



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2011 Annual Report
April 2012

Soil Stewardship Week
April 29th - May 6th

2011 Cooperator of the Year William R. Mattingly

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District's 2011 Cooperator of the Year Award goes to William R. "Billy" Mattingly and family of Mechanicsville, Maryland. Billy and his wife Catherine raised 2 children, Ricky and Donna, on their 134 acre family farm. Together, Billy and his son Ricky, work approximately 1200 acres of leased farmland. The majority of their operation is soybeans (685 acres) and corn (300 acres) and approximately 300 acres of small grain. On the home farm, they also grow about 5 acres of alfalfa hay.

Billy has long known the benefits of installing best management practices to reduce soil loss. His first Maryland Agriculture Cost Share practice was a sediment pond that he built on the home farm back in 1994. Since that time, he has installed many BMPs on the land that he leases. In 2000, he constructed 3 waterways stabilizing $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre and in 2004 he constructed another 4 waterways stabilizing almost 2 acres of active gully erosion.

In 2011, Billy was busy doing more conservation work on leased land. He installed 360 feet of waterway with a rock outfall and completed 2 critical area treatments using 60 tons of rip rap and permanently seeding 0.2 acres of eroding cropland at the head of the gullies. These three practices are estimated to reduce soil loss coming off of the crop fields by 51 tons per year. Billy also applied for MACS Cost Share in 2011 to construct another 4 waterways for this year on another farm.

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Special points of interest:

- 2011 Cooperator of the Year
- Leonardtown High Wins Maryland Envirothon
- District now has 6 pieces of equipment for rent
- Shallow water buffer area created in St. Jerome's Neck
- 2011 NRCS Conservation Program

Congratulations Billy!



Presentation of plaque and farm sign at cooperators dinner meeting held February 10, 2012



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 2011 the District received operating funds of \$55,646.00 from the county and \$30,907.00 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 2011 support received totaled \$438,237 for staff and \$535,503 in cost share monies.

2011 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 Stanley Boothe 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
- ◆ Member of St. Mary's County Agriculture, Seafood, & Forestry Board
- ◆ Ed Dean,, 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 2011
- ◆ Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- ◆ Reviewed and approved 22 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
- ◆ Bruce Young is a representative on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Committee
- ◆ Member of the St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)
- ◆ Member of MDE's technical committee developing 2011 E&S Standards and Specifications
- ◆ Member of MASCD Endowment Committee
- ◆ Member of the local WIP II team
- ◆ Attended St. Mary's River Stakeholders Meeting



2011 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments

Conservation Plans Prepared	85	7681.8 acres
Conservation Plans Revised	14	1050.8 acres
Best Management Practices Installed	251	
Farmers applying BMPs	111	
Conservation Crop Rotation	6	293 acres
Conservation Cover	2	3.2 acres
Cover Crop	63	9035 acres
Critical Area Planting	5	3.1 acres
Diversion	4	800 feet
Field Border	1	2 acres
Filter Strip	1	7 acres
Fence	2	9825 ft
Grass Waterway	11	2.8 acres
Heavy Use Area	1	0.8 acres
Nutrient Management	5	293 acres
Oyster Habitat	3	9.5 acres
Pipeline	3	1813 ft
Prescribed Grazing	3	212 acres
Residue and Tillage Management	5	293 acres
Riparian Forest Buffer	1	34 acres
Roof Runoff	1	
Sediment Control Pond	3	
Watering Facility	18	
Waste Utilization	2	0.3 acres



Urban Accomplishments

Sediment Control Plans Reviewed	1091
Concept Plans Reviewed	32
Sediment Control Plans Approved	179
Site Inspections	26
SWM Ponds Reviewed	6
Pre-Construction Meetings	83



Outreach & Education

- ◇ 235 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 distributing 1500 Soil and Water Conservation Society's environmental comic books to public and parochial schools. Topic was "Forest For People: More than You Can Imagine"



- ◇ *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 St. Mary's County.*

- ◇ Assisted Cub Scouts Pack 1786, in obtaining their World Conservation Badge
- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Dinner
- ◇ 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.



- ◇ *Approved by MDE to teach the Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" Class. Conducted 4 classes for 197 people*

- ◇ Retain records of approved sewage sludge permits in the District office
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drills
- ◇ 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 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.

- ◇ 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

- ◇ Attended Farm Bureau Legislation Dinner

- ◇ Held an Open House and Tour of the new St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center

- ◇ Assisted in the planning of tours for NACD State Executives meeting held in Solomons, MD

- ◇ Attended the Septics Meeting in Queen Anne County hosted by Maryland Farm Bureau

- ◇ Participated in the Annual Quality Review

- ◇ Held five (5) staff meetings throughout the year

- ◇ Participated in the WIP II presentation to the St. Mary's County Commissioners

- ◇ Participated in Farm to School Day



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



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring & Poster Contests

Coloring Contest

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

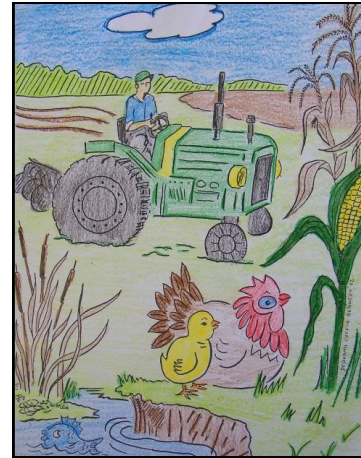
- 1st - Olivia Lorah, Dynard Elementary
 2nd - Kiley Fitzpatrick, Greenview Knolls Elementary
 3rd - Logan Jackson, Mother Catherine Spalding School

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st - Kyle King, Mother Catherine Spalding School
 2nd - Britany Burch, Lexington Park Elementary
 3rd - Elaina Guy, Father Andrew White

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st - Victoria Sadecki, Dynard Elementary
 2nd - Hannah Fink, Piney Point Elementary
 3rd - Brittany Bender, Leonardtown 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.



Poster Contest

The theme for 2011 poster contest was "Forests for People: More Than You Can Imagine". 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.



Autumn Connors, Leonardtown Elementary
 with her 1st place winning poster

4th – 6th Grade

- 1st - Autumn Connors, Leonardtown Elementary
 2nd - Jacob Haynes, White Marsh Elementary
 3rd - Madison Walter, Lettie Dent Elementary

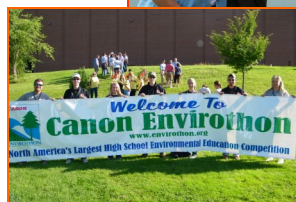
7th – 9th Grade

- 1st - Emma Bussler, Leonardtown Middle



Leonardtown High Wins Maryland Envirothon

The St. Mary's County Envirothon Champions, from Leonardtown High School, competed at the Maryland Envirothon Competition held at Historic St. Mary's City and St. Mary's College June 15-16, 2011. More than 100 students from 20 counties were challenged with identifying living resources, performing soils analysis, and solving other complex natural resource issues during the two (2) day competition. Each team's knowledge was tested at five (5) resource stations under supervision of foresters, soil scientists, wildlife specialists, and other natural resource professionals. Each test is worth 100 points for a possible total of 500.



At this year's competition, St. Mary's Envirothon team scored a perfect score of 100 at the wildlife test and finished 1st over all with a total of 433.5 points. They were closely followed by teams from Harford County (2nd with 427 points) and Carroll County (3rd with 426 points). As the Maryland Envirothon Champion, the team represented Maryland at the Canon Envirothon Competition in New Brunswick, Canada July 23-28, 2011. The team finished 25th out of 54 teams from 45 US states, 8 Canadian provinces, and one (1) Canadian territory.

The District congratulates the team of C.J. Culpepper, Danny Hines, Rob Lewis, Joanna Lewis, Rachel Henn with advisors Kim Egbert and Guy Barbato for their outstanding accomplishment. The Maryland Envirothon win was the first for Southern Maryland in the 21 year history of the Maryland Envirothon Competition. We also express our sincere appreciation and thanks for all of the donations we receive each year from local individuals and businesses. Without this support, we would not be able to provide the quality of program necessary to compete at the state event.

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 April 2008
\$25/day \$10/ac CBT



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



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



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 Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).



Shallow Water Buffer Area



To benefit waterfowl and to create habitat, an 8.6 acre shallow water buffer area was constructed in the St. Jerome's Neck area of southern St. Mary's County. The best management practice (bmp) was installed on a 47 acre farm located in the Chesapeake Bay critical area.



To install the practice, marginal cropland that had a seasonally high water table was graded to lower the ground elevation to create a shallow seasonally flooded impoundment area. During the summer months, as the ground water table lowers, the impoundment area becomes dry and is planted with a native seed mixture that provides cover and a winter food source for wildlife.



The farm has a soil conservation and water quality plan that specifies operation and maintenance requirements. Funding for the project was provided by Maryland Ducks Unlimited and the USDA Farm Service Agency. Technical assistance for the survey, design, and construction inspection was provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the District.

NRCS Conservation Programs in St. Mary's County

2011 was a good year for NRCS Conservation Program participation in St Mary's County. Twenty one applications were approved for funding with a total of \$404,976. These include conservation contracts prepared under EQIP, CSP, CBWI, and CBWI cooperative conservation partnership. A separate application was allocated \$314,650 for Wetland Reserve Program permanent easement. The funded applications include best management practices for cover crop, forage and biomass planting, manure transfer, Conservation Activity Planning (for forest management, and irrigation water management), forest stand and wildlife habitat improvement, nutrient management, transition to organic farming, agrichemical handling facility, and conservation cover for pollinator habitat.

NRCS PROGRAMS 2012

EQIP National Initiatives:

On-Farm Energy Initiative

For Headquarters or Cropland Practices include:

- o Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- o Conservation Crop Rotation
- o Cover Crop
- o Irrigation Water Management
- o Pumping Plant
- o Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch Till
- o Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till
- o Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Poultry Houses)
- o Farmstead Energy Improvement



Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

For Cropland - 5% of an acre or 2178 ft²

Supporting Practices include:

- o Conservation Crop Rotation
- o Contour Farming
- o Cover Crop
- o Critical Area Planting
- o Diversion
- o Grassed Waterway
- o Integrated Pest Management
- o Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation
- o Nutrient Management
- o Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch Till & No-Till
- o Seasonal Tunnel System for Crops
- o Subsurface Drainage
- o Underground Outlet



Conservation Activity Plans

These plans are done by a Technical Service Provider (TSP), financial assistance is provided by NRCS (if contract is selected for funding).

- o Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- o Nutrient Management Plan
- o Forest Management Plan by:
 -] MD DNR or
 -] Private forester
- o Integrated Pest Management Plan
- o Irrigation Water Management Plan
- o Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Headquarters (AgEMP)
- o Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Landscape (AgEMP)
- o Drainage Water Management Plan
- o Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition

Organic Initiative

For certified Organic farms or farms Transitioning to Organic All conservation practices are available including:

- o Alley Cropping
- o Herbaceous Weed Control
- o Contour Orchard & Other Perennial Crops
- o Well Water Testing
- o Mulching
- o Drainage Water Management
- o Animal Walkways & Trails
- o Vegetative Barrier

For information on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative or other NRCS Conservation Programs contact Oliver Miranda, District Conservationist, or Susan Davis, Resource Conservationist at the Leonardtown Field Office.

MDA Announces New Specialty Crop Grant Program

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is seeking grant applications from eligible organizations and government entities for projects that promote or enhance the production of, and access to, Maryland specialty crops.

For questions about the grant application or to download the application, visit

www.mda.maryland.gov/pdf/2012_SCBGP_RFP.pdf, or contact Karen Fedor at FedorKM@mda.state.md.us or 410-841-5773.



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

To:

Cover Crop Reminders

- Kill down can occur anytime after March 1, 2012
- Must certify with SCD within two (2) weeks of kill down or suppression
- Must certify no later than June 1, 2012

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
Robert Jarboe - Member
Bubby Norris - Associate Member
Bobby Cooper - Associate Member
Chris Jarboe - 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

Oliver Miranda - District Conservationist
Susan Davis - Resource Conservationist

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 Burbage - Secretary