



Henricopolis Happenings

Spring 2011

A publication of the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring Into Action!



In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources. During this week especially, we are encouraged to pay attention to and consider our personal and social responsibility, including our duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

Appropriately enough, it seems that during this season, there are multiple celebrations and observations that support the concept of conservation and environmental stewardship, including Earth Day and Arbor Day.

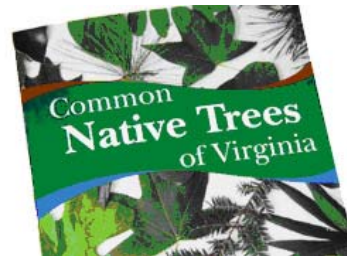
This issue contains information on just a few of the programs and activities in which you can participate in order to demonstrate your own stewardship ethic. Spring into action and take advantage of some of these opportunities!

Earth Day

While officially observed on April 22 of each year, Henrico will also celebrate on Saturday April 16. The Division of Recreation and Parks will again be hosting an event featuring educational booths and displays, recycling games, the Henrico County Bookmobile, arts and crafts, face painting, music, and more. Henricopolis SWCD will sponsor an educational booth and hand out sycamore seedlings to the first 400 participants.

Sat, Apr 16, 1-4 p.m.
Three Lakes Park
Admission is free.

Arbor Day - April 29



Want to learn more about native trees? Purchase your copy of "Common Native Trees of Virginia" for \$2.00. This VA Department of Forestry publication describes native tree species found in Virginia's forests. The 100 page book includes non-technical descriptions, with images of leaves, twigs, flowers and/or fruit. This book is available for purchase in the Henricopolis SWCD office or at www.dof.virginia.gov.



Henricopolis SWCD annually selects 2 Henrico County students to attend Youth Conservation Camp, a week-long summer conservation camp for high school students. The camp, sponsored by the VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, is attended by students selected by SWCDs throughout the state. Campers participate in outdoor activities and learn about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals. The cost of attendance is incurred by the SWCD. More info and applications are available at www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd
Applications due April 15!



Build-A-Barrel Rainbarrel Workshops

Learn about water conservation and make a rainbarrel to use at your own home!

Workshop Dates: Thursday, May 5
Thursday, May 12
Thursday, May 19
Thursday, May 26



Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location:
Human Services Building
8600 Dixon Powers Drive
Henrico, VA

Program fee: \$50.00

Registration is required.

[www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd/
rainbarrel.html](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd/rainbarrel.html)
or
501-5175



Get your coupons for free soil tests!

Henrico Residents:
Visit Henricopolis SWCD or e-mail requests
to
soiltestvouchers@co.henrico.va.us

Please include your name, physical address
and number of vouchers requested
(maximum 2 per household).

** This offer is valid until program funding
expires and is subject to change at any time.*



Electronics Recycling & Shred-It Event

Saturday, April 16

See page 6

Arbor Day - Thank you Miss Randolph!

While Sterling Morton is known for establishing the first Arbor Day in Nebraska in 1872, here in Henrico we have our own reasons to be proud of our Arbor Day history.

Virginia E. Randolph was born in Richmond, Virginia, on June 8, 1874, the third of four children of slave parents. At the age of sixteen, she graduated from what is now known as Armstrong High School. After a short teaching experience in Goochland County, she secured a teaching position with the Henrico County School Board and opened the old Mountain Road School in 1892. As a teacher, Randolph taught her students woodworking, sewing, cooking, and gardening, as well as academics. Miss Randolph's efforts were recognized and supported with the establishment of a group of educators known as Jeanes Supervisors. Being the first to receive this title, she continued to work to improve the educational quality and the physical appearance of African-American schools. Reknowned for her teaching skills, we also recognize her as the first to celebrate Arbor Day in the state of Virginia and in Henrico County.

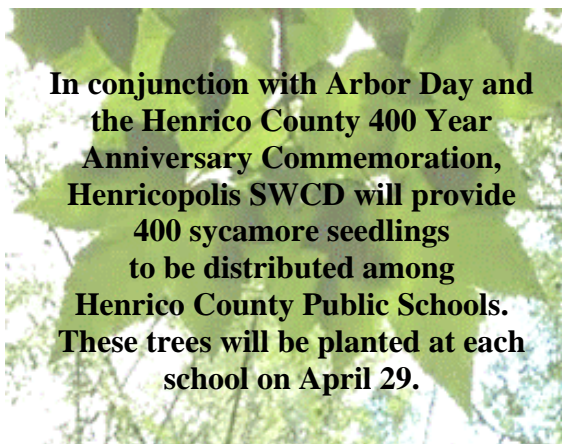


On April 2, 1902, the General Assembly of Virginia empowered the Governor of Virginia to declare an "Arbor Day" annually throughout the State as a day of planting of trees, shrubs, and vines about the houses and along the highways, and about public grounds in this State, thus contributing to the wealth, comfort, and attractions of the State.

On March 19, 1908, Governor Claude Swanson designated March 30, 1908 as Arbor Day in Virginia. Following this exclamation, Miss Randolph organized a two-day ceremony. She purchased sycamore trees with her own money, and on the second day, Miss Randolph, her students, and faculty planted twelve sycamores, one for each of Jesus' disciples. This ceremony is considered to be the first Arbor Day ceremony in Henrico County, the first Arbor Day ceremony at an African American school in Virginia, and very likely the first such ceremony at any African American school in the United States. In 1976, thanks to the efforts of Leon App, former forester with the VA Division of Forestry, these sycamores were the first trees to be designated as Notable and Historic Trees of Virginia. At the same time, these trees were recognized by the American Forestry Association as Historic Trees in the United States.

Through the years, some of these trees have been lost to parking lot and road projects or succumbed to disease. While several replacement trees have been planted over the years, it is believed that there are two remaining "original" trees which stand as living monuments to Miss Randolph's interest in teaching her students the value of our natural resources.

Help keep Miss Randolph's spirit alive - plant a tree this spring!



American Sycamore *Platanus Occidentalis*

- A striking feature of this tree is the mottled brown, green, tan and white bark, often referred to as "camouflage" bark that readily exfoliates.
- The sycamore is fast growing and long-lived. Sycamores may reach more than 100 feet tall; one of the largest in the eastern deciduous forest.
- The leaves are very large with 3 to 5 leaf lobes and are often 7 to 8 inches long and wide.
- Sycamore is valuable for timber and is also widely planted as a shade tree.
- Sycamore grows in all States east of the Great Plains except Minnesota. It is most common and reaches its largest size along streams and in bottom lands.

TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

Sponsored by
Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

Bare-root tree seedlings are available to Henrico County residents **FREE-OF-CHARGE** for the spring planting season. Trees beautify our surroundings, increase property values, help save energy, and protect our watershed. Do your part and plant a tree!



Thursday, March 24, 2011
Dorey Park Shelter 1
7200 Dorey Park Drive
2:30 PM—6:30 PM

Friday, March 25, 2011
Hermitage High School
Parking Lot
(intersection of Hungary Spring & Parham Roads)
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

The following seedling species will be available:

sycamore
red maple
red oak
green ash

red-osier dogwood
river birch
white pine
red bud

white dogwood
bald cypress
loblolly pine
sourwood

Quantities are limited and trees are available on a first-come, first served basis. Each participant is allowed up to 10 trees total, not to include more than 5 of the same species.



www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd

(804) 501-5175

E-mail: hsxcd@co.henrico.va.us

Trees are provided by the VA Department of Forestry through the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company "One for One" program and by Henricopolis SWCD.

Plant More Plants!

Submitted by John Fowler, Henrico County Department of Public Works

Henrico County has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, as well as several other municipalities, to spread the word about plants and how they can help the Chesapeake Bay's health. Through this program, we hope to make an impact on the quality of the Bay and the diverse ecosystem that it supports.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, approximately 200 miles long, extending from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Virginia Beach, Virginia. It is fed by rivers and streams in a 64,000 square mile watershed that stretches from upstate New York to Southern Virginia. It is a complex ecosystem composed of important habitats and food webs. The Bay and its rivers, wetlands and forests provide homes, food and protection for diverse groups of animals and plants.

Each spring, rain storms wash pollutants from hundreds of thousands of urban landscapes and suburban lawns into our streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Once in our waterways, chemicals designed to make our lawns green, fuel the growth of excess algae, which threatens the health of underwater Bay life and our ecosystem.

Water quality is the most important measure of the Chesapeake Bay's health. Unfortunately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay is in jeopardy, as a result of pollutants including those from storm water runoff. Water quality in the Bay remains extremely poor because of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution. To improve water quality, the flow of pollution must be reduced.

Plant More Plants, a personal stewardship campaign by the Chesapeake Bay Program, aims to encourage residential homeowners to take on behaviors that improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay by reducing the harmful effects of storm water runoff—the fastest growing source of pollution—from urban and suburban land. Homeowners in the Hampton

Roads and Richmond areas of Virginia, Washington D.C. metropolitan area and Baltimore are encouraged to adopt conservation gardening and lawn care behaviors that ultimately mitigate harmful pollutants and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The message to homeowners is simple and encourages a behavior they are already predisposed to do – **Grow some good. Plant more plants.** Not only do plants make yards more beautiful, but because they also filter storm water runoff, the Chesapeake Bay becomes healthier and more beautiful too.

Plant More Plants encourages consumers to plant native plants to help conserve the Bay's natural resources. Plants native to the Bay area are adapted to the region's soil, climate and pests, therefore requiring less water, fertilizer, pesticides and overall maintenance. Native plants are also the best source of food and shelter for wildlife.

Natural landscapes reduce the quantity and improve the quality of storm water runoff. Native plants absorb storm water and act as filters that reduce the harmful effects of fertilizers, pesticides and spilled fuels from power equipment. Plant roots grip soil and reduce erosion from storm water runoff.

Native species planted on slopes, along water bodies and along drainage ditches help to prevent erosion and pollution by stabilizing the soil and slowing the flow of rainwater runoff.

To learn about conservation landscaping and how to help improve the Chesapeake Bay starting in your own backyard, visit

www.PlantMorePlants.com.



Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District

Vision: Clean Waters, Productive Soils

Mission: To educate and guide Henrico citizens in the sustainable use of our natural resources

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Electronics Recycling & Community Shred ID Theft



Saturday, April 16

10 AM – 1 PM

Hosted by Henrico County at
Virginia Center Commons Mall

10101 Brook Road, Glen Allen

E-cycling

Electronic products often contain hazardous and toxic materials that pose environmental risks if they are landfilled or incinerated. Safely and properly dispose of unwanted electronics.

Items accepted:

Computer systems and accessories, printers, scanners and copiers, FAX machines, VCRs, camcorders, stereos, and microwave ovens.

Televisions will be accepted for a \$7 fee.

Payment will be accepted by cash or check.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners will **not** be accepted.

Call the Recycling Hotline for more information
340-0900

Shred Identity Theft

Bring up to 2 boxes or 3 paper grocery bags of your personal documents to be shred for FREE.

Call 501-4838 for more information about the shredding program.

Visit our website for up-to-date information about District events and programs.

www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd