



# Henricopolis Happenings

A publication of the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

November 2014



## Agricultural Assistance Programs

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost Share Program is currently open for sign up. All applications will be accepted and approval will be made during monthly Board meetings in accordance with the primary and secondary considerations that have been approved by the District Board.

The focus for this year's programs is on practices that improve water quality and lessen the impact on groundwater through leaching. These practices include:

**Small Grain Cover Crop (Wheat, Barley or Rye):** Protects the soil over the winter months when erosion is likely to occur. This practice is also effective in reducing the loss of nutrients through leaching into the groundwater.

**Continuous No-till Systems:** Provides less tillage, allowing organic matter to improve the soil quality. This also reduces the soil being exposed to the rainy periods when there is a potential for runoff and soil loss. To qualify, crops planned in a five year rotation must be planted using no-till. Two years of a small grain cover crop must be included in the system.

**Split Application of Nitrogen** on small grains and corn. A small grain cover crop is planted in the fall using a no-till method. Corn is planted using a starter amount of fertilizer and applying the balance when the corn is 15" to 24" tall. This is the time when the greatest amount of nitrogen is used by the plant.

The farming practices mentioned above lessen the leaching of nitrogen into the groundwater. These BMPs will also reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous available to leave the crop field through runoff.

Funding amounts are ranked based on primary and secondary considerations of the state of Virginia and the District in which you live. These concerns are set forth at the beginning of the sign-up period.

To receive financial support, you must have a **current** (less than three years old) Nutrient Management Plan. This plan must include all the acres on the farm in which you are applying for assistance.

Financial assistance is provided on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap.

**Please call Charlie Lively at the District Office (804) 501-5176 to discuss your options**

# Fall is the Time to Fertilize!

Proper fertilization is an essential part of a good turfgrass maintenance program. Turfgrass experts agree that cool-season grasses such as those common in lawns in Henrico should be fertilized in the fall during the months of September, October and November. Prior to purchasing your fertilizer, we encourage people to perform a quick and easy soil test to determine the lime and fertilizer needs of their lawn or garden.

## Why should I test my soil?

Although fertilizer, lime, and other amendments can be very helpful in establishing happy, healthy plants, they pose a risk if not used properly. Excess fertilizer and chemicals wash away with rainwater and pollute our local streams and waterways, the James River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The first guideline of responsible fertilizer application is to take a soil sample and have it analyzed to determine fertilizer needs.

Soil tests taken every three or four years provide important information about the fertility of your soil. The results will indicate the amounts of phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium your soil can provide to the turfgrass. It will also indicate the acidity (pH) of your soil and whether lime is needed. A soil test may indicate you do not need to apply some nutrients. A soil test report will indicate the specific amounts of lime, phosphorus, and potassium your soil needs to provide adequate nutrition for the turfgrass. Completed soil test results, along with a recommendation on fertilization and liming, are mailed to the client.

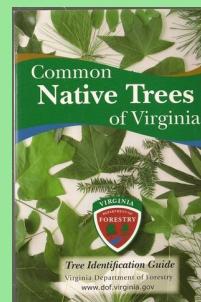
## How do I test my soil?

Samples will be analyzed by the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab. Samples must be submitted to the lab in a sample box. Sampling and mailing instructions are provided with the sample boxes. In Henrico, soil sample kits are available at the local Extension Office or in any county library. Samples and payment should be sent directly to the lab. Soil samples are analyzed and recommendations generated usually within 3 working days of receipt. Laboratory reports are mailed directly back to you and are also available from your local Extension office, which can provide additional assistance if needed.

## How much does it cost?

The routine soil test is all one normally needs for a fertility evaluation. A routine soil test costs \$10. In order to promote the practice of soil testing, Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District has established a soil test incentive program to offset the cost of soil analysis for Henrico County residents. Henricopolis will provide up to 2 coupons per household to cover the \$10.00 processing fee for a standard soil test (not including postage). People wishing to participate in this incentive program must request a soil test voucher.

Vouchers are available by email or in-person at the Henricopolis SWCD office. Henricopolis is co-located with Henrico County Extension in the Human Services Building at 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.



## Virginia's Native Trees

This Virginia Department of Forestry publication describes native tree species found in Virginia's forests. The 100 page book includes non-technical descriptions, with images of leaves, twigs, flowers and fruit.

Purchase your copy for only \$2 in the Henricopolis SWCD office or visit:  
[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

# Congratulations to our



## Poster Contest Winners!

The Henricopolis Conservation Poster Contest grows bigger and better each year! We received 273 entries for this year's contest from Greenwood Elementary, Echo Lake Elementary, Kaechele Elementary, Gayton Elementary, Longan Elementary, Maybeury Elementary, Pocahontas Middle and Girl Scout Troop 3235. Congratulations to the winners in the five age categories:



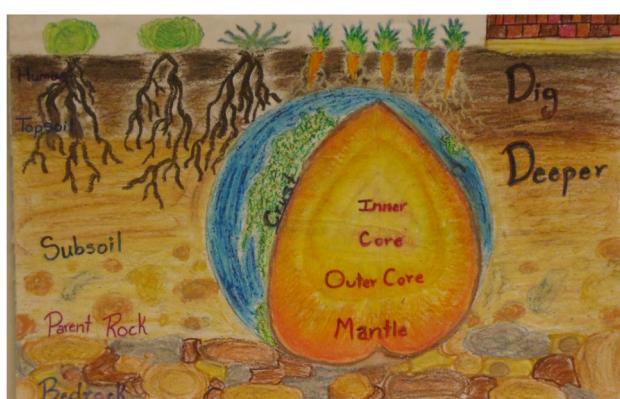
Grades K-1  
Aiden Fitzgerald  
Kaechele Elementary



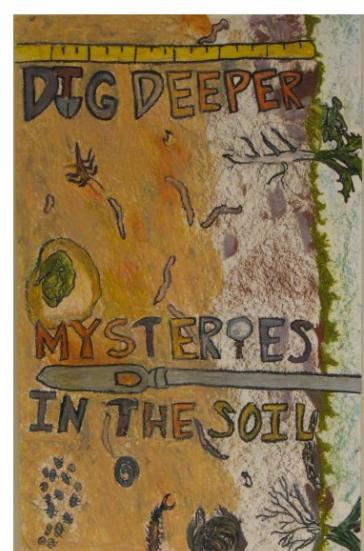
Grades 2-3  
Nikhita Sarayanan  
Short Pump Elementary



Grades 4-6  
Luci Owens  
Kaechele Elementary



Grades 7-9  
Rithanya Sarayanan  
Pocahontas Middle



Grades 10-12  
Rose Anderson  
Homeschool



## Henricopolis SWCD Welcomes New District Manager

After a long and careful search, the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District has filled its District Manager position. Charlie Lively becomes the first new manager to run the District in over a decade.

Lively brings with him a blend of experience in the public and private sectors, having worked on issues of water quality conservation and soil erosion prevention for VDOT, the National Park Service, and the Lake in the Woods Home Owners Association. Lively comes to the Henricopolis District from the Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District, where he served as manager, overseeing resource conservation for the counties of King George, Stafford, Spotsylvania, as well as the city of Fredericksburg. His experience addressing both agricultural and urban conservation issues will serve Henricopolis well as it balances its traditional focus on agricultural-based pollution and erosion, with increased focus on stormwater runoff from Henrico's urban and suburban communities.

Lively has a BS in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Virginia Tech with a minor in Environmental Economics, and an AS in Agricultural Technology with a minor in Landscape/Turf Management. As manager, Lively will supervise the District's Conservation Technician and Education Coordinator, in fostering the goals of the District's Board of Directors. Lively, a resident of the Richmond region, is excited to be serving his "home District".

"We're thrilled to have Charlie onboard," says Board Chair Nicole Anderson Ellis. "He shares the Board's vision for expanding District services, and has the technical skills and experience to get the work done."

"We're very proud of our work with agricultural producers," notes Anderson Ellis. Indeed, last year the nation's award for the highest corn yield was grown on Curles Neck Farm in Eastern Henrico, using a cover-crop runoff-reducing technique established in partnership with the Henricopolis District. "Now we want to reach that same level of success with urban issues."

"We're already educating thousands of school children across Henrico every year," says Herb Dunford, Associate Director with the Henricopolis SWCD and current Chair of the state-wide Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board. "Now we're working with partner agencies on ways to educate developers about new Best Management Practices. With Charlie at the helm, we're ready to tackle the growing challenge of stormwater runoff."



Sponsored by the Henricopolis  
Soil and Water Conservation District



Challenging Environmental Education

# Henrico County Envirothon

## What is Envirothon?

Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. Students learn stewardship and management concepts and solve real world environmental problems. The program is field oriented, community based and give students the opportunity to work with natural resource professionals.

## Who Makes Up a Team?

Students work in teams of five. Throughout the school year, they prepare to compete at the local (county) level. Winner of the local competition advance to the Area (regional) level. The top three teams then advance to the state competition. The winner of the state competition then goes on to the national North American Envirothon.



## How Does It Work?

The local county competition is sponsored and administered by Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District. Henricopolis provides a schedule of training opportunities to prepare the Henrico teams for their local competition. We also provide coaches with pertinent information related to the program.



## How Do I Start a Team?

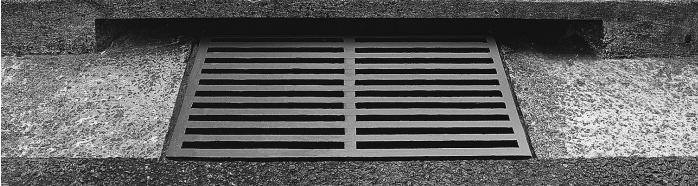
Each team must have a coach. The coach can be a teacher, club leader, parent or any interested adult. Prospective coaches and students are encouraged to attend our Information Meeting on December 16. If you are interested in leading a team and cannot attend the information meeting, please contact Henricopolis SWCD.



For information, contact:

Lindy Durham  
Henricopolis SWCD  
501-5175  
[dur24@henrico.us](mailto:dur24@henrico.us)

# THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



Nutrients in stormwater runoff have been identified as the #1 pollutant and threat to our local waterways. Much of this pollution can be traced back to watershed residents who are not aware of the link between their daily activities and water quality.

Stormwater runoff pollution (or nonpoint source pollution) comes from many sources, including parking lots, lawns, driveways and roads. Rainwater that runs off these surfaces picks up contaminants like motor oil, fertilizer and bacteria from pet waste. This runoff flows into storm drains and then into our local streams. From there the water flows to the Chickahominy River and the James River. The runoff ultimately contributes to the pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

What can you do to help prevent this kind of water pollution? Here are a few simple tips:

- Dispose of used motor oil, paint and household cleaners rather than pouring on the driveway or into storm drains.
- Avoid excess fertilizer or pesticide use, especially before a predicted rain.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or at a location where the soapy water doesn't run into the storm drain.
- Sweep up grass clippings and other yard waste instead of washing them down the driveway or into the gutter.
- Always pick up pet waste from your yard, sidewalk and park areas.

## Get coupons for free soil tests!

Henrico Residents:  
Visit the Henricopolis SWCD office  
or e-mail requests to  
**soiltestvouchers@co.henrico.va.us**

Please include your name and physical address in your message.

\* This offer is valid until program funding expires and is subject to change at any time.



Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District is located in the Henrico County Human Services Building 8600 Dixon Powers Drive Henrico, VA 23228

Henricopolis SWCD: (804) 501-5175  
[www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd)

Services Building Board Room  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive

**Vision**  
Clean Waters, Productive Soils

**Mission**  
To educate and guide Henrico citizens in the sustainable use of our natural resources

## Board of Directors

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Lindy Durham (*Education Coordinator*)