



From left, Directors Donna Kerr, Gary Dillard and Ricky Rash.



Amelia County Board of Supervisors Carroll Barnard, left, with former district director Carlton Lanier and wife Evelyn. Back, left, Ricky Rash with Amelia County Administrator Taylor Harvie.

## Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Awards Banquet



Amelia Baptist Church, February 28, 2015



Preparing to serve dinner are, from left, Deanna Fehrer, Director Rose Wootton, Charlie Wootton, Kevin Dunn, Stephen Reames & Amanda Hancock.



Director Bill Powers, left, and Director Wilkie Chaffin entertain the award banquet guests with their rendition of "Only Remembered" in two-part harmony.



## Piedmont SWCD 2014 Conservation Awards



### Sunny Slope Orchard Clean Water Farm Award

The Boswells have excluded cattle from the farm's seven ponds and installed 20,760 feet of stream exclusion fencing. Their farm was the site for several tours for legislative partners, and for the District's Local Envirothon. The Department of Conservation & Recreation award was presented by Director Ricky Rash, left, to the farm's manager John Boswell, Jr., and Lynne and John "Jack" Boswell.



### Katie Martin Conservation Educator

Presented by Director Bill Powers, left, and Chairman of the Board Larkin Moyer right, Ms. Martin, a wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, accepted the Conservation Educator award for outstanding educational outreach in 10 counties in central Virginia where she assists landowners with habitat management. Katie has also been of great assistance to the District in the youth education program.



### Billy & Barbara Thompson Conservation Farmer Prince Edward County

Director Wilkie Chaffin, left, presented Billy and Barbara Thompson a Conservation Farmer Award, accompanied by their daughter-in-law Vicky, son Thomas and their two grandsons sons Aeda and Sean. The couple has installed 3,163 feet of cattle exclusion fencing and created alternative watering facilities in seven paddocks that their cattle and goats rotate thru following a NRCS prescribed grazing plan. The farm also includes considerable acreage in silvopasture—the practice of combining forestry and rotational grazing.



### Mountain View Dairy Conservation Farm Amelia County

Director Donna Kerr, left, presented a Conservation Farm award to Don Benson, far right, and his wife Janet and their son Rick. The family installed 2,650 feet of stream exclusion fencing. Now the dairy herd waters from 3 troughs located in various pastures, and crosses the stream to the far pasture via a 1,950 square foot stream crossing. A 3,600 sq. ft. animal trail was installed to protect a critical area and assist with the rotation of the herd. In addition, 7 acres of hardwood riparian buffer were installed. Cover crops were planted on over 200 acres for the past 3 years.





**Joe Wirt, Jr.**  
**Wildlife Steward**

Mr. Joe Wirt, Jr. center, and his son Joe III, left, talk with Derek Hancock, NRCS District Conservationist. Mr. Wirt manages over 90 acres of early successional habitat to maximize the land's ability to sustain a healthy and diverse wildlife population. He uses prescribed burns to control competition from hardwoods, and has 8,000 feet of fire lanes and many volunteers help control the burn. His oak trees are maintained as seed trees should Wirt let the land revert back to hardwoods.



**Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners**  
**Conservation Group**

Tina Wells, left, and Liz Dunn, center, accepted the Conservation Group award representing the Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners from Director Gary Dillard, right. The Master Gardeners is a group of trained volunteers that teach the community about responsible gardening and land use practices. The group members have provided 18,000 volunteer hours to VA Cooperative Extension and citizens since the program was formed in 2000.



**Shirley Marshall**  
**Forest Stewardship**

Shirley Marshall, right and her daughter Beth Angelus, center, accepted the Forest Stewardship award from Director Chuck Arnason, left. Ms. Marshall worked with the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources Conservation Service to harvest timber and plant pines on 5.6 acres at the farm where she and her siblings were raised. Ms. Marshall made sure the loggers, planters and herbicide sprayers followed good Best Management Practices. Her insistence that the logging road be properly stabilized insured that sediment erosion would not be a problem at the site.



**Charlie Wootton**  
**Va Grasslands & Forage Council, Vice—Pres.**

Piedmont SWCD Senior Conservation Specialist Charlie Wootton was elected Vice President of the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council. The VFGC seeks to promote and expand the utilization of forages to improve the economic and social well-being of all Virginians. The Council directs and encourages research and education to expand forage production, utilization, and marketing. Wootton is serving his second 3-year term as a producer member of the VFGC Board of Directors.

# PIEDMONT SWCD

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Fuqua High School team members from left: Ashley Chipman, Sarah Jane French, Kayla Lehman, Zoey Chen, Eric Traywick, Andrew Murphy, Nicholas Davis (not pictured Morgan Cole).



Nottoway High School team members from left: Casey Sousa, Meha Patel, Hunter Arrington, Sarah Rash, Mary Rash, Hunter McCraw, and Jacob Smith.

Our 2015 Virginia Envirothon began with the Piedmont District's local competition held March 19th at Longwood University's new Environmental Education Center. A strong competition between Nottoway High School and Fuqua High School resulted in a very close race. Students were tested on their knowledge of natural resources and a current environmental issue. This year's issue is Urban Forestry. Fuqua team placed first in the Soils, Forestry and Aquatics, and Nottoway placed first in Wildlife, Urban Forestry and Oral Presentation stations. Nottoway School earned First Place Overall and will compete at the Area V competition April 29 at Occoneechee State Park in Clarksville, Virginia.