



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2013 Annual Report
April 2014

Soil Stewardship Week
April 27th - May 4th

2013 Cooperator of the Year Wayne Mast Family - Suttler Post Farm



District Board presenting farm sign at Cooperators Dinner held February 21, 2014

Suttler Post Farm is owned and operated by the Mast Family. Purchased in 1956 by Dutch Mast, this 98 acre parcel of property in Helen started as a hog farm. In the early 70s, the family operation transitioned to small grains and tobacco. Tobacco was a good cash crop, but in 1999 the Mast family accepted the State of Maryland's offer as part of the Tobacco Buyout, and once again the family had to adapt to new and different farming practices.

John Mast, the youngest of Dutch's sons started a fresh cut flower business on the farm. Wayne had other plans, he wanted to raise horses. Not just any horses, he wanted draft horses and more specifically, Clydesdales. Wayne purchased his first Clydesdale at an auction in Pennsylvania in 2001. With the arrival of the Clydesdales to the farm, many improvements needed to be made. The tobacco fields were converted to 15 acres of pasture and hayland. The old grain bins were removed to make room for a suitable barn to house the massive animals, which can weigh as much as 2300 pounds. Once the first horses arrived, the Masts knew that they had found their niche. Subsequent years have seen the arrival of more Clydesdales, carriages, harnesses, and other equipment to transport the horses to area events. In 2012, the Masts had 12 horses on the farm and they were being booked for over 30 events per year.

The Masts had worked with the District in the past to install a sediment pond and 350 feet of diversion when the farm was raising tobacco so they knew there were programs to assist them with manure management needs. A soil conservation and water quality plan was developed which included a schedule of structural bmps to be implemented. In 2013, the Masts constructed a 24' x 32' roofed ag waste structure. This bmp was co-cost shared between the Maryland Department of Agriculture Cost Share Program (MACS) and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Also constructed with MACS cost share was a 20' x 20' heavy use area and roof runoff protection on their barns. To provide better forage and hayland, the 15 acres of pasture was renovated with assistance from EQIP. The pasture renovation included reseeding and a schedule for rotational grazing. Planned practices for 2014 include critical area seeding and permanent fencing around the existing pond.



St. Mary's Board of County Commissioners presenting commendation to Mast Family

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Special points of interest:

- 2013 Cooperator of the Year
- 3 Navy Projects - Point Lookout Theodolite, Holton Pond, and Hog Point
- District Rental Equipment
- Green Card Classes – Next Class 5/21
- Technicians survey and assist with Church Point Erosion



District History and Background

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 2013 the District received operating funds of \$68,703 from the county and \$33,440 from MDA. Additional support provided by MDA and NRCS is in the form of staff and cost share support for best management practices installed. In 2013 support received totaled \$413,595 for staff and \$540,980 in cost share monies.



2013 District Highlights

- ◆ Held twelve (12) monthly meetings, which are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and are open to the public.
- ◆ Reviewed Memorandums of Understanding between the District and cooperating agencies at regular Board Meetings
- ◆ Attended the Winter and Summer Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) Meetings
- ◆ Attended quarterly MASCD Board of Directors Meetings
- ◆ Maintained membership in state and national soil conservation district associations
- ◆ Cooperate with Maryland Department of the Environment on the local sediment control program
- ◆ Supervisor Donnie Ocker and District Manager Bruce Young serve on the Southern Maryland RC&D Board
- ◆ Member of the county's Technical Evaluation Committee for site and subdivision approval
- ◆ Advisory member of St. Mary's County Agriculture, Seafood, & Forestry Board
- ◆ Tom Koviak, and Mike Russell are certified as Nutrient Management Consultants by the MDA
- ◆ Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2013
- ◆ Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- ◆ Reviewed and approved 33 forest harvest erosion and sediment control plans
- ◆ Assisted landowners in making determinations for acceptance into Agricultural Land Preservation Districts
- ◆ Attended Southern Maryland Dinner Meeting for Area 2 Soil Conservation Districts
- ◆ District staff are members of the State Envirothon Committee and Co-Chair for the 2017 North American Envirothon
- ◆ Bruce Young is a representative on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Advisory Committee
- ◆ Bruce Young is the Maryland representative on the Enhanced Erosion & Sediment Control Expert Panel
- ◆ Attended the National Association of Conservation Districts North East Regional Meeting
- ◆ Member of MASCD Endowment Committee
- ◆ Member of the local WIP II team
- ◆ Member of St. Mary's River Watershed Neighborhood Rewards Committee



2013 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments

Waste Storage Structure	1 no
Winter Cover Crop	7484 acres
Conservation Cover	8.2 acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	1863.9 acres
Residue & Tillage Management	497.1 acres
Residue Management (Seasonal)	440 acres
Sediment Control Pond	3 no
Fencing (FE) - Watercourse Exclusion (10-34')	41,689 lin feet
Grass Buffer (FE) for Stream (10-34')	0.6 ac
Grassed Waterway	2.1 ac
Forage Harvest Management	43.2 acres
Forage & Biomass Planting	50.4 acres
Livestock Pipeline	1,900 feet
Prescribed Grazing	109.6 acres
Roof Runoff Structure	1 no
Heavy Use Area Protection	1.1 acres
Shoreline Protection	980 Lin Feet
Nutrient Management	2,170.3 acres
Integrated Pest Management	38 acres
Watering Facility	1 no
Waste Recycling	192 acres
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	1,550 acres
Forest Stand Management	1,582. acres



Urban Accomplishments

Approved Plans less than 1/2 ac	240
Approved Plans greater than 1/2 ac	277
TEC Reviews	64
Site Inspections	61
Green Card Certifications Issued	195
Pre-Construction Meetings	142



Outreach & Education

- ◇ 227 people attended the annual cooperators' dinner meeting.

- ◇ Met with congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County

- ◇ Observed soil stewardship week by distributing 1500 Soil and Water Conservation Society's environmental activity books to public and parochial schools. Topic was "Where Does Your Water Shed"



- ◇ *Sponsored and coordinated the county envirothon program. Three (3) public and one (1) private high school participated. County winner competed at the State Envirothon in Garrett County. Team placed 4th at MD Envirothon.*

- ◇ Promoted the use of a manure spreader purchased with grant funds from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Christmas Tree Lighting activities

- ◇ Cooperated with the Extension Service in the development of Nutrient Management Plans

- ◇ 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

- ◇ Provided information on critical area issues at the St. Mary's County Board of Appeals retreat

- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference

- ◇ Sponsored the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair



- ◇ *Participated in the Annual Quality Review*

- ◇ Participated in the STEM Field Day

- ◇ Retain records of approved sewage sludge permits in the District office

- ◇ Published news articles in the local paper showcasing District programs and accomplishments

- ◇ Actively promoted and assisted landowners in applying for MACS, CBWI, and EQIP cost-share

- ◇ Participated in the Farm to School Day

- ◇ Participated in the MASCD Coloring & Poster Contest. Presented cash awards to the top three winners in each category

- ◇ Attended Farm Bureau Legislation Dinner

- ◇ Member of the St. Mary's River Watershed Neighborhood Rewards Committee

- ◇ Attended Southern Maryland Rural Business Forum

- ◇ Held four (4) staff meetings throughout the year

- ◇ Participated in local government exchange seminar

- ◇ Approved by MDE to teach the Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" Class. Conducted 4 classes for 195 people

- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drills



- ◇ *Participated in Town of Leonardtown Earth Day Activities*



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring & Poster Contests

Coloring Contest

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

- 1st Place - Sophie Hanks – Kings Christian Academy
 2nd Place - Julia Pike – Hollywood Elementary
 3rd Place - Cassidy Emma Wolfe, Dynard Elementary

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st Place - Lauren Long – Kings Christian Academy
 2nd Place - Trey Boothe – Lexington Park Elementary
 3rd Place - Zachary Maldonado – Benjamin Banneker Elem

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st Place - Rayann Choporis – Kings Christian Academy
 2nd Place - Brianna Williams - Lexington Park Elementary
 3rd Place - Natalie Garritano – Benjamin Banneker Elementary



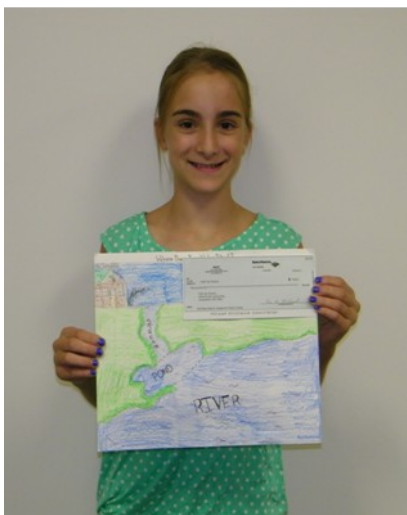
Lauren Long
 County & State
 Coloring Contest
 Winner

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.



Poster Contest

The theme for 2013 poster contest was "Where Does Your Water Shed?". Students in grades K-12 were given the theme 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.



Faith Van Ryswick

County & State Poster Contest Winner

Category 4-6

1st - Faith Van Ryswick, Leonardtown Elementary

Congratulations to all our winners!



Navy Projects - Patuxent River Naval Air Station Point Lookout Theodolite Station, Holton Pond, and Hog Point Inlet

St. Mary's SCD is partnering with the Southern Maryland RC&D to provide the U. S. Navy with technical assistance necessary to repair 300 linear feet of failing revetment that protects the Theodolite Tracking Station at Point Lookout from an exposed section of the Chesapeake Bay. The District will select a contractor through a competitive bid process and provide project management and construction supervision to complete the project. The District is also partnering with the RC&D to repair the Holton Pond on the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. This is the largest pond on the station and the original dam was constructed more than 40 years ago. The original pipes that served as the principal spillway failed and were removed in 2011. The District developed the design for the repair work at that time, and it was approved by the MDE Dam Safety Division. The old embankment is to be removed and reconstructed to current design standards and specifications. The SCD will select a contractor through a competitive bid process and provide project management and construction supervision to complete the repairs. Work is expected to be completed this fall. The District is also assisting the Navy to acquire permit approvals for a shoreline restoration project west of the Hog Point Inlet on the Naval Air Station. Approximately 3700 feet of severely eroding shoreline will be repaired and protected with a living shoreline tidal marsh creation project. All of these projects are performed under Cooperative Agreements issued by the Navy to improve environmental conditions on their facilities.

Equipment Rental Program



6 Ft Frontier Overseeder
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



7 Ft Great Plains No-Till Drill
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



10 Ft John Deere No-Till Drill
Purchased December 2012
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



12 ft Great Plans Turbo Till
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



16Ft Gehl Manure Spreader
Purchased December 2000
\$25/day \$10/ac



Shaver Post Driver
Purchased September 2010
\$150/day SMADC

Purpose of rental program

- ⇒ Promote the use of conservation tillage equipment
- ⇒ Economical approach for all producers to have access to equipment
- ⇒ Minimize sediment and nutrient transport

For rental information contact the District at 301-475-8402 ext 3 or visit our website at www.stmarysscd.com

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Farm Equipment Rental Program is made possible by grants from the the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).



Green Card Certification Classes

St. Mary's SCD has been holding Green Card Classes since 2008 when District Manager, Bruce Young, was approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" training classes. Since then, St. Mary's SCD has issued almost 800 Green Card Certifications to contractors, developers, landscapers and homeowners. In 2012, St. Mary's SCD was approved by the Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) Standards Committee, Maryland Board of Professional Land Surveyors and Engineers to provide four (4) CPCs or Credits to Surveys and Engineers.



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. The certification is valid for a three (3) year period and will automatically renew unless the Maryland Department of the Environment notifies the certificate holder that additional training is required.

The District will hold its next Green Card Class on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. If you are interested in taking this class or would like to be placed on our class notification list, please email Haley Carter at Haley.Carter@stmarysscd.com. The registration deadline for the May 21st class is Friday, May 16th.

Church Point Project



St. Mary's SCD is working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to redesign a living shoreline at Church Point on the St. Mary's River. The property is owned by Trinity Episcopal Church and the landmark cross that is erected on the point has been undermined and compromised due to wave energy

from storms coming from the Potomac River. As part of the agreement with DNR, the District will redesign approximately 300 feet of the failing structure by increasing the sill height, reducing or closing gaps in the structure and re-establishing the marsh. The District staff did the survey work last summer and are currently finalizing the design plans for submission to the Maryland Department of the Environment for a tidal wetlands license. It is anticipated that the project will be constructed later this fall. The District will develop a bid package and supervise the construction once a contractor has been selected.





26737 Radio Station Way
Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-475-8402 ext 3
Fax: 301-475-8391

Cover Crop Reminders

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

To:

All NRCS and SCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

www.stmarysscd.com

Cooperating Agencies, Supervisors, & Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND

Critical Area Commission
State Highway Administration
State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Environment
Department of Natural Resources
University of MD 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
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Dept. of Economic and Community Develop.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency

OTHERS

Leonardtown Commissioners
Historic St. Mary's City Commission
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
Donald Ocker - Treasurer
Luther Wolfe - Member
Bobby Cooper - Member
Ben Beale - Secretary

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

Bruce Young - District Manager
Haley Carter - Program Manager
Jane Sanders - Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist
Justin Russell - Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Oliver Miranda - District Conservationist
Susan Davis - Resource Conservationist
Gail Myers - Civil Engineer

Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff

Tom Koviak - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.
George Beavan - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.
Sara Lewis - Ag Resource Conservation Spec./Equine
Mike Russell - Conservation Associate
Luke Mudd - Conservation Associate
Sara Burbage - Secretary