

THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# CONSERVATION COURIER



## TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

### COST SHARE INFORMATION



### TO OUR PRODUCERS

We hope all of our growers are having a safe and successful planting season! We're looking forward to the upcoming cost-share sign-up period and appreciate your continued partnership with our district.

### THANKS AGAIN <<<

We truly appreciate your ongoing support and stewardship efforts. We're excited to continue working alongside you. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions — we're here to help.

### STAY CONNECTED

@ThreeRiversSWCD

THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# MIDDLE PENINSULA PRODUCER CONFERENCE

Hosted by Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District

## Join Us!

Hear the latest district updates and gain current grain market insights from our guest speaker. We're excited to welcome:

**Waring Baylor & Trevor Guy –  
TRSWCD Staff**

*Conservation Specialist & Precision  
Ag & Conservation Specialist*  
District Updates

**Jayson Gill – Perdue  
Agribusiness**

*Grain Originator*  
Market Insights



**Wednesday**

July 8, 2026



**Registration**

8:30 A.M.



**Hollyfield Manor**

289 Hollyfield Ln  
Manquin, VA 23106

Join us for breakfast and  
conservation updates!

**RSVP BY JUNE 26TH**



804-443-4027



[marley.goodman@trswcd.org](mailto:marley.goodman@trswcd.org)

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT AND UPDATES

## »»» MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE TRSWCD TEAM



**JACKIE KAY**  
AGRICULTURAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Please join us in welcoming Jackie Kay to the Three Rivers SWCD team as our Agricultural Administrative Assistant!

Here's a little bit about Jackie:

"Hi, I'm Jackie Kay! I'm excited to be joining the agriculture industry and eager to learn as much as I can along the way. I enjoy being part of a team and taking on new challenges. When I'm not working, you'll usually find me spending time with my amazing husband and our sweet dog, riding motorcycles, or curled up with a good book."

We are excited to have Jackie as part of the Three Rivers SWCD team!

## »»» TREVOR GUY EARNS CONSERVATION PLANNER

Our Precision Ag and Conservation Specialist, Trevor Guy, is now a certified Conservation Planner through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

This certification allows him to work directly with producers to assess their operations, identify resource concerns, and develop conservation plans with recommended best management practices. Congratulations to Trevor on earning this certification!



**TREVOR GUY**  
CONSERVATION & PRECISION  
AG MANAGER

# COST SHARE UPDATES



**WARING BAYLOR**  
CONSERVATION SPECIALIST  
(804) 445-5282



**TREVOR GUY**  
CONSERVATION & PRECISION  
AG MANAGER  
(804) 599-8332



## PRECISION AG & CONSERVATION UPDATE

Thank you to all of our producers for reporting cover crop termination across the district and keeping us informed on crop rotations for the upcoming growing season.

Over the next month, we will continue completing BMP participation verifications for Whole Farm Approach Nutrient Management contracts. As crops continue growing, please keep us in mind when working with variable rate nitrogen and phosphorus as-applied or prescription maps.

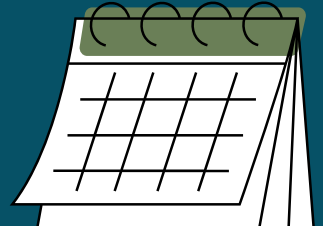
If you need assistance obtaining or processing these maps during the season, feel free to reach out anytime.



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR: FY27 COST SHARE SIGN-UP

## ➤➤➤ FY27 COST SHARE SIGN-UP

The sign-up period for the upcoming FY27 Cost Share Program will run from Thursday, July 9, 2026, through Friday, August 7, 2026. To get started or schedule an appointment, please contact Trevor Guy or Waring Baylor. We look forward to working with you!



THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## FY27 COST SHARE SIGN UP

Thursday, July 9 – Friday,  
August 7, 2026

Call to schedule your  
appointment today!

- 📞 Trevor Guy – (804) 599-8332
- 📞 Waring Baylor – (804) 445-5282
- 📞 Office – (804) 443-4027



# ROBERT WARING NAMED NATIONAL SOIL HEALTH CHAMPION

## ROBERT WARING OF BRANDON FARMS

The Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to announce that Robert “Bob” Waring has been selected as a Soil Health Champion by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Three Rivers SWCD and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD), in partnership with NACD, nominated Waring in recognition of his outstanding efforts to promote soil health practices on his farming operation and encourage the adoption of these practices throughout the agricultural community. The District supports Waring’s outreach through the promotion of field days, farm tours, and additional soil health education opportunities.

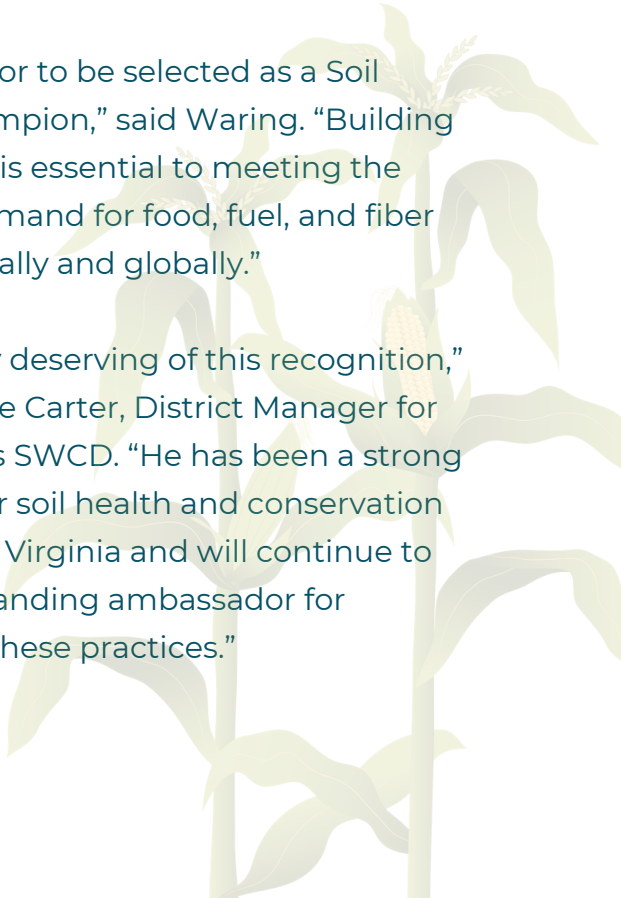
Soil Health Champions help elevate awareness of soil health benefits from the local level to a national audience. Through peer-to-peer outreach, Champions share their experiences implementing conservation practices and contribute to national conversations through NACD events and network activities.

A third-generation producer from Essex County, Virginia, Waring co-manages Brandon Farms, where regenerative cropping systems and soil health practices play a central role in the operation.

The farm incorporates multi-species cover crops, reduced chemical inputs, precision nutrient management, and practices focused on improving soil biology, water retention, and long-term resilience. Brandon Farms has collaborated with organizations including Virginia Tech, the American Farmland Trust, NRCS, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts on soil health and conservation research projects. In addition to farming, Waring serves as a Senior Agricultural Conservation Specialist with Colonial SWCD and holds leadership roles on several state and regional conservation advisory groups.

“It is an honor to be selected as a Soil Health Champion,” said Waring. “Building healthy soil is essential to meeting the growing demand for food, fuel, and fiber both nationally and globally.”

“Bob is truly deserving of this recognition,” said Michelle Carter, District Manager for Three Rivers SWCD. “He has been a strong advocate for soil health and conservation throughout Virginia and will continue to be an outstanding ambassador for advancing these practices.”



# LEARNING FROM THE FIELD

## SOIL HEALTH & COVER CROP TRAINING

Technical staff from Three Rivers SWCD recently attended the “Unlocking Soil’s Natural Fertility” Elevated Ag Field Day in Northumberland County. The event focused on cover crops, soil health, nutrient cycling, and regenerative agriculture practices through presentations, field tours, and producer discussions. Staff continue attending educational opportunities like these to stay informed on conservation practices and better assist local producers.



## VA TECH AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FIELD TRIP

In April, the District was proud to sponsor a tour in our district for Virginia Tech Agricultural Technology students, focused on precision agriculture and the tools being used at Thomas Neck Farms.

It was a great chance for students to see how this technology is used in the field and learn more about how it's applied day to day.



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## >>> 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2026 scholarships, supporting students from Essex, King William, and King & Queen counties who are pursuing degrees in agriculture or natural resources.

- Earl H. & Anna K. Longest Memorial Scholarship – awarded to Turpin Rowe of King & Queen County
- John F. Townsend Sr. Memorial Scholarship – awarded to Tucker Townsend of King William County
- J. Franklin “Frankie” Townsend Jr. Memorial Scholarship – awarded to Ruby Kate Vincent of King William County
- Larkin Hundley Memorial Endowment – awarded to Jenna Moore of Essex County

We extend our congratulations to these deserving recipients for their dedication to agriculture and environmental stewardship.

### **Turpin Rowe**

Earl H. & Anna K.  
Longest Memorial  
Scholarship



### **Ruby Kate Vincent**

J. Franklin “Frankie”  
Townsend Jr.  
Memorial Scholarship



### **Tucker Townsend**

John F. Townsend Sr.  
Memorial Scholarship



### **Jenna Moore**

Larkin Hundley  
Memorial Scholarship



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## »»» BAY QUEST CHARTER TRIP FOR EDUCATORS

The District is excited to offer a FREE Bay Quest Charter Trip for science educators in Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

This hands-on educational experience gives teachers the opportunity to explore local waterways while learning about conservation, ecology, and environmental stewardship. Space is limited, with 24 spots available for local educators.



## BAY QUEST CHARTER TRIP



### FREE OPPERTUNITY FOR LOCAL EDUCATORS!

Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to offer a FREE Bay Quest Charter Trip for science educators in Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties on Thursday, June 18th.

This hands-on trip gives teachers the opportunity to explore local waterways while learning about conservation and environmental stewardship through an engaging educational tour.



#### WHO?

Science teachers & educators from Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties



#### WHEN?

Thursday, June 18, 2026



#### COST?

100% FREE



#### SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

24 spots are available

*Claim yours today!*



#### REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MAY 29TH

Scan the QR code or email [Grace.Daughtrey@trswcd.org](mailto:Grace.Daughtrey@trswcd.org) to register



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## »»» RAIN BARREL WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER

Three Rivers SWCD will host two free Rain Barrel Workshops this summer for residents of King William and West Point. Participants will learn about the importance and benefits of rain barrels, receive a short installation demonstration, and take home a free 50-gallon assembled rain barrel. Workshops will be held on July 30th at the West Point Branch Library and August 6th at the Upper King William Branch Library. Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop.

# FREE RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

THREE RIVERS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Join Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District for a hands-on rain barrel workshop! Learn about the importance and benefits of rain barrels, plus get a short demonstration on how to install your barrel.

Leave with a FREE 50-gallon assembled rain barrel!



*West Point*  
**WORKSHOP**

July 30, 2026

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

West Point Branch Library

SCAN TO REGISTER!

*Upper King William*  
**WORKSHOP**

August 6, 2026

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Upper King William Branch Library

SCAN TO REGISTER!



**FREE 50 GALLON RAIN BARREL INCLUDED!**



**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 10 SPOTS PER WORKSHOP**



**OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF KING WILLIAM/WEST POINT**



**Questions?**

Contact Grace Daughtrey  
Grace.Daughtrey@trswcd.org



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## ➤➤➤ MIDDLE PENINSULA/NORTHERN NECK FARM TOUR

As a sponsor of the 2026 Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck Farm Tour, Three Rivers SWCD encourages district members to participate in this long-standing educational opportunity. This year's tour to Ohio will feature visits to research facilities, farms, agricultural businesses, and educational centers showcasing innovation, conservation, and modern agricultural practices.



**THREE RIVERS SWCD IS A PROUD  
SPONSOR OF THE**

## **MIDDLE PENINSULA / NORTHERN NECK FARM TOUR**

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The 2026 Northern Neck Farm Tour will travel to Ohio from July 20–23 for an educational experience highlighting agriculture, research, and agribusiness throughout the region. This year's tour will feature a variety of stops including The Greenbrier, Ohio State University research facilities, cattle operations, Circle M Meats, the OSU South Centers, a vegetable market, the Jackson County Fair, a cooperage, and a horse center.

The tour is being coordinated with assistance from Extension staff Josh, Amanda, and Tracy, who helped organize the tour stops and educational opportunities. Participants will travel with Newton Bus Service and stay at the Hampton Inn in Gallipolis, Ohio throughout the trip.

Registration is open through June 8th, and attendees are encouraged to register early as reservations for transportation and lodging must be prepaid in advance.

**For more information, please email  
Sam Johnson at [sajohns2@vt.edu](mailto:sajohns2@vt.edu)**

# DISTRICT OUTREACH

## »»» EARTH DAY FESTIVAL BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Three Rivers SWCD hosted our 2026 Earth Day Festival, “Celebrating Agriculture, Environment, and Community,” on April 18th in conjunction with the Tappahannock Farmers Market. The event brought together local organizations, producers, vendors, and community members to promote conservation, agriculture, and environmental awareness throughout the region.

The festival featured over 100 vendors and educational partners offering hands-on activities, demonstrations, and conservation resources for attendees of all ages. Three Rivers SWCD also provided interactive educational displays and activities, including the Enviroscape, soil tent, rain barrel giveaway, and precision agriculture outreach.

The Earth Day Festival was a great success and reflects the district’s continued commitment to conservation education and community engagement.



## »»» THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, Essex County Farm Bureau, Keep Virginia Beautiful, Colonial Farm Credit, Essex County Extension, Essex County 4-H Club, Department of Forestry, Virginia Soil Health Coalition, NRCS, Northern Neck Native Plant Company, Light of the World Academy FFA, Virginia Soybean Association, VASWCD VCAP, Just Harvest, Essex Museum, Essex Public Library, Friends of the Refuge, Friends of the Rappahannock, Richmond Beekeepers Association, James River Equipment, Southern States, Virginia Grain Producers Association, and the many vendors and community members who helped make the event a success.

# COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



*Tappahannock Central  
Park and Garden*

## ➤➤➤ NEW RAIN GARDEN SIGN

Three Rivers SWCD is proud to showcase a new Rain Garden educational sign at Tappahannock Central Park.

Designed and created by the district, the sign explains how rain gardens help reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat for native plants and pollinators. Additional native plantings are planned for this fall to further enhance the garden.

We are excited to offer this educational feature for the community and continue promoting conservation practices throughout the region. Be sure to check it out during your next visit to the park!



## EXPLORE THE YORK RIVER & SMALL COASTAL BASIN ROUNDTABLE STORYMAP

The York River & Small Coastal Basin Roundtable recently released an interactive StoryMap highlighting conservation efforts, watershed initiatives, and collaborative projects taking place throughout the region. The StoryMap provides an engaging look at local environmental stewardship and ongoing efforts to protect natural resources within the watershed.



**YORK RIVER &  
SMALL COASTAL BASIN  
ROUNDTABLE**



**SCAN HERE OR  
CLICK THE LINK  
BELOW!**

# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## »»» LITTER LITERATURE PROGRAM AT TES

To help bring awareness about pollution in our rivers while helping students review for their SOL tests, TRSWCD brought “Freddy the Fish” into Tappahannock Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Classrooms! In this lesson, students follow Freddy on his journey downstream and see what kind of pollution he runs into. At the end, students talked about how they were going to prevent pollution in their lives.



## »»» KING AND QUEEN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, our Education and Outreach Coordinator attended the King and Queen Central HS Career Fair to talk to 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders about job opportunities in conservation! Students spun a wheel and answered questions pertaining to what a Soil and Water Conservation District does.



## »»» WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN WEST POINT

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, our Education and Outreach Coordinator led 7<sup>th</sup> graders from West Point Middle School in water quality testing at the River Walk Pavilion in West Point! Water from West Point Creek was collected and students learned about the various tests that tell us how healthy our water is. These tests included turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, and the water temperature.

# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## »» ENVIROTHON AREA III COMPETITION

Our District was proud to have a team from West Point High School compete in the Area III Envirothon competition, hosted by Hanover-Caroline SWCD, on April 16th. The team, made up of members of the West Point High School Environmental Science Club, placed 3rd in both the Wildlife and Oral Presentation categories. Congratulations to our team on this accomplishment!



## »» STORYTIMES FOR AG LITERACY WEEK - MARCH 22-29

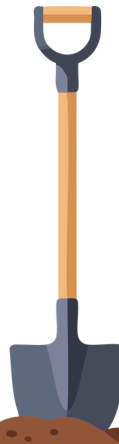
Every year, National Ag in the Classroom releases a book that volunteers can bring into the classroom to provide more agriculture awareness to classrooms all over America. This year, the book was "Farm Boots" by Lisl Detlefsen. Our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Grace, went to several different locations throughout the district including libraries and elementary schools. After the book was read, participants created their own "farm boots".



# EDUCATION OUTREACH: SPRING PROGRAMS

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

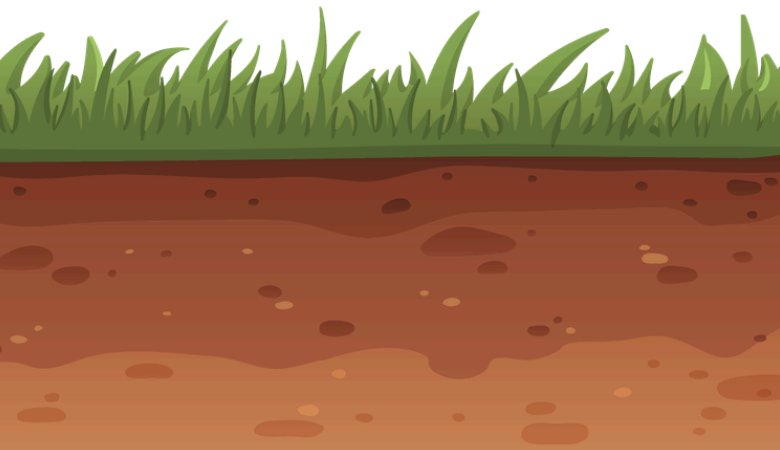
In December, KWHS students in Mrs. O'Keefe's class participated in the 4theSoil "Soil Your Undies" initiative and planted 100% cotton underwear to figure out how alive and healthy their soil really is. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, all 3 classes went back out and dug up the undies that were buried in different places. Each pair had been eaten by the soil microbes and only a small piece of the material was left! Students created a poster with all of their findings and presented it at the 100 Years of Cavaliers Block Party.



## »»» LEARNING ABOUT SOIL WITH GIRL SCOUTS

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Three Rivers had the opportunity to host the Daisies and Brownies of Troop 406 for a soil program.

Grace, our Education and Outreach Coordinator, introduced the group to how soil supports plant growth and why soil health is important for our environment. The scouts wrapped up by making their own "Soil Babies," building on what they learned in a creative way!



THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT COMPETITION



**NOW ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS!**



**APPLICATIONS**

Our Wildlife Food Plot Competition is now open to students ages 9–12 (Junior) and 13–18 (Senior) in Essex, King & Queen, and King William Counties.

Visit our website to find more information or applications. Applications are also available directly from Anne Davis. Please submit all completed applications to Anne.

**Contact Information:**

**Email:** [anne.davis@trswcd.org](mailto:anne.davis@trswcd.org)

**Phone:** (804) 443-4027

**Applications Due:  
September 30, 2026**



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



# 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 Coordinator  
[anne.davis@trswcd.org](mailto:anne.davis@trswcd.org)

Waring Baylor, Conservation Specialist  
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Trevor Guy, Conservation & Precision  
Agriculture Manager  
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Tyler Deitz, Conservation Specialist  
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Grace Daughtrey, Education & Outreach  
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Marley Goodman, Marketing &  
Communications Specialist  
[marley.goodman@trswcd.org](mailto:marley.goodman@trswcd.org)

Jackie Kay, Agricultural Administrative  
Assistant  
[jakie.kay@trswcd.org](mailto:jakie.kay@trswcd.org)

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Tappahannock, VA  
22560  
(804)443-4027  
[www.trswcd.org](http://www.trswcd.org)  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**JAMES RIVER EQUIPMENT**

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Tappahannock, VA 22560  
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Toll Free (800) 262-5662  
Fax (804) 443-4038  
Cell (804) 313-5186

**Branden Sanders**  
Store Manager

BSanders@jamesriverequipment.com  
www.jamesriverequipment.com



JOHN DEERE



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**John C. Magruder**  
Consulting Forester

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Web: www.trfva.com



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