



6969 Fox Hunt Lane
P.O. Box 677
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www.tidewaterswcd.org

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Meeting Reminder

Monthly board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of the month except for the month of November. Please call our office to verify meeting date and time determined by current Covid-19 policies (804) 699-3482.

Conservation News

Serving the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, & Middlesex

WINTER 2023 EDITION

College Scholarships Available Applications Due March 20th

The Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District, through the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, has TWO scholarship opportunities available. These scholarships are intended to promote the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields of natural resource conservation and environmental protection. The awards will be considered for students majoring in, or showing a strong desire to major in, a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies. All applicants must be residents of Gloucester, Mathews, or Middlesex County.

One scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00, was established in memory of Mathews County resident, Mr. Martin J. Menges, a former District Director. Mr. Menges was co-founder and past president of the York River Chapter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and co-founder of the watershed group Save the Ole Piankatank. Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District will select the winner for the Martin J. Menges scholarship.

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will award four freshmen level scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each on a statewide competitive basis. Each SWCD is to select one freshman applicant and forward the application to the VASWCD office for consideration. Applicants need to complete only one application which will be used for both the VASWCD and Martin J. Menges scholarships.

All programs and services of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation, Inc. are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability. All submitted paperwork is confidential and becomes the property of the VASWCDEF.

Scholarship guidelines & application are available at the district office at 6969 Fox Hunt Lane in Gloucester, VA – or online:

www.tidewaterswcd.org/Scholarship.htm

Applications are due March 20, 2023

Mail or hand-deliver completed applications to:

**Tidewater SWCD
6969 Fox Hunt Lane
P.O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061**

2023 PHOTO CONTEST

Presented by the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Enter up to 10 digital images that represent:
"Conservation:
Small Actions, Big Impact"

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.VASWCD.ORG/PHOTOCONTEST

- Images must be taken in Virginia
- One Overall Winner, People's Choice, & Young Photographer will be selected
- Full list of rules can be found online

**ENTRIES DUE
8.1.2023**

2022 Clean Water Farm Award Winner Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc.

Roger Calhoun of Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc. has been farming for 41 years. Upon graduating from high school in 1981, Roger and his brother, Steven, struck up a partnership with their “Papa”, William H. Carlton. Their operation consisted of raising hogs, cattle, grain crops, hay and logging operations.

Around 1997, due to economic reasons, the decision was made to no longer raise livestock. In 2007, Roger became sole owner of the farming operation, which was incorporated as Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc.

Roger attributes becoming a farmer to his “Papa,” William H. Carlton, who can be credited for Roger’s desire and passion for farming. The Carlton portion of the business name “Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc.” is in honor of William H. Carlton. Roger feels blessed he had Mr. Carlton’s teaching, training, and being able to witness his Papa’s compassion for being a farmer.

Roger inherited that compassion and work ethic to pass it on by teaching his son and grandsons the benefit of utilizing Best Management Practices. He has all of his acres in Tidewater District signed up for continuous no-till. Roger split applies his nitrogen on corn and small grains to minimize runoff to our waterways. He maintains grass buffers around his fields to minimize nutrient and soil loss. Roger also utilizes crop rotation practices and cover crops .

Roger currently has the privilege of farming alongside his son, Dustin Calhoun. Dustin has worked fulltime for Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc. since graduating from college. The farm has one other fulltime employee, Peachie Brown, Jr., who has been employed by the farm for over 35 years. Roger looks forward to the day when he passes his legacy, Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc, on to Dustin and his two sons. Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to honor the values passed down from William H. Carlton by awarding Roger Calhoun of Carlton & Calhoun Farms, Inc. the 2022 Tidewater Clean Water Farm Award.



Pictured above: Roger & Dustin Calhoun of Carlton & Calhoun Farms with Chairman, William Richardson, Jr.



2022 Virginia Forestry BMP Award

Mr. John Elkin, Jr. of Hunters, LLC and Bigfoot, LLC was presented the 2022 Virginia Forestry Best Management Practice Award at the VASWCD Annual Meeting in Roanoke, VA. Pictured from left: Travis Voyles, Acting Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources, Terry Lasher, Assistant State Forester, Mr. John Elkin, Jr., Jane Elkin, & Matt Lohr, Secretary of Ag & Forestry.



2022 Poster Contest Winner

The annual Conservation Poster Contest provides K-12th grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies. The 2022 Poster Contest Winner was Kyla Walden, a 5th grader from Middlesex Elementary School. The theme for 2022 was “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life.” Kyla received a certificate of award and a \$25.00 Gift Card. Her poster went on to compete in the state competition.

Pictured Left: Kyla Walden and Middlesex Elementary School Principal, Danielle Daniel.

2023 Poster Contest Announced

The National Association of Conservation Districts selects a theme yearly for the national conservation outreach initiative. This year’s is “One Water.” Up to 5 contest winners will be selected at the local level. The winning poster in each age group will receive a gift certificate valued up to \$25 and will also have their poster advance to compete at the state competition. All entries are due to the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District in Gloucester by August 23, 2023. The complete rules and required entry form may be obtained by contacting the Tidewater SWCD office at 804-699-3482 or by visiting our website www.tidewaterswcd.org/poster_contest.html.



Youth Conservation Camp Deadline April 25, 2023

Youth Conservation Camp applications are now available at the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District for Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex students that are in the 9th -12th grade during the 2022-2023 school year. Youth Conservation Camp is a week long camp that is sponsored by the VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for a week of learning about Virginia’s natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors. Two students are chosen by Tidewater SWCD to attend this camp at Virginia Tech each year. Camp admission, meals and lodging during the camp (a \$550.00 value) are provided by Tidewater SWCD. Transportation to and from camp is the sole responsibility of the camper. While at camp, students will bunk in the college dorms and be involved in many activities and educational events. Applications may be found on our website at www.tidewaterswcd.org/conservation_camp.html. Please complete and return application **AND \$100 deposit** to: Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 677, 6969 Fox Hunt Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061.

2023 Cost Share Updates

March 15, 2023: Nutrient Management Plans Due to District Office

Producers are required to have an up-to-date nutrient management plan on file in order to receive cost share payments. This is a busy time of year for plan writers, please do not wait to contact them.

March 15th – June 1, 2023: Cover Crop Kill-down and Reporting Period

All cover crops must be terminated after March 15th but before June 1, 2023 to qualify to receive cost share payment. Producers who signed up for the late kill-down incentive payment must wait until May 1, 2023 to begin kill-down in-order to receive the additional \$10/acre incentive.



P.O. Box 677
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District Directors

William Richardson, Jr, Chairman - At Large
Daniel Rilee, Vice Chairman - Gloucester
Keith Horsley, Treasurer - Gloucester
Frank Long, Secretary - VCE Agent
Alan Sutherlin - Middlesex
Jason Bray - Middlesex
George Rogers - Mathews
Ronnie Lewis - Mathews

Return Service Requested

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All programs, services, and employment opportunities of the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, handicap, or political affiliation.

District Personnel:

LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
Meredith Rose - Conservation/Education Specialist
Debbie Billings - Conservation Office Assistant

NRCS Personnel:

Scott Hammond - District Conservationist
Ariel Coleman—Soil Conservationist