



# TALBOT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING **65** YEARS OF CONSERVATION  
1958-2023

June 2023

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## NEW STRIDES FOR NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL IN MARYLAND

Erin Stiede, Farm Bill Wildlife Specialist II, [estiede@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:estiede@pheasantsforever.org)

In partnership with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), I am the new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II for Quail Forever. I will be helping Talbot County and the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland to promote, coordinate, and implement wildlife habitat-related conservation programs. This region is in the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Bobwhite Quail Focal Region, and we are making great strides to get back the "Bob-white" call we all know and love.

Prior to joining Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever, I worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. I did a lot of trapping for Dove, Quail, and Wild Turkey, as well as managing deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). I formerly worked for the Natural Lands Project in Chestertown, MD, where I helped manage Chino Farms, focusing on helping landowners implement some of the practices that have been attributed to their booming quail population. I hold a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology and M.S. in biology from West Texas A&M University.

Northern Bobwhite have declined in Maryland by more than 95% in the last several decades. However, with proper habitat, populations of quail, pollinators, Wild Turkey, and other species can be increased. There are USDA financial assistance opportunities such as implementation costs, annual rental payments, and federal, state, and private bonus payments. If you are interested in implementing habitat for quail on your property, please reach out at [estiede@quailforever.org](mailto:estiede@quailforever.org) or (920) 680-1981.

### **About Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever**

Quail Forever and Pheasants Forever make up the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. This community of more than 400,000 members, supporters and partners is dedicated to the protection of our uplands through habitat improvement, public access, education, and advocacy. A network of 754 local chapters spread across North America determine how 100 percent of their locally raised funds are spent — the only national conservation organization that operates through this grassroots structure. Since its creation in 1982, the organization has dedicated more than \$1 billion to 575,000 habitat projects benefiting 24 million acres.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July Board Meeting** ..... July 12, 7:30 PM

**Aug. Board Meeting** ..... Aug. 9, 7:30 PM

**Sept. Board Meeting** ... Sept. 13, 7:30 PM



## 2023/2024 COVER CROP PROGRAM SIGN-UP DATES

June 21—July 17

In person sign-up is back!

**Don't forget!** We will require your Nutrient Management Certification Form before the application will be considered complete.

To keep up with our all of our local conservation efforts, Like & Follow!



Like us on Facebook "[Talbot Soil Conservation District](#)"

Follow us on Twitter at [@talbotscd](#)



## 2023 NACD Poster Contest Winners Announced

For 32 years the Talbot Soil Conservation District has sponsored the Land Stewardship Poster Contest. Each year Talbot SCD provides poster board and a theme to public and private schools in Talbot County. The 2023 theme was *“One Water.”*

All winning artwork can be found at <http://www.talbotscd.com/poster-contest>.

### K-1 Grades:

1st—Christian H. (Chapel District Elementary School)

### 2nd-3rd Grade:

1st—Reese C. (Chapel District Elementary School)

2nd—Harper C. (Chapel District Elementary School)

3rd—Presley D. (Chapel District Elementary School)

### 4th-6th Grades:

1st—Jocelyn A. (Easton Middle School)

2nd—Emmeline T. (Chapel District Elementary School)

3rd—Kayden R. (Easton Middle School)

### 7th-9th Grades:

1st—Ellia G. (St. Michaels Middle/High School)

2nd—Wyatt B. (St. Michaels Middle/High School)

3rd—Lorelia Y. (The Country School)

### 10th-12th Grades:

1st—Shayne W. (St. Michaels Middle/High School)

2nd—Carly G. (St. Michaels Middle/High School)

3rd—Kathryn L. (St. Michaels Middle/High School)



10th-12th Grade 1st Place  
Winner—Shayne W. (SMMHS)

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors recently presented the **Roy R. Scott Memorial Scholarship** to three deserving students. The scholarship is offered to students who are pursuing a career focused on agricultural or civil engineering, or an agricultural related program specifically addressing natural resources and/or conservation.

- ◆ Kylie Weems, attending the University of Maryland, College Park, starting her Bachelor’s Degree.
- ◆ Jadon Cook, attending the University of Mount Olive (NC), starting his Bachelor’s Degree.
- ◆ Kara Hutchison, attending the Delaware Valley University (PA), starting her Master’s Degree.



John Swaine III, Chairman, with Jadon Cook (top)  
and Kara Hutchison (bottom)





## What is a Soil Conservation & Water Quality Plan and why should I have one for my farm?

**Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQP) or Conservation Plans** are a valuable tool for farmers and landowners to manage resources and improve profitability.

*A conservation plan is a working document designed to fit each individual farmer's needs while protecting and conserving their soil and water resources.*

**Conservation plans are not mandatory unless all or part of the farm falls within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area** or you are applying for or currently participate in an agricultural land preservation program, or participate in any state or federal cost share programs.

*If you are interested in developing a conservation plan for your farm, please contact one of our conservation planners to set up an on-farm visit. The planner will need to walk the farm and take notes on current farming practices and identify any resource issues which may need to be addressed. These plans are free and should be updated at least every 10 years.*

## CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

**Grassed waterways** are shaped or graded channels, that are established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a nonerosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet (USDA Practice Standard Code 412).

If interested in applying for a grassed waterway or other best management practice, contact one of our planners at 410-822-1577 x 3. More photos can be found on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/talbotscd>.



## Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors

The Talbot SCD Board of Supervisors provides overall supervision and sets policy assuring that the district performs tasks required by law and memorandums of understanding. Supervisors are appointed to represent farming, forestry, wildlife, suburban/urban interests, and other natural resource interests in a district.

Our Board also consists of associates. Associates are nonvoting, volunteer members who actively contribute to developing and implementing the district's programs.

### Supervisors

- John Swaine III, Chairman (County Appointee)
- Lewis Smith, Vice Chairman (At-large)
- Kyle Hutchison, Treasurer (At-large)
- Lemmie Swann, Member (UMD Extension)
- Colin Jones (Farm Bureau)
- Shannon Dill (Extension Service), Secretary
- Billy Foster, Associate
- Raymond Harrison III, Associate
- Hannah Harrison, Associate
- Norman Fike, Honorary Member



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### CONNECT WITH US

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## TALBOT SCD FIELD STAFF

Shawn D. Smith, District Manager—[shawn.smith@maryland.gov](mailto:shawn.smith@maryland.gov)

Rebecca Brown, District Conservationist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—[rebecca.brown@usda.gov](mailto:rebecca.brown@usda.gov)

### Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

#### Conservation Planners

Rocky Donovan—[rocky.donovan@maryland.gov](mailto:rocky.donovan@maryland.gov)

D. Scott Nordhoff—[david.nordhoff@md.nacdnet.net](mailto:david.nordhoff@md.nacdnet.net)

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#### Technicians

Brandon Zinter—[brandon.zinter@md.nacdnet.net](mailto:brandon.zinter@md.nacdnet.net)

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Brandon Dudrow—[brandon.dudrow@maryland.gov](mailto:brandon.dudrow@maryland.gov)

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Patrick Titus, Soil Conservation Technician—[patrick.titus@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.titus@usda.gov)

Kim Reynolds, Program Support Specialist (*Talbot and Caroline*)—[kimberly.reynolds@usda.gov](mailto:kimberly.reynolds@usda.gov)

Annie Rossi, Soil Scientist (*Eastern Shore*)—[annie.rossi@usda.gov](mailto:annie.rossi@usda.gov)

Heath Miller, Area Engineer (*Eastern Shore*)—[heath.miller@usda.gov](mailto:heath.miller@usda.gov)

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