



The Conservation Strip

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

2018 Annual Awards Luncheon

Winter 2018

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Awards Luncheon on December 19, at Stoneridge Events Center in Warrenton. Local citizens were recognized for their outstanding commitment to conservation throughout Fauquier County. This year's distinguished guests included Delegate Michael Weibert (VA-18) and Fauquier County Supervisors Holder Trumbo (Scott District) and Mary Leigh McDaniel (Marshall District).

The awards ceremony began by recognizing Michael Trop for five years of service to the District. After this, the following awards were presented to members of the community:

The **Edwin Gulick Conservation Educator Award** was presented to **Dr. Bridgett McIntosh**. Since joining the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) in 2014, Dr. McIntosh has championed research, outreach, and education in support of the conservation of soil and water resources on horse farms. Dr. McIntosh has worked with DCR and other groups to present the *Healthy Land Healthy Horse* short course, which has expanded from its roots at the MARE Center to locations statewide. As a result of Dr. McIntosh's efforts, nearly 6,000 direct contacts have been made through tours,

seminars, short courses, and presentations.

The **Conservation Partner Award** was awarded to **Goose Creek Association (GCA)** which was founded in 1970 to protect and preserve the environment and quality of life in the Goose Creek Watershed. In 2012, they initiated the Goose Creek Challenge to help meet the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement by planting trees and shrubs along streams within the Goose Creek Watershed. This has led to over 7,000 trees and shrubs being planted on local farms in Fauquier County resulting in the reestablishment of almost 16 acres of riparian buffer. More than 240 volunteers have planted these trees and learned about macroinvertebrates, stream health, wetlands, soils, and the benefits of riparian buffers.

A&J Fencing was awarded this year's **Conservation Contractor Award**. A&J Fencing has worked with local farmers for several years to assist them in implementing Best Management Practices. Since 2012, Alvin and Amos Lantz and their crew have demonstrated exceptional work in installing over 69,000 feet (13 miles) of fencing on 9 different farms in Fauquier County, as part of the Virginia

(Continued on page 3)

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.



In This Issue

- ◆ **Goose Creek TMDL Grant**
- ◆ **FY 2019 NRCS Programs**

Goose Creek TMDL Grant

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District was recently awarded a \$290,000 grant to improve stream health in the Goose Creek Watershed in northern Fauquier County.

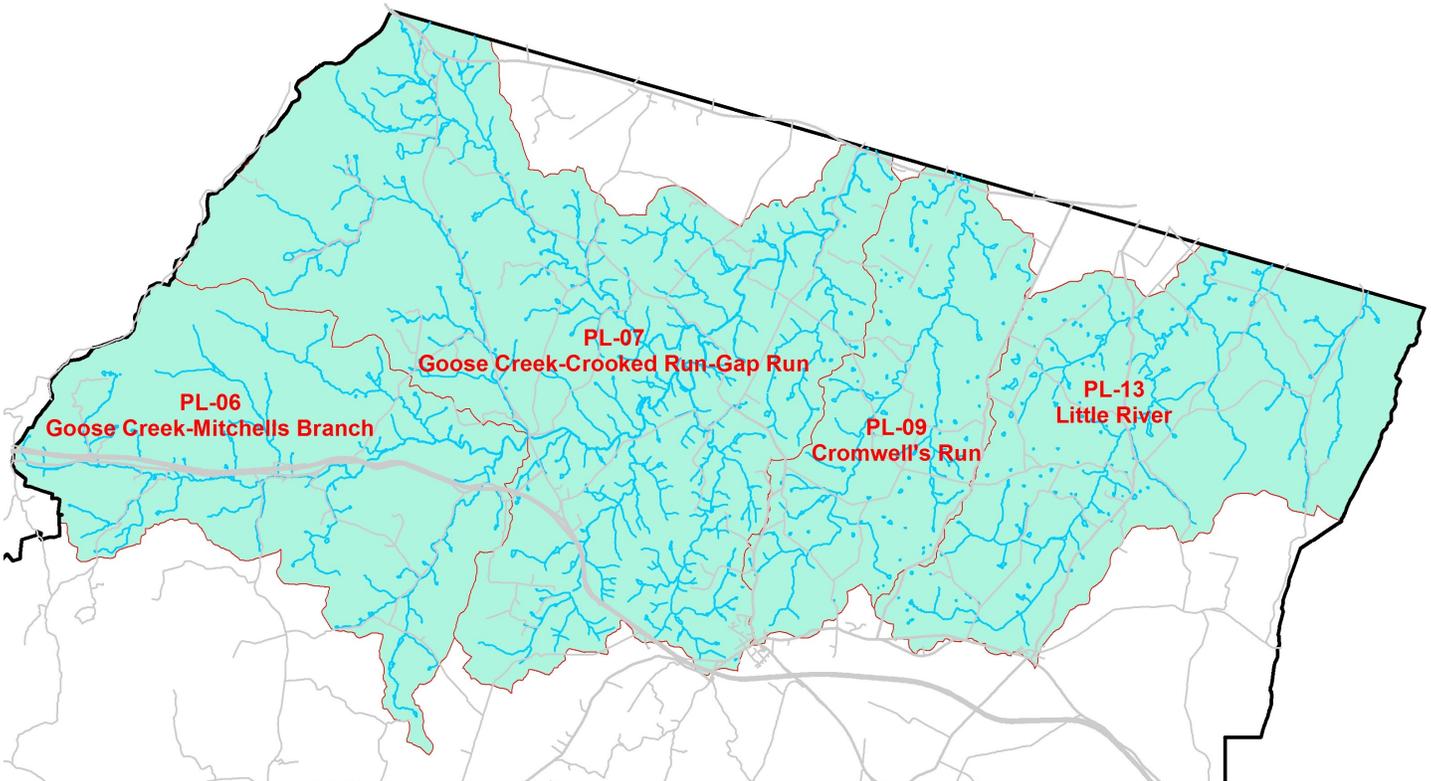
The grant covers four sub-watersheds: PL-06 Goose Creek-Mitchells Branch; PL-07 Goose Creek-Crooked Run-Gap Run; PL-09 Cromwells Run; PL-13 Little River watershed. Collectively, these watersheds cover nearly 140 square miles (or approximately the top quarter of the county).

Because segments of Goose Creek are considered impaired for bacteria, the grant will focus on our tradi-

tional livestock exclusion practices, but there will also be more options for horse owners. Equine manure storage and composting facilities will also be goals of this grant, along with pasture management practices.

Additional goals for this grant will include pasture walks and other outreach events for the local community.

This grant is scheduled to run for the next two years and we hope to soon hire a TMDL coordinator to help administer the grant. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming grant programs or notices!



Four sub-watersheds in the northern part of Fauquier County will be covered under the Goose Creek TMDL Grant.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs

Virginia farmers and forest landowners can apply for assistance to protect the health and productivity of their land under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This program offers technical and financial assistance to plan and install conservation practices on cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland. The application deadline is **January 18, 2019**. Indi-

(Continued on page 4)

2018 Annual Awards Luncheon (continued)...

Agricultural Cost Share program. Their fence installations are of superior quality, and local landowners appreciate their professionalism and strong work ethic. When asked about their experience working with them, one landowner stated, “A&J Fencing treats you like family. They are conscientious and helped with questions about the turns, gate locations, and crossings. A&J Fencing is respectable and first class, providing fast and quality work.”

This year’s **Conservation Farm Award** was presented to **Husson Lewis Enterprises LLC**. Husson Lewis Enterprises owns and operates a 120-acre farm that includes a significant segment of Buck Run, a major tributary of the upper Rappahannock River. The property is grazed by 40 head of beef cattle and is home to Spencer Sport Horse, a boarding, lesson, and training facility. From 2014-2016, two livestock exclusion practices were installed that protected 11,800 feet of stream bank and created over 20 acres of riparian buffer. A third and final stream exclusion project is currently underway which will protect a series of hillside springs and pond outlet, adding 820 feet of

stream bank protection to the farm total. Two tree planting projects were held inside the buffer area in December 2017 and April 2018.

The **Clean Water Farm Award** was presented to Leslie Grayson and Mike Barreda of **Blue Ridge Farm**. Blue Ridge Farm has been implementing conservation practices on their 516-acre farm in Upperville for over 20 years. Since 1995, they have completed 11 conservation practices with the District and NRCS resulting in the protection of 32,250 feet (6 miles) of streambank. More than 200 acres of the farm has been dedicated specifically to conservation. For many years they hosted groups as part of JMSWCD’s 3rd Grade Farm Field Days as well as Fauquier County Farm Tours. For the past two years, they hosted the District and partners for the purpose of planting native trees within excluded stream corridors.

Additional pictures of the Awards Luncheon are available on the John Marshall SWCD Facebook page.



Del. Michael Webert (center) and the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District award winners. From left to right: James Spencer (Husson Lewis Enterprises LLC), Dr. Bridgett McIntosh, Del. Michael Webert, Leslie Grayson and Mike Barreda (Blue Ridge Farm), Marsha Woolman (Goose Creek Association).

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 347-3120 x3
johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org

www.johnmarshallswcd.com

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

District Directors

A. Gray Coyner, Chairman
John Schied, Vice Chairman
Deirdre Clark, Sec./Treas.
Tim Mize
Ed Deberry

Associate Directors

Ken Alm
John Bauserman
Norman Bower
Leslie Grayson
Patricia Johnson
Michael Webert

Honorary Directors

Henry Green

JMSWCD Staff

District Manager
Tom Turner
Conservation Specialist
Claire Hilsen
Conservation Specialist
Kris Jarvis
Conservation Education Specialist
Michael Trop
Office Administrator
Wendy Merwin

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist
Roger Flint
Soil Conservationist
Casey Dietzen Iames

Volume 36, No. 3

NRCS Programs (continued)...

viduals/entities must have farm records established through USDA's Farm Service Agency.

EQIP funds will be available to offer assistance for the following focal areas: **Cropland** – Practices to enhance water and soil quality while improving plant health and productivity; **High Tunnel (Hoop House)** – Steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner; **Longleaf Pine** - Stand establishment and management within the historical range in Southeastern Virginia; **Northern Bobwhite in Working Grasslands** – Native grass restoration to address habitat loss while maintaining or improv-



ing cattle production on the land; **On-Farm Energy** – Agricultural Energy Management Plans or farm energy audits to assess energy use and recommend ways to reduce it; **Organic** – Practices to help certified organic growers, those working to achieve organic certification, and specialty crop producers address resource concerns on their operations.

Applicants must meet USDA program eligibility requirements to be considered for funding.

To learn more, call 540-347-3120 x3 or visit the NRCS office at 98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 32, Warrenton.

Calendar of Events

January 1		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
January 9	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
January 18		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
January 21		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
February 13	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
February 18		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
March 13	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office

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.

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.