Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District Winter Newsletter January 2019

## **Landowner Meeting - Pond Building**

The District is hosting a breakfast meeting for landowners in Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties. The meeting will cover what to know before building a pond, such as required permits and construction considerations. The series is hosted in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

#### Planning to Build a Pond:

#### What to Know

Date: February 12, 2019

Time: 9:00am-10:30am

Location: Crewe Fire Department 1105 West Virginia Ave. Crewe, Virginia 23930 There is no cost to attend, but you must register. Free breakfast is provided.

To register, call Charlie Wootton at (434) 392-3782 ext. 128. <u>Register by Friday, February 8.</u>

### **Piedmont Staff Awards**



Staff were presented with awards at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). Kevin Dunn (far left) received a 10year service award from the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE). Deanna Fehrer (middle left) and Emily Gibbs (middle right) won two of three Chaffin Employee of the Year Awards for their service categories: more than 10 years of employment and 1-4 years, respectively. Charlie Wootton (far right) won the Outstanding Employee Award from the VACDE.

The Chaffin Employee of the Year Awards are part of the VASWCD Educational Foundation

and were established in 2002 by Wilkie and Dora Chaffin to recognize employees across Virginia SWCDs. Dr. Chaffin is a resident of Prince Edward County is an elected director on the Piedmont SWCD Board. A third-party committee reviews the nominations and selects the award winners.

## **Scholarships Available**



2017 Youth Conservation Camp: Cory Hoar, camp counselor (left) with Nazario Giles, an Amelia County YCC camper

Through the Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship Fund,

the District offers three \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and college students. These scholarships give financial support to students planning to enroll or currently enrolled full-time in a college curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies. Applicants must reside within Amelia, Nottoway, or Prince Edward to be eligible. Visit www.piedmontswcd.org to download the application, which must be submitted by **March 1, 2019**.

Additionally, the District offers scholarships for two high schoolers to attend <u>Youth Conservation Camp</u> hosted at Virginia Tech by the Virginia Association of SWCDs. Campers participate in recreational and educational activities to learn about the importance of natural resources and agriculture. Camp is July 7-13, 2019, and the application deadline is <u>April 12, 2019</u>. Visit www.piedmontswcd.org to download the application.

# **Residential Septic Program Deadline**

The deadline for two septic maintenance and repair grants is coming to an end soon. Funding is still available to reimburse homeowners for 50% of the costs of septic system pump outs and repairs. Some participants may be eligible for up to 90% assistance based on household income levels. However, financial assistance is available regardless of income level. The program also educates residents about proper septic system care and about the <u>environmental and health impacts of</u> <u>failing septic systems</u>. All applications must be approved by the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors before any work can begin. Funds are not eligible for projects that have already been completed.



Applicants in Amelia and Nottoway Counties must live in the Flat Creek, Nibbs Creek, Deep Creek, or West Creek watersheds. The deadline for applications is <u>May 24, 2019</u>, and projects must be completed by June 14, 2019.

Applicants in Prince Edward County must live in the Spring Creek, Briery Creek, Sandy River, Bush River, Little Sandy Creek, or Saylers Creek watersheds. The deadline for applications is <u>August 23, 2019</u>, and projects must be completed by September 13, 2019.

To learn more about the septic program, determine if you live in an eligible watershed, or request an application, please contact Emily Gibbs at (434) 392-3782 ext. 131 or via email at egibbs@piedmontswcd.org.

BULK RATE BULK Rage Paid AV, 9011 23001 Permit No. 71 τοθές Αν ,3101νмяа

**100-B DOMINION DRIVE** 

Рієрмоит Soll & Water Соизевуатіои District



#### **Conservation Corner**

#### New Year's Resolutions for Conservation

**Reduce your water usage**. The average person uses 100 gallons of water each day, not including outdoor use such as watering the lawn or washing the car. When you take into account the approximately 52,000 people living in Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward, that totals an average of 5.2 million gallons of indoor residential water use per day! To reduce your household water usage, always wash a full load of clothes instead of a smaller load. If you're buying new appliances, shower heads, or faucets, consider purchasing water-saving models, which use 2-3 times less water than conventional models. Also, check for leaky faucets or toilets that run when not in use. A faucet that drips 30 times per minute wastes 1,575 gallons of water per year, according to the American Water Works Association!

<u>Reduce your electricity consumption</u>. Lower your thermostat in the winter (use blankets and thick clothing to keep warm), and raise it in the summer (take advantage of cool evenings, which provide free air conditioning). Use the following measures to keep your home energy-efficient: cover drafty windows, find and seal leaks, purchase energy-efficient models if you're replacing doors or windows, and maintain your heating and air system. In addition to lowering your electric bill, you are helping to conserve non-renewable energy sources, such as coal, oil, and gas, for future generations.

<u>Cut down on household waste</u>. Purchase reusable items, such as cloth napkins and grocery bags, whenever possible. In addition to reducing your trash load, you will also save money. Instead of throwing food scraps and coffee grounds into the trash, compost them into homemade fertilizer. Incorporating compost, which contains organic matter, greatly improves the health of the soil by increasing its water- and nutrient-holding capacity.