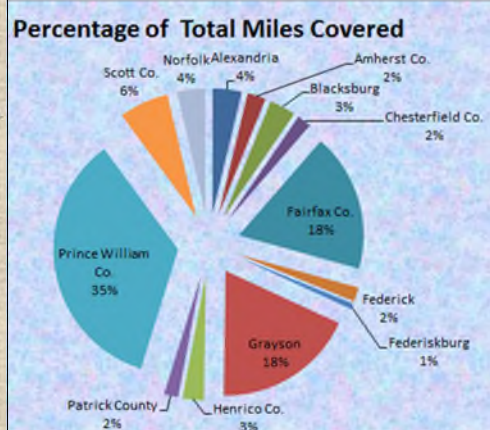
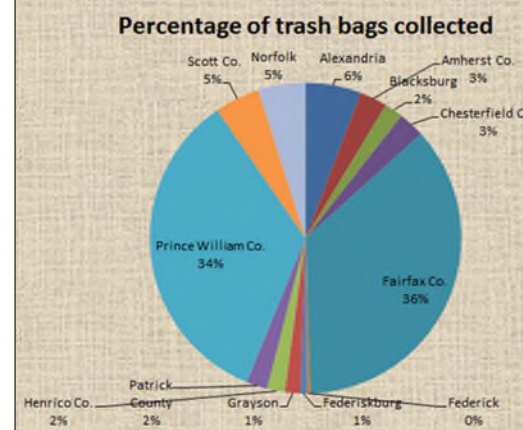
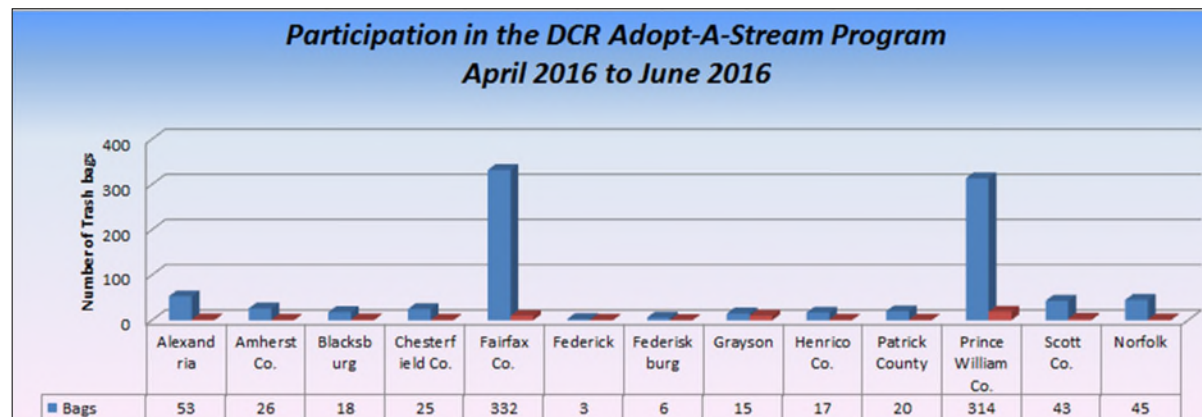
The program is manned by volunteers performing cleanups in their communities once or twice a year. During fiscal year 2016, 759 volunteers cleaned 77.4 miles of stream removing 20,877 pounds of trash in Prince William County. This shows that county citizens are environmentally aware and care about the health of their waterways.

Much work still needs to be done to help bring the County to the # 1

position (and why not aim for first nationwide?).

The Adopt-A-Stream program is part of Stewardship Virginia which is one of the governor's initiative. The governor also ensures volunteers receive signed certificates after every cleanup as a sign of his appreciation.

A special "Thank You" goes out to all the residents who have volunteered, or are currently volunteering, for the Adopt-A-Stream program in the District. The District looks forward to doing even better with more volunteer support. With this support, additional water quality awareness around local streams will be achieved, especially as the County strives in promoting Green Communities in Prince William.



Statistical Summary of the Statewide DCR Adopt-A-Stream Program

Farm to Table Dinner

On September 8, 2016 the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation (Foundation), in coordination with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD), will be hosting our first farm to table fundraising dinner. The dinner will be held at the Evergreen Country Club located in Haymarket, VA. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a tour of the historic Evergreen Manor House, a wine tasting at 6:30 p.m. provided by LaGrange Winery of Haymarket, VA, followed by a three course meal at 7 to prepared by Evergreen's Executive Chef, Travis Simmons.

This meal highlights the rich culture and diversity of Prince William County's agricultural community. The ingredients for this wonderful meal have been raised and acquired from farms that are located within the county. To reserve your seat or to donate to the foundation, contact the district office at 571.379.7514 or pay/donate online at www.pswcd.org/prince-william-environmental-excellence-foundation.html.

Ticket prices are as follows; \$85 single, \$160 per couple, or \$600 for a table of 8.

All proceeds raised at this event will go towards the continued support of the Foundation's mission of funding agricultural and environmental education beyond the walls of the classroom. This mission is achieved through many of the district's programs, such as: Farm Field Days, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE's), Water Quality Monitoring, and Adopt-A-Stream, to name a few.

Without the support of the Foundation and the community we would not be able to provide these outreach programs. We look forward to meeting many of you at this event where you can come meet the farmers, greet your neighbors and enjoy a Prince William County sourced dinner.

Farm to Table Dinner

to benefit the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at Evergreen Country Club

Please Join us on
Thursday, September 8, 2016
 for a Prince William Sourced
Farm to Table Dinner
 Tour of the Evergreen Manor House begins
 at 6:00 pm
 Wine Tasting begins at 6:30 pm followed by
 sit down Prince William sourced dinner.

Tickets are \$85 for individuals or \$160 per couple

All Proceeds from this event will go to the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation to support environmental/agricultural education programs and supplies for teachers, students and community members

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation is the 501(c)3 foundation of the Prince William Soil and Water District.

Reservation for the Farm to Table Dinner

September 8, 2016

Tickets are \$85 each or \$160 for two. Tables are \$600 for eight. Tickets are non-refundable.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

No. of Tickets (\$85 or two for \$160): ____
 Purchase a Table of 8 for \$600 ____

I will be unable to attend, but please accept my donation of \$ ____ to support PWEFF programs.

Please Make Checks Payable to PWEFF.

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

There is a new program available that is designed to assist non-agricultural residents with implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's) to improve water quality. The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is a grant program distributed to the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) to assist residential landowners within the Chesapeake Bay watershed with water quality issues.

The VCAP program provides technical assistance and funding reimbursement on eight specific BMP practices that focuses on storm water management for small acreage urban and residential properties. All non-agricultural property owners in the identified districts of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are eligible to apply – residential, business, public, and private. For more information, contact the Prince William SWCD at 571.379.7514 or conservation@pswcd.org, or visit the VCAP website at vaswcd.org/vcap.

Learn to Spin Wool and Help the Foundation

Have sheep? Want to learn how to spin their fiber? Get three spinning lessons with a \$100.00 donation to the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation. Sheep ownership is not a prerequisite for lessons. For more information contact: education@pswcd.org

