



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2014 Annual Report
April 2015

Soil Stewardship Week
April 26th - May 3rd

2014 Cooperator of the Year Bubby Knott - Flat Iron Farm

Flat Iron Farm, owned by Bubby Knott, is home to 32 horses, 57 cattle, and several sheep, goats, donkeys, and zebras. The farm consists of 2 tracts of land that total 185 acres. Of that total, approximately 105 acres are in permanent pasture and hayland.

The balance of the acreage is forest, headquarters, and ponds. In 2014, Mr. Knott received Maryland Department of Agriculture Cost Share assistance to install multiple best management practices to exclude his animals from numerous streams and ponds that are located throughout the property. BMPs installed with cost share were 9,233 linear feet of exclusion fence, one water well for livestock watering, 2,128 feet of buried waterline, four watering facilities that include heavy use areas (3 waterers were for cattle, 1 for horses) and installation of guttering and downspouts with stable outlets for his cattle barn.

In addition to these cost shared practices, Bubby installed many additional BMPs on his own without financial assistance. These additional BMPs, while they may have qualified for cost share, were installed without District technical assistance. The landowner installed practices are an additional 1,060 feet of waterline to feed 2 cattle troughs, a pumping plant, a fenced in sacrifice lot for winter feeding, a heavy use area using asphalt millings adjacent to the cattle barn, and 1,093 linear feet of cross fencing to establish a rotational grazing system. Future BMPs for the farm include a waste storage structure for horse manure.



Mr. Knott (center) receiving a Citation from the Maryland Department of Agriculture's new Secretary Joe Bartenfelder (on right) with the former Secretary Buddy Hance (on left).

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Special points of interest:

- 2014 Cooperator of the Year
- Point Lookout Theodolite Station Shoreline Project Completed
- St. Mary's SCD Equipment Rental Program
- Summer Interns - Tyler McCaffery & Zach Reavis
- District Launches New Website - Mobile Device Friendly



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

Bubby Knott

2014

Cooperator of the Year

Farm sign presented to Mr. Knott by the St. Mary's SCD Board of Supervisors



District History and Background



*Newly installed waterway in Clements
October 1966*

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 one associate member. 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 2014 the District received operating funds of \$71,557 from the county and \$32,745 from MDA. Additional support provided by MDA and NRCS is in the form of staff (\$458,365) and cost share support for best management practices installed.

2014 District Highlights

- Held 12 monthly meetings, which were 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
- Member of the local WIP II team
- Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2014
- 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
- Member of MASCD Endowment Committee
- Member of St. Mary's River Watershed Neighborhood Rewards Committee
- In June 2014, University of Maryland Extension moved into their new space at the St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center and in July St. Mary's County Dept. of Economic Development Agricultural Division moved in to complete our agricultural one stop shop.



2014 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments

Waste Storage Structure	1 no
Conservation Cover	4.5 ac
Conservation Crop Rotation	1,756.2 ac
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	783.9 ac
Cover Crop	10,930.2 ac
Residue Management (Seasonal)	863.2 ac
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	863.2 ac
Diversion	250 ft
Sediment Control Pond	1 no
Fencing (Steamside 10'-34')	23,544 ft
Fencing (Streamside 35' +)	4616. ft
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	11 ac
Filter Strip	0.1 ac
Grassed Waterway	2.4 ac
Access Control	4.5 ac
Forage Harvest Management	136.7 ac
Forage and Biomass Planting	117.6 ac
Prescribed Grazing	55.6 ac
Pumping Plant	1 no
Roof Runoff Structure	1 no
Heavy Use Area Protection	0.2 ac
Nutrient Management	2,136.9 ac
Integrated Pest Management	14 ac
Watering Facility	9 no
Waste Recycling	115.9 ac
Water Well	3 no
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	747.6 ac
Forest Stand Improvement	10.6 ac
Seasonal High Tunnel System	1 no
Conservation Plans	62 at 6,022 ac



Urban Accomplishments

Approved Plans less than 1/2 ac	198
Approved Plans greater than 1/2 ac	329
TEC Reviews	72
Site Inspections	61
Green Card Certifications Issued	181
Pre-Construction Meetings	134

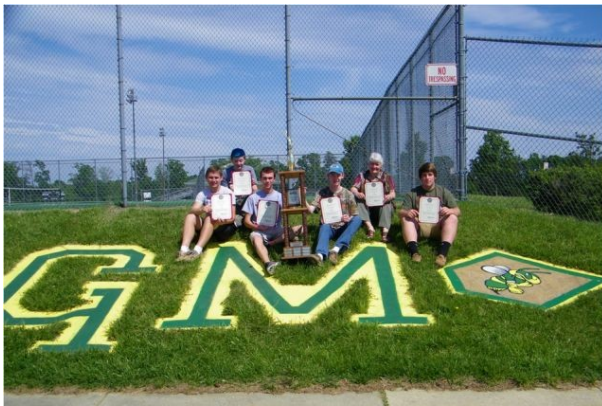


Outreach & Education

- ◇ 264 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 "Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil"



- ◇ *Sponsored and coordinated the county envirothon program. Three (3) public high schools participated. County winner competed at the State Envirothon in Queen Anne County. Team placed 5th at MD Envirothon.*

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

- ◇ Participated in Quality Review
- ◇ 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

- ◇ Hosted a STEM Student Intern

- ◇ Hosted a St. Mary's College Student Intern

- ◇ Assisted with a Soils Health Training seminar at the Ag Center

- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference
- ◇ Sponsored the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair



- ◇ *Participated in Town of Leonardtown Christmas Tree Lighting activities*

- ◇ Participated in the STEM Bio-Blast 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

- ◇ Held six (6) staff meetings throughout the year

- ◇ Approved by MDE to teach the Responsible Personnel in Erosion and Sediment Control "Green Card" Class. Conducted 4 classes for 181 people

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

- ◇ Participated in the Easter Festival at Fairgrounds

- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Earth Day Activities

- ◇ Ag Center hosted a Farm Bill Workshop



- ◇ *Hosted a public open house and ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the completion of the St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center*



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring & Poster Contests

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.

Coloring Contest

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

- 1st Place - Jaden Puerto – Park Hall Elementary
- 2nd Place - Lauren Neely – Hollywood Elementary
- 3rd Place - Julia Chen – White Marsh Elementary

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st Place - Leslie Huacho – Lexington Park Elementary
- 2nd Place - Emily Clelland – Benjamin Banneker Elementary
- 3rd Place - Aiden Thomas – Benjamin Banneker Elementary

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st Place - Zaira Curtis – Lexington Park Elementary
- 2nd Place - Kaitlyn Sokoloff - Lexington Park Elementary
- 3rd Place - Jolyssa Quade – Benjamin Banneker Elementary

Poster Contest



The theme for 2014 poster contest was "Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil?". 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.

2-3 Grade

- 1st Place - Emily A. McCluskey – Hollywood Elementary

4-6 Grade

- 2nd Place - Mari E. McCluskey – Hollywood Elementary



Emily A. McCluskey
1st Place County &
2nd Place State Poster Contest Winner

Congratulations to all our winners!



Navy Project - Point Lookout Theodolite Station

St. Mary's SCD has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Navy for multiple projects for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. A project which was completed in December 2014, was the repair of approximately 300 linear feet of revetment in front on the Point Lookout Theodolite Tracking Station. The existing structure had received considerable damage from multiple hurricanes and tropical storms over the last 20 years and erosion was occurring above the structure. Our agreement with the Navy was to solicit bids, award a construction contract, and to supervise the construction of the project. The existing revetment was reworked to use as much of the existing stone as possible and to add new 1200 to 2500 pound stone to increase the revetment elevation to +7 feet mean low water and to construct a rock splash apron. Work started the week after Thanksgiving and was completed before Christmas. The completed structure used 145 tons of bedding stone, 1309 tons of armor stone, 9600 square feet of filter fabric, approximately 40 tons of CR-6 for access road, and 6400 square feet of erosion control matting. The contractor for the job was Coastal Design and Construction, Inc., Jim Gunn, President. The site foreman was Richard Mattingly. District inspections were performed by Mike Russell, Luke Mudd, Justin Russell, and Glenn Gass. Another completed project well done.



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).



Summer Intern Program

St. Mary's SCD had two student interns working during summer break in 2014. Tyler McCaffery, an incoming senior computer science major at St. Mary's College of Maryland, spent 16 hours a week for 10 weeks working on updating the District website. St. Mary's College requires all students to do some type of community outreach or internship to graduate. The work that Tyler put into the website was a great benefit to the District and provided the foundation for our newly finished and launched website.

Our second intern, Zach Reavis, is part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program from Great Mills High School. STEM students are required to apply for internships with local, federal, state, and county government; non-profit organizations or other science based private companies so that they can gain real work experience in a STEM related field. Zach spent his required 100 hour internship working with our District technicians and under supervision of Luke Mudd. Zach went on-site and assisted with the survey, design, and construction inspection on several agricultural best management practices (BMPs). His completed internship included 2 grassed waterways that he designed to NRCS standards and specifications and plotted out using ArcGIS and AutoCAD software. Zach was a great student intern and the District looks forward to participating in the program again.



Zach Reavis, Student Intern
STEM Great Mills High School

Soils Health Workshop

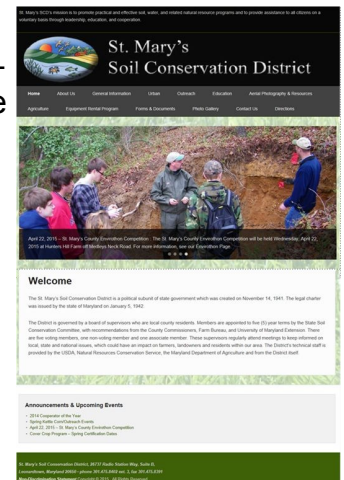


On August 27, 2014, St. Mary's SCD assisted the Southern Maryland RC&D with a Soils Health Workshop at the St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center.

USDA-NRCS National Soil Health and Sustainability Leader David Lamm provided the latest information on using plant diversity, keeping soil covered, and understanding how surface vegetation affects soil function. NRCS Maryland Assistant State Soil Scientist Dean Cowherd and NRCS Maryland Resource Conservationist Susan Davis used an excavated soil pit to demonstrate what occurs in a typical Southern Maryland soil that affects moisture and nutrient transport, plant growth, and crop production. Over 50 participants were in attendance

New District Website

Technology has changed a lot since the launch of our first website nearly 10 years ago. With the increased use of mobile devices, we realized that our site was no longer user friendly and an update was needed. The District is happy to announce the launch of our new website in a more current, up-to-date format that can be viewed on any desktop, laptop, tablet or phone. The site continues to have all of the forms and information from the old site with some new information that users may find helpful. Next time your surfing the web, check us out.





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 1st

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 Maryland Extension

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
Jeffrey Raley, Sr. - Associate

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

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

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