



# From the Fall Line

Summer 2020

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



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# DOES YOUR STORM DRAIN SPARK JOY?



This storm drain needs a lot of TLC! The pipe is getting filled with sediment, which can lead to flooding and erosion.

By now, many of us have read the book, seen the Netflix show, or at least heard of Marie Kondo's "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up" where she discusses how to create a happier living environment with cleaning out the things that don't "spark joy". While spending more time at home during the coronavirus pandemic, some have taken this time to go through their belongings and to find what "sparks joy" for their home. With the help of Marie Kondo, why not look to the storm drains in your neighborhood to see if they need an extra boost of tidying to spark joy for the Chesapeake Bay watershed?

## CONTACT US

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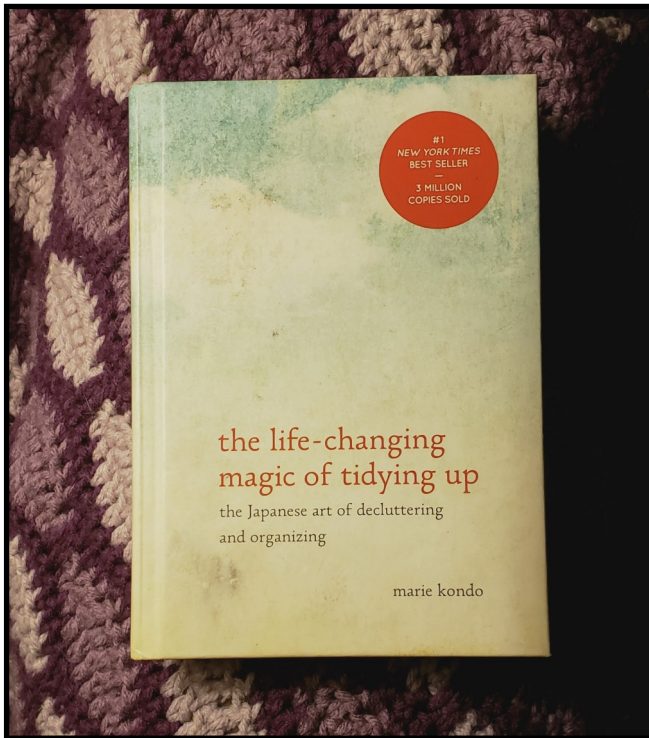


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A well-loved copy of Marie Kondo's "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up".

- Hop on the popular trend of “plogging” where you go on a daily jog while picking up litter on the way.
- Be careful not to over-apply your pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer. The excess gets picked up by stormwater causing pollution problems and literally washing your money down the drain! Did you know that most homeowners are using too much product when they apply? One homeowner using too much might not seem like an issue, but when everyone up and down the street is using too much. . . we have a big problem. Reading the instructions carefully for amount and checking the weather for upcoming rains can help reduce your use while keeping the Bay free of chemicals.
- Pick up after your dog! Animal scat can be decomposed but only when it is buried in the soil or added to the compost bin. If your dog is doing the deed on top of the grass, that scat will only be washed away during the next rain event, contributing as pollution.

Here are a couple suggestions to help you get started on this journey for a happier storm drain:

- Check your drain for rocks, debris, or trash buildup. Over time, sediments, rocks, and bits of trash start to accumulate which, like leaves, can lead to clogs and flooding. Take a shovel to clear your storm drain annually so that it can continue working properly.
- Leaves are beautiful in the Fall, but they certainly don't belong in the drain! Fallen leaves can lead to clogs which then create pooling of water on your property, causing unnecessary erosion, wet basements, or even flooding. Rake up those leaves and save them as mulch or fertilizer in your compost bins to bring nutrients to your garden.
- Do you see trash in the neighborhood? Pick it up – it just takes a moment! Be sure you and your neighbors are keeping a tight lid on trash & recycling bins, especially during windy days.

What is stormwater anyway? Stormwater is the water that collects and runs off hard surfaces such as roofs, roads, and sidewalks. This water is not absorbed by any vegetation and ends up trickling into the drains we see on the side of the road. These drains then divert that water to the nearest creek, stream, or river as it travels back to the Chesapeake Bay.

What's the problem? Inevitably stormwater picks up pollution like trash, leaves, or fertilizer runoff. Everything is simply carried through the drains and into the closest water body as it travels to the Atlantic Ocean. There is no “cleaning” process, unfortunately. But that is where you come in!



### Friendly Reminder—Don't Feed the Storm Drain!

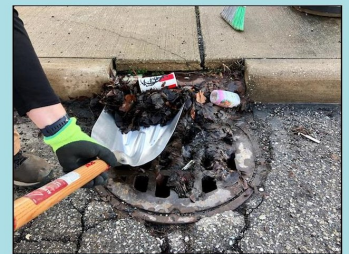
Now that your storm drain is clean, how about taking it a step further? This upcoming August, a group of local scouts in Spotsylvania are banding together, at a proper distance, to stencil messages on their drains to remind passersby where that water goes. These signs are a fantastic way to raise local awareness and remind everyone that our trash is contributing to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

If you are interested in organizing a similar project in your neighborhood, contact us. As your local Soil & Water Conservation District to set up a "Storm Drain Stenciling" session we'd love to continue sparking joy in the Chesapeake Bay watershed!

Email TCCSWCD Education Coordinator **Mariya Hudick** at [mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org](mailto:mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org) or call (540) 656-2401 for more information.



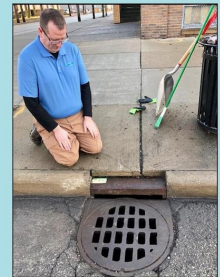
Does your storm drain spark joy?



If not, declutter your storm drain.



Take a step back to admire your storm drain.



Thank your storm drain for all it does for you.

Graphic by the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District where they encourage you to "spark joy" with your storm drain!



## RECOMMENDED READINGS

Have a suggestion you would like to see in the next issue? Contact **Mariya Hudick** at (540) 656-2402 or email [mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org](mailto:mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org)

### "Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History" by Bill Laws

"Discover the exciting and wide-ranging stories of the fifty plants and their significance in human history." This is a fantastic visual read for students in the high school age and older where Bill Laws, a social historian, takes you on an adventure through time to learn about plants that altered the course of human development. From Bamboo to Corn, this guide is a stunning addition to any naturalist if you are looking at early Christmas shopping!

### "Pierre-Joseph Redoute: The Book of Flowers" by H. Walter Lack

Is botanical illustration a love of yours? Then this book is for you! Pierre-Joseph Redoute was a Belgian painter and botanist who created hundreds of observational illustrations of the flowers of Chateau de Malmaison. Sometimes referred to as the "Raphael of Flowers", he is renowned for his delicate and precise artistry in botanical illustration. This book is a collection of his paintings that serves to inspire and educate budding scientific artists.

# VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU TV SHOW FEATURES SPOTSYLVANIA FARMERS

A recent episode of Virginia Farm Bureau's weekly TV program, "**Real Virginia**" featured Spotsylvania farmers including **TCC Director Jan Massey** and long-time friends of the District, **William Biscoe and Sam Harris**. The filming and concept were recently highlighted in a Free Lance Star newspaper article by local reporter Cathy Dyson.

"Burke Moeller knew Spotsylvania represented a tale of two counties: the development and congested roadways near Fredericksburg and Interstate 95 versus the more pastoral scenes of rustic barns and cornfields in the southwestern end.

But until he brought a camera crew to film a segment for an upcoming Virginia Farm Bureau show, Moeller—who's lived in Spotsylvania since 2005—didn't realize just how much farming takes place, particularly in the Lake Anna area.

"I've been to a lot of counties in the state," said Moeller, a video producer for the Farm Bureau, "and I really am impressed by how much agriculture is still going on" in Spotsylvania."<sup>1</sup>

*Dyson, Cathy. 2020. "THE WORKING FAMILY FARMS OF SPOTSYLVANIA: Farm Bureau show highlights Spotsylvania agriculture." Free Lance Star, July 17. [https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/farm-bureau-show-highlights-spotsylvania-agriculture/article\\_610f2546-772f-563b-bcfa-e104c5d0a4e3.html](https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/farm-bureau-show-highlights-spotsylvania-agriculture/article_610f2546-772f-563b-bcfa-e104c5d0a4e3.html)*

Real Virginia is broadcast every week on YouTube and on PBS and cable systems across the Old Dominion. The half-hour show is for consumers and families in Virginia and focuses on both agriculture news and family-oriented stories. The show also offers cooking and gardening segments that feature products from Virginia. You can find the Spotsylvania episode online at [youtube.com/user/VirginiaFarmBureau](https://www.youtube.com/user/VirginiaFarmBureau).

## Announcement!

Unfortunately, the 2020 Central Rappahannock Master Naturalist Basic Training Class has been canceled due to the COVID 19 restrictions. The Master Naturalist Board will continue to monitor the situation and following guidance from the State may be able offer Basic Training during the spring semester.

# COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

KEEP IN THE KNOW AND UP TO DATE!

## Mark Your Calendars!

Click on the event title to find out more online.

### 2020 Virtual Vegetable Grower Series

Virginia Cooperative Extension

**August 5 — Noon**

Join Dr. Steve Rideout, Plant Pathologist with Virginia Tech, to discuss seasonal plant disease management strategies, focusing on alternatives for protecting vegetables from late season diseases.

### Keyline Planning and Silvopasture at Porch View Farms

Porch View Farms LLC, Future Harvest, & Chesapeake Bay Foundation

**August 6 — Noon**

Join Keith Ohlinger of Porch View Farm, Michael Heller of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Clagett Farm. This webinar will include a discussion on using keyline planning to enhance the farm's silvopasture system & rotational grazing practices.

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest Series

Virginia Department of Forestry & Virginia Cooperative Extension

**August 7, 14, 21, 28 — Noon**

**September 11, 18, 25 — Noon**

Join this weekly Zoom webinar to learn more about your local forests. Topics include "What Killed my Tree?", Piedmont tree identification, stump herbicide application, and much more!

### Virtual Backyard Composting 101

R-Board &

Central Rappahannock Regional Library

**August 11 — 7:00 PM**

Presented by the R-Board and Virginia Master Gardeners, join this fun and interactive virtual session on backyard composting!

### Aquaculture for Homesteading Series: Rural & Urban Hydroponics

Virginia Cooperative Extension

**August 11, 18, 25 — 10:00 AM**

Homesteading is a growing movement that desires a more self-reliant lifestyle, whether it's rural or urban. This is a series that covers aquaculture production for rural and urban homesteading.

### Managing Wildlife in the Urban Home Landscape

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

**August 14 — 10:00 AM**

Learn how to manage and control garden critters affecting your vegetables, fruits, ornamentals, and lawn with Kirsten Conrad, the Agricultural Natural Resource Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria.

### Fall Lawn Care

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia

**August 28 — 10:00 AM**

Fall is the ideal time to restore cool-season grass, the most common turfgrass grown on lawns in our area. This program will describe how to improve lawns and the underlying soil, and outline steps for ensuring a beautiful weed-free lawn with an emphasis on sustainable practices and minimizing the impact to our native pollinators and wildlife.

### Virginia Sheep Breeders Ram Sale and Educational Sheep Field Day

Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research & Extension Center

**August 29 — 9:00 AM**

*Program purpose:* To provide a standard, impartial postweaning performance test that will furnish records which will be useful to the consignor's breeding program; To provide a source of and market for performance tested rams; To serve as an educational tool for the sheep industry. The Ram Lamb Test is held at the Virginia Sheep Evaluation Center on the [Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley AREC](#) in Steeles Tavern, VA.

### 2020 Homesteaders of America Virtual Conference

Homesteaders of America

**October 9 & 10**

The annual Homesteading Conference that focuses on community and education. This year's Homesteaders of America conference will be virtual! You can access videos from the comfort of your home.

## GREAT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

### Virtual Storytime with Tarneshia

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

**August 7, 14, 21, 28 — 10:00 AM**

Join in the fun on Facebook Live as Children's Educator, Tarneshia Evans, reads a few of her favorite stories! Books read: "What's in the Garden", "Not a Box", "The Black Book of Colors", and "Over in the Garden".

### Online Yoga from the Garden

United States Botanic Garden

**August 8, 15, 22, 29 — 10:30 AM**

Tune into the Garden and WithLoveDC for their weekly community yoga class. The US Botanic Garden is supporting this online yoga class program to promote community health and well-being from the comfort of your home!

### Mindful Mondays with Virginia 4-H

Virginia Cooperative Extension

**August 10, 24; September 14 — 1:00 PM**

Virginia 4-H is hosting a Mindfulness Monday series. Weekly Zoom sessions alternate between Yoga for Kids and mindfulness activities. Sessions are also live-streamed to the Virginia 4-H Facebook page. Although designed for a youth audience, all are welcome to join.

### Preparing for Generation NEXT

Virginia Cooperative Extension

**September 16, 17, 23, 24 — 3:00 PM**

If you have woodland, you have a legacy worth passing on. Learn how to keep your woodland: *Intact, Inforest, Infamily*. This is a legacy planning webinar series. \$40 per family.

# NRCS CORNER



**NRCS STAFF NOTES:** Since July 5, Matt Roberts has been Acting District Conservationist while Lucee Kossler has been temporarily detailed to an NRCS regional position in Harrisonburg until the end of October. Also, Carlie Pemberton has returned as a Pathways Intern with the NRCS office for the summer. She will be graduating Virginia Tech this December with a Bachelors degree in wildlife conservation.

## Getting Ahead of the Summer Slump

It is hard to believe that we are already in the heat of the Summer and the 2020 grazing season. With the warmer temperatures, our cool season forages like tall fescue and orchard grass have begun to slow down and become less effective to meet the nutritional needs of livestock. A good solution to help combat the summer slump is to set aside some acreage to be planted in native warm season grasses. A good mix of these would include Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Eastern Gamma Grass. Native warm season grasses are heat and drought tolerant compared to our cool season grasses.

Recent studies at the University of Tennessee, have resulted in findings of stocker cattle being turned out on Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Eastern Gamma Grass-dominant fields. This yielded a daily weight gain of 1.91-2.38 pounds per day, which results in a total beef yield of 653-671 pounds per acre. A win for the beef producer!

The addition of native warm season grasses into the traditional cool season forage grazing system will give the grazer the much-needed source of mid-summer forage. Both technical and financial assistance is offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program: Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative (EQIP: Beef for Bobs), which assists producers in establishing native warm season grass pastures that are grazed by livestock and utilized as Northern Bob White Quail habitat.

For more information, feel free to contact NRCS at (540)-899-9492.

**Remember, if you've got grass, you've got options!**

- **Matt Roberts**, Acting District Conservationist



## 2021 ANNUAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM SIGN-UP IS UNDERWAY

**Last day to apply is Friday, August 14th!**

One of the directives of the Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District is to deliver the commonwealth's **Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) Cost-Share Program**. The program provides funding for best management practices (BMPs) that protect and improve water quality in local watersheds, which here in the District includes the Potomac River, the Rappahannock River, and the York River. Examples of eligible BMPs are planting cover crops to reduce erosion and retain nutrients in fields that traditionally might have laid barren over the winter; establishing and planting vegetative buffers; fencing livestock out of rivers, ponds, and streams; and developing and implementing a nutrient management plan with a certified Virginia Nutrient Management Plan Writer.



Remember, cost-share sign up is from **July 1 – August 14!**

We will have our base program which includes popular practices such as planting a Small Grain Cover Crop (SL-8B/SL-8H), Converting Cropland to Hayland (SL-1), Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn (NM-3C), installing a Livestock Watering System with well, fencing, pipeline, and trough (SL-6), Nutrient Management Plan Writing (NM-1A), as well as many other practices.

If you apply for cost share assistance and are approved for funding, you must develop a nutrient management plan with a private certified Virginia Nutrient Management Plan Writer to receive the approved amount of funding.

**The initial cost-share sign-up period ends on Friday, August 14, 2020.** Applications for cost-share funding for conservation practices will be accepted during the sign-up period. They will then be ranked and approved at the monthly District Board of Directors meeting on September 18, 2020.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

To limit numbers in the office at a time, we are taking all applications by appointment this year. Call now to schedule your appointment before the Friday, August 14th deadline!

When you arrive for your appointment, please call (540) 656-2402 to be let in. We have plenty of disposable masks at the front reception area in case you don't have yours with you.

Please call **Etta Lucas**, Conservation Specialist, at (540) 656-2402 to discuss the BMP Cost Share Program requirements or to schedule your appointment to complete an application.

### **Who is eligible for "cost-share" monies?**

Anyone having land "in a bona fide program of agricultural management and engaged in the production of agricultural, horticultural, or forest products for market. . . . The real estate must consist of a minimum of five contiguous acres and [have] verifiable gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 per year from the production or sale of agricultural, horticultural, or forest products produced on that land for each of the past five years."

For some BMPs, you may be eligible to receive a state tax credit for 25% of your out-of-pocket expenses. There are also tax credits available for certain agricultural equipment to better utilize your fertilizer application or reduce tillage.

# Tri-County/City

## Soil & Water Conservation District Directory

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### APPOINTED DIRECTORS

##### **VA Cooperative Extension**

Extension Agent  
Mike Broaddus, since 2012

##### **VA Soil & Water Conservation Board**

At-large  
Ray Simms, since 2020<sup>1</sup>

#### ELECTED DIRECTORS

##### **Fredericksburg**

Giannina D. Frantz (Chair), since 2012  
Charles "Chuck" Koch, since 2020

##### **King George**

Janet Gayle Harris (Treasurer), since 1990  
Robert "Bob" Wernsman, since 2016

##### **Spotsylvania**

Jan Massey (Vice Chair), since 2016  
Wayne W. Miller (Secretary), since 1972

##### **Stafford**

Jeff Adams, since 2016  
Tim Makee, since 2020

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

John Howe, Stafford - since 2015  
Lucia Street, Spotsylvania - since 2019

### STAFF

Jen Benson, Administrative Professional  
Mariya Hudick, Education Coordinator  
Etta Lucas, Conservation Specialist  
Marta Perry, District Manager

### PARTNERS

#### **VA Department of Forestry**

David Houttekier, Area Forester

#### **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Matt Roberts, Acting District Conservationist

#### **VA Department of Conservation & Recreation**

Amy Walker, Regional District Coordinator



**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,

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District through financial & administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.