



Eastern Shore of Virginia Resource Conservation and Development Council

Highlights of Activities May through October 2014

Accomack County

Sandra Hart-Mears
Barney Selph
Dave Vaughn
Ex-officio
Grayson Chesser

Northampton County

Theresa Long
Butch Nottingham
Joseph Mysko
Sally Richardson

Accomack/ Northampton Planning District Commission

Ray Rosenberger
P.G. Ross
Ursula Deitch

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District

Ruth Boettcher
Edwin R. Long
Keith Privett
Daniel Chuquin

Living Shoreline Marsh Grass Planting Workshop. On May 30 we held the last of our activities to complete our 3-year project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

Eastern Shore Watersheds Roundtable Steering Committee We held our first 2014 steering committee meeting in June and kicked off a series of programs including rain barrel workshops, Ag Field Day, Well Water Testing Clinics, etc.

AREC Field Day. On July 9 the ES RC&D hosted a booth at the Annual Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research & Extension Center Research Field Day. The event was attended 114 farmers, crop consultants, fertilizer and pesticide applicators, government agency stakeholders, and students.

Education & Demonstration of High Tunnel Vegetable Production. Our USDA Specialty Crop Grant continued with our FoodBank Community Garden. Since the garden began producing in 2013, a cumulative total of 11,459 pounds of beans, broccoli, herbs, collards, peppers, squash, tomatoes and zucchini have been harvested and distributed through the Eastern Shore FoodBank. Over 300 volunteers, many of them returning on a regular basis have worked for approximately 2200 volunteer hours at a value of \$49, 610 during the grant period

Virginia Ag Expo. On August 7th, the ES Roundtable set up a booth with displays on the Chesapeake Bay TMDLs and various handouts related to BMP management for both large and small farmers. We were pleased at the many Shore farmers who were in attendance.

Farm Life Days. On Aug. 9 we manned a Shore Roundtable booth at the Farm Life Days at Ker Place in Onancock with displays on Chesapeake Bay TMDLs and other literature related to managing BMPs. This event was a celebration of the history of farming life on the Eastern Shore and had a series of presentations and range of local farm related exhibits. Attendance was estimated to be 300.

High Tunnel/Hoop House Field Meeting and Workshop. On September 10 we hosted a highly successful event in partnership with VA Tech and VSU Extension agents with more than 50 local small farmers in attendance.



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Ongoing USDA/CIG Litter Burner Project. We continue working with several partners to advance innovative farm-scale thermochemical conversion systems that can extract the energy from poultry litter and convert it to heat and/or electricity. This project demonstrates how new technologies using poultry litter as a renewable, carbon-neutral fuel can benefit their local farmers, support a viable poultry industry and reduce nutrient loading to the Chesapeake Bay

Sec. of Natural Resources Molly Ward Visit to Eastern Shore as Guest of Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council. On October 15, we were honored to host Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward for a tour of RC&D conservation projects followed a Meet and Greet reception at a local vineyard. Sec. Ward was accompanied during part of the tour by Senator Lynwood Lewis. The 9.5 hour tour included a number of stops to view examples of the ES RC&D's conservation projects and the local thriving aquaculture industry. One of the highlights of the tour was a visit to RC&D's Living Shoreline Demonstration Project on Occohannock Creek in Belle Haven.

ES Watershed Festival. On October 22, as part of our ongoing work with the ES Watersheds Roundtable Network, the RC&D hosted a booth with interactive projects for Middle School children related to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the history of conservation volunteer work, and the current activities and programs of the Federal and State Youth Conservation Corps. Over 300 children visited the booth during the 6 hours of the event.

Internet Presence Update. After many setbacks and challenges the new RC&D website was finally brought to fruition.

In addition, restoration of the url: www.ShoreWatersheds.net has finally been completed as a page accessed directly and from our new ES RC&D website: www.esrcd.org.

A Facebook page for the ES Roundtable was finally created at: <https://www.facebook.com/easternshorewatersheds>



<p> Promotions Swap Shop Community Events Obituaries Auctions Delays Pet of the Week </p> <p> Shore Daily News.com 109.3 The Shore WESR <small>Joining the team since 2005</small> </p>	<p>10/21/2014 - Sen. Lewis joins Sec. of Natural Resources on Shore tour - Click here to print this information</p> <p>On Wednesday, October 15, Hampton native and lifelong nature enthusiast VA Sec. of Natural Resources Molly Ward devoted a full 9-hour day to viewing Eastern Shore's natural resources first hand. The day began with a guided tour of Cherrystone Aqua Farms accompanied by Sen. Lynwood Lewis and ES RC&Ds Edwin Long and Butch Nottingham.</p> <p>The day continued with a number of stops to view examples of the ES RC&Ds conservation projects. One of the highlights was a visit to the Living Shoreline Demonstration Project on Occohannock Creek in Belle Haven, a project co-sponsored by the ES RC&D and The Nature</p>
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