



NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Mission:

To promote the stewardship of natural resources through leadership, education and technical assistance for natural resource owners and users.

Directors, Staff & Partners

Elected Directors:

Junius C. "J.C." Berger, Chairman (Richmond)
E. Derwin Booker, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Lancaster)
J. Vince Garland, Treasurer (Richmond)
William D. Allensworth (Westmoreland)
Brian Barnes (Northumberland: July-December 2007)
Charles Bowie (Westmoreland: July-December 2007)
Mark Hollingsworth (Lancaster: July –December 2007)
John A. Kelley (Northumberland-January-June 2008)
H. Shirley Powell (Westmoreland: January-June 2008)
Lora Smith (Lancaster: January-June 2008)
Robert Vanlandingham (Northumberland)

Appointed Directors:

Samuel M. Johnson, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent (Westmoreland: July-December 2007)
Matt Lewis, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent (Lancaster/Northumberland: January-July 2008)
James Minor, At-Large (Westmoreland)

Associate Directors:

John Barber
Ginny Barnes (July 2007-February 2008)
Richard F. Haynie
Matt Lewis (July 2007-December 2007)
Robert Pitman (July 2007-February 2008)
Luther Welch

Staff:

J. Craig Brann, District Manager/Conservation Specialist
Faye A. Andrashko, BMP Information/Education Coordinator
Kathy E. Clarke, Office Manager
Brandon W. Dillistin, Conservation Specialist
Dwight S. Forrester, Conservation Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Debbie Bullock, District Conservationist
Robert Lewis, Civil Engineering Technician

Cooperating Partners:

DCR, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEQ, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
FSA, USDA Farm Service Agency
Lancaster County
NACD, National Association of Conservation Districts
NNLC, Northern Neck Land Conservancy
NNMG, Northern Neck Master Gardeners
NNPDC, Northern Neck Planning District Commission
NNSWCD, Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District
NNTC, Northern Neck Tourism Council
Northumberland County
NPS, National Park Service
NRCS, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
RC&D, Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council
Richmond County
USACE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VASWCD, Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
VCE, Virginia Cooperative Extension
VDACS, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
VDOF, Virginia Department of Forestry
VDGIF, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
VDOH, Virginia Department of Health
VDOT, Virginia Department of Transportation
Westmoreland County

Introduction

What are Soil and Water Conservation Districts?

Soil and water conservation districts are local government entities that were created in the 1930s to promote soil conservation and protection of natural resources. A Board comprising local elected and appointed residents oversees a staff responsible for accomplishing these goals in cooperation with local, state and Federal partners. The Soil & Water Conservation Law within the Code of Virginia states:

“A soil and water conservation district...shall constitute a governmental subdivision of this State, and a public body corporate and politic. Exercising public powers...” (§10.1-5.38)

“They (a District and its Directors) shall have power to develop comprehensive programs and plans for the conservation of soil resources and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or agricultural and nonagricultural phases of the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water within District...” (§10.1-546)

The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District (NNSWCD) is responsible for assisting the agricultural community, landowners, residential property owners and local government in Westmoreland, Lancaster, Richmond and Northumberland counties in the wise management and maintenance of the region’s valuable natural resource base.

How were Districts formed?

Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 to provide a permanent program to control the ever-increasing problem of erosion, floods and sky-blackening dust storms that at the time swept through the country. This policy was addressed by the development of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS). To encourage local participation, President Roosevelt sent all state governors a letter requesting that legislation be passed to form soil and water conservation districts. In 1938 the Soil Conservation District Law of Virginia was passed so that local residents would take responsibility for directing programs aimed at solving conservation problems in their communities. Virginia currently has 47 Districts that are funded by local government appropriations and federal, state and private grants.

The NNSWCD Board began with four local producers in Heathsville in July 1940.

What is the District’s governing body?

A Board of elected and appointed Directors oversees a District. In any one District, there must be at least five Directors, two of which must be appointed by the elected Directors. One of the appointed Directors must be an extension agent. The term of office is four years, and Directors receive no payment for their services. In addition, each year the Board elects one Director as Chairman and one Director as Vice-Chairman. Districts also have the right to appoint Associate Directors. These advisors to the Board serve no specified term and do not vote.

The NNSWCD has ten Directors and five Associate Directors. Eight Directors are elected, two from each of the four Northern Neck counties, and two Directors are appointed by the Board. The NNSWCD Board meets monthly to conduct and oversee District business. These meetings are public, and the Board encourages attendance by sending meeting notices to local newspapers. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.



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Letter from the Chairman

To Residents, Landowners, Producers and Local Governments:

The Northern Neck SWCD has continued its record of outstanding service to the Community during fiscal year 2007-2008. Our fine staff of five outstanding performers have met the challenges of administering a million-dollar Ag BMP Cost-share program, participating in a pilot program to apportion water quality improvement goals in the Rappahannock Tributary Strategy to a county level in Richmond County, conducting or participating in rain-barrel workshops and numerous other outreach and education programs to improve water quality, and working with Federal, state and local partners in various conservation programs and events. This report highlights some of those accomplishments.

I anticipate FY 2008-2009 will present a different challenge to the District, to our partners and to all of you. The economic downturn will affect all of us, as we and you have already experienced. Our operating funds from the state have already been reduced, and we expect further reductions when the Governor announces his budget in December. Our state Association (VASWCD) has been working and will continue to work with the Administration and the General Assembly to protect a viable level of operational and Cost-share funding for Districts. However, the requirement for improving water quality in the waters of the state will not diminish – only grow as population increases. So we will be in the proverbial position of ‘doing more with less’.

Therefore, we continue to need your help and input as we tackle the daunting tasks of improving water quality in the Northern Neck creeks, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay; helping producers to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) which both reduce pollution and make economic sense; assisting local governments and partners in carrying out their responsibilities for conservation; providing or arranging for technical support to all our clients; and expanding an education program to reach our consumers, local governments and schools, and the public. Please contact any of our staff or Board members with your ideas, your suggestions for change, or to volunteer to help us accomplish our mission.

Sincerely,

J.C. Berger, Chairman

Contributed Support

The NNSWCD receives funding from local government appropriations and federal, state and private grants. During FY 07/08, the NNSWCD received financial contributions from the following sources:

Local Funding:

Local Government Contributions:

In response to county support and partnerships, the District provides progress reports to each county's Board of Supervisors to keep local government leaders and staff informed and updated. In FY 07/08 NNSWCD presented to the Boards of Supervisors for the four counties, an overview of water quality issues and efforts, community financial and technical support of conservation practices, tributary nutrient reductions by basin, education programs, policy changes and special projects undertaken by the District. In addition, on January 9, 2008 the NNSWCD Staff hosted a presentation on the activities of the District to four of the newly elected Northern Neck Supervisors. For FY 07/08 the NNSWCD continued to receive level funding from each of the four Northern Neck counties it serves: Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland.

Newspaper Recycling Program:

The District began a newspaper recycling program in 1998 to create an educational fund for conservation projects, workshops, youth training and field days. A collection bin is located at the Warsaw office where students, town residents, producers, businesses and local newspaper offices contribute newsprint.

No-Till Drill Rental Program:

The NNSWCD promotes conservation seeding techniques through the rental of a no-till drill. In June 2006 the NNSWCD traded in its 10' John Deere™ no-till drill on a new 7' Great Plains™ no-till drill. Among some of the features of the new equipment were a V-bottom seed box for easy cleanout; a small seed box for clover, alfalfa and other small seeds; lockout hubs for reduced wear on chains and sprockets and a narrow transport width. With the reduced width, operators were able to access areas that were previously inaccessible and reduce the horsepower previously needed for operation. In FY 07/08 the no-till drill was rented for use on 509.6 acres.

Soil Survey CDs:

In January 2006 the NNSWCD began selling electronic versions via compact discs of the soil surveys for Northumberland/Lancaster, Richmond and Westmoreland Counties. The surveys delineate the soil types for land parcels and the associated traits of those soils. Information such as crop yield expectations, leaching variables, septic site suitability and many more traits are found in the surveys.

Sponsorships:

To help offset the cost of educational events and the District Newsletter, the NNSWCD often looks to local businesses and organizations for sponsorships.

In FY 07/08 the NNSWCD Sponsors included:

Colonial Farm Credit—Ag Day

Rappahannock Tractor—NNSWCD Newsletter: *Conservation Around the Neck*

State Funding:

Bay Restoration Grant:

A grant proposal submitted in September 2007 requesting funding for the District to purchase its own Enviroscope and carrying case was awarded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (the license plate fund) in the amount of \$1512.50.

DCR-Additional Staff Grant:

In FY 06/07, the NNSWCD was awarded a two-year Additional Staff Grant that enabled the District to hire additional staff to assist with the administration and implementation of the Virginia Ag BMP Cost-Share Program. Funding for FY 06/07 was for 1.5 technical staff positions. In FY 07/08, the funding was increased to 2.0 positions.

DCR-Cost-Share Grant:

The NNSWCD administers the state Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share Program, which provides funds and/or state tax credits for the installation of conservation practices preventing soil erosion and runoff that contribute to water-quality degradation in streams, rivers and the Bay. The program offers 45 different practices that can assist landowners and producers in maintaining soil on the land, with consequent benefits to crop production and water quality. The implementation of conservation practices also assists localities in working toward the nutrient and sediment reduction goals outlined in the Potomac and Rappahannock Tributary Strategy plans and the goals of the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement.

The following table captures the practices installed and the funds used to assist residents with implementation during the FY 07/08 time period:

Conservation Practice:	Lancaster:		Northumberland:		Richmond:		Westmoreland:	
	Acres:	Funds:	Acres:	Funds:	Acres:	Funds:	Acres:	Funds:
Engineered Practices*	0.2	\$ 8,212.58	1.0	\$ 5,625.00	0.5	\$ 13,000.00	-	\$ 9,948.92
Permanent Cover on Cropland	3.7	\$ 858.40	-	\$ -	14.9	\$ 3,427.08	24.2	\$ 4,893.49
Continuous No-Till	495.9	\$ 48,040.00	1,691.2	\$ 169,120.00	743.0	\$ 74,295.00	660.4	\$ 63,085.00
Cover Crops	782.6	\$ 37,752.50	1,246.1	\$ 56,856.50	557.9	\$ 26,713.50	3,120.2	\$ 138,051.69
Nutrient Management Plans	10,736.2	\$ 21,472.40	22,897.4	\$ 45,794.78	12,751.9	\$ 25,503.78	19,253.0	\$ 38,506.00
State Tax Credit**	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	1,849.5	\$ 2,889.85	48.9	\$ 829.08
TOTALS:	12,018.6	\$ 116,335.88	25,835.7	\$ 277,396.28	15,917.6	\$ 145,829.21	23,106.6	\$ 255,314.18

* Practices that require a site-plan design and must be maintained by the landowner for 5 to 10 years after installment.

**State Tax Credit for Agricultural Best Management Practices

DCR-Operations Grant:

Each year the NNSWCD receives funding from the Commonwealth, through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, to support the costs of staff, rent, communications, travel and the like. In FY 07/08, the NNSWCD experienced an increase in essential funding; it was the first increase since 1999.

Federal Conservation Programs:

Federal funding was made available to landowners in FY 07/08 through the following programs:

The Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP/CREP) provides two conservation options for landowners: 1) rental payments for removing cropland from production and establishing and maintaining vegetative cover for a minimum 10-year period; and 2) funding for the establishment of buffers on land adjacent to water. Landowners may choose a 10-year, 15-year or permanent easement contract. The program combines federal and state dollars to cover rental and incentive payments, materials to establish buffers or restore wetlands, BMP installation and annual maintenance costs. The programs are administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) derives from the Conservation Title of the new Farm Bill and offers producers cost-share sponsorship for grazing-land protection and cropland practices. Locally, applications have been received and funded for nutrient and residue management and cover crops.

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. The program identifies and rewards those producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

A summary of federal funding provided to landowners through these programs is presented as follows:

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

County:	CRP/CREP	EQIP	Rappahannock Watershed CSP	Wicomico Watershed CSP
Lancaster	\$ 7,508.00	\$ 117,805.10	\$ 29,928.00	\$ -
Northumberland	\$ 9,819.00	\$ 346,064.67	\$ -	\$ 284,017.00
Richmond	\$ 21,236.00	\$ 89,285.88	\$ 120,470.00	\$ -
Westmoreland	\$ 27,453.00	\$ 238,001.30	\$ 27,479.00	\$ -
*TOTALS:	\$ 66,016.00	\$ 791,156.95	\$ 177,877.00	\$ 284,017.00

**Federal fiscal year reporting dates are October 1st thru September 30th.*

Educational Programs/Community Outreach:

The NNSWCD provides ongoing services, programs, materials and information to producers, landowners and school groups throughout the year. District personnel also contribute to field-day programs conducted by partnering agencies as requested or as necessary. In FY 07/08, the NNSWCD continued to build upon its educational activities and community outreach through a variety of programs and partnerships such as:

4-H Chesapeake Bay Field Day:

On August 9, 2007, NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko assisted the Northern Neck 4H Club with an educational field trip on the Chesapeake Bay. Young people were exposed to water quality monitoring such as water salinity, PH, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen testing. Students learned about techniques to decrease the pollutant load from land activities as well as programs the NNSWCD offers to assist landowners.

Agriculture Awareness Day (Ag Day):

Each year the NNSWCD, together with the local agricultural community, partnering agencies and organizations, conducts an annual agricultural field day for all third-grade students of the Northern Neck. The event provides a hands-on learning experience focusing on agriculture and natural resources and how they contribute to the environment and economy of the region. The event is an excellent learning opportunity for young people to build and expand their knowledge of SOL-based subjects related to agriculture and the environment.

The 2008 Ag Day was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at the Eastern Virginia Agricultural Research & Extension Center on Menokin Road in Warsaw, VA. Some 237 students and teachers from Northern Neck schools braved blustery winds to interact with presenters and see exhibits and demonstrations on small grains, vegetables, forestry, bees, poultry and conservation. Students were treated to goodie bags and ice cream before their departure.

Alliance for Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Monitoring:

In FY 07/08, NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko successfully completed two trainings and testing for certification as a trainer for Citizen Water Quality Monitoring. On October 27, 2007 she participated with Alliance personnel in Citizen Monitor recertification at Rappahannock Community College and on October 28th provided initial training for the Dividing Creek Association at Lancaster Library. In addition, she oriented and substituted for Monitor Dayle Collins biweekly throughout May and June, monitoring at five sites on Totuskey Creek.

Area III Spring Meeting:

The NNSWCD hosted the Area III Spring Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at Heritage Park in Warsaw, VA. Among the topics of discussion were: approval of the NNSWCD to serve as the administrator of the Area III funds; and the unveiling of the Area III Challenge, an annual team award to be given to a SWCD within Area III for their accomplishments.

Barber Easement:

In September 2007, NNSWCD Associate Director John Barber approached the NNSWCD with the request to co-hold an easement on his property, Riverdale Farms, with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The responsibility would primarily consist of assisting with the monitoring of the easement. The NNSWCD agreed and the easement was recorded on December 27, 2007. 54 acres, roughly 3000 feet of riverfront were included in the easement.

Chesapeake Bay Governor's School Earth Day Event:

On April 25, 2008 NNSWCD Office Manager Kathy Clarke served as a chaperone on a Richmond County Elementary School field trip to Belle Isle State Park where the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School was hosting their Earth Day Event. Elementary school aged students identified as academically gifted participated in environmental stations such as seining, paper making and snake handling.

Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee Field Trip:

On June 18, 2008, NNSWCD District Manager Craig Brann and USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Debbie Bullock were presenters at a Northern Neck agricultural conservation program and tour held at Midway Farms in Warsaw. The tour was for early arrivals to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee (PSC) Meeting held at Westmoreland State Park. The purpose of the tour was to give PSC members a firsthand view of local agricultural production systems and conservation programs actively being used in the area, and to provide them discussion opportunities with the local producer and conservation staff serving state, federal, and local conservation offices.

Clean Virginia Waterways:

In FY 07/08, as part of the annual international coastal cleanup event held by the Ocean Conservancy, and coordinated statewide by Clean VA Waterways, NNSWCD Education Coordinator, Faye Andrashko, coordinated two local waterway cleanup events. The first was held on September 22, 2007 at Westmoreland State Park where volunteers collected 262 pounds of debris. The second event was held on September 29, 2007 at Belle Isle State Park where 186 pounds of debris were recovered. Volunteers came from all counties and represented Rappahannock High's Ecology Club, Northumberland High, Lancaster Middle and High Schools, NN Master Naturalists, and individuals and families working together.

DEQ Ag BMP Loan Program:

In January 2006, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) implemented a new pilot loan program which enabled producers to purchase no-till drills or planters. In FY 07/08 the NNSWCD successfully promoted the program and assisted with the application process for 1 Northern Neck participant.

DEQ Water Festival:

On October 9, 2007, NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko participated in this water conservation education event for sixth-graders in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties. In its sixth year, the event has primarily been run by some fifty volunteers on the Northern Neck.

Ducks Unlimited Landowner Meeting:

In February 2008, the NNSWCD partnered with Ducks Unlimited, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, USDA-NRCS and The Virginia Outdoors Foundation to host a Landowner Meeting. The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw, VA where District Manager Craig Brann and Conservation Specialists Dwight Forrester and Brandon Dillistin were guest speakers. Conservation professionals from Virginia discussed conservation practices applicable to different property settings as well as cost sharing/funding opportunities for restoration and management practices. Presentations were given on wetland restoration, riparian buffers, land protection and management practices beneficial to wildlife and water quality.

Envirothon:

Envirothon is an internationally recognized competition which began in 1979 and is the largest non-athletic environmental high school competition that challenges students to put the information that they have learned to solving real-life environmental problems. Participating teams complete training in five natural resource categories: Soils, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife and a Special Topic. The 2008 Special Topic was "Recreational Impact on Natural Resources."

For FY 07/08, while interest in participation increased due to expanded promotion of the event to teachers, timing was a factor in continued lower than hoped for participation levels. The NNSWCD did not sponsor a Local Envirothon. Schools expressed interest for 2008-09, and the District is actively pursuing their participation. The Area III event was hosted by the Hanover-Caroline SWCD on April 18th at Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville. NNSWCD staff assisted with preliminary planning; T-shirt design, ordering and distribution; and were on hand to offer support and assistance with the day's event.

Hazardous Waste Collection:

On June 14, 2008 NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko and staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension assisted with the Household Hazardous Waste Collections in Lancaster and Northumberland sponsored by the respective counties. Despite the heat of the day, 77 participants came with 3303 pounds of waste in Lancaster, and 65 participants brought 3157 pounds in Northumberland. The products were received, sorted, and transported by Care Environmental Corp. to be disposed of at their processing site.

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp:

In March 2008, the NNSWCD promoted the Holiday Lake Forestry Camp to schools, the public, and partnering agencies by offering to cover the registration fee for a prospective applicant from the Northern Neck area. Despite these efforts, no applications were received. However, there are several prospects for the upcoming program year.

Lancaster Middle School Science Fair:

On February 27, 2008 NNSWCD Staff Faye Andrashko, Dwight Forrester and Brandon Dillistin participated as judges at the Lancaster Middle School Science Fair. The projects were submitted by 4th-8th graders.

Legislative Day:

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) lobbies annually at the General Assembly for support of conservation, improvements and advancements to new and existing programs as well as adequate funding to meet the obligations of the Tributary Strategies and Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement.

In FY 07/08, Legislative Day was held on Monday, January 14, 2008, and was attended by the NNSWCD Chairman J.C. Berger, Vice-Chairman E. Derwin Booker, Jr. and District Manager Craig Brann. They met with Virginia State Senator Richard Stuart and discussed the VASWCD Legislative Program. The VASWCD pressed hard on HB1335 and SB511 regarding reducing point source pollution to waste water treatment plants, fully addressing the restoration needs of Virginia's waters and the Chesapeake Bay, removing 12 million pounds of nitrogen through BMPs, as well as supporting the efforts of the coalition to receive level funding for conservation programs through 1/10th cent sales tax.

NNSWCD Annual Cost-Share Conference:

In an effort to educate and encourage participation in the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program, the NNSWCD hosted its 2nd Annual Cost-Share Conference on Tuesday July 17, 2007 at Cobham Park Baptist Church in Warsaw, VA. The event provided landowners and producers with an opportunity to learn about the program and participate in an open forum question and answer session. Approximately 75 landowners and producers attended the Conference.

NNSWCD Newsletter:

The District produces and distributes a newsletter, *Conservation Around the Neck*, to producers, landowners and residents to inform them of new and existing programs, cost-share deadlines, legislative matters, water quality issues, regional meeting dates, educational opportunities for youth and other District and conservation events. Local businesses are encouraged to advertise to defray printing costs.

The District also issues timely press releases to all Northern Neck newspapers and radio stations, as well as to Rappahannock Connect, an electronic posting forum for non-profits.

NNSWCD Web Site:

The NNSWCD Web site, www.northernneckswcd.org or www.nnswcd.org, designed by VECTEC of Christopher Newport University from information and images compiled and coordinated by NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko, was officially launched March 26, 2008. She and NNSWCD Office Manager Kathy Clarke visited VECTEC in Newport News for a brief training on Web maintenance.

Northern Neck Crop Production Conference:

On February 22, 2008, District staff participated in the panel discussion along with local Board of Supervisor and County Officials, Pesticide regulators, VDACS Ag Stewardship Coordinator, and area fertilizer representatives on farmer's public relations with the community. The event was held at Cobham Park Baptist Church in Warsaw, VA.

Northern Neck Farm Museum:

In FY 05/06 the NNSWCD agreed to co-hold the easement on the Northern Neck Farm Museum (NNFM) with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF). The easement was finalized on December 27, 2006.

On May 24, 2008 NNSWCD Staff manned a booth at the NNFM Barn Opening Ceremony in which a crowd of about 500 attended.

Another means of support provided by the NNSWCD was the supplying and assistance with installation of four rain barrels to be used as a water source for community gardens to be created by Northern Neck Master Gardeners.

Northern Neck Land Conservancy Boots 'n Barbeque:

In support of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC), Office Manager Kathy Clarke and Conservation Specialist Dwight Forrester manned a booth at the group's annual membership gathering, "Boots 'n Barbeque" on Sunday September 9, 2007, at Sabine Hall in Warsaw, VA. The NNLC assists private landowners in protecting open space on their property through voluntary agreements that allow owners to retain title and use of their land for themselves and their heirs.

Northern Neck Master Gardeners Spring 2008 Shoreline Erosion Workshop:

NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko served on the Master Gardener steering committee for this workshop, assisted with contacting presenters, and represented the NNSWCD with a display at the event held on March 29, 2008.

Northumberland County Elementary School Enviroscape Presentations:

NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko took the Enviroscape presentation to Mr. Bob Kirkwood's five fourth-grade classes at Northumberland Elementary on January 4, 2008.

Northumberland County Phragmites Spray:

In September 2007, NNSWCD Staff assisted VCE Agent Matt Lewis and Dr. Lynton Land of NAPS with the spraying of phragmites in Northumberland County as an effort to educate and help landowners spray to keep the invasive species from spreading in the Northern Neck.

Northumberland County Young Farmers Corn Contest:

In June 2007, due to the lack of an Advisor for the Northumberland County Young Farmers, the NNSWCD was approached by the group about assisting with their annual Corn Contest. The NNSWCD Board agreed that this was an excellent opportunity to show support to the local farmers and other local businesses and agribusiness groups. During September and October of 2007, NNSWCD Staff checked corn yield test plots in all four counties of the Northern Neck.

Northumberland/Lancaster Twilight Field Day:

On August 15, 2007, District staff assisted Northumberland/Lancaster Extension in hosting a tour for local farmers. The group toured soybean and corn plots and heard presentations from Agricultural suppliers, Dr. Mark Alley and VCE on local and global fertilizer issues. The event was held at Clifton Brann's farm in Village, VA.

Rain Barrel Workshops:

The NNSWCD held its first Rain Barrel Workshop on July 21, 2007 at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission in Warsaw. The workshop started with a short instructional and informational presentation on groundwater recharge and runoff and how-tos of assembling the barrels. 20 Northern Neck citizens were in attendance.

Subsequent workshops were held at A.T. Johnson in Montross on March 15, 2008 and at White Stone Church of the Nazarene on April 19, 2008.

RCES Career Day:

On April 17, 2008, NNSWCD Office Manager Kathy Clarke served as a presenter for the Richmond County Elementary School's annual Career Day. Second graders learned first hand about the field of conservation and how they too could be conservationists now as well as in the future.

RCES Fun Day:

On May 23, 2008, NNSWCD Office Manager Kathy Clarke manned a booth at the Richmond County Elementary School Annual Fun Day. Students and parents visited the booth and learned about the NNSWCD.

Richmond County Fair:

In August 2007, the NNSWCD Staff and Directors hosted a booth at the Annual Richmond County Fair. Thanks to a donation from the Kilmarnock Wal-Mart, compact fluorescent bulbs were handed out to residents of the Northern Neck visiting the booth.

Roller Crimper Pilot Program:

On April 6, 2006, the NNSWCD entered into a pilot project agreement with the Three Rivers SWCD (TRSWCD), the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), the Tidewater Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to introduce a roller crimper to local producers. The agreement expired in August 2008 and a new agreement was devised. The NNSWCD agreed to continue to serve in the same role as before, mainly promoting the equipment, while Three Rivers SWCD would be responsible for housing it.

SENACD Meeting:

In 2007 it was Virginia's turn to host the Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting. The event was held in Colonial Williamsburg on August 26th-28th, 2007 with approximately 300 people in attendance from states all throughout the Southeast Region. District Manager Craig Brann, Conservation Specialist Brandon Dillistin and Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko attended on behalf of the NNSWCD.

Strategic Plan:

In April 2008, the NNSWCD publicly announced in accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3707.(C) a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 from 10:00AM to Noon EST in the Community Room (beside Fire Department) of the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative on 173 Pine Street in Warsaw, VA. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2012 and solicit comments from the general public as well as interested groups.

Comments received at the meeting, as well as any written comments received in the office prior to the meeting, were considered in developing the final Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2012. The final plan was adopted by the NNSWCD at the meeting held on May 14, 2008.

VASWCD Annual Meeting:

The 69th VASWCD Annual Meeting was held in Williamsburg, VA from December 2-5, 2007. The theme of the 2007 meeting was "400 Years of Land Use – What's Next?". All members of the NNSWCD Staff attended as well as Chairman J.C. Berger, Vice-Chairman E. Derwin Booker, Jr., Elected Director Bobby Vanlandingham and Director-Elect John A. Kelley. During the Awards Banquet, NNSWCD Office Manager Kathy Clarke was awarded the Chaffin Soil and Water Conservation District Employee of the Year Award.

VASWCDEF Golf Tournament:

Following the SENACD Meeting in Colonial Williamsburg in August 2007, the VASWCD hosted the 1st Annual "Tee Time for Education" Golf Tournament at the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club. The NNSWCD served as a hole sponsor for the event as well as co-sponsoring a team for the event headed up by NNSWCD Associate Director John Barber. In addition, NNSWCD Chairman J.C. Berger was on hand to lend assistance.

VASWCDEF Scholarship Program:

Each year the NNSWCD locally promotes the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation (VASWCDEF) Scholarship Awards Program. The Program supports the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields involving natural resource conservation and environmental protection through 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. Four (4) \$1000 scholarships are awarded throughout the state each year.

Individual applicants must be full-time students enrolled in, or who have applied to a college freshman level curriculum. Applicants must reside or attend school in one of the four counties served by the NNSWCD: Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond or Westmoreland. Applicants must document a class ranking in the top 20% of his or her graduating class, a 3.0 or greater Grade Point Average or appropriate equivalent of individual scholastic achievement.

In FY 07/08 the NNSWCD submitted two local applications; however, neither applicant was selected as a scholarship recipient.

Virginia Small Grains Field Day:

NNSWCD Staff attended the Virginia Small Grains Field Day at the Eastern Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Warsaw, VA on May 15, 2008. The event included field tours and presentations on wheat and barley varieties, small grain IPM, bread wheats, hullless barley, barley for ethanol production and marketing.

Virginia Soybean Field Day:

NNSWCD Staff attended the Virginia Soybean Field Day at the Eastern Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Warsaw on August 22, 2007. The event included field tours and presentations on soybean variety research, soybean IPM, seeding rates and marketing.

Virginia State Fair:

NNSWCD Education Coordinator Faye Andrashko served as the NNSWCD volunteer on September 28, 2007 at the VASWCD booth, discussing rain barrels, soils, and other displays with visitors to the booth.

Westmoreland/Richmond County Crop Field Day:

NNSWCD Staff attended the Westmoreland/Richmond County Crop Field Day at Windsor Farms in Montross, VA on August 28, 2007. Among the topics of discussion were soybean variety plots, soybean IPM, pesticide safety updates, soybean seeding rate studies and conservation program updates. NNSWCD Conservation Specialist Dwight Forrester gave an update on the BMP cost share program for 2007.

Youth Conservation Camp:

For the past 30 years, the VASWCD has sponsored a weeklong summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together about 90 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty of Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors.

Each year the NNSWCD accepts applications to sponsor two campers to the weeklong session. Applicants must be in grades 9-12 during the academic school year and cannot have previously attended. The total cost per student for FY 07/08 was \$550.00

The 2007 Youth Conservation Camp took place July 8-14, 2007 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Dwight Forrester, NNSWCD Conservation Specialist, served as a camp counselor. The NNSWCD sponsored two campers, Benjamin Shryock of Hague and Jennifer “Charli” Crandell of Colonial Beach. The campers experienced hands-on instruction in water-quality monitoring, and technology demonstrations. Charli Crandell was voted by her camper peers as female Camper of the Year.

Representation:

District Directors and Staff serve on various Boards, Councils and other committees to maintain knowledge and information of current natural resource issues and to provide input into developing programs, policies and funding.

In FY 07/08 the District represented its localities through the following:

- Ag BMP Advisory Committee & 3 Sub-Committees
- Ag BMP Modernization Steering Committee
- Ag BMP Modernization User Group
- Area III 2008 Spring Meeting Planning Committee
- Area III Challenge Steering Committee
- Area III Envirothon Planning Committee
- Area III Excel Roundtable
- Northern Neck Farm Museum Education Committee
- Northern Neck Master Gardeners Steering Committee for 2008 Seminar:
Working with Nature - Creating Living Shorelines
- Northern Neck Master Naturalists Curriculum Committee
- Potomac Conservation Council
- Potomac Watershed Round Table
- Rappahannock River Basin Commission
- Richmond County Tributary Strategy Implementation Pilot Project Steering Committee
- Three Rivers Environmental Educators (T.R.E.E.) Planning Committee
- Tidewater RC&D Council
- VACDE Finance Committee
- VASWCD Executive Committee
- VCE Leadership Council