

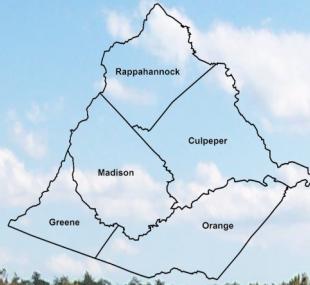
# Views From The Foothills

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

Vol. 26 Issue 1  
Winter 2026

M. Johnson

## Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District Presents the *Conservation Program Updates Workshop* March 13, 2026 from 9AM-1PM at Madison County Fire Hall



This program is targeted to owners and operators of agricultural and forested land in Culpeper, Madison, Greene, Orange and Rappahannock Counties. Join local natural resource enthusiasts to learn more about conservation opportunities and hear testimonials from producers that have participated with Culpeper SWCD!

Culpeper SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Local Foresters, Virginia Outdoors

Foundation, Piedmont Environmental Council and Smithsonian Virginia

Working Landscapes

Please RSVP (540) 825-8591 or e-mail [stevier@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stevier@culpeperswcd.org)

Lunch will be provided \$20 per person registration required

Limited to 70 attendees.

## Agricultural Cost Share Practices

All staff can now be reached at (540) 825-8591

- Amanda McCullen [amandac@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:amandac@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1003
- Lily Smith [lilys@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:lilys@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1010
- Cheyenne Sheridan [cheyennes@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:cheyennes@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1008
- Trevor Talley [trevort@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:trevort@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1014
- Jack Bourdon [jackb@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:jackb@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1004
- Spencer Yager [spencery@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:spencery@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1012
- Kendall Dellinger [kendalld@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:kendalld@culpeperswcd.org) ext. 1009

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Details</b>
Grazing Land Management with Stream Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stream exclusion fencing &amp; water development.</li> <li>• Includes fence, well, water troughs, pipe, stream crossings, rotational fences, etc.</li> <li>• Pays 85% of <i>estimated</i> cost with 35' buffer &amp; 100% with 50' buffer.</li> <li>• Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation of all practices.</li> <li>• 10 and 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Stream Exclusion with Narrow Width buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stream exclusion fencing &amp; water development with reduced setback.</li> <li>• Includes fence, well, water troughs, pipe, stream crossings, rotational fence, etc.</li> <li>• Pays 60% of <i>estimated</i> cost with 10' buffer &amp; 75% with 25' buffer.</li> <li>• 10 and 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Afforestation of Crop, Hay & Pastureland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays 75% of eligible cost for planting trees (hardwood or conifers).</li> <li>• \$100/acre for 10 year incentive &amp; \$150/acre for 15 years.</li> </ul>
Woodland Buffer Filter Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting trees in riparian areas.</li> <li>• Pays 95% of eligible cost for planting hardwoods or conifers.</li> <li>• Conifers: \$100/acre for 10 years OR \$150/acre for 15 years.</li> <li>• Hardwoods: \$100/acre for 10 years OR \$250/acre for 15 years.</li> <li>• Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation.</li> </ul>
Cover Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 25th cut off for harvestable cover crop &amp; early planting date for cover crops to be killed in the spring</li> <li>• November 15th, cut off planting date for kill down crops.</li> <li>• <i>Note: Dates have been extended by two weeks. Producer input led to this change!</i></li> <li>• Rates: \$20/acre to harvest, up to \$100/acre to kill &amp; \$45/acre for legumes.</li> </ul>
Nutrient Management Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays up to \$4/acre to have a nutrient management plan written for your farm.</li> <li>• A great way to save money on input costs!</li> </ul>
Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays up to \$8/acre for the precision application of nitrogen &amp; phosphorus to cropland.</li> <li>• Must have current nutrient management plan: provide records, maps &amp; a bill for nitrogen/phosphorous application.</li> </ul>
No-Till & Cropland Conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays up to \$70/acre to convert from conventional tillage to a no-till system for 5 years.</li> <li>• Pays up to \$410/acre to convert cropland to permanent hay or pasture.</li> <li>• 10 or 15 year contracts available.</li> </ul>
Sod Waterway, Grass Filter Strips & Critical Area Seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays up to 75% to grade &amp; seed gully erosion.</li> <li>• Pays up to 75% to establish grass filter strips along waterways adjacent to crop, hayland or animal holding areas. <b><u>NEW! Buffer payment rate of \$80/acre/year paid upon installation.</u></b></li> <li>• Pays up to 75% to grade, fill &amp; seed critically eroding areas.</li> </ul>
Continuing Conservation Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays \$0.50-\$1.25/linear foot of stream bank protected with fencing.</li> <li>• Pays \$250-\$1,000 per water system, water trough or stream crossing.</li> <li>• A great way to receive funds to maintain existing infrastructure!</li> </ul>
Streambank Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays 75% of the cost to stabilize &amp;/or grade eroding streambanks on ag or forest land including cover slope toe rip rap for protection (if required), vegetative planting, trees/shrubs</li> <li>• Requires engineered design which is a reimbursable expense</li> </ul>

## Farewells

There are big changes in the Culpeper Service Center! After 28 years as Culpeper Soil and Water's District Manager, Greg Wichelns retired on December 1. A native of upstate New York, Greg joined the District in January 1998 as the District Manager. He earned a BS in Ecological Agriculture from Evergreen State College & an MS in Horticulture at Washington State University. Previous to employment with the CSWCD he served as Greenhouse Facilities Manager & Staff Horticulturist for the Institute of Biological Chemistry at Washington State University.

During his tenure as District Manager, Greg

- Expanded the staff from 2, to its current listing of 12.
- Began reviewing site plans for stormwater management, which led to the hiring of a dedicated employee
- Designed and received grants for an urban cost share program (now known as Virginia Conservation Assistance Program)
- Launched the cost share program for septic system maintenance in Rappahannock County, which eventually expanded to all of the District's counties
- Saw the agricultural cost share program through years of \$250,000 in funding allocation to \$9.9 million for FY 26
- Hired the first full-time education coordinator in the state, leading to being awarded a grant from NOAA for education programs

Effective December 1, David Massie has been promoted to District Manager.

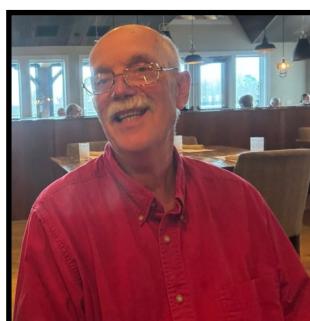
### ***From Our Federal Partner***

After 46 years of Federal service, Rex T. Rexrode retired effective January 2. Rex received a BA in History from West Virginia Institute of Technology (now West Virginia University) and began working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in West Virginia. He became the District Conservationist in the Culpeper Service Center in 2007. He has taken agriculture and environmental science classes through WVU and the University of Virginia.

Effective January 2, Ashleigh Cason will be splitting her time between the Culpeper and Verona Service Centers.

### Welcome Jack!

Jack Bourdon grew up in Madison County and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with a degree in Biology. While at Hampden-Sydney, he played four years of Division III baseball. He has a strong passion for conservation and enjoys spending his time fishing and hunting.



Left: Chairman Lynn Graves and Greg Wichelns

Center: Rex T. Rexrode

Right: Jack Bourdon

## Participant Corner: The Goodall Family

“We started with a goal of preserving and protecting our family farm. Our Mom and Dad who built the farm wished for this...as did we. We were not sure how to achieve this; but fortunately, we found the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation folks. In addition to their vital financial support, we were surprised and delighted with their excellent technical support. We had many questions....

*How much water does the agricultural well need to adequately supply the cattle waterers? What size pump and pipe do we need to pump that water over a mile to the waterers? What is the best type of fencing design to protect the riparian buffers? How do we construct a stream ramp crossing that will last through the years?*

The Culpeper SWCD had the answers to all of these and many other questions. With their guidance and funding support, we were able to install the things needed to improve farm operations, protect biodiversity, and qualify for an Agricultural Land Easement. Farm preserved; farm protected!

And as if this was not enough, the funding provided by the Culpeper SWCD to plant trees in our riparian buffers allowed us to host over 1000 local public-school students who experienced hands-on how to do this and why it is so important. Thanks to Friends of the Rappahannock for providing this educational opportunity for students.

And thanks to the Culpeper SWCD for making all of this possible!”

~Joe and Gaye Goodall; Paul and Amy Goodall



Above: Photo courtesy of Hugh Kenny and PEC



Above: The Goodall family accepts the 2020 Rappahannock Grand Basin and Clean Water Farm Awards



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## Agricultural Information

### **Selling your Land? Got BMP's?**

By Lily Smith, CSWCD Conservation Specialist III

If you're planning to sell your land, don't forget to check for active Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the property. Many BMPs, such as livestock exclusion fencing or watering systems, receive cost-share or tax credits and come with a maintenance requirement that can last anywhere from 10 to 15 years. New landowners are often unaware that a BMP is under contract, which can lead to compliance issues down the road.

To make the transition smoother, the cost share program offers a Transfer of Maintenance Agreement. This form allows the responsibility for maintaining the BMP to shift from the seller to the buyer, ensuring the practice continues to be properly maintained for the remainder of its lifespan. If you're selling land with BMPs that are still in lifespan, contact our office to obtain the form and then get it dual signed. Not only will this protect the investment, but it will also set the new owner up for success. If you do not officially transfer the responsibility, you remain responsible for the BMP regardless of who owns the land.

### **0% Interest Loans Available**

Are you interested in conservation practices but do not have the money upfront to fund the project? No worries. Department of Environmental Quality's Ag BMP Loan Program offers funds for you with no money upfront with 0% interest, no long-term requirement, and potential for principal forgiveness. Fortunate for you, projects are accepted year-round and reviewed monthly. Debt repayment begins 6 months after project completion with 1-to-10-year repayment schedules depending on loan amount and asset useful life. DEQ will prioritize applications and tentative authorization will be granted. Contact DEQ today at (804) 929-5085 to find out if you're eligible.

### **Missouri Grazing Manual Available**

By David H. Massie, CSWCD District Manager

The Culpeper SWCD has copies of the Missouri Grazing Manual available to producers interested in expanding their grazing knowledge. This grazing manual encompasses so many different aspects of grazing management – soils, plant growth, nutrient cycling, water system and fence layout, grazer's arithmetic, and economics of grazing. This manual also brings together different groups of researchers, educators, and producers with broad experience in land management, forage, and livestock systems.

The distribution of these manuals will be on a first come, first serve basis. We also have pasture grazing sticks for sale for \$5 each. Pasture grazing sticks are a great tool for helping producers "train their eyes" to the amount of forage available for their livestock. A two page instruction manual comes with the pasture grazing stick, and District Staff will be happy to assist using this valuable tool on your farm.

### **Small Farm Outreach**

The Small Farm Outreach Program (SFOP), a part of Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University, educates and empowers small, limited-resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to own, operate and sustain farms and ranches independently with agricultural training programs that improve farm management skills and quality of life.

For more information, visit <https://www.ext.vsu.edu/small-farm-outreach-program>.

### **Geotextile Fabric Available!**

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!





## 2026 Culpeper SWCD Tree Sale

PICK UP FOR ALL PLANTS IS 3/20/2026 and 3/21/2026

See article on page 5: [culp-swcd-nletter-09.21.pdf](http://culpeperswcd.org/culp-swcd-nletter-09.21.pdf) (culpeperswcd.org)



### Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Full sun to shade tolerant; Eastern redbud reaches a mature size of 15-30 feet in height and 6-10 inches in diameter. It grows on moist, well-drained soils. The wood is heavy, hard, and rich, dark brown in color. Some birds and mammals eat the seeds. Redbud is planted as an ornamental tree suitable for small landscapes.



### Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Full sun to shade tolerant; Red-osier dogwood is a large, 7-9 foot shrub best suited where the background, such as evergreens, will show off the dark red winter stems. Besides attractive, red stems in the winter, red-osier dogwood has yellowish-white flowers that appear in late May to early June, and bluish-white fruit borne in late summer. Fall color is reddish-purple.



### Common hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Full sun to shade tolerant; Hazelnut is a small shrub, often in clumps reaching 8 to 15 feet in height with an 8-12 foot spread. It makes a nice surprise in the shrub border since it goes unnoticed forming a green mass most of the year. It can also be planted along the foundation of a commercial building to soften the corners. It is important to provide moisture until the plant is established. Once established, it will survive and grow with little or no irrigation provided it is located in a moist area. It is as near to maintenance-free as any plant. Hazelnut produces excellent nuts, which are prized by deer, turkey and other wildlife.



### Serviceberry (*Rosaceae amelanchier*)

Partial sun to shade tolerant; The Serviceberry species can reach heights of 20 feet in height and 15 feet in width. This small tree-like shrub thrives through all four seasons and offers so much to any garden. Abundant white blooms in spring are followed by berries in summer, fiery foliage in fall, and silver bark in winter. The Serviceberries' delicious berries are enjoyed by a large range of wildlife.



### Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Full sun to partial shade tolerant; These trees often reach a mature height of 40 to 70 feet and a spread of 20 to 30 feet, with a straight trunk with the branches extending outward at right angles. The bark is dark gray and flaky when young, but it becomes furrowed with age. The flowers this tree produces are very small, in greenish-white in clusters at the top of a long stalk and a rich source of nectar for bees. Black gum is best grown in areas with acidic, medium to wet, well-drained soils and full sun to part shade.



### Virginia pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Full sun to shade tolerant; mature size of 80-100 feet in height and 2-3 feet in diameter, but can reach 200 feet in height. The eastern white pine is the largest conifer in eastern North America. The wood is used for construction lumber, cabinet making, furniture and interior finish. White pines are also grown for Christmas trees and are planted to stabilize the soil. Commonly found on dry, sandy or rocky ridges, but grows best on moist, sandy loam soils. This conifer provides thermal cover in winter for many species of animals and birds.





## PICK UP FOR ALL PLANTS IS March 20 & 21, 2026 (Greene pick up March 23)

### RETURNING: POLLINATOR MEADOW SEED MIX FOR SMALL AREAS OF YOUR YARD!

This meadow seed mix includes an already pre-mixed cover crop and will cover a 1,000 square foot area. The meadow mix does best in sunny areas that receive 6 hours or more of sunlight. The mix is designed for both riparian and upland sites. Detailed instructions will accompany the seed mix at pick up. *Picture of meadow planted in spring 2025*

### RETURNING THIS YEAR: Live stakes to address streambank erosion and other uses

Silky dogwood (*Cornaceae cornus amomum*) and Silky willow (*Salix sericea*). These shrub cuttings come in bundles and root readily when planted in moist soils.



Whether you have an eroding stream bank or want to restore a riparian area, consider planting with live stakes. Live staking is the practice of using unrooted cuttings to propagate shrubs and some trees for establishing vegetation in difficult riparian areas such as stream banks and floodplains. Using cuttings from dormant multi-stem shrubs and trees which have the capacity to grow roots once they are tapped or hammered into the ground. <https://extension.psu.edu/live-staking-for-stream-restoration> Pictures from Virginia Tech Dendrology



Species	Price	Quantity	Species	Price	Quantity
Eastern redbud (5 seedlings)	\$5		Red osier dogwood (5 seedlings)	\$5	
Hazelnut (5 seedlings)	\$5		Eastern white pine (5 seedlings)	\$5	
Serviceberry (5 seedlings)	\$5		Black gum (5 seedlings)	\$5	
Silky dogwood (25 live stakes)	\$40		Silky willow (25 live stakes)	\$40	
Meadow mix	\$30				
<b>TOTAL COST: (check or cash only)</b>					

Name	
Address	
Phone number	
E-mail	

Checks payable to CSWCD. Pick up dates are Friday March 20 and Saturday March 21, 2026 at 351 Lakeside Drive in Culpeper.

Plants not picked up by 12pm on Saturday March 21, 2026 may be forfeited without a refund.

We do our best to insure quality control. However, no refunds on trees that do not grow.

Questions? Contact Stephanie DeNicola at [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) or (540) 825-8591

Mail order form & payment to ATTN Tree Sale, CSWCD, 351 Lakeside Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701  
Species descriptions & pictures from Virginia Tech Dendrology <https://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm> & VDOF

## 2025 Conservation Awards

The District's Annual Conservation Awards Dinner was held on November 20, 2025 in Culpeper to honor residents who have demonstrated leadership in the stewardship of local soil and water resources. The Clean Water Farm Awards are awarded to one farm in each county of the Soil and Water Conservation District that is exemplary in its protection of the state's soil and water quality, with particular emphasis on nutrient management.

The recipients of the Clean Water Farm Awards were:

- **Culpeper County:** Glebe Farm
- **Greene County:** Evan Bowman and family
- **Madison County:** Shepherd and Sons Farm LLC
- **Orange County:** Brooke Farms LLC
- **Rappahannock County:** Thornhill Farms

The Conservationist of the Year Award is given to an individual or individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, hard work and investment in conservation practices that protect the quality of soil and water in the Culpeper District and exhibit strong advocacy to others for conservation. This year's award was presented to Carl Stafford for exemplary commitment to conservation as the retiring Agriculture Agent with the Culpeper office of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The 2025 Forestry Award was given to James Madison's Montpelier of Orange County.

The 2025 Educator of the Year was presented to Ken Cranston of Culpeper County.

The 2025 Wildlife Habitat Award was given to Chancellors Rock Farm of Rappahannock County.

Greg Wichelns, District Manager for 28 years, was recognized for his service. He retired effective December 1.



Left:  
Glebe  
Farm



Right:  
Evan  
Bowman  
and family



Left:  
Shepherd  
& Sons  
Farm LLC



Right:  
Brooke  
Farms  
LLC



Left:  
Thornhill  
Farms



Right:  
Ken  
Cranston



Left: James  
Madison's  
Montpelier



Right:  
Chancellors  
Rock



Left: Carl  
Stafford



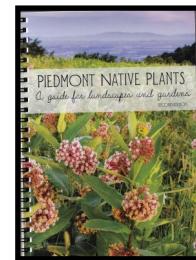
Right: Greg  
Wichelns

**Congratulations to all of our Award winners!**

## Woods & Wildlife Information

### **Hot Off the Press: Piedmont Native Plants 2nd Edition!**

The Second Edition of Piedmont Native Plants is available for purchase through our office for \$20. This beautiful, full color resources includes pictures, descriptions and growing needs for wildflowers, ground covers, ferns, shrubs short trees, tall trees and edibles. To purchase, email Stephanie DeNicola at [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org). Check or exact cash accepted.



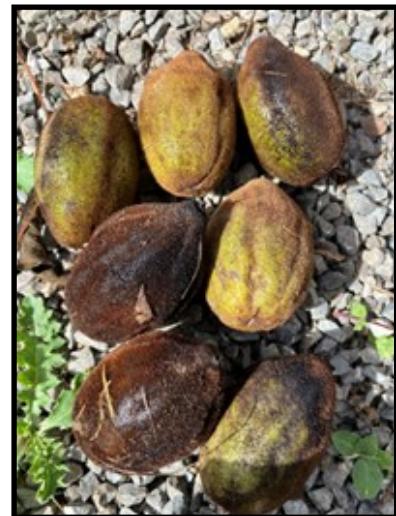
### **Woods & Wildlife Conference Returns to Culpeper**

The Annual Woods and Wildlife Conference returns to the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper on Saturday February 28, 2026! This all-day conference is for owners of large or small tracts of land and is a one stop/first stop for individuals, families and managers to learn about woods, wildlife and other natural resources. It provides multiple links to information, sources of assistance and a broader community of landowners and professionals and will explore a myriad of forest issues relevant to woodland owners. Contact Adam Downing at [adowning@vt.edu](mailto:adowning@vt.edu) or (540) 948-6881 for more info.

**State Arboretum Seeks Butternuts**  
by T'ai Roulston, Curator & Research Associate Professor,  
State Arboretum at Blandy  
Reprinted with permission

The State Arboretum at Blandy is in search for butternut trees in Virginia. Butternuts (also called white walnut) are declining rapidly due in large part to butternut canker disease, an introduced fungal pathogen that causes black fissures to erupt over the tree's trunk, eventually killing it. Here at the arboretum, we are trying to document the health of existing trees over diverse areas in Virginia and propagate ones from a geographically wide range.

The Arboretum is interested in butternut trees in Culpeper, Madison and Rappahannock Counties. If you see the nuts, please take a picture and email [tai.roulston@virginia.edu](mailto:tai.roulston@virginia.edu) to confirm identification. It is challenging to identify the tree from photos without nuts. The grand hope is to find some butternuts resistant to the blight somewhere out there, and maybe you can point us to one.



**FREE LAWN SOIL TESTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!**  
**CONTACT STEPHANIE DENICOLA AT**  
**stephanied@culpeperswcd.org for info!**

## Residential Information

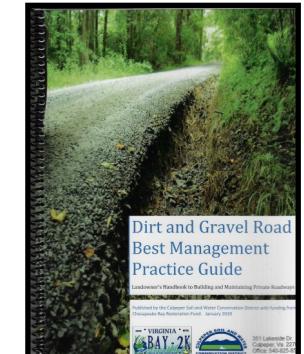
### Backyard Conservation Funds Available

By Richard Jacobs, III, PE, CSWCD Conservation Specialist III

Conserving water while using attractive gardening and landscaping practices beautifies your yard, attracts beneficial pollinators, adds curb appeal and also helps improve the environment by reducing the amount of storm water runoff from your property. Creative management of those small areas of your front or backyard to address problem areas (too wet, too dry, doesn't drain, won't grow grass, etc...) now has funding available to support simple, on the ground landscape practices that benefit both you and the local environment. The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program or VCAP provides financial assistance to residential, institutional and commercial property owners to implement such practices. Payment rates vary among the practices but generally are focused on providing up to 80 percent of the cost. The District will provide technical resources for your planning efforts and visit your site to better understand what you hope to achieve. For more information on VCAP visit <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> or contact the District at (540) 825-8591 or [richardj@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:richardj@culpeperswcd.org).

### Road and Driveway Maintenance Guide Available

Spring is a great time to start maintenance of your road or driveway! Over time, many roads and driveways deteriorate for a variety of reasons: poor initial design or construction, poor maintenance, extreme weather or heavy traffic. In addition to costly repairs, many roads and roadside ditches drain into local streams delivering both sediment and gravel into stream channels. This is destructive to the stream, resulting in loss of stream bottom habitat and channel capacity. Improved maintenance incorporating best management practices (BMPs) can save money and better protect waterways.



Currently available to property owners is the Dirt and Gravel Road BMP Guide, published with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The guide can be found at the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District website ([www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org)) under Publications. Hard copies can be picked up from CSWCD as well as your local Extension office or Building office. For technical assistance, contact Richard Jacobs at (540) 825-8591 or [richardj@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:richardj@culpeperswcd.org).



### Rain Barrel Sale!

A new order of rain barrels are have arrived! Prices are \$90 for one and \$175 for two (plus sales tax)! This includes barrel, lid, hardware and instructions. For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at (540) 825-8591 or send an email to: [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org).

## Partner Spotlight

### **Old Rag Master Naturalists**

If you love the woods, waters, wildlife and wild places of the Virginia Piedmont—and you want to do more than admire them from afar—meet the **Old Rag Master Naturalists (ORMN)**. This dedicated group of volunteer educators, citizen scientists, and environmental stewards believes conservation works best when you roll up your sleeves and get to work.

Old Rag Master Naturalists are part of the **Virginia Master Naturalist Program**, a statewide corps focused on natural resource education, stewardship, and community service. In plain terms: ORMN teaches, protects, and restores nature right here at home—from forests and rivers to pollinators and wildlife habitats.

Serving Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties, ORMN equips volunteers with strong, science-based training and meaningful opportunities to make a real, measurable impact across the Piedmont region.

#### ***What They Do***

This isn't just talking about nature—it's getting out there and doing it. ORMN members:

- Educate the public about local ecology and natural history
- Participate in citizen science projects that support real research
- Restore and steward habitats, including trail work and invasive plant removal
- Monitor wildlife and water quality to track environmental health
- Lead community programs and workshops that connect people with the natural world

All of this work is volunteer-powered, combining classroom learning with hands-on service.

#### ***Training That Matters***

Becoming a Master Naturalist isn't a quick badge—it's a structured training program that blends classroom instruction with field experience. Members gain practical skills and scientific knowledge they actually use in conservation and education projects throughout the region. Ongoing workshops, seasonal events, and field work keep learning fresh and impact strong.

#### ***Nature for Everyone***

ORMN doesn't just protect ecosystems—they work to make the outdoors accessible and welcoming to all. Through inclusive programs and community outreach, they help ensure that nature truly is for everyone, no matter how you experience it.

#### ***Explore the New Old Rag Master Naturalists Website***

We're excited to share the launch of the **brand-new Old Rag Master Naturalists website**—a fresh, welcoming hub for learning about nature and getting involved. The site features upcoming programs and events, citizen science projects, volunteer opportunities, and ways to connect—whether you're a seasoned naturalist or simply curious about the world around you.

Take a stroll through our new online home at <https://www.oldragmasternaturalists.org/>  
Nature lovers welcome—muddy boots optional.

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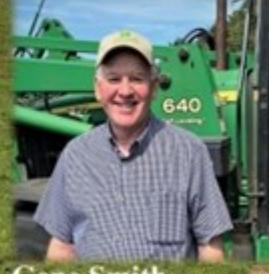
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When it comes to lake, stormwater pond and fisheries management, sustainability is essential. You have to incorporate the right strategies, invest in the best solutions and strike the perfect ecological balance to ensure the long-term health and beauty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

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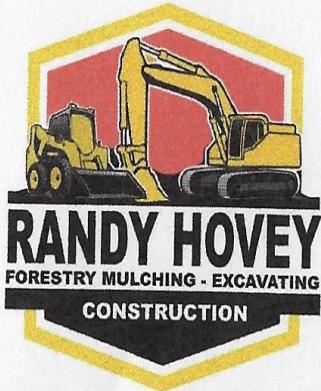
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## Developing strategies to help your land work for you.

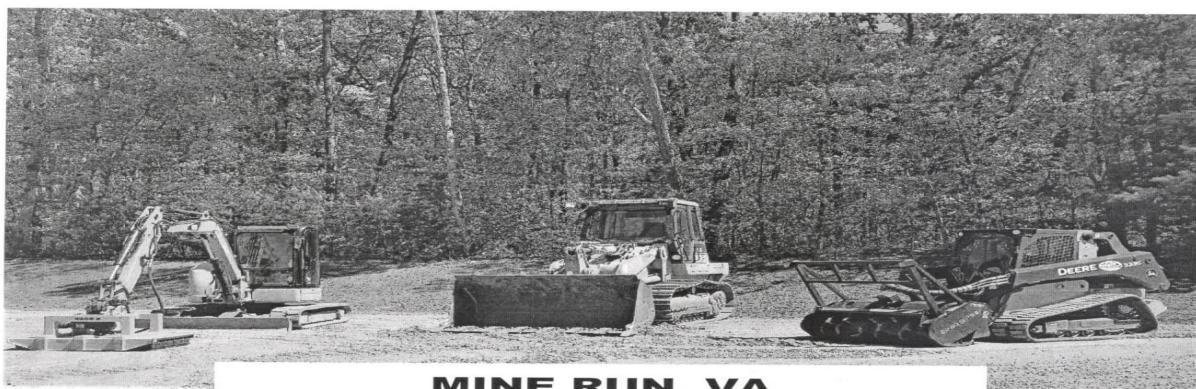
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## Attention! New Orange Office!

**Effective October 28, the Culpeper SWCD Orange office has moved to 591 N Madison Road. We are located at the north end of the Food Lion shopping plaza. The phone number is still (540) 825-8591.**

**Help us Conserve Paper!**  
**Would you like to receive this newsletter via E-mail? Send an e-mail to stephaniel@culpeperswcd.org.**

## *Views From The Foothills*

Published Seasonally By  
 Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Editor

Culpeper Office	Orange Office
351 Lakeside Drive	591 N. Madison Road
Culpeper, Virginia 22701	Orange, Virginia 22960
(540) 825-8591	(540) 825-8591
(540) 645-6624 (F)	

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An advertisement for CFC Farm &amp; Home Center. It features a background image of green plants. At the top left is the CFC Farm &amp; Home Center logo, which is a red diamond shape with the text "CFC", "FARM", "HOME", and "CENTER" inside. To the right of the logo is the slogan "For all your farm &amp; home needs!" in a cursive font. Below the logo, it says "Six locations across north central Virginia". There are two columns of locations: one for Berryville, Clearbrook, and Culpeper; and one for Marshall, Rappahannock, and Warrenton. At the bottom are social media links for the website, Facebook, and Instagram.

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).

An advertisement for VAFB Insurance. It features the VAFB Insurance logo, which is a red square with the text "FARM BUREAU INSURANCE". To the right of the logo is a photo of a man with glasses and a blue shirt. Below the photo is the name "David Wise" and the title "AFIS, LUTCF, CLTC, FSS, FSCP Insurance Agent". It provides the address "440 James Madison Hwy. Culpeper, VA 22701", phone number "d: (540) 825-0682 m: (434) 983-8780", and email "david.wise@vafb.com" and website "vafb.com". The background of the ad has horizontal stripes in red, yellow, green, grey, and blue.

*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.*