

**The National Capital Chapter  
Of  
The Soil and Water Conservation Society**

**Welcomes you  
To**

**The Fall Conservation Tour**

**“Conservation in Maryland’s Capital County:  
The Urban-Agriculture-Bay Continuum  
In Anne Arundel County”**

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

This Tour is sponsored by the USDA NRCS and the  
Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District

The County Complex, Annapolis

Our first stop will be at the Anne Arundel County Complex itself. What better place to start our Conservation Tour? Throughout her first term and continuing in her second term, County Executive Ms. Janet Owens has been increasingly proactive in conserving and enhancing Anne Arundel County’s Natural Resources. Under her leadership and with Ron Bowen’s (AA Public Works) technical expertise, Anne Arundel County has installed the first “Living Roof” in the County at the County Complex. Ron has also mentored the design and installation of several Rain Gardens and Bioretention Areas engineered to make infiltration of parking lot runoff easy, and soften the previously impervious rainfall route from parking lot to pipe to bay. Stop in at the Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District Office to see the State of the Conservation Art and the latest in urban water conservation!

The Harry S. Truman Parkway Farmers Market, Annapolis

Our next stop will be the busiest Anne Arundel County Farmers’ Market at Harry S. Truman Parkway in Annapolis. This market, established by a partnership of farmers and local and State officials in \_\_\_\_\_, is the highest grossing market of the 6 markets in Anne Arundel County. All produce, baked goods, eggs, honey, cut flowers, and bedding plants are produced in Anne Arundel. Many of the farms now in vegetables were recently in tobacco until the “Tobacco Buy Out” in \_\_\_\_\_. Come and Visit with the Anne Arundel farmers and gain insight into the evolution of agricultural operations in our Capital County.

## John Colhoun's Beef Operation, Deale

Our last stop before lunch will be at John Colhoun's beef operation. John is a 13th generation Anne Arundel County farmer, operating the same bayside farm that his ancestors established in \_\_\_\_\_. John's family has seen many changes in land use over the generations. John will enlighten us on the combination of perseverance, adaptability, and resource conservation that has kept his family in farming over the centuries.

## Lunch with Don Riddle: The Homestead Gardens Story, Davidsonville

Join us for lunch at Homestead Gardens. Don Riddle is founder and owner of one of the busiest and most diverse horticultural wholesale/retail centers in Maryland. As we enjoy our lunch, Don will inform us about some of the challenges and the many rewards of creating a livelihood from Anne Arundel County Soils. Don will share his vision of Anne Arundel Agriculture's future.

## A visit to Wine Country: Ron Wates, Viticulturist, Annapolis

Welcome to Wine Country on the Bay. Ron Wates, manager of Harness Creek Vineyard, will give us a description of state-of-the-art conservation measures that he has adopted to insure that his operation environmentally friendly. He will show us conservation practices ranging from grass strips between the rows of grape vines to advanced pest control recovery technology designed to collect and recycle pest control materials. Ron is a wealth of information and a highly motivated conservationist. Recent County legislation (passed unanimously by the County Council after written and verbal testimony from Anne Arundel conservationists) will allow for the first time the establishment of wineries in our fair county. Return to Annapolis soon to help Ron celebrate his first vintage!

## The Oyster Recovery Partnership: John Flood, South River Federation

As a fitting finale to our conservation tour, John Flood will give us an overview of the Oyster Recovery Project, sponsored by the Oyster Recovery Partnership. This partnership includes The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, MD Dept of Natural Resources, and the South River Federation. John will fill us in on the details of this eight-year-old project to establish millions of oysters over a 30-acre oyster reef. The primary objective of the project is to remove algae from the waters of the Bay. This is one of the many examples of conservation partnerships in Anne Arundel County, organized and fostered by residents, elected officials, and local, state and federal agency workers. The alliances in Anne Arundel County are broad and deep and the positive results of their efforts are all around us.

Thank you for joining our tour of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. We hope you've enjoyed learning more about conservation in our Capital County. We look forward to your next visit.