



Charles Soil Conservation District Annual Report 2008

The Charles Soil Conservation District serves an area that is changing rapidly from rural agricultural to suburban residential, commercial and industrial land uses. The Potomac and Patuxent rivers border the district in the west, south and east, and are the focus of multi-agency conservation programs. Although the District's main priority is to provide the agricultural community with technical assistance to conserve valuable soil and water resources, development pressures have generated an increased workload in the District's sediment and erosion control and pond review responsibilities. More than 60 percent of the land area of the county remains forested.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)— Developed 6 comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 354 acres of farmland. Updated 11 additional plans covering 641 acres.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Worked with farmers to install 90 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality. BMPs installed included 67 agronomic and 23 structural BMPs.

Cover Crops –Provided technical assistance to farmers who planted 6,749 acres in cover crops in Fall 2008.



Erosion and Sediment Control—Reviewed 1,347 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects.

Web Soil Survey –Implemented and converted to Web Soil Survey in Spring 2008.

Aerial Photo Database –Completed conversion of Charles County aerial photographs to an electronic database in Summer 2008. The District developed a user-friendly program for public access of the database.

Web Site – Provided the public with information concerning District activities and programs through website: CharlesSCD.com.

Chesapeake Bay 2010 Grant Position – Obtained additional staff member to focus on conservation efforts in Patuxent River Watershed via MDA's Chesapeake Bay 2010 Grant.

Regional Equine Specialist Position – Through the efforts of MDA's Office of Resource Conservation, the District now has available an MDA Equine Specialist to assist small horse operations.





Conservation Education—

- ✓ Provided ongoing training for high school students participating in the Envirothon, an outdoor natural resources competition for students interested in learning about the environment. Over 75 students from all six of the county's public high schools participated in the 2008 Envirothon. Westlake High School in Waldorf represented the County at the Annual Maryland Envirothon Competition in June 2008.



- ✓ Sponsored the Annual Charles County MASCD Coloring Contest for Charles County elementary students. The Charles County first place winner in Class C Grades 4-5 went on to receive Maryland's first place award in Class C.
- ✓ Provided conservation resources to local elementary and middle schools involved in environmental education and Green School programs.

No-Till Rental Equipment – Coordinated and provided technical assistance to farmers who planted 537 acres utilizing no-till equipment offered through a subsidized rental program in conjunction with USDA-NRCS.

Navy Shoreline Stabilization Project – After years of preparation and working with the Navy and Southern Maryland RC&D, the District performed the Project Management role for the Phase I contract of NFS Indian Head Shoreline Stabilization project which saw construction begin in Fall 2007 and complete in November 2008. In December 2008, in partnership with RC&D, the District was awarded the contract to manage Phase II and Phase III of the project.


Awards –

- ✓ Luis Dieguez, District Manager, received the Southern Maryland RC&D Member of the Year 2007-2008 Award in recognition of his valuable contributions to the Southern Maryland RC& D Board, Inc.
- ✓ Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts recognized Jeff Bossart with 10-year and Carl Walter with 35-Year Service Awards at MASCD Annual Meeting.
- ✓ Charles County Commissioners recognized Carl Walter with a citation for 35 years of exemplary service as Commissioners' representative to the Charles SCD Board.



- ✓ William T. DeVane was awarded the 2007 Cooperator of the Year award at the Charles SCD Annual Cooperator Dinner.
- ✓ Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts recognized Hugh C. Gardiner, Inc. with the Maryland State Conservation Award for its participation with the District in its no-till drill rental program.





Publicity – Sponsored displays at the following locations and events publicizing the District and its programs:

- ✓ Charles County Public Library
- ✓ Charles County Fair
- ✓ Cooperative Extension Annual Crop Dinner
- ✓ Charles SCD Annual Dinner

Workshops & Demonstrations –

- ✓ Co-sponsored Web Soil Survey demonstration and orientation for Charles County Government, developers and interested public.
- ✓ Sponsored Bermuda Grass Hay Walk, led by Elmer Dengler, on the farm of Cooperator and Supervisor Jack Welch.
- ✓ Partnered in press day at Navy shoreline stabilization site.
- ✓ Partnered in Charles County Board of Education job fair.



Staff Changes – Underwent several staff changes including retirements, new hires, transfers and extended leave employees.

✓ **Retirements** –

- Aggie Higdon
- Jim Cary
- Carl Walter

✓ **Transfers** –

- Terry Heinard
- Susan Davis

✓ **New Hires** –

- Dee Dee Saunders
- Sara Lewis
- Donnie Gilroy
- Heather Zdobysz
- Matthew Schultz (2008 Summer Intern)

✓ **Extended Leave** –

- Kyong Chung





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Charles Rice	Chairman
Jeffrey Bossart	Vice Chairman
Jack Welch	Treasurer
Michael Rice	Supervisor
Pamela King	U.M. Extension Agent
Wayne Hancock	Associate Supervisor
David Thorne	Associate Supervisor

STAFF

Luis Dieguez	District Manager – SCD
Terry Heinard	District Conservationist – USDA-NRCS
Dee Dee Saunders	Administrative Specialist – SCD
Sue Pirner	Secretary – SCD
Gail Myers	Area Engineer – USDA-NRCS
Susan Davis	Resource Conservationist – USDA-NRCS
Kyong Chung	Soil Conservationist – USDA-NRCS
John Downs	Soil Conservation Planning Technician – SCD
Julie Okronley	Soil Conservation Planning Technician – SCD
Carol Loopstra	Soil Conservation Planner – MDA
Jerry Spence	Soil Conservation Planner – MDA
Sara Lewis	Soil Conservation Planner – Regional Equine Specialist – MDA
Donnie Gilroy	Soil Conservation Technician – MDA
Heather Zdobysz	Soil Conservation Technician–Patuxent Watershed Grant–MDA
Glenn Gass	Contract Area Engineer

Charles Soil Conservation District

www.CharlesSCD.com

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