



From the *Fall Line*

Serving the Counties of King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford & the City of Fredericksburg **Fall 2017**



2017 Clean Water Farm and Bay-Friendly Farm Award

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Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to nominate John Cornette (*above*) for the local 2017 Clean Water Farm Award and Bay-Friendly Farm Award in the Potomac River Watershed. John and his wife, Vera run a cow/calf operation on El Tierra Farm in King George County.

(See more on page 2)

CONTACT US:

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FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22408
(540) 656-2401/2402

WWW.TCCSWCD.ORG



2017 Clean Water Farm and Bay Friendly Farm Award (continued)

John Cornette is no stranger to the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District. He first collaborated with the District nearly thirty years ago when he installed a hydraulic ram pump system in a stream. The system required no electricity



to pump water to two 500-gallon concrete watering troughs for horses in his front pasture fields. Since then, John retired from his commercial retail business and decided to try his hand at farming full time. He bought a few American Arberdeen cows and worked with them for few years. He then decided to grow his herd.

The Cornettes' farm consists of 30 acres of pasture/hayland and 100 acres of woodland. John contacted the District to discuss his objectives and to see if we could help him with his goals. We discussed his plans and offered our technical and financial assistance.

We provided our technical assistance to convert timberland to pasture, over-seed some hayland and install some perimeter fence for pasture. His next project was to fence the cattle away from the stream and provide an alternate watering source for his animals. Through the state Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost – Share Program, John received funding to install a deep well, 1,200 feet pipeline and two watering troughs in the fence line and about 400 feet of cross fence to maximize his rotational grazing system and forage production. He also takes soil samples and then applies fertilizer according to the recommendation for plant uptake.

John implements a Conservation Plan across his farm and is doing his part to preserve water quality in the Potomac watershed. He exemplifies the use of conservation practices that protect and enhance water quality. Mr. Cornette never wishes to see his property as anything but a farm. He hopes to find someone younger with a love for the farm and who shares his vision for the farm to continue the operation and the practices he has implemented.

For technical or financial assistance with your farm operation, please call Etta Lucas, Conservation Specialist, at (540) 656-2402.



NRCS CORNER

By Lucee Kossler, NRCS District Conservationist

Virginia Natural Resource Conservation Service (VA NRCS) has moved Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application deadlines up **significantly earlier** than in years past. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in signing up for cropland, livestock, or wildlife applications, the last deadline for doing so is January 19, 2018 for FY18. These applications can include cover crops, nutrient management, no-till/reduced till, stream exclusion, rotational grazing, and wildlife creation practices. Please note that these practices are usually different to what TCCSWCD offers. In some cases, producers can sign up with both agencies for a variation of practices...we will help you determine what you are eligible to do with your operation.



Harvest season is upon us and that means it's time to start thinking cover crops! If you have contracted cover crops with NRCS and need additional information on planting specs, don't hesitate to give us a call. We have three different cover crop planting scenarios, so if you're unsure of what is in your plan, I'd rather check it prior to planting instead of after it's too late!

NRCS will start making Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments in December. If you want your CSP payment in 2017, call me in early December to schedule a time to meet so I can have all your paperwork ready and give you a heads up if additional documentation is needed before you arrive. If you prefer a 2018 payment, call me in January.

Safe harvesting and happy fall to everyone!

Lucee F. Kossler
USDA-NRCS District Conservationist,
Fredericksburg Service Center
540-899-9492 ext 115
Lucia.kossler@va.usda.gov

FALL 2017 TCCSWCD Environmental Education Programs

Oakley Farm Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE)



This past October TCCSWCD delivered its “Wetlands Scavenger Hunt” program to more than 2,000 students during the Oakley Farm Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) event. Virginia Cooperative Extension’s 4H Club hosts the annual field days at Oakley Farm and the event provides watershed education to all fourth-graders in Spotsylvania County. During day-long field trips students participate in activities where they learn about land use on the farm, agricultural products, forests, and wildlife. Each topic connects the impacts on land to water quality in the nearby watershed.



TCCSWCD’s “Wetlands’ Scavenger Hunt” program invites children to explore wetlands trees, animals, and soil that together create unique ecosystem

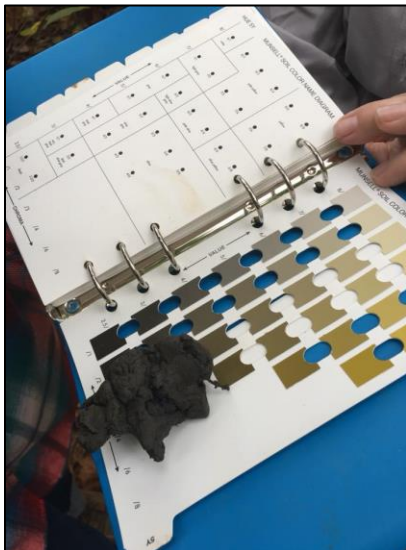


offering important services to humans and wildlife. Through use of identification guides children learn which plants can grow in soils with the continuous presence of water and how plants can

adapt to these conditions. The activity also encourages students to touch and smell different types of wetlands’ soils as students discover how wetlands’ grounds can filter and purify polluted runoff from the upland pastures and fields. Lastly, students learn how to identify animal footprints of many animals that live in wetlands.

As the children interact with the beautiful wetland forest, they gain new appreciation for the wetland environments that are crucial to maintaining food webs and preventing pollution from entering nearby streams, which in turn ensures healthy ecosystems in the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Wetland Ecology Workshop for the New Master Naturalists Class



On October 14, 2017 TCCSWCD's Education Coordinator taught a workshop titled "Wetlands Ecology and Management" to the current class of the Virginia Master Naturalists Central Rappahannock Chapter (VMNCRC). The group came to the Crows' Nest Natural Area Preserve for the wetlands class as a part of the basic training required for new Master Naturalists. Topics included the functions and significance of wetlands and basic concepts of wetlands delineation: recognizing hydric soils, observing ground surface hydrology, and identifying wetlands plants and animals. The two-hour session concluded with a hike through tidal wetlands edging Crows' Nest guided by Department of Conservation & Recreation Northern Steward and manager for Crow's Nest, Mike Lott. Our heartfelt thanks to Mike for helping with the successful workshop!



Likewise, we appreciate the partnership with our local Master Naturalists' chapter, and we look forward to future collaborations.

For more information on becoming a Master Naturalist please visit <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/>

To schedule or coordinate wetlands-themed activities, please contact Izabela Sikora, TCCSWCD Education Coordinator, at 540-656-2402 or email Izabela.sikora@tccswcd.org

2017 NACD Conservation Poster Contest
TCCSWCD Local Winners

We are very excited to present you the local winners of the 2017 NACD Conservation Poster Contest. The local round of the contest is sponsored by Tri-County/City SWCD and is open to K-12 students in the City of Fredericksburg as well as in the Counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, and King George. The winners move on to the state and national competitions. Stand by for updates coming in January 2018!

Congratulations to our local winners!

Oliver Harris (1st Grade, Grafton Village ES)

Madison Colaizzi (2nd Grade, Potomac ES)

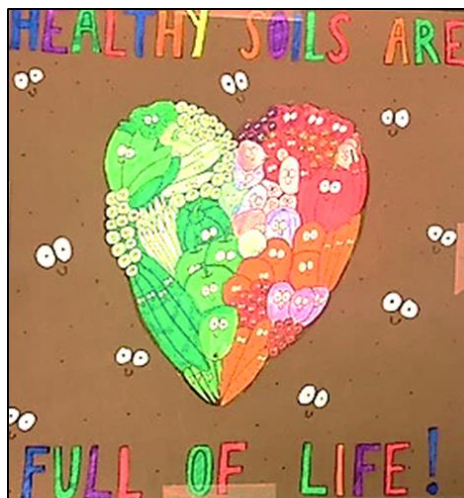
Maya B. Jani (6th Grade, Ni River ES)

Rylie Rainer (7th grade, KG MS)

Anna Naomi Hall (12th Grade, King George HS)



Madison Colaizzi, 2nd Grade



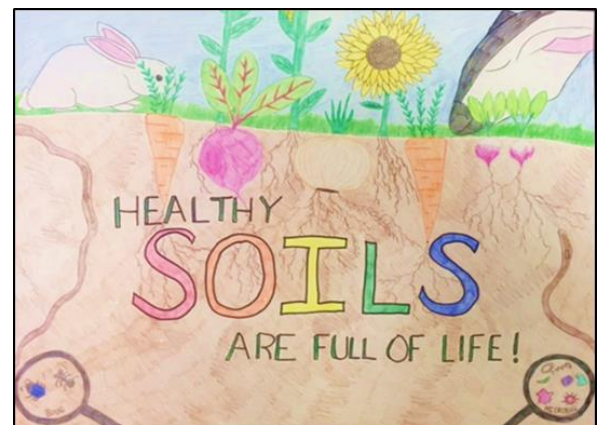
Anna Hall, 12th Grade



Rylie Rainer, 7th Grade



Oliver Harris, 1st Grade



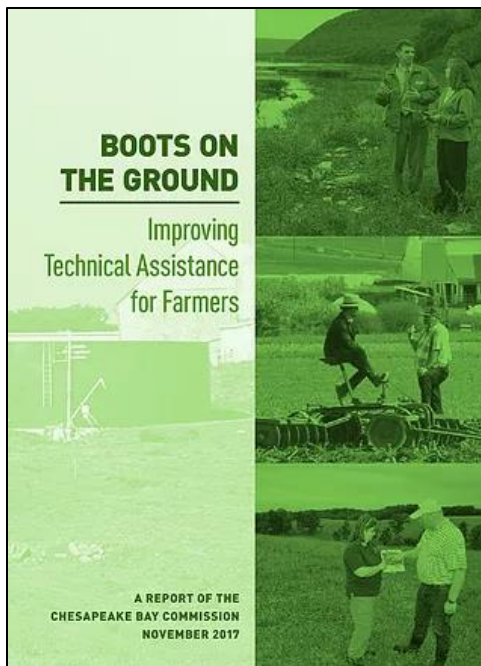
Maya B. Jani, 6th Grade

Upcoming Events and Announcements

ATTENTION: **New Report Addresses Farming & Conservation Needs**



On Thursday, November 9, 2017 members of the bipartisan Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC), representing legislators from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia met with environmental leaders, farming representatives, and government officials to discuss how to better support farmers in their efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution damaging local waters and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.



The Commission discussed and released its new policy report *“Boots on the Ground: Improving Technical Assistance for Farmers.”* The report provides a clear understanding of the assistance that conservation districts and other agencies provide and is the first Bay-wide effort documenting the escalating need for such technical assistance to guide farmers in planning and installing pollution control practices. As noted by Commission Chairman State Representative Garth Everett (R-PA), “With the overwhelming amount of reliance on agriculture to help clean up the Bay, there simply aren’t enough ‘boots on the ground’ to provide the help needed to farmers to get the job done.”

Please see the full report at:

<http://www.chesbay.us/Publications/CBC%20TA%20Report%20Boots%20on%20the%20Ground.pdf>

Upcoming Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings



The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will conduct two trainings for private pesticide applicators in December for categories 90 (*Food, Fiber, Forestry Products and Commodity Production Pest Control*) and 91 (*Ornamental Pest Control*). These classes are designed to meet the educational requirements for

maintaining a private pesticide applicator's license. You should have received a letter from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) recently informing you of your educational credits and whether you need to attend additional pesticide education classes to complete re-certification requirements.

If you received a letter from the VDACS notifying you that your license expires this December, you must attend a recertification program before December 31, 2017.

You may attend the location of your choice. Applicators who do not need additional credit to renew their licenses this year may attend these courses and build or bank credit for future recertification requirements. The practice of building credits is wise as you never know when you might need to draw upon them to meet your recertification requirements.

Pre-registration is helpful but not required.

To help us plan for these classes, please call Terry Graham in the Spotsylvania VCE office at 540-507-7520 to register. You must attend the full session to receive recertification credits.

Please bring your current private pesticide applicators license to the re-certification session.

If you have questions give Mike Broaddus a call at 804-633-6550 or Guy Mussey at 540-658-8000.

Two Locations

Where: Caroline County Community Center

**17202 Richmond Tpke,
Milford, VA 22514**

When: December 6, 2017

**Time: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
(Doors open at 8:30 AM)**

**Where: Spotsylvania VCE Office
8800 Courthouse Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553**

When: December 6, 2017

**Time: 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM
(Doors open at 5:45 PM)**



2018 Virginia Forage and Grassland Council (VFGC) Winter Conferences



***Theme: If It Don't Make Dollar\$, It Don't Make Sense:
Adapting in a World of Change***

The daylong conference will be repeated at four locations:

- Wytheville, Wytheville Meeting Center, January 29, 2018
- Chatham, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex, January 30, 2018
- Madison, Fire Hall, January 31, 2018
- Weyers Cave, Weyers Cave Community Center, February 1, 2018

The 2018 conference highlights the realities of grassland farming and what it takes to adapt to the changing circumstances.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Dennis Hancock from the University of Georgia, where he is an associate professor in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department and the Forage Extension Specialist. Participants will also hear from Keith Tuck, who currently farms in the Moneta community in southern Bedford County. He transitioned from tobacco production years ago and now owns and operates a commercial beef cattle operation with around 100 cow /calf pairs on a total of 250 acres between owned and rented land. The VFGC and VCE will feature local livestock producers speaking on the afternoon theme of "Solutions for your farm and future." Conference participants will hear and see discussion of cooperators experiences of grazing demonstrations under the title "Changes in Management Provides Opportunities for Production, Marketing, and Soil Health".

To register online please visit: <http://vaforages.org/if-it-dont-make-dollar-it-dont-make-sense-adapting-in-a-world-of-change/>. For more information, please contact: J. B. Daniel j.b.daniel@va.usda.gov or call (434) 392-4171 x 115



Mattaponi River TMDL Implementation Plan to Reduce Bacterial Contamination

Early in 2018 the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will convene interested stakeholders to inform and guide development of an implementation plan (IP) to address bacteria contamination within the Mattaponi watershed. The upstream portion or roughly one-third of this large watershed falls within the jurisdiction of the TCCSWCD. Development of the IP follows a 2016 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report that identified the level of bacteria reductions needed for fourteen impaired stream segments to meet their recreational use (swimming) water quality standards. A Public Meeting is planned for March 2018 and opportunities to participate in agricultural, residential septic, and government workgroups will follow in April.

Look for more information in early 2018 at:

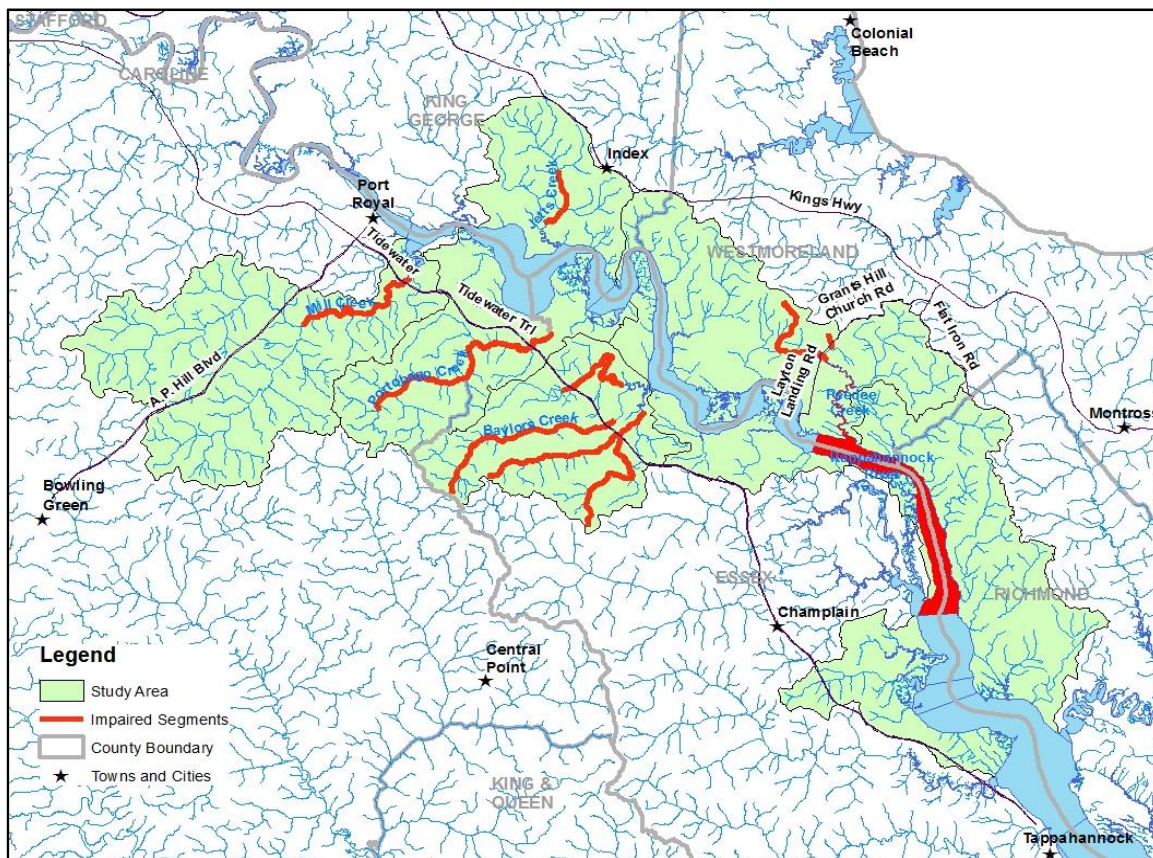
<http://deq.state.va.us/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/PublicNotices.aspx>

What is a TMDL?

The amount of pollution a stream can receive and still meet water quality standards.

What is a TMDL Study?

A TMDL Study identifies sources of pollution and estimates amount of reductions from each source necessary to meet water quality standards.



2018 TCCSWCD Tree Seedling Sale

Taking pre-orders NOW!

TCCSWCD is busy getting ready for the 2018 Annual Seedling Sale. For the last several decades, TCCSWCD has organized an annual sale to the community of low-cost, high-quality bare-root seedlings. Although the sale is not necessarily a big fundraiser, it is a popular activity for us and the community, and it provides the valuable service of making affordable, quality plants more available here locally. All funds that are generated by the sale go to support the TCCSWCD's many educational activities.

Advantages of Bare-Root Seedlings

In exchange for choosing the often smaller-sized bare-root seedlings and being ready to plant the seedling once you receive it, you gain several advantages when buying bare-root seedlings instead of seedlings in containers or ball-and-burlap.

- **Cost** - Bare-root seedlings generally cost 30-50% less than the same sized containerized seedling.
- **Value** - Not only are they less expensive, you get a lot of value for your money. Bare-roots seedlings typically have more root mass than comparably aged ball-and-burlap seedlings.
- **Easier Handling** - Bare-root seedlings are easier to handle during transport and planting since they don't have the added weight and bulk of soil.
- There is also some evidence that bare-root seedlings get established and grow faster because the seedling can more easily adapt to the new soil it is planted in than a seedling that has been grown and transported in original soil.



Photo: Thomas Landis, USDA, 20010

Please see an order form (next page) with available species and dates for pick up. Factsheets on each species are available on our website at <http://tccswcd.org>. For more information call the district at 540-656-2401. Thank you for your participation!



Tree Seedling & Rain Barrel Sale

PLACE ORDERS UNTIL APRIL 10TH!
while supplies last



Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
Grows to 12-20 ft. height. Creamy white blooms in May to June. Easily grown in moist to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Attracts birds and is deer-resistant.

Trees benefit us and our environment by controlling erosion, reducing toxins, converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Proceeds are used for TCCSWCD conservation education programs.



Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Grows to 20-30 ft. height. Beautiful showy "red buds" in spring. Grows in moist, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Deer-resistant.



American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
Grows to 3-6 ft. height. Loosely branched. Tiny lilac flowers in spring give way to vivid purple berries in the fall enjoyed by wildlife. Grows in moist to dry soils in full sun to part shade. Not deer-resistant.



Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
Grows to 10-16 ft. height and 8-13 ft. width. Low maintenance. Grown in moist to dry, well-drained soil in part shade. Produces excellent nuts. Not deer-resistant.



Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
Grows to 8-15 ft. height. Sweet-smelling flowers in Spring. Prefers moist to dry, fertile, well-drained soils in full sun to light shade. Attracts butterflies and is deer resistant.



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
Grows to 15-30 ft. height. Prefers moist, well-drained soils and full or part sun. Useful for wildlife habitat, slope stabilization, and as an ornamental. Deer-resistant.



Rain Barrel – Collect and store rain water runoff from your rooftop via rain gutters. Great way to water your landscape and garden and save money. The rain barrels are made of recycled plastic bottles. Kit includes all hardware for complete installation and directions. Also available year-round at Tri-County/City SWCD office.



American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Grows to 5-12 ft. height. Prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun. White blooms with edible fruit. Attracts birds and butterflies. Not deer-resistant.

Directions: Fill out form. Check LOCATION you will pick up your seedlings. Pre-payment preferred. Fax: (540) 656-2403; Mail: TCCSWCD, 4811 Carr Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22408; Email: tricitycity@tccswcd.org; or Phone: (540)656-2401 by April 10th 2018.

I WILL PICK UP MY SEEDLINGS HERE:

Friday, April 13, 2018 12-4pm
Tri-County/City SWCD Office
4811 Carr Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Saturday, April 14, 2018 9am-12pm
Fredericksburg Farmers Market
Hurkamp Park
George & Prince Edward Street
NOTE permit parking only signs



NAME _____ PHONE _____
COUNTY/CITY _____ HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SALE? _____
EMAIL* _____ *Email reminders will be sent in the spring.

SEEDLING SPECIES	SIZE	#/PACK	\$/PACK	# PACK(S)	TOTAL	SEEDLING SPECIES	SIZE	#/PACK	\$/PACK	# PACK(S)	TOTAL
Fringetree	12-18"	2	\$4		\$	Hazelnut	8-18"	2	\$4		\$
Eastern Redbud	8-16"	2	\$4		\$	Elderberry	10-18"	2	\$4		\$
American Beautyberry	12-18"	2	\$4		\$	Lilac	12"	2	\$4		\$
Flowering Dogwood	10-18"	2	\$4		\$	Rain Barrel	50 gal	1	\$75		\$
						TOTAL AMOUNT DUE					\$

We Have Rain Barrels!

Installation of a rain barrel is an excellent way to prevent soil erosion, conserve water and save money. Rain barrels are containers that are connected to your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. The water collected can provide plants and gardens with water, reduce flooding in your yard, and help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

TCCSWCD sells 50 gallon rain barrels for \$75 year-round. Each rain barrel comes with complete instructions and installation kit. Contact the District today to reserve yours!

The EarthMinded™ RainStation™

Rain Barrel connects to your downspout and automatically collects runoff water from your home's roof.

Product features:

- ***A reversible “Planter Top” lid that can be used to grow annuals or herbs on top of the barrel making it both functional and decorative.***
- ***Flexifit™ Diverter automatically passes excess water through the downspout to prevent flooding***
- ***Hole saw included, installs in minutes***
- ***A large opening lid with locking feature for safety***
- ***Sealed system keeps out mosquitoes, pests and sunlight***
- ***Works with standard rectangular downspouts (2 x 3" and 3 x 4")***

<http://www.earthmindedconsumerproducts.com/index.html>

Did you know?

A single 1" rain storm on a 1,000 square foot results in 600+ gallons of rooftop runoff.



TRI-COUNTY/CITY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORY



District Directors

Giannina Frantz, <i>Chair</i>	Fredericksburg
Mike Broaddus, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	VA Cooperative Extn
Wayne Miller, <i>Secretary</i>	Spotsylvania
Janet Gayle Harris, <i>Treasurer</i>	King George
Jeff Adams	Stafford
Mike Anderson	Stafford
Steve Cameli	Fredericksburg
Jan Massey	Spotsylvania
Richard Street	At-large
Robert Wernsman	King George

Associate Directors

Gordon Linkous	Fredericksburg
John Howe	Stafford
Ray Simms	Spotsylvania

District Staff

Marta Perry	District Manager
Etta Lucas	Conservation Specialist
Kim McAfee	Administrative Professional
Izabela Sikora	Education Coordinator

Partner Agencies

Amy Walker, <i>DCR</i>	Conservation District Coordinator
Lucia Kossler, <i>NRCS</i>	District Conservationist

TCCSWCD maintains a working relationship with each of the following agencies and organizations to reach common conservation goals:

- City of Fredericksburg
- King George County
- Spotsylvania County
- Stafford County
- USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA – Farm Services Agency
- VA Department of Conservation & Recreation
- VA Cooperative Extension
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- VA State Parks
- VA Native Plant Society
- Tree Fredericksburg
- George Washington Regional Council
- Potomac River Watershed Roundtable
- Rappahannock River Basin Commission
- York River & Small Coastal Basins Roundtable
- VA Department of Environmental Quality
- VA Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- VA Department of Forestry
- VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- VA Outdoors Foundation
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

All programs and services of the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, age, marital status, disability, gender, gender identity, political affiliation or any other basis protected by law.