

# TIDEWATER

## Resource Conservation and Development Council

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Representing the counties of  
Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews,  
Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**VISION: Prosperous Communities in Harmony with the Environment**

**MISSION: Helping to building an economically diverse and ecologically sound region**

***MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON***

Tidewater RC&D Council strives to support the citizens and organizations in the ten counties of the Tidewater Region to accomplish projects that help preserve our natural renewable resources and sustain our unique identity. Through our partnerships with local, state and federal agencies as well as private groups, businesses and non-profit groups we have contributed to the development of the Northern Neck Farm Museum, annual Down on the Farm Tours, forestry classes, and educational offerings about the natural resources of the area. This year we completed a major project to increase citizen water quality monitors. We also initiated several new projects that look at the feasibility of alternative fuels and the promotion of agricultural tourism through rural festivals.

Our annual report shows that our projects reflect our concerns with how the natural and renewable resources are used to sustain the people in our communities. Please make sure you check our exciting new web site: [www.tidewaterrcd.org](http://www.tidewaterrcd.org) and see if there is a way for you to become more involved with the RC&D Council in a project that benefits the region.

Sincerely,

Steve Pope  
Chairperson

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove



Over 1800 people enjoyed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine and Arts Festival by listening to music, tasting local food and wines and viewing the amazing art. The variety of styles presented by the 65 artists ranged from oil paintings, to multimedia works, jewelry, herbs, weaving, sculpture and much more. Horse carriage and mule wagon rides provided a nostalgic view of the farm as it was

seen 100 years ago. By providing wine tastings, the six Virginia wineries encouraged visitors to buy locally. Money was raised for a number of worthy causes. The silent auction raised \$1,600 for the Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad. Project partners included Gloucester County Parks Recreation and Tourism, Mattaponi Pamunkey Rivers Association, Cooperative Extension and the MP Business Partnership plus non-profits such as the Rotary.



### Sustainable Development Awards

To provide recognition for businesses with outstanding achievement in economic development and environmental protection and to increase the public's awareness of their efforts, Tidewater RC&D hosts this bi-annual awards program. Nominations were solicited from the county governments, chambers of commerce and special interest groups for companies that meet the criteria of sustainable development. The four criteria that are considered are Indigenous Resources, Business Impact, Positive Environmental Impact, and Contributions to the Community. The following were selected for recognition:

- **Pioneering Efforts in Oyster Aquaculture**
  - Lake Cowart of Cowart Seafood Corporation, Lottsburg
  - Ronnie Bevans of Bevans Oyster Company, Inc., Kinsale
- **Micro-Enterprise**, Chris Lamb of Lamb Exterminating, Hayes
- **Innovative Renewable Resource Industry**, Dennis Soulik of Virginia Bio-diesel Refinery, Eltham, VA

- **Exploring Organic Alternatives**, Todd and Kathy Henley, of Hillsborough Farm, Walkerton VA
  - **Environmental Quality Business Renovation**, Joe Heyman and Martha Heric of Crown Pointe Marina, Hayes, Virginia
- Renewable Resource Industry**, Hardy Ball, Ball Lumber, Millers Tavern