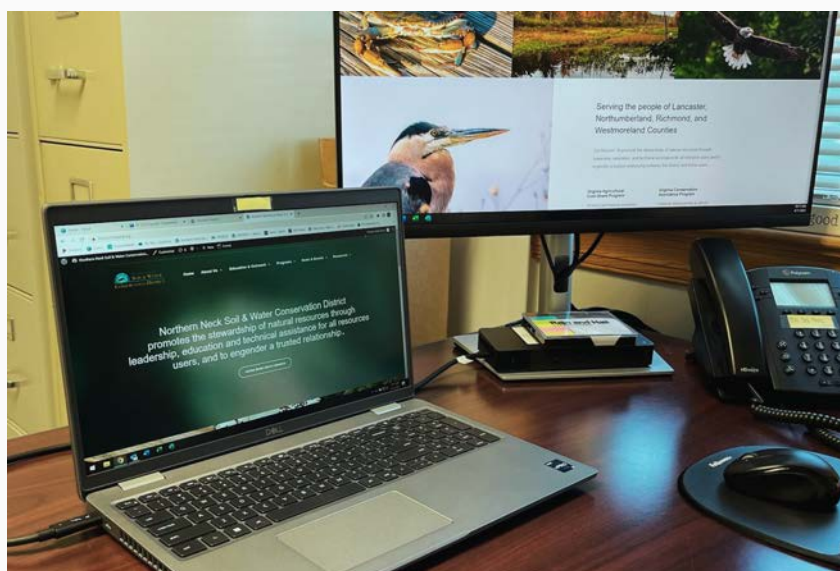


# CONSERVATION AROUND THE NECK

## NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE

In January, the Board voted to approve a website proposal created by Jen Shelor of Shelor Interactive to create a completely new look to the website. Our Marketing & Outreach Specialist, Kelly, worked closely with Jen to create and design the updated look. On February 22, the new and improved Northern Neck SWCD website was launched. Jen provided tremendous help building this new site from the ground up and has trained Kelly on how to keep the website current. We are excited for this long and overdue change and we hope to use the site's new features to keep the public updated on what is happening at the NNSWCD.

Go to [www.nnswcd.org](http://www.nnswcd.org) and check out the new look!



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# NNSWCD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The election of Directors for the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District will take place during the upcoming November 2023 general election. Candidates must reside within the District boundaries which encompasses Lancaster, Richmond, Northumberland, and Westmoreland Counties.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Date of Election of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors  
Notice of Filing Nominating Petitions, Declaration of Candidacy &  
A Certificate of Candidate Qualification

An election of Directors for the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District (NNSWCD) will be held in the general election on November 7, 2023. The District encompasses the Counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland, which includes any incorporated towns therein.

Candidates for elected directors must reside within the boundary of the county (includes incorporated town(s) within the county) which such candidates shall represent upon election. Two\* directors shall be elected to represent all the citizens within each county, which includes incorporated towns within the county.

Persons who wish to file as candidates for the office of district director must fully complete and file the requisite nominating petition, statement of qualification, and declaration of candidacy with the general registrar of the county where the candidate resides by 7:00 p.m. on June 20, 2023.

For further information contact your local registrar's office, visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website at <http://elections.virginia.gov>, or contact the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District office:

P.O. Box 220                      5585 Richmond RD  
Warsaw, VA 22572  
(804) 313-9102, x101  
[www.nnswcd.org](http://www.nnswcd.org)

Individuals interested in seeking election/re-election to the NNSWCD Board are encouraged to attend a special informative session on Wednesday, April 12th at 5PM at the NNSWCD Office.

\* Three directors shall be elected when the SWCD is comprised of one city or county.

Those who wish to file as candidates for elected district director must fully complete the required paperwork with the general registrar of the county where the candidate resides by 7:00 p.m. on June 20, 2023.

Don't judge  
each day by  
the harvest  
you reap but  
by the seeds  
that you plant.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON





# NNSWCD PRODUCER CONFERENCE

On March 16th, the NNSWCD held a Producer Conference at the Westmoreland County Fire Department in Montross. A delicious, catered breakfast was provided by the Art of Coffee. The conference was advertised and open to all producers and/or growers in the Northern Neck. Presentations were given by Kathy Clarke (NNSWCD), Aaron Saunders (NNSWCD), Felicia Washington (FSA), Brody Ellis (NRCS), and guest speaker Zach Jacobs with Virginia Farm Bureau. Representatives from the Northern Neck Land Conservancy and Virginia State University (VSU) Small Farm Outreach Program were also introduced.

Kathy kicked the conference off by welcoming everyone and presenting over 80 years of history created by the Northern Neck SWCD. Aaron provided updates on the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program as well as information regarding tax credits. USDA updates were given by Felicia and Brody regarding FSA and NRCS upcoming deadlines and programs.

Guest speaker Zach Jacobs is the Legislative Specialist of Governmental Relations with Virginia Farm Bureau. He covered the topic "Ag Road Law" which included updates on the use of Farm Use Tags and Permanent Farm Plates. All producers, partners and staff that attended this event found his presentation very informative and helpful as many questions regarding this topic were answered.

NNSWCD would like to thank the following for their contribution to this conference - The Art of Coffee, Cattywampus Customs, Helena, Nutrien, Southern States, James River Equipment, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department, VA Farm Bureau and our participating partners.





# EDUCATION

## In The Classroom

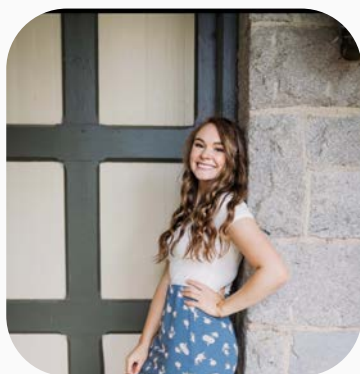
Education Conservation Specialist, Lowery Becker, and Menokin Foundation's Director of Education, Alice French, presented to the second semester 6th grade students at Montross Middle School back in January. Students enjoyed creating their own properties and seeing how plants impact water quantity, quality and speed.

Lowery and Alice spent two days in March presenting to 6th grade students at Richmond County Middle School focusing on the same watershed lesson and the importance of saving soil and water.



## USDA CORNER

In March, the FSA office gained a new staff member and we couldn't be more excited! Next time you're in the office, help us welcome Tara to the NNK USDA Team! Below is an introduction provided by the new employee:



*"Hi I'm Tara Brann and I started as a Program Technician in the Warsaw Service Center in March 2023. I was raised in Callao and went to Northumberland High School where I graduated in June of 2021. I love spending time with my dog Ollie and going to the beach! I previously worked with producers in the past and I look forward to continuing in the Northern Neck."*

I hope everyone had a warm and safe winter. I know everyone is gearing up for a super busy spring planting season! Just a few reminders for those of you with active contracts, applications, or potential applications...

For everyone who has an unfunded FY20-FY22 Conservation Stewardship Program application (this is the 5-year program that we commonly just refer to as CSP), ALL non-funded CSP applications from last year were referred to this year. And we are now planning the FY23 applications, so if yours has not yet been funded the past couple years, expect a call from us to determine what we can add to your application to make it more competitive for this year's funding cycle.

We will be conducting our LWG (local working group) meeting soon. This is the meeting where we take feedback and responses from our customers and partners and try our best to integrate changes into future programs (within reason, some policy is dictated by the farm bill). If you would like to be included in the invitation to the LWG meeting, please call or email me and I'll make sure you are on the list!

We have a new face in the office! Dylan Lockwood has joined our team at Warsaw NRCS to help serve NNK farmers and landowners. I'll be sure to include a picture and short bio of Dylan in the next newsletter, but if you're in the office, please stop by and introduce yourself.

We haven't been given a deadline for FY24 EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and IRA applications, but we anticipate an October 2023 deadline. If you need any assistance on your farm or property, please call or stop in so we can discuss what program may be a good fit for your needs! I hope everyone has a safe planting season!

*Lucee*

# 2023 NNSWCD ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each year the NNSWCD awards two \$1,000 scholarships to students in the Northern Neck:

The J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship is open to students with permanent residency within Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, or Westmoreland Counties, who will begin a full-time, first-year college curriculum in natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

The James Edward Minor Ag Stewardship Award is open to full-time undergraduate college students with permanent residency within Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, or Westmoreland Counties. Applicants must be enrolled in a college-level curriculum in natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.



Anne Kathryn Martz, the recipient of the NNSWCD J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, attends Rappahannock High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Anne Kathryn will be studying Agricultural Education at Virginia Tech. Anne Kathryn is very involved with the FFA and currently serves as the President. She also volunteers in the community through FFA, the Haven, Healthy Kids Run and other groups. Her love for agriculture, education and conservation made her the standout recipient of this scholarship.

Emma Packett, the recipient of the NNSWCD James Edward Minor Ag Stewardship Award in the amount of \$1,000, attended Rappahannock High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Emma is studying Crop Soil and Environmental Science with a minor in Agribusiness at Virginia Tech. Emma had an active role in FFA, serving in many roles including President, and 4-H. Emma is now active in Agronomy Club, Eventing Club and Block and Bridle at VT. Her continued pursuit of conservation in agriculture meets the District's vision.





# OUTREACH EVENTS

## Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste Collection

On March 25th the NNSWCD partnered with Lancaster County, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and MXI Environmental Services for the Spring Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste (HHW) Collection Event. Despite the gloomy weather that Saturday, we had an amazing turnout. With a line starting to form at 8:30am, over 150 vehicles came through. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make this event such a success.

We have two more HHW events scheduled for this Spring:

- Northumberland Co. - April 22, 2023
- Westmoreland Co. - May 20, 2023

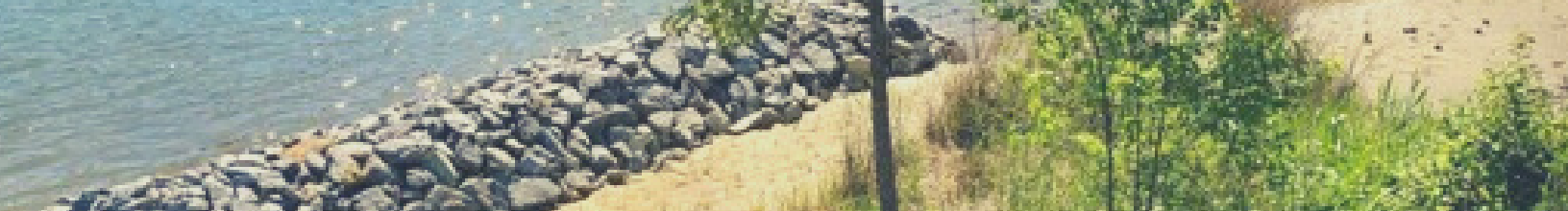
If you are unable to attend the spring HHW events don't worry because each county is scheduled for a fall event:

- Lancaster Co. - September 23, 2023
- Westmoreland Co. - September 30, 2023
- Richmond Co. - October 21, 2023
- Northumberland Co. - October 28, 2023

For more information on these events, check out our new website or call our office at 804-313-9102 x105.



NNSWCD was invited to attend a Career Day at Lancaster Middle School along with many other local organizations. Joanna and Kelly enjoyed a morning full of 5th through 7th grade students while explaining who we are and what we do. The kids loved receiving a small seed packet they can use to plant at home and grow a wildflower.



# PROGRAM UPDATES

## Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program (VACS)

Our technical team has been hard at work in preparation for the busy season coming up. Check out these upcoming dates and reminders that producers need to keep in mind:

- Cover Crop Burn Down: Started March 15th
- Cover Crop Burn Down: Ends No Later Than June 1st
- Report Planned Corn Plantings to NNSWCD ASAP for 2023 Sidedress Payments
- Next Cost-Share Sign Up Period: July 3rd - August 11th

If you are interested in renting either of the No-Till Drills this spring for your food plots, pasture, etc. be sure to give Aaron a call to reserve your spot!

- 804-313-9102 x106
- [aaron.saunders@nnswcd.org](mailto:aaron.saunders@nnswcd.org)

Have you seen our new Cover Crop and BMP signage? Aaron went out in February and placed these signs in a few fields throughout our service area to showcase farmers who participate in the VACS Program.



## Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

The NNSWCD currently has six living shoreline projects under construction and two additional projects pending approval. Over 650 linear feet of shoreline will be protected with a natural wetland.

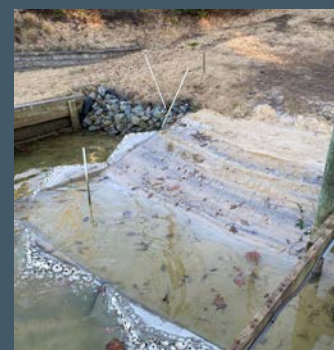
What is a living shoreline? A living shoreline is a shoreline management practice that provides erosion control and water quality benefits. These benefits include:

- protection and restoration of natural shoreline habitat
- maintaining of coastal processes

For more information on various urban cost-share programs, living shorelines, or interested in starting a project, contact Lowery Becker. Application deadlines are May 5th and June 2nd.

- 804-313-9102 x104
- [lowery.becker@nnswcd.org](mailto:lowery.becker@nnswcd.org)

The images below are from two recent projects. The top photo is located in Westmoreland County and the bottom two photos are located in Lancaster County.





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P.O. Box 220  
Warsaw, VA 22572  
[www.nnswcd.org](http://www.nnswcd.org)

Phone: 804-313-9102

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Warsaw, VA 22572  
Permit No. 85

**Staff:**

Kathy Clarke, District Operations Manager  
Brandon Dillistin, District Technical Manager  
Joanna Balderson, Administrative Assistant  
Lowery Becker, Education Conservation Specialist  
Kelly Brann, Marketing & Outreach Specialist  
Aaron Saunders, Agricultural Conservation Specialist

**Elected Directors:**

Robert E. Pickett, Chairman (Northumberland)  
Frank A. "Bert" Johnson, Vice-Chair (Richmond)  
J. Vince Garland, Treasurer (Richmond)  
Faye A. Andrashko (Lancaster)  
William A. "Billy" McCarty (Lancaster)  
Robert G. "Bobby" Vanlandingham (Northumberland)  
H. Shirley Powell (Westmoreland)  
Richard E. Wilkins (Westmoreland)

**Appointed Directors:**

R. Trent Jones, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent  
Louis Gregory "Greg" Basye-At Large Appointed Member (Northumberland)



*The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of disability, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion/religious creed, veteran status, or genetics. An equal opportunity affirmative action employer.*