

# Conservation Around the Neck



NORTHERN NECK  
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving the people of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties

Fall 2010

## SCHOOL RAIN GARDEN BRINGS TOGETHER NNSWCD & PARTNERS

Lancaster Primary School teacher Joan Gravatt wanted her students to experience real world math and science, not just study it in the classroom. In the late 90's, that vision led to the creation of Students Understanding Math and Science (SUMS), an afterschool program that got kids outside the classroom to put their newly found arithmetic and biology skills to work. Soon, the Northern Neck Master Gardeners offered their horticultural expertise and a full-fledged school garden, an "outdoor classroom," was born.

But the garden had a problem. It just kept washing out. There was a big runoff problem from the school rooftop, leaving standing water and soggy soil. The 2005 installation of a berm helped, but around the garden was an area of eroding bare soil and a soggy entrance way.

The Master Gardeners contacted NNSWCD's Sam Johnson, Nonpoint Source Pollution Specialist, and by pooling technical and funding resources together with Friends of the Rappahnock, a perfect partnership was born.

It was clear that this was an ideal site for demonstrating how effective and aesthetically appealing stormwater management, or low-impact development (LID) practices like rain gardens can be. Plus, a rain garden on the school site would simultaneously solve a flooding problem and get the children involved in learning.

The garden grew from the original concept for one small rain garden by the outdoor classroom to four large gardens covering over 1,500 square feet and treating all the runoff from the school bus parking lot. Bill Smith of TSL, Inc., in  
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## ★ District Reminder ★

### AG NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

**F**or those producers signed up for NM-1, you will need to have your Nutrient Management Plans revised. Make sure you meet with your plan writers to update soil samples this fall, if needed, and review crop rotation and crop yield history. All Nutrient Management Plans and revisions must be on file and complete by April 1, 2011.

For questions, contact Brandon Dillistin at the NNSWCD office, (804) 333-3525, ext. 102.



## Community Answers Call in Support of School Recycling



**O**n the Northern Neck, a wave of support has risen for initiating a REGIONAL SINGLE-STREAM SCHOOL RECYCLING PILOT that will allow for viable, coordinated regional school recycling pickup programs where none exists today. The counties of Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland and their respective school superintendents, county administrators, teachers, and other Northern Neck organizations and citizens have come together in an unprecedented way in support of this effort. All of us want to be able to show our children the meaning of healthy living and true conservation of our precious natural resources.

One important way is through recycling much of the waste from the school systems in our Chesapeake Bay region. Through this effort, the children will receive education and learn through action. They will learn the many values of recycling and reducing litter found on rural roadsides and waterways. The hope is that this educational effort will spill over to parents and other citizens.

Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District (NNSWCD), whose mission is to educate the community and advance the conservation of natural resources, is spearheading this program. With the organizational support of local people,

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(Above) Two Westmoreland County Businesses were the first to kick off the community support campaign for the Regional Single-Stream School Recycling Pilot that includes Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland County Schools. Pictured presenting a check from Westmoreland County Farm Bureau is Danny Allensworth, president. Danny is also a NNSWCD board member. Garner's Produce in Montross also contributed, with both businesses delivering their checks on National Recycling Day.



## NNSWCD Partners on Low Impact Development Training Series

**F**riends of the Rappahannock, Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District, and Rappahannock Community College (RCC) Workforce Development Center are partnering in a series of workshops for the local building and development industry, local government and lawn care businesses.

The series will focus on low impact development (LID) and stormwater management practices that are used to minimize soil erosion and stormwater runoff and protect water resources.

These workshops will be held from January through April of 2011 at the Workforce Development Center classrooms at RCC in Warsaw. There will be a \$35 registration fee per person per class. Classes will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day; light refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Registration will be handled by the Workforce Development Center. For registration information, call the Warsaw Workforce Center at (804) 333-6828, or see [www.rappahannock.edu/workforce/register/](http://www.rappahannock.edu/workforce/register/). Sign up for any sessions of interest to you. For more details on the sessions, please call the NNSWCD office at (804)333-3525, ext. 102, or e-mail [faye.andrashko@nnsxcd.org](mailto:faye.andrashko@nnsxcd.org), [sam.johnson@nnsxcd.org](mailto:sam.johnson@nnsxcd.org) or [John.Tippett@riverfriends.org](mailto:John.Tippett@riverfriends.org).

### EXPERTS IN THE FIELD WILL LEAD FOUR SESSIONS:

**January 20** *LID Practice Design and Engineering* – design and engineering calculations, hydrology, runoff reduction method – for engineers, surveyors, developers

**February 17** *Putting LID Practices on the Ground* – installation/construction issues and solutions- for builders, developers, responsible land disturbers, local Erosion & Sediment inspectors

**March 17** *Incorporating LID into Local Policy and Codes* – Virginia’s new Stormwater Amendments and coming regulations; local implementation policies and procedures – local government officials, Boards, planning and zoning staff

**April 21** *Maintenance Needs for LID Practices* – review of functions of LID practices and maintenance requirements and procedures – landscapers, lawn maintenance companies and staff, real estate agents, county inspectors.

More details for each class will be available in December. In some cases, continuing education/professional development certification credits may be available. Please inquire when registering.

## October Hazardous Waste Collections Build on Earlier Successes

**F**our county-sponsored hazardous waste collections in October reduced by over six tons (12,471 lbs) the amount of toxic materials being stored on the Northern Neck.

On Saturday, October 9, some 154 Lancaster and Northumberland County residents came out to eagerly dispose of 7,029 pounds of hazardous waste materials from their properties. Eighty-one Lancaster citizens brought in 3180 pounds, and 73 Northumberland, 3849 pounds.

Joint Westmoreland/Richmond collections, held Oct. 30, added 5442 pounds. Westmoreland’s 31 participants brought in 3803 pounds, while Richmond County’s 19 citizens rounded up 1639 pounds of hazardous material.

Among the major offenders disposed of this fall were 2,4,5-T, one of two chemical components of Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the U.S. in the Vietnam War. The compound 2,4,5-T contains one of the most toxic forms of dioxin, which has been linked to serious human health issues. Also turned in were substantial amounts of fouled fuel, harsh household and garden chemicals, oil based paint products, developing chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, and more.

Adding these numbers to past collections, citizens of the four counties have purged the Northern Neck of almost 34 tons (67,792 pounds) of hazardous household materials that had the potential to cause damage to us, our water, and other precious natural resources. The numbers have been climbing, especially since spring and fall collections have been approved by some counties. The first collection year for Lancaster-Northumberland, 2005, yielded 6650 pounds from 136 citizens. This year, 2010, yielded a total of



*At left) Lancaster-Northumberland Extension Agent and NNSWCD board member Matt Lewis identifies 2,4,5-T, a toxic herbicide material while MXI staff weighs and sorts the goods at the October 9 Hazardous Waste Collection.*

14,169 pounds from 341 people. Volume and participation in the program have been boosted as people come to expect the twice yearly collections, spring and fall, and put aside materials to turn in.

These county-sponsored collections were held with assistance from NNSWCD’s board member Matt Lewis of Virginia Cooperative Extension and staff Faye Andrashko and Sam Johnson. The products were received, sorted, and transported by MXI Environmental Services, LLC, of Abingdon, Virginia, to be disposed of at their processing site.

Residents left the sites expressing their pleasure for the opportunity to dispose of these products safely. The entire Northern Neck community profits environmentally from the efforts of these citizens and the counties.

Future collections will be posted on county Web sites once 2011 dates are set. Also watch for community postings.

Kilmarnock performed the construction and donated much of the materials. When the beds were ready for planting, on October 27 and 28, NNSWCD's Sam Johnson and Faye Andrashko, with Sue Lindsey and other Master Gardener volunteers, presented SOL-based educational programs on the rain garden to all grades at Lancaster Primary School. The idea was to involve the students in the completion of the gardens so they would feel connected to the project and learn some of the science and environmental benefits behind the concept. Each student had a hand in planting and mulching the garden; many of the plants were donated by members of Northern Neck organizations, such as Native Plant Society, Master Gardeners, and Chesapeake Bay Garden Clubs.

The garden is a way the community can see and identify with programs that will improve water quality in our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay..



NNSWCD's Sam Johnson and Faye Andrashko talk about the rain garden to students at Lancaster Primary School.



Lora Garner (l) of Garner's Produce in Montross presents a check in support of the Regional Single-Stream School Recycling Pilot that includes Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland County Schools. Garner's Produce was among the first two businesses to deliver contributions to the community campaign. They delivered their check on National Recycling Day.

## RECYCLING (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

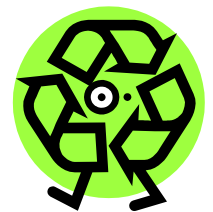
we are establishing a one-year pilot program that will quantify the results in four areas: educational, environmental, fiscal, and in the generation of community pride. In these extraordinary financial times, it is especially important to have the results of this pilot project be experienced before counties and school systems can commit long-term to a major new program.

Because of the rural nature of the Northern Neck and the distance a recycler must travel between customers and the recycling center, it is only economically feasible to initiate this as a regional school recycling effort that includes multiple school systems.

While the REGIONAL SCHOOL RECYCLING INITIATIVE is being coordinated by NNSWCD, partners supporting this effort include the Recycling Network of the Northern Neck, Tidewater RC & D, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and citizen volunteers from a number of local organizations.

We are calling upon our community and friends in our area to show generosity in helping with this pilot. Contributions will help cover the costs of one year of pickups at county schools and school offices, education, signage, posters, volunteer supplies, and similar items. In return, an individual or company will be widely appreciated and promoted in presentations, press releases, brochures, and with school signage.

We welcome the generosity of others in sponsorship of the Northern Neck REGIONAL SCHOOL RECYCLING PILOT. The sponsorship levels and benefits of participation are outlined in a sponsorship agreement which may be obtained from NNSWCD. We look forward to strong community response, and we thank all for your consideration. For more information, please contact Faye Andrashko, Project Manager, at the NNSWCD office at (804) 333-3525, ext 113, or [faye.andrashko@nnsxcd.org](mailto:faye.andrashko@nnsxcd.org).



### SIGN UP BY JANUARY 7, 2011

#### NRCS Extends Stewardship Program

The current enrollment period has been extended for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The new deadline is January 7, 2011, giving Virginia producers an additional week to enroll.

“This is a great opportunity available to all Virginia farmers and forestry producers regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location,” according to State Conservationist Jack Bricker. “With CSP, you can get credit for conservation measures you’ve already implemented and for new measures you agree to add.”

Changes to the program expand access, increase payment limits, and promote greater environmental benefits while maintaining program goals. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland and non-industrial private forest land.

Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine whether CSP is suitable for their operations.

For more information, contact the Warsaw USDA Service Center at 5559 Richmond Road, or call 804 333-3525, ext. 101.

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