

# CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



*This is an old photo from District files. If you know who the man in the derby hat is on the left, please let us know.*

**2013**

**calvertsoil.org**

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# ANNUAL REPORT



## Message from the District Conservationist



It is a great opportunity to be able to work with and provide service to our farmers and landowners in Calvert County and Southern Maryland. I look forward to working with our staff to implement best management practices to protect soil, water, and other resources. The coming Farm Bill may have changes in policies and programs that will encourage NRCS to work even more closely with conservation partner agencies. Working closely together will help provide the best options with financial and technical assistance. I started with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Montgomery County, New York, where most operations include dairy and grain farming. I was transferred to Rensselaer County where there are more diverse farming operations and complexity associated with developing urban areas in the Tomhannock River Watershed. In 1998, I transferred to Delaware County, New York as a District Conservationist. This county is located in the New York City Watershed Program area. This area is also mostly in dairy farming located at the foothills of the Catskill Mountains in the Southeastern part of New York State. Special funding was available to farms in this watershed to protect water quality in the reservoir system that provides water to New York City. I also worked as District Conservationist in the Connecticut River Valley area in Hadley, Massachusetts. There are more diverse farming operations in this valley to include dairy, truck crops, and even shade tobacco. In 2003, I transferred to Upper Marlboro, Maryland as a District Conservationist. After a few years, I became District Conservationist for both Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties. In 2011, I was transferred to La Plata, Maryland as District Conservationist for Charles and St. Mary's Counties. In 2013, I was also assigned as District Conservationist for Calvert County. I am in Calvert one to two days a week. Call the District any time for assistance. I look forward to working with you.

*Oliver Miranda*



*The district held a dinner to thank Craig and Paula Mask and Gary Wynn for their years of dedicated service to the district. As the Masks retire to devote more time to their beloved Mirage Farms, we will still see them frequently as district cooperators!*



*Gary L. Wynn, Sr., retired USDA-NRCS District Conservationist, and our friend and coworker for 21 years, died September 12 after a long illness. We miss him and will remember his smile always.*



*September 11, 1958 -  
September 12, 2013*

***Joshua 1:9 .....Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.***

## 2013 ENGINEERING AND PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Landowners Assisted.....	926	each
Conservation Plans Completed.....	3,571	acres
New Cooperators .....	7	each

### Best Management Practices Installed:

Diversion.....	1,830	feet
Fence.....	4,808	feet
Lined Waterway/Outlet.....	2,994	feet
Streambank and Shoreline Protection.....	5,985	feet
Underground Outlet.....	365	feet
Heavy Use Area .....	2	acres
Conservation Cover .....	22	acres
Access Control.....	1	acre
Brush Management.....	100	acres
Nutrient Management .....	274	acres
Conservation Crop Rotation .....	407	acres
Cover Crop.....	5,800	acres
Filter Strip.....	0.1	acre
Forage Harvest Management.....	59	acres
Forest Stand Improvement.....	99	acres
Herbaceous Weed Control .....	6.5	acres
Pasture and Hayland Planting.....	7	acres
Prescribed Grazing.....	20	acres
Residue Management, Seasonal .....	3	acres
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till.....	22	acres
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch-Till .....	295	acres
Riparian Forest Buffer .....	4	acres
Riparian Herbaceous Cover.....	1	acre
Wetland Creation .....	14	acres
Critical Area Seeding Restoration and Management.....	2	acres
Forest Management Plan .....	203	acres
Pond.....	5	each
Roof Runoff Structure .....	2	each
Spring Development .....	1	each
Stream Crossing.....	1	each
Water Well.....	1	each
Trough.....	3	each

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW

Site Plan Reviews (all types).....	543
Commercial/Subdivision Plans Reviewed.....	71
Commercial Preconstruction Meetings.....	42

# District Happenings

## 2013 Annual Cooperators' Dinner

Calvert Soil Conservation District celebrated another year of conservation at our Twelfth Annual Cooperators' Dinner on Thursday, March 7, 2013. The evening's events included the presentation of the 2012 Cooperator of the Year award, door prizes purchased by Calvert Soil Conservation District to support local producers, local farming enterprises, and a PowerPoint presentation of 2012 District Highlights. The 2012 Cooperator of the Year award, an honor given to landowners for their outstanding commitment to stewardship of the land, was presented to Lester Holland of Farm X in Sunderland. This year's conservation efforts could not have been made possible without the commitment of our farming community. Our dinner crowd of 250 farmers and friends enjoyed great food catered by Thompson's Seafood, which was every bit as good as last year! A thoroughly good time was had by all.



*Chairman Tommy Briscoe (right) presents the 2012 Cooperator of the Year award to Lester Holland of Farm X.*



*Buddy Hance, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture (right), presents a citation for the 2012 Cooperator of the Year award to Lester Holland.*



*Frankie Wood (Front) having a delicious buffet of crab balls, shrimp, and oysters.*

## District Supports 4-H Club at 2013 Calvert County Fair

Each year Calvert SCD supports the 4-H Club by purchasing animals and donating them back to the club at the 4-H Livestock Auction at the Calvert County Fair. We enjoy helping this club very much.



*Terrell Neale  
Lamb*



*Becky Jones  
Swine*



*Charles Sasser  
Goat*

***Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arms and carry them.***

## Farm Tour 2013

On November 8 the District hosted its Annual Farm Tour. This year we visited the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, Maryland. This federal wildlife refuge was established in 1933 as a refuge for migratory waterfowl. Today it also protects forests and tidal wetlands. It serves as one of the chief wintering areas for Canada Geese using the Atlantic Flyway and is a haven for one of our nation's endangered species, the Delmarva Peninsula Fox Squirrel. Our next stop was S.B. Farms, with a guided tour of a bison herd. S.B. Farms raise bison and processes the bison meat for sale. Our staff and guests thoroughly enjoyed this trip to Cambridge, which included a buffet lunch. We would love to have you join us for next year's tour. **Give us a call, and we will add your name to our invitation list.**



## District Receives New Rental Equipment

In the summer of 2013 Calvert Soil Conservation District received a grant from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) in Hughesville to purchase additional equipment for our rental program. The district has added a Farm King 6640 Grain Vac to our list of rental equipment. The Farm King Grain Vac is pulled behind a tractor and uses a PTO shaft to operate the pump. A 110 horsepower tractor is recommended for proper operation. The suction and outlets use a six-inch hose for fast, effective vacuuming of grain bins. It weighs approximately 5,300 pounds and has the capacity to vacuum soybeans, wheat, canola, barley, and corn. Contact the District if you are interested in renting the new Farm King Grain Vac.



*Tommy Briscoe, District Chairman, inspects the new Grain Vac*

# Conserving Our Resources

## The Problem

A local horse operation needed our assistance. Existing guttering on an old barn was undersized and in disrepair. Portions of the original half-round gutter had separated and the downspouts had been crushed. Newer aluminum gutters were undersized and delivered additional water to already overwhelmed sections of the system.



Erosion washed away the soil around portions of the foundation, permitting water to flow into the barn. Attempts were made to keep stalls and storage areas dry. Plywood, flexible tubing, and stone dust had been brought in to raise the elevation of the stalls. Yet water still pooled in the barn, soaking the soil under stall mats, creating nutrient and potential animal health problems.



# With Roof Runoff

## The Solution

New adequately-sized gutters were hung and the downspouts placed at appropriate locations. PVC pipe was installed to carry the water away from the barn. On the front side of the barn a unique plastic chamber system was used to collect and infiltrate rainwater to protect downstream draining areas from concentrated flow. On the back side of the barn, water was released to a stone outlet that drains to a well-vegetated pasture. The interior of the barn is now dry and the area outside the barn has been re-graded. Funding for the project was provided by the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program (MACS) at 87.5 percent.



*Proper soil investigations ensure the success of infiltration systems*



*PVC pipes connect downspouts to outlets*



*Installation of underground chamber*



*Connecting downspouts to underground chamber*



*Re-grading the site*



*Stone Outlet*



*New fascia being installed*

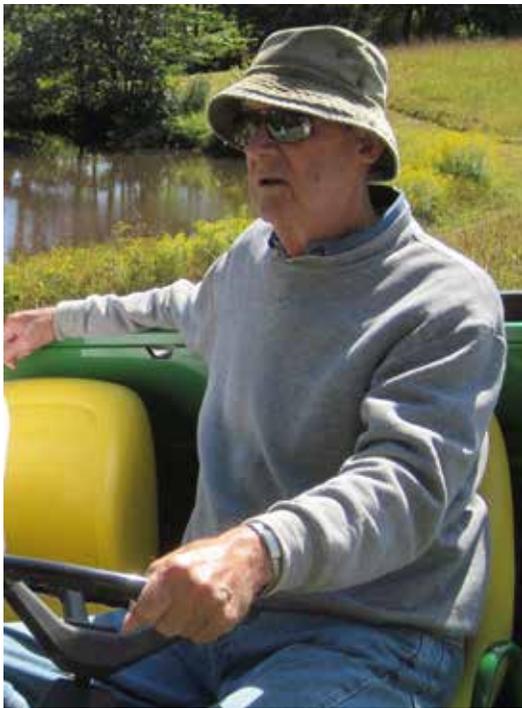


*Completed Project*

# 2013 Cooperator of the Year

The Seidel family owns and operates Outerscapes Landscaping and Nursery in Huntingtown. While Josef Jr.'s son Josef III, operates the landscaping side of the business from another family property in Huntingtown, Josef Jr. runs the nursery side of the business from the home farm on Plum Point Road. The Seidel family business has not always been primarily a nursery and landscaping enterprise. The fields on both properties have been worked in a wide range of agricultural commodities such as hay and pasture, orchards, and tobacco. Cash grains are currently grown on most of the farm's crop fields leased out today.

Through all of these enterprises, Josef has worked closely with the district, installing many best management practices on his farms since becoming a cooperator in 1963. Practices most recently installed include two pond repairs and a grade stabilization structure, which were cost shared through the USDA EQIP program.



*Josef Seidel Jr.*



*Pond Repairs*



# SCD District Presented with Several Conservation Awards

Calvert Soil Conservation District is one of 24 soil conservation districts in the state of Maryland. The district's mission is to help landowners and farmers install conservation practices on their land to help control soil erosion and reduce sedimentation in our waterways. Each summer, Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts get together to discuss local and regional conservation issues and to recognize districts for their outstanding contributions in helping to preserve farmland and water quality within the state. This year's meeting was held in Solomons. Several conservation awards were presented to Calvert Soil Conservation District at the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) Summer Awards Banquet. Calvert SCD received the MASCD Environmental Conservation Education Award. We received a 3rd place award for the Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit Outstanding District Award. Walt Wells, District Supervisor, received his 25-year service pin, and Cindy Nieland, our District Secretary, received the Outstanding Employee Award.



*Walt Wells, Supervisor, receiving his 25-year service pin from Lynne Hoot, Executive Director of MASCD.*



*Calvert SCD Board of Supervisors accepts awards presented to the District. Pictured (left to right) are Gilbert Chaney, Phillip Jones, Walt Wells, Tommy Briscoe, Hans Schmidt, 1st Vice-President (MASCD), and David Cox. Not pictured is Leonard Ogden, Supervisor.*

## Calvert SCD Receives Engineering Award

The County Engineers Association of Maryland (CEAM) presented Calvert SCD and Calvert County Department of Public Works with the Small Project of the Year Award for the Cage Farm Wetland Creation Project. The award was presented during the CEAM Fall Conference held in Ocean City, Maryland in September. Creating wetlands is considered one of the best ways to prevent sediment runoff and nutrients from entering waterways. Plans by the county to install a loop road around Prince Frederick would impact several wetlands. It was necessary to locate viable wetland mitigation sites. The county contacted Calvert SCD, who reached out to farmers to find sites that were generally too wet to farm to see if they might be interested in having wetlands installed. Cage Farm is a 600-acre farm situated on the Patuxent River lowlands. It was the perfect site for two five-acre wetlands to be created. The landowners are happy and the wetlands are beautiful and functional.



*Bill Clark, District Manager and Karl Deugwillo with the Calvert County Department of Public Works.*

# Photos of Local Calvert Farms used for Public Relations Materials

Last spring the district was contacted by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). They were interested in getting some very nice scenic photos of beautiful Southern Maryland farmland. Rona Flagle, MDA Public Information Officer, and Byron Petrauskas, MDA Area Coordinator for the Patuxent River Watershed, visited the district and Bill Clark took them on a tour of some really pretty Calvert County farms. Farms visited included the Swann Farm in Chaneyville, the William Dowell Farm in Sunderland, Frankie Wood's and Danny Gibson's farms in Huntingtown, Spider Hall Farm in Barstow, and several other farms along the Patuxent River. Rona will be using these photos in her public relations materials to promote the Cover Crop program, the installation of BMPs, and other Maryland Department of Agriculture Programs. We look forward to seeing some of Calvert County's picturesque farms in upcoming public relations materials developed by MDA.



## The University of Maryland Wins National Soil Judging Championship



Calvert Soil Conservation District contributes funds each year to support the University of Maryland Soil Judging Team so they may compete in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. This year, the University of Maryland beat out 21 other colleges and universities from around the country to take home the top prize in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. They generally place well, but this is the first time in 29 years the Terps have won this prestigious national competition. Congratulations!

# Navy Project

## Solomons Living Shoreline Creation Project Installed



*Before*



In the spring of 2011 the district began work on repairing another length of shoreline for the Department of the Navy at the Solomons Navy Recreation Center. Survey and design were completed by the end of 2011 and we began the permit application process. The project required a Maryland Department of the Environment Tidal Wetlands Permit and approval from the State Critical Area Commission. By the end of 2012 all permits were obtained and the project was put out for bid for construction in the spring of 2013. The bid was won by Coastal Design and Construction from Gloucester, Virginia. Construction began in April 2013 and was completed by mid-summer. Over 800 feet of sill and breakwater were installed along the shoreline just north of the Thomas Johnson Bridge. The entire area behind the breakwaters was then planted with wetland vegetation (pictured below left). The project will help stabilize the shoreline, and provide aquatic resources for marine life.



*After*



*Jeremiah 5:22 .....which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail.*

## CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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#### Board of Supervisors

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Leonard R. Ogden, Prince Frederick  
*Supervisor*

Gilbert E. Chaney, Dunkirk  
*Supervisor*

Phillip H. Jones, Sr., Huntingtown  
*Associate Supervisor*

#### Assisting Staff

Oliver L. Miranda  
*District Conservationist USDA-NRCS*

William A. Clark  
*District Manager*

Ronald M. Babcock  
*E&S Control Specialist*

Geoffrey S. Westbrook  
*E&S Control Specialist*

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Caroline A. Trossbach  
*Conservation Planner*

Albert R. Babcock  
*Engineering Technician*

Susan L. Davis  
*Resource Conservationist NRCS-USDA*

#### Cooperating Agencies

##### Calvert County

Calvert County Commissioners  
Department of Public Works  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
Economic Development  
Inspections and Permits  
Marine Museum  
Natural Resources  
Parks and Recreation  
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and  
Development Board

##### State of Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
MD Department of Natural Resources  
MD Forest, Parks & Wildlife Service  
State Soil Conservation Committee  
MD Cooperative Extension

##### United States Government

USDA Farm Service Agency  
USDA Rural Development  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Protection Agency

##### Others

Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission  
MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts  
Maryland Farm Bureau  
National Association of Conservation Districts

All district programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap. Calvert Soil Conservation District's Annual Report is published regularly to provide information to the land user.