



Farmer and Landowner Outreach Event

The District invites you to an evening of exciting presentations led by industry professionals! These presentations will have valuable information for your farm/land. Our programs provide funding and free technical assistance that can help you reach your farm and landowner goals! We also offer programs and information about urban conservation for homeowners.

Featured Agencies include:

- Virginia State University Small Farm Program
- Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension
- NRCS
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Farm Bureau
- District Staff & Board Members



Event Details (This event is FREE!):

- 6-8 PM, January 24 at Cedar Run Brewery
- Email duanemohr@pwsacd.org to RSVP by Jan. 20 (not required, but helps with headcount)
- Refreshments will be provided (if attending in-person)
- Broadcast On Zoom (see website at www.pwsacd.org for zoom link information)



Newsletter Feedback needed!

What do you think of our newsletter? How could we improve? If you could take a few minutes of your time to let us know what you think, it will be greatly appreciated! Please scan the QR code to take the survey. Thank you!



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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). PWSACD 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	John Price, Chairman Will Lintner, Vice Chairman Mansurman Kabon, Treasurer Tiziana Botino, Secretary Thomas Boles, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent
Associate Directors	Clay Morris Steve Danziger Harrison Gasgow Somie Cutley
Staff	Duane Mohr, District Manager Linda Dunn, Administrative Assistant Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist Seth Hattfeld, Conservation Specialist Alex Murphy, Conservation Specialist James Mitchell, Conservation Specialist Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Program/Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator Jessica McCallie, Education Specialist Jay Yankey, Cost-Share Specialist

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



Conservation InFARMation

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Winter 2022-2023

It's been a year since our last newsletter, and so much has changed! Check out this newsletter for the latest and greatest information of what the District has been up to, and all of the exciting events coming up! ~ Nicole Slazinski, Conservation Specialist

5th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium 2023

Stop Mowing, Start Growing!

Registration is now OPEN for the 5th Annual Native Plant Symposium! This year's symposium will feature a wide variety of topics that will interest anyone!



Picture from Julie Flanagan

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2023
SNOW DATE: Saturday, February 18, 2023 (same times and location)

TIME: 9AM to 4:00PM

LOCATION:

In-person: Verizon Auditorium at George Mason University in Manassas, VA 20109

Online: Zoom

COST:

*In-person tickets: \$30

Online tickets: \$15

**In-person tickets light breakfast fare, lunch and access to vendors for all in-person participant*

REGISTRATION LINK:

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



Our Keynote Speaker will be Nancy Lawson, author of "The Humane Gardener." Ms. Lawson has traveled all

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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Water Quality Update



Thank you to all our Amazing Volunteers whose hard work and dedication in protecting water quality across Prince William were recognized with National Earth Team Award by the National Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS, USDA) Earth Team Program last April.

The end of 2022 recorded more achievements under the Water Quality programs. Water Quality volunteers saved over \$129,618 of taxpayers' money (Independent Sector Volunteer Rate @ 29.95/hr.).

Here are some other highlights from 2022:

The Adopt-A-Stream/Pond/ River Program registered 39 cleanup events covering 88.62 miles of local streams. 27,970 lbs. of debris was intercepted from reaching the Chesapeake Bay. Over 1,199 litter bags and 134 tires were collected. These efforts recorded over 3,376 hours of volunteers' time.

The Biological Monitoring program registered 20 monitoring events with over 128 participants. 4 newly

District Staff and Board Changes

The year 2022 brought about some new changes with District Staff:

- Mike Miller has gone back north to pursue a career in teaching. The District wishes him and his family the best of luck!
- Jay Yankey is no longer the District Manager so he can focus more on his farm. He is still with the District.
- Duane Mohr failed at retiring and is now the District Manager.
- Nicole Slazinski moved to part-time after becoming a mom to triplets. Oops.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2023, Jim Gehlsen has left the board after serving the District for over 10 years; John Price has rejoined the board and is now the active Chairman.
- District employees Linda Dunn, Veronica Tangiri, and Jessica McCaulley are continuing to work hard with their programs and services!

certified monitors and a certified trainer were added to the program. Special thanks to Prince William County and Manassas City Public Schools for their engagement to promote more science and data. Thanks to the Town of Dumfries for promoting E. Coli monitoring.

The Chemical monitoring program added 9 new monitors and registered over 670 monitoring events. These volunteers put in over 538 hours collecting water data. 22 new monitoring sites were added to the program's map in 2022.

Special thanks to all the local organizations, cooperate sectors, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the County Government for their extra support to the program.

We hope you will join us this 2023 for more water quality improvement in the community! To stay up to date with upcoming events, please e-mail Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsxcd.org who can include you on her monthly "Watershed Newsletter."

The District has also hired 3 new Conservation Specialists:

- Seth Hatfield—Graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelors degree in Environmental Biology. When in high school, was a former volunteer with the District's Water Quality Monitoring program. Grew up at Heaven Scent Farm in Gainesville.
- Alex Murphy—Graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Ecological Science. While at GMU, conducted a year-long study on the relationships between soil structure and plant diversity.
- James Mitchell—Graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelors degree in Geographic Science. Grew up on a hay farm in Gainesville.



Financial Assistance for Farmers



We have a wide variety of cost-share practices available and plenty of funding to support them!

Some of our common practices include:

Practice	Description	Funding includes:
SL-6N & SL-6W	Stream Exclusion and Grazing Land Management	fencing livestock out of waterways, providing alternative watering sources, installing stream crossings, etc. with the option of installing a narrow buffer of 10-35' (SL-6N) or a wider buffer of 35'+ (SL-6W)
WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facility	Installing a facility to store animal waste; variety of options are available
SL-8B & SL-8H	Cover crop practices	Installing cover crops on land when main crops aren't growing; cover crops can be harvested (SL-8H) or killed (SL-8B)

If you have already participated in our cost-share program but your practice has expired, we have programs for you as well!

Cost-share practices mean we share the cost; you'll get reimbursed by a certain percentage (depending on the practice) after it has been verified as being installed correctly. We will work with you throughout the entire process.

Before you can sign up for any of our cost-share practices,

we must first do a site visit to see if you qualify. We will also need to provide you with a conservation plan specific to your farm, or a renewal plan if your current plan is out of date.

For more information on our cost-share program, please visit our website at pwsxcd.org/costshare. You can also call us at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail Duane Mohr at duanemohr@pwsxcd.org.

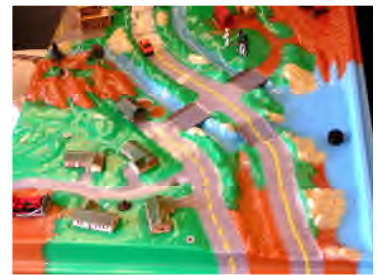
We look forward to working with you!

Capsule Program

Variety of Educational Programs for K-12

Our Capsule Program is available to all educators in Prince William County and the City of Manassas (including homeschoolers!). Each capsule contains an activity/demonstration with instructions, supplies, educational material, and a list of SOLs that the activity addresses.

For more information on available capsules for your grade and to request a capsule, please visit our website at pwsxcd.org/capsules.



Watershed Enviroscape Model, one of the available capsules

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)
 Registration for VCAP is now open to Prince William County residents! VCAP s a program that helps HOAs, individual homeowners, schools, places of worship, and other communities with urban soil erosion and water runoff. Our most common VCAP practices include:

- Conservation Landscaping
- Rain Gardens

For more information or to apply, please visit www.pwsxcd.org/

Photo is Jerusalem Artichoke from <https://www.humanegardener.com/burnweed-life>

