

From the *Fall Line*

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



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"I LIKE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION."



Etta Lucas (far right), in the field doing what she does best — helping others!

On August 17 in 1990, Tri-County/City SWCD welcomed Etta Lucas as a new Agricultural Water Quality Specialist. Fast forward to today, and Etta will retire from her position as the District's Conservation Specialist!

Etta Lucas started her career with USDA's Farmers Home Administration (FHA, now known as the Rural Development program), but then USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) needed assistance. Etta was given two options — either work on the emergency loan program through FHA or go into fieldwork with NRCS. Etta opted for outdoor work rather than "be stuck behind a computer all day."

CONTACT US

4811 Carr Drive • Fredericksburg,
Virginia 22408

(540) 656-2401 or (540) 656-2402

Fax: (540) 656-2403 • tccswcd.org



Etta stepped up to the challenge, absorbing everything she could through the on-the-job training she received. When the opportunity came up to work with Tri-County/City as its first Agricultural Water Quality Specialist, she took the job. Etta enjoyed the variety of work as she continued building her expertise. It took time to forge positive relationships between the District and the farmers, and Lucas worked hard to establish those connections over the years.

"It takes a special kind of person – not that I would say I'm necessarily special – to work with farmers." Lucas stated, looking back on her three decades with the District, "They want to be assured that who they're working with knows what they're talking about." A memorable moment she recalled is when a client who was previously particularly skeptical of working with the District told her, "I'm so glad that I listened to you to go no-till. It has been the best decision I've made for my farm."

Lucas noted that, while there may have been ups and downs, working for the District was an enjoyable experience. In any situation, Lucas prefers to "be part of the solution, instead of the problem" and her work with the District allowed her to flourish by advising and guiding farmers on best conservation practices.

Her passion for helping others in part led Lucas to Tri-County/City, and that passion will not stop at retirement! While she says she will be relaxing for a bit after hanging up the mantle of Conservation Specialist, Lucas hopes to continue working with her community. "I'm not sure where it will be, perhaps in healthcare, but all I know is that I like helping people and that is what I'll do."

Tri-County/City is grateful to Etta for her many years of service to our community of farmers and for helping us steward our natural resources. We are sorry to see her go but are so happy to have been able to work with her all these years. We wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life, Etta!



Etta Lucas, who has served the District for three decades, is excited for retirement!



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

"World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments"

By **Aimee Nezhukumtathil**

"In her debut essay collection, *World of Wonders*, Aimee Nezhukumtathil's prose exalts a heightened practice of attention by leading readers through a stunning menagerie of curious species, from dancing frogs and vampire squids to corpse flowers and dragon fruit—creatures that often seem alien and otherworldly but reveal so much about what it means to be a co-inhabitant of this planet." – *Great River Review*

CULPEPER SWCD SEEDLING SALE



Are you looking to add native trees to your Spring landscaping? Our neighbors at Culpeper SWCD have you covered! Follow this [link](#) or click on the image above for more information.

Questions? Contact **Stephanie DeNicola** at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org or 540-825-8591

TIME TO THINK ABOUT FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS!

March will be here soon! It is time to start thinking about what you need to do to prepare for this year's fertilizer applications. Even though you have not seen the white stuff that lays on the ground that we normally call snow, spring will be here soon. Time to contact your Nutrient Management Planner for your fertilizer recommendations for this year's crop.

- Please contact a Planner to get your fertilizer recommendations.
- Do you have current soil samples (less than three years old)? If not, you will need to supply your planner with new soil test results.
- If your Nutrient Management Plan needs to be updated, now is the time to sit down with your planner and review.

The small grain cover crops (barley, rye or wheat) have fended off weeds and other unwelcome plant growth, reduced soil erosion from rain and runoff, and helped to reduce nonpoint source pollution caused by sediments, nutrients, and chemicals leaving the crop fields this past fall and winter.

Again, March is almost here! The cover crop you planted this fall may be destroyed after **March 14th**; it has done its job to protect the soil and also trapped residual nitrogen from the previous crop.

If you were approved this year for cost-share reimbursement for planting a small grain cover crop, you will need a Nutrient Management Plan prepared and on file in the District Office **before** payment can be made. If you signed up and were approved to develop a plan, please contact your Nutrient Management Planner to make any revisions/changes and send a copy to the District office by **April 1st**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call **Scott Adams**, Conservation Specialist, at (540) 656-2402.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Etta Lucas is retiring Feb. 1st. *"It has been 30+ years with the District! I have enjoyed working with all my farmers and landowners to put conservation on the ground. I will miss each of you!"* (see article on page 1)

WELCOME, SCOTT ADAMS!

Please join us in welcoming Scott Adams to our Tri-County/City SWCD team! Scott began full-time on November 23, 2020 and is training as our new Conservation Specialist, absorbing as much information as he can about the District and our program from Etta Lucas' years of hard-earned knowledge and experience.

Scott brings with him his experiences doing fieldwork during his time with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) on research plots, helping contractors meet Virginia's Erosion & Sediment Control requirements, and coordinating landowners while securing access for and to utility easements for Dominion Power. He also has some handy technical skills such as identifying wetlands (or "delineating" them in conservation jargon) and using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programs like the ones we use with the cost-share program. Another bonus? Scott knows how to run a no-till drill from his experience renting Hanover-Caroline's drill to use on his family's farm (on his wife's side) in Ashland! We asked Scott some rapid-fire questions to get to know him a little more:

Q: What piqued your interest in the conservation field?

I guess it began with trips with Scouts. But it continued to grow from working in environmental consulting, my work with VDOF, and hiking over 3,000 miles. Wow! 3,000 miles!?

Q: What is your academic background?

I received my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Ferrum College, here in Virginia.

Q: Nice! Does that mean you are also a Virginia native?

I am actually from the Richmond area but live on my wife's family farm in Hanover County.

Q: Lastly, for kicks, if you could pick only one song to listen to for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Oh boy... I guess it would be anything from Tony Rice?

We know you all will welcome Scott with a generous spirit as he continues to become familiar with the position and the District.



Tri-County/City Soil & Water 2021 Conservation Poster Contest

The Annual Conservation Poster Contest sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts helps students interpret the importance of our natural resources and convey that using art and imagination. The contest is open to all K-12 students in public, private, and homeschools and includes local, state, and national competitions for grade categories K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th and 10th-12th. Winners of the national competition in each grade category receive cash prizes and are recognized at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts.



2021 Contest Slogan

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere, stabilize the soil, filter water, provide healthy habitat for wildlife, and offer many additional benefits for nature, people, and biodiversity. Not only is it necessary to protect existing trees and plant new ones, but it's also important to advocate and educate about trees and forest conservation within our community.

Any Girl or Boy Scout who submits a poster to the contest is eligible for the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) Poster Contest Patch. When submitting a poster to earn the Poster Contest Patch, be sure to check the box on the entry form.

Rules

- ★ Any 2-D media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials. Collage is acceptable but must be 2-D only. **The poster must be FLAT and 14" x 22" (typically half a poster-board).**
- ★ All posters must be created by an **individual student**, rather than a team of students.
- ★ The 2021 Stewardship slogan, "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities," **must be included** on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
- ★ Each entry must be submitted to Tri-County/City or your local SWCD **with an entry form** to be eligible for judging. The form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.
- ★ Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, each student is encouraged to do their own work. *****Note:** Entries with student handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn, or colored by adult assistance.

Prizes

- ★ The top three posters in each category of the national contest will receive monetary prizes. First place winners will receive \$200, second place winners will receive \$150, and 3rd place winners will receive \$100.
- ★ Monetary prizes at the national level are sponsored by the NACD Auxiliary from their quilt project and the Albert I Pierce Foundation.

Resources

- ★ Visit the NACD Poster Contest site for additional resources, free activities and lesson ideas:
<http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests>
- ★ Or contact Tri-County/City Education Coordinator, Mariya Hudick for more information mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org

DEADLINE: March 26, 2021 by 4:30 PM



2021 NACD/VASWCD POSTER CONTEST

Local Entry Form

Submit all entries to:

Tri -County/City Soil & Water Conservation District
4811 Carr Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408

DEADLINE

March 26th, 2021 by 4:30 PM

Please see contest rules on the next page.

Attach this registration form to the back of your poster.

Please check appropriate category:

K-1 st	
2 nd -3 rd	
4 th -6 th	
7 th -9 th	
10 th -12 th	

This poster is being submitted to earn a Scout VASWCD Poster Contest Patch



STUDENT

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

____ The poster is an original completed by the student.

____ The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. If so, please explain on another piece of paper.

SCHOOL

Teacher: _____

Public School: _____ Private School: _____ Home School: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent or guardian name (printed): _____

Signature of parent of guardian allowing NACD/District to utilize the poster for educational or promotional purposes:

_____ Date: _____

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWCD Name: _____ Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District

Contact Name: _____ Mariya Hudick

E-mail Address: _____ mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org

Questions?

Contact Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District Education Coordinator, **Mariya Hudick**, at **mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org**

or visit <http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest> for more information.

NRCS CORNER



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Spring Reminders for Producers!



Cover crops will be killed or harvested soon. For maximum benefit, don't kill them any more than 30 days prior to your next crop being planted. If you have any cover crops that NRCS is providing incentive payments for, please call us a week prior to killing so we can make sure we get out to take a look at the fields and certify for payments at (540)-899-9492, Ext. 5!

For farmers who receive nutrient management payments from NRCS: If you haven't already, now is the time to schedule your annual meeting with your nutrient management planner to discuss changes for this year's planting season. You'll need your plan prior to planting and putting down any starter fertilizer to give it a little

boost, in order to receive your payment in the Fall.

Practice reminder letters will be going out soon to everyone with whom we hold active contracts. If you receive a letter and have any questions, please don't hesitate to call NRCS at **(540)-899-9492, Ext. 5**. We want to make sure that we keep everyone on schedule!

Safe planting and I hope everyone has a wonderful spring!

Matt Roberts

Acting District Conservationist

Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Conservation?

Join the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s Earth Team Volunteer Program today! Any individual 14 years or older and/or any organization can become a volunteer! Through the Earth Team Volunteer Program, participants help put conservation on the ground by working alongside both NRCS and SWCD employees. For more information, contact your local USDA-NRCS at (540)-899-9492, Ext. 5 or see fact sheet on page 7!



Helping People Help the Land

Looking for Technical and/or Financial Assistance to Implement Conservation?

If you or someone you know is interested or in need of technical and/or financial assistance to implement conservation practices on their property, be sure to contact your local USDA-NRCS at (540)-899-9492, Ext. 5 to set up a site visit, to see what we can do for you!



Become an Earth Team Volunteer

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Make a Difference! Join the Earth Team!

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is looking for motivated volunteers, ages 14 and up, to help in county field offices over the summer.

The Earth Team provides a variety of opportunities: full- or part-time; outdoor or indoor activities; and as an individual or part of a group. There is something for everyone.

Gain valuable work experience while helping protect America's natural resources!

What will I be doing?

As an Earth Team volunteer, you will be working side by side with professional conservationists to plan and deliver conservation on private lands.

Duties vary based on interests and availability, and include clerical work and field study.

You will share your skills, learn new ones, meet new people and be part of a dedicated, national conservation effort.

The Earth Team will provide you with experience in a variety of different natural resource fields including: conservation, soil quality, water quality, tree planting, brush management and more.

Where will Earth Team take you?

Several NRCS employees began their careers as Earth Team volunteers. Join today and gain valuable knowledge and workplace experience that will help build your resume.

If you're considering a career in natural resources, consider joining the Earth Team to kick start your career!

What is the Earth Team?

The Earth Team is a component of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the federal government's primary private lands conservation agency.

Earth Team volunteers help the agency fulfill its commitment to support farmers and ranchers in their voluntary conservation efforts to keep working lands working, boost rural economies, and increase the competitiveness of American agriculture.

The Earth Team offers numerous volunteer opportunities for students, retirees, veterans and others who care about conservation and are seeking to make a difference in their communities.

With nearly 3,000 offices in communities nationwide, volunteers are needed in virtually every State and territory.

Contact

For more information on the Earth Team, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/earthteam.

Attention
Farmers!

Winter 2020-2021

SURVEY OF VIRGINIA FARMS AND VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PRACTICES

The Virginia Farm Voluntary Agricultural Best Management Practices Inventory

Friends! We hope you will consider participating in the [Virginia Farm Voluntary Agriculture Best Management Practices \(BMP\) survey](https://tinyurl.com/VAfarmerssurvey) to help take stock of the many voluntary conservation practices on Virginia farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed... like yours!

The information you provide will help Virginia tell the story of what farmers are doing to conserve soil and improve water quality. This is incredibly important information that can help agriculture achieve its water quality goals for the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) for the Chesapeake Bay. This survey was crafted over many months by members of Virginia's Voluntary Agricultural BMP Task Force. Task force members worked closely together and include representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Virginia Farm Bureau, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Virginia Agribusiness Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), and Virginia Tech Office of Analytics and Institutional Effectiveness, among other partners.

Your privacy is a very important consideration in this process. When completing this survey your responses will be protected and the final survey results will never be associated with your name or location information. For more information about participant confidentiality and what happens after the survey closes, please visit the frequently asked questions portion of the survey webpage located here: <https://vaswcd.org/virginia-farm-voluntary-agricultural-bmp-inventory>

The survey asks that you simply answer each question the best of your knowledge. You will be able to answer the survey questions quickly and completely if you have copies of your nutrient management plan(s) and any BMP contracts with you.

Please complete the survey by March 12, 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/VAfarmerssurvey>

If you need help completing the survey, please contact your local Extension office or the staff at Tri-County/City SWCD. We sincerely appreciate your time and effort with this survey and the hard work you do every day to be stewards of the land and provide Virginians and others with a safe and stable food supply.

TL;DR

WHAT: Survey of Virginia Farms and Voluntary Conservation Practices - *The Virginia Farm Voluntary Agricultural BMP Inventory*

WHERE: <https://tinyurl.com/VAfarmerssurvey> OR click on the picture to take you to the website ->

DEADLINE: March 12, 2021

VIRGINIA FARM VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY



Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District 2021 L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship

Purpose

The L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship promotes the education of Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District resident students pursuing scientific and technical fields that emphasize natural resource conservation, environmental protection, and/or environmental studies.

History

L. Gordon Linkous has been an esteemed colleague, mentor, advisor, and friend to countless Tri-County/City District Directors, staff, and area residents. The scholarship is named for Mr. Linkous in honor of his 60 years of dedicated service to the conservation of natural resources within the District.

Hailing from Blacksburg, Mr. Linkous arrived in the area in 1958 where he began to work for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS). At that time, the District had no paid staff, and it was USDA's staff who planned and implemented technical projects and provided services on the District's behalf. After 30 years with USDA, Mr. Linkous retired only to be pressed back into service and promptly hired by Tri-County/City as the organization's first District Manager. Mr. Linkous served as District Manager for the next eight years, laying the groundwork for many of the District's programs we operate today. Following a second "retirement," he was elected by City of Fredericksburg voters to serve on the District's Board of Directors. After stepping down from the elected position, the Board then appointed Mr. Linkous as an Associate Director.

During Mr. Linkous' 60 years with the District, he designed and installed numerous conservation projects; increased the adoption of conservation-focused best management practices by farmers and other citizens; and raised awareness of people of all ages about natural resource conservation.

In recognition of his numerous contributions, the L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship serves to support and inspire future stewards and leaders following in the footsteps of extraordinary conservationists such as Mr. Linkous.

Qualifications

- ★ Applicant must reside in King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, or Fredericksburg.
- ★ Applicant must be pursuing a degree in the fields of natural resource conservation such as forestry, soils, hydrology, agriculture, wildlife, natural resource management, or environmental sciences.
- ★ Applicant must document a class ranking in the top 20% of his or her graduate class OR a 3.0 or greater Grade Point Average OR appropriate equivalent of individual scholastic achievement.
- ★ Applicant must be either a rising or current student of an accredited higher education institution for the 2021-2022 academic year on either a part-time or full-time basis.

Requirements

- ★ Demonstrate how educational interest relates to the conservation of natural resources.
- ★ Provide most recent official school transcript. A copy of a school transcript will not be accepted.
- ★ Provide letters of recommendation from 3 non-family references.
- ★ Return completed application form and all supplementary materials by **4:30 PM on 3/26/2020** to

Tri-County/City SWCD
4811 Carr Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

The L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship presents one \$500 scholarship.

Deadlines

March 26, 2021
4:30 PM

Application Deadline. Must be received by Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District.

April-May

Scholarship recipient will be announced.

Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Joint Scholarship Application Form

A. Personal Information

- Applicant's Name: _____
Last First Middle
- Home Address: _____

- County or City of Residence: _____
- Local Soil & Water Conservation District: _____ Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District
- Home Telephone Number: _____
- Date of Birth: _____ 7. Email: _____
- How did you learn about the scholarship? _____

B. Educational Background (20 pts)

Attach your most recent official transcript. Your official transcript must show the official school seal.

- High School Attending or Attended: _____
- Anticipated or Date of Graduation: _____
- Number of students in your class: _____ Class Rank: _____
- Scholastic Average (GPA): _____
- College Planning to Attend or Attending: *Include College Name & Location*
(1) _____
(2) _____
- Intended Field of Study or Major: _____

C. Environmental Leadership & Activity Experience (15 pts)

Attach additional information as needed.

List any environmental leadership or activity experience - designating if high school or college experience - you may have including participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), etc.

D. Other Leadership & Activity Experience (5 pts)

Attach additional information as needed.

List all other organizations and important extracurricular activities - designating if high school or college experience - in which you have or currently are participating. Indicate any activities in which you hold or have held office and note which position. Include other activities such as athletics, music, drama, dance, public speaking, clubs, societies, public events/exhibits or awards, list honors or letters earned.

E. Volunteer & Paid Experience (10 pts)

Attach additional information as needed.

List any other volunteer or paid experiences including your position, date of service, and brief description of duties.

- _____
- _____

F. Financial Information and Other Circumstances (5 pts)

While this is primarily a merit based scholarship, the review committee may take consideration of need or other special circumstances. The more detail provided about your need and why you deserve this scholarship the more it is helpful to the review committee. Attach more detail if necessary.

1. Are you applying for or will you receive a scholarship or loan from other sources? **Please circle one.** YES NO

2. If yes, please list loan and/or scholarship sources and estimated amounts that you are applying for:

3. In addition to the above, financing for your education will primarily come from: _____

4. Do you have other circumstances (ex. first generation college student, multiple siblings in college, etc.) or a personal situation you would like to share? _____

G. References/Letters of Recommendation (10 pts)

Attach recommendation letters from at least 3 references—other than family members—who can provide additional information about your academic and community activities. Share with your references that the purpose of this scholarship is to promote through education the conservation of our natural resources by providing financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a curriculum related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies. List below details on those from whom you have requested recommendation letters.

1. Name of Reference: _____

Position/Relation of Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

2. Name of Reference: _____

Position/Relation of Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

3. Name of Reference: _____

Position/Relation of Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

H. Essay (35 points)

Attach a typed essay of approximately 500-650 words describing yourself and your involvement/interest in the environment. Address what you feel is the most important environmental issue in your community and why. How can you assist and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources?

I. Short Essays (10 pts) THIS SECTION ONLY RELATES TO THE L. GORDON "LINK" LINKOUS SCHOLARSHIP.

Attach typed short essay responses of approximately 100-350 words to the following questions:

1. Why have you selected the chosen major/intended field of study and how does it relate to natural resource conservation?

2. How do you intend to use your degree in a natural resources career?

J. Signatures & Certifications

In submitting this application, I hereby certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted. If declared a recipient of this scholarship, I will provide the VASWCD a statement that may be used for publicity purpose.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Reminder - Attachments to Include: Official Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, Essays & any additional information.

Sponsoring SWCD: _____ Tri-County/City _____ SWCD Contact Phone Number: _____ (540) 656—2401 _____

SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: _____ Mariya Hudick _____

DEADLINE: March 26, 2021 by 4:30 PM

IMPORTANT:

Applicants for the Link Scholarship who are rising or current full-time first year students will be considered for the VASWCD College Scholarship.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Purpose

To promote the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields with natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

To give financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

Four \$1,000 scholarships will be given to statewide winners.

Two scholarships are awarded on behalf of the VASWCD Education Foundation and two scholarships are awarded on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. A check will be issued directly to the selected institution of higher education on behalf of the student.

Applications submitted by Tri-County/City will be reviewed and screened by the Scholarship/Awards Committee. All applications and information contained therein shall remain confidential. Nominations from the Committee will be submitted to the VASWCD Educational Foundation Board of Directors for final approval.

The mission of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation, Inc. is to provide educational opportunities to citizens of Virginia to become good stewards of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of all. Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, memorial gifts and other contributions have provided initial funding for the Foundation.

All programs and services of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation, Inc. are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability. All submitted paperwork is confidential and becomes the property of the VASWCDEF.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

KEEP IN THE KNOW AND UP TO DATE!

Mark Your Calendars!

Click on the event title link to find out more online.

Webinar: [Farm to University](#)

Virginia Tech University

February 2 — 10:00 AM

Virginia universities are seeking to increase the sustainability of their food supply chain, and to broaden their supply chain to Virginia's farmers. These discussions will center around the challenges, barriers, and next steps to building and institutional supply chain, as well as specific intentional sourcing from Virginia's historically underserved farmers.

2021 Woodland Stewards Webinar Series

Virginia Cooperative Extension

February 2, 9, 16, 23 — 1:00 PM

Join natural resources professionals from across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast to learn how to actively manage your forest.

Webinar: [The Plastic Problem and What We Can Do About It](#)

Green Teacher

February 3 — 7:30 PM

This webinar will investigate the many meaningful and creative ways people around the world are working to manage, reduce and eliminate plastic waste, while providing ideas for classroom activities that can be taught virtually.

Webinar: [Using Native Plants in Your Existing Landscape](#)

Virginia Master Gardeners

February 4 — 7:00 PM

We rarely get a blank canvas to landscape, so we all work with what we have. We will talk about how to decide which plants to replace and easy ways to incorporate native plants into any landscape.

Volunteer Event: [Invasive Plant Removal](#)

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

February 6 — 9:00 AM

Join FOR to help remove invasive plant species in the forest along the river. Removal of these plants helps improve habitat for ephemeral wildflowers that bloom in the spring.

Volunteers must register in advance!

Virtual Event: [Food Coop Book Club](#)

Fredericksburg Food Cooperative

February 11 — 1:00 PM

February's book discussion is "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold.

Webinar: [Build Healthy Soils & Manage Water in Your Backyard](#)

Virginia Master Gardeners

February 12 — 10:00 AM

Learn how to build soil health in your yard, prevent or mitigate soil erosion and compaction by choosing appropriate plants, and determine whether certain landscaping techniques - such as terracing or a bioswale - might be appropriate for your yard.

Webinar: [Spring Lawn Care](#)

Virginia Master Gardeners

February 26 — 10:00 AM

Learn what you can do now to improve and manage your lawn to make it a more environmentally friendly, less resource intensive part of your home garden.

GREAT FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Virtual Event: [Garden Valentines](#)

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

February 2 — 3:00 PM

Send your love this season with original cards handmade by you during this step-by-step virtual class!

Virtual Event: [Storytime with Tarneshia](#)

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

February 12, 16 — 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: "No Two Alike" and "Mae Among the Stars."

Live Event: [Wildlife Festival for Preschoolers](#)

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

March 20 — 1:00 PM

Join FOR outside on their 17-acre nature preserve. Walk paths to six separate stations to learn about fish, squirrels, deer, birds, and nature. FOR is following COVID-19 safety guidelines. **Must register in advance!**

Live & Virtual Event: [Earth Day Festival](#)

Fredericksburg City Parks & Recreation

April 11-17 — Schedule TBD

Mark your calendars because the Fredericksburg Earth Day Festival will be like never seen before! Participate in virtual events throughout the week and then come to Old Mill Park on Friday and Saturday nights for a concert and a movie. From citizen science projects to art contests, and live music to a family movie night, there is something for everyone!

Interested in exploring more events? The Virginia Cooperative Extension has a Google Calendar that compiles and updates events across the state! Check out more events [here](#).



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 2020¹

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 2015²
Lucia Street, Spotsylvania - since 2019

STAFF

Jen Benson, Administrative Professional
Mariya Hudick, Education Coordinator
Scott Adams, Conservation Specialist
Marta Perry, District Manager

PARTNERS

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Matt Roberts, Acting District Conservationist

VA Department of Conservation & Recreation

Marissa Roland, Conservation District Coordinator

VA Department of Forestry

Matt Coleman, Senior Area Forester

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

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

¹ Also elected as Director for Spotsylvania 1974-75, 1982-83, and 1995-2015,

² Also appointed as Director for VA Cooperative Extension from 2000-2010.

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.

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.