



Virginia chapter news Fall 1999

President: Gene Yagow
President Elect:
Wade Biddix
Past President: Mary
Leigh Wolfe
Vice-President:
Virginia Kopp
Secretary: Kathy Harris
Treasurer: Larry Wilkinson
1st year council:
Dawn Shank
2nd year council:
Kilby Majette

Calendar

Dec. 5-7, 1999
VASWCD Annual Meeting,
Omni, Richmond

Dec. 5, 2-4 p.m.,
Richmond
Chapter Council Meeting
(in conjunction with the
VASWCD Annual Meeting)

Annual Meeting focuses on TMDLs

More than 100 people attended the Virginia Chapter of the SWCS' Annual Meeting October 15 at Lee Hill Community Center in Fredericksburg. The theme of the meeting was "Water Quality and TMDL Development in Virginia". Attendees heard presentations from water quality experts from universities, state and federal agencies. EPA's Carl Myers and Kim Kramer gave a national perspective of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) planning process. Charles Martin of the Dept. of Environmental Quality and Stu Wilson with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation presented an overview of the Commonwealth's planning processes for point and nonpoint source pollution.

The meeting was a great opportunity to glean lots of technical information. Gene Yagow from Virginia Tech demonstrated BASINS, a software tool for TMDL development. In the afternoon, current TMDL projects in the Muddy Creek and Mountain Run watersheds were discussed by Mark Bennett, DCR, UVA professor Dr. Theresa Culver, and Gene Yagow, and Doug Moyer of the U.S. Geological Survey talked about a USGS TMDL development project.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting is the awards luncheon. Merit awards were presented to Neal Kilgore, Susan Feagins, Gary Boring and Blaine Delaney for their leadership in coordinating the first Watershed Conservation Roundtable in Virginia. The group worked to pull together stakeholders in the Upper Tennessee River watershed to join in identifying and addressing water quality problems.

Honor awards were presented to Jerry Elkins, a sign painter, Lonesome Pine Soil and Water Conservation District director, leader of the Headwaters Association, Save Our Streams trainer and activist in the Levisa River watershed. Jerry was recognized for exceptional leadership in water quality improvement for the Big Sandy watershed.

Mike Altizer also received an honor award for his excellent leadership in controlled grazing education for
(continued, p. 2)



Jerry Elkins was presented his Honor Award recently during a signing event of an agreement between DCR, DEQ and the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams program. The two state agencies made a commitment to find meaningful ways to use citizen observations and data. Jerry volunteers his time as a director with the Lonesome Pine SWCD and training monitors in the Big Sandy watershed.

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(Annual Meeting, continued)

livestock producers in the Holston and New River watersheds. Although Mike retired from Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, he continues to share his knowledge.

Dave Roberts, and NRCS employee, was presented an honor award for his outstanding leadership with students at the Virginia State University SWCS Student Chapter. Last year Virginia hosted the national convention of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences or MANRRS last summer in Roanoke. Dave and the VSU Student Chapter worked hard to make the meeting a success.

The June Sekoll Media Award went to Charles Batchelor & Bill Walsh of Southern States.

Charles and NRCS' Lisa Sizemore turned an idea into a 16-page full color report called *Conservation Partners: Conservation Buffers Made Easy*, with Bill Walsh's award-winning writing. Bill traveled throughout the Southeast talking with farmers about why and how they use conservation buffers. The report originally appeared in December in Cooperative Farmer magazine's 75th Anniversary issue. It went to some 230,000 farm homes, including 33,000 Virginia farmers.

What made this project unique was a reprint offer. Any group or organization interested in buffers was invited to purchase reprints with their own message customized on the back cover. The result was a communication package used by more than 13 states and read by more than 250,000 landowners and decision makers.

Del. Murphy named Conservationist of the Year Delegate W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. was named the Society's Conservationist of the Year. Murphy has represented the Northern Neck in Virginia's General Assembly since 1982. He has been a guardian of the Chesapeake Bay and will soon retire to enjoy more time sailing on the Bay. His accomplishments for conservation are many and include:

- Virginia's ban on phosphate detergents.
- Father of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

SWCS

Committees –

We could use your help!

Get involved.....

Annual Meeting

Audit

Awards

Finance

Legislative

Membership

Newsletter

Summer Tour

Technical Meeting/

Self Development

(President's Corner, continued)

As your new president, I welcome comments from each and every member on how to make our Virginia Chapter more responsive to the natural resource issues that affect you. I also invite each member to become involved with organizing and planning activities for our chapter by volunteering to serve on one of our various committees. With your help and participation, the coming year will see our chapter re-charged and energized, better prepared to address our current soil and water conservation needs.

The inaugural council meeting with your newly elected council members will be held December 5 preceding the VASWCD Annual Meeting in Richmond. All members are welcome to attend.

To volunteer, or for more information on any item related to the Virginia Chapter, please contact any other chapter officer or me.

Gene Yagow

President

Y2K SUMMER TOUR SURVEY

I know that you are wondering why there is a survey coming out now for an activity that is scheduled for the year 2000.

We, the Executive Council, would like to make sure that we plan an event that you, a member of the Virginia Chapter SWCS and your family would like to attend. The survey will help the Planning Committee to schedule activities that reflect the members' interests.

The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for Chapter members and guests to experience new areas/activities and to provide an arena to network with each other. Also, the tour provides a chance to show your family and guests what interests you and other conservationists have here in Virginia.

Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and forward the information back to the following address:

Kilby D. Majette
USDA – NRCS
P. O. Box 190
Quinton, VA 23127 –
0190
(804) 932 – 3438 FAX
(804) 932 – 4376 OFFICE
vaswcs@yahoo.com

1. Please rank (**1 = top choice**) the following months to indicate when you would like the tour to take place:
_____ A. June
_____ B. July
_____ C. August

2. Which dates should the Planning Committee avoid when planning this tour during the following months?
A. June

_____,
2000
B. July

_____,
2000
C. August

_____, 2000

3. Please rank the following day combinations to indicate your preference for when the tour should be held:
_____ A. Thursday - Friday
_____ B. Friday - Saturday
_____ C. Saturday – Sunday
_____ D. Other _____
(please specify)

4. What type of topics would you like the tour to cover? (**Rank the choices from 1 to 5 with 1 being the top choices**)
_____ A. Stream Ecology
_____ B. Resource Conservation & Development Projects
_____ C. Shoreline Erosion Projects
_____ D. Farm Tour with emphasis on Conservation Incentives Programs and/or specialty crops.
_____ E. Other _____
(please specify)

5. Where are you willing to stay for the tour? (**Check all that apply**)
_____ A. Camp site
_____ B. Hotel/Motel
_____ C. State Park
_____ D. Other _____
_____ **(please specify)**

6. What type of fun activities would you like to have in the evening? **(Choose one or more choices)**

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ A. Cookout | _____ E. Hay Ride |
| _____ B. Canoeing | _____ F. Other |
| _____ C. Volleyball | _____ |
| _____ D. Hiking | (please specify) |

7. In which regions of the state would you participate in the event if the tour were held there?

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| A. Coastal Plains | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| B. Valley | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| C. Mountains | _____ YES | _____ NO |
| D. Piedmont | _____ YES | _____ NO |

Which region of Virginia are you from?

8. Other comments to make the Y2K Summer Tour a success.

9. Would you like to participate on the planning committee for the Y2K Summer Tour?

NAME _____
_____ TELEPHONE NUMBER

BEST PLACE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 15, 1999