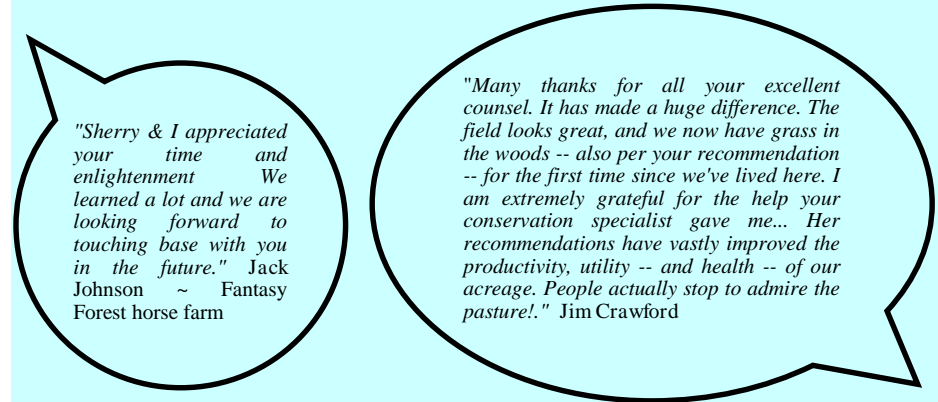


Conservation Plan Client Testimonies

Here are what local farmers have to say about their conservation plans written by the PWSWCD.



"Sherry & I appreciated your time and enlightenment. We learned a lot and we are looking forward to touching base with you in the future." Jack Johnson ~ Fantasy Forest horse farm

"Many thanks for all your excellent counsel. It has made a huge difference. The field looks great, and we now have grass in the woods -- also per your recommendation -- for the first time since we've lived here. I am extremely grateful for the help your conservation specialist gave me... Her recommendations have vastly improved the productivity, utility -- and health -- of our acreage. People actually stop to admire the pasture!" Jim Crawford

If you have a farm in Prince William County, and you are interested in a free conservation plan, please contact us at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail conservation@pwsxcd.org

Local District Volunteer Recognized for Water Quality Efforts

On February 20, 2016, the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI) recognized Seth Hatfield for his volunteer services with the PWSWCD. The goal of YCLI is to acknowledge future young leaders across the State of Virginia who are aspiring to work in the field of conservation and natural resource management.

For more information on the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, visit: vaswcd.org/ycli. You can check out Seth Hatfield's presentation "Keeping Our Water Clean" at pwsxcd.org/news-events.html



From left to right: Steven Meeks, Beth Sokolik, & Seth Hatfield



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Conservation InFARMation

The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance information and education.

Virginia Shoreline Erosion Assistance Service (SEAS) (Page 1)

Free Water Quality Chemical Test Kits (Page 1)

Events, Important Dates, & Volunteer Opportunities (Page 2)

Introductory Stream Monitoring Training (Page 2)

How is the Water Quality in My Creek? (Page 2)

New Year, New Board (Page 3)

Farewell Alysha Rayner (Page 3)

Adopt-A-Capsule (Page 3)

Welcome Alice Markiewicz and Pam Popovich! (Page 3)

Conservation Plan Client Testimonies (Page 4)

Local District Volunteer Recognized for Water Quality Efforts (Page 4)

Helping our Waterways

Virginia Shoreline Erosion Assistance Service (SEAS)

Most folks are unaware that the SEAS exists. This program was started in 1980 and is housed within the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The SEAS program assists private landowners and localities in Virginia with shoreline erosion problems. Originally, the SEAS program only served areas of tidal shoreline, but today they also provide assistance to areas with non-tidal rivers and inland lakes. While the SEAS program doesn't have any monetary assistance available to address shoreline erosion, they offer a variety of technical assistance services including site investigations, written reports, plan reviews, construction inspections, and

general information. For more information on the program, visit dc.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/seas.



Erosion along a stream bank

Free Water Quality Chemical Test Kits

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is distributing water monitoring kits to test for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and temperature. These kits are free for schools and organizations with interest in water quality monitoring. This is DEQ's effort for residents to learn more about water quality in local streams and to participate in the World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC): www.monitorwater.org. The time frame for monitoring is March 22 (World Water Day) - December 31. For your free kit, please contact Mr. Stuart Torbeck at charles.torbeck@deq.virginia.gov. Mailing address information, number of monitoring sites, and the total number of participants from your organization or school that will take part in the WWMC will be required.

OR

Local residents who would like to take part in this World Water Challenge event should stop by the Prince William Soil and



Contents of a water monitoring kit

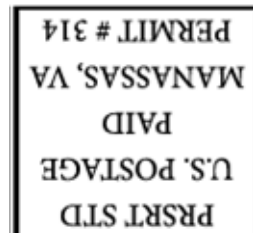
The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District programs and employment are open to all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.

Board Members: Jim Gehlsen, Chairman John Price, Vice Chairman Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer Paige Thacker, Secretary Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Sandra McLean	Associate Directors: Deb Oliver Harrison Glasgow Steve Danziger	Staff: Jay Yankey, District Manager Jeannie Helim, Office Manager Nicole Szlazinski, Conservation Specialist Mike Miller, Conservation Planner Alice Markiewicz, Education & Outreach Specialist Veronica Tangir, Conservation Consultant
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If you would like to join our mailing list, e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org or visit our website at www.pwsxcd.org (left hand column). For our events calendar and board meeting dates, visit www.pwsxcd.org/calendar.html (board meetings are open to the public). PWSWCD is a non-regulatory political subdivision funded by Prince William County Public Works and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, or would prefer to receive it by e-mail, call 571-379-7514, or e-mail pwsxcd@pwsxcd.org

Electronic Address Service Requested



Events, Important Dates, & Volunteer Opportunities

Spring is right around the corner, so check out these upcoming events!

1

Youth Conservation Camp

July 10-16, 2016 at Virginia Tech

Two scholarships (\$500.00 value each) are now available to attend Youth Conservation Camp (Grades 9 - 12) at Virginia Tech. If selected for this scholarship, you pay only \$50.00 for the entire week!

For more information and for an application, please visit pwsacd.org/news-events.html

**Completed applications are due on Friday, April 22*

2

7th Annual Upper Occoquan River Cleanup

Sat., April 9, 2016

9am - 2pm

Rain date: Sat., April 23, 2016

Experienced Kayaker/ Canoeist/ Jon Boater

Volunteers Needed!

Please pre-register at www.pwtsc.org, e-mail efdandar@verizon.net, or call (703) 791-6158 for more info.

**There will be several put-in/take-out points from Cedar Run/Broad Run to Lake Jackson and from below Lake Jackson Dam to Hooes Run.*



3

Community Input Meeting / Open House

The Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is having a Strategic Plan meeting, and we need your help! If you have used our services in the past, or are working with us currently, we need your input so we can improve our services.

Don't know what we do? Then stop on by to learn about the different programs PWSWCD provides to Prince William County residents!

Date:

April 18, 2016, 3:30 - 5:30pm

Location:

Central Community Library: community room
8601 Mathis Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail pwsacd@pwsacd.org



4

Upcoming Workshop

Conservation Planning & Beyond: Financial Assistance Programs

Are you wondering if there are financial assistance programs that apply to you and your goals? Then this workshop is for you! Learn about the different programs available and how to apply!

If you are interested and want to be added to our mailing list for this workshop, please e-mail nicolethier@pwsacd.org or call (571) 379-7514. **Date pending, so stay tuned!**

5

Stream Monitoring Volunteers Needed!

If you want to help improve the health of our streams, then we need you! We need volunteers to help collect stream data. If this interests you, please visit our website at pwsacd.org/news-events.html. You can also contact our Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Coordinator, Veronica Tangiri, at 571-201-4434, waterquality@pwsacd.org



6

Youth Education & Adopt-A-Stream Programs

We are recruiting volunteers to work with our Education and Adopt A Stream programs. Give us a call if you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, 571-379-7514, or email pwsacd@pwsacd.org. More detailed information is available on our website www.pwsacd.org/educators.



Introductory Stream Monitoring Training

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2016 1pm - 3pm

Location: Manassas National Battlefield Park Headquarters, 12521 Lee Highway Manassas, VA 20109

This is a free introductory training workshop on benthic macroinvertebrates for all Northern Virginia residents who are interested in Water Quality Monitoring or who would like to become certified stream monitors. This laboratory style training workshop will help participants develop and familiarize themselves with benthic macro invertebrate identification skills.

If you have questions, or to RSVP, please contact Veronica Tangiri at waterquality@pwsacd.org or call (571) 379-7514.



Collecting macroinvertebrates in a stream

How is the Water Quality in my Creek?

There's an app for that!

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) is hosting an event to help you learn what's in our local waterways. The District is offering you an opportunity to learn more about the health of your local streams by finding and identifying the living organisms, macroinvertebrates, that are in the water.

This ANS new app, called "Creek Critters," will guide you through finding and identifying small aquatic insects in your back yard stream to create a stream health report. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about the Districts' biological and chemical volunteer stream monitoring programs. Why not come

learn more skills for your school science projects!

You can download the free Creek Critters app from either the Apple app store (iPhones) or Google Play (Android phones). Bring your smartphone, as well as shoes or boots that will get wet. All other collection and identification information you need will be provided. To download the "Creek Critters" app, Visit: cleanstreams.anshome.org/creek-critters-app

Date: Sunday, April 17 1pm - 3.30pm

Location: James S Long Park, 4603 James Madison Hwy (Rt. 15), Haymarket, VA 20169

To register contact: waterquality@pwsacd.org OR Elaine Wilson: Elaine.Wilson@dcwater.com (Site Coordinator).



New Year, New Board

Welcome aboard John Price and Sandra McLean! The 2016 elections returned Elizabeth Ward to the Board of Directors, and brought us John and Sandra. Elizabeth has been appointed treasurer and John Vice Chairman. Remaining on the board is Jim Gehlsen, the VA Soil and Water Board at-large director and Paige Thacker, our Virginia Cooperative Extension representative and appointed secretary to the board. The Directors serve a four year term. John serves on the Finance, Technical Review, and the Education Committees and also serves as a liaison to the Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition for the annual Upper Occoquan River Cleanup. Sandra serves on the Education Committee.



John Price



Sandra McLean

Deb Oliver, Harrison Glasgow and Steve Danziger were appointed Associate Directors at the January 21 board meeting. Associate Directors serve a three year term. Ms. Oliver serves on the Education Committee and Mr. Glasgow serves on the Technical Review and Finance Committees. He is also the President of the Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation, a 501(C)3 non-profit affiliate to the District. Mr. Danziger (a 14 year veteran of the Board) serves on the Finance and Education Committees.

Farewell Alysha Rayner, Education & Outreach Specialist

Farewell to Alysha Rayner, Education & Outreach Specialist. Alysha interned with us from September 2014 through April 2015, when she graduated from George Mason University. She came on part time in July 2015 until December. She was a great team member; we are grateful for her time she worked here, and wish her well with her future endeavors.



Environmental Science & Natural Resources Education Capsules Program: Adopt-A-Capsule

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation (PWEFF), a 501(c)3 organization and affiliate of PWSWCD, is offering local environmentalists to sponsor an education capsule. We have 15 self-contained teacher resources capsules available for use by public, private, or home schools within Prince William County and City of Manassas. These programs also serve as great learning tools for scouts and 4-H. Our capsules meet the requirements of the Standards of Learning lesson plans.

All the capsules are described and pictured on our website pwsacd.org/educators. If you are interested in sponsoring a capsule or have questions, please contact our office at (571) 379-7514 or e-mail Jeannie.Heflin@pwsacd.org.

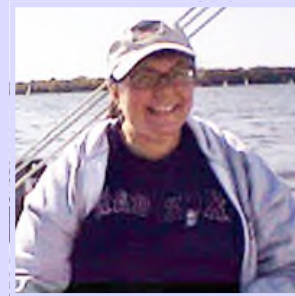


Water Cycle Capsule

Welcome Alice Markiewicz and Pam Popovich!

Alice Markiewicz was our Education Department volunteer, and now she is our brand new Education & Outreach Specialist!

Alice answered the call, literally, when we were recruiting wool spinners for our Farm Field Days event in October 2015. Our Conservation Planner, Farm Field Days organizer, Mike Miller, called around to all the spinner groups and wool/yarn shops in this region. Through the telephone tree of spinners Alice responded, and we are so glad she did! She and her spinning friend, Wally, gave a great demonstration to the fourth grade students at Farm Field Days. Where else in Prince William County will you find such a great educational opportunity?



Alice Markiewicz

Evidently, Alice really enjoyed her experience with us at Farm Field Days, as she has accepted the Education Specialist position to administer our conservation education capsule program offered to all PWC and City of Manassas students.

Welcome, Pam Popovich! Pam, a retired school teacher, has joined forces with the District for the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) program. The District has presented these "out in the field and on the farm" programs to 1,689 third grade students, on Windy Knoll Farm, since 2012. Every school district in the state of Virginia is required to provide a MWEE to every student, at least once during their school life.

We are so grateful for all the talented and committed volunteers we have enjoyed over the years. They have helped us expand our reach within the community to inspire personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources.



Pam Popovich teaching kids at a MWEE program