



# Charles Soil Conservation District Annual Report 2023

The Charles Soil Conservation District serves an area that is changing rapidly from rural agricultural to suburban residential, commercial and industrial land uses. The Potomac and Patuxent rivers border the district in the west, south and east, and are the focus of multi-agency conservation programs. Although the District's main priority is to provide the agricultural community with technical assistance to conserve valuable soil and water resources, development pressures have generated an increased workload in the District's sediment and erosion control and pond review responsibilities. More than 60 percent of the land area of the county remains forested and is home to several environmentally important areas such as the Mattawoman Creek and Zekiah Swamp.

## Major Accomplishments in 2023

**Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)**—Developed 68 new comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 8,120 acres of farmland. Currently there are 19,135 planned acres in Charles County.

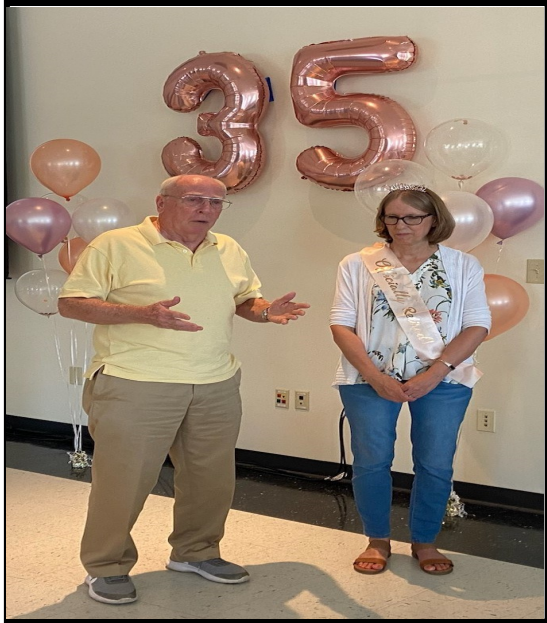
**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**—Worked with 23 farmers to install 237 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality on 447 acres.

**Cover Crops**—Provided technical assistance to 22 farmers who planted 2,800 acres of cover crops in Fall 2023.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**—Reviewed 1,365 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects with 1,042 approvals impacting 3,289 acres. Charles SCD held coordination meetings with Charles County Government sediment and erosion control inspectors.



**Agricultural Rental Equipment**—Coordinated and provided technical assistance to farmers who planted cover crop m pollinator habitats, and pastures; built equine and livestock fencing; and performed pasture renovations and seed bed preparation utilizing equipment offered through a subsidized rental program in conjunction with Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). Rental equipment available: 12' Turbo Till, Post Pounder, 7' No-Till Drill, 7' Overseeder, 10' No-Till Drill and 8' Brillen Direct Seeder, pictured left.



### **Retirees-**

- Susan Pirner, 35 Years of Service, (Pirner retirement luncheon pictured to the left)

### **New Hires-**

- Darlene Goldsmith, District Secretary

### **Sponsorships**

- Charles County and Maryland Envirothons
- Charles County Coloring and Poster Contests
- University of Maryland Soil Judging Team

### **Hosted Visits, Events, and Trainings—**

- Charles County Government
- University of Maryland Extension

**Annual Dinner** — The Charles Soil Conservation District Annual Cooperator of the Year Dinner was held on May 24, 2023. There were over 135 attendees. District Chairman, Charles Rice was the Master of Ceremonies, pictured to the right.



### Conservation Education—

- Earth Day Celebration Event at St. Charles High School
- Watershed Demonstrations at Malcolm Elementary School
- Sponsored the Charles County Envirothon Competition. Provided ongoing training for high school students participating in the Envirothon, an outdoor natural resources competition for students interested in learning about the environment. Over 60 students and 12 coaches from all seven of the county’s public high schools participated in the Envirothon in 2023. The 2023 winning team from Henry E. Lackey High School is pictured on the right. Sponsored the Annual Charles County MASCD Coloring Contest for Charles County elementary students and Poster Contest for elementary, middle, and high school students.

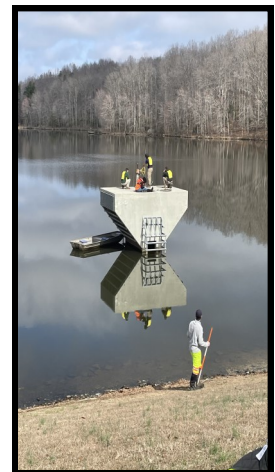


### Technological Support Systems—

- Website: CharlesSCD.com
- Bluebeam Software for Urban Review
- Web Soil Survey
- Aerial Photo Database
- Practice Keeper Software for Agricultural Planning
- USDA-NRCS Software for Agricultural Planning

### Participation in—

- Charles County Dam Inspections (See photo on right)
- Monthly Charles County Inspections Meetings
- Monthly Agricultural Workload Meetings
- Quarterly WIP Progress Meetings
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Quarterly and Annual Meetings
- Charles County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Patuxent River Commission
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development
- Monarch Watch
- Charles County Summer Internship Program



## **Board of Supervisors**

<b>Charles Rice</b>	Chairman	<b>Jeffrey Bossart</b>	Vice Chairman
<b>Jack Welch</b>	Treasurer	<b>Wes Tomlinson</b>	Member
<b>Wayne Hancock</b>	Member	<b>Ben Beale (Interim)</b>	Secretary
<b>Kevin Warring</b>	Associate Supervisor	<b>Denitra Brawner</b>	Associate Supervisor
<b>Lynne Wheeler</b>	Associate Supervisor		

## **Staff Members**

<b>Luis Dieguez</b>	District Manager, SCD
<b>Dee Dee Saunders</b>	District Coordinator, SCD
<b>Darlene Goldsmith</b>	District Secretary, SCD
<b>Timothy Wells, PE</b>	Soil Conservation Engineer, SCD
<b>Jessica Linn</b>	Soil Conservation Engineer, SCD
<b>Jerry Spence</b>	Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist, MDA
<b>Randy Sweeney</b>	Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist, MDA
<b>Christopher Swift</b>	Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist, SCD
<b>Sara Lewis</b>	Regional Equine Specialist, MDA
<b>Rachel Yeatman</b>	District Conservationist, NRCS, Field Office, La Plata
<b>Jennifer Carlson</b>	Natural Resource Specialist, NRCS, Field Office, La Plata
<b>Brian Brookhart, PE</b>	Patuxent Area Engineer, NRCS, Field Office, La Plata
<b>Jake Kiessling</b>	Civil Engineering Technician, NRCS, Field Office, La Plata
<b>Chase Kolstrom</b>	S. Md. Forester, RC&D, NRCS, Field Office, La Plata
<b>Valinda Clark</b>	Program Support Specialist, RC&D, Field Office, La Plata

If you would like to receive this annual report by email, please send your information to [info@CharlesSCD.com](mailto:info@CharlesSCD.com)



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