

Awards Dinner

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual awards dinner on June 5th, 2018. The district recognized numerous volunteers, partners and cooperators at this event. The District wouldn't be able to accomplish all the great things the District does if it weren't for all the hard work put in by our dedicated volunteers, partners, and cooperators. Awards presented included the following.

DCR's Bay Friendly Clean Water Farm – Greenville Farm, Thomas and Alisha Latham

Conservationist of the Year – Mike Rolband (in attached photo)

Adopt-A-Stream Volunteers of the Year – Rebekah Johnson, Neil Nelson

Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers of the Year – Sonnie Cuffey, Janis Cook and Buck Arvin, Renee Kitt

Educator of the Year – Lisa Matthews and Rosemarie Nielsen, Co-Presidents of Merrimac Master Naturalists

FFD Volunteer of the Year – Clean Cut Trees (in attached photo)

PWSWCD Volunteer Recognition – Duane Mohr, Jackie Lee, Pam Popovich

Recognition of Out Going Prince William Environmental Education Foundation Chairman - Harrison Glasgow

Farm Field Days 2018—Save the Date!

Farm Field Days 2018 will be on October 17th and 18th this year. If you have volunteered in the past, it will be wonderful seeing you again! If you have never volunteered, you are missing out on a couple of fun filled days. I can promise that you will be tired and energized when it's over. It's impossible not to enjoy yourself interacting with all the excited 4th graders that pass through the seven barns. No previous experience needed, there is plenty to do and extra hands are always welcome. Everyone who volunteers gets a t-shirt and lunch. For more information please contact education@pwsxcd.org. To register, go to <https://goo.gl/forms/IAXdIIIn3u2vKPO8e2> or click on the above QR code.



What's in that box ?

Our Education Capsule Program is available to all Prince William County Schools, City of Manassas Schools, and Homeschoolers residing in PWC. We have fifteen self contained environmental education capsules. Learn about the Watershed, Animals, Soil and so much more. Reserved on a first come first served basis. More information about the individual capsules go to our website: <https://www.pwsxcd.org/capsules>

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

Board Members: John Price, Chairman Jim Gehlsen, Vice Chairman Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer Paige Thacker, Secretary, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Stephanie Cornell	Associate Directors: Deb Oliver Harrison Glasgow Steve Danziger	Staff: Jay Yankey, District Manager Linda Dunn, Administrative Assistant Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist Mike Miller, Conservation Planner Alice Markiewicz, Education & Outreach Specialist Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator
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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

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.



Conservation InFARMation

8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109 • (571) 379-7514 • pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org • www.pwsxcd.org • facebook.com/PrinceWilliamSWCD

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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PRINCE WILLIAM FARM 2 TABLE DINNER 2018

BENEFITING
All Proceeds Support the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation's Mission of Helping to Provide: Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Conservation Education Beyond the Walls of the Classroom.

ALL AGES EVENT

ADVANCE TICKETS

Adults—\$40

Children:

13 to 18—\$20

12 and under— Free

WHEN

August 25, 2018

3pm - 8pm

WHERE

Windy Knoll Farm

11602 Kettle Run Rd. Nokesville, VA 20181



Scan me

<https://princewilliamfarm2table2018.eventbrite.com>

Site Visits with Supervisor Ruth Anderson

On July 11, Mike Miller Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District conservation planner and Duane Mohr, PWSWCD volunteer had the opportunity to present to Occoquan District Supervisor Ruth Anderson and staff along with her husband former Delegate Richard Anderson how the PWSWCD helps landowners in both urban and rural settings. Miller and Mohr took the Andersons and staff on a Best Management tour that focused on storm water and soil management through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) on; 1) a multi crop production farm, 2) A private urban residence, and 3) common area in a HOA.

The first stop on the tour was Greenville Farm and Family Campground which is owned and operated by Thomas Latham and Family. Mr. Latham produce's beef cattle, small grain, corn, soy beans, and hay on the farm, as well as operating a campground that is open to the public. Supervisor Anderson got the chance to meet Mr. Latham and learn that the farm has been in continual production for just shy of 200 years. During that time the family has implemented BMPs on their own and with the help and advice of the district to help preserve the soil and water resources of this beautiful rolling farm. A few of the highlighted BMPS of the tour were fenced stream buffers to exclude livestock from surface water, designated stream crossings, and alternate water sources for livestock, since they were excluded from surface waters.

Next the group visited a private residence in the Manassas area where through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI), and some hard work by Battlefield junior Tyler Michael, a Rain Garden was installed with guidance from Mike Miller. It was explained that rain gardens are landscaped depressions with native plants that are designed to handle concentrated flow from impervious surfaces to prevent erosion and increase infiltration. In this example the rain garden is capturing discharge from a down spout and allowing it to infiltrate slowly instead of eroding a nearby slope.

The last stop was in the Occoquan district where Mrs. Anderson is

Supervisor, to show case a meadow planting at Devils Reach Condo Association. Mohr and Miller explained that the meadow was planted with native warm season plants from seed that will provide color and protection through the growing season and beyond. It was explained that the meadow was installed with assistance of the VCAP program and was installed with seed instead of plants to allow VCAP funding to go further to more landowners. The only disadvantage to planting with seed, Miller explained, is that it takes about 3 years for plants to become fully established and they may look "scrubby" the first few years.

After the site visits, post Supervisor Anderson posted on facebook, "Our eyes were opened to how all residents, whether in rural or suburban parts of the county, can turn to the Soil and Conservation District for advice and technical assistance!" It was the pleasure of the PWSWCD to show the Andersons what Soil & Water can do for the citizens of PWC. If you have a soil or water quality issue don't hesitate to contact us.



From L - R, Daune Mohr, Kathy Kaufland, Mike Miller Supervisor Ruth Anderson And Richard Anderson

Aerial Photography

Drones have opened an aerial window to the world, and Airscape Photography is sharing that perspective from the skies of Prince William County and elsewhere in Northern Virginia. Danny Glover, the FAA-certified pilot who operates the company, recently took aerial photos of the Cedars Farm as our retirement gift for Jeannie Heflin and her husband, Carl. Since then, Airscape Photography has received an FAA authorization to fly in most areas around Manassas Regional Airport, which is in restricted airspace. If you are interested in aerial photography or video of your property, contact Airscape Photography by phone ([571-292-4510](tel:571-292-4510)) or email (airscapephoto@gmail.com). Samples of the company's work are available at: <http://airscapephotography.zenfolio.com/>.



The Cedars Farm

Calling all Volunteers!

Bored ? Feeling Charitable with your time? We are always looking for volunteers here at the office and for our various out in the field endeavors. MWEE, Farm Field Days, and Water Quality, can always use another pair of hands.

Contact Pam Popovitch
MWEE
mwee@pwsxcd.org

Contact Alice Markiewicz
Farm Field Days
Education@pwsxcd.org

Contact Veronica Tangiri
Water Quality
waterquality@pwsxcd.org



Conservationist of the Year – Mike Rolband with Jay Yankey District Manager and Mike Miller Conservation Planner at the Awards Dinner in June (see article on page 4)

Tired of the Fescue Summer Brown-Out and Toxicosis Issues? Go Native

By David Bryan, Private Lands Biologist, NRCS/DGIF/Virginia Tech

Well, folks, we're getting into the warm season again and for most Virginia grazers, this is the time of year when fescue pastures are browning out into summer dormancy. Fescue is a highly versatile forage species, but this cool season grass isn't built to grow in the summer, especially hot and dry ones. It is also a well-known fact that fescue plays host to an endophyte fungus that causes a variety of negative impacts to livestock, most especially the constriction of blood vessels that interferes with the cattle's ability to regulate its body temperature. Ever wonder why your cattle have been hanging out all day in the shade?

Enter native warm season grasses. Unlike fescue, native perennials such as Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem and Eastern Gammagrass thrive in the summer months. They photosynthesize using a different pathway than fescue, and they also have 6-10 foot root systems, allowing them to harvest water and nutrients from the deep for vigorous growth in the hot summer months. Perhaps most importantly to grazers, they are excellent forages that, when managed correctly, can produce tremendous results in terms of average daily gain – and with very little nitrogen or lime inputs! While typical toxic summer fescue gains may be 0.8 pounds per day per head (lbs/day), researchers at the

University of Tennessee have shown that average gains over a 112 day growing season have averaged up to 1.74 lbs/day on Switchgrass and 2.11 lbs/day on a mix of Indiangrass and the Bluestems. Move over, fescue, you've got some serious competition!

Optimally a quarter to a third of ones' forage base should be considered for conversion to natives as part of a well-managed rotational grazing system. However, it is always wise to convert in stages, spreading out your risk and the costs over several years. Interested? Reach out to your local District staff, NRCS office in Warrenton at 540-316-6518 or your Private Lands Biologist David Bryan at 804-287-1661 for more information than can help you determine if natives might be a good fit on your land. Additionally, NRCS has recently launched a new program, "Working Lands for Wildlife", designed to provide financial assistance to farmers interested in getting native grass forages on their land, thereby improving their forage base and their bottom line. And yes, as the title suggests, these forages also are great for wildlife, particularly grassland and shrubland bird species such as the elusive Northern Bobwhite quail. It is a win-win for everyone – the farmer, the cows and the birds. Give us a call, we look forward to discussing the options with you.



Photo: Justin Folks



Photo: Barbara Bowen