

CONSERVATION MATTERS



Newsletter of the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District

SPRING 2020

Welcome

We are happy to introduce our two new board members.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larkin Moyer--Chair,
Amelia County

Ricky Rash--Vice Chair,
Nottoway County

Dr. Wilkie Chaffin--Treasurer
Prince Edward County

Chuck Arnason--Secretary,
Nottoway County

Allison Crews
Amelia County

Bill Powers
Prince Edward County

Juan Whittington--
At-large appointment
Amelia County

Haley Norton--
VA Cooperative Extension
Nottoway County

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Gary Dilliard

Amelia County

Sarah Eck

Nottoway County

Horace Adams

Prince Edward County

STAFF

Deanna Fehrer--

District Manager

Charlie Wootton--

Conservation Specialist

Kevin Dunn--

Conservation Specialist

Kelly Atkinson--

Education Specialist

Stephen Reames--

Equipment Manager



Elected Director
Allison Crews
brings a passion
and energy for
conservation to
our team.



Associate Director
Sarah Eck brings
experience and
knowledge of
conservation
practices.

Conservation Awards Banquet

The Piedmont SWCD's annual conservation awards banquet, held on February 25, 2020, honored farmers, partners, and educators who have shown a commitment to protecting our community's soil, water, and natural resources. Awardees and guests enjoyed a meal followed by the awards program, which featured photos that showcased their conservation efforts. Each awardee received a framed certificate. The District thanks all of the awardees who work to improve soil and water health in Virginia. Special thanks to the Mullins-Starke Camp in Nottoway County for hosting us and to Candy Early of Blackstone Herb Cottage for providing a delicious meal and dessert!



Award winners (L to R): Logan Vaughan (Amelia County) *Conservation Farmer*; John Shepherd (Nottoway County) *Clean Water Farm Award*; Dr. Kathy Gee (Longwood University) *Conservation Educator*; Jeb Hines (Prince Edward County) *Young Conservation Farmer*; Winston Vaughan (Amelia County) *Conservation Farmer*.

Conservation Educator - Dr. Kathy Gee

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kathy Gee is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Longwood University. Dr. Gee focuses her studies and research on stormwater methods, she also gets students on farms to learn about agriculture, careers in conservation, and water quality best management practices. The staff at Piedmont SWCD have helped organized these field trips and studies.

Dr. Gee has provided training to the local Master Gardener group, Envirothon students and to SWCD employees as part of the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program.



Presented by Director Allison Crews,
Amelia County

CONGRATULATIONS

Young Conservation Farmer - John "Jeb" Hines

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Jeb manages the cattle operation at Sunnyside Farm, his home place, and 25 brood cows at his farm. Jeb and his family's goals were to improve the management of their livestock and the impact on the environment. Participating with the Piedmont SWCD and federal partners, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, he received technical assistance and financial incentives to reach those goals.

At Sunnyside Farm, he installed fences that exclude the cattle from streambanks, riparian buffer, watering troughs and pipeline from water well to troughs. At his farm in Nottoway County and at the neighboring farm that he manages, he installed the same practices.



Presented by Director Bill Powers,
Prince Edward County

Service Award - Donna Kerr

THANK
YOU

Congratulations to Donna Kerr for 15 years as a Piedmont SWCD Board of Director representing Amelia County. Ms. Kerr, owner of Ameva Farms, represented Amelia farmers and citizens while supporting agriculture conservation and education. She served on the District's conservation, education, finance and planning committees. Ms. Kerr worked with staff to promote the Virginia Agriculture Cost Share program, develop budgets, and enhance the Youth Conservation Scholarship program.



Presented by Director
Dr. Wilkie Chaffin,
Prince Edward County

The Piedmont SWCD, as well as our partner agencies, recognize the importance of new and young farmers who will contribute to local agriculture and conservation of our natural resources for years to come.

Conservation Farmers – Logan & Winston Vaughan

AMELIA COUNTY



Presented by Director Juan Whittington and DOF Forester Doug Audley, Amelia County

In partnership with the Piedmont SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Forestry, the Vaughan family takes pride in conserving their farm and timberland for future generations.



Logan and Winston Vaughan own two farms where they raise beef cattle, hay, row crops of corn and soybeans, and timber. They have implemented many best management practices on their beef cattle operation that includes fencing livestock from water bodies, planting riparian buffers, and diverting rain water runoff from barn roofs. They utilize no-till planting, cover crops, precision agriculture technology and nutrient management plans on their row crops. In addition, they have planted over 8 acres of wildlife habitat.

Tree farming runs in their family blood as well. Their father ran a sawmill and now the sons own and manage approximately 3,773 acres of hardwood and pine timberland in Amelia and Nottoway counties. They work with a consulting forester and the Department of Forestry on forest management plans that includes best management practices of buffers, proper thinning, prescribed burning, reforestation and harvesting.



Clean Water Farm Award- John Shepherd

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

John Shepherd's small grain operations include over 2,600 acres in seven counties. He practices precision agriculture and controlled traffic technology on all acres he farms. He has an active growing cover crop on all his acres throughout the year and utilizes aerial seeding for planting cover crops. He applies a nutrient management plan on all acres as well as implementing integrated pest management plans.

John is also working towards a whole farm conservation management plan which will include grassed waterways to reduce soil erosion, planting of grassed buffers around water bodies, installing field borders for wildlife habitat and stabilizing critical sloped areas with special plantings.



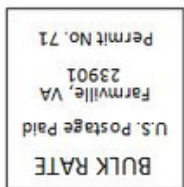
Presented by Department of Conservation & Recreation Director of Soil and Water Districts Darryl Glover

Keep up the good work!



John serves on the Nottoway Farm Bureau Board of Directors, is active with the State Farm Bureau, State Soybean Association, and volunteers with 4H. He lives in Blackstone with his wife and three children. Piedmont SWCD is proud to recognize John for his commitment to stewardship of the lands he farms and for his innovative approaches to conservation.

Piedmont Soil & Water
Conservation District-B
Dominion Drive
Farmville, VA 23901



Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, Piedmont SWCD Director, was honored at the 2019 annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The VASWCD recognized Dr. Wilkie Chaffin for his dedication to Soil and Water Conservation Districts and his outstanding work with the VASWCD. Dr. Chaffin currently serves as the Treasurer of Piedmont SWCD and Area V Chair. He has served as the President of both the VASWCD Board and the VASWCD Educational Foundation. In addition, he has served on numerous committees and in other leadership roles. Dr. Chaffin and his wife Dora have supported the work of SWCD employees through their generous endowment to support scholarships as well as supporting the recognition of outstanding SWCD employees.



Congratulations to Dr. Chaffin for his dedication and support and for continuing his work in conservation!



Programs pay off - Delisting of Impaired Waters

Farmers and landowners who have implemented water quality best management practices such as those mentioned in the above articles, have resulted in successful improvement of our local water bodies. An 11.55 mile-long segment of Deep Creek, located in Amelia and Nottoway counties in the Appomattox River Basin, has been de-listed for a bacteria impairment and removed from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's impaired waters list. Thanks to our farmers, landowners and the partnerships of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Amelia and Nottoway county governments, Department of Environmental Quality and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.