

# AGRICULTURE

## Northern Neck Farm Museum Luther Welch Agriculture Center



The mission of the Northern Neck Farm Museum is to tell the story of the regions' agricultural heritage. A detailed model of the proposed Northern Neck Farm Museum was presented at the Rice's Hotel/ Hughlett's Tavern Farmer's Market by Bob Butler, a master model builder. Through the generosity of the community, members and donors, the first

building of the museum began construction in June. In the long term plan, this building will be for large equipment. In the short term, the museum can begin to develop the first exhibits and to host special events on site within the next year. The museum membership brochure and a case statement folder were developed and the first Annual Meeting was hosted. Over \$ 100,000 has been received from private and corporate donations as well as \$ 7,500 from the Virginia Legislation has been appropriated.



Farm Museum Under Construction

The Northern Neck Planning District Commission has become a sponsor by donating in-kind services.

## Down on the Farm – Northern Neck

Down on the Farm, on May 12, 2007 was a community tour of farming, fishing and forestry activities. The event provided a fun family day for over 200 visitors who learned about the value of renewable natural resource industries and their impacts on the community. Bearcroft Farms, owned by Monte and Peggy Swann, offered tours of a modern 1560 acre corn, wheat, barley and soybean farm. They use the latest in equipment and techniques, including satellite guidance and environmental best management practices. Hay wagon rides provided the opportunity for forestry and



wildlife interpretation. In addition, featured exhibits were presented by the Master Gardeners, a charcoal making business, portable sawmill, Virginia

Forestry Extension, the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District and the Boy Scouts provided lunch.



Cowart Seafood Corporation, located on the Coan River, is a vertically integrated oyster growing and processing company that shucks and packs fresh and frozen oysters year round. Mr. Lake Cowart, owner, lead each of the group tours through the facility which included both the processing and chilling plant and the aquaculture facility. Tidewater Oyster Gardeners demonstrated to visitors how oysters can be grown by individual homeowners and

Cooperative Extension featured an exhibit on food safety. This event is hosted by Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District, Northern Neck Tourism Council, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other partnering businesses.

### **Farm Safety Camp 2006**

To increased children's knowledge about using safe techniques when working or playing around farms or in rural areas, Tidewater RC&D supported Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District in hosting Progressive Farmer's Farm Safety Camp. The RC&D recruited and trained 5 adult leaders and 5 youth leaders to provide supervision and guidance to the groups of children. Over fifty children and 25 adults learned about safety in rural areas from lawn movers to grain bins and pesticides. The registration fee and donations provided the funding for the project.

## Partners and Contributors in 2007

- Alliance for Chesapeake Bay
- Bearcroft Farms
- Stan Caruso
- Cimeron Forestry
- Clear Water Forestry
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Cooperative Extension Forestry Service
- Cooperative Community Viability Program
- Cowart Seafood, Inc.
- Department of Forestry
- Essex County
- Fort Mattaponi
- Gloucester County Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Kauffman Center
- Locust Grove Farm
- Middle Peninsula Economic Development Partnership
- Middle Peninsula PDC
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NOAA-Coastal Programs
- Northern Neck Economic Development Partnership
- Northern Neck PDC
- Northern Neck Tourism Council
- Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District
- Smurfit Stone, Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- Three Rivers Forestry
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Virginia Tech Landowners Education Program
- Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Virginia State University
- Paul Verbyla
- Carter Welford
- Westmoreland State Park
- West Point Veneeri

## Volunteer Water Quality Monitors

*Dale Collins, Hugh Markham, Josie Wold*

### VOLUNTEERS

*Ware Academy, Bill Heck, Helen Tyrrell, Don Tyrrell*

## Project Status Report

<b>New Projects Approved</b>		<b>Projects Completed</b>	
165	Forestry and Wildlife Tour	153	Down on the Farm NN - 2006
166	Gloucester Point Beach Planting	165	Forestry and Wildlife Tour
167	Bridging the River Celebration	166	Gloucester Point Beach Planting
168	Passing Land to the Next Generation	168	Passing Land to the Next Generation
169	Wine & Art Festival	169	Wine & Art Festival
170	Sustainable Development Awards	170	Sustainable Development Awards
			Forestry Short Course

## ***Tidewater RC&D Council Members for 2006***

### **Officers:**

Chairperson Steve Pope  
Vice Chairperson Robert Mallory  
Secretary/Treasurer Jerry W. Davis  
Immediate Past Chairperson Margaret "Prue" Davis  
Council Member Emeritus John Barber

### **At-large Council Members**

Jean Adams  
Clifford Dixon  
William Saunders

### **Planning District Commissions**

Jerry W. Davis, Northern Neck  
Dr. Maurice "Mo" Lynch, Middle Peninsula

### **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Jimmy Blake and Carter Borden, Tidewater  
Dayle Collins, Northern Neck  
Dawn Shank, Three Rivers

### **Counties**

Lynn Brownley, Westmoreland County  
Margaret "Prue" Davis, Essex County  
Jack Larson, Lancaster County  
Charles A. LeFon, King William County  
Robert Mallory, Richmond County  
John D. "Jack" Miller, Middlesex County  
Steve Pope, Mathews County  
Carol E. Steele, Gloucester County  
Luttrell Tadlock, Northumberland County  
John H. "Jerry" Walker, King & Queen County

### **Staff:**

*RC&D Coordinator from USDA/NRCS – Patricia H. Tyrrell*  
*Administrative Assistant from USDA/NRCS – Helen Heck*  
*RC&D Forester with Virginia Department of Forestry – Anna Cahoon*

**Tidewater Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.  
Financial Report, July 2006 through June 2007**

The Council has an operating budget of approximately \$6,000 which is funded through memberships of RC&D county sponsors. The projects that are completed are funded through a variety of grants and fundraising activities.

Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 2006

Total Revenues	\$ 37,720	Net Assets	\$ 23,009
Total Expenses	\$ 57,653		

Tidewater RC&D Council filed an Internal Revenue Service Form 990 as a statement of their financial activity in fiscal year 2006.

Tidewater RC&D Council is authorized by the U S Department of Agriculture and received approximately \$129,476 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Tidewater RC&D Council, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider who receives technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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