

Garrett Soil Conservation District "Conservation News"

Shaun Sanders retires with 42 years of service from Maryland Department of Agriculture and Garrett Soil Conservation District

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Shaun Sanders retired on April 30th after 42 years of service. He began his journey with the soil conservation district in 1971 as an erosion and sediment control officer. He became District Manager in 1978. Over the years Shaun has been an integral part of Maryland Agriculture and will always be valued and remembered for his hard work, commitment, and dedication. On behalf of the

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors and employees – we would like to wish Shaun a very

*You can't
RETIRE
from being
GREAT*

Happy Retirement.



Shaun and his wife Clara enjoying his retirement gift from the office staff.

Important Dates

- Board of Supervisors Meeting Dates: June 18, and July 16, August 20
- Offices Closed: July 4 & September 2
- Cover Crop Sign-Up: June 21 thru July 17
- Maryland State Envirothon: June 19
- MASCD Summer Conference: August 5 - 7



Congratulations



Bill Nace, Shaun Sanders, and Garry Morfoot

From the Chairman.... James “Smokey” Stanton



As spring comes to Garrett County, change is in the air on the mountaintop and at the Garrett Soil Conservation District.

As readers will see in this edition of our Newsletter, we have had new appointments to the Board of Supervisors, and welcome William Buckel and Cameron Crawford to the Board. Bill and Cameron join continuing members Katharine Dubansky, Kristen Enlow, and James “Smokey” Stanton.

New officers were elected at the April meeting of the Board of Supervisors: Chairman James “Smokey” Stanton, Vice-Chair Kristen Enlow, Treasurer Cameron Crawford, Vice-Treasurer Katherine Dubansky, and Wille Lantz continues as Secretary.

I want also to take this opportunity to thank two retirees from the District: George Bishoff from the Board of Supervisors and Shaun Sanders as District Manager. Thank you to both of these gentlemen who between them have contributed almost a century of service to conservation, agriculture and best management practices in our County.

With these changes, the GSCD will continue meeting the needs of our partners and, most importantly, providing quality services to our “Cooperators” with cost-sharing programs and technical assistance.

A reminder of our purpose: “To implement conservation programs and initiatives within Garrett County to protect and improve our soil, water, and related natural resources through local involvement and decision-making.”

I am committed to local involvement and decision-making, and, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, invite your suggestions, your advice, and your input as we work together to implement and further conservation and best management practices.

You are invited to attend our meetings that are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM at the GSCD offices. Information is also available at our website <http://www.garrettscd.org>

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DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

Pasture Walk and Tick Education Series

| Region | Location | Date |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Western Maryland – Washington County | Piper Farm 5537 Sharpsburg Pike, Sharpsburg, MD | Wed, May 29, 2019 |
| Western Maryland Allegany County | Robinette Farm 25400 Robinette Farm Lane, Flintstone, MD | Wed, June 12, 2019 |

Cost: FREE, but pre-registration is encouraged to ensure we have enough educational supplies for each attendee.

To Register Online: https://md_pasturewalk_tick_education.eventbrite.com

Agenda

6:00 – 6:15pm Welcome and Introductions

6:15 – 7:00pm The Asian Longhorned Tick –
What is it, What to look for and What to do if you find them.

7:00 – 8:30pm Farm Tour and Pasture Walk



For more information, please visit our website:

<https://ansc.umd.edu/extension/beef-extension/pasture-walk-and-tick-education-series>

Please Contact Racheal Slattery, Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at: rslatt@umd.edu or phone: (301)405-1392 with any questions or concerns or to register offline.

The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Offers Equal Access Programs.

This Series is supported by the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland, through an endowment from the Jorgensen Family Foundation.

Garrett SCD Welcomes New Board Member: William “Bill” Buckel

Bill Buckel is a semi-retired civil engineer and land surveyor. Bill and his wife Tina (pictured) have had their forested lands in the American Tree Farm System for almost 40 years. In 2019 they were awarded the Maryland Tree Farm of the Year and are a finalist for the 2019 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Bill grew up working in the woods in the winter months on his family farm to supplement the families meager income. His father taught him all local tree species at that time. “I have fond memories of working in the woods with him on weekends cutting logs, mine props, pulpwood and barrel staves and hunting in those same woods with family over the years” says Buckel. “The forestry practices enhanced the wildlife habitat in many cases. I have used salvaged firewood to solely heat or supplement my home heating for over 40 years.” We look forward to Bill bringing his past experiences and expertise from the land-owner's perspective to share with others in an effort to educate and also stimulate like interests in others and our youth. Bill represents Farm Bureau of Garrett County.



Cover Crop Sign-Up June 21 - July 17, 2019

Planting cover crops in the fall makes good sense for Maryland farmers. Cover crops have a proven track record of protecting waterways from nutrient runoff, controlling erosion, suppressing weeds and improving the soil for the next crop. They may even help farm fields recover more quickly from drought and extreme rainfall events. As an added benefit, established cover crops can be used for winter grazing or chopped for on-farm livestock forage. In the fall, cold hardy cereal grains such as wheat, rye, and barley are planted in newly harvested fields. Once established cover crops recycle unused plant nutrients remaining in the soil from the previous summer crop and protect fields against wind and water erosion. In addition to their water quality benefits, cover crops improve soil health, increase organic matter in the soil, reduce weeds and pests and provide habitat for beneficial insects. Nothing says "conservation farmer" like a green field of cover crops in winter. Importantly, Maryland's nutrient management regulations require farmers to plant cover crops when applying organic nutrient sources to fallow ground in the fall. Cover crops are one of the most cost effective BMP's in Maryland's water quality protection efforts. Sign-up for the cover crop program is being held June 21st thru July 17th at the Garrett Soil Conservation District office; cost-share rates vary from year to year, however, it is projected that farms could receive up to \$90/acre to plant cover crops in their fields in 2019/2020. Contact the district at 301-501-5886 for more information.



Available to rent from Garrett SCD:

Transpread 5.5 Ton Lime & Fertilizer

Spreader & 1590 John Deere No-Till Drill.

Call the office at 301-501-5886.

Eligible Cover Crop species include cereal grains (wheat/spelt, rye, barley, triticale, spring oats, ryegrass and canola/rape), forage radish, and legumes* (red clover Austrian winter pea, hairy). *Legumes must be planted with a cereal grain as part of a mix.

Guidelines:

- Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum, tobacco or vegetables.
- There is a five-acre minimum. There are no acreage caps.
- All seed purchased must be tested and labeled following Maryland Seed Law and Regulations.
- Seed must be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds, have a minimum germination rate of 80% and no more than 16 restricted noxious weeds per pound.
- Homegrown seed must be tested for germination and noxious weeds by the Maryland State Seed Laboratory before planting.

NEW FOR 2019

\$10/acre incentive for airplane or helicopter seeding into standing corn by 9/1

\$15/acre incentive for delaying termination until after 5/1*

*Extended Season Cover Crop

500 acre **MAX** for incentive

Must meet **ALL** other program guidelines

Must Report Delayed Termination acres to the District by April 15th

Visual inspection prior to May 1 on ALL acres requesting Delayed Termination

20% spot check after termination reported

Maximum payment for acres meeting ALL qualifications \$90/acres

*****NMP cert form MUST be submitted at application, or by 11/13/19 or application will be cancelled.*****

NRCS Updates:

Funding allocations for FY19 financial assistance applications have begun. If your application was selected for funding you have been contacted. There is potential for additional funds to be released and additional applications to be funded, however much of the budget has already been obligated. If your application was not funded this fiscal year, be sure to touch base with Chad or Jessica in the office to let them know if you would like your application to remain active for next year.

Weather is nice and we are expecting a big construction season this year! (examples below) A few reminders:

- *Please don't forget to contact the office prior to beginning construction! All construction needs to be overseen by staff.*
- *If, you are contractually obligated to install a practice and are unable to do so, its imperative you contact the office immediately.*



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Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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FSA Information Center

USDA Announces March Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers Third 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment Dairy Margin Coverage Program Sign-Up Begins June 17

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this week that the March 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$8.85 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the third payment for dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program. DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. The signup period for DMC opens June 17, 2019. Dairy producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$9 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January, February and March 2019.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production would receive \$1,543.75 for March.

Sample calculation:

$\$9.50 - \$8.85 \text{ margin} = \$0.65 \text{ difference}$

$\$0.65 \times 95 \text{ percent of production} \times 2,500 \text{ cwt. (30,000 cwt./12)} = \$1,543.75$

DMC premiums are paid annually. The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 95 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$4,275.

Sample calculation:

$3,000,000 \times 95 \text{ percent} = 2,850,000/100 = 28,500 \text{ cwt.} \times 0.150 \text{ premium fee} = \$4,275$

The dairy operation in the example calculation will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$8,170 in DMC payments for January, February and March combined. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level.

All participants are also required to pay an annual \$100 administrative fee in addition to any premium, and payments will be subject to a 6.2 percent reduction to account for federal sequestration. Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates. For the example above, this would reduce the annual premium by \$1,068.75.

About DMC

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation's farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today's updates are part of meeting that goal.

Recently, FSA announced the availability of the [DMC decision support tool](#) as well as [repayment options](#) for producers who were enrolled in MPP-Dairy.

For DMC signup, eligibility and related dairy program information, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](#).

The Garrett County Office of University of Maryland Extension will live stream the June 13th 10:00 a.m. coverage of the MDA Cost Share Dairy Meeting on how to sign-up for the federal program. Call 301-334-6960 with questions.

Opportunity to Request a Referendum: Soybean Promotion, Research, and Information Program

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced that soybean producers may request a referendum on the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, as authorized under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act. Participation in the Request for Referendum is voluntary, and producers should only participate if they wish to request a referendum on the program.

The results of the Request for Referendum will be published in a notice in the Federal Register. If at least 10 percent of eligible producers, as determined by USDA, participate in the Request for Referendum, a referendum will be held within one year from that determination. Interested soybean producers may request a referendum during a four-week period beginning on May 6 and ending May 31, 2019. Form LS-51-1, *Soybean Promotion and Research Order Request for Referendum*, may be [downloaded online](#), or obtained by mail, fax, or in person from Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices during this time.

Completed forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate county FSA office by fax or in person no later than close of business May 31, 2019, or if returned by mail, must be postmarked by midnight May 31, 2019, and received in the county FSA office by close of business on June 6, 2019. For detailed information, including eligibility, read the full [AMS announcement](#). To find your local office, visit [www.farmers.gov](#)

Becoming a Steward of the Land

UME Forestry Program Offers Certification Course

QUEENSTOWN – Learn to be a steward of the land this fall with the University of Maryland Extension General Forestry Course. Both paper and online versions of the course will be offered, beginning Sept. 1 through Dec. 15, 2019. Registration opens June 1, and interested participants can register online at extension.umd.edu/forestry-course.

This is a non-credit course with no formal classes – work from the comfort of your home using your own woodlot, a friend's or a public forest. The course covers how to protect your trees from insects, diseases, and fire; step-by-step procedures walk you through a forest inventory and stand analysis; and the details of the forestry business are presented, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a stewardship plan for your forest.

The cost for this forestry course is \$150. Included in the cost are copies of the supplemental readings (“A Sand County Almanac, The Woodland Steward, American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery,” a small pamphlet entitled “What Tree Is That?” and “Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Guide”). The paper version text and appendices for the course are in binder form. Online users receive a flash drive of the paper version of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

To learn more about the course and what it entails, go to extension.umd.edu/forestry-course. There you can read a lesson from the text, view an interactive exercise, read through detailed course information and FAQs.

For more information, contact Nancy Stewart at the University of Maryland Extension, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, Md., 21658, 410-827-8056, ext. 107, or nstewart1@umd.edu. Check for details on our website and mark June 1 for open enrollment on your calendar!

Coloring Contest Winners

The Garrett Soil Conservation District held its annual Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Coloring Contest judging during the May 21st Board of Supervisors meeting held at the District office. The coloring contest was open to all Garrett County children in grades K through 5. The contest encouraged children to channel their own creativity on an agricultural designed coloring template.

The Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors selected 1st and 2nd place winners from the three entry classes: Class A: Grades K & 1; Class B: Grades 2 & 3; Class C: Grades 4 & 5. First, Second, and Third place winners received a cash prize. The 1st place winning entries will be forwarded to be judged along with other Maryland SCD's county winners at the MASCD summer conference, in Ellicott City, MD August 5 - 7, 2019.

The Garrett SCD is committed to promoting education by helping students understand the benefits of proper management and conservation of our nation's natural resources. Congratulations to our winners and good luck at the State competition!

Pictured to the right are the 1st place County Winners: Callie Bittinger, Naomi Guthrie, and Mary Thrush.



Garrett County Schools Annual Envirothon Held at 4-H Education Center

Written By: Ryan Wolfe

The Garrett County Envirothon competition was held on April 24th at the Maryland 4-H Environmental Education Center in Swanton, during which teams and their teachers/coaches from Northern and Southern High Schools competed for points in a variety of conservation challenges.

The annual event is a full day of competition, preceded by a full day of training earlier in the month at the Hickory Environmental Education Center near Accident. It is a problem solving, hands-on natural resources competition, with the objectives of promoting a deeper knowledge of how individuals and groups impact the environment by understanding environmental interactions and interdependence; being aware of current environmental issues, agencies, and resources which assist in resource-protection and conservation practices; and raising environmental awareness.

Resource trainers from area agencies provided volunteer training and mentoring throughout the year for students, and provided the training and testing days in April. The five categories of competition are traditionally: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and a special fifth issue that is selected each year.

Resource personnel who assisted with this year's training and competition were: Kenny Wampler, Jody Johnson, and Alan Klotz for aquatics; Jessica Aronhalt, Carrie Colebank, Chad Bucklew, Chuck Hayes, Daniel Kirby, and Chris Herbert for soils; Robert Harvey and Clarissa Harris for wildlife; Tim Cole, Melissa Nash, Patrick Gates, Mike Minnick, and Will Williams for forestry; and Ann Sherrard and Willie Lantz for the 5th Issue (Pasture/Rangeland Management).

The coaches this year were Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler (Northern High) and Erin Coffman (Southern High). Special assistance was provided by Sharon Hoover, Daymond Schmuck, and Jason Shank of the Hickory Environmental Education Center; Ryan Wolf, Paul Edwards, and Kristi Winters of Garrett County Public Schools Secondary Education; and Ann Sherrard, Mike Brady, and staff of the 4-H Center.

Competitors from Southern High and Northern High were divided into three teams each as follows:

- Northern Lights 1 - Chyanne Gardner, Jaclyn Jacobs, Levi Kennell, Nick Opel, and Carder Stakem
- Northern Lights 2 - James Dean, Lauren Jacobs, Dylan McCann, Summer Shaper, and Ella Warnick
- Northern Lights 3 - Gabby Blamble, Lindsay Brewer, Tori Fike, Taylor Kelly, and Wyatt Orner
- Southern Stoneflies 1 - Aaron Graham, Zhou Dong, Jalen Beeman, Alex Schofield, Kyus Spencer
- Southern Stoneflies 2 - Kerri Kordyban, Lillia Rose, Noah Beakes, John Trembly, Mediah Ault
- Southern Stoneflies 3 - Bryce Richter, Rachael Tichinel, Sophie Bishoff, Emma Horner

Recognition is given to teams placing in the top three spots in each category, with prizes going to the first place winners in each. Category winners this year were as follows: Aquatics – Southern Stoneflies 1, Forestry – Northern Lights 2, Soils – Northern Lights 2, Wildlife – Southern Stoneflies 1, and 5th Issue (Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World) – Southern Stoneflies 1.

Northern Lights 2 was the overall winner of the competition. They will continue to train and prepare for the Maryland State Envirothon competition, which will be held on June 19th at St. Mary's College.

The Envirothon began in 1979 in Pennsylvania, with the first national competition in 1988.

For more information about Garrett County Envirothon teams and competitions, persons may contact Ryan Wolf at ryan.wolf@garrettcountryschools.org.



Garrett County Envirothon Winners 2019 - Northern Lights 2
 Left to Right: Summer Shaper, Lauren Jacobs, James Dean, Dylan McCann, and Ella Warnick

Garrett Soil Conservation District
1916 Maryland Highway Ste C
Mt Lake Park MD 21550

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SERVICE CENTER PHONE NUMBERS

Main Line: 301-501-5856

FSA Direct Line: 301-501-5885

NRCS/SCD Direct Line: 301-501-5886

We are on the web and Facebook!
www.garrettscd.org and Garrett Soil Conservation District

If you would like to:

- Receive an emailed version of this newsletter or
- Would like to submit an article or
- Have an idea for an article

Please contact, **Carrie Colebank**, at
carrie.colebank@maryland.gov

Business Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 am til 5:00 pm

Service Center Phone Number: 301-501-5856



1916 Maryland Highway Ste C / Mt Lake Park MD 21550

Office Staff

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Charles "Chuck" Hayes, Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)

Roger Kitzmiller, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)

Chris Herbert, Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)

Jessica Aronhalt, Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)

Daniel Kirby, Soil Conservation Technician (USDA-NRCS)

Carrie Colebank, Administrative Assistant (SCD)

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Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman

Cameron Crawford, Treasurer

Katharine Dubansky, Vice Treasurer

William Buckel, Member

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a supervisor or associate supervisor please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.

The Garrett Soil Conservation District (GSCD) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.