



The Conservation Strip

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

Best Management Practice Verifications

Spring 2018

Recently, at a request from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District (JMSWCD) began conducting verifications of best management practices (BMPs) which have expired or will expire at the end of calendar years through 2019.

With the prior version of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) model, once a structural or land management BMP was reported we continued to receive nutrient and sediment reduction credits for the practice even after the BMP's contractual lifespan was over. In the new CBP Phase 6 model nutrient and sediment reduction credit is removed after the end of the BMP contractual lifespan unless the BMP is verified.

There is no requirement of a participant to allow verification for BMPs that are out of lifespan. Even if they allow verification initially for an out of lifespan BMP, there is no requirement to continue to maintain the BMP nor allow for future verifications of the BMP. They can opt out at any time. For those practices out of lifespan, the District will need a signed Voluntary BMP Assessment Authorization form.

JMSWCD's policy is to always contact the landowner prior to accessing their land.

As part of the new CBP BMP verification scheme approved by EPA, BMPs will be verified in the second to last year of their contract lifespan. (8th year for 10 year contracts; 3rd year for 5 year contracts).

Best Management Practices which will be verified include Continuing Conservation Initiative (CCI) practices, afforestation practices (FR-1 and FR-3), livestock exclusion practices (LE-1T, LE-2T, and SL-6), long term vegetative cover (SL-1 and SL-11), stream protection/stabilization (WP-1, WP-2, WP-2A, and WP-2T), animal waste facilities (WP-4, WP-4B, and WP-4C) and grass filter strips/sod waterways (WP-3 and WQ-1).



A livestock watering trough in a field.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide leadership, technical assistance, information, and education to the citizens of Fauquier County in proper soil stewardship, agricultural conservation methods, and water quality protection so as to ensure the wise use of the county's natural resources.



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From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock

For the fourth consecutive year, the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of the Rappahannock, and the Piedmont Environmental Council are hosting *From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock: A Celebration of Land and Water Conservation* on April 22 at Marriott Ranch. It will be another day to celebrate successes for land and water conservation.

This is the fourth year that this event has been hosted at Marriott Ranch, and over the past three, volunteers have planted 5.7 acres of riparian buffer with over 850 trees. This year we hope to plant an additional acre and bring our total trees planted at Marriott Ranch to over 1,000.

Starting at 9:00 am, there will be a tree planting

event where an area will be planted in native trees and shrubs. From 1:00-4:30 pm, there will be a lunch with fresh oysters from the Oyster Company of Virginia, picnic fare, and local beer and wine. There will also be hay rides to tour conservation practices, an electrofishing demonstration, live music, fly tying demonstrations, and yard games.

Tickets are \$35 (children 14 and under admitted free) and can be purchased at <http://www.riverfriends.org/events/>. Those who come to plant trees in the morning will receive free admission to the afternoon event; however, you still need to reserve one of the tickets at the website listed above. For more information, contact Bryan Hofmann with Friends of the Rappahannock at bryan.hofmann@riverfriends.org.



Photo Credits: Paula Combs, Piedmont Environmental Council, Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock.

Emerald Ash Borer Damage Increasing

Virginia Department of Forestry Press Release

Landowners across Northern Virginia and Northwest Virginia are seeing damage to the bark of ash trees, and many are calling the Virginia Department of Forestry asking what is wrong. Bark on these trees is being stripped off by woodpeckers hunting for Emerald Ash Borer larvae – a process called “blonding.” Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) are wood-boring beetles with a metallic green body that are feeding on the layer of the tree just under bark that moves life-sustaining sugar, water and nutrients throughout the ash tree.

“A single EAB larva has little effect on an ash tree,” said Lori Chamberlin, VDOF’s forest health manager. “But the feeding of thousands of EAB larvae will kill the tree. So, the blonding process isn’t killing the ash trees per se, but the thousands of EAB larvae that are attracting the woodpeckers are.”

In a forest setting, there isn’t an effective treatment for EAB; the ash trees are, unfortunately, going to be killed by EAB. A forest landowner can perform sal-

vage logging or enjoy the wildlife habitat that is created by the standing dead trees. In a landscape setting, however, ash trees can be treated with systemic insecticides through either a stem injection or a root soak. The treatment process can be expensive and has to be repeated either every year or every other year.

“One of the biggest problems with trying to treat ash trees is that it’s best to begin the treatment before the tree shows signs of infestation,” Chamberlin said. “Unfortunately, most ash trees are infested with EAB before anyone knows the beetles are present. At some point – typically when a tree has lost half of its crown, the tree reaches the tipping point where the damage is so severe that it’s too late to save it. It’s now time to remove and destroy the tree, and plan tree replacement with alternative species. Never move infested wood as that’s the quickest way to spread EAB,” she said.

If you have ash trees on your property that you are interested in preserving, contact a certified arborist in your community to examine the trees and recommend a plan of action. If the trees are not able to be saved and they have the potential to cause property damage if they fall, the trees should be removed by a certified arborist as ash wood is brittle and prone to breaking during the removal process.

To learn more about EAB insecticides, visit [www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/Multistate EAB Insecticide Fact Sheet.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/Multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf)



Emerald Ash Borer Tree Damage

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Hours: 7:30 am-4:30 pm
Monday-Friday

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Warrenton Local Working Group

The Local Working Group serving Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, & Prince William Counties will be holding its annual meeting on Monday, April 23, 2018, 1 p.m. at the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District's Conference Room, 98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31, Warrenton, VA 20186.

This meeting will be an opportunity for the public and partnering agencies to give comment and input into the Natural

Resources Conservation Service, USDA, Farm Bill programs for 2019, and beyond. These programs help local landowners & producers in the protection and enhancement of the soil, air, water, plants, wildlife, and animal, natural resources. This is accomplished by using incentive payments, and technical assistance, to install conservation practices on the land, then further protecting them with management and easements.



Calendar of Events

April 11	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
April 22	9:00 AM	From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock	Marriott Ranch
May 9	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
May 28		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
June 13	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
June 30		John Marshall SWCD Fiscal Year Ends	

Staying Connected: The John Marshall SWCD makes it easy to stay connected through social media. If you're on Facebook, "Like" our page to get updates on what's happening at the District.



The Conservation Strip is a quarterly publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. To be added to our email list, please send an email to Wendy Merwin at: wendy.merwin@fauquiercounty.gov.

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All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.