

Conservation Around the Neck



NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving the people of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland Counties since 1940

Spring/Summer 2018



"...there is no better steward of the land than the farmer who makes his living from it." —Jayson Gill

2018 Scholarship Awards

Jayson Gill Awarded District Scholarship

Lancaster High School's Jayson Gill is the 2018 recipient of the NNSWCD's \$1,000 Education Scholarship. Started in 2013, the scholarship was created with two purposes in mind: To promote the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields related to natural resource conservation and environmental protection *and* to give financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

Jayson, (pictured upper left) was elected Senior Class President, lettered in Varsity Football and Baseball and participated in many activities while at LHS. He achieved Honor Roll every grading period while attending LHS and Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science. Jayson will attend Virginia Tech this fall in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, majoring in Agribusiness. Jayson is passionate about farming and is proud of his family's agricultural legacy in Lancaster County. He is the 14th generation of his family to farm in the county; something that he began actively pursuing from the age of 15.

As a lover of the land, Jayson is troubled when he hears about pollution in Virginia's waterways being attributed to farmers. He tries to dispel fears of over fertilization by explaining the finances of farming; that fertilizer is expensive and using too much is a very expensive mistake. He also explains how farmers use Best Management Practices such as continuous no-till to improve crops while caring for the environment. "I love trying to convince them that there is no better steward of the land than the farmer who makes his living from it," he said.

Bavuso One of Five Statewide Foundation Awardees

Jacob Bavuso of Weems, a 2018 graduate of Lancaster High School received one of five statewide \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Education Foundation. Jacob's interest in the environment and science began in childhood and he continues to be "passionately obsessed with the study of nature." His main interests are learning about the habitats of various creatures and studying plants. The connection between plants and erosion prevention led him to his Eagle Scout project which was to design a system to stabilize erosion on Hickory Hollow Trail.

Jacob graduated from LHS with Highest Honors, achieving straight As for all grading periods from 9th to 12th grades and was a member of the National Honors Society from 10th to 12th grades. Jacob served on the Northern Neck's Envirothon Team in 2015. He also attended Youth Conservation Camp, Forestry Camp and 4-H Camp, where he served as a teen counselor. Jacob's articles and photography highlighting invasive plant species have run in the Chesapeake Style Magazine.

Jacob will begin his studies at Rappahannock Community College to earn an associate's degree in Sustainability Science. He will then transfer to Christopher Newport University, to study Environmental Science and plans to pursue a career in environmental research.



"I have been passionately obsessed with the study of nature my entire life. I have also run experiments with water...watching how interrupting or shifting the flow pattern causes erosion, mudslides, eddies and other phenomena."

— Jacob Bavuso

Calendar Notes

- ◇ **Virginia Ag BMP Cost Share signup period ends August 17, 2018.** Anticipated approvals by 9/12/18.
- ◇ **Lancaster County HHW and E-Waste Collection: September 15, 2018, Kilmarnock Refuse Center**
- ◇ **Northumberland County HHW and E-Waste Collection: September 22, 2018, NMS/NHS parking lot**
- ◇ **Westmoreland County HHW (only) Collection: September 29, 2018, A.T Johnson Parking Lot**
- ◇ **Waterway Cleanup event at Farnham Creek: October 14, 2018, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**
- ◇ **Richmond County HHW and E-Waste (NEW SERVICE): October 20, 2018 Indianfield Convenience Center**

HHW Events take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Two Soil Conservationists Assigned to the Warsaw NRCS Field Office

The NRCS Office in Warsaw welcomes Soil Conservationists Scott Hammond and Qadree “Q” Willis as they begin their careers with the US Department of Agriculture. Both Scott and Qadree joined the staff in the Warsaw Service Center in June. They are looking forward to meeting and working with producers in the Northern Neck.

Q Willis, (left) is a twin and the youngest sibling amongst his brothers and sisters. Raised in Portsmouth, VA, he swam and played soccer. A recent graduate of Virginia State University, Q holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree.

During his junior year at VSU, while working at the Agriculture Research Station (ARS), the unit of the College of Agriculture that carries out the Land Grant Mission of the university, he joined the VSU chapter of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) and won the 11th annual undergraduate research conference. Q was an international intern for the USDA-APHIS, for whom he traveled to Guyana, South America, Guatemala, and China during the summer of 2017. Soon after, he became an earth team volunteer in the Chesapeake, Virginia NRCS field office where he found a career choice that he was passionate about. Q aspires to one day work in the NRCS national office in Washington D.C.

Scott Hammond (above, right) grew up in West Point, Virginia where he spent most of his time hunting and trapping in the surrounding area and fishing the rivers. He recently graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Crop and Soil Sciences degree with an Agronomy Option. Scott also minored in Agricultural Economics. While at Virginia Tech he participated in the Agronomy and Forestry Club. While in the Forestry Club, he competed in timber sport events across the Southern United States. His best events were Archery and Jack and Jill crosscut! Scott feels right at home in the Northern Neck and wants to learn as much as he can and help the community as much as possible while working for NRCS.



Farm Service Agency Welcomes Two Program Technicians



Leslie Anne Hinton (pictured right) joined the Farm Service Agency as a Program Technician in May. She attended Northumberland High School, completed her B.S. in Biology at Longwood University and is currently working on her M.S. online through Virginia Tech focusing on Plant Science and Pest Management. Before joining FSA, Leslie Anne worked with the Three Rivers SWCD as a Conservation Specialist serving Essex, King & Queen and King William counties. In her free time, Leslie Anne spends time with her horses and enjoying all things Northern Neck. Leslie Anne looks forward to working with the agriculture community of the Northern Neck.

Mallorie Wright (on left) joined FSA as a Program Technician in May. She is in her last semester of graduate school through Virginia Tech where she will obtain her M.S. in Environmental Sciences. In May of 2017 she graduated from Virginia Tech with her B.S. in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and a minor in Agricultural and Applied Economics. Mallorie grew up on a family farm in Caroline County, Virginia which is where her passion for agriculture grew. Today, she still helps around the farm with growing corn, soybeans, hay, and raising hogs and beef cattle. She is an active member of the Caroline County Agricultural Fair where she enjoys getting to teach the community about agriculture. Before coming to work for FSA, Mallorie was a long-term substitute high school Ag teacher in Caroline County. Mallorie is very excited to start her new journey with FSA by serving and developing great relationships with agriculture producers in Virginia.

Northumberland and Lancaster County Collections

May 2018 Hazardous/E-Waste Events Successful

Residents from Northumberland and Lancaster counties disposed of nearly 23,000 lbs. of household chemicals, paints, petroleum products and other items considered harmful to the environment during two Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Collections held in May.

One hundred fifteen cars drove through the collection site at the Northumberland Middle School parking lot and dropped off a variety of potentially dangerous chemicals (see photo on right) and old electronics such as televisions, computers, monitors and much more, at Northumberland County's May 5 event. A total of 10,796 lbs. of hazardous waste and 2,505 lbs. of electronics were processed during the event.

On May 19, Lancaster County residents brought over 203 car loads totaling 12,722 lbs. of hazardous waste and 5,505 lbs. of electronic waste to the Kilmarnock Recycling Center off of Irvington Road. Several citizens returned with additional car loads, but their vehicles were only counted once.

These collection events are sponsored by the individual county governments in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the District, who partner in handling advertisement and local staffing of events. MXI Environmental transports the materials to their plant in Abingdon, VA where materials and chemicals that are recyclable are gathered and what cannot be re-used is destroyed in an environmentally sound way. See Calendar of Events on page 2 for the Fall, 2018 schedule of collection events in all four counties of the Northern Neck. For the first time, Richmond County residents will be able to drop off E-Waste at their collection on October 20, 2018 at the Indianfield Convenience Center from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.



New Uses for Old Tires: Recycling is the Answer

Richmond County's community members loaded up trucks, trailers and even their car trunks to dispose of their old, unwanted tires at the third annual Richmond County Tire Amnesty Collection and Recycling Day on May 12, 2018. The event took place at the Indianfield Convenience Center outside of Warsaw. Most of these citizens likely felt relief knowing that they were finally rid of their old and unsightly tires; however, what some of them may not have realized was that they were also helping the environment by discarding their tires properly. The multiple tractor trailer loads of tires from Richmond County will be sent to a facility where they will be recycled.

Unwanted tires have always posed a problem. They are large, take up space, and can cause problems in landfills. In warmer weather, the water that can collect in them is the ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. In the tire industry, tires that are unusable due to age and wear are known as "end-of-life tires." However, these tires are considered recyclable and will have another life as useful products used in engineering applications or as a product made from ground rubber. Ground rubber is used for groundcover under playgrounds, underlay in athletic fields and even to ensure proper footing for horses in equestrian events.



The Tire Amnesty Collection and Recycling Day has been a popular event since its inception in 2016. This photo was taken after the first hour of the 2018 collection event. One trailer was already full, with much more to come. The next Richmond County Tire Recycling event will take place May 18, 2019 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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| Scott Hammond | Soil Conservationist |
| Qadree “Q” Willis | Soil Conservationist |