

# 5th Annual Upper Occoquan River Cleanup



Experienced Kayaker/ Canoeist/Jon Boater <b>Volunteers Needed!</b>	Saturday, <b>April 12</b> , 2014 9am – 2pm ( <b>Rain date:</b> Saturday, April 26, 2014)	Please pre-register at <a href="http://www.pwtsc.org">www.pwtsc.org</a> or e-mail <a href="mailto:efdandar@comcast.net">efdandar@comcast.net</a> or call (703) 791-6158 for more info.
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There will be several put-in/take-out points from Cedar Run/Broad Run to Lake Jackson then from below Lake Jackson Dam to Hooes Run.


**\*YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP**  
**JULY 13-19, 2014 at Virginia Tech**  
Two scholarships (\$500.00 value each) are now available to attend Youth Conservation Camp (Grades 9 - 12) at Virginia Tech. If selected for this scholarship, you pay only \$50.00 for the entire week!



**\*Completed applications** are due on **Thursday, April 24, 2014.**

**\*College Scholarship in the field of Natural Resources/Conservation \$1,000**  
sponsored by VA Assn. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation  
Prince William County residents must apply through PWSWCD.

**\*Completed application due by Thursday, March 13, 2014.**



**Save the Date for the upcoming Pasture Walk!**  
**Friday, May 16th from 2-5pm at the Model Horse Farm in Gainesville, VA**  
Agenda: weed/grass identification, a tour of the farm, pasture advice from specialists, etc.  
Please see [www.pwswcd.org](http://www.pwswcd.org) or our April newsletter for more info.



\*Please Visit: [www.pwswcd.org/news-events](http://www.pwswcd.org/news-events) for information and application.

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation.

If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list or would prefer to receive it by e-mail, call 571-379-7514, or email [pwswcd@pwswcd.org](mailto:pwswcd@pwswcd.org).

Electronic Address Service Requested

8850 Rixlew Lane  
Manassas, VA 20109



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# Conservation InFARMatIon



The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance information and education.

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## The Pollution Solution....Bottom line, it's up to us!

It seems the more we learn about the state of our natural resources, the more we become concerned. There is not much good news. All of our waterways in Prince William County are polluted. In order to find attainable solutions for this overwhelming problem, we must first analyze the sources.

“Point Source Pollution” refers to pollution from a single place, for example, an outfall from the storm sewer system or treatment plant, a factory discharging into a waterway, livestock in the waterway.





“Non-point source pollution” refers to pollution of an unknown place. This is a much fuzzier area. Prime contributors are:

- Construction sites—runoff from bare soils and lack of proper erosion & sediment control measures
- Land managers—excess/improper use of chemicals on lawns, crops, golf courses, parks, commercial sites
- Animals/wildlife/pets

Bacterial source tracking data shows that most of the bacteria in our streams are attributed to wildlife (approximately 60%) and pets (20%) Though there is not much we can do about wildlife, there is plenty we can do about pets and livestock!

The continual development of our community impacts the watershed as impervious surfaces (such as roads, buildings, roof tops and parking lots) increase, greater volumes of water, at greater velocities, put increased stress on our streams. This, in turn, causes more sediment to be dislodged from stream banks and transported during storm events.



As a result of erosion, soil loses its capability to do its job. Soil is like a giant sponge, storing water and preventing flooding. This results in soil being an efficient cleansing agent; it absorbs pollutants from the water & air before it gets to our waterways. Soil makes a substantial contribution to biodiversity, and is essentially a non-renewable resource.

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Did you know? Federal emissions standards for lawn mowers in 2012 are: in one hour a gasoline push mower may produce as much hydrocarbons + nitrogen oxides as a car driven 160 miles. How is that for a shocker? Does it make you want a rotary mower?



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**Conservation Aide Interns:**

Chris Lund  
 Sarah Auvenshine

If you would like to join our **mailing list**, e-mail [pwsacd@pwsacd.org](mailto:pwsacd@pwsacd.org), or visit our website at [www.pwsacd.org](http://www.pwsacd.org) (left hand column). Future newsletters may only be delivered electronically to save paper and be more environmentally conservative.

For our events calendar and board meeting dates visit: [www.pwsacd.org/calendar.html](http://www.pwsacd.org/calendar.html) (board meetings are open to the public).

*PWSACD is a non-regulatory agency funded by Prince William County Public Works and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.*

**The Pollution Solution....Bottom line, it's up to us!** *Continued from Page 1*

"Illicit Discharge" is any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer, or stormwater conveyance, that is not entirely composed of stormwater. Storm sewers drain directly into our waterways that eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay. There is no filtering or treatment of material that enters a storm sewer. Most instances of illegal dumping have been found at shopping centers and industrial complexes. The County concentrates on "hot spots." These typically include commercial car washes, pet kennels, restaurants, car dealerships, and areas with a history of discharges or citizen complaints.



*Remember, nothing but rain down the drain!*

**Agricultural land is where we come in to play**

Our mission is to provide technical assistance in all aspects of agriculture production to protect our natural resources through Conservation Plans and Cost Share Best Management Practices. Through the implementation of these land management conservation measures, we address all aspects of farmland management, such as, waterway protection, crops, pasture and manure management, unprotected stream crossings, fertilizer and soil amendments, and pest management.

**What can we do individually to improve our environment?**

- Recycle, reuse, repurpose everything
- Maintain lawns responsibly, with regards to watering and fertilizing
- Pick up pet waste and dispose properly
- Use household/outdoor chemicals sparingly, at the proper time, and according to label directions
- \*Dispose of drugs/medications appropriately

\*Residue from prescription drugs and medication flushed down the toilet are appearing in our drinking water, which cannot all be filtered out at the sewage treatment plant. The proper disposal of drugs/medications and sharps (needles) is to take them to the landfill and put them in the container at the kiosk, marked "medical waste" or put them in a container in your trash.

It will take great diligence by every person to curb the influx of pollutants in our waterways. By doing simple tasks in an environmentally responsible manner we, collectively, can make a great difference. We all have the responsibility to use environmentally sound methods in order to not be a part of the problem, but be a part of the solution.

We're here to help! Call us!

*Jeannie Heflin, Office Manager*

*For information on **reporting water quality issues**, visit our website [www.pwsacd.org](http://www.pwsacd.org) and click on **homeowners** and look for **Citizen's Action Directory for Water Quality**.*

**How Well is Your Well Water?**



If you have a private water source, such as a well, spring, or cistern, YOU are responsible for the safety of your family's water quality and the maintenance of your supply system! **The Virginia Master Well Owner Network** is a group of trained, dedicated Virginia Cooperative Extension educator/agents and volunteers who have completed training about protecting and maintaining private water systems such as wells, springs and cisterns, and about water conservation, testing, and treatment. With members across the state, this network is designed to provide practical information to private water system owners like you.

The **Virginia Household Water Quality Program** provides education and outreach about private water supply systems to the citizens of Virginia. Through county-based drinking water clinics facilitated by local extension agents (assisted by Master Well Owner volunteers), participants have the opportunity to learn about maintenance and protection of their private drinking water systems, water testing and sampling procedures, and potential water quality threats. As part of these clinics, citizens take samples of their own drinking water, which are sent to a certified lab for chemical and bacteriological analysis. In a follow-up meeting, the results and possible treatment options will be explained clearly to participants. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Virginia Cooperative Extension - Prince William staff and local Master Well Owner volunteers are offering a drinking water clinic locally this spring.



**Drinking Water Clinic**

**Kick-off Meeting: March 31, 7 - 8:30 pm**, 9248 Lee Avenue, Old Courthouse, Manassas

**\*Sample Drop-off: April 2, 6:30-10 am, Extension Office, 8033 Ashton, Suite 105, Manassas, 20109**

**Results Interpretation Meeting: May 12, 7 - 8:30 pm**, 9248 Lee Avenue, Old Courthouse, Manassas

**\* Please note that Water Samples MUST be dropped off on April 2nd between 6:30 am and 10 am at the VCE - Prince William Office, 8033 Ashton, Suite 105, Manassas, 20109**

**How much does it cost? \$49 NO CASH PLEASE - CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY! Fee will be collected at the KICK OFF MEETING 3/31/14.**

*To register for this class or for more information, please contact 703-792-7747 or [master\\_gardener@pwcgov.org](mailto:master_gardener@pwcgov.org). For more information on this statewide program go to [www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/clinics](http://www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/clinics)*

*If you are a person with a disability and require any auxiliary aids, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these workshops, please notify Virginia Cooperative Extension at 703-792-6285/TDD PC 1-800-828-1120.*

**Conservation Aide Spotlight**



Sarah Auvenshine joined us on November 19 to volunteer as a Conservation Aide. Sarah holds a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering with Water Resources focus from Kansas State University and is currently working on her dissertation for a PhD. Sarah worked as a railroad engineer for many years before focusing on water resources engineering. Sarah and her family moved to the area from Kansas this past summer. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys nature walks with her husband and two young children, knitting sweaters, and playing in the Prince William Community Band.

Sarah is working closely with our conservation staff getting "boots-on-the-ground" experience with agricultural operations, writing plans, and designing best management practices. We welcome Sarah and hope she will enjoy getting to know our clients and partners.