Cost Share Program

If you are interested in implementing conservation practices on your farm, the District (TJSWCD) has cost share programs, funds, and technical expertise that may be able to assist you. We have an abundance of cost share funds that need to be put to good use for livestock producers and crop producers.

- **COVER CROP**  
  - Up to $60 per acre; with some ability to harvest the cover crop
- **SIDEDRESS OF NITROGEN ON CORN**  
  - $6 per acre incentive payment
- **CONTINUOUS NO-TILL SYSTEM**  
  - $100 per acre to implement
- **LONG TERM CONTINUOUS NO-TILL SYSTEM**  
  - $25 per acre to continue operation
- **PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ON CROPLAND**  
  - 75% cost-share to establish; $25 per acre incentive payment

- **STREAM/WATER EXCLUSION FENCING**  
  - 75% cost-share for exclusion fencing, and alternate watering systems
  - 25% State tax credit on out of pocket expenses
- **ALTERNATIVE WATERING SYSTEMS**  
  - 75% cost share if paired with exclusion fencing
  - 25% State Tax Credit if no exclusion fencing is present
- **DIVISION FENCING**  
  - 50% cost-share
- **CONTINUING CONSERVATION INCENTIVE**  
  - Pays for maintenance on existing exclusion fence; $1/ln ft of stream bank

The tax code of Virginia has changed such that any tax credits that the producer cannot use will be issued in the form of a refund from the Virginia Department of Taxation.

NEW Rain Barrel Kits For Sale

The TJSWCD has a new supplier for rain barrels. The rain barrels are Earth Minded Recycled Rain Stations. The District will now sell Rain Barrel Kits for $75. Please contact Nicola McGoff at 434-975-0224 or nicola.mcgoff@vaswcd.org to purchase a barrel kit or to have your name added to a list to receive information on future workshops.
This spring has been filled with much activity related to the TJSWCD’s eight P.L. 566 Watershed Control Structures in Louisa, including annual inspections, maintenance, and planning for upcoming work. The TJSWCD has already conducted its annual inspections for 2012, and the inspection reports will be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). These inspections are required for all regulated dams in order to maintain an Operation and Maintenance Certificate. Four of the TJSWCD’s dams were up for their official recertification, which happens every six years, and a professional engineer must complete the inspection. Ken Turner, P.E., DCR’s District Dam Safety Consultant, participated in the inspection of these four structures, along with Jerry Wright of NRCS.

Fortunately, the dams do not show any signs of damage from the August 23, 2011, magnitude 5.8 earthquake in Louisa. Spring is also time for the TJSWCD to complete maintenance activities. The dams will be mowed to prevent woody vegetation from growing. Any deficiencies found in the annual inspections will also be addressed.

The Dam Break Inundation Zone (DBIZ) Studies for the TJSWCD dams are still underway and nearing completion, pending some possible regulation changes and the acquisition of additional survey data. The DBIZ maps will show the areas downstream of a dam that will be affected if the dam were to fail, and it is required for all regulated dams. The DBIZ is established using computer models to simulate a dam break, and must be prepared by a Professional Engineer.

The TJSWCD will also use the maps to update its Emergency Action Plans (EAPs).

Williamsburg Environmental Group was contracted through DCR to complete the DBIZ Studies for the TJSWCD.

Once the DBIZ study is completed, the TJSWCD will share the maps with Louisa County’s Community Development Department to include in its municipal mapping. The TJSWCD will also use the maps to update its Emergency Action Plans (EAPs).

An EAP is a formal document that identifies potential emergency conditions, identifies key personnel to be notified, and specifies preplanned actions to be followed to minimize property damage and loss of life. This includes creating a contact list for the properties downstream that would be affected and possibly creating a “Reverse 911” notification system. The TJSWCD will work with Louisa’s Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and will conduct a “Tabletop Exercise” to simulate an emergency event. The TJSWCD will be busy this summer updating its EAPs to ensure that everyone will be prepared in the event of a dam failure.

The DBIZ maps will show the areas downstream of a dam that will be affected if the dam were to fail.

Geotextile Fabric For Sale

The TJSWCD is now selling non-woven, geo-textile filter fabric for use in installing water troughs and stream crossings. The fabric is available for $1.70 plus tax per square foot and the roll is 12.5 feet wide. If you are interested in more details please contact Taylor Pippins at 434-975-0224.
Moore’s Creek TMDL Grant: The Straight Poop

The TJSWCD has been enlisted to help the Rivanna Regional Stormwater Education Partnership (RRSEP) plan and carry out an education incentive designed to protect local water quality by encouraging pet owners to properly dispose of their pet waste. Pet waste should be composted*, flushed down the toilet, or thrown out with the trash to keep harmful bacteria, and plant nutrients that cause algae blooms, out of the water we swim and fish in.

In 1998 the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) placed one of our local streams, Moore’s Creek, on Virginia’s Impaired Waters list due to levels of fecal coliform bacteria which indicate that the creek is unsafe for swimming and fishing. Among the sources of contamination that was identified by DEQ was dog feces. In other words, a significant number of pet owners have been leaving dog waste outside where a rain storm can wash it directly into Moore’s creek, or into storm drains that flow into the waterway.

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC), in partnership with the RRSEP, was recently awarded a grant by Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation (DCR) that will provide funding for a program that will reduce the amount of bacterial pollution that enters Moore’s Creek from pet waste.

The RRSEP is now in the planning stages of an education incentive directed at pet owners. A 500-gallon pet waste methane digester will be constructed and situated in Azalea Park for use by people who use the dog walking area there. The grant will also pay half the cost of pet waste composters purchased by pet owners in the Moore’s Creek watershed. Pet waste composters convert waste to odorless fertilizer that can be used in flower gardens and for other non-edible plants.

While the focus is on people living in the Moore’s Creek watershed, it is hoped that the program’s radio, internet and print advertising will also help educate pet owners living in other watersheds in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. For more information see www.rivanna-stormwater.org.

* Composted pet waste cannot be used on a kitchen garden.

Hourly Education Staff Fulfill Districts Program Needs

In these recessionary times the key to any successful organization is running at maximum efficiency on the smallest staff possible. The District has only one part time staff member for the educational programs. The education and outreach aspects of the District are varied and far reaching, covering events such as the high school Envirothon Competition, fourth grade camps for meaningful watershed educational experience (MWEE), rain barrel workshops, master gardener and master naturalists classes, and field days throughout the District.

To successfully meet the demands of its educational program in 2012 the District hired hourly staff. The hourly staff primarily assists in teaching at Camp Albemarle, which facilitates all fourth grade classes in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville public school system to accomplish their MWEE requirement as set forth in the Chesapeake Bay 2000 agreement. We would like to show our appreciation for our hourly staff – Doris Simpson, Lauriston DaMitz, Garnett Mellen, Frances LeeVandell, and Ida Swenson. Many of our education programs are also supported by Master Naturalist (MN) volunteers, and this article wouldn’t be complete without expressing our appreciation to them – in particular Marilyn Smith and Bevin Cetta.

L to R: Some of the District’s hourly staff Frances LeeVandell, Doris Simpson, Lauriston DaMitz, and Ida Swenson on the steps at Camp Albemarle.
StreamWatch Volunteers: Watershed Heroes
By Rose Brown

April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month, so let’s celebrate the watershed heroes in our midst! If you’re driving around the Rivanna watershed this spring, you might spot some StreamWatch volunteers monitoring our local streams. When you’re crossing a bridge, peek down at the stream and look for happy people in waders, holding a net or maybe some tweezers. They’re out there catching and counting the insects and other critters that live on the bottom of the streams because the bugs that we find help to tell the story of how healthy our streams are.

Our volunteers are the backbone of StreamWatch’s work. More than 100 active volunteers help us to complete stream sampling twice yearly, in fall and spring. Many volunteers also lend their time to completing lab work, quality control, data entry, research, and many other field and office tasks.

We train our volunteers rigorously and require them to follow strict protocols in order to maintain our high data quality standards. StreamWatch is a certified, level three, citizen monitoring organization. This means that the data our volunteers collects is used directly by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in assessing the conditions of our surface waters. Our volunteers attend ongoing training events and never stop learning. They commit themselves to our high standards, which they uphold with dedication.

Some volunteers become certified and adopt a site, which they monitor two times per year. Others offer expertise in mapping, photography, or project planning. And some sit on our Board of Directors. Regardless of their roles, all of our volunteers are vital to the work that we do. They quietly go about their business, season after season, helping to document the status of our streams so that our community can work toward protecting and restoring our waterways.

Thank you, volunteers!

For more information about StreamWatch and our volunteer program, go to http://streamwatch.org

Cattlemen of the Year Award
At the “Virginia Beef Industry and State Dairymen’s Convention and Trade Show” James Kean, of Louisa County, was awarded the 2011 Allan K. Randolph Cattleman of the Year Award. James Kean has been a director with TJSWCD for almost 10 years, since January 2003.

He runs a beef cattle operation north of Louisa town, in Louisa County. He has a cow/calf and feeder calf operation. James has both spring and fall calving herds to take advantage of grass production. James is implementing many Best Management Practices on his farm including stream fencing, hardened crossing, watering system, riparian buffers, winter feeding structures, and a rotational management system.

His love of cattle farming has prompted James to be a leader in beef production as well as farm management.

Well done James Kean.
Envirothon 2012

This year four teams competed at the local Envirot hon competition held at Walnut Creek Park in Albemarle County. The four teams were from Louisa County High School, Monticello High School, Renaissance School in Charlottesville, and Albemarle High School. Sponsorship from Dominion Power Virginia, The Farm Bureau, and Whole Foods ensured the competition was a great success - Thank You Sponsors! The weather was impeccable which only added to the enjoyment of spending a day out doors answering real life questions about soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and low impact development. Albemarle and Monticello High School placed first and second respectively and continued on to compete at the Area II competition.

The Area II competition was held at Montpelier on April 18th. The Area II region encompasses six soil and water conservation districts (Thomas Jefferson, Culpeper, John Marshall, Prince William, Loudon, and Northern Virginia). Six teams were competing in this event, Albemarle and Monticello from the TJSWCD, Hidden Pond A and B, and Eastern View A and B from Culpeper SWCD. The weather was the polar opposite of the local Envirotrohon competition, pouring rain and chilly temperatures, but this didn’t seem to dampen the spirits of the competitors. Hidden Pond B placed first, Eastern View A placed second, and Albemarle High School placed third. All three now continue on to compete in the State Envirotrohon competition which will be held at James Madison University on May 20-21.

We wish all the teams the best of luck!

Wild & Natural Virginia

Wild Ginger (Asaram canadense)

While out walking in the woods last week I noticed a low growing, inconspicuous, heart shaped leaf, sitting alongside a dark purple-red flower. Wild ginger (Asarum canadense) is its name. A perennial plant in the Bitterwort family, this native woodland plant is worth investigating.

Wild ginger grows together in groups or colonies, due to the branching rhizomes just below the soil surface. In early spring pairs of soft, downy, leaves appear, unfurling from each other into distinct heart shaped leaves. Flowers form at the base of the plant, secret, hidden, unassuming flowers of dark red and purple colors. There are few pollinators available in early spring but the wild ginger uses the red coloration and a fetid smell to attract flies, ants, and gnats as pollinators to this small tubular flower.

Why is this plant called wild ginger? It’s named after the unrelated tropical ginger that is used as a spice in cooking. The wild ginger’s rhizome has an aromatic spicy smell and flavor similar to the commercial ginger, but not as strong. Native Americans and early settlers used the rhizome as a spice.

The next time you smell or taste ginger, let your mind wander not to the exotic faraway lands of southeast Asia but to the wild form of ginger growing in our local woods. If you’d like to taste the “wild stuff” buy some from a wildflower supplier and grow it under a tree in your yard.
Upcoming Events

**Scottsville Rain Barrel Workshop**
In partnership with the “Second Saturdays, Live & Learn Program”, we will offer a rain barrel workshop at Scottsville library, **June 9th** at 4pm. Please call the office to register 434-975-0224 and ask for Nicola McGoff. The workshop, including a fully constructed barrel, will cost $60.

**Clean The Bay Day**
On **June 2nd** the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its 20+ partners throughout the Commonwealth invite you to help save the Bay by picking up shoreline, waterway, and watershed litter during Clean the Bay Day. Join thousands of fellow Virginians in removing unhealthy debris from cherished waterways throughout the Commonwealth. By boat or on foot, gather your family, friends, neighbours, groups, and co-workers for a fun day and a worthwhile way to help Save the Bay.

Many Locations - To clean up litter or coordinate volunteers at a cleanup site in your area, visit [cbf.org/clean](http://cbf.org/clean), call 800/SAVEBAY, or send an e-mail to [ctbd@cbf.org](mailto:ctbd@cbf.org).

**Flexing Our Mussels Festival**
Rivanna Conservation Society (RCS) will host the 2012 Freshwater Mussel Festival at Riverview Park, Charlottesville on **June 23rd**, 2012. Please visit the RCS website for further details [www.rivannariver.org](http://www.rivannariver.org).