

# Calvert Soil Conservation District



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*2020 ANNUAL REPORT*

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# *A Message From Our District Conservationist*



*W*hat a wild and wet ride we had in 2020! As I reflect on the year just passed, I realize wholeheartedly and gratefully how fortunate I am to have my health and my job, and to be nearly untouched by the grim trauma the pandemic has brought to so many people.

We should focus on keeping our families safe and healthy in the coming year, but we cannot overlook the challenges that nature has given us this past year when it comes to land stewardship. The 2020 hindsight makes clear the challenges we all have had recently in managing how soil and water interact – to me this is the heart of soil conservation. The repercussions of the frequently repeated and high amounts of rainfall throughout the year travelled with us from planting to harvest and beyond. After rainstorm on top of rainstorm on top of saturated soil, we have had conservation practices, both new and old, tested, and some have held, while others have failed. Re-reading my 2018 note in that year’s Annual Report I feel that I could repeat all my statements of that wet year, and then top that year’s summary soggy concoction off with a pandemic, a new Farm Bill, and a new computer conservation planning system – the sprinkles, nuts and cherry on top.

It has been a challenging year for everyone for so many reasons. Here in the District we appreciate the patience and flexibility of you, our Cooperators, as we navigated this strange year and endeavored to continue to provide quality service. Because we were forced to meet outdoors, I found myself and our staff doing more farm visits and getting more opportunities to work closely with farmers to apply conservation on the ground and address the challenges of this wet year. It may have cut down on the quantity of service provided, but I hope that it has improved its quality. It was an odd benefit of the 2020 way of doing things that we got out in the field more to do our job the way I think it should be done. When we become more familiar with our new computer planning system, we should see more time to spend in the field assessing resources and assisting our producers with conservation planning services.

Instead of repeating myself with recent weather history, let me go back to our Soil Conservation roots and close by quoting the “father of soil conservation” in the United States, Hugh Hammond Bennett; “From every conceivable angle-economic social, cultural, public health, national defense-conservation of natural resources is an objective on which all should agree.” As we face a new year, let us be, as he entreated us to be during World War II, “bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land”. Let us continue his legacy of conservation, boldly going forward with stewardship of our natural resources, balancing agricultural production with soil health improvements that build a resilient base and working with the land. We in the District are here to help you weather the conservation challenges.

Susan Lamb  
NRCS District Conservationist  
Calvert Soil Conservation District

## 2020 ENGINEERING & PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Landowners Assisted .....	267
Conservation Plans Completed .....	1,051.3 AC
New Cooperators .....	5

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INSTALLED

Conservation Cover .....	17.6 AC
Conservation Crop Rotation .....	345.8 AC
Residue and Tillage Management .....	200.1 AC
Cover Crop .....	150.5 AC
Critical Area Planting .....	5.7 AC
Residue and Tillage Management .....	110.7 AC
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment .....	885.0 FT
Non Streamside Fence .....	1,124.0 FT
Field Border .....	1.5 AC
Grade Stabilization Structure .....	2.0
Grassed Waterway .....	0.4 AC
Hedgerow Planting (Grass) .....	130.0 FT
Lined Waterway or Outlet .....	50.0 FT
Mulching .....	2.5 AC
Forage Harvest Management .....	23.2 AC
Pasture & Hay Planting .....	67.1 AC
Livestock Pipeline .....	4,031.0 FT
Prescribed Grazing .....	47.2 AC
Pumping Plant .....	1.0
Roof Runoff Structure .....	1.0
Heavy Use Area Protection .....	0.1 AC
Stormwater Runoff Control .....	1.3
Nutrient Management .....	334.0 AC
Watering Facility .....	4.0
Water Well .....	1.0
Seasonal High Tunnel System .....	2,160.0 SF

### EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REVIEW

Site Plan Reviews (all types) .....	676
Commercial/Subdivision Plans Reviewed .....	75
Commercial Preconstruction Meetings.....	31

# ACEC Engineering Excellence Award

The Calvert Soil Conservation District was recognized during a virtual gala sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) at the 53rd Annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA). The gala, traditionally a black-tie dinner and awards show held; was held virtually for the first time this year on December 1, 2020, where more than 650 viewers attended the event.

The Calvert Soil Conservation District Office received the award via mail and was presented to Engineer Glenn Gass (photo right) by District Manager Bill Clark (photo left). Glenn was presented with this award to recognize his assistance with the Slope Stabilization Project at the Navy Research Laboratory in Chesapeake Beach, MD. Glenn has been a welcome addition to the district for years by assisting with numerous projects within the tricounty area. Additionally, the District worked together with contractors of Whitney Bailey Cox Magnani, LLC (WBCM) to complete the job.



*Congratulations to Glenn Gass and the Calvert Soil Conservation District!*



*Cliff-side before project started.*



*Cliff-side after the project was completed.*

# MASCD Awards Chairman "Outstanding Leadership"



*Because the conference was virtual, Bill Clark (left) presents Tommy Briscoe (right) his award.*

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) annually recognizes the service of outstanding supervisors, employees, cooperators, and others that make significant contributions to district programs. On August 5, 2020, the association met virtually and presented a number of awards to deserving individuals and districts.

Thomas Briscoe of the Calvert Soil Conservation District was awarded Outstanding Leadership for his time as a supervisor and his leadership in the development of conservation programs.

This year Tommy also celebrates 35 years of service with the Calvert Soil Conservation District.

**Congratulations Tommy!**

## A BIG thank you

*In 2020, Tammy Bowen, who was with Calvert SCD for 7 years, accepted a new position at the Economic Development office. The District wishes her luck and success at her new position. Thank you Tammy for all of your hard work at CSCD throughout the years!*

### MASCD 2019 Attendance Award



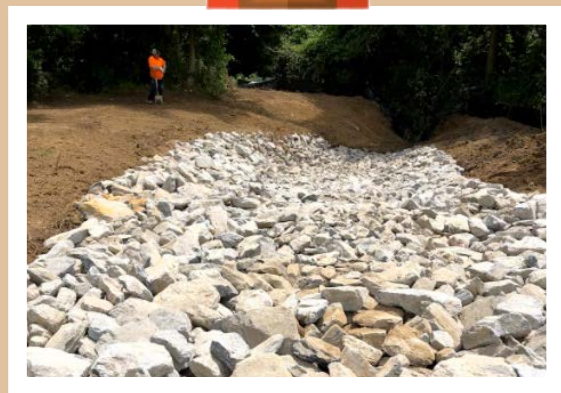
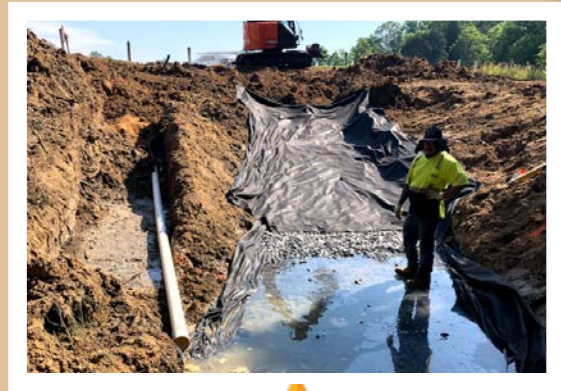
Great job to all the Supervisors for meeting requirements in 2019 (awarded in 2020) for attending MASCD meetings!

### Honorable Mention - ERC Holiday Decoration Contest



Rebecca and Ashley worked hard decorating the office during the holidays. Their work did not go unnoticed by the Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) who awarded the District with an Honorable Mention for their creativity!

# Farm Plans at



*Photos above show the progression of grade stabilization practices being installed at Timmy Gott's farm. Adding a grassed waterway will prevent runoff from creating deep muddy areas.*

The Gott farm has been a Cooperator of the county since 1956, with established farm plans in place since 1984. For years, farm owner Timmy Gott has struggled with muddy areas around his barn. Back in the day, the barn was used for tobacco. Since then, Timmy has transformed that barn into a cattle barn. All was going well until the heavy rains hit in recent years. In a cycle of wetting and drying, the areas around and outside of the barn were stuck in a muddy rut. When it rained, the ground was so wet that the cattle's hooves would sink in over a foot. The area was so heavily used, vegetation never stood a chance. Though soft when wet, underneath the surface was a hard, compacted layer that just shoved water downstream and caused a gully in the middle of the field. Cows exacerbated this, often walking through the gully. Calling this a huge inconvenience would be an understatement.



# Timmy Gott's

This year, multiple practices were installed to solve these issues. We began with the barn by installing gutters to prevent the water from running off the roof to where the cows congregate. We then constructed a grassed waterway to receive the flow from the gutters and safely convey it to the grade stabilization, out-letting into an old farm pond. Three crossings were also built to allow farm equipment and cattle to cross the grassed waterway cleanly using geogrid. Geogrid is a synthetic, plastic-type material designed to hold gravel tightly compacted and to keep it in place where water flows overtop of it. Finally, a fence was built around the grassed waterway to prolong the lifespan of the practice and to ensure cattle do not cause another gully by walking up and down the waterway.



*The photos above depict the stages of Timmy Gott's implementation of roof runoff structures to control erosion and sediment runoff issues.*

# Employee Updates



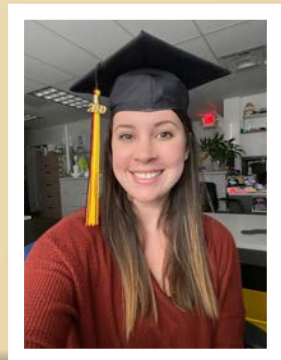
**Tommy Briscoe** was appointed as a district supervisor in 1985 and quickly began taking on responsibilities to move the district forward into the 21st century. Due to his excellent supervisory skills, he was elected Chairman of Calvert Soil Conservation District in 1997, taking on the leadership role for conservation in Calvert County. For the next 23 years, Tommy faithfully guided the district through the turmoil of changes in district operations, wetlands issues, district budget cuts, and additional workloads assigned to the district by state law. In November of 2018, Tommy was once again elected to serve as District Chairman and began his 23rd year of district stewardship. He is honored to receive his 35 year pin this year. **Congratulations on 35 years of service!**

**Leonard Ogden** is a fifth-generation farmer and lives in Barstow, Maryland on his 58-acre farm. As most Calvert County farmers of his age, his first main crop was tobacco, then transitioning his operation to corn, soybean and wheat crops. Being the sole proprietor of the farm, he maintains and repairs all his equipment and buildings. He was an Associate Supervisor from 1999 to 2005 and has been on the Board of Supervisors for the last 15 years, without ever missing a meeting. He is honored to receive his 15-year pin and looks forward to continuing his work with the Calvert Soil Conservation Board. **Congratulations on 15 years of service!**



**Noah Cook** was hired as an intern in 2019 to assist with engineering plans for county projects using CAD software. This year, he graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore College (UMBC) in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Senior Computer Science. He has assisted the office with numerous project plans including projects at Breezy Point Beach, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, and making repairs at Stoneleigh Court and Ball Road. He will complete his internship with the district in 2021. Calvert SCD wishes him luck in his future endeavors!

**Ashley Brown** was welcomed to the Calvert Soil Conservation District on July 27, 2020. She was hired to relieve Ms. Tammy Bowen as Office Specialist II after she transferred to the Economic Development office. Ashley has been a great addition to the office, (especially when she brings in donuts) and we look forward to continuing working with her. Since her hire date, she has also graduated from the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Investigative Forensics. Welcome aboard, Ashley!



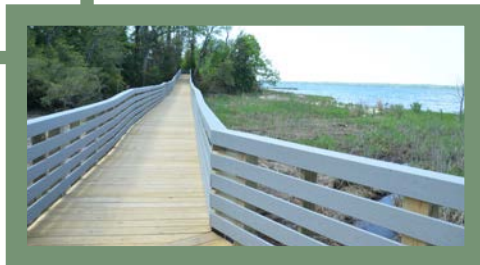


# Highlight of District Projects over the Years

Over the last 30+ years, the Calvert SCD has been involved in numerous County, state, and federal projects to help conserve our soil, our shoreline, and protect our environment. One of our earliest projects was the Mine Reclamation project at the end of Ferry Landing Road. The District constructed a pond to contain the highly acidic run-off of an old mining project from entering the Patuxent River. The pipe was all heavy-duty concrete with a special anti-corrosive coating.



The district began a relationship with Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum in 1986 when we were asked to install shoreline protection measures at the north end of the property to protect a small house. Over the years we have continued to work with Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, installing additional shoreline protection measures and, as of this year, we have installed over 2.5 miles of off-shore breakwaters. These structures not only protect the fragile cliff areas but also have created several acres of tidal wetlands. The first off-shore breakwater structures in Maryland with built-in planter boxes for planting additional vegetative cover were constructed right here at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.



Around 2005, the District began stream restoration and nontidal wetland creation projects through Calvert County Government. One of the first projects was a stream restoration project on the Phipps farm in Chaneyville. We restored several hundred feet of stream channel and installed a bridge for farm machinery. We then went on to create about 10 acres of nontidal wetlands on Biscoe farm in St. Leonard.

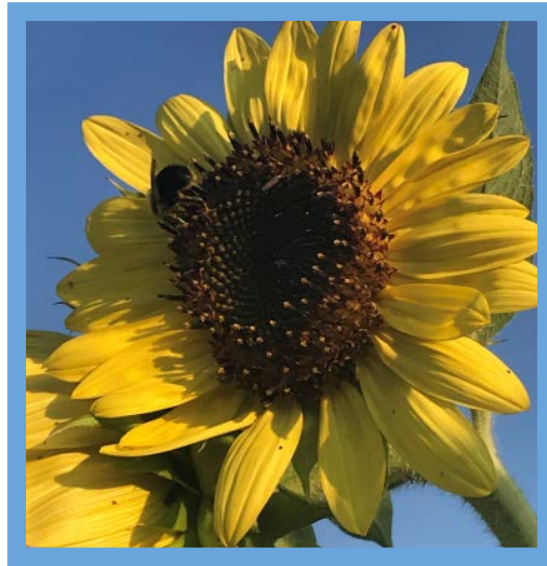


The last and largest project ever completed by the district was the soil nailing project at Chesapeake Beach. In order to hold back 800 feet of 100-foot tall cliffs, we bored 1,200 number of holes in the cliff, concreted in 40-foot-long bolts, and bolted the face of the cliff together.

# 2020 The International Year of Plant Health

As you worked hard this year to control weeds, insects, fungi, and other plant pests in your crops and landscape this year, you were helping to commemorate the International Year of Plant Health

**Healthy Plants  
The basis of life on  
earth!**



**Resilient Rural  
Communities**



“Consider the value of what you protect. Healthy plants are the foundation of life on Earth. They make the oxygen we breathe and give us 80 percent of the food we eat. Plants sustain our livestock and poultry. They also provide habitat for wildlife, form the base of nature’s food chains, and help biodiversity to flourish.” “In addition, agricultural trade in plants and plant products has become crucial for human survival and economic growth in many rural areas, and it is worth nearly \$1.7 trillion annually. Over the past decade, its growth has almost tripled. Thriving plants mean thriving people.”

Greg Rosenthal, USDA-APHIS 1/2020



**Plants:  
the original solar  
collectors!**



**Healthy Soils...  
support healthy  
plants**

This year, eat and grow your fruit and veggies! In 2021, we celebrate the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables!

# District Manager will Retire after 36 years



**Bill & wife Sherry with their golden retriever Daisy on Ocracoke Island, NC**

William Audrey Clark, the son of a coal miner's daughter, was born in the mountains of western Maryland on February 18, 1956. He came to Southern Maryland as a baby when his father who worked for the State Roads Commission (now State Highway Administration) came south to a place that did not have 9 months of winter. He was educated in the Calvert County school system, went to the old grey building for elementary school and Calvert Junior High, both of which have been torn down. He graduated Calvert High School in 1974 with honors. He attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a degree in Agronomy and became a soil scientist.

In 1984 he joined the Second District Volunteer Rescue Squad (now Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad) as an Emergency Medical Technician. He has been an active running member for 36 years providing medical services to the community on thousands of emergency calls. He has held the positions of secretary, Assistant Chief, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Water Rescue Captain. He was instrumental in designing their 27-foot rescue boat. This same design was then used for the Solomons and North Beach rescue boats. He was also instrumental in the design and construction of the Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad's new building in 2018. He is a registered U.S. Coast Guard Ship Captain and has been teaching water rescue training at the squad since 1990. He plans to serve the community for years to come.

In August 1985 he was hired as the District Manager for the Calvert Soil Conservation District. The hiring process at that time was done by the Calvert County Finance Department. He was hired by Paula Grover (now Paula Gray). In 1986 he married Sherry Chaney from Dunkirk, Maryland. They both graduated Calvert High School together. He moved onto the family farm in Dunkirk and began to raise a family together. They have two sons, Jesse William Clark born in 1992 and Benjamin James Clark born in 1993. During this time, he re-entered the University of Maryland on a part time basis. In 1994 Bill graduated with a Master's Degree in Environmental Public policy.

Bill has now worked for the Calvert Soil Conservation district for 35 years. He loves his job and enjoys helping landowners in the county solve erosion problems. Over the years he has helped design and install miles of shoreline protection, many many farm ponds, waterways, and farm erosion control practices. In 2018 he worked with the Department of Navy to install an 800-foot cliff stabilization project at the Naval Research Laboratory in Chesapeake Beach. At \$5 million dollars, it was the largest project ever installed by the District. It has been wonderful working for the Calvert District Board of Supervisors for the past 35 years. Bill says, "They are the best board of supervisors in the State of Maryland." Bill plans to retire from county service in December 2021.

Bill spends the remainder of his time involved in church activities. He turned his life over to Jesus Christ at an early age and was born again unto a new life with Christ. He and his family faithfully attend church every Sunday and on Wednesdays for prayer meetings. Bill loves to play bluegrass gospel music and plays the guitar, banjo, and mandolin. Each month they go to nursing homes and provide church services to the disabled where they give out the gospel and sing together as a family. He also runs the sound booth at church and records all the singing and preaching. His golden retriever, Daisy, faithfully attends each service and resides in the sound booth with him, where all the children come by to see the dog that "goes to church."

Bill concludes with this – "It has been a wonderful life so far. The Lord Jesus Christ has been my pilot and guide through it all. My next big adventure will be retirement and then onto the gates of Heaven. Keep a close relationship with God and read the Bible daily. If you are not saved and don't know where you will go when you pass from this life, I ask you now to accept the Lord Jesus Christ into your life and be born again."

***Calvert Soil Conservation District wishes Bill a very happy retirement!***

# CALVERT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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### Board of Supervisors

Thomas D. Briscoe, St. Leonard  
*Chairman*

Walter L. Wells, Prince Frederick  
*Vice Chairman*

David A. Cox, Prince Frederick  
*Treasurer*

Leonard R. Ogden, Prince Frederick  
*Supervisor*

Gilbert E. Chaney, Dunkirk  
*Supervisor*

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

J.R. Cosgrove, St. Leonard  
*Associate Supervisor*

Benson Tiralla, Prince Frederick  
*Associate Supervisor*

Charles Wells, Prince Frederick  
*Associate Supervisor*

Charlie Cox, Prince Frederick  
*Associate Supervisor*

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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.

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### Assisting Staff

William A. Clark  
*District Manager*

Susan Lamb  
*District Conservationist USDA-NRCS*

Rebecca S. Willis  
*Administrative Aide*

Ashley E. Brown  
*District Secretary*

Ronald M. Babcock  
*E&S Control Specialist*

Geoffrey S. Westbrook  
*E&S Control Specialist*

Ryan St Laurent  
*Engineering Technician*

Jennifer M. David  
*MDA Conservation  
Engineering Technician*

Angella D. Hunter  
*MDA Conservation Planner*

Jennifer Carlson  
*Conservation Planner*

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### Cooperating Agencies

#### Calvert County

Calvert County Commissioners  
Planning and Zoning  
Department of Public Works  
Economic Development  
Inspections and Permits  
Marine Museum  
Natural Resources  
Parks & 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