



The Roles of the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (District)

What does the District do anyway?

The District provides many services for the residents of Prince William County. We are a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This means we are funded by the state and Prince William County, but we are neither a state or county agency. We are also non-partisan and non-regulatory; our main goal is to help people help the environment. The main services we provide include:

- ◆ **Agriculture:** Technical Assistance, Conservation and Nutrient Management Plans for farmers, state financial assistance programs
- ◆ **Youth Education:** Conservation capsules for classroom education, our annual Farm Field Days event for 4th graders, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)
- ◆ **Water Quality:** Adopt-a-Stream/Pond, Water Quality Monitoring, Floatables Monitoring, Plastic Pollution

- ◆ **Home Owners:** Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), Gardener's Gold (compost program)

To learn more about what we do, please visit our website at pwsxcd.org, or visit the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts at vaswcd.org.

Gardener's Gold

Free Horse Compost!

Looking for some FREE nutrients for your garden? Then check out our Gardener's Gold brochure! We have a list of farms all across Prince William County that have horse compost just itching to get in your garden. For a copy of our brochure, go to our website at pwsxcd.org/home-owners.

Do you have compost and want to be added to our Gardner's Gold brochure? Then contact Nicole Slazinski at nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org.



Conservation InFARMation

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Summer 2021

Brood X Periodical Cicada Emergence 2021

By Kinner Ingram

Cicada Facts

The Northern Virginia area experienced a cicada emergence this past spring, when the soil got around to 64° F, typically the first few weeks of May. Annual cicadas (or Dog Day cicadas) emerge every year in July-August and in lower numbers. Periodic cicadas emerge in large numbers after spending 17 years underground.

Most of their life span is spent underground feeding on roots. After around 17 years they emerge, molt, and become adults. After molting, the males start to call for the females. The noises they make, however, will attract males and females setting up chorusing centers. These "centers" tend to have the highest concentration of cicadas and are usually loudest mid-morning. Females lay eggs 2 weeks after emergence in pencil-sized branches. They cut slits into these branches and lay 10-25 eggs in 1-4 inch scars. A single female can lay over 300 eggs! The nymphs hatch from the eggs in about 6 weeks, fall to the ground, and start the cycle over.

smaller trees. Cicadas have a very broad spectrum of host trees, but they usually avoid pine trees. Seedlings and saplings planted this year or last year could suffer the most from the cicadas. The best way to avoid this damage is to cover the plant in a netting with openings half-inch to three-quarters inch to allow air through, but not cicadas. Leave this netting on as long as the cicadas are audible. Once they start to quiet down, the netting can be removed. Avoid using pesticides, as most are broad spectrum and will likely kill more than just cicadas.



Numbers can reach 300 cicadas a square yard, or 1,500,000 an acre, giving them the highest reported biomass values of any naturally occurring land animal. They will travel up to a quarter mile during their 6-week active time as adults.

While these insects may be annoying, they will not harm you. If your pet eats a cicada, they should be fine; cicadas do not contain any poison or venom. In fact, you can look online to find recipes for yourself!

Plant Damage

You may have seen flagging (brown leaves) on the ends of branches. While cicadas do not usually kill trees, they can stunt growth of branches or stems of

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.

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If you would like to join our mailing list, e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org or visit our website at www.pwsxcd.org (left hand column). For our events calendar 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.

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.

Board Members	Jim Gehlsen, Chairman Will Linner, Vice Chairman Mansuran Kahlon, Treasurer	Associate Directors	Harrison Glasgow Steve Danziger Sonnie Cutley	Staff	Jay Yankey, District Manager Linda Dunn, Administrative Assistant Mike Miller, Conservation Specialist Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist Duane Mohr, Conservation Technician Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator Jessica McCauley, Water Quality Program Assistant
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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



Prince William County Water Quality Volunteers Make a Difference!

January to April 2021 Report

Over 605 volunteers removed over 19,726 pounds of debris from Prince William County Waterways

This 2021, the Conservation District has been experiencing an increasing number of citizen engagement in its Water Quality programs. For example, its Adopt-A-Stream/Pond program registered 605 volunteers who collected over 19,726 lbs. of debris from an estimated 21.15 miles of Prince William County's



Boy Scout Troop 964 at Powell's Creek

The Pasture and Nutrient Management Tips for the Quarter

By Duane Mohr

This is the first quarterly Pasture and Nutrient Management Education update to help you manage your pastures to maximize forage production for your grazing animals:

- Building Resilience in Soils, Plants and Animals with Greg Brann:
- Maintaining Healthy Horse Pastures
- Nutrient Management: A Message for Producers

Each quarter we will offer pasture and nutrient articles to help you better manage your farm and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. To read these articles, as well as others on managing Agriculture resources, please visit our website at pwsacd.org/resources.

waterways (January to April 2021 only). This recorded 1,770 hours of citizen volunteer time saved the County Government \$50,515.8 of tax-payers money (Independent Sector, 2021).

For more about the Adopt-A-Stream/Pond and Water Quality monitoring programs and how YOU can join our team and help protect our waterways, contact Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org



Virginia Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists/ Bull Run Watershed Protectors
(An ongoing community transformation project – Run Shopping Area)

Feeding for Sound Summer Hooves

July 18, 2020 By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

If you're like many horse owners, you give your horse at least a brief time-off period in the winter, planning a busier schedule of training and riding in the spring, summer, and fall months. With conditioning, shows, trail rides, parades, and other horse-related events, summer may be your busiest riding time. Keeping your horse sound for all this activity is partly related to taking good care of his hooves year-round. Feeding for sound equine feet, however, can't be accomplished in a few weeks. For more information, read the reminder of the article at <https://ker.com/equine/news/feeding-sound-summer-hooves/>



Market Maker

As more and more people want to buy their food fresh and locally, Market Maker (va.foodmarketmaker.com) is an upcoming way to connect farmers with their customers. Market Maker is an online portal where customers can search for farms, farmer's markets, specific agriculture products, etc. that are near by. Farms can also sign up on the portal so customers can better find them. Market Maker is free for both farmers and customers.

To learn more about Market Maker go to: ext.vt.edu/agriculture/market-maker.html.



Cost Share for Farmers!

Program Year 2022 opens up July 1, 2021! If you've been in agriculture production for the past 3 years (previously 5) and you have/had a **water quality problem** on your farm, such as:

- Livestock has/had access to a water body
- No cover crops when main crops aren't growing
- No proper manure storage
- Etc.



Then contact us to see if you qualify for cost-share! For more information, please visit our website at pwsacd.org/costshare or call our office at (571) 379-7514.

Farm Field Days 2021 Update

Due to COVID and working with the schools, there will be no physical Farm Field Days 2021. ☹️ If you are interested in volunteering, check back with us next year!



Summer Interns

Welcome Estefany Umana, Quinn Lipetz, & Jahara Lewis, our 2021 Summer Interns!



Estefany Umana is a senior at George Mason University, working towards a B.S. in Biology, a minor in Computational and Data Sciences, and a secondary minor in Conservation Studies. She is interested in learning about the effects of climate change from different perspectives and she is passionate about conservation.



Quinn Lipetz is a senior at the University of Mary Washington. He is pursuing a double major in Economics and Environmental Science. He is an avid outdoorsman, and loves fishing, kayaking, and hiking. Quinn is interested in bringing environmentally sustainable solutions to urban and suburban areas.



Jahara Lewis is at Osburne Park High School Manassas. She is a Certified Water Quality Monitor under the District and has been volunteering with the District for over 3 years.

Ms. Lewis has the inspiration to learn more about water science and STEM to help children and kids in her community. She enjoys helping the environment, reading, and playing video games.

12th Annual Occoquan River Cleanup



Saturday, September 11, 2021, 9am – 2pm

The Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC) is looking for experienced kayakers, canoeists, jon boaters, and pontoon boaters to sign up for this year's Occoquan River Cleanup, an on-the-water conservation effort. Please visit www.pwtsc.org for more information and to register for this event, or contact Ed Dandar (703-489-0269) efdandar@verizon.net or Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org, (571-379-7514).