

Promoting the Bayscapes Concept in Chesterfield County

Chesterfield County is a rapidly developing jurisdiction. The goal for implementing the *Riverfront Plan* adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in January 1997 extends far beyond the county's 124-mile riverfront properties along the Appomattox and James Rivers.

The *Riverfront Plan* and strategic plan adopted by Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront's Board of Directors encourages community outreach and education for the citizens of the county to better understand and implement measures to assist in the campaign to enhance our water resources leading to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront has been promoting the use of native landscapes and the "Bayscaping" concept initiated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Likewise the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension promotes a water-wise landscape. There is a need to improve the frequency of use and recognize those already using these concepts in our community as natural landscapes have a significant impact on non-point source run-off and the pollutants entering our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

This "Best for the Bay Landscape Model Project" focuses on Chesterfield County; however, the concept, once tested, could be used in any of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions.

Working in partnership with the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension, Friends proposes to initiate a program to elevate the attention and recognition of those already using these concepts in their landscape design. This model grant program funded by a grant from

the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee for \$3,700 will enable Friends and the Cooperative Extension to work in partnership to provide the following:

■ **Conduct a native landscape seminar on Nov. 12 from 7 – 9 p.m. Register by calling 796-6091.**

■ **Beginning in November an informational packet of "Bayscapes" design concepts will be mailed to interested citizens.**

■ **A recognition program for the use of the "Bayscapes" concept for residential citizens, for businesses and industry, and for landscape designers will be piloted in spring 2002. Stay tuned for more information on how to apply for this recognition.**

The purpose of this grant is to promote the use of native plants and the "Bayscaping" concepts throughout the community using a recognition program and landscape competition. By establishing this program on various levels with homeowners, business and industry and with landscape designers and Virginia Nurseryman's Association, the project will receive widespread exposure.

Continuation of the awards program and community seminar will be based on receipt of additional sponsorship. Once the program is established, it is anticipated a community sponsor may be interested in promoting the concept of "Best for the Bay Landscapes."

Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Program Grant Received

The Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront has received a grant for \$3,000 from the Department of Environmental Quality for citizen water quality monitoring. This grant will pilot the use of chemical monitoring at four key sites in Chesterfield County in the James River watershed.

Chesterfield County's Environmental Engineering Water Quality Section currently monitors using biological monitoring and physical monitoring through the streamwatchers program.

The locations selected for this Friends pilot monitoring program will augment the data being collected by the county through these existing monitoring programs. Two of the James Rivers sites at Dutch Gap Conservation Area and Robious Landing Park will initiate citizen monitoring on the main stem of the James River in Chesterfield County providing the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Quality with data in areas not being monitored.

Volunteers are needed to monitor the four selected sites on a weekly basis.

Citizen Monitoring Training will be conducted by Stacy Moulds of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 9- 11:30 a.m. at the Henricus Historical Park. To volunteer call 796-6091.

***It's not too late to renew
your membership for
the Fall Pontoon Boat
Member's Excursion.***