

Inspiring personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources



8850 Rixlew Lane
Manassas, VA 20109-3733
571.379.7514
www.pswxcd.org

Annual Report
July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012



Stoney Lonesome Farm CSA, Gainesville

"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."

—Wendell Berry



Cooperator Paul House
Kettlewind Farm



Cooperator Tom House's
Dutchland Farm

Our mission:

To provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance, information, and education.

Board of Directors



Steve Danziger
Chairman



Austin Haynes
Vice Chairman



Paige Thacker
Director

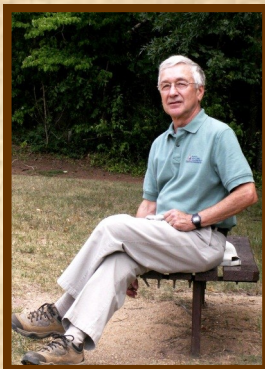


John Pickeral Jr
Secretary



Jim Gehlsen
Treasurer

Associate Directors



Pete Shiner



Deb Oliver



Cindy Patterson



E. Bruce Holley



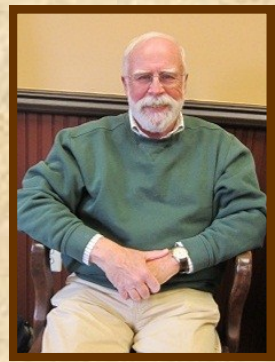
Kate Danziger



Elizabeth Ward



Kit Wallace



Harry Glasgow

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

- Margaret Mead

Staff



Jay Yankey
District Manager



Jeannie Heflin
Office Manager



Nicole Ethier
Conservation Specialist



Kelly Jimenez
Outreach & Education
Specialist



Laurie Raines
Education Specialist



Cleve Benton
Conservation Planner
May thru June



Nate Dorsey
Conservation Planner
mid-March thru April



Thomas Bolles
Conservation Planner
October to mid-March

Volunteers



Nate Dorsey
Conservation Aide
December to March

Farm Field Days volunteer organizations: Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Stone-wall Jackson High School Ecology Club, PW/Fairfax Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Prince William Beekeepers, PWC Stormwater Mgmt. Branch staff, and John Marshall SWCD

Education Events volunteers: Eden Potter, Kendall Billbrey, and Don Taylor.

Our thanks to each and everyone for supporting our mission of natural resources conservation for the citizens of Prince William County!



Holly Shupe
Conservation Aide
July to October

"There can be no doubt that a society rooted in the soil is more stable than one rooted in pavements."

- Aldo Leopold

About our county



According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture for Prince William County (latest census available), there are 32,816 acres of farmland in the county, approximately 15% of the total acres. This represents a 1% increase in farmland over the 2002 census. The average size of farms is 95 acres. The market value of products sold is \$9,429,000. Farmland is mainly located in three districts; Brentsville, Gainesville and Coles.

What is the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District?

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District encompasses all of Prince William County. Our mission 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. The District accomplishes this mission by administering the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program in the county and developing and administering educational programs to youth and adults. The District plays a role in the larger objective of improving water quality not only in local watersheds, but also in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds.

Nationally—Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts - almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.

More than 17,000 volunteers serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. They work directly with more than 2.3 million cooperating land managers nationwide, and their efforts touch more than 778 million acres of private land.

- Among other things, conservation districts help:
implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- protect groundwater resources;
- assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction; and
- reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

Awards

The editor of the Annual Reports regrets the omission of the 2010 award winners in the 2011 Annual Report due to the confusion of fiscal year, calendar year and the award year.

Clean Water Farm Award



Mulberry Farm pond



Don York Mulberry Farm



Don York poses in front of
the "Hen House"

Don York, Mulberry Farm, was awarded the Department of Conservation & Recreation Clean Water Farm Award for 2010. Mr. York's primary goal was to provide his cattle a healthy environment and plenty of green pastures.

The cattle are used for the western sport known as "cutting." People from all over the country come to Mulberry Farm to participate in cutting tournaments, where the horse and rider have to separate one cow from the herd. Even though Mr. York has owned the property for only a couple of years, his shows have drawn in large crowds. The cattle for the cutting competitions are all female, and all are angus or angus-cross. No growth hormones are used, and they have a medical examination every day. "Our cows are very healthy," says Mr. York. "It is very important we take good care of our animals." An acquaintance of Mr. York's quipped, "If I die and come back as a cow, I'd like to be raised on Don York's farm."

Mr. York provides two \$1,000 scholarships for the National Cutting Horse Association. He is also interested in providing tours to school groups.

Watershed: PL-40 Cedar Run-Slate Run

Farm acreage: 40 acres total: 12.8 acres of pasture, 6.8 acres of hay, 4.7 acres of wetland, 15.7 acres not utilized at this time

Mr. York adopted Best Management Practices (BMPs). All practices are used to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil and pasture quality, and increase water infiltration.

Conservation techniques adopted on pastures:

- Rotational grazing for managing and reducing erosion and keeping the pastures green
- Sacrifice Areas (covered barns) for cattle to maintain 100% ground cover on pastures
- Excluded livestock access to streams, pond, and wetlands by creating a 35'+ fenced buffer. Livestock stay in the open barns when not on the fields; the barns are their sacrifice areas
- High traffic areas are protected by gravel to reduce erosion

Awards

The editor of the Annual Reports regrets the omission of the 2010 award winners in the 2011 Annual Report due to the confusion of fiscal year, calendar year and the award year.



*Ducks Unlimited
Conservationist of the Year
awarded to the
Friends of the Occoquan*



The Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District nominated The Friends of the Occoquan for the 2010 Ducks Unlimited "Conservationist of the Year" Award.

The Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) is a non-profit organization that was formed in October 1999. The organization consists of local citizens whose mission is to preserve and maintain the natural integrity of the Occoquan River and other Virginia watersheds by promoting community awareness through public and private partnerships.

FOTO has consistently energized individuals, community and business groups to take on the challenge of keeping Northern Virginia's reservoirs clean, by educating and coordinating events to remove as well as control man made pollution. Throughout the past decade, this message was conveyed to schools, civic groups and community organizations, as well as local and federal government agencies. Over the past ten years, FOTO has consistently worked to coordinate watershed management efforts and programs including the semi-annual fall and spring cleanups, watershed education, activities at Prince William County Public Schools, participating in regional watershed taskforces, and the development of public service announcements. These efforts are very significant since the Occoquan Reservoir is a major source of our drinking water here in Northern Virginia.

As part of FOTO's outreach efforts, the organization has successfully engaged the public through various programs. One successful program is to connect with the Spanish speaking community of Northern Virginia to become stakeholders of our watersheds and become active in maintaining clean and safe rivers. As part of this effort, FOTO has installed bilingual signs, videos, literature and some television programs.

Altogether, the Friends of the Occoquan have played a major role in preserving one of the region's most important natural resources, the Occoquan Watershed. FOTO's perseverance and dedication to the environment has been sustained through the efforts of its volunteers and members as well as the strong bond it has developed with local groups and organizations that share the same passion.

Congratulations to the members of the Friends of the Occoquan! Thank you for your passion for protecting our natural resources.

How we served our agricultural community

Prince William County deliverables:

Nutrient Reductions for writing 43 new conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres		N	P
1,364 pounds	92 pounds	1,307	PL32	17.61	3.00
			PL33	394.58	48.03
			PL34	156.96	16.71
			PL38	699.88	21.44

Nutrient Reductions for writing 29 revised conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres		N	P
411 pounds	59 pounds	1,064	PL40	394.99	42.11
			PL42	81.49	12.70
			PL43	29.64	6.81

We partner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation under grant agreements to provide technical assistance in designing and installing Best Management Practices for natural resources conservation. Under these agreements for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Cost-Share Program we have given technical assistance with the following- **DCR Cost-Share Best Management Practices (BMPs)** installed on 4,216 acres in production, providing nutrient and sediment reductions:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
12,804 pounds	688 pounds	4,098

Best Management Practice	Acres	Watershed
Stream Exclusion	19.4	PL34
Nitrogen Sidedress application on corn	426.1	PL34
Organic Nutrient application to corn using PSNT	117.1	PL34
Harvestable Cover Crop	103.5	PL34
Stream Exclusion	2.5	PL33
Stream Exclusion	.6	PL33
Stream Exclusion	34.7	PL33
Nutrient Management Plan	1,133.5	PL33
Nutrient Management Plan	2,255	PL33
Sod Waterway	6	PL33

Total Reductions BMPs & Plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
14,579 pounds	839 pounds	6,469

\$48,613 in State Cost-Share Funds was disbursed in FY 12. Five projects are carried over for completion by December 31, 2012 representing additional disbursements of \$120,938.

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."
-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Erosion and Sediment Control Program

The District provides assistance to cities and towns within Prince William County to facilitate compliance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) law. We have been serving the Town of Haymarket with ESC plan review and inspections for site disturbance in construction under the current Memorandum of Understanding for seven years.

The Town of Haymarket had three ongoing projects which carried over from FY 2011. Alexandra's Keep, located at Bleight Drive and Washington Street, is 12 units of town homes. Sherwood Forest, located on Fayette Street north of Washington Street, is 29 units of town homes. The Piedmont Tire and Auto renovation, on the west end of town, was completed in the fall of 2011.



There were no new projects in FY 2012 for the Town of Haymarket.

We also provide technical assistance to PWC Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Branch, and Zoning Departments for site disturbance on agricultural lands.

Farm Tours

Wild Western PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FARM TOUR



EXTREME MAKEOVER: HORSE FARM EDITION September, 2011- Meet four of the luckiest horses in Prince William County while enjoying the amazing environmentally-friendly results that have been accomplished by the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District with the cooperation of Oakwood Farm owner, Edith Kennedy, and many project partners through a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Chesapeake Bay-Friendly Horse Farm project changed an environmentally un-friendly horse farm into a "model" horse farm, right here in Prince William County. Featuring the "before" and "after" results of innovative, chore efficient, best management practices that address manure, mud, and pasture issues while protecting streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Youngsters played "Healthy Water Hopscotch" to learn more about what you can do to help the Chesapeake Bay, and crawled through a "soil tunnel" while learning fun facts about soil.

Chesapeake Bay~Friendly Horse Farm Seminar/Tour, Oakwood Farm, April 2012



Keynote Speaker: Jane Myers from Australia,
Recipient of the Winston Churchill Fellowship (2011) Grant,
Author of : Managing Horses on Small Properties and
Small Horse Properties—A Management Guide

Hot topic presentations:

Horse grazing behavior	Horses and pasture management
Manure management	Mud management through vegetation
Chore-efficient and effective property planning	

Adopt-A-Stream

Stream cleanups by watershed:

Watershed	# volunteers	miles cleaned	pounds of trash
PL33: Kettle Run	18	2.0	128
PL34: Broad Run- Rocky Branch	65	3.5	2,480
PL40: Cedar Run- Slate Run	17	.5	45
PL41: Occoquan River- Occoquan Reservoir-Lake Jackson	151	26.25	7,090
PL43: Little Bull Run	3	1.0	5
PL44: Middle Bull Run	13	.5	175
PL46: Lower Bull Run	40	1.75	632
PL48: Occoquan River- Belmont Bay	251	6.75	2,587
PL49: Neabsco Creek	150	3.75	5,070
PL50: Potomac River- Occoquan Bay	123	2.5	20,395
PL51: Powell's Creek	22	5.25	1,655
PL53: Chopawamsic Creek	98	1.25	75
PL54: Potomac River	9	1.0	50
Total	960	55.0	40,387

Magisterial District-pounds of trash removed in FY 2012:

Brentsville 3,213, Coles 7,090, Dumfries 1,100, Gainesville 180, Neabsco 1,886, Occoquan 2,587, City of Manassas 72, Potomac 630, Woodbridge 23,629

A HUGE thanks to all the stream stewards who participated in stream cleanups. You made 40,387 pounds of trash difference in our community! Great job!!!!!!

Marumsco Creek cleanups—November & March



Orange bags are trash
Blue bags are recyclables

Occoquan River Cleanup



66 tires removed at Riverview HOA



Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Science Education Programs offered in FY 2012

CLASSROOM PRESENTED (CP)

Classroom Presented Programs (CP): All classroom presented programs are 45-60 minutes.

Build an Ecosystem	2nd Grade
Field Experiences	K-5
Plant Anatomy	4th
Soils	3rd Grade
Watershed Enviroscope Model	K - Adult
Weathering and Erosion	2nd & 5th Grades
Who Polluted the Bay?	K & 1st Grade

Our Conservation Library includes the following Conservation Capsules. Each Capsule comes with a lesson plan and is full of resources, books, videos, and/or handouts to use to round out classroom curriculum. Conservation Capsules may be borrowed for up to one week .

CONSERVATION CAPSULES (CC)

Conservation Capsules To-Go (CC):

A Drop in the Bucket	6th Grade & up
Build an Ecosystem	2nd Grade
Get Outside	K-5
Incredible Journey	3rd Grade
Introduction to Natural Resources	1st Grade
Land Beneath Your Feet	9th Grade
Plant Anatomy & Non-Vascular Plants	4th & 5th Grades
Plants of the Powhatan	2nd & 4th Grades
Regions of Virginia	4th Grade
Soils	3rd Grade
Sum of the Parts	4th Grade
Tree Talk	1st Grade
Virginia Natural Resources	4th Grade
Water Cycle	2nd Grade
Watershed Enviroscope Model	K - Adult
Weathering and Erosion	2nd & 5th Grades
Who Polluted the Bay?	K & 1st Grade

Education

How we served to educate our citizens about natural resources conservation

Prince William County deliverables for our education program:

Youth in Conservation Programs: (listing of programs offered is on previous page)

Students served—target 12,500 students achievement 10,289

Farm Field Days

Students attending—target 1,600 achievement 1,629

Adult-centered Education:

Citizen Stream Education:

Girl Scout Adventure Day @ PWC Fairgrounds—287 attendees

Potomac River Wildlife Refuge Fall Festival—66 attendees

Community Events/Seminars:

Agriculture Options for the Small Landowner—50 attendees

Friends of the Potomac River Refuge—59 attendees

Farm Tour at Oakwood Farm demonstration of our Chesapeake Bay~Friendly

Horse Farm—59 attendees

Chesapeake Bay~Friendly Horse Farm CDCTA Tour—2 attendees from PWC

PWC Fair, erosion tables, worms—100 attendees

Woods and Wildlife Conference—16 attendees

Youth Ambassador's Conference—40 attendees

Nokesville Tack Swap—20 attendees

Horse Management Workshop: Horsekeeping Tips from "Down Under" -
25 attendees

German Delegation tour at Oakwood Farm—32 attendees

Conservation Articles Published:

August-*Chesapeake Bay~Friendly Horse Farm*, in Clifton Horse Society
newsletter

December-*More Changes in the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation*
District, in Nokesville Horse Society newsletter

January-*District changes*, Bull Run Observer

February-*Environmentally Friendly Horse Farms*, Virginia Horse Journal

March-*Occoquan River Cleanup*, Bull Run Observer

May-*What a Haul! Tons of trash pulled from Occoquan during spring*
cleanup, Bull Run Observer

May-*Innovative Farmer Tapped for Soil and Water Board* Bull Run Observer

"But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

- Dr Seuss

HOORAY FOR FARM FIELD DAYS!



They all love the animals.
Thanks to their owners
for sharing.



How much horse power
can the 4th graders
muster? We know!



And they all say "hooray for
Farm Field Days!"



Hats off to our faithful
volunteers: Farm Bureau
Women's Committee,
Master Gardeners, John
Marshall SWCD, PWC
Public Works, PW Beekeep-
ers, GMU students, our
cooperators, local farmers,
educators, and many
individuals. **We can't
do it without EWE!**



The Farm Bureau Women's
Committee members teach the
structure of corn and GMU
students lead the A-maize-ing
Corn Hunt.



The PWC Beekeepers talk
about the importance of bees
as pollinators.

Words are inadequate to describe the dedication and
generosity of all 145 volunteers who selflessly gave their
time and energy to 1,629 of our youth.
(No wonder you were exhausted at the end of the day!)

Our most grateful thanks to each
and every one of you!

1,629	4th grade students
73	teachers
13	PWC schools
3	City of Manassas schools
2	Title 1 schools
48	high school student volunteers
3	high school teacher volunteers



"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

— Theodore Roosevelt

HOORAY FOR ARBOR DAY!



*Poet's Tree
Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me,
And watch the way the word-web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.
The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and dream, or come and climb-
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.
-Shel Silverstein*

Tree Festivals were held for 2nd grade at:

School	# students
T. Clay Wood ES	210
Bennett ES	100
Tyler ES	125
King ES	100
Featherstone ES	<u>100</u>
	635

Arbor Day ceremonies were held at:

School	# students	grade
T. Clay Wood ES	240	2nd & 5th
Bennett ES	100	2nd
Tyler ES	125	2nd
King ES	115	2nd
Washington Reid ES	100	1st
Featherstone ES	30	
Lake Ridge ES	<u>10</u>	Student Council & Mentor
	720	

Arbor Day Tree Festival activities allow students to investigate and understand that plants produce oxygen and food, are a source of useful products and provide benefits in nature.

American Home Landscape
White Oak Nursery,
4641 Sudley Road, Catharpin
703.754.2222

Many thanks to American Home Landscape for donating and planting a native dogwood at each of the participating schools. Tom Neil has supported Arbor Day for more than 25 years.



T. Clay Wood ES ceremony, Supv. Wally Covington presiding



Tyler ES ceremony, students making "cherry trees" out of popcorn. Supv. Candland presided over the ceremony.



King ES ceremony, Supv. Jenkins presiding



Many thanks to students of George Mason University for assisting with teaching for the Tree Festivals. Their help is very much appreciated.



*Where we learn about
farming fundamentals*



Student planting
a tree to buffer
Kettle Run



Windy Knoll Farm



Water game at Windy
Knoll Farm

Windy Knoll Farm, owned by Don and Helen Taylor, is a 95 acre working farm with several head of cattle and sheep. The Taylor's have generously offered their farm, in Nokesville, as a resource and field trip destination for conservation education programs. We have hosted our annual Agriculture in the Classroom workshop at Windy Knoll for years, as well as other teacher workshops, Family Nature Adventure, and scout programs. We recently piloted a new program there.

On Thursday, June 7, 60 third grade students from Nokesville Elementary School headed out to Windy Knoll Farm for a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE) Field Trip organized by Laurie Raines, Education Specialist. The key point of the program was an action project where the students planted 23 native trees, bushes, and herbaceous perennials to enhance a buffer along an eroded tributary to Kettle Run. The students, assisted by volunteer students from the Nokesville FFA Chapter at Brentsville District High School, rotated through the stations: the buffer planting, water conservation games, and using soil as a natural resource through clay and mud art forms. Community-minded organizations including: Meadows Farm Nursery, Piedmont Nursery, the Prince William/Fairfax Farm Bureau, Lowe's, and our local VA Cooperative Extension office all chipped in to help provide the materials for this pilot program.

When the third graders returned to their classrooms they wrote letters to us expressing their excitement and joy with being on the farm and participating in the program. One student wrote, "It was really fun. I learned that trees can stop stuff from polluting streams, lakes, rivers, and oceans." That child "got it!"

Our sincerest thanks to Don and Helen Taylor for the use of their farm, Windy Knoll. Our hopes are to bring students to the farm from the more urban area schools.



*150th Anniversary of the
First Battle of Manassas
July 21—24, 2011
Pageland Farms*

The District staff worked with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Emergency Management Team for the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas at Bull Run. Re-enactors brought hundreds of horses from all over the country. Our staff assisted with the equine emergency plan and horse registration. Staff validated the coggins test reports to confirm the identity of the horse at check-in. The event was held July 21-24 at Pageland Farm..



"What a cruel thing is war; to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbours, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world! I pray that, on this day when only peace and good-will are preached to mankind, better thoughts may fill the hearts of our enemies and turn them to peace.My heart bleeds at the death of every one of our gallant men."

-Robert E. Lee, in a letter to his wife, December 26, 1862

YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP FOR TEENS

JULY 10-16, 2011

at Virginia Tech

Scholarship Provided by:



Camp Sponsored by:



We sent four high school students to Youth Conservation Camp.
L-R Nick Angello
Amanda Grimes
Tina Assadpour
Greg Galbraith

Tina Assadpour won the \$500 Ducks Unlimited Scholarship.



ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

Canoeing...Hiking...Wildlife Research...GIS....Farm Tour...Volleyball Tournament...Fisheries Management...Water Quality Activities....Cookout...Forestry...Geology...Agricultural Best Management Practices...Tour VA Tech Campus...and more!





We moved! New office space: 8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas

After ten years in Nokesville, in November 2011, the District moved back into Manassas to the Wellington Business Center. The office is twice the square feet of the Nokesville office and is conveniently located near the Prince William Parkway.

We very efficiently and effectively filled all the nooks and crannies with the abundance of conservation and education materials we have squirreled away. We have five offices, a reception area, a shower room, aka, engineering materials room, a utility room, a huge bathroom (2 stalls, thank you very much) which does double duty as a storage area, a kitchen, yes, a kitchen to house our supplies, copier and fax machine. We have offices with walls and some with windows. We are very nicely organized now. If you haven't been to visit, you must stop by.



Reception area



Conference room



District Manager



Conservation Specialist



Education Specialist



Outreach & Education

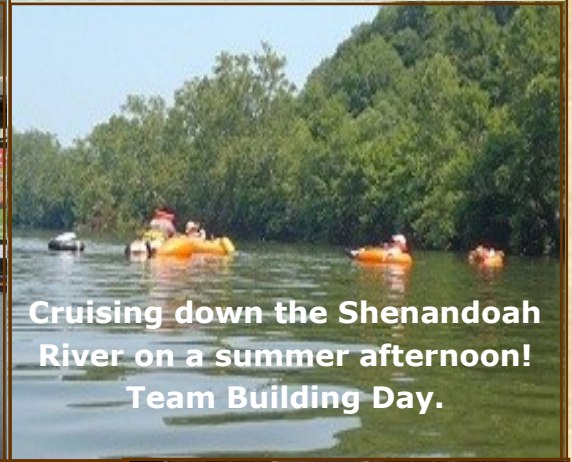


Conservation
Planner



Kitchen/
workroom

Another fabulous year (with a splash of silliness) for
Prince William Soil & Water and friends.



Cruising down the Shenandoah
River on a summer afternoon!
Team Building Day.



Eden Potter
stream steward



Howmuch water
to flush a toilet?



Making cherry trees out of
popcorn.



Nicole-expecting high
waters



District Waders Club,
I guess!

Talk about
casual Fridays!!!



Kelly-making a fashion
statement