

Virginia Earth Team 2021 Outstanding Group Award

Congratulations to all of our Volunteers!

“Our Earth Team Group Award for 2021 goes to the Prince William SWCD’s water quality program.

This multi-faceted monitoring initiative has been going strong for over 10 years, and even the COVID pandemic didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of these committed volunteers. Engagement has grown exponentially since 2015 with over 6,000 people registered in four distinct activities to promote public awareness and natural resource protection. The district has coordinated the adoptions of 65 different sections of county waterways and encourages the donation of clean-up supplies for volunteer use. Biological and chemical monitoring conducted in conjunction with Virginia’s Save Our Streams Program and the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Cooperative provides a more complete picture of the health of the county’s 74.6 miles of streams, creeks and rivers. Volunteers also play a critical role in

supporting county stormwater management activities by tracking floating plastics in waterways.

Local groups like the Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists and the Prince

William Trail and Streams Coalition play a significant role in promoting all SWCD water quality programs while also supporting students in science. In Fiscal Year 2021, 124 volunteer monitors donated 294.5 hours to support these programs, which are an integral part of the district’s public education and outreach strategy. Forty percent of the Adopt-A-Stream volunteers and 31 percent of monitoring program participants are under 18 years of age. What a great way to nurture the next generation of conservationists!” *Peggy Shaw-McBee, Virginia NRCS*



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

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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 pwsacd@pwsacd.org



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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.

Winter 2021-2022

4th Annual Native Plant Symposium for Beginners and Beyond

Stop Mowing, Start Growing!

Registration is now OPEN for the 4TH Annual Native Plant Symposium for Beginners and Beyond. The symposium is designed to introduce landowners to the benefits and beauty of using native plants in the landscape. This event will be completely virtual.

DATE: February 12, 2022

TIME: 9AM to 2:30PM

COST: \$15

REGISTRATION LINK:

go to our website at www.pwsxcd.org or scan the QR code:



Healthy Soils; Native Edible & Medicinal Plants; Native Bees Need Native Plants; Selecting and Planting Trees for Life; Common Mid-Atlantic Garden Invasive Plants; and Container Gardening with Natives. You will find the material covered can be applied to properties small and large, suburban and rural, HOA common land and private lots. Registration is filling up fast, so make sure you register soon!

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Our Keynote Speaker will be Matt Bright, the Conservation Manager with Earth Sangha. Matt will speak on Planting to Create Native Plant Communities. Earth Sangha is a DC area, non-profit, volunteer-based program focused on propagating local native plants for the restoration of local native plant communities.

As in previous years we will offer a variety of breakout sessions in addition to the Keynote speaker. Breakout Sessions will include: *Meadows; How Backyard Gardeners can help Combat Climate Chaos; Herbaceous Perennial Natives for the Suburban Yard; Building*



Gardener's Gold



Free Compost!
We are updating our Gardener's Gold brochure. If you have compost looking for a home, please let us know before April 1, 2022 and we'll add you to our list! For more information on our Gardener's Gold program, please go to <https://www.pwsxcd.org/home-owners>.



2022 Big County Waterway/Wetland Cleanup Neabsco Creek Watershed

THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

WHAT:

Join the Conservation District for water quality and plastic pollution awareness in Prince William County.

Come celebrate the County's first Trash Trap and give a treat to this beautiful scenic site of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Clean-up supplies will be provided. Boots/waders are recommended.

WHEN:

Saturday, March 5th, 9am – 12pm

WHERE:

- Neabsco Eagles Park (@15801 Neabsco Rd. Woodbridge, VA. 22191)
- Neabsco Regional Park / Neabsco Boardwalk (@15125 Blackburn Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22191)

Contact secretary@pwtsc.org for more information

For Registration visit: www.pwtsc.org

***Safety guidelines will be enforced for everyone's protection, including wearing a face mask and*

maintaining physical distancing from other participants outside their household.

Organized by Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition (PWTSC), Woodbridge Potomac Community Civic Association (WPCCA) and the Conservation District's Water Quality Partners for Clean Waterways in PWC!



Are Parasites a Limiting Factor in your Sheep Operation?

The following is a reprint from March 2 2021 by Bill Foshier, Granite State Graziers coordinator and New Hampshire sheep producer (Previously published in On Pasture: March 1, 2021)

The parasites that infest sheep can be an enormous drag on sheep production. Year in and year out, they probably cause more death and disease in some producers' lamb crops than any other single factor, including predators.

The days when the answer to parasite management was to drench all the sheep every month are behind us. Parasites have started to evolve resistance to various classes of de-wormers. The problem with chemical resistance is so pronounced in some parts of the Southeast US that there are farms where no de-wormers work anymore and there is at least some degree of

chemical resistance nearly every place where worms are a problem.



To explore in depth more information on these subjects please go to: <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2021/03/02/are-parasites-a-limiting-factor-in-your-operation/>

To explore other Sheep and Goat management articles, please follow the link below to the articles on the Small Ruminant Page: www.pwswcd.org/small-ruminants

