

'Watering Facilities' continued

leaving the trough flows into a nearby stream. If the underground water supply is available all year, the waterer will have a constant flow. A drawback of this system is drought. During dry times the water table may drop below the perforated underground collection pipe, causing the waterer to go dry. This type of water is ideal for equine, cattle, sheep and goats. The trough itself can be ordered in different sizes and installed at any height to accommodate any size livestock.

Pressure fed waterers require a well or other source of water, electricity and pressure tank to supply the water and prevent the water from freezing. A pipeline is run underground from the pressure tank to the waterer. Because they only flow on demand, there is a greater chance of freezing. There are various methods to prevent freezing, usually an electric heater or foam insulation and continuous use of the trough. Most pressure fed waterers also have a method to limit the waterer's exposure to cold air. This type of waterer guarantees a source of fresh water and is only used when the livestock needs it. Maintenance on a pressure fed system is minimal. One disadvantage is the need for electricity. If power goes out, the trough will not refill. And some designs require constant use to keep water from freezing which could be a problem with small herds. These systems may also be more expensive if a pressure tank is not already available.

Watering facilities become high traffic areas, so it is important to also install a Heavy Use Area Protection around them. Waterers can stand alone or be placed in series to supply multiple pastures with water. One watering facility can supply two pastures with water if it is placed on the fence line. Contact us for more information about watering facilities. Cost share is available through both the Maryland Department of Agriculture cost share program and NRCS programs.

ANNE ARUNDEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chair: Brian Riddle

Vice Chair: Gary Palmer

Treasurer: Vaughn Foxwell

Secretary: Dave Myers

John Colhoun, Member

Emily Wilson, Member

Mike Superczynski, Associate

Christine Catterton, Associate

Donald Entzian, Associate

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

District Manager: John Czajkowski

john@ascd.org

Office Manager: Keli Kirby

kkirby@ascd.org

Secretary: Mary Ford

m.ford@ascd.org

Phone: (410) 571 - 6757

Website: ascd.org



The District Dirt

ANNE ARUNDEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2662 Riva Road, Suite 150 • Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 571 - 6757

ascd.org

FALL 2019

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **Upcoming Events** p.1
- **Protecting Pollinators** p.1
- **Cover Crop Update** p.2
- **MASCD Summer Meeting** ... p.2
- **New AASCD Staff** p.3
- **Watering Facilities** p.3
- **Annual Banquet** p.3

 **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION!**



South River High School won the 2019 Anne Arundel County Envirothon. The event was held on April 17 at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center.



Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District

2662 Riva Road, Suite 150

Annapolis, MD 21401

REST STOPS & FAST FOOD

A message from the District Manager, John Czajkowski

Most people can relate to stopping to eat along the way when taking a long road trip. Whether it be fast food or a full service restaurant, it's a chance replenish your body and regain energy to continue the journey. Sometimes an overnight stay is even required. For some, a long trip is 150 miles – for others, it may be 800 miles. For the monarch butterfly, it's up to 3,000 miles. Well, that is stretching the truth a bit. You see, the individual monarch really doesn't make the trip from Mexico to Maryland. Instead, the butterfly that arrives in Maryland is a distant relative of the one that started the journey from Mexico.

None the less, as the monarchs fly north to recolonize North America, they stop along the way to breed and reproduce. Naturally they need specific plants to do both. Unfortunately, finding these "restaurants" and "accommodations" is becoming more difficult for the monarch.

Native plants are not only a source of food but pharmacies as well. Some monarchs, when afflicted with parasites, seek out more toxic types of milkweed because they kill the parasites. Unfortunately, studies show Iowa has lost almost 60% of its milkweed. As we develop more land and farm more, there are fewer and fewer rest stops. We can all help by planting rest areas that have the supplies the monarch needs. Creating pollinator gardens can help not only the monarch but other beneficial insects as well. You can be part of the solution.

Continued on page 2



The monarch butterfly is dependent on milkweed plants. It is where butterflies lay their eggs and larvae consume milkweed almost exclusively.

IMPORTANT DATES

AASCD Annual Banquet
Oct. 10, 6pm social hour, 7pm dinner at Michael's on the South River

Arundel Ag Agriculture Education Day
Oct. 13, 10am to 6pm at Y Worry Farm

MDA Regional Listening Sessions for Maryland Agriculture Strategic Plan
Various dates in Sept. and Oct., regional locations. Visit mda.maryland.gov for details.

SMADC Ag Marketing Conference
Nov. 15, 8:30am to 3:30pm at College of Southern Maryland Prince Frederick

Crop Sustainability & IMP Workshop
Dec. 17 at 6pm to 9pm at Anne Arundel UME

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training & Exam
Jan 7 and Jan 21 at 6pm to 8pm at Anne Arundel UME

Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting
Feb. 6 at 8am to 4pm at Bowie Elks Lodge

Field Crops & Pasture IMP Workshop
Mar. 10 at 6pm to 9pm at Anne Arundel UME



'Rest Stops' continued

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners manage for monarch habitat on farms, ranches and forests. This assistance helps producers plan and implement a variety of conservation activities, or practices, that benefit the monarch, pollinators and many other wildlife species. The best part: the technical assistance is free to producers and financial assistance may be available. Contact our office for more information on how you can become a "rest stop" for monarch butterflies and other important pollinators.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pollinators' ecological service is valued at \$200 billion each year in the United States. The Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) offers more than three-dozen conservation activities that can benefit pollinators.

Visit nrcs.usda.gov for more information or contact one of our Soil Conservation Specialists to find out how you can install pollinator-friendly BMPs on your property.

COVER CROPS UPDATE

by David Scheler

Anne Arundel County farmers are helping to improve soil and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by planting cover crops on harvested farmland. Small grain such as barley, wheat and rye are planted following harvest of corn, soybeans, sorghum, and vegetables. Once established, cover crops will absorb any unused nutrients in the soil from the previously harvested crop. Also, cover crops help protect against water and wind erosion and help renew the soil. For the 2018-2019 Cover Crop Program in Anne Arundel County, 29 farmers signed up to plant approximately 6,000 acres of cover crops. During that period, 26 farmers planted 3,937 acres of small grain in their harvested fields. Farmers received a total payout of \$233,046.

Grass waterways designed and installed by AASCD



MASCD SUMMER MEETING

by John Czajkowski

The Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) held its summer meeting on August 5th through the 7th in Ellicott City. One of the main topics of discussion was meeting the state's Watershed Implementation (WIP) goals. Each District has a set of goals they need to reach by 2025.

We will reach our goals in Anne Arundel County (as will other districts in their counties) through the development of new or revised Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (Farm Plan) and the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

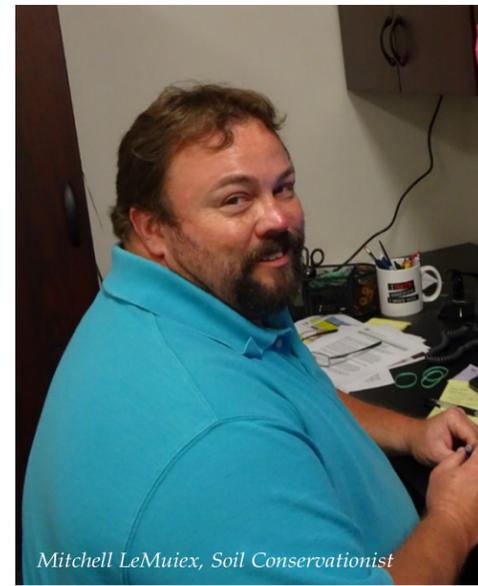
AASCD is tasked with meeting the WIP goals on the agriculture side. Anne Arundel County government is doing their part to reach their goals on the urban side by making improvements to waste treatment plants, stream

renovation, stormwater management and septic tank upgrades.

Keeping your farm plan up to date is critical for our success. If your farm plan is more than ten years old or if there have been changes to your farm operation, please call us so we can bring it up to date. If you are a new farmer and would like a farm plan, please contact us. There is no cost for a farm plan and our soil conservation specialists are here to help you develop a plan that works for you.

Also, if you notice an erosion problem on your farm that you have been meaning to take care of, now is the time! Cost share assistance is often available for best management practices.

Remember, we are all in this together. The AASCD is here as a resource and a partner - not an enforcer. Together, we can meet our WIP goals and help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Mitchell LeMuiex, Soil Conservationist



Michael Lock, Soil Technician

AASCD WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

AASCD is excited to introduce two new staff members:

Mitchell LeMuiex earned his undergraduate degree in Biology from Salisbury University and holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University and a graduate certificate in Wetlands and Water Quality from the University of Florida. Mitchell began working in environmental compliance for a multinational petro-chem company in 2000 and transitioned to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the United States Army Environmental Command in 2009. In 2012, he became a planner in Cecil County for the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Mitchell and his wife live on a 65-acre farm in Carroll County.

Prior to joining as the Soil Conservationist for Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties, Mitchell worked with the Frederick/Catoctin Soil Conservation District.

Michael Lock joined the Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District in May 2019. Prior to moving to Maryland, Michael worked as a Resource Conservation Technician for the Juniata County Conservation District in Pennsylvania. His programs included Erosion and Sediment Control, and Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads. Michael is a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Earth Science and Policy. Growing up Michael raised chickens, goats, and pigs on his family's 12-acre hobby farm. His interests include sustainability, traveling and being outdoors.



Watering facility and heavy use area. See more photos on our blog at aascd.org

WATERING FACILITIES

by John Czajkowski

Watering facilities are arguably of the most valuable Best Management Practices (BMP) that a landowner can install. On the conservation side, they allow a landowner to provide water for livestock without accessing a stream, thus reducing nutrients and sediment from entering the Bay. Most stream corridors are wooded or have steep slopes and watering facilities allow the landowner to visually monitor the livestock without worrying about what is in the water upstream. There is peace of mind knowing the water is clean and landowners can also monitor the animal's intake of water. There are many types of troughs or waterers that can be installed – and they fall in two broad categories: waterers fed by natural springs and pressure fed waterers.

Spring-fed waterers do not require electricity to pump or heat water. Gravity provides constant flow which in turn keeps the water from freezing. These waterers are usually a round concrete trough with a 12-inch hole in the middle of the floor. Perforated pipes in a bed of stone are used to collect the subsurface water and the underground line becomes a solid pipe that runs downhill to the concrete trough. Generally, the water

JOIN US FOR THE AASCD ANNUAL BANQUET

OCTOBER 10, 2019 AT 6 P.M. AT MICHAEL'S ON THE SOUTH RIVER

You're invited to the AASCD Annual Banquet, held on Thursday, October 10 at Michael's on the South River. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the evening program at 7 p.m. We will honor Chaney's Promise Farm, the 2019 AASCD Conservationist of the Year, along with other groups and individuals who are making a positive contribution to conservation in the county. Tickets are \$30 per person, available through the District office. Please contact Keli Kirby kkirby@aascd.org for more information and to register.

FALL 2019 REQUIREMENT

All cover crops must be planted by Nov. 5 and certified with the district by Nov. 13 to qualify for payment. Other deadlines and requirements may apply for specific species or to qualify for various incentives.

For more information, contact our office or visit mda.maryland.gov.