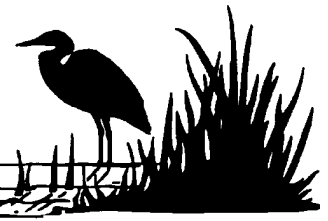


P Maryland Conservation PARTNERSHIP PRESS



Summer 2010 Volume 17 Issue 3

A MESSAGE FROM MASCD PRESIDENT R. CALVERT STEUART

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the Annual MASCD meeting and the things we learned and the challenges that await us. I believe we must by now all be up-to-speed on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process and the need for expedited Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), what I am not sure about however, is if we have an understanding of what this means to the soil conservation districts. Certainly we are going to have to pay attention and get involved. Establishing workable goals that we are able to achieve is paramount to our success.

MASCD passed three resolutions at the General Session:

- MASCD supports the cost-share program for cover crops to be adopted to allow for the application of liquid manure on grain post planting.
- MASCD supports inclusion of language in the proposed MDA/SCD/NRCS MOU to include soil conservation districts in the interview and hiring process of state and federal employees.
- MASCD is concerned that UMD fertilizer application guidelines allow for too much nitrogen and phosphorus to be applied to lawns and seeks the review of the guidelines and/or legislation to ensure that it is consistent with Bay clean up goals.

A fourth resolution relating to SCDs “taking over” the role of nutrient management plan writing from the University of Maryland Extension was defeated based on the concerns that UME is doing a good job. At the Board meeting that followed, this issue again evoked a lot of discussion. It was felt that there was a need to have some guiding policy for the association based on the fact that at this point, the UME has indicated that they no longer intend to write nutrient management plans after this fiscal year. There was consensus that if UME drops the program then the districts will consider handling the program, to provide the service to the agricultural clients with the intension of working with MDA to try to provide adequate service and potentially utilizing the existing experienced university staff, only if after ongoing discussion, this proves to be the right thing to do. It was felt that the districts need to maintain an ongoing dialogue on this issue. It is not a taking over of the role of UME, but a desire to see the agricultural community provided with an ongoing service either within the funding limits of the program or by obtaining other sources of funding that may not be available to UME. To address this, a motion was made, second (McDaniel/Griffith) and unanimously passed that stated:

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FARM STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (FSCAP)

At the picturesque farm of Carlton and Steve Ernst in Clear Spring, Maryland, members of the agricultural and environmental community launched the new Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) and announced two farmers who are now certified in the program. FSCAP recognizes farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and are using appropriate best management practices to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

At the event, spearheaded by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, farmers Carlton and Steve Ernst and John and J. D. Rinehart were recognized as the first two farms in Maryland to become certified under the new program. Local Washington County District Supervisor, Don Spickler, stated that the purpose of the Farm Stewardship Certification and As-

(Continued on page 8)

ĐÀO TẠO CHO NÔNG DÂN GIA CẦM

Which means—**Training for poultry farmers.** This MASCD program was the first program of its kind in Maryland to provide Vietnamese farmers with information on poultry farm management and regulations. The workshop, held on June 15th in Pocomoke City, was presented entirely in Vietnamese to 17 Vietnamese poultry growers in Maryland’s Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties, many of whom speak little English.

The workshop focused on the requirements of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit, the Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) permit, the certified nutrient management plan and routine maintenance procedures contained in federal and state regulations.

Minh Vinh, a Vietnamese poultry grower in Worcester County, translated a 90-minute PowerPoint presentation developed by Jennifer Rhodes and Jennifer Timmons, University of Maryland Extension (UME) educators. “The Vietnamese community is dedicated to a successful operation in full compliance with all regulations,” said Mr. Vinh, “This workshop really helped to

(Continued on page 9)

PARTNERSHIP PRESS VIA EMAIL OR ONLINE

The Partnership Press newsletter is posted on www.mascd.net. In an effort to conserve, if you prefer to receive the quarterly newsletter by email, as opposed to hard copy, please email MdAgric@aol.com.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

EPA RELEASES GUIDANCE ON CAFO REGULATIONS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released implementation guidance on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) regulations regarding CAFOs that discharge or are proposing to discharge. The document is intended to assist the EPA, states and CAFOs with the implementation of the 2008 CAFO rule.

In 2008, EPA published revised regulations that require CAFOs that discharge or propose to discharge must seek a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This requirement applies to all owners and operators of CAFOs that discharge or propose to discharge, regardless of the volume or duration of the discharge. The rule also clarifies that a CAFO proposes to discharge if it is designed, constructed, operated or maintained in such a way that a discharge will occur. The guidance document is available at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>.

EDUCATORS DISCUSS WATER EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLANS

NACD Stewardship and Education Coordinator Susan Schultz recently represented conservation districts recently at the National Project WET Conference in Spencer, Ind. Project WET state coordinators from around the nation gathered to participate in sessions, showcase projects and discuss upcoming new activities for the Generation II Project WET guide. The new water education guide will debut in the fall of 2011.

The importance of developing and participating in state environmental literacy plans (ELPs) was also a major topic of discussion at the conference. Visit <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=924> to review contacts for states that are working on or have completed ELPs. Additional information on developing an ELP is available at <http://www.naaee.org/selp.pdf>. Environmental literacy plans will benefit conservation districts' education outreach efforts and may allow states to receive future federal funding for conservation and environmental education programs.

To locate your state Project WET Host Institution, visit <http://www.projectwet.org>. Please contact Susan Schultz at (317) 326-2952 or stewardship@nacdnet.org for additional information.

LIVING LEGACY TREE PLANTINGS CONTINUE

NACD continues to hear from conservation districts, state associations and partners as trees are planted across the nation in remembrance of 2007 NACD President Olin Sims. A compilation of photos of the tree plantings is available at http://nacdnet.org/news/living_legacy/plantings.phtml.

If you have planted a tree remembering Olin and don't see it listed on the website, please send details and a photo to Lisa-Smith@nacdnet.org.

Thank you to the many districts and partners who participated in this effort to remember a dynamic leader.

FSA RELEASES CRP INTERIM RULE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently published an interim rule for the implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This rule is effective immediately and addresses the following provisions:

- Cropland Rotation- Restores flexibility for determining planted and considered planted credit for CRP purposes with respect to alfalfa, multi-year grasses and legumes grown in rotation with an agricultural commodity. USDA chose a 12-year rotation period.
- Eligible Land- Amends the cropping history dates to the four of the six during 2002 though 2007. Previous cropping histories were 1996-2001.
- Maximum County Acreage- Adds an additional waiver provision to allow continuous signup and CREP acreage to be excluded from the 25% maximum county acreage limit if the country government agrees.
- Acceptability of Offers- Adds "local preference" as a factor in offer acceptability.
- Pollinators- Adds a provision that allows approval of practices to encourage the development of habitat for, and use of conservation practices to benefit, native and managed pollinators.
- Permissive Uses- For new contracts replaced the term "managed grazing" with "routine grazing".

To view the complete interim rule, please visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-18473.htm>. The FSA is accepting public comments from now until September 27. To submit comments, please visit www.regulations.gov.

INTERNET

CHECK OUT YOUTUBE - MD CREP PARTNERSHIP

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tLzi4hSiv4>

DIRTY JOBS GUY SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE

Mike Rowe, the Dirty Jobs Guy was keynote speaker at the National FFA convention. His message was refreshing to those who support today's agriculture, <http://ht.ly/1IeBC>

Future Dates to Remember	
Sep. 9	Nutrient Management Workshop, Western MD RC&D, Keedysville
Sep. 15	MAEF Golf Fundraiser, Hampstead
Sep. 16	SSCC Meeting, MDA
Oct. 14-15	Secretary's Workshop, Hagerstown
Oct. 21	SSCC Meeting, MDA
Oct. 26	MASCD Board Mtg., MDA, Annapolis
Nov. 18	SSCC Meeting, MDA
Dec. 10	MACCA Exam Registration Deadline
Feb. 4	MACCA Exam (DE, VA, and WV)

TMDL AND WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

TMDL development process which includes Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) development is being led by MDE. Phase I, the WIP at a statewide scale for addressing the Bay water quality impairment is due to EPA in September. This will be followed by a public comment period. Agricultural groups need to be engaged in the process. EPA has been slow in providing jurisdictions with nutrient load allocations scheduled to be made available in July.

MDA will form agricultural workgroups similar in composition to those who developed Tributary Strategy Implementation plans for involvement during the Phase II process of addressing individual watershed plans. Currently WIP pilots are ongoing in Anne Arundel and Caroline counties. The deadline for Phase II is June, 2011 so agricultural workgroups will be active from October, 2010 – April, 2011.

Stewart asked how the Cardin/Cummings bill related to the WIP development process and TMDLs? Powell said the bill authorizes technical assistance funding for agriculture and funding to develop new BMPs. It affirms that EPA regulatory authority kicks in if there is a failure to meet nutrient goals. Steinhilber asked how the achievement of nutrient goals was measured? Powell said water quality monitoring was not the measure but meeting BMP implementation or management targets.

The federal Chesapeake Bay Strategy (170 pages) has been issued. The goal for USDA, NRCS is to implement BMPs on four million acres throughout watershed by 2025. USDA will use targeting in priority watersheds. The federal strategy also describes showcase watersheds to demonstrate agricultural efforts in each state and the development of environmental markets.

Hoot asked Horan whether the extent or magnitude of issues related to wildlife nutrient impacts and how that might affect TMDL had been explored. He said that they would need to collect information to respond.

ALGAL TURF SCRUBBERS DEMONSTRATION/TOUR

The SSCC held their May meeting at the Collier farm and toured a newly installed algal turf scrubber that was being researched and demonstrated there under the auspices of a National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant.

John Rhoderick, MDA provided introductory remarks prior to the tour and a handout about BMP demonstration and history of research projects conducted on Collier property. He thanked Colliers for their generosity and patience.

Projects demonstrated on the Collier's property include:

1. Monitoring six sites and water sampling next to water control structure in ditches to determine nutrient reductions. Results were a 30% nitrogen loss reduction
2. CEAP project site
3. Cover crop evaluation using remote sensing
4. PDA management changes including control of vegetation in ditches using weed wiper to address woody vegetation (now in use on 60 miles of PDAs in Caroline county)
5. Soil sampling to look at long term effects on soils when wetland converted to cropland

The latest project- algal turf scrubber- is the project SSCC toured. NFWF grant funding supports project. The objectives are to use a land based BMP, the algal turf scrubber, to treat water from a drainage ditch. The nutrients in the ditch water fertilize algae growth and biomass produced is harvested. Clean (filtered) water is then returned to the ditch. A secondary part of NFWF project is to reconstruct a ditch into a configuration more similar to a natural stream with an "in-ditch" floodplain feature, but this element has not been implemented.

Rhoderick introduced Dr. Pat Kangas, University of Maryland and Dr. Walter Mulberry, ARS, principal investigators for the project, who then conducted a brief tour, answered questions and led discussion.

NUTRIENT APPLICATION TO LAWNS

During review of legislation to limit phosphorus application to lawns (HB50) this year, the current rate of allowable nitrogen fertilization for turf of 4#N/1000 square feet (equivalent to state average for a corn crop) was brought to light. Investigation affirmed that the application rate is consistent with the University of Maryland guidelines.

State Soil Conservation Committee members expressed concern in April that this fertilization rate may not be reflective of current state obligations to reduce nutrient loading to local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. They requested that the University of Maryland review current turf recommendations to assure they are protective of water quality as well as agronomic plant requirements.

Dr. Tom Turner, Department of Plant Sciences & Landscape Architecture, responded in May and reaffirmed current turf nutrient recommendation rates. He explained that the higher rates listed in University of Maryland (UM) tables are for species that are not the primary grass species recommended for homeowners in Maryland. Higher rates are also used for lawn establishment. He indicated rates as currently developed by UM were suitable.

(Continued on page 4)

SSCC



Report

Information from the State Soil Conservation Committee, continued

NUTRIENT APPLICATION TO LAWNS *CONTINUED*

Dr. Steinhilber attended the SSCC meeting in June to represent the UM. She referred to several factsheets on lawn fertilization that further explained fertility management of lawns and noted they were protective of resources. In response to Giese she said the factsheets did address timing of fertilization.

Hoot still had concerns that if TMDL plans required farmers to meet "E3" levels or to do everything, everywhere for agricultural implementation including current thinking to restrict fall fertilization of winter grains, it seemed inconsistent to allow lawns to be fertilized at even the lower rate of 70#N per acre.

Hawk mentioned a concern about pristine monocultures requiring greater inputs. Dr. Steinhilber recommended that a smaller group may want to work on this issue and how to better educate homeowners. Lawrence indicated there was an urban nutrient management subcommittee that could perhaps provide information on what had been done to date and how efforts may be expanded. Yerkes noted several SCDs have published booklets on "bay-friendly" actions homeowners can take.

Cawley said the message should differentiate between a standard rate of nutrients and a more environmentally conservative rate. No action recommended by SSCC. Information related to fertilizer management and turf was presented during the Technical Committee at the MASCD Summer Meeting.

NOTES

CREP OUTREACH BOOSTED

FSA recently produced video, with financial and technical assistance from EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, promoting CREP. The video features three farmers talking about their experiences with implementing CREP practices on their land. The 5-minute video has been released to cooperating agencies and will be posted on the FSA website.

MDA and DNR are entering a cooperative agreement to utilize funding available through the USDA Forest Service to retain three regional part time people to assist SCDs with promotion of CREP. Funding will become available this summer and outreach staff will be located regionally with Area Coordinators. They will work with SCDs and local foresters and will utilize a GIS based mapping product being developed by MDA and DNR to help target agricultural landowners with parcels adjacent to streams that have less than a 35 foot vegetative buffer.

BMP-MDE DEVELOPMENT OF GP FOR STORMWATER

Certain agricultural BMPs will now require NOI if they disturb more than one acre. Several SCD and agricultural agency staff have been working with Herb Sachs to clarify the new requirement and explain the issues it creates and BMPs potentially affected. Historically, BMP implementation occurring under

the auspices of SCD oversight has been exempted from most state permit requirements. The stormwater NOI is a national permit requirement.

Steve Strano, NRCS, developed draft guidelines to help inform development of a general permit. Sachs circulated the draft which he said staff at MDE support. He committed to see the general permit through the process needed to gain approval in Maryland. He noted that even with the availability of a general permit, the result could still be increased workload for SCDs.

FAREWELLS

Bruce Yerkes, SSCC Chair will end his eight years serving on the State Soil Conservation Committee as the Area 4 Representative at the end of June, 2010. Bruce also chaired the SSCC for seven years. He noted at the June SSCC meeting that he enjoyed his time working with SSCC members and agencies and highlighted the importance of local input for making state policy. Bruce will continue to serve his county as a Cecil SCD supervisor.

Fred Samadani, Director of Nutrient Management retired on June 30 following over 21 years of dedicated service to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Fred joined MDA in 1989 and was given the task of developing the fledgling voluntary nutrient management program in Maryland. Under his guidance, Maryland farmers blazed new trails in their management of commercial fertilizer and animal waste as Fred worked diligently to bring the latest technology and advances in nutrient management to them. Following passage of the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998, which made nutrient management mandatory for farmers, Fred became the program's first director. Under his leadership, the program achieved a compliance rate of 99 percent in 2009. Although general funded positions in the state are "frozen", MDA will request permission to recruit a new Nutrient Management Director.

Dan Bard, Western MD Area Coordinator wrapped up a 30-year career at MDA on June 30, 2010. A few highlights of his long years of service include liaison work with all the western area SCDs and their Boards on local and state issues, troubleshooting data management issues and assisting for over 25 years in various iterations to coordinate the MDA and NRCS tracking systems, lending his photographic expertise to capturing BMPs and the beauty of Maryland's agricultural landscapes for various agricultural publications, web support to MASCD and participation as a key player in the Envirothon state management and policy committee. His retirement will leave a vacancy in Western MD that will be temporarily covered by existing staff.

SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS

- Gene Paul, *Allegany SCD*
- Pete Peterson, *Anne Arundel SCD*
- Leonard Ogden, *Calvert SCD*
- Jack Welch, *Charles SCD*
- Wes Messick, *Dorchester SCD*
- Charles Miller, *Kent SCD*
- George Morris, *Queen Anne's SCD*
- Robert Fitzgerald, *Somerset SCD*
- Kyle Hutchinson, *Talbot SCD*
- Fred Moore, *Wicomico SCD*

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

APRIL – JUNE 2010 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, BY JO MERCER, MDA

Nutrient Management inspectors reviewed 83 agricultural operations' NM plan implementation records. Thirty-seven citations were issued for non-compliance with the provisions of NM regulations.

Fifty-three plans prepared by NM certified consultants were inspected as were the records of 14 commercial nutrient applicators; all were found to meet regulatory requirements.

Program staff reviewed 58 NM plans as part of agricultural cost-share approval and sewage sludge permitting process.

Annual Implementation Report (AIR) submissions were recorded for 5,379 farming operations covering 1,256,913 acres. This represents 97% and 98% compliance rates, respectively. Enforcement actions for failure to submit AIRs were initiated against 476 operators. One hundred forty-eight operators were notified that fines were being levied as a consequence of not complying with NM regulations.

Twenty-one golf courses, landscape contractors and other regulated non-agricultural operations were inspected. Of those, 19 were first-time reviews and two were follow-up reviews. As a result of primary visits, nine warnings of non-compliance were issued.

MDA and UM Extension NM offered ten training programs with a combined total of 98 students.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 9

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Program will offer a one-day training course titled "Practical Experience in Nutrient Management" Thursday, September 9, from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Western Maryland Research & Education Center in Keedysville. Topics include the Web Soil Survey, perennial fruit planning, calibrating manure spreaders, the corn stalk nitrate test, the corn silage yield check, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, water quality assessment tools, and nutrient trading. The \$22 registration fee covers learning materials and lunch. Participants receive six credit hours toward the Maryland Nutrient Management Program's continuing education requirement. To register, call the Nutrient Management Program at 410-841-5959 or visit www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/nutrient_management/programs.php.

PERSONNEL NOTES

MDA BIDS FAREWELL TO...

Dan Bard, Area Coordinator, Western/Central MD
Fred Samadani, Program Manager, Nutrient Management
Rebecca Briggs, Planner, Queen Anne's SCD

NRCS WELCOMES...

Rebecca Briggs, Soil Conservationist, Queen Anne's County.
Denise Brooks, Contract Officer in the State Office, Annapolis.
Lydia Donovan was selected as the Program Assistant position in the State Office, Annapolis.
Aaron Friend, MLRA Soil Scientist, Frederick County.
 Effective July 4, 2010, **Michael Sigrist** will serve as District Conservationist for both Counties of Wicomico and Dorchester. 60-day detail assignments are currently being filled by **Adam Wyant**, Soil Conservationist for Frederick County and **Rachel Yeatman**, Soil Conservationist in Charles County. Adam is currently a Soil Conservationist for Illinois.
Odessa Armstrong will report to NRCS Maryland effective July 4, 2010 for a 60 to 90 day detail assignment as State Planning Specialist on the Resources Team. Odessa currently serves as a Soil Conservationist for South Carolina.
Leslie Burks has been selected to serve for one year as the Project Manager for the USDA People's Garden at National Headquarters.

NRCS has added a number of Student Temporary Employment summer employees. **Joseph Powell** will serve a summer appointment on the Resource Conservation team at the Maryland State Office. **Brooke Breeding** is working at the Eastern Shore RC&D Office in Easton, MD. **Jamie Kimbles** reported to serve a summer appointment with Caroline County. **Alex Engler** is serving a summer appointment with Carroll Field Service Center in Westminster. **Lateef Williams** is working at the NPMC in Beltsville for the summer.

NRCS BIDS FAREWELL TO...

Heather Foley transferred to NRCS in New Hampshire in May 2010.
Mark Rose transferred to NRCS at National Headquarters July 2010.
Wally Smith will be transferring to NRCS in Arkansas on 8/29/2010.
Eugene Skinner retired 7/2/2010.
Tim Yarab transferred to NRCS in Maine in June 2010.

HARFORD SCD SUPERVISOR LEE MCDANIEL APPOINTED TO EPA ADVISORY PANEL

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced new members of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) for its 2010-2012 term. The FRRCC is an independent committee that advises EPA on a wide range of environmental issues of importance to agriculture and rural communities. Lee McDaniel farms in Harford County and currently serves as Chairman of the Harford Soil Conservation District. Lee has served as President of MASCD and as President of the Harford County Farm Bureau. Committee members were selected from a large pool of applicants responding to a request for nominations published Nov. 6, 2009 in the Federal Register. New members include representatives from academia, industry (e.g., agriculture and allied industries), non-governmental organizations, and state, local, and tribal governments.

FRRCC members will provide useful insight to the agency -- on topics such as non-point source water pollution, agricultural air issues, and environmental markets -- as it crafts environmental policies important to agriculture and rural communities. More information on FRRCC members: <http://www.epa.gov/ocem/fircc/members.htm>

AWARDS

MASCD AWARDS

At the recent MASCD meeting, Stanley Boothe, Award Committee Chair, announced the MASCD award winners, which were presented by President Cal Steuart to the following individuals:

Outstanding Cooperator - W. Frank (Barney) Barnes, Jr., *Kent SCD*

Outstanding Employee - Sharon Calisto, *Queen Anne's SCD*

Employee Special Achievement - Craig Hartsock., *Allegheny SCD*

Outstanding Contribution by a New Supervisor - Brent Rutley,
Howard SCD

Outstanding Leadership - Charles Rice, *Charles SCD*

Outstanding Associate - Olin Davis, *Kent SCD*

Outstanding Contribution - Farm-City Committee, *Howard SCD*
Newsletter - *Montgomery SCD*

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS

Conservation Education District Award - Cecil SCD

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE AWARD

The District Attendance Award was presented to the Howard SCD by President Cal Steuart.

SUPERVISOR PINS

At the MASCD Awards banquet, President Cal Steuart presented the following individuals with service pins. He thanked each of them for their commitment to soil conservation districts.

5 Year

Rene Grossnickle, *Catoctin*
Daniel Magness, *Harford*
Leonard Ogden, *Calvert*
Nevin Garvick, *Carroll*
George Morris, *Queen Anne's*
Pam Saul, *Montgomery*
Wes Messick, *Dorchester*

10 Year

William Ewing, *Cecil*
Gregory Dell, *Carroll*
John Welch, *Charles*
Pete Peterson, *Anne Arundel*

15 Year

Frank S. Richardson, *Harford*
Franklin S. Gladhill, *Frederick*
Wade F. Butler, *Montgomery*
James Edelen, *Prince George's*

20 Year

Charles Haines, *Queen Anne's*
Edward Taylor, *Kent*

25 Year

Robert Fitzgerald, *Somerset*
Thomas D. Briscoe, *Calvert*

35 Year

Joseph K. Scott, *Washington Co.*

MIDATLANTIC FARM CREDIT OUTSTANDING DISTRICT AWARD

Keith Wills, from the MidAtlantic Farm Credit (MAFC), presented the MAFC Outstanding District Award to the following districts. Monetary awards, \$700 for 1st place; \$400 for 2nd place; and \$200 for third place, were also given.

1st Place - Cecil SCD

2nd Place - Montgomery SCD

3rd Place - Prince George's SCD

Honorable Mention - St. Mary's SCD

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

Bruce Young announced the following students as the winners of the coloring contest:

Class A (K & 1st grade): Cecilia Llamas, *Kent*

Class B (Grades 2-3): Casey Jackman, *Kent*

Class C (Grades 4-5): Sabrina Lin, *St. Mary's*

POSTER WINNERS

Mary Jane Spickler announced the following poster competition winners:

Class II (Grades 2-3): Indiyal Molock, *Dorchester*

Class III (Grades 4-6): Jose Camona, *Howard*

Class V (Grades 10-12): Allysha Williams, *Howard*

ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT AUCTION

Results of the Environmental Endowment Auction held Tuesday evening July 27th at the MASCD Annual Awards Banquet had a total of 57 items that were donated by either the Districts or individuals.

A special thank you goes out to Mike and Victoria Bailey for volunteering their time to be our guest auctioneers. Total pledges for auction items came to \$5,335.00.

Elmer Weibley, auction coordinator personally would like to thank Bruce Young, Haley Carter and Sara Lasher from St. Mary's SCD and Denise Price and Tasha Greene from Washington Co. SCD for assisting him with the auction. And of course thanks to all of the supervisors, MDA personnel and district staff that participated in the auction and bought a fine selection of items.

60 YEARS SERVICE

Vernon Foster, Baltimore County district supervisor for more than 60 years, received special recognition at the MASCD Annual meeting. He received a plaque from MASCD and a Secretary's Citation from Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Buddy Hance.

CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

The 2010 Civil Rights and Workforce Diversity award was presented to Annette Ensor at the District Conservationist meeting at the MASCD annual meeting in Solomons, MD.

She was surprised and delighted, and noted that outreach cannot be done alone.

Congratulations Annette!



AWARDS CONTINUED**MARTHA CLARK FIRST WOMAN HONORED WITH MACAA SERVICE TO AG AWARD**

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture award of the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA) had never honored a woman since it was first presented in 1974. That 36-year skein has been broken.

The MACAA award for 2010 was presented to Martha Clark of Glenelg (Howard County) at the ag agents' annual meeting recently in Ocean City.

Martha, an iconic leader in Maryland agriculture for nearly a half century, is the treasurer of Edgewood Farms, a family farm corporation, but her service to the industry has extended well beyond the farm gate. She served five years as president of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, leaving that post at the 2001 annual meeting, and 20 years as a past district supervisor at the Howard SCD, the position she relinquished in 2009 and is now serving as associate supervisor.

She has been a member of the Maryland Agricultural Commission, president of the Maryland Ag Education Foundation, a member of the Leadership Advisory Council to the Dean of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture, chairman of the Maryland Farm Bureau Women, and has had leadership roles in other organizations involving such broad interests as the dairy industry, women in ag, garden clubs, and ag economic development at the county, state, and national levels.

NACD AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

Do you know an individual, business, or organization that excels at natural resource conservation? NACD's Awards Season is now open! Submit your nomination between August 1 and September 30.

The NACD Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual within the Association who has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources. Nominees can be involved with districts or the association at any level. Past officers are also eligible.

The Friend of Conservation Award recognizes an individual, business, organization, agency, etc. outside the Association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources. Any individual, business, organization or agency that is not directly associated with conservation districts at the local, state or national level is eligible to receive this award.

For nomination forms and more information, please visit NACD's <http://www.nacdnet.org/news/awards/> between August 1 and September 30 and nominate your conservation winners!

AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR CONSERVATION LEGACY AWARD

Maryland's soil conservation districts are encouraged to submit nominations for the Northeast (which includes the Mid-Atlantic) region American Soybean Association's (ASAs) Conservation Legacy Award. Sponsored by Monsanto and *Corn & Soybean Digest*, the award was established in 2001 and is open to any U.S. soybean farmer. A panel of conservation experts, program sponsors and soybean growers will evaluate the nominees on the following criteria: 1. Cropland management practices (50 percent); 2. Farmstead protection conservation (30 percent), and 3. Environmental management (20 percent). The winners from three regions will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to the 2011 Commodity Classic on March 3 – 5, in Tampa, Florida. Email LynneHoot@aol.com (or call 410-956-5771) for an application form.

CIVIL RIGHTS**CRAC UPDATE, BY HERMAN PURNELL, MARYLAND DISABILITIES SPECIAL EMPHASIS MANAGER**

On July 7, 2010 the Worcester Soil Conservation District (WSCD), located in Snow Hill, MD on Maryland's Eastern Shore was host to the quarterly Civil Rights Advisory Committee.

The Maryland Civil Rights Advisory Committee (CRAC) was formed to assist the State Conservationist, Jon Hall, in facilitating fair and equitable treatment of USDA customers and employees in Maryland. They assist by identifying emerging issues, (recommending solutions/making suggestions), and providing NRCS employees with guidance/support to assist in the delivery of Civil Rights programs and activities. CRAC consists of 22 members including NRCS employees and partners.

After a brief business meeting, the committee and guests were invited to a lunch provided by the WSCD Board of Supervisors. After a well enjoyed lunch, they were treated to a farm visit by Worcester/Somerset DC Nelson Brice. The farm visit was made to a poultry farm owned and operated by one of our Vietnamese producers, Minh Vinh. Mr. Minh was very gracious, and explained how the tunnel ventilation worked. We were then allowed to enter one of the poultry houses, which on a 100 degree day was only 80 degrees on the inside, 20 degrees difference because of the tunnel ventilation. The house was full of baby chickens or "biddies" which allowed us to be in the house. Mr. Minh explained the day-to-day operation of the chicken operation and how everything was controlled by computer. There were quite a few members of the committee who had never seen a poultry operation. I believe the site visit was informative and educational.

CRAC meets in various locations in the state the first Wednesday of January, April, July and October. There are a few positions open on the committee, for anyone interested please contact Chair Joe Kraft at Joseph.Kraft@md.usda.gov. The next quarterly meeting will be October 6th.



Poultry farmer Minh Vinh and members of the CRAC discuss the conservation on Minh's farm

FSCAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

assessment Program is to recognize farmers who are using a suite of best management practices on their farm to eliminate any significant erosion or nutrient loss and who have been scrutinized to the same standard applied by a Maryland Department of Agriculture's regulatory inspection of their nutrient management plan to determine that they are in compliance with the Water Quality Improvement Act.

Speaking at the presentation were project sponsors Jon Hall, State Conservationist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Valerie Connelly, Director of Governmental Relations with Maryland Farm Bureau, Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Buddy Hance, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, and Don Spickler representing the local Washington County soil conservation district and MASCD.

Jon Hall discussed the role of NRCS which is serving as the technical support within the FSCAP core partnership team and assisting in the development of the Agricultural Conservation Stewardship Certification Standard.

"For 75 years, NRCS has worked with private landowners across the country to help design and implement conservation practices that meet sound technical standards. We welcome the opportunity to showcase farmers who have installed conservation practices to address natural resource concerns on their ag land," said Jon Hall, NRCS State Conservationist.

"We believe that by providing recognition for farmers who have demonstrated good stewardship we will encourage other farmers to achieve certification and participate in new conservation programs that will put more conservation on the land and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay," said Kim Coble, Maryland Executive Director of CBF. "For CBF to be part of the core team of FSCAP to recognize farmers who are as strongly committed to good stewardship like Steve and J.D. is a no-brainer," she added.

Valerie Connelly, speaking on behalf of the 30,000 farm and rural family members of Maryland Farm Bureau welcomed the new program as a way for farmers to showcase the conservation efforts they have done.

"Maryland farmers have worked diligently over the years to install best management practices on their farms to manage farm nutrients and minimize any soil loss; this program provides a tool for farmers to be recognized for their past efforts," said Connelly. "As we move into the next stage of Bay restoration activities, it is important that these past efforts be recognized and that farmers are assisted in determining if there are other opportunities for advancing conservation activities on their land."

Secretary of Agriculture, Buddy Hance discussed how the FSCAP program compliments the work of the Department by doing a comprehensive assessment of a farmer's implementation of the farm's nutrient management plan.



Steve Ernst and J. D. Rinehart proudly show their FSCAP signs

"MDA has made the decision that if a farmer becomes certified under the FSCAP program, unless there is a specific complaint, farmers who become certified will not receive an MDA inspection for three years, as long as they continue to send in timely reports," stated Hance. "I believe that this will allow MDA's enforcement staff to focus on other operations who have not been assessed," he added.

Hance expressed his support for the program as it not only provides recognition for past activities, but also provides the assessors with an opportunity to encourage producers to examine their operations to see if there are additional programs suitable for their farms. By determining the landowners eligibility for nutrient trading, encouraging farm energy audits and providing information on advanced nutrient management techniques, integrated pest management, forestry management and precision agriculture, the program encourages a farmer to seek other options. He noted that with the new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for the Bay, farmers will need to do even more to meet the two-year milestones.

The FSCAP core partners then presented signs to the two first farms to receive certification to be displayed at their farm entrances.

The first recipient was Ernst Grain and Livestock. Carlton Ernst and his son, Steve have a grain, hog and sheep farm in Clear Spring, Maryland, with approximately 500 acres of cropland. Steve Ernst spoke about the many best management practices that have been incorporated on the Ernst farm to manage nutrients and keep sediment loss to a minimum, these include: an animal waste storage structure, filter strips, cover crops, nutrient management, conservation crop rotation, residue management no-till, prescribed grazing, and riparian forest buffers. Steve noted that they have participated in the Maryland Agricultural Cost-share Program (MACS) and the federal Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Steve is currently using crimson clover as a cover crop, which as a legume fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere for the next crop.

(Continued on page 9)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

- MASCD acknowledges and supports the successful delivery of the nutrient management program by the University of Maryland Extension. Should the University of Maryland no longer be able to provide plan development services, MASCD acknowledges that SCDs can be a viable option to provide these services if provided adequate funding.

Participants at the meeting had an opportunity to meet Jeff Eisenberg, the new CEO with NACD. One of the items Jeff discussed is the new role that NACD is undertaking under contract with NRCS to serve as a liaison in the collection of BMP farm data in the Bay watershed. Their role will be to work with states as they determine their mechanism to collect data on BMPs to ensure that the data collected meets the requirement of EPA to be included in the Bay model, to be verifiable and consistent among the states. MDA intends to input new data on both cost-shared and farmer funded BMPs into Conservation Tracker. Other states may use a different collection mechanism but NACD will be working with each of the six states and EPA as the progress moves forward. NACD has a grant from NRCS to do this work and will be looking for an individual with good communication skills to work with state officials and a working knowledge of districts and BMPs.

Two of our supervisors have new national roles with NACD. Lee McDaniel and Hans Schmidt are both serving on the 2012 Farm Bill committee and added to Lee's role as NE NACD Director, he has undertaken a new role on EPA's Agricultural Advisory Panel.

Several activities have taken place that are noteworthy – MASCD announced the first two FSCAP recipients both from Washington County, Steve Ernst and J. D. Rinehart, congratulation to them both and to Washington Co. SCD. Just recently announced – although a longtime expected – NRCS has claimed the Upper Chester River Watershed as one of their three showcase watersheds. Kent and Queen Anne's soil conservation districts will be working with every landowner in the watershed to assess their status, determine any unmet needs and discuss the assistance available to landowners to encourage participation in conservation programs.

I was asked to represent MASCD in a discussion with the BayStat Sub-cabinet, which includes the secretaries of the Departments of Natural Resources, Environment, Planning and UMD Center for Estuary Studies. I served on a panel with representatives of Maryland Farm Bureau, Delmarva Poultry Industry, the Dairy Industry, and Maryland Grain Producers. We were asked to share our ideas on how the state could meet the TMDLs. I made several points, including the need to provide sufficient technical assistance, the need to enforce the laws that are already on the books – and I referenced the lack of inspectors reviewing urban development, the need for site specific, farm-by-farm planning and implementation of BMPs that address each specific problem rather than one-size-fits-all mandates. In my comments I included the opportunities for improving nutrient efficiencies, the role of Conservation Tracker to collect all BMP data, the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program and the potential role of nutrient trading.

Mark your calendars for the next MASCD Board meeting to be held at MDA, Tuesday, October 26, 2010. See you there.

VIETNAMESE WORKSHOP (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

clarify some legal issues that are confusing to everyone in the poultry business.”

The growers were given electronic voting devices after the presentation to anonymously register their opinions for a short survey. All seventeen indicated that they had a better understanding of CAFO regulations and 88 percent indicated that they intended to change some aspects of their management practices as a result of attending the workshop.

Gary Kelman, who was in attendance and heads up the section at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) responsible for permitting and inspecting compliance of CAFO and MAFO permit requirements, said, “I am impressed that outreach efforts like these answer many questions. This results in more voluntary compliance with regulations and a significant reduction of pollution to the Bay.”

“We hope we are setting a new standard for outreach and training for agricultural producers and those in allied industries who do not speak English fluently,” said R. Calvert Steuart, President of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), the lead sponsor of the event. “Issues related to agriculture are complex and it is important that everyone involved has access to accurate information and the tools they need.”

Based on the success of this workshop, sponsoring partners, MASCD, the University of Maryland Extension and MidAtlantic Farm Credit are planning a similar workshop for the substantial Korean community involved in poultry operations on the Lower Eastern Shore.

Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) provided to MASCD.

FSCAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

Next, was Rinehart Orchard. John Rinehart and his son J. D. Rinehart farm 200 acres of peaches and 300 acres of apples in their orchards in Smithsburg, Maryland. Among the best management practices carried out on the Rinehart farms are: an agrichemical handling facility, pest management, nutrient management, and conservation crop rotation. The Rinehart's have participated in the MACS program and the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). More information on their operation can be found at http://remsberg.com/soundbooks/rinehart_web/.

More information on the FSCAP certification process can be obtained at www.mascd.net or by contacting Gerald Talbert, 410-247-1973, geraldtalbert@verizon.net.

NACD APPLAUDS ADDITIONAL USDA SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

USDA recently released the final draft of a new crop insurance agreement, which yielded \$6 billion in savings. Two-thirds of the savings will go toward deficit reduction, and the remaining one-third will support high priority risk management and conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

These additional funds will increase Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage to the maximum authorized level. USDA just announced plans to hold the general sign-up for CRP, and as long as landowner interest is there, these funds will increase the sign-up from 2.9 million acres to more than 4 million acres. Over the coming year, USDA will also be able to devote some CRP acreage to targeted enrollments—such as continuous and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs—that benefit particular wildlife species, watersheds or other resources of national or regional importance.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) just published an interim rule for the implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This rule is effective immediately and addresses the following provisions:

- **Cropland Rotation-** Restores flexibility for determining planted and considered planted credit for CRP purposes with respect to alfalfa, multi-year grasses and legumes grown in rotation with an agricultural commodity. USDA chose a 12-year rotation period.
- **Eligible Land-** Amends the cropping history dates to the four of the six during 2002 through 2007. Previous cropping histories were 1996-2001
- **Maximum County Acreage-** Adds an additional waiver provision to allow continuous signup and CREP acreage to be excluded from the 25% maximum county acreage limit if the country government agrees.
- **Acceptability of Offers-** Adds “local preference” as a factor in offer acceptability.
- **Pollinators-** Adds a provision that allows approval of practices to encourage the development of habitat for, and use of conservation practices to benefit, native and managed pollinators.
- **Permissive Uses-** For new contracts replaced the term “managed grazing” with “routine grazing”.

To view the complete interim rule, please visit the [Federal Register](#). The FSA is accepting public comments from now until September 27. To submit comments, please visit www.regulations.gov

GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY TO ANNOUNCE COVER CROP ACREAGE SIGN UP

On Thursday, August 19, 2010, at the Hutchison Brothers family farm in Cordova, Talbot County, Governor Martin O'Malley will announce the largest cover crop sign-up in history. Maryland farmers stepped up to the plate to sign up for the program and districts worked diligently to get the increased workload done seamlessly. Thanks to all the staff working in the districts (and at MDA) for making it possible for Maryland farmers to show their strong stewardship ethic. This year with many fields having drought related yield losses, the cover crop program should function well to reduce nutrient losses to the Bay. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and farmers will be able to plant the cover crops.

MASCD CONGRESSIONAL VISITS

Hans Schmidt, MASCD 1st Vice-president, Queen Anne's SCD supervisor and NACD Delegate, was joined by Luis Dieguez, District Manager Charles SCD and Lynne Hoot, to visit each of Maryland's ten Congressional offices. The group met personally with Congressmen Frank Kratochvil and Roscoe Bartlett and spoke briefly with Congressman C. A. “Dutch” Ruppersberger.

The topics for discussion were—the need for additional Technical Assistance, support for 319 funding, Energy and Climate Change, Farm Bill Conservation funding and the need to maintain the definition of navigable waters under EPA's Clean Water Act authority. Obviously throughout the day there was considerable discussion about the Chesapeake Bay clean up and the role of the soil conservation districts. With some of the staff the discussion started from scratch while with the longstanding staff, the discussion quickly moved to the issues of the day. Some have heard MASCDs plea for sufficient Technical Assistance for twenty years!

The real benefit of these visits is to develop contacts, create awareness of the function of the soil conservation districts and the critical need for NRCS support as the districts federal conservation partner.

SENATE PASSES CHILD NUTRITION BILL

Before leaving for its August break, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Senator Blanche Lincoln's (D-Ark.) Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The version approved last Thursday does not include cuts to the Environmental Quality and Incentives Program (EQIP), as proposed in the original bill. Instead, the \$4.5 billion child nutrition bill is funded using a different set of offsets from the food stamp program.

Though the bill still faces some challenges, the deal brokered by Senator Lincoln provided a path forward and overcame opposition due to cuts to EQIP.

The House has not yet determined how it will pay for the \$8 billion child nutrition bill. However, there is a great deal of interest in sending a bill to the President before the current authorization expires September 30.

During their July 20, 2010 Congressional visits, MASCD representatives expressed concern about paying for the nutrition program with conservation dollars.

ENVIROTHON

STATE ENVIROTHON RESULTS

A five-member team of high school students from Venturing Crew 202 of Carroll County is the winner of the 20th annual Maryland Envirothon—an outdoor natural resources competition that challenges students to identify and categorize living resources, perform soil surveys and solve other complex natural resource issues. More than 100 challengers from 19 counties across Maryland and Baltimore City took part in this year's competition. The event was held June 24-25 at the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center in Prince George's County.

"It is great to see such a sincere interest in environmental sciences," said Secretary Buddy Hance. "With the strong leadership and scientific expertise of these students, the outlook for our natural resources and agricultural industry is indeed very bright. These outstanding youth are at the center of a smart, green and growing future for Maryland."

As winners of the Maryland Envirothon, Venturing Crew 202 of Carroll County team members Ranson Leland Baldwin VII, Rebecca Baldwin, Eric Kazyak, Reed Portney, and Kelly Habicht will represent the state at the 2010 Canon Envirothon, which will be held at California State University at Fresno, California from August 1–August 6, 2010. The students will be accompanied by teachers/advisors Paul Kazyak and Claudia Lewis. More than 50 teams from the United States and Canada are expected to compete at the national event. During the past five years, Maryland teams have consistently placed in the top 10 percent at the Canon Envirothon competitions.

The Maryland Envirothon is held once a year at an outdoor environmental education center. Students taking part in the competition study Maryland's natural resources for a year in hopes of winning. Working in teams of five with one to two alternates, students are trained and tested in four natural resource areas including soils, aquatics, forestry and wildlife plus an environmental issue that changes from year to year. This year's special environmental issue was Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning.

Each team's knowledge is tested under the supervision of foresters, soil scientists and wildlife specialists. Teamwork and problem solving skills are evaluated. The team with the highest cumulative total wins the competition and the opportunity to represent Maryland at the Canon Envirothon.

At this year's competition the Venturing Crew 202 of Carroll County team scored 452 points out of a possible 500. They were followed by teams from Montgomery County (437.50 points), Harford County (430 points), St. Mary's County (397.25), and Allegany County (383.75) points.

Members of the top three teams were awarded scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$500 through the Constellation Energy Scholarship program. In addition, winning team members received wildlife prints, Maryland Envirothon denim shirt and other prizes.

The Montgomery County team was the high scorer in the "soils" category of the competition with a score of 96 points out of a possible 100. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) presented each member of the team with a cash award of \$50. In addition, the team received a print and gift cards.

Established in 1990, the objectives of the Maryland Envirothon are twofold—to test students' environmental knowledge and understanding of state resource issues and to instill a desire to learn more about the natural world. Winning teams compete at the local, state and international levels. The first Envirothon competition was held in Pennsylvania in 1979. Since then more than 30 states, Canada and Australia have embraced the program and sent teams to the international Canon Envirothon competition.

The Maryland Envirothon is sponsored by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the State Soil Conservation Committee. Contributors and supporters include the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Garrett College, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



(Left to Right) Royden Powell – Assistant Secretary, Office of Resource Conservation, Maryland Department of Agriculture; Reed Portney; Eric Kayzak; Claudia Lewis - advisor, Kelly Habicht; Rebecca Baldwin; Ranson Leland Baldwin, VII; Frank Dawson, Assistant Secretary, Aquatic Resources, Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Paul Kazyak – advisor.

NATIONAL COMPETITION

Venturing Crew 202 of Carroll County placed 5th in the international Canon Envirothon at the California State University in Fresno held August 1 through August 6. Throughout the competition, teams were tested on their knowledge of soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. Maryland teams have consistently placed in the top 10 percent at national competitions.

EVENTS

AG EDUCATION GOLF OUTING AND FUNDRAISER SET FOR SEPTEMBER 15

The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and the Maryland Greenhouse Growers Association will sponsor their annual Agricultural Education and Scholarship Golf Fundraiser on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at the Oakmont Green Golf Club in Hampstead. Tee time is noon.

The registration fee is \$100 per person. Corporate/team sponsorships are also available. Proceeds support the education and outreach programs of the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation and the Maryland Greenhouse Grower's Association. For a registration form or more information, call 410-939-9030 or cwilliams@maefonline.com.

NEXT MASCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 26, 2010

MASCD President R. Calvert Steuart announced that the next MASCD BOD meeting will be held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. He encourages all districts to attend. If you wish to add any topic to the agenda, please let him or Lynne Hoot know, preferably before October 8, 2010 so it can be included in the agenda.



is a quarterly newsletter published for and about the members of Maryland's Conservation Partnership: MD Department of Agriculture, MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, MD Cooperative Extension, and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The deadline for articles is January 30, April 30, July 30 and October 30. Please direct comments or questions to the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts at 410-956-5771.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-5964 (TDD). Agencies in the MD Conservation Partnership are equal employment opportunity employers.

MASCD
53 Slama Road
Edgewater, MD 21037-1423
410-956-5771, www.mascd.net



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