TJ & JRA TEAM UP TO PLANT TREES IN TWO COUNTIES

Over the past few months the District has been partnering with the James River Association (JRA) to plant several hundred trees at 3 farms. Two farms within the Hardware TMDL (Edgemont & McQuade) received a total of 825 trees, while the Hughes farm in Nelson received 625 trees.

Western Albemarle HS students assisted with the planting at the McQuade project. A variety of native species were planted at all the farms including White & Red Oaks, Maples, Red Bud, Persimmon and Dogwood.

CROPLAND CONVERSION PROJECT IN LOUISA COUNTY

This project’s goal is to establish long term vegetative cover on land that has been historically cropped.

128 acres of previously cropped land was planted in perennial grass last fall to help stabilize the soils year around.
NEW CONSERVATION PROGRAM TARGETS CHALLENGES ON HORSE FARMS

A new cost-share program will enable TJSWCD to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to landowners who wish to address water quality concerns related to the management challenges of small acreage horse farms within the District. Historically state agricultural funding has targeted traditional agricultural businesses, leaving little to no funding and staff time to provide assistance to the many horse operations in our District. Small horse farms are usually considered “agriculture” in a regulatory sense, and therefore pollution problems from such operations cannot be addressed through development-related water quality regulations. On the other hand, small horse farms are not considered an “agricultural business” that would be eligible for existing State and Federal cost share, tax credits, and technical assistance programs. These farms slip through the cracks of urban erosion and sediment control laws, stormwater management laws, and agricultural incentive programs.

The equine cost-share program at TJSWCD, made possible through a generous private donation, intends to address the pollution problems resulting from the management challenges that horse operations face by providing financial incentives, education, and technical assistance to encourage individual landowners to implement water quality protection practices and management techniques. Financial incentives will consist of a cost share program modeled after the standard Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program. Horse farm owners will be eligible for up to 75% of the cost of installing approved conservation practices (such as manure management systems, stream exclusion fencing, dry lots and alternative water systems among others) on their properties. Recipients of funding will be provided a conservation plan, and must follow designs and technical standards provided to them by the TJSWCD. Throughout the program District staff will work closely with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Horse Industry Board, Virginia Forage & Grasslands Council and NRCS in order to accomplish project goals.

This program is slated to accept applications starting July 1st. Those interested in more information should contact email Lisa Hyatt at lisa.hyatt@tjswcd.org

INTRODUCING AMY MOYER, TJSWCD’S MANAGEMENT ANALYST

Amy Moyer joined the TJSWCD as the Management Analyst in May 2018. She previously worked as a municipal clerk, handling a variety of local government administrative tasks. Amy is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a BSBA in Accounting. She enjoys camping, music, and historical fiction. Amy and her family live in Nelson County.

Welcome to the District Amy, we’re glad to have you with us.
On May 2nd about 50 producers joined 25 staff, directors, partner agencies including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency and Blue Ridge Prism for a field day at Peanut Coleman’s C-Stock Farm in Scottsville.

The day long program started with a pasture walk with Dr. John Fike, Ph.D, Forage Extension Specialist at VA Tech and J.B. Daniel, Forage and Grassland Agronomist at NRCS where attendees learned about managing pastures for optimum seasonal production and plant identification.

Later in the morning those in attendance were able to see the real effects of erosion and discover how grazing management affects rainfall runoff with the NRCS Rainfall Simulator. The day concluded with a BBQ lunch and an expert panel discussion addressing questions by attendees. Financial sponsorship of the event was provided by Farm Credit, Farm Bureau, WF Paulette Augusta Co-op and Southern States.

Find these Field Day presentations on our Youtube channel Thomas Jefferson SWCD
WHAT’S THE BUZZZZ?

Pop Quiz—
Approximately how many bee species are native to north America?

A) 85  B) 500  C) 1200  D) 4000

answer below

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (Bombus affinis). Protected as an Endangered Species. Photo courtesy of The Xerces Society/ Rich Hatfield.

Announcing the 2018 College Scholarship Recipients

It is our pleasure to congratulate Ms. Emma Bittle of Albemarle County and Ms. Griselda Vasquez-Ramirez of Nelson County.

TJSWCD wish you the best in your collegiate studies and conservation endeavors.

In January, scholarship applications are available for eligible students residing in Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa and Nelson Counties and the City of Charlottesville. For more scholarship information visit our website, www.tjswcd.org.

Piedmont Native Plant Guide

Grow your resource library with this go-to guide, the Piedmont Native Plant Guide. A sturdy & compact 8.5” x 6” spiral, wire bound guide full of color photos, native plant recommendations and growing conditions. Also sharing the heritage & beauty of Native Plants in the Piedmont and the life sustaining importance of attracting pollinators.

Call TJSWCD and reserve yours today. $10.00 (includes tax!)

Meet Lily Wincele.

Lily is an environmental science student at the University of Virginia. She is still exploring possible career interests, but some of her favorite classes were soil science, environmental policy, and a class on the geologic history of Virginia. She loves being outside hiking, biking, and climbing. This summer, 2018, she will be working for the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) on Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), based out of our TJSWCD office in Charlottesville, documenting the progress VCAP has made with keeping nutrients and sediment out of Chesapeake Bay with the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool and through pictures.

Pop Quiz Answer: D, 4000

Source: American Horticultural Society
TJSWCD ‘s Envirothon teams recognized as “outstanding in the field” for the 2018 Envirothon Competition—PASTURELAND MANAGEMENT.

October begins the Envirothon season at TJSWCD with workshops, trainings and fieldtrips to prepare the Envirothon teams for our local competition which was held March 23, 2018 at Camp Albemarle on 14 beautiful acres of woods and field set along the Moormans River providing an ideal site to hold this natural resource competition and this year...with snow on the ground.

Envirothon teams from Albemarle County, Western Albemarle, Monticello, Fluvanna County and Louisa County High Schools brought an even higher level of competition by demonstrating their knowledge, skills and teamwork to the judges—the experts in field—natural resource professionals and volunteers who generously shared their time, expertise and encouragement. Judges tested, evaluated and scored the teams in five “in-the-field” test stations: soils, wildlife, aquatics, forestry and the 2018 current environmental issue — Pastureland Management.

As a result of the local competition Western Albemarle County and Louisa County High Schools advanced to the regional competition on April 25, 2018 at Fauquier Education Farm in Warrenton, VA. No snow at this competition but an all day rain made for a fantastic muddy mess. Louisa County Envirothon team were the champions at this next level of competition placing 1st out of eight teams and Western Albemarle placing 4th.

In an unexpected turn of events, the third place team was unable to attend the State competition due to other academic obligations so Western Albemarle was invited to compete and they accepted with gusto.

On May 20th & 21st the State Envirothon, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Dominion Energy, was held at Ferrum College in Ferrum, VA. Thirteen Envirothon teams from across the state came well prepared, giving it their very best efforts at every skill station. Louisa County High School placed 3rd in the state overall, with a 1st in Soils, 2nd in Aquatics and a 3rd in Forestry. Western Albemarle County High School placed 7th, a solid achievement for a first time competition at the state level. Congratulations.

The Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District applauds the students and coaches for their enthusiasm and months of dedication preparing for the Virginia Dominion Envirothon. We also wish to extend our best wishes to Jamestown High School Envirothon team who will represent the state of Virginia at the National Envirothon in Idaho in July.

A most sincere thank you for the continued support from Kory Kirkland, Jon Lipinski, Ross Norton and Matt Carroll from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Ellen Powell and Mike Downey from the Department of Forestry. Peppy Winchel, Jen & EmmaLee Linaberry, David & Marilyn Smith from Rivanna Master Naturalist and Rivanna Conservation Alliance/StreamWatch. Raina DeFonza from the Wildlife Center of Virginia. Alyson Sappington, Deloris Bradshaw, Jon & Yvonne Rockett, the entire TJSWCD staff and the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Tried and true all of you—simply could not do it, as well as we do, without you.

Louisa HS Envirothon Team (L to R back row) – Coach Logan Horne, Jacob Barlow, Moriah Moss, Makayla Jasinski, Halie Tomasello, Coach Kim Jancalcita-Martinak. Front row (L to R) Shayla Carter and Rachel DeMay.

If you would like to form a team of 7 (high school age students), through your high school, FFA, 4-H, church, home school group, scout troop, etc. contact Lauriston DaMitz 434-975-0224 ext.107 or lauriston.damitz@tjswcd.org.
Rain Barrels
TJSWCD sells 50 gallon EarthMinded Rain Barrel kits for $75.00.
Call 975-0224 ext. 107 for details and to arrange an easy pick-up including a tailgate tutorial.

Live in or near Louisa County? Louisa Master Gardeners selling rain barrels at the Mineral Farmers Market. Call 434-975-0224 ext. 107 for additional locations & dates.

More ways to conserve natural resources...
If you would like to receive The Resource Review newsletter electronically and in color, send an e-mail request to lauriston.damitz@tjswcd.org