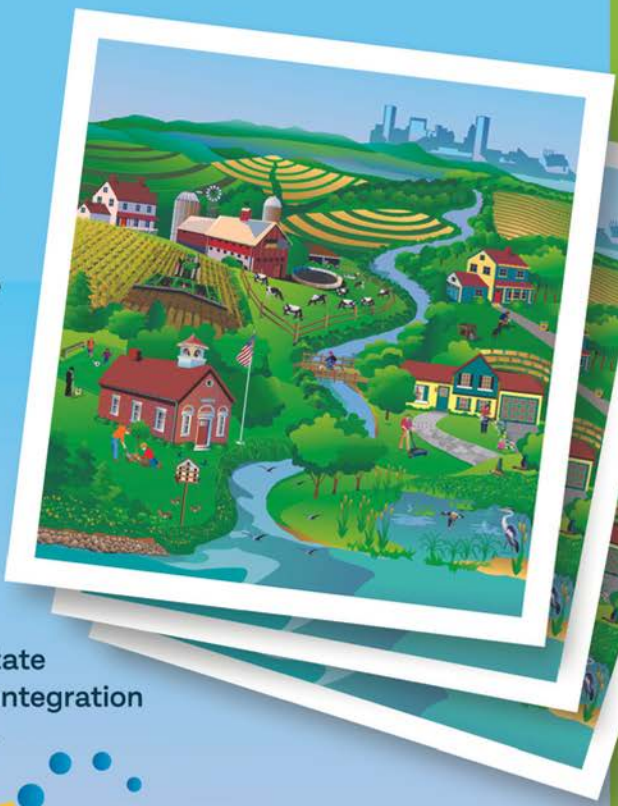

2024
Annual Meeting
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Hosted By: Lower Shore

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Welcome

to the 2024 MASCD Annual Meeting!

Friends in Conservation,

The theme of this year's conference is "Connecting Through Conservation". A number of us have been connected to each other through MASCD or the Conservation Partnership for decades, while others are newer to our group. Our Annual Meeting is always a welcome time to see our friends and colleagues, and I hope everyone has the chance to visit and catch up over the next few days.

However, it's not just our meetings and events that connect us. Conservation isn't just an individual effort- what we do on our land doesn't just affect us, it affects our communities and the larger environment beyond our field borders. Nor can we solve larger environmental issues on our own, as it takes the collective efforts of many people to improve whole watersheds and climate challenges.

Over the next few days, we'll hear updates on programs and make decisions on how we as a group can continue to be good stewards of the organization and our partnerships. Our strength is in our connection, and I appreciate everyone's dedication to be here and help guide us in moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Swaine III

John Swaine, III, MASCD President

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MONDAY

12 PM - 2 PM
New Supervisor Orientation
Clipper- Upstairs

12 PM - 1:45 PM
District Managers Meeting
Galleon- Upstairs

12 PM - 1:45 PM
NRCS DC Meeting
Cutter- Upstairs

2 PM - 3 PM
Area Meetings
See Registration Desk

3 PM - 5 PM
Board Meeting #1
Chesapeake- Downstairs

*Detailed agendas on pages 11-12

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Crab Feast
Widgeon Pavilion, Horn Point Lab
2020 Horns Point Rd., Cambridge
(Separate Ticket Required)

TUESDAY

7 AM - 8 AM
Breakfast
Choptank - Downstairs

8 AM - 9:30 AM
"The Dirt: Exploring Generational Influences & Communication Preferences"
Opening Session with Brad Gingras, Superior Strategies
Chesapeake- Downstairs

9:30 AM - 12 PM
Administrative Committee
Chesapeake- Downstairs

12 PM - 1 PM
Lunch
Choptank- Downstairs

1:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Technical Committee
Chesapeake- Downstairs

5:15 PM- Evening Reception
6:00 PM- Dinner ~ Awards ~ Auction
Chesapeake- Downstairs

WEDNESDAY

7 AM - 8 AM	**Breakfast** Choptank - Downstairs
8:15 AM - 10 AM	**SSCC Training Session** Chesapeake- Downstairs
10 AM - 11 AM	**General Business Meeting** Chesapeake- Downstairs
11 AM - 12 PM	**BOD Meeting #2** Chesapeake- Downstairs
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	**CSP Info Session & QA** Galleon- Upstairs

*Detailed agendas on pages 11-12

Please take a moment to fill out the 2024 MASCD Annual Meeting Evaluation. Thank you!

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CALLING ALL PUBLIC DRAINAGE OFFICERS

MASCD has received a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to fund projects adjacent to ditches, including:

* Non-Tidal Wetland Creation
* Floodplain Reconnection
* Shoreline Management
* Riparian Buffers

Drainage organizations receive a financial incentive for helping to identify project areas and work with landowners to implement projects.

Contact Chelsea Gebbia for details:
Chelsea.Gebbia@resourcesmartllc.com
(443) 359-3478

Thank You

Thank you for attending the MASCD Annual Meeting. We hope that you have enjoyed the event. We were delighted to be able to strengthen all of our organizations by making and nurturing new connections.

We would like to acknowledge:

MEETING HOSTS

Dorchester SCD
Somerset SCD
Wicomico SCD
Worcester SCD

MASCD OFFICERS

John Swaine III, President
Van Funk, Vice-President
Mike McGinnis, Treasurer
Shawn Smith, Secretary

MASCD STAFF

Jen Nelson, Executive Director
Missy Cannon Helgason, Exec Asst.
Marguerite Guare, Bookkeeper/Admin Asst.
Chelsea Gebbia, Outreach & Education Director

Detailed Agendas

District Managers Meeting

Monday, 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm

- MDA Telework Policy- Updated 5/15/24- How are managers implementing? How has this affected workload management?
- MDE- CAFO Updates, WOTUS and SEC Requirements Update (from 2011 specs)
- Forest Clearing on Farmlands- Alisha Mulkey/SSCC
- SCD Record-keeping and Retention
- Staff Meetings- Are managers having staff meetings regularly and who is included? How has this been helpful to 1) motivate staff, 2) set short-term goals for staff and/or 3) facilitate communication with partners?
- Reminder: 2027 NCF Envirothon Payment, History and Need for Sponsorship- Bruce Young/Karen Miller

MASCD Board of Directors Meeting #1

Monday, 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm

- **Roll Call, Approval of Minutes, Treasurer's Report**
- **MASCD Updates** from Envirothon, Endowment Committee, Executive Director
- **Partner Updates** from NACD, SSCC, MDA, NRCS, FSA and others
- **Old Business**
  - Investment Committee Recommendations
  - Maryland BFF Program Update
- **New Business**
  - Updates from Providence Strategies
  - Envirothon Polaris and Trailer Discussion
  - 2025 Budget
  - Winter Meeting 2025

Opening Session

Tuesday, 8:00 am - 9:30 am- Chesapeake EFG

- **Welcoming Remarks**- John Swaine, III, MASCD
- **The Dirt: Exploring Generational Influences & Communication Preferences-** Brad Gingras, Superior Strategies

Administrative Committee

Tuesday, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Chesapeake EFG

- **Results of MASCD/SSCC Survey-** Jen Nelson (MASCD), Alisha Mulkey (SSCC)
- **Roundtable Introductions to NRCS, MDA & FSA Outreach Specialists-** Rachel Giles (NRCS), Becky Remsberg (MDA, Julia Medrano (FSA), Chelsea Gebbia (MASCD)
- **Legislative Updates-** Mike Mason (Providence Strategies)
- ***Break***
- **Leopold Conservation Award-** Jen Nelson (MASCD)
- **NRCS Leasing Requirements & Process-** Chris Schlette (NRCS)
- **MDA Budget Forecast & Implications for Districts-** Byron Petrauskas (MDA)
- **IRA Funding Updates & Plans for Implementation-** Sherri Degraphenreed (NRCS)

Technical Committee

Tuesday, 1:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Chesapeake EFG

- **Training Needs & Opportunities for New Employees-** Byron Petrauskas (MDA), Steve Strano (NRCS)
- **Small Farm Cover Crop Program/ Urban Ag Updates-** Bill Tharpe (MDA)
- **Saltwater Intrusion on Delmarva-** Alison Schulenburg (UMD)
- **What's Ahead for WIP After 2025?-** Elizabeth Hoffman (MDA)
- ***Break***
- **Conservation Agronomy at Heartland Co-op in Iowa-** Ruth McCabe (Heartland Co-op) and Team
- **New NRCS Areas- Update and Benefits for SCDs-** Eric Hines, Jackie Byars (NRCS)
- **NRCS Update on Engineering Reviews & Project Approvals-** Jacob Dieguez, Jackie Byars, Eric Hines (NRCS)

General Business Meeting

Wed., 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Chesapeake EFG

- **Area Meeting Reports- Western, Central, Southern, Upper Shore & Lower Shore**
- **Resolutions**

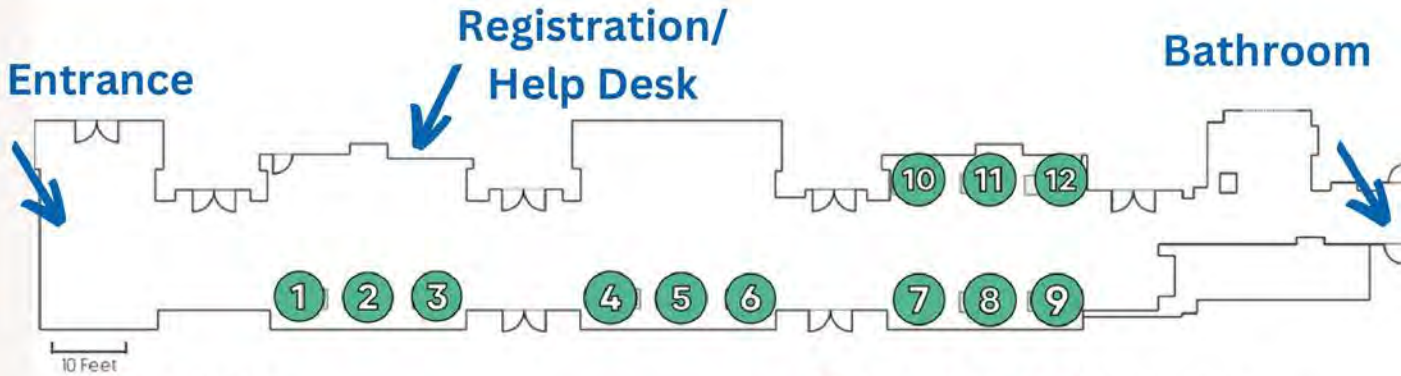
MASCD Board Meeting #2

Wed., 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Chesapeake EFG

- **Roll Call**
- **Resolutions Committee Report**
- **Budget Approval**
- **2025 Annual Meeting- Central Region**
- **Other Business (cont. from Sunday Board Meeting)**
- **Adjourn!**

Exhibitor Space Assignments

Visit Our Exhibitors!



1. MASCD
2. MD BFF
3. MD TAX DITCH PROGRAM
4. NRCS
5. NRCS
6. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY RESOURCES
7. UNDER WOOD & ASSOCIATES
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9.
10. GREEN LANDING NURSERY
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Notes

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