

THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION COURIER



TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

## COST SHARE INFORMATION



## TO OUR PRODUCERS

Thank you for taking the time to report your cover crop and small grain planting information during such a busy time of year. We appreciate the effort you put into establishing your cover crop stands.

## AS ALWAYS <<<

District staff members are available to assist with any questions. Updates can be found on our website and social media.

## STAY CONNECTED

 @ThreeRiversSWCD



# WE ARE HIRING

## AGRICULTURAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Tappahannock, VA

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing support for Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Programs (VACS & Whole Farm Approach)
- Maintain conservation files, producer records, and required documentation
- Assist with data entry and tracking databases with QA/QC oversight
- Ensuring timely logging of Nutrient Management Plans
- Prepare participant correspondence and lifespan verifications
- Support program promotion, assist producers, and handle general office support

### REQUIREMENTS

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Proficient in Microsoft Office computer programs: Word, Power Point and Excel
  - Strong organizational and communication skills
  - Self-motivated and dependable
  - Able to work independently and in a team
  - Ability to interpret and apply program policies, procedures, and guidelines
  - Valid driver's license and successful background check

**Applications and the complete job description are available on our website.**

 [www.trswcd.org](http://www.trswcd.org)

For questions, contact Michelle Carter

 [michelle.carter@trswcd.org](mailto:michelle.carter@trswcd.org)

**APPLY NOW**



# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

THREE RIVERS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## UPCOMING DEADLINES



### MAY 1

Bonus for cover crop not burned  
down

### JUNE 1

Cover Crop **MUST** be burned  
down


## CONTACT US

### TREVOR GUY

 804-599-8332


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### WARING BAYLOR

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### TYLER DEITZ

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 Tyler.deitz@trswcd.org

# UPCOMING EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

## ➤➤➤ EARTH DAY FESTIVAL: CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND COMMUNITY

Three Rivers SWCD is partnering with Historic Downtown Tappahannock to host an Earth Day Festival during the Tappahannock Farmers Market on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Tappahannock. The event will feature giveaways, kids activities, live demonstrations, and local vendors. Join us for a fun, family friendly celebration of conservation and community.



Saturdays at the Tappahannock Farmers' Market



# Earth Day Festival



**Celebrating Agriculture, Environment & Community**

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**

**9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**Downtown Tappahannock**

Giveaways

Kids Activities

Live Demos

Hosted by Three Rivers SWCD and Historic Downtown Tappahannock

**SCAN THE QR  
CODE FOR MORE  
INFO!**



# YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

## ➤➤➤ YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP – BLACKSBURG, VA

Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring local students to attend Youth Conservation Camp, held July 12–18, 2026 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Hosted by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, this week-long camp gives high school students hands-on experiences in conservation, natural resources, and environmental science. Campers learn about wildlife, water quality, forestry, soils, and fisheries while working with conservation professionals and Virginia Tech faculty.

The camp is open to Virginia students entering grades 9–12 who are interested in agriculture, conservation, and environmental careers.

**For more information or to apply, contact Grace Daughtrey at 804-445-6423 or [grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org](mailto:grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org).**

THREE RIVERS SWCD IS SPONSORING STUDENTS TO ATTEND

# YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

July 12–18, 2026 | Virginia Tech Campus Blacksburg, VA



# CAMP WOODS AND WILDLIFE

## »»» CAMP WOODS AND WILDLIFE - HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H CENTER

Three Rivers SWCD is sponsoring students to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife, held June 15–19, 2026 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, Virginia. Hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry, this hands-on camp is open to youth ages 13–16 interested in forestry, wildlife, and conservation.

**Applications are due April 15, 2026. For more information or to request an application, contact Grace Daughtrey at [grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org](mailto:grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org).**



**THREE RIVERS**  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**THREE RIVERS SWCD IS NOW SPONSORING  
STUDENTS TO ATTEND**

**JUNE**  
*15th-19th*

 **HOLIDAY LAKE  
4-H CENTER**

Applications Due April 15, 2026







**CAMP WOODS AND  
WILDLIFE**

- Sustainability
- Forest Management
- Forest Ecology
- Mapping

- Urban Forestry
- Forest Health
- Wildlife Management
- Tree Identification

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Organized by the Virginia Department of Forestry, this annual camp offers hands-on learning for youth ages 13–16 who are interested in forestry, wildlife, and conservation through field-based activities and outdoor skills development.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION,  
PLEASE EMAIL: [GRACE.DAUGHTREY@TRSWCD.ORG](mailto:grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org)**

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## »»» VASWCD ANNUAL MEETING

District staff and directors attended the 2025 Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) Annual Meeting in Williamsburg on December 8–9. The meeting included a variety of educational sessions on topics such as soil health, flood resilience, grant writing, and outreach. Attendees also received updates from state partners and celebrated conservation achievements from districts across Virginia.

It was a valuable opportunity to learn, share ideas, and bring new insights back to our district.



## »»» CELEBRATING THIRTY REMARKABLE YEARS

At this year's VASWCD Annual Meeting, our District Manager was recognized for 30 years of service. She began working in the District on September 5, 1995, and over the years her leadership and commitment have helped strengthen the District's programs and impact throughout the community. During her time as District Manager, the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program has grown significantly, and the District staff has expanded to include Precision Ag, Marketing, and Education. We are grateful for her years of dedication and the lasting impact she has made on conservation in our region. Congratulations on 30 years with Three Rivers SWCD!



**MICHELLE CARTER**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

 [michelle.carter@trswcd.org](mailto:michelle.carter@trswcd.org)

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## »»» ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

On January 20th, Three Rivers SWCD hosted our Annual Awards Banquet at Hollyfield Manor in King William County, recognizing leadership, stewardship, and dedication to conservation across our district.

Awards were presented to Erwin Malcolm “Tootsie” Campbell and Erwin Scott Campbell, Langdon Townsend of Queenfield Farm, Riverland Insurers (Ellen and John T. Davis), Friends of the Rappahannock (Robin Didlake and Claire Wilmore), King and Queen County Public Library (Jesse Kelley and Erin Lazar), and teacher partner Michelle Dungee. Students were also recognized for participating in the NACD Poster Contest and the Wildlife Food Plot Competition. The evening concluded with recognition of the “Don’t Farm Naked” T-Shirt Photo Contest winners, Robert Payne Longest and John Mason Hundley.



## »»» VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE BANQUET

Three Rivers SWCD was pleased to attend the Virginia Agribusiness Council Legislative Banquet in Richmond in January. It was a great opportunity to connect with agribusiness leaders and state officials while supporting agriculture and conservation across the Commonwealth.

# DISTRICT OUTREACH

## »» FIVE COUNTY AG CONFERENCE - DOSWELL, VA

In January, staff attended the 2026 Five County Agricultural Conference at Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia, hosted by Virginia Cooperative Extension. During the conference, Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist Trevor Guy shared updates on district programs and upcoming deadlines. Staff also hosted an outreach booth, where they connected with growers and partners and shared information about conservation programs and services available through the district.



## »» VCAP INFORMATIONAL SESSION - KING AND QUEEN

Three Rivers SWCD, in partnership with Colonial SWCD, hosted an informational session on the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) at the King and Queen Library on November 20th.

Participants learned about the conservation practices available through the program and how to get started with an application. Robyn Woolsey and Emma Rich from Colonial SWCD helped present information about the program and answered questions from attendees.

# VCAP UPDATE

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## »»» THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: CURRENT PROGRAM STATUS AND FUNDING REQUEST

*Contributed by Emma Rich and Robyn Woolsey of Colonial SWCD*

Since its inception nearly a decade ago, the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program has experienced a 300% increase in popularity statewide—a growth that has been significantly felt by the Lower and Middle Peninsulas. Over the last few years, Three Rivers SWCD has continued to see record breaking VCAP interest with 26 site visits and 3 applications submitted, with several more underway. VCAP receives biennial funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and in the last budget cycle, received \$4 million for July 2024–June 2026. From June–December 2024, the program utilized alternate funding sources and didn't begin pulling from the state money until the start of 2025. Within those first six months of 2025, approximately \$2 million dollars—over half of the allotted funding—had been obligated with a year and a half still left before the next budget cycle began.

To avoid running out of funding before June of 2026, VCAP program administrators implemented a rolling waitlist and a set approval budget per month. Projects with the highest ranking scores, based on cost-benefit analysis for water quality improvement, and those that fall within the monthly budget are approved. Projects that cannot be funded right away are placed on a rolling waitlist for consideration through the end of fiscal year 2026. While the waitlist helps extend opportunities, it is not a long-term solution. The VCAP program needs increased funding to keep up with demand. The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is seeking a biennial investment of \$7–8 million to continue providing conservation assistance effectively. If you would like to support the VCAP program and efforts to increase funding, you can take action and learn more using the options below.

# DISTRICT TRAININGS



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW AND COMMODITY CLASSIC

Recently, Three Rivers technical staff attended trainings and conferences to learn more about new developments in agriculture and conservation. Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist Trevor Guy traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to attend several seminars including Mind Your Pennies and Dollars will Come and Root Reveal, both presented by Beck's, as well as Rethinking CO<sub>2</sub>: What the Science Actually Shows about the Impact on Agriculture. These sessions focused on crop management, soil health, and current agricultural research.

Conservation Specialist Tyler Deitz attended Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas, where he participated in several seminars. Topics included precision application technology, delivering biological products through extracted granule technology, improving soil health through the Farm Possible Program, planning for the future of family farms, and a session with Randy Dowdy and David Hula on reaching your potential in agriculture.

These trainings help staff stay informed and bring new ideas and resources back to support farmers across the district.



## 2026 VANTAGE WINTER CONFERENCE

Three Rivers SWCD technical staff recently attended the 2026 VANTAGE Winter Conference, where Virginia farmers and conservation professionals shared ideas for improving soil health and farm profitability. Sessions highlighted no-till systems, cover crops, and other conservation practices. Staff also earned continuing education credits in Conservation Planning and Nutrient Management Planning.



# CONSERVATION AND PRECISION AG INSIGHTS

## »»» A MESSAGE FROM OUR TECHNICAL STAFF

Our technical staff conducted cover crop field checks throughout the winter months and we appreciate the effort many of you put into establishing your cover crop stands.

Staff will be reaching out soon to collect reports on cover crop termination and discuss potential cropping rotations for the upcoming growing season.



**TREVOR GUY**

PRECISION AGRICULTURE &  
CONSERVATION SPECIALIST



[trevor.guy@trswcd.org](mailto:trevor.guy@trswcd.org)



[804-599-8332](tel:804-599-8332)



## PRECISION AGRICULTURE REMINDER FOR PLANTING SEASON

As planting season gets underway, we want to remind producers to keep us in mind when making variable rate applications of nitrogen and phosphorus. After applications are completed, please either print and deliver your as-applied maps to the office or email them to us.

If you need help retrieving or processing as-applied maps from your monitor, feel free to give us a call. Our staff is happy to assist.



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

## »»» PROJECT WILD FACILITATOR TRAINING

On February 7th–8th, our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Grace Daughtrey, attended training at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia to become a certified Virginia Project WILD Facilitator. During the two-day training, she learned how to lead Project WILD workshops for K–12 educators across Virginia. These trainings help teachers bring hands-on wildlife and environmental education activities into their classrooms.

Educators interested in receiving training in Growing Up WILD (Pre-K), Project WILD, or Aquatic WILD (K–12) are encouraged to contact Grace at [grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org](mailto:grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org).



**GRACE DAUGHTREY**

EDUCATION & OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR



[grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org](mailto:grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org)



[804-445-6423](tel:804-445-6423)



## »»» KING WILLIAM HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, King William High School hosted their annual career fair for grades 8–12 to explore local job and career opportunities. Three Rivers SWCD attended and hosted a booth that included information about the district, camps, and educational programs offered.

# EDUCATION OUTREACH: WINTER PROGRAMS

## »»» SOIL HEALTH LESSON AT KING WILLIAM HIGH SCHOOL

In December, Three Rivers SWCD visited King William High School for a hands-on soil health lesson with horticulture students. Education and Outreach Coordinator Grace Daughtrey led the “Soil Your Undies” challenge, part of the 4 the Soil initiative, where students buried 100 percent cotton underwear to demonstrate how soil organisms break down organic material. Staff will return in the spring to dig them up and see how the soil has changed.



## »»» JCIS FIELD TRIP AT MENOKIN

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Grace, hosted a station at Menokin for James Cary Intermediate School 7<sup>th</sup> graders, focusing on the impacts of erosion on soil and how it can further affect our water quality. At the station, students participated in a sod box demonstration, took a tour around TRSWCD's soil tent, and played a game to help students understand the importance of protecting our natural resources.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



### JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT

646 Richmond Highway  
Tappahannock, VA 22560  
Phone (804) 443-4374  
Toll Free (800) 262-5662  
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Cell (804) 313-5186

**Branden Sanders**  
Store Manager

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[www.jamesriverequipment.com](http://www.jamesriverequipment.com)



### Riverland Insurers

Tappahannock, VA

**Ellen Davis**  
**John Davis**

Farm, Auto, Workers Comp,  
Crop & Liability Insurance

Phone: (804)443-3307  
Web: [www.riverlandinsurers.com](http://www.riverlandinsurers.com)

### MAKING THE LAND YOUR LIFE



P. O. Box 764  
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

**John C. Magruder**  
Consulting Forester

Cell: (804) 445-5774  
Email: [info@trfva.com](mailto:info@trfva.com)  
Web: [www.trfva.com](http://www.trfva.com)



### Java Jacks Café

Open Daily 8-3  
Serving Breakfast  
All Day

504 Church Lane  
Tappahannock, VA  
Phone: (804)443-Jack

*Jeans Owens*  
Owner

### Financing for Land, Homes, Farms, Equipment and Livestock



**FARM CREDIT**  
*The experts in Rural Finance*  
[www.colonialfarmcredit.com](http://www.colonialfarmcredit.com)

135 Queen St.  
Tappahannock  
443-3351



**Sharon Ambrose**  
Regional Crop Agent  
Sales

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[vafb.com](http://vafb.com)

# ORGANIZATION DETAILS

## THREE RIVERS SWCD DIRECTORS

Robert T. Bland, IV - Chair,  
King & Queen County  
Langdon Townsend - Vice Chair,  
King William County  
Sara Henley - Secretary,  
King & Queen County  
Bruce Taylor - Treasurer,  
King and Queen County  
Thomas Fox, Director,  
King William County  
Robbie Longest, VCE,  
Essex County  
AJ Brooks, Director,  
Essex County  
Jay Hundley, Director,  
Essex County  
Willie Upshaw, Associate Director,  
King William County  
Kevin Norman, Associate Director,  
King & Queen County

**Board of Directors Meetings**  
**3rd Tuesday of each Month-**  
**contact us for time and location at**  
**804-443-4027**

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation. Three Rivers SWCD programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation or handicap.

## THREE RIVERS SWCD STAFF

Michelle Carter, District Manager  
[michelle.carter@trswcd.org](mailto:michelle.carter@trswcd.org)

Anne Davis, Administrative  
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Waring Baylor, Conservation  
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Trevor Guy, Conservation & Precision  
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Tyler Deitz, Conservation Specialist  
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Marley Goodman, Marketing &  
Communications Specialist  
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8:30 am - 4:30 pm