

CONSERVATION NEWS

News Flash! Charter School of Wilmington Team A are the 2022 Delaware Envirothon state champions. See back page for details.

SPRING 2022

GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION AWARDS GIVEN TO JEFF BARTSCH AND SIMONDS GARDENS C. A.



District Coordinator Kevin Donnelly with Jeff and Joyce Bartsch

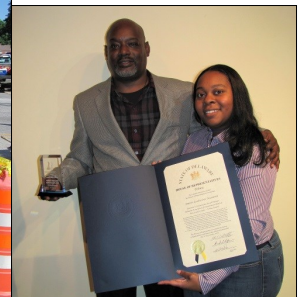
Jeffrey A. Bartsch, Sr. and the Simonds Garden Civic Association were honored at an Awards Reception held at the Delaware Agricultural Museum on May 3rd. DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin, USDA NRCS State Conservationist Kasey Taylor, DACD President Roland Hill and many other guests and family members were on hand to honor the recipients.

Jeff Bartsch received the Governor's Conservation Award for Agriculture. For more than 30 years, Jeff has been a primary contractor for tax ditch work and RC&D-CTF public drainage improvement projects in New Castle County. Recently Jeff has done work on tax ditches throughout southern NCC where his work included mowing ditch banks and ditch rights-of-way, removing downed trees, dipping out sediment, and replacing rusted corrugated metal pipes with high-density polyethylene pipes. As a landowner/farmer, Jeff has been involved with the Herring Branch Tax Ditch for many years, and in December 2021, became chair of the tax ditch. Being a farmer at heart, Jeff takes great pride in improving the land and its productivity. Currently Jeff and his wife Joyce till 585 acres in Delaware and Maryland. Over the past 14 years, Jeff had implemented a total of 1,947 acres of cover crop with NCCD's cover crop cost-share program and 172 acres of cover crop using NRCS EQIP funds. Congratulations!



Jeff working on Guthrie Tax Ditch maintenance mowing and ditch clean-out

The Simonds Garden Civic Association received the Governor's Urban Conservation Award. Simonds Gardens is a community between New Castle and Wilmington. The drainage project



New drainage work installed at community entrance and Jaywanne Saunders (Civic Association President, and Javier Paula (Secretary)

included the installation of a new stormwater basin at the entrance from Lambson Lane into Simonds Gardens, the replacement of two existing DelDOT stormwater basins with stormwater pipes and a new outlet in Simonds Gardens Park and the installation of over 1,200 feet of new curbing and road re-surfacing to address ponding and icing conditions and impaired curbside drainage. Community input through on-site visits and public meetings identified the most critical issues. The effort included an engineering study and construction plans funded with a grant from the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council, NCCD RC&D funds, and Community Transportation funds. Consulting engineers were AECOM's David Athey, P.E. and Lawrence Carson, P.E. of Carson Management Company. Congratulations!

2022 URBAN AG GRANTS AWARDED

The District awarded funding to 14 urban ag and community garden projects. This year's awardees are:

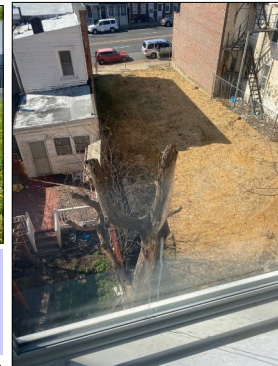
- Bellevue Farms
- Delaware Center for Horticulture
- Delaware Historical Society
- Duffy's Hope Garden
- Lancashire Elementary School
- Latin American Community Center
- Middletown Church of the Nazarene
- Odyssey Charter School
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Plastic Free Delaware
- St. Nicholas Church
- Simonds Gardens Community Garden
- The Village Tree

The new urban ag website is now live at www.deuffc.org.

Plastic Free Delaware is working on a community scale composting program. Shown is a 3-slot compost bin at the Downtown Visions Garden in Wilmington



Old wooden beds at Simonds Gardens will be replaced with cinder block beds



Aerial view of the site for the new Latin American Community Center Garden on Fourth Street

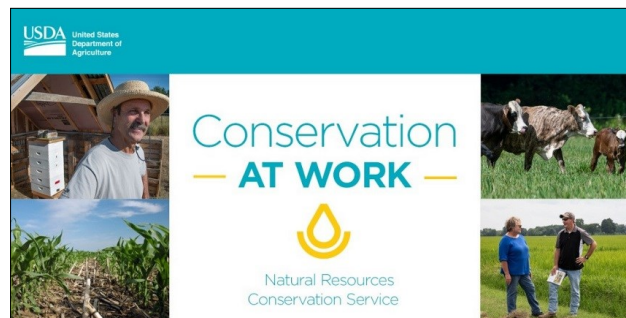


Under a grant provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, a summer intern has been hired to assist with an urban agriculture needs assessment. Tara Wingate, a 2022 graduate and FFA participant from Appoquinimink High School, begins her position on June 7th through August before starting her freshman year at the University of Delaware.

NEWS FROM USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation at Work Video Series

A video series from NRCS, *Conservation at Work*, presents short and easy to understand videos about popular conservation practices. These videos feature producers explaining how an individual practice helps their land and why they are using it. Videos showcase high tunnels, no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and many more. Check out the *Conservation at Work* video series at farmers.gov/conserve/conservationatwork.



For more information on NRCS programs and services in Delaware, visit www.de.nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA NRCS has a new program for producers called the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program — Conservation Incentives Contracts (EQIP-CIC)** which is a blend of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. The program provides financial assistance to adopt eligible incentive practices. The priority resource concerns to be addressed are Field Pesticide Loss, Field Sediment Loss, and Source Water Depletion. Practices that can be implemented under this program include: Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till, Cover Crop, Residue and Tillage Management-Reduced Tillage, Irrigation Water Management, Drainage Water Management, Nutrient Management-Pest Management Conservation System, Soil Carbon Amendment and Soil Health Testing.

Come visit the New Castle Field Office to help you develop a conservation plan, identify applicable conservation practices, and pursue funding.

WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE



Work was completed during the spring to remove major debris jams underneath several Wilmington and Western Railroad bridges spanning the Red Clay Creek from near Yorklyn to downstream of Lancaster Pike. NCCD managed the project with FEMA funding coordinated by the NCC Public Works Department.



Backyard drainage system installed in Rutledge



Pipe system installed behind homes in Brookland Terrace



Rock-lined swale installed at home in Chalfonte



Basin catches water from a parking lot to home in Chatham



Terraces on Iron Hill drainage system

REMEMBERING NORMAN PIERCE - NCCD BOARD MEMBER




Norman Pierce was recently re-appointed to another 3-year term as an associate member of the NCCD Board of Supervisors by DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin. Norman passed away on May 9th. He worked for over 40 years in building services and maintenance at several companies in New Castle County. However, his life-long passion was farming and gardening - particularly caring for his prized rabbits, horses, goats, poultry, and dogs at his 5-acre Union Ridge Farm. He judged show rabbits at the Delaware State Fair and Maryland's Queen Anne and Cecil County fairs. He was a founding member of the First State African American Farmers Association. He and his wife Gwen (who also serves on the NCCD Board) were involved in the District's urban ag program where they reviewed grant applications. His advice will be sorely missed.

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Board of Supervisors (L to R): Norman Pierce (Associate Member). Mike Harris (Representing County Executive Matt Meyer), Julian Pellegrini (Associate Member), Dan Severson (Secretary), Richard Morris (Vice-Chair), Robert Emerson (Chair), Brandon Yerkes (Member), Gwen Pierce (Treasurer), and S. R. Smith, III (Member)



Charter School of Wilmington Team A, state champions of the 2022 Delaware Envirothon. L to R: Mukta Kantank, Tiffany Situ, Meghna Raj Annasagaram, Erica Hong, and Claire Andreasen. Team Advisors are Greg Darone and Xau Bi. The team will now represent Delaware at the NCF Envirothon at Ohio University in Oxford, OH the last week of July.



A link to the 2022 Soil and Water Stewardship Week materials is available on the District website or visit www.nacdnet.org.



July 24 – 30, 2022
Oxford, Ohio

Waste to Resources



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The District participated in a number of community and youth education events during the spring including the following:

- Newark Center for Creative Arts Sustainability Festival.
- Judged students in the Del Tech Science Fair competition.
- The Make A Splash Water Festival in Dover.
- The Youth Environmental Summit at UD's Clayton Hall.
- The 2022 Delaware Envirothon competition.
- The 2nd annual Shad Fest in Wilmington.
- Glasgow Park Farmers Market.

Photos from top left: Make A Splash Water Festival, NCCL Sustainability Festival, Smyrna H.S. FFA and Middletown H. S. FFA at the Youth Summit.

