



The Conservation Strip

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

An Update on the Chesapeake Bay

Over the past 30+ years, there has been an effort to try to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay estuary. This effort was enhanced in 2010 when a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was established for the Bay. A TMDL is essentially a pollution diet: how much of a certain pollutant can the waterbody receive and still be considered healthy? The pollutants that were identified for the Chesapeake Bay were Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment.

When the TMDL was announced in 2010, reduction goals were set for all

of the Bay watershed states (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York). The states were to be 60% of the way to their goal by 2017 and 100% of the way by 2025.

Virginia met its overall 2017 goals for nitrogen and phosphorus, but did not achieve its goal for sediment. In addition, the Rappahannock River basin was lagging in its nitrogen and sediment reductions.

The EPA recently released new pollution targets for each of the



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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 Rapp, For the Rapp



FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK, FOR THE RAPPAHANNOCK

a celebration of conservation

OYSTERS - BARBEQUE - HAYRIDES - MUSIC

APRIL 7 @ Marriott Ranch - Hume, VA



From the Rappahannock,, For the Rappahannock will take place on April 7 at Marriott Ranch.

For the fifth 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 7 at Marriott Ranch. It will be another day to celebrate successes for land and water conservation.

This is the fifth year that this event has been hosted at Marriott Ranch, and over the past four, volunteers have planted 7.3 acres of riparian buffer with over 1,000 trees. This year we hope to plant an additional acre and bring our total trees planted at Marriott Ranch to over 1,200.

Starting at 9:00 am, there will be a tree planting event where an area will be planted in native trees and shrubs. Other projects will include building raptor boxes and installing a pollinator garden. From 12:00-4:00 pm, there will 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 \$20 for members of Friends of the Rappahannock or Piedmont Environmental Council, \$30 if purchased by April 5, and \$35 at the door. Children 14 and under admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at <https://riverfriends.org/event/from-the-rappahannock-for-the-rappahannock/>. Those who come to plant trees in the morning will receive free admission to the afternoon event.

If you are unable to make this event but would still like to plant trees, the John Marshall SWCD will be conducting other plantings on April 5, April 26, and April 27. Those interested in helping out can contact Michael Trop at michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov or 540-316-6639.

Chesapeake Bay Update (continued)...

six states and the District of Columbia to achieve by 2025. While the EPA sets the pollution targets, how to achieve those targets are left up to the states. This is where the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) comes in. These WIPs are roadmaps developed by each state in which they determine how they'll meet the set pollution reductions. The first WIP was developed in 2010, and the second phase was in 2012.



The Phase III WIPs have recently been developed and this version will provide information on the actions the Bay watershed states will implement from 2018 to 2025 to meet the state and Bay restoration objectives.

Per the Chesapeake Bay Program, some of the new features found in the Phase III WIPs include:

Improved modeling tools (nutrient data, high-resolution land cover data, BMP efficiencies, and historical monitoring data), hundreds more best management practices available to be credited (including rain gardens, oyster aquaculture, as well as stream restoration, and urban tree planting), accounting for growth and increases in nutrient pollution due to population growth (humans and animals), climate change impacts (e.g. increased precipitation and sea

level rise), and monitoring trends (the partnership has increased the number of monitoring stations throughout the watershed, giving a more complete picture of real-time conditions and trends.

So why should you care? Everyone lives downstream from someone and the Bay is downstream from us all. This means that everyone has a role in working to reduce pollution. Individual homeowners incorporating a rain garden on their property, local officials working to add green infrastructure projects around their locality, and farmers planting cover crops to stop nutrients from flowing into local waterways all make an important difference. In Virginia, the Department of Environmental Quality will soon open up their proposed Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan for public comment. This gives all citizens an opportunity to comment on specific aspects of the WIP.

All of this goes beyond the Chesapeake Bay though. Reducing pollution to the Bay will also reduce the amount of pollution in everyone's local streams and rivers which will ensure these streams are suitable to drink from, swim and fish in.

This article was written with information from the Chesapeake Bay Program.



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

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Stormwater Poster Contest

Get out your drawing supplies! The Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County stormwater program is hosting their annual poster contest for students in grades 3-5.

Stormwater runoff is a leading cause of water pollution in the United States. This annual contest aims to increase awareness of stormwater pollution to students and allows them to spread their own pollution prevention message through art.



front of their Peers, a letter of recognition from the Warrenton Town Council and Fauquier County Board of Supervisors, and receive swag bags filled with prizes from sponsors. Entries are due April 23.

In the Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County, storm drains run directly to our streams and tributaries that are a local source of drinking water. Stormwater runoff can contain trash and pollutants that travel untreated to local waterways.

Winning posters will be featured on Banners displayed throughout the Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County, be presented a certificate in

Interested participants are encouraged to visit www.warrentonva.gov to view additional subject theme information and contest rules.

Calendar of Events

April 7	12:00 PM	From the Rapp, For the Rapp	Marriott Ranch
April 10	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
April 30	9:00 AM	Area II Envirothon	
May 8	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
May 27		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
June 12	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.