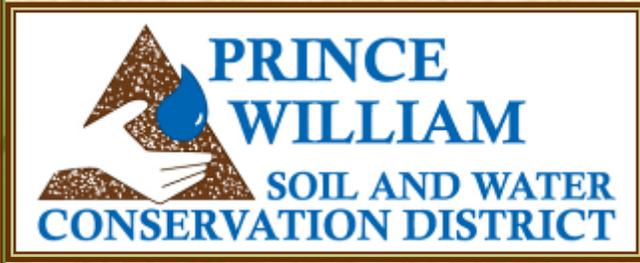


Inspiring personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources



8850 Rixlew Lane
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571.379.7514
www.pwsacd.org

Annual Report
July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017



"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."

—Wendell Berry



John Brower, Lone Oak Farm
Clean Water Farm Award



Buffered Pond

Our mission:

To provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance, information, and education.

Board of Directors



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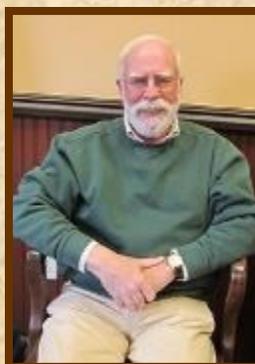
Associate Directors



Steve Danziger



Deb Oliver



Harry Glasgow



**Veronica Tangiri &
Water Quality Coordinator**

Staff



Jay Yankey



Jeannie Heflin



Nicole Slazinski



Mike Miller



Alice Markiewicz

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

About our county



According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture for Prince William County (latest census available), there are 32,816 acres of farmland in the county, approximately 15% of the total acres. This represents a 1% increase in farmland over the 2002 census. The average size of farms is 95 acres. The market value of products sold is \$9,429,000. Farmland is mainly located in three districts; Brentsville, Gainesville and Coles.

What is the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District?

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District encompasses all of Prince William County. Our mission 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. The District accomplishes this mission by administering the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program in the county and developing and administering educational programs to youth and adults. The District plays a role in the larger objective of improving water quality not only in local watersheds, but also in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds.

Nationally—Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts - almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.

More than 17,000 volunteers serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. They work directly with more than 2.3 million cooperating land managers nationwide, and their efforts touch more than 778 million acres of private land.

Among other things, conservation districts help:

- implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- protect groundwater resources;
- assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction; and
- reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

The District receives funding via a Memorandum of Agreement with Prince William County to provide technical assistance, as well as compliance programs that solve and prevent natural resource problems for landowners, and encourage good stewardship of the environment. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, via operational and non-point source pollution Virginia Cost Share Program grants for agricultural best management practices (BMPs).

Awards

Clean Water Farm Award



Lone Oak Farm pond



John & Barbara Brower

Raymond Byrnes, Jr.



Vegetated buffer

Farm Name: Lone Oak Farm

Location: 5305 Pageland Lane, Catharpin, VA 20143

Watershed: Potomac River basin PL43 - Little Bull Run

Farm acreage: 56.1 acres in pasture and 42.9 acres in hay

District: Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (PWSWCD)

Lone Oak farm is located in Catharpin, Virginia and operated by John Brower and Raymond Byrnes, Jr. The Brower family has owned the farm since 1886. On the farm they raise approximately 40 beef cows that are rotated through 6 pasture fields.

In 2014, Lone Oak Farm signed up for SL-6: Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management cost-share program. Through the program, they installed buffer fencing, stream crossings, and water troughs for an alternative watering system. The buffer fencing protects approximately 10,296' of streambank, creating 22.0 acres of vegetated buffer.

Conservation

Adopted Best Management Practices (BMPs); see below. All practices are used to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil and pasture quality, and increase water infiltration.

Conservation techniques adopted on pastures:

- Rotational grazing for managing and reducing erosion and keeping the pastures green
- Excluding livestock access to streams by creating a 35'+ fenced buffer (average buffer width is 80') and installing an alternative watering system.
- Stream crossings to provide livestock access to pastures split by a stream channel while simultaneously protecting the streambank from erosion and the water from runoff of excess nutrients and bacteria.
- Manure is collected by the feeding areas and spread on the pasture fields annually.



How we served our agricultural community

Prince William County deliverables:

Nutrient Reductions for writing 106 conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
5,428 pounds	548	2,457

DCR Cost-Share Best Management Practices (BMPs) in production, providing nutrient and sediment reductions:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres	Sediment Reduction
4,536 pounds	127 pounds	837	110 tons

These numbers represent 372 head of livestock and poultry eliminating approximately 10,126 pounds of manure per year.

We partner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation under grant agreements to provide technical assistance in designing and installing Best Management Practices for natural resources conservation. Under these agreements for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Cost-Share Program we gave technical assistance for the following:

agricultural production, BMPs, drainage/stormwater management, urban erosion, agricultural erosion, land disturbance, partner agency assistance, pond management, trees, native plants, water quality, weeds, and wildlife management.

Water Awareness Milestone; Clean Streams and Water Quality Update

The first half of 2017 experienced a growing interest among residents to learn more about water quality and to promote clean streams with the District. This shows the important role water plays in our communities, in relation to human health and vitality.

At the end of June 2017, 621 volunteers put in over 2,530.5 hours under the District to support the course of clean streams and improved water quality. Compare this to 2016, where there were 552 volunteers who put in 1,951 hours. The number of active monitoring sites increased from 9 sites in 2016 to 12 sites in 2017. Nine sites were adopted for cleanup under the Adopt-A-Stream program.

This District added phosphate, nitrate and E.coli tests to its existing testing parameters to expand the data available to residents and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Water is the earth's lifeline and therefore the need to protect and conserve this natural resource for the coming generations is vitally important. Residents are already making a difference in the community, but we can always use more help to further our goals. Join the Soil and Water Conservation District for more water quality awareness in Prince William County. You can contact the district at (571) 379-7514 or Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsxcd.org.

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."
-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Adopt-A-Stream

Stream cleanup results:

# volunteers	miles cleaned	pounds of trash removed
872	72.5	29,217

A HUGE thanks to all the stream stewards who participated in stream cleanups. You made a 29,217 pounds of trash difference in our community! **Great job!!!!!!**



Marumsco Creek cleanups

66 tires removed at Riverview HOA



Occoquan River Cleanup

Adult-centered Watershed Education results:

393 adults attended:

Model Horse Farm Tour-Spring 2017, Compost Awareness Day, Healthy Lands Healthy Horses Seminar Series, Model Horse Farm Tour-Fall 2016, Water Quality Monitoring outreach

Youth-centered Education Events results:

Conservation Capsules-to-go:

- 6,116 students were given environmental sciences and natural resources education through our capsule program
- 260 teachers reserved these capsules for in-classroom presentations

Farm Field Days:

- 1,374 fourth grade students from county schools attended Farm Field Days in October
- 70 teachers attended Farm Field Days
- 50 chaperones attended Farm Field Days

Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Science Education Programs offered in FY 2017

All Conservation Capsule programs are based on Virginia Standards of Learning and are available to all Prince William County schools, private schools, community clubs and youth organizations.

A Drop in the Bucket	6th Grade & up
Build an Ecosystem	2nd Grade
Get Outside	K-5
Incredible Journey	3rd Grade
Introduction to Natural Resources	1st Grade
Land Beneath Your Feet	9th Grade
Plant Anatomy & Non-Vascular Plants	4th & 5th Grades
Plants of the Powhatan	2nd & 4th Grades
Regions of Virginia	4th Grade
Soils	3rd Grade
Sum of the Parts	4th Grade
Tree Talk	1st Grade
Virginia Natural Resources	4th Grade
Water Cycle	2nd Grade
Watershed Enviroscape Model	K - Adult
Weathering and Erosion	2nd & 5th Grades
Who Polluted the Bay?	K & 1st Grade

Land Beneath Your Feet



Soils



"But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr Seuss

Hooray for Farm Field Days!



They all love the animals. Thanks to their owners for sharing.



The Farm Bureau Women's Committee members teach the structure of corn



How much horse power can the 4th graders muster? We know!

Hats off to our faithful volunteers: Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Master Gardeners, John Marshall SWCD, PWC Public Works, PW Beekeepers, Stonewall Jackson High School Ecology Club students, our cooperators, local farmers, educators, and many individuals.



The PWC Beekeepers talk about the importance of bees as pollinators.

We can't do it without YOU!



And they all say "hooray for Farm Field Days!"

Words are inadequate to describe the dedication and generosity of all 140 volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy to 1,374 of our youth. (No wonder you were exhausted at the end of the day!)

Our most grateful thanks to each and every one of you!

1,374	4th grade students
70	teachers
11	PWC schools
2	City of Manassas schools
6	Title 1 schools
60	high school student volunteers
3	high school teacher volunteers
132	chaperones



"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

— Theodore Roosevelt

Hooray for Arbor Day!



*Poet's Tree
Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me,
And watch the way the word-web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.
The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and dream, or come and climb-
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.
-Shel Silverstein*

Supervisors who held Arbor Day ceremonies/
celebrations:

- Ruth Anderson, Occoquan District
- Marty Nohe, Coles District
- Peter Candland, Gainesville District
- Frank Principi, Woodbridge District
- Jeanine Lawson, Brentsville District

Arbor Day ceremonies were held on April 28, 2017 at:

School	# students
Westridge	75
Loch Lomond	200
Mullen	150
Marumsco Hills	<u>12</u>
	437

Arbor Day Tree Ceremonies/
Festival activities allow stu-
dents to investigate and under-
stand that plants produce oxygen
and food, are a source of useful
products and provide benefits in
nature.

Hastings Landscape generously
provided Black Gum, Nannyberry,
and Red Bud trees; one tree plant-
ed at each school. Thank you

