



2008 Annual Report

2008 Cooperator of the Year

Martin Boswell purchased his 176 acre farm in Clements, Maryland in 1985. Of the 176 acres, 111 acres of the land is cleared for crop production, 59 acres are wooded and the remaining 6 acres is considered headquarters which include the house, multiple tobacco barns, equipment sheds, and two ponds. The predominant soils on the farm are Beltsville silt loam and Kempsville fine sandy loam. Both of these soils are suitable for some crops, sown pasture, and trees. The limiting factor for crops for Beltsville soils is they are fairly shallow with a hardpan and the Kempsville soils are susceptible to erosion because of their slope and sandy content.

Mr. Boswell is a great steward of the land and plans to preserve the land for future generations.

When Martin purchased the farm, the main crops were tobacco, corn and soybeans, all using conventional tillage. The farm had erosion and sediment control problems because of the previous intensive cultivation practices and Mr. Boswell contacted the District for assistance to correct his erosion problems. Almost immediately, he switched his cropping practice to a two year rotation of corn, small grain, and soybean. Mr. Boswell still used conventional tillage on his corn and tobacco

acres but used no-till for the soybean and small grain. He also rotated his tobacco acres around the farm so as not to deplete the farm's organic matter.

In 2000, Mr. Boswell elected to participate in the tobacco buyout program. At that time he converted the entire farm over to a two year rotation of corn, small grain, and soybeans. He practices minimum tillage to conserve soil moisture, increase infiltration, reduce soil loss, and improve soil tilth. In 1996 Mr. Boswell also started installing structural best management practices on the farm with District technical assistance. The District has provided survey, design and construction inspection for 3540 linear feet of grassed waterway, 1250 linear feet of diversion, and one grade stabilization structure. All of these BMPs were cost shared through the Maryland Department of Agriculture Cost Share Program at a maximum of 87.5%.

In 2008 Martin reduced the potential for sediment and nutrient runoff by enrolling 52.35 acres in the Department of Agriculture's Small Grain Enhancement and Cover Crop Programs. The District also assisted in the survey and design of an additional 1000 feet of waterway and 200 feet of diversion. These practices have been approved for cost share assistance from MDA and will be installed this spring. Mr. Boswell's soil conservation and water quality plan has been revised and updated to include these new practices. He also cooperates with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service on his nutrient management plan.



Martin Boswell with Chairman Stanley Boothe

2008 Contractor of the Year

In 2008, James Goddard Excavating Company installed numerous best management practices for farm owners in St. Mary's County. The property owners and the District have been very pleased with Mr. Goddard's construction knowledge and abilities and his attention to detail.

Early in the year Mr. Goddard completed the construction of multiple BMPs at the Drury Farm in Medleys Neck. Projects include two watering facilities, 450 feet of waterline, three heavy use areas totaling 4880 square feet, 150 feet of roof runoff protection, 750 feet of fencing, and three quarters of an acre of critical area seeding. James also installed two watering facilities on Joseph Goddard's farm in Leonardtown.



James Goddard & Stanley Boothe

Inside this issue:

Background	2
Highlights	2
Accomplishments	3
Outreach & Education	4
Coloring & Poster Contest	5
Green Card Training	6
Earth Day	6
E-Mail Database	6
NRCS Programs	7
Woodland Workshop	7

Special points of interest:

- ⇒ 2008 Cooperator and Contractor of the Year
- ⇒ MASCD Coloring & Poster Contest Winners
- ⇒ St. Mary's SCD Approved to give Green Card Classes
- ⇒ Kettle Corn Fundraiser for Envirothon Program at the Earth Day Celebration in Leonardtown - April 19, 2009
- ⇒ NRCS Programs - WHIP & EQIP
- ⇒ Workshop for Woodland Owners

District Background & History

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District is a political subunit of state government which was created on November 14, 1941. The legal charter was issued by the state of Maryland on January 5, 1942.

The District is governed by a board of supervisors who are local county residents. Members are appointed to five (5) year terms by the State Soil Conservation Committee, with recommendations from the County Commissioners, Farm Bureau, and Cooperative Extension Service. There are five voting members, one non-voting member and three associate members. These supervisors regularly attend meetings to keep informed on local, state and national issues, which could have an impact on farmers, landowners and residents within our area. The District's technical staff is provided by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and from the District itself.

Each year the District prepares detailed budget requests for administrative and operating funds from MDA and St. Mary's County to meet its goals and objectives. In calendar year 2008 the District received funds of \$53,636.00 from the county and \$67,364.00 from MDA.



2008 District Highlights

- Ø Held twelve (12) regular monthly meetings, which are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and are open to the public.
- Ø Reviewed Memorandums of Understanding between the District and cooperating agencies at regular Board Meetings
- Ø Attended the Winter and Summer Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) Meetings
- Ø Attended quarterly MASCD Board of Directors Meetings
- Ø Maintained membership in state and national soil conservation district associations
- Ø Cooperate with Maryland Department of the Environment on the local sediment control program
- Ø Supervisor Stanley Boothe and District Manager Bruce Young serve on the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board
- Ø Member of the county's Technical Evaluation Committee for site and subdivision approval
- Ø Bruce Young is a member of the Lower Potomac Tributary Management Team
- Ø Ed Dean, John Mattingly, Tom Koviak, and Mike Russell are certified as Nutrient Management Consultants by the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Ø Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2009.
- Ø Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- Ø Reviewed and approved 21 forest harvest erosion and sediment control plans
- Ø Assisted landowners in making determinations for acceptance into Agricultural Land Preservation Districts
- Ø Attended Southern Maryland Dinner Meeting for Area 2 Soil Conservation Districts
- Ø District staff are members of the State Envirothon Committee
- Ø Bruce Young is a representative on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Committee
- Ø Member of the St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)
- Ø Bruce is a member of the Cover Crop Technical Advisory Committee
- Ø Participated in the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Plan Review Process
- Ø Co-Sponsored luncheon with Governor Martin O'Malley and Agriculture Secretary Roger Richardson as part of the "Capital for a Day".
- Ø District participated in joint County Commissioner and State Legislative Meeting
- Ø Member of MASCD Endowment Committee

"The first farmer was the first man. All historic nobility rests on the possession and use of land."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Poet
(1803-1882)

2008 District Accomplishments

URBAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Individuals and Groups Assisted - 221

Sediment Control Plans Reviewed - 1641

Sediment Control Plans Approved - 316

Ponds Reviewed - 30

Pre-Construction Meetings Held - 107

*“If a healthy soil is full of death, it is also full of life: worms, fungi, microorganisms of all kinds ...
Given only the health of the soil, nothing that dies is dead for very long.” - Wendell Berry, Writer, Farmer*

AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Conservation Plans Prepared	24 (4011.5 acre)
Conservation Plans Revised	40 (6356.8 acres)
Best Management Practices Installed	245
Farmers applying BMPs	65
Conservation Cropping Sequence	49 (2486.5 acres)
Conservation Tillage	40 (2221.7 acres)
Cover Crop	26 (1471 acres)
Critical Area Planting	2 (.95 acre)
Residue Management	2 (109.2 acres)
Mulch Tillage	6 (135.6 acres)
Diversion	1 (600 feet)
Grass Waterway	4 (2 acres)
Irrigation Water Conveyance High Pressure	3
Forage Management	2 (74 acres)
Pasture/Hayland Planting	4 (63 acres)
Prescribed Grazing	3 (38.4 acres)
Roof Runoff	1 (3 acres)
Heavy Use Area	2 (2 acres)
Nutrient Management	50 (2238.6 acre)
Integrated Pest Management	40 (2091.2 acre)
Watering Facility	2 (1 acre)
Waste Utilization	15 (709 acres)
Water Well	1

Outreach & Education

- ◇ 225 people attended the annual cooperators' dinner meeting.
- ◇ Sent letters to the congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County.
- ◇ Observed soil stewardship week by providing resource materials to pastors of 21 area churches. Materials included 2500 bulletin inserts dealing with stewardship



- ◇ Sponsored and coordinated the county envirothon program. Three (3) public and one (1) private high schools and the Forrest Career and Technology Center participated. County winner competed at the State Envirothon in Harford County.

- ◇ Participated in the MASCD Auxiliary's Coloring & Poster Contest. Presented cash awards to the top three winners in each category.
- ◇ Promoted the use of a manure spreader purchased with grant funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- ◇ Cooperated with the Cooperative Extension Service in the development of Nutrient Management Plans.
- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Earth Day activities.
- ◇ Sponsored University of Maryland Soil Judging Team.
- ◇ Had information booth at St. Mary's County Fair in September.

- ◇ Member of the Mentoring Program for high school students at the Forrest Career and Technology Center.



- ◇ Judged at the county Science and Engineering Fair and awarded prizes for entries that best exhibited soil conservation and/or water quality goals and objectives.

- ◇ Gave soils presentation to the 6th grade students at Little Flower School
- ◇ Attended St. Mary's College of Maryland Environmental Workshop "Focus the Nation".
- ◇ Participated in the Spring Festival at the county fairgrounds sponsored by Little Flower School.
- ◇ Approved by MDE to teach the Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" Class. Conducted 3 classes for 161 people.
- ◇ Provided information on critical area issues at the St. Mary's County Board of Appeals retreat.
- ◇ Member of the Southern Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control training team.
- ◇ Provided mentoring for Boy Scout Eagle Project.

- ◇ Distributed 1500 Soil and Water Conservation Society's environmental comic books to public and parochial schools.
- ◇ Retain records of approved sewage sludge permits in the District office.
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drill.
- ◇ Published news articles in the local paper showcasing District programs and accomplishments.
- ◇ Actively promoted and assisted landowners in applying for MACS and EQIP cost-share.



- ◇ Participated in the Maryland Department of Agriculture Open House.

Coloring Contest

Class A (K-1st)

- 1st - James Eldrei G. Magkasi, Greenview Knolls Elem.
 2nd - McKayla Barrett, Dynard Elementary
 3rd - Maggie Coughlan, GW Carver Elementary

Class B (2nd-3rd)

- 1st - Megami Wauke Velasquez, Greenview Knolls Elem.
 2nd - Chase Foster, St. John's School
 3rd - Jacelyn Farinas, GW Carver Elementary

Class C (4th-5th)

- 1st - Melanie Hartenstein, Piney Point Elementary
 2nd - Michelle Horne, Piney Point Elementary
 3rd - Patrizia Pelingon, Lexington Park Elementary



Each year the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District sponsors a coloring contest for Kindergarten through fifth grade. The District awards cash prizes for first, second, and third place drawings in each of three classes. The pictures are judged on neatness, attention to detail, and how well directions are followed. The first place winners in each class are then forwarded to the MASCD state contest to be judged against the winners from the other Maryland Districts.



Congratulations to all our winners! We are happy to report that James Eldrei G. Magkasi and Megami Wauke Velasquez also won 1st place at the state competition



Congratulations to all of our winners! The 1st place winners were sent to the state competition and we are happy to announce that all three received 1st at the state competition.

Poster Contest

The theme for 2008 poster contest was "Water is Life". Students in grades K-12 were given the theme "Water is Life" and had to develop a poster depicting what the theme meant to them.

Posters were received by the District and judged based on the conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality, and universal appeal.

2nd – 3rd GRADE

- 1st - Alaina Lynn Roman, Town Creek Elementary
 2nd - Hannah Renee Keeney, Town Creek Elementary
 3rd - Megumi Russ Martin, Town Creek Elementary

4th – 6th Grade

- 1st - Melody Summers, White Marsh Elementary
 2nd - Tyler Lane Schilling, Leonardtown Elementary
 3rd - Jacob Troy Neville, White Marsh Elementary

10th – 12th Grade

- 1st - Amy Marie Hofmeister, Great Mills High School
 2nd - Rachel Erin Cardwell, Great Mills High School
 3rd - Megan N. Morris, Great Mills High School



"We might say that the earth has the spirit of growth; that its flesh is the soil." - Leonardo da Vinci

"Green Card" Certification Program

The St. Mary's SCD, District Manager Bruce Young, has been approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" training classes. Green Card certification is a requirement under the Annotated Code of Maryland for any responsible personnel involved in a construction project that has an approved erosion and sediment control plan. "Responsible personnel" means any foreman, superintendent, project engineer, or other who is in charge of on-site clearing and grading activities or sediment control associated with a construction project.

Green card certification is valid for a three (3) year period and will automatically renew unless the Maryland Department of the Environment notifies the



Green Card Class held October 2008

certificate holder that additional training is required. With the new 2007 Storm Water Management Law and the upcoming rewriting of the Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications, it is anticipated that all current Green Card holders will have to attend new training classes. Prior to the District participating in the certification program, local responsible personnel did not have a local source to receive this training.

In 2008 the District held three (3) classes and certified or recertified 161 people. We have already held a class for 43 people in January and are taking reservations for a class tentatively scheduled in May. For more information on upcoming classes or to get on our waiting list, please go to our website at www.stmarysscd.com.

"When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."

Daniel Webster - American Statesman (1782-1852)

8th Annual Earth Day in Leonardtown

Please come to see our booth at the **8th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 19, 2009 on the**

Square in Leonardtown from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

We will be selling bluebird boxes and other products such as butterfly houses, bat houses, a variety of other nest boxes, and feeders.



We will also sell fresh, hot popped kettle corn to raise money for our local envirothon program.

E-Mail Database

St. Mary's SCD is developing an email database so that we can electronically send out our newsletters, annual reports, and other notices or correspondence. Electronic mailing will allow us to provide faster notification, reduce paper usage and save postage at a time when budgets are shrinking. The email database will be kept confidential and you will only receive District news and/or pertinent information on meetings, seminars, or demonstration days.

If you would like to receive electronic mail from the District, please email Haley Carter at the address below and reference "Email Database" in the subject line or you may fill out and return the attached information sheet.

E-mail - Haley.Carter@md.nacdnet.net

Please include me in the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Electronic Mailing List

Name _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

The St. Mary's Field office is taking applications for USDA conservation programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with the St Mary's Soil Conservation District and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has several programs to assist with the installation of best management practices on agricultural lands.

- ⇒ **Soil Conservation and Water Quality planning is the first step** when considering installing best management practices such as pasture plantings, animal waste storage, or advanced nutrient management. The District staff will work with you to identify your resources and suggest solutions to your resource concerns. In some situations you may wish to participate in either the NRCS or State of Maryland cost share programs.
- ⇒ The cost share programs can provide reimbursement for the installation of certain practices. Depending on the practice(s), you may qualify for a percentage of the installation cost and/or a payment for improved levels of resource management.

NRCS Programs that might be of interest to you are:

★Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

the objectives of EQIP provide assistance to install and maintain conservation practices that enhance soil, water and related resources (including grazing lands, wetland and wildlife habitats). Practices include:

- ⇒ Animal Waste Storage
- ⇒ Pasture Plantings
- ⇒ Livestock watering Shelters
- ⇒ Windbreaks/Shelter belts
- ⇒ Residue and tillage management, no-till
- ⇒ Enhanced nutrient management
- ⇒ Grass waterways
- ⇒ Filter strips
- ⇒ Roof runoff
- ⇒ Heavy use areas
- ⇒ Fencing animals out of streams and ponds

★Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):

the objects of WHIP are the restoration and management of upland and wetland habitats. Practices include but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Plantings of grasses and/or trees
- ⇒ Restoration of wetland habitats

Advance planning for your farm operation is vital to assuring that you can achieve the greatest benefit from these cost share programs. So come in or call if you have a question or wish technical assistance from our staff.



Woodland Owners Workshop

Forestry for the Bay, Maryland DNR Forest Service, and Southern Maryland RC&D are sponsoring a free Woodland Owners Workshop. The workshop will be held at the College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata Campus on Saturday, May 9, 2009

from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Topics to be covered include Maryland's Forest Stewardship Program, woodland owners opportunities under the new USDA Farm Bill, forest best management practices, and wildlife habitat management.

For more information on the workshop please go to our website or to register, contact Craig Highfield at 410-267-5723 or e-mail at chighfie@chesapeakebay.net.





PO Box 810
22660 Washington Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-475-8402 ext 3
Fax: 301-475-3620

To:

****Cover Crop Reminders****

- ⇒ Kill down can occur anytime after March 1, 2009
- ⇒ Must certify with SCD within two (2) weeks of kill down or suppression
- ⇒ Must certify no later than June 2, 2009

www.stmarysscd.com

Cooperating Agencies, Supervisors, & Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND

Shore Erosion Program
Critical Area Commission
State Highway Administration
State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Environment
Department of Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension Service

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners
Department of Health
Board of Education
Metropolitan Commission
Dept. of Public Works & Transportation Dept.
of Land Use & Growth Management

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency

OTHERS

Leonardtown Commissioners
Historic St. Mary's City Commission
Wicomico Scenic River Advisory Bd.
MD Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts
Nat'l Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Southern Maryland RC&D
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau
St. Mary's County Fair Board

The St. Mary's SCD Board of Supervisors

Stanley Boothe - Chairman
Alfred Knott - Vice-chairman
James Woodburn - Treasurer
Donald Ocker - Member
Luther Wolfe - Member
Aubrey Mattingly - Associate Member
Robert Jarboe - Associate Member
Bubby Norris - Associate Member
Ben Beale - Secretary

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

Bruce Young - District Manager
Jane Sanders - Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist
Haley Carter - Administrative Assistant

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Terry Heinard - District Conservationist
John Mattingly - Soil Conservation Technician

Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff

Edward Dean - Conservation Planner
Tom Koviak - Conservation Planner
George Beavan - Conservation Planner
Mike Russell - Conservation Associate
Sara Lewis - Equine Planner
Sara Lasher - Secretary