



CHARLES SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Organized 1941

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CONSERVATION UPDATES MAY 2006

Stephen Hales Named 2005 Cooperator of the Year

At the annual cooperator dinner on May 3, 2006, the Charles Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors presented their 2005 Cooperator of the Year award posthumously to Stephen Hales in recognition of the numerous conservation practices and structures he completed on his Zekiah View Farm in BelAlton, Maryland. Mr. Hales' wife, Cynthia, and his family accepted the award in his honor.

Since becoming a cooperator with the Charles SCD in 1993, Mr. Hales installed numerous conservation practices including conservation tillage, cover crop, pasture and hay planting and prescribed grazing. He also has installed numerous structures including a waste storage facility, livestock pond, fencing, heavy use area and watering facilities.

Mr. Hales turned his Zekiah View Farm into a unique livestock and grain farm with approximately 100 acres of managed pasture and 57 acres of cropland. He actively pursued conservation practices that would improve water quality and also benefit his farm operation.



Stephen Hales' Family

2005-2006 MACS Cover Crop Program Claim for Payment Deadline

Reminder to all participants in the 2005-2006 cover crop program that the deadline to submit claim for payment and certify for the cover crop suppression or kill down is Friday, June 2, 2006. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Charles SCD office.

Charles SCD Working with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) on Shoreline Stabilization Project

The Charles SCD is working with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) to design and install off-shore breakwaters, sills and beach fill along approximately 6,300 feet of eroding Potomac River shoreline at the Naval Support Facility Indian Head (NSFIH). Scrub-shrub, riparian floodplain, forest and upland vegetation will be planted landward of shoreline stabilization structures to provide wildlife benefits in addition to the primary project benefits: erosion and sediment control, facility and infrastructure protection and water quality enhancement.

The shoreline of the Potomac River at NSFIH is generally high upland banks ranging in height from 30 feet to over 100 feet above the Potomac River. These banks have average historical erosion rates of 1 to 2 feet per year.

To address the shoreline erosion that threatens buildings, roads and other infrastructure at the Main Installation of NSFIH, the project envisions approximately 6,300 feet of non-continuous off-shore

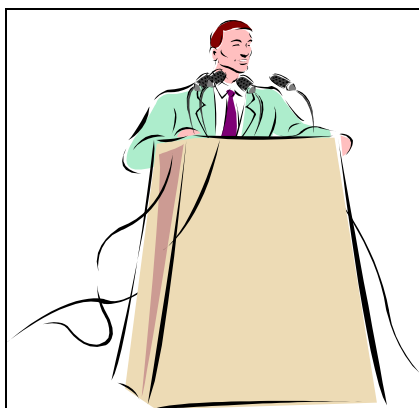
breakwaters with gaps designed to allow for beach development. These structures will reduce adverse wave action on the shoreline and, in combination with the sill, beach fill and plantings, effectively stabilize this critically eroding area.

The District is currently working with a design consultant, NSFIIH and Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to coordinate project approval and permitting. It is expected that the SCD will also provide contracting assistance and project oversight beginning sometime in the first half of 2006.

Charles SCD Sponsoring "Green Card" Training on June 14, 2006

The Charles SCD and the Maryland Department of the Environment's Responsible Personnel Certification Program for Erosion and Sediment Control are hosting "Green Card" training on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. thru 12:30 p.m. The training will be held at the Charles County Government Building, County Commissioner's Meeting Room, 200 Baltimore Street, LaPlata, MD. Pre-registration is required for this course and the registration fee is \$25.00 per person. State law requires that any responsible personnel involved in grading or other soil disturbing activities be knowledgeable about sediment and erosion control principles, specifications and implementation and have a certificate of attendance at an MDE "Green Card" class.

For additional information, or to register for the class, please call the Charles SCD at: 301-934-9588, ext. 3



2006-07 Cover Crop Program Sign-in June 12 thru July 28, 2006

A harvest option tops the list of new features available to farmers who sign-up for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2006-2007 Cover Crop Program. Eligible farmers can receive cost-share assistance ranging from \$20-\$50 an acre to plant cover crops this fall.

In addition to the harvest option, other changes in the program this year include larger acreage caps and an extended sign-up period (June 12 thru July 28, 2006).

More than \$8 million in cover crop funds will be available to farmers for the 2006-2007 planting season through a special supplement to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.

Also new this year is a Commodity Cover Crop Program which is offered for farmers who want to harvest their cover crops. Up to 500 acres may be enrolled using a separate application. No fertilizer or manure may be applied to these acres prior to March 1, 2007.

In the Conventional program, a minimum of five acres of cover crop has to be planted with a maximum planting of 1,000 acres per farm.

Requests for cover crop funds will be approved on a first come, first served basis. Additional stand-by acres in the conventional program may be approved if funds are available after the regular sign-up ends. Stand-by acreage is not available in the Commodity Cover Crop Program.

For more information about the cover crop program or to sign-up, please call or visit the Charles SCD office at 101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 106-C, LaPlata, Md., phone: 301-934-9588, ext. 3

NEW FEATURES OF THE MARYLAND COVER CROP PROGRAM:

Plant up to 1,000 acres per farm

Plus harvest option available -500 acre maximum

Less paperwork

LaPlata High School Wins Charles County Envirothon Competition

The thirteenth annual Charles County Envirothon Competition was held at Gilbert Run Park on April 26, 2006. Teams from all six Charles County public high schools vied for the honor of representing the County at the Maryland State Envirothon, which will be held from June 20 thru 22 at the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center in Prince George's County.

For the fourth year in a row, a team from LaPlata High School won the County event. Team members included: Mary Howard, Lisa Reese, Dustin Burch, Nicole Shilling and Maysa Miller.

The second place team from Thomas Stone High School included: Nicole Lubinsky, Jessica Burroughs, Kaitlyn Milman and Katie Flerlage.

Several of these students have been in the Charles County Envirothon program for their entire four years of high school. They are: Mary Howard, LaPlata High School plus Katie Flerlage, Jessica Burroughs and Nicole Lubinski from Thomas Stone High School.



1st Place 2006 Charles County Envirothon Winner – LaPlata High School – Coach Elaine Reynolds



2nd Place 2006 Charles County Envirothon Winner-Thomas Stone High School-Coach Jan Milman

Gordon Speaks at MAEOE Workshop

Carol Gordon, MDA Planner stationed in the Charles SCD, gave a presentation on the basics of soil science including physical, chemical and biological properties of soil and the five soil forming factors. She explained why soils are important and how they vary statewide as well as globally.

The workshop was sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education(MAEOE) and was held at the Harford Glen Environmental Education Center. Attendees consisted largely of non-formal environmental educators from outdoor education centers in Maryland and the surrounding region who were interested in learning the technical aspects of soils as well as how to make soils a more exciting and engaging topic for children.. Once the basics were covered, Ms. Gordon took the class outdoors to examine two difference hand-dug soil pits. Soil texturing “by feel” and picking away at the soil surface in the pit provided the hands-on learning experience participants were anticipating. The first pit of clay loam, in a woodland area, contrasted well with the second pit of alluvial soil located on the banks of a stream. Later the group was given instructions on how to navigate through a soil survey.

The topics participants seemed most interested in were aggregate stability, the benefits of organic matter and clay in the soil due to their higher cation exchange capacity, calculating bulk density, soil pH and nutrient availability, and how soil type relates to landscape.

The workshop also covered topics such as watershed and wetlands, upland vegetation, and schoolyard and community projects.



Gordon (standing to right of soil pit) and workshop participants

B. J. Hanks Joins Charles SCD Staff

The Charles SCD welcomes our newest staff member, Betty J. Hanks (BJ). BJ works for the District on a part-time basis (Wednesday and Thursday) assisting with various office tasks including reviewing erosion and sediment control plans. BJ grew up on a farm in Nebraska. She now resides in St. Mary's County with her husband, Dan.



B. J. Hanks

Charles SCD
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
June 3, 2006 Thru June 4, 2006	American Indian Festival & Pow-Wow - 16816 Country Lane, Waldorf, MD
June 8, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)	Maryland Horse Health and Disease Prevention Seminar Laurel Racetrack
June 12, 2006 thru July 28, 2006	2006-07 Winter Cover Crop Sign-up Begins
June 14, 2006 (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)	Green Card Sediment Control Training
June 22, 2006	Maryland Envirothon Competition-William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center-Prince George's County
Upcoming	Pasture Walks in Charles County
Soon	Charles SCD Web Site

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