

# Views From The Foothills

A Publication of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District  
Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties  
[www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org)

Vol. 18 Issue 1  
Winter 2018

M. Johnson

## Inside This Issue

**Grants Available for Dam and Floodplain Projects**

**VA Conservation Assistance Program**

**Tree Seedling Sale**

**Septic System Cost Share**

**Is Your Forest Working for You?**

**Drinking Water Clinics**

**CSWCD Receives Two New Grants**

## Welcome!

You are receiving this newsletter because you receive land use tax benefits in our counties. Please call 540-825-8591 or email [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) to remove yourself from our mailing list

## **Got an Ash?**

### **Alert from the Virginia Department of Forestry**

The Virginia Department of Forestry is launching a cost-share program to help landowners and organizations (non-profits, schools, HOAs, municipalities) treat their Ash trees to prevent death by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). For more information about EAB, visit [emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info) and keep an eye out for workshops in collaboration with the Virginia Cooperative Extension in March/April 2018.

If you know you have an Ash tree and want details about the cost-share program, please request a visit from your local forester (see below) and begin the application (<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/forms/index.htm>).

For all other questions, contact Meredith Bean (EAB Coordinator)  
Phone: 434-220-9034 or Email: [meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov)

### **Foresters for the Culpeper SWCD**

#### **Culpeper & Rappahannock:**

Joe Rossetti Office: 540.347.6305. Cell: 540.359.1693.

Kyle Dingus Cell: 540.748.9213.

Sarah Long Cell: 540.290.7153

#### **Greene, Madison & Orange:**

Ed Furlow Office: 434.220.8051. Cell: 540.395.1164

Jack Kauffman Office: 434.220.9043. Cell: 540.395.1226

Michael Downey Office: 434.220.9192.. Cell: 434.529.7546

To reach the above folks by email use:

[Firstname.lastname@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Firstname.lastname@dof.virginia.gov)

## Specialist In Soil & Water Conservation Fence

JR Landrum Fence

F

[jrlandrum1111@yahoo.com](mailto:jrlandrum1111@yahoo.com)



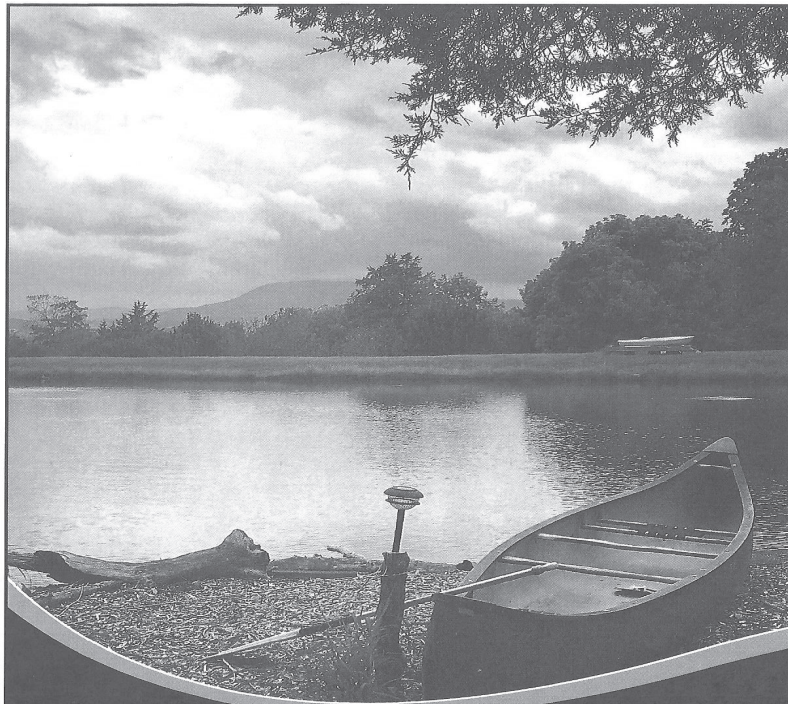
**J.R. LANDRUM**

Fence Work  
Fence Staining  
Tree Work  
Power Washing

Office: 540-948-6013



The District carries nonwoven geotextile (filter fabric) for sale that meets most state and federally funded project requirements, as well as many on-farm needs. Geotextile is sold by the foot, which comes in 12.5' widths. Please call the Culpeper Office at 540-825-8591 for pricing and more information!



**Restoring Balance. Enhancing Beauty.**

## The Balance of Your Aquatic Ecosystem

Is Our Top Priority.

When it comes to lake, stormwater pond and fisheries management, sustainability is essential. You have to incorporate the right strategies, invest in the best solutions and strike the perfect ecological balance to ensure the long-term health and beauty of your aquatic ecosystems.

Download "Your Guide To Sustainable Pond Algae And Aquatic Weed Control."



Visit [solitudelakemanagement.com/balance](http://solitudelakemanagement.com/balance)

**SOLITUDE**  
LAKE MANAGEMENT

888.480.LAKE • [solitudelakemanagement.com](http://solitudelakemanagement.com)

## Grants available for dam and floodplain projects

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Date: January 24, 2018*

*Contact: Shannon Johnson, DCR Public Communications and Marketing Director, (804) 229-0961, [shannon.johnson@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:shannon.johnson@dcr.virginia.gov)*

RICHMOND, Va. — Beginning February 9, 2018, dam owners and local governments may apply for \$900,000 in grants available from the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. The fund is managed by the Virginia Resources Authority on behalf of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

All grants are reimbursements and require a 50 percent match. The maximum amount per grant will be determined based on amounts requested from eligible projects, application scores and available funds. Requests must be submitted by 4 p.m., March 30.

“Dam safety and floodplain management are critical to our public safety,” said DCR Director Clyde Cristman. “These grants will help recipients take necessary steps to protect lives and property, while making communities more resilient to flooding. We encourage dam owners and localities across Virginia to apply.”

Grants are offered in two categories:

- Dam safety grants are available to private dam owners and local governments for dams that have been under a regular or conditional certificate during the past 12 months. If the applicant’s dam is not under a certificate, detailed documentation must be provided to demonstrate the steps being taken to bring the dam under certificate. Grants may be used for dam break inundation zone analysis, mapping and digitization; probable maximum precipitation impact analysis and certification; hazard classification analysis; emergency action plan development; spillway capacity analysis; dam engineering and design activities; and other projects as specified in the [grant manual](#) (available through the link below).
- Flood prevention and protection grants are available to local governments and can be used for hydrologic and hydraulic studies of floodplains to improve the accuracy of flood maps and better determine flood risk, development of flood hazard mitigation strategies and plans, development of flood prevention and protection studies, and other projects as specified in the grant manual.

For more information, download the grant manual at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/form/DCR199-219.docx](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/form/DCR199-219.docx) (Word) or call 804-371-6095.

## We’re accepting applications for scholarships to college and summer camps! Visit our website for more information!



## Virginia Conservation Assistance Program putting VCAP on Pollution

By Richard Jacobs, CSWCD Conservation Specialist III

Through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), the District provides financial assistance to homeowners and business owners to address erosion, poor drainage and poor vegetative cover to create more watershed-friendly landscapes. Financial assistance is available for the following practices:

**Impervious Surface Removal.** The demolition and conversion of pavement to either vegetation cover or another runoff reduction practice covered by VCAP. Minimum size: 200 square feet. Cost Share is up to \$2.50 per square foot.

**Conservation Landscaping.** No watering and no fertilizing your lawn when it is converted to native plants. Native plants also create habitat for birds and pollinators. Minimum size: 200 square feet. Cost Share is 75%.

**Rain Gardens.** Bowl-shaped mulch bed that temporarily ponds and infiltrates runoff from downspouts, driveways and patios. Typical cost range from \$5 to \$15 per square foot. Cost Share is 75%.

**Dry Wells.** A gravel filled pit covered with sod that temporarily stores and infiltrate runoff from downspouts, driveways and patios. Typical cost range from \$7 to \$20 per square foot. Cost Share is 75%.

**Cisterns.** Harvest rainwater to store for future use. Minimum size of 250 gallons and must collect 1 inch of rainfall from roof. Cost Share is up to \$2.00 per gallon.

**Permeable Pavements.** A surface material is used that promotes infiltration into a stone reservoir. Includes permeable pavers, pervious grids or porous asphalt/concrete for driveways, parking lots and patios. Cost Share is 75%.

**Dry Swales.** Are vegetated stormwater channels that have a wide bottom and engineered soil designed to temporarily ponds and infiltrates runoff along a slope channel. Cost Share is 75%.

For a full list of practices, please visit [www.vaswcd.org/vcap](http://www.vaswcd.org/vcap)

There is a four step application process.

1. The homeowner or business contacts the District to request a site visit. District staff visits your property and provides recommendations that address your concerns.
2. Based on the recommendations, the homeowner or business will submit an application with a plan for construction including a layout, schedule and cost estimate.
3. The District will review the application and supporting documentations for completeness and the application is reviewed by the District Board and VCAP Steering Committee. Once approved the District will notify the applicant of approval and the applicant should begin work within 90 days.
4. Once the practice is complete, notify the District for a final inspection and provide copies of invoices and receipts. The District will review the receipts and invoices for eligible costs and reimburse the applicant the appropriate cost share amount.

### Eligibility Requirements:

New construction is **not** eligible for assistance, only retrofits to existing development 3 years or older.

Property must not be eligible under any other conservation programs.

Practice must provide a water quality benefit (i.e. addresses erosion and nutrient loss).

Property owner is willing to keep and maintain the practice for 10 years.

Native species will be used for all plantings.

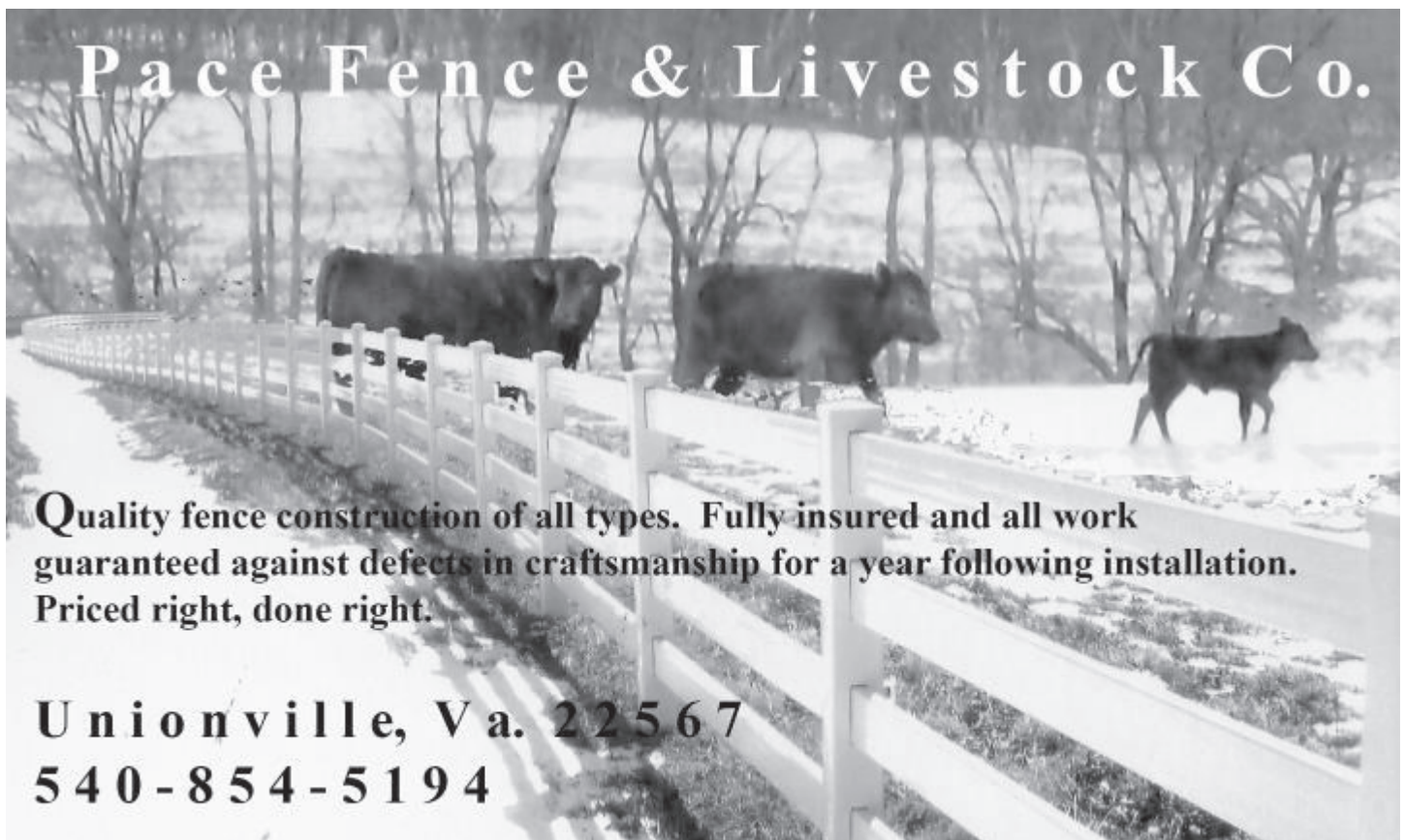
*Continued on page 6*

## 2018 Tree Seedling Sale Returns!

Trees will again be 5 for \$5. Species available are:

- American elderberry
- Black walnut
- Eastern redbud
- White dogwood
- Northern red oak
- Eastern white pine

Pick up will be March 22 & 23, 2018. Contact Stephanie at 540-825-8591 or [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) for ordering information.



**P a c e F e n c e & L i v e s t o c k C o .**

**Quality fence construction of all types. Fully insured and all work guaranteed against defects in craftsmanship for a year following installation. Priced right, done right.**

**U n i o n v i l l e , V a . 2 2 5 6 7**  
**5 4 0 - 8 5 4 - 5 1 9 4**

*Continued from page 4*

**Other Expectations:**

*Maintenance and Inspection requirements* – Annual maintenance will be required for the installed practices. Periodic inspection verifications will be done by the District to ensure the practices are maintained and functioning properly.

*Multiple practices* – You can apply for more than one practice per grant cycle up to the maximum caps set for each type.

*Channel Flooding* – VCAP will not be able to address flooding of large streams or channels. The intent is to address runoff from your site and mitigate damage from offsite whenever possible.

*Solving Problems* – It is possible that a VCAP practice will not address your problems. The District will endeavor to provide the best solution and other resources to consider.

**How to Request a Site Visit**

For more information or to request a site visit, contact the District at [www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org) or 540-825-8591; [RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org)

Please include the following information:

The site address

A basic description of any drainage, erosion and vegetation issues on your property

Which practice you are most interested in

Names and contact information (email preferred) for all property owners/decision makers.

## **Trees for Conservation**

There are many benefits to planting trees in your yard. In addition to clean air and habitat for wildlife, trees reduce stormwater runoff and absorb stormwater pollutants. Trees intercept rain, absorb runoff and transpire more than a traditional lawn of grass. Trees grow well without fertilizer or lime. Just keep those mowers away from the trunks and minimize traffic over the roots and the trees will grow healthy.



## **CSWCD Cost-Share Payments for Septic System Maintenance in all Five Counties**

Effective July 1, 2017 the septic system cost-share reimbursement rates offered by the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District increased for all the practices. Maximum payment amounts and increased options for lower income families, payments can be as high as \$240 (pump-outs), \$4,000 (repairs), \$6,400 (full systems); \$8,000 (full pump systems) and \$19,200 (alternate engineered systems). Actual reimbursement levels vary with household income levels.

The District is currently emphasizing opportunities for full system replacements for those situations that either lack a bona fide system or those where the system is already beginning to fail. According to Greg Wichelns, CSWCD District Manager, "Experience has shown us over the past nine years of the septic cost-share grants that these situations do exist and they are not that uncommon. It is only a matter of time before these cease to function."

The primary focus of the grants the District administers is to reduce the levels of E. Coli bacteria in some local streams that currently do not meet the state water quality standards for E. Coli. The District has four different grants that address various impaired watershed areas of the District. There is also a grant that covers the entire District. In addition, septic system impacts on the Chesapeake Bay are coming under scrutiny and that is likely to further increase.

"Now is a very good time to consider what these grants we have can do for you," Wichelns said. "The grant opportunities to obtain the assistance exist now but may not be around forever."

In addition to the increases in cost-share available, there is also a new practice that pays for both a pump-out and a full system inspection. Any needed repairs identified by the inspection can then be funded through a repair practice. Wichelns creates an analogy to automobile maintenance. "This is a heck of a deal. If this existed for automobiles it would mean you would get a reimbursement for inspecting your car and then you get a reimbursement for repairing it too. Think about it. That's a good deal!"



**Virginia Fence & Farm 540-522-7840**  
**Extreme bushhogging, invasive species removal plus ALL of your fencing needs!**  
[Virginalonghorns@yahoo.com](mailto:Virginalonghorns@yahoo.com)



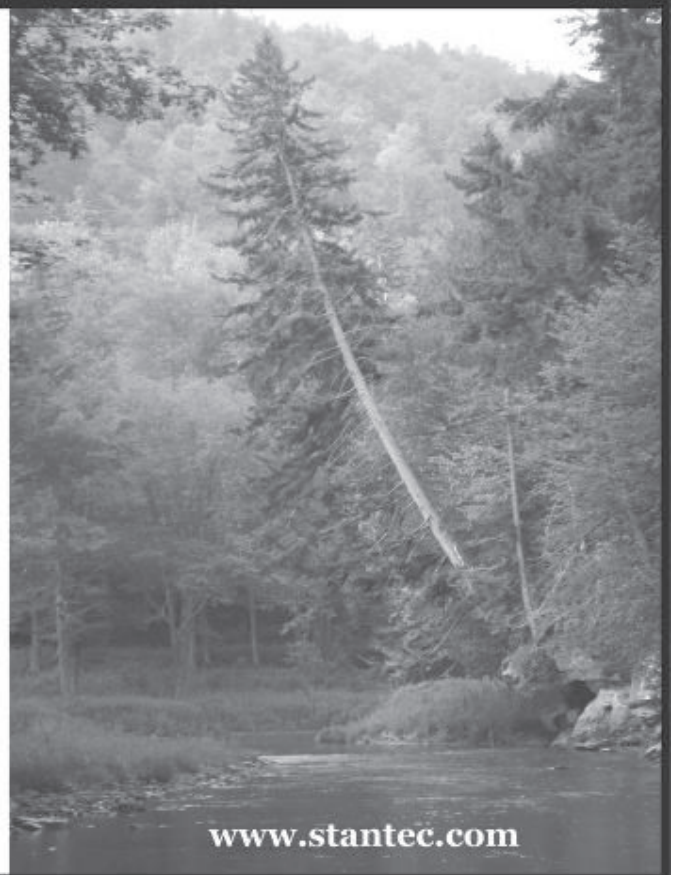


***Developing strategies to help  
your land work for you!***

Environmental Land-Use Planning  
Environmental Resource Inventory  
Stream / Wetland Banking and Restoration  
Environmental Permitting  
Conservation Easement Support  
Lakes, Ponds, and Dams  
Forestry Services

---

Call Brian Hawley, PWS for more details.  
540.785.5544



[www.stantec.com](http://www.stantec.com)

## **RANDY HOVEY CONSTRUCTION**

**540-219-2075**



**Livestock Waterers, Stream Crossings, Well Pumps, Pressure  
Tank Installation and Shelters  
Residential Trenching, Clearing, Bush Hogging, Water and  
Sewer Line Repair and Culvert Pipe Installation.  
Licensed and Fully Insured.**



## **Is your Forest Working for You?**

**Kyle D. Dingus, VDOF NOVA Work Area forester**

A common question I ask landowners is: “How can your forest work for you?”. I phrase it that way to help them think about their objectives for their property and how I can help them to manage it. Landowner objectives are the foundation of good forest management. Once objectives are clarified, then a management plan can be written to show the landowners how to achieve them. Objectives can range from wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, maintaining forest health, timber production for income and many more.

Some plans cover just one objective, while others cover multiple objectives. The type of plan can also depend upon the specific situation. There are land-use plans, Forest Stewardship Plans, stand plans, planting plans and cost-share plans, to name a few. A forester can determine which type of plan can fit your property and its needs. An added value is that some plans can qualify the landowners for programs like the American Tree Farm System, or qualify them for reduced tax rates in their county.

Plans are important because they assist landowners in making an informed decision on what to do with their forest resources. Harvesting timber without a management plan could jeopardize the forest by allowing unnecessary or excessive removal of trees and poor forest health. Some landowners may not have any idea how valuable their timber really is and sell it for much less than it's worth. Think about it this way. Would you try selling a potentially high-dollar item without getting it appraised by a professional? Most likely you wouldn't. That's where foresters come in. They give landowners an idea of the potential value of their forest resources. More importantly a plan covers forest regeneration and perpetuation to keep the forest in native species and in a healthy condition.

By having a plan PRIOR to timber harvesting, landowners are informed of what they have and what management activities need to happen to perpetuate the forest. Depending upon the tree species present, regeneration methods vary. Forest harvesting imitates natural disturbances that trees need to procreate. However, sometimes no harvesting is necessary, and a plan conveys to the landowner what she/he needs to do between regeneration cycles.

Common recommendations, such as invasive species control, deer control, boundary line marking and forest monitoring, are found in most plans. Additionally, recommendations are given that are unique to the landowner and property to help meet his/her objectives. Also, the forester will provide a map with the forests divided into different management units, called stands or parcels, to show where to apply specific management activities. Plans will give a timeframe of when to complete certain recommendations.

Depending on the entity (state or private) writing the plan, there may be a cost associated. The Virginia Department of Forestry commonly writes Forest Stewardship Plans and Land-Use Plans for a fee, but provides other plans, such as stand plans, pre-harvest plans and planting plans, at no cost. Did you know that the Department conducts free site visits and gives free technical advice? What do you have to lose?! Call your local Department of Forestry Office and help your forest work you.

**Interested in Learning More about Developing and  
Writing Farm Leases? Contact Sarah Sharpe at  
[seweaver@vt.edu](mailto:seweaver@vt.edu) or 434-985-5236  
(Tentative date is March 19)**

## **Drinking Water Testing Clinics: Greene, Madison & Orange**

**Monday May 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Tests to be done include:** iron, manganese, sulfate, hardness, sodium, copper, nitrate, arsenic, fluoride, pH, total dissolved solids, coliform bacteria, E. coli bacteria and lead.

**Where:** Madison County High School Auditorium, 68 Mountaineer Lane, Madison, VA 22727

**Cost: \$50** (includes sample analysis cost to test for selected chemical and bacteriological constituents)

**Register:** VCE Madison Office 540-948-6881, Katie Jenkins ([kjenk@vt.edu](mailto:kjenk@vt.edu)) You must pre-register, space is limited! Please bring a check made payable to Treasurer, Virginia Tech - Madison Office or cash for \$50 to the kickoff meeting to receive your sampling kit.

Samples must be dropped off at the Greene, Madison or Orange Extension offices on Wednesday May 16 between 7am and 9am.

The follow-up meeting will be Wednesday June 13 at MCHS in Madison.

**\*\*** If you live in Culpeper or Rappahannock, there will be a kickoff meeting on October 3. Samples will be due October 10. The follow-up meeting will be November 7. For more information contact the Becky Sheffield at the Culpeper Extension office at 540-727-3435 ext. 344.

## **District Receives Grants for Lawn Testing Program & Driveway Guide**

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District has received two grants through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (also known as the License Plate Fund). One grant will update the District's popular Driveway and Small Lot Best Management Practices Guide, to include color pictures in an easy to use pocket guide.

The other grant is to expand our lawn soil testing program, which was piloted in Madison County last summer. A soil test will tell you the nutrients that exist in your lawn and what is lacking. The test costs just \$10 plus shipping but CSWCD and Virginia Cooperative Extension are offering it to landowners for free! Proposed dates are as follows:

- **July 30-August 3:** An introductory meeting in **your county** about well & septic system maintenance, Bay friendly lawn care and ways to address problem areas in your yard. There will be a demo of how to take a soil sample
- **August 10:** Samples due to your Extension office
- **August 27:** Follow up meeting with analysis and next step recommendation

Registration is limited to 100 people per county.

For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) or 540-825-8591.



## WINTER RAIN BARREL SALE!

Rain barrels are available! Prices are \$70 for one and \$135 for two. For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at 540-825-8591 or send an email to: [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org).



**HELP US CONSERVE PAPER!  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE  
THIS NEWSLETTER VIA E-  
MAIL? SEND AN E-MAIL TO  
[STEPHANIED@CULPEPERSWCD.ORG](mailto:STEPHANIED@CULPEPERSWCD.ORG).**



Printed on recycled paper.

## *Views From The Foothills*

Published Seasonally By  
Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Editor

Culpeper Office  
351 Lakeside Drive  
Culpeper, Virginia 22701  
540-825-8591  
540-645-6624 (F)

Orange Office  
325-B Madison Road  
Orange, Virginia 22960  
540-308-6301

## Board of Directors

### **Culpeper County**

Andrew Campbell  
Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer  
Laura A. Campbell, Associate Director

### **Madison County**

Lynn Graves, Chair  
Stephen Hill  
L. Brad Jarvis, Associate Director  
James Byrne, Associate Director

### **Greene County**

Philip C. Morris, Vice-Chair  
Robert Runkle  
Steve Morris, At-Large  
Sarah Weaver Sharpe, Ext. Agent, At-Large

### **Orange County**

Robert Bradford  
J. Robert Brame III  
Warren Lee, Associate Director

### **Rappahannock County**

Vacant  
Dr. Monira Rifaat  
Richard McNear, Associate Director

## District Staff

Greg Wichelns, District Manager  
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary  
Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist III  
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist II  
David Massie, Conservation Specialist III  
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist II  
Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Information/Education Coordinator  
James Henshaw, District Representative  
Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist II  
EJ Burke, Conservation Specialist I

## Natural Resources Conservation Service


Rex Rexrode, District Conservationist  
Nancy Utz, Conservation Technician  
Ashleigh Cason, Soil Conservationist  
Geoff Moore, Area Civil Engineer Technician  
John Jeffries, ACES

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.



351 Lakeside Drive  
Culpeper, VA 22701  
540/825-8591

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
RICHMOND, VA  
PERMIT NO 388



1932 2012

80 YEARS OF  
FARM & HOME  
KNOWHOW

Culpeper 540-825-2200

Rappahannock 540-987-8555

*Hometown Service Since 1932*


[www.cfcfarmhome.com](http://www.cfcfarmhome.com)

Fencing - Water Troughs - Seed & Seeding


If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please just give us a call at 540/825-8591 or send an e-mail to [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org).

*The sponsors of this newsletter help support the conservation efforts of the Culpeper SWCD. If you are interested in placing information about your business or organization in this space, please call (540) 825-8591.*

King's  
**AgriSeeds** LLC



**MASTERS  
CHOICE  
HYBRIDS**



**BARENBRUG**

PIEDMONT SEEDS LLC.

HIGH QUALITY  
HIGH ENERGY  
FORAGES

**TERRY INGRAM**  
540-270-8355