

Garrett Soil Conservation District Conservation News

1916 Maryland Hwy, Suite C Mt Lake Park, MD 21550

www.garrettscd.org

301-501-5886

Editor – Jeannie Frazee

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\$1000 Garrett SCD Scholarship

The SCD will be granting one \$1000 scholarship to assist a Garrett County student in pursuing a degree in agriculture, natural resources, or related environmental fields. High school seniors and college students may apply. Previous winners may also apply but preference will be given to first time applicants.

Must be a resident of Garrett County or resident of Garrett County at the time of high school graduation. Must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.

To apply, send completed application and one-page essay to the Garrett SCD by May 1, 2023. Please visit the Garrett SCD website at www.garrettscd.org for more information and to download the application. Selection will be made by the Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors by June 30.

Important Dates

[Conservation Buffer Initiative](#)

March 10

Beginning Farmer Workshop,
March 16, 6 wks, 301-334-6966 to sign up.

[Backyard Buffer Program](#) March 17

[Board of Supervisor's Meetings](#),
February 21, March 21, April 18,
May 16

[MASCD Coloring Contest](#), May,
Coloring sheet TBD

[Envirothon](#) Training April 4

[Envirothon](#) Competition April 25

[Scholarship](#) Deadline, May 1

[Rent](#) the John
Deere 1590
No-Till Drill or the
Transpread 5.5 ton
Lime and Fertilizer
Spreader



No Till Drill - \$10 per acre, \$30 minimum
Lime and Fertilizer Spreader - \$3 per ton, \$30 minimum
Call 301-501-5886 for more information



From the ChairmanJames “Smokey” Stanton

Welcome to the spring 2023 Garrett Soil Conservation District’s Conservation News.

I invite you to look over the contents on page one of this newsletter to see what is in this issue but want to draw your attention to these items: new local staff, scholarship availability, no-till drill and lime spreader rental, buffer information, and 2023 Envirothon.

To stay informed about activities and programs, please visit our revised and improved website at: www.garrettscd.org, and on [Facebook under Garrett Soil Conservation District](#).

Maryland: congratulations and welcome to Governor Wes Moore’s appointments to MDA, MDE and DNR. The new Secretary of Agriculture is Kevin Atticks, the new Secretary of Environment is Serena McIlwain, and Josh Kurtz is the new Secretary of Natural Resources. All have been confirmed by the Maryland Senate.

On the national level, the final rule for **Waters of the United States (“WOTUS”)** will go into effect **March 20, 2023**.

WOTUS is based in the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. That law empowered the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA” and the Army Corps of Engineers to protect waters of the United States from pollution, however the Act itself did not define what would be covered by the law, leaving the definition to be covered by regulation put forward by EPA and the Corps. In 2018, the two agencies proposed regulations that subsequently were contested in the courts, with the proposal set aside by the Supreme Court. In that decision, two important terms were introduced: “**relatively permanent**” and “**significant nexus**”. (“Relatively permanent” means waters that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing and waters with a continuous surface connection to such waters. “Significant nexus” means waters that either alone or in combination with similarly situated waters in the region significantly affect the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of traditional navigable waters / interstate waters, i.e., are connected.

Among others, the regulation specifically excludes converted cropland designated by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, ditches draining only dry land, and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water, artificially irrigated areas, artificial lakes / ponds, and swales and erosional features having low volume, infrequent or short duration flow, i.e., are ephemeral.

Maryland has a long history of and experience with water protection; major problems with implementing WOTUS are not anticipated in our State.

The WOTUS [Fact Sheet](#) can be found at:

Open QR code reader or camera function on your smartphone. Hold the device over the QR code so it is visible in the screen. Push button.



[Waters of the US](#)

Or visit our [website](#) for the links.



[Full Waters](#)

Becoming a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor

Do you have an interest in conservation? Would you like to know more about becoming a Supervisor or Associate Supervisor for the Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors? You can find out more by [contacting](#) our office at 301-501-5886.



Meet Our New Staff

Seth Metheny – District Manager

Seth Metheny joined the SCD as the District Manager in October. He was born and raised in Mount Savage, MD. He received an Associate’s of Applied Science degree from Garrett College in their Natural Resources & Wildlife Technology program and a Bachelor’s of Science degree from Frostburg State University in Wildlife & Fisheries. Seth worked on many water quality and conservation projects at the Deep Creek Lake Natural Resource Management Area for nearly 10 years as a Natural Resources Technician and as a Natural Resources Planner before joining the Allegany Soil Conservation District as a Conservation Planner in 2021. He is interested in native plants and is looking forward to providing assistance to District producers in an effort to implement best management practices for soil conservation and water quality while improving productivity.



Jillian Wood – Conservation Planner

Jillian Wood joined the SCD as a Conservation Planner in December. She was born and raised in Garrett County, where she attended Northern High School before furthering her education at the University of Maryland College Park. She received a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science and Technology with a concentration in Ecological Technology Design and a minor in Geographical Information Sciences (GIS). She has volunteered extensively with 4-H programs throughout Garrett County. She enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, swimming, and skiing. In the future, she hopes to raise pigs and start a pumpkin patch. She looks forward to improving Garrett County agriculture by helping our farmers help the land.



Miranda Rounds – Conservation Planner

Miranda Rounds joined the SCD in January of this year as a Conservation Planner. She was born and raised in Garrett County. She grew up on her grandparents’ farm in Avilton, where her family continues to raise beef cattle and crops. During her youth, she was heavily involved with 4-H and FFA. In 2017, she earned her FFA American degree. She is a 2021 graduate of West Virginia University, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education and Extension. She is excited to meet and work with Garrett County producers and landowners.



Craig Zimmermann – NRCS Soil Conservation Technician



Craig Zimmermann joined SCD this month as a NRCS Soil Conservation Technician. Craig started with Maryland Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservation Associate in 1985, working out of Washington, D.C. In 1986, he transferred to Allegany SCD, where he became a Conservation Planner for a time, and then an Engineering Technician. He retired from MDA in 2016. During his time with Allegany SCD, he occasionally helped Garrett SCD with survey work for ag wastes, watering facilities, and roof runoff. Craig also worked as a part-time Federal Inspector with NRCS doing Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) construction inspections. He enjoys spending time with family, music, and boating.

Jeannie Frazee – Administrative Assistant

Jeannie Frazee joined the SCD as the Administrative Assistant in January of this year. She holds an Associate's Degree in Business and Information Technology: Web and Graphic Design from Garrett College and a Bachelor's Degree in Digital Media and Web Technology with a minor in Marketing and a Certificate in Digital Marketing from University of Maryland. She has worked in sales, marketing, and aggregation for the local agricultural community for many years through Garrett Growers Farmer's Co-op. She enjoys spending time with family, farming, building websites, and designing concert lighting.



If you have email, will you help us conserve trees and water by signing up to have your newsletter emailed instead of being mailed? You can sign up for the email version by emailing us at: jeannie.frazee@maryland.gov or by calling us at 301-501-5886.



Free
Soil Survey Book

Explains different soil types in Garrett County, where they are located, and how the different soils can be used.

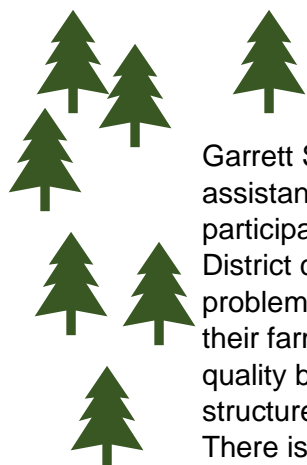
Pick one up at the **Garrett Soil Conservation Office at 1916 Maryland Hwy, Ste C, Mt. Lake Park**. You'll find us in the building next door to Freedom Ag (*formerly Southern States*).

Garrett SCD Has a New Website

Visit us at

www.garrettscd.org.

Is there anything you would like us to add to the website? Send suggestions to jeannie.frazee@maryland.gov or 301-334-5886.



Free Technical Assistance for Local Farmers

Garrett SCD can give farmers technical assistance even if they do not want to participate in cost-share programs. The District can help farmers find solutions to problems that they may be facing on their farms that affect soil and water quality by giving advice, designing structures, and helping with site plans. There is no charge for this service.



Areas that qualify include projects that deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing water volatility.

Some of these projects could include things such as cover crops, plantings, riparian buffers, windbreaks, agrichemical handling facilities, animal mortality facilities, water diversion, grade control structures, grassed waterways, heavy use area protection, livestock fencing, stream crossings, watering systems, manure storage, roof run-off, roofs and covers, wetland restoration, contour farming, drainage, crop residue management, crop rotation, integrated pest management, manure injection, and well protection.



For more information, please call us at **301-501-5886** or email seth.metheny1@maryland.gov.



Maryland Conservation Buffer Initiative

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is opening a sign-up period for its Conservation Buffer Initiative from **January 30 through March 10, 2023**. Qualifying farmers who plant forest buffers will receive a one-time \$1000 acre signing bonus on top of an incentive payment.

There are three types of buffers that are eligible:

1. Forest buffers planted next to waterways
2. Grass buffers planted next to waterways or field ditches
3. Watercourse access control areas adjacent to pastures.



Additional Information:

- Payment rates range from \$500/acre for an existing grass buffer, to a maximum of \$4,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing
- New this year, annual maintenance payments offered for forest buffers during the first 5 years of the contract
- An extra one-time bonus payment of \$1,000/acre offered for enrolled forest buffers
- Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not.
- Contracts are for 5 or 10 years
- Soil conservation districts will provide free technical assistance to install your buffer
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2024

Funding is provided by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, Bay Restoration Fund, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, visit our website at www.garrettscd.org and look under the Agriculture section for "[Buffer Initiative](#)".

Backyard Buffer Program



The Allegany & Garrett County [Backyard Buffer program](#) is ready to begin receiving requests for tree seedlings this year! This program is for homeowners who have a stream, pond, drainage ditch or other waterway on their property where they would like to enhance the forested buffer. Please visit our website at www.garrettscd.org/backyardbuffer to apply.

This year's packets will include white pine, pin oak, American plum, silver maple and hazelnut (5 of each for a total of 25 trees per packet). No custom packets or substitutions can be made. Requests to participate must be received by March 17th, however the program is likely to reach capacity before that date. Pickup will be scheduled for mid-April.

For more information, please contact Melissa Nash at melissa.nash@maryland.gov.

Garrett County Envirothon Competition

Each year, groups of Garrett County students study conservation, and then participate in a training day and competition. The team winning the competition is invited to participate in the Maryland State Envirothon.

This year, **SPRING COUNTY TRAINING DAY** will be on **Tuesday, April 4, at Camp Hickory.**

The Garrett County Envirothon **COMPETITION** will be on **Wednesday, April 26.**

For information, visit the website at <https://garrettscd.org/envirothon/> or contact us at 301-501-5886 or email seth.metheny1@maryland.gov.



Cover Crop Termination Dates:

Terminate between March 1 and June 1, 2023

If you terminate after May 1, 2023, you qualify for a \$10 acre Extended Season Incentive Payment

Each year, MDA provides grants to farmers as an incentive to plant cover crops, with the goal of decreasing soil erosion and runoff in water. There is a five-acre minimum to participate.

Enrollment happens every year in the early part of July. The exact date for this year is TBD. To enroll, individuals must mail in an application.

Farmers are required to plant cover crops as follows:

Cereal grains by November 5. (*Some earlier.*) Legumes, forage radish, canola/rape, or oats by October 1. Aerial seeding by October 10. (*Some earlier.*) Aerial seed or aerial ground seed cover crops in standing corn qualify for a \$10 acre incentive payment. Rye and multi-species cover crops receive a \$15 acre

incentive payment. Cover crops planted from November 6-15 qualify for a reduced flat rate.

Plant cover crops after corn, soybeans, sorghum, tobacco, vegetables, hemp and millet.

Purchased seed must be free of noxious weed seeds with a minimum germination rate of 80%. Certain rules apply regarding homegrown seed. Cost-share is available for seed testing.

Eligible cover crops are: wheat/spelt, rye, barley, triticale, oats, ryegrass, forage radish, canola/rape, clover, Austrian winter peas, and Hairy Vetch (must be planted with a cereal grain or as part of a mix).

For more information, visit our website at www.garrettscd.org/covercropprogram.



Garrett Soil Conservation District

1916 Maryland Highway, Ste C

Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550

Visit us at www.garrettscd.org
and on Facebook at *Garrett Soil Conservation District*



Garrett Soil Conservation District

Business Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 301-501-5886

Office Staff

[Seth Metheny](#), District Manager (MDA)
[Chad Bucklew](#), District Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
[Charles "Chuck" Hayes](#), Soil Conservation Associate (MDA)
[Chris Herbert](#), Soil Conservation Engineering Technician (MDA)
[Jacob Metcalf](#), Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
[Will Gindlesberger](#), Soil Conservationist (USDA-NRCS)
[Jarrod Sisler](#), Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
[Cody Myers](#) – Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
[Craig Zimmermann](#) – Soil Conservation Technician (MDA)
[Jillian Wood](#), Conservation Planner (MDA)
[Miranda Rounds](#), Conservation Planner (MDA)
[Jeannie Frazee](#), Administrative Assistant (SCD)



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 family status.

Board of Supervisors

James "Smokey" Stanton, Chairman
Kristen Enlow, Vice Chairman
Bill Buckel, Member
Treasurer, Vacant
Vice Treasurer, Vacant

If you would like to know more about being a supervisor or associate supervisor, please contact the district office at 301-501-5886.