

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**of**

**E. W. MUNDIE**

**Extension Soil Conservationist  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Blacksburg, Virginia  
1959-1960**

This report briefly discusses the projects of the Virginia Extension Soil Conservationist for the year beginning December 1, 1959, and ending November 30, 1960. A number of the projects engaged in during the current year have been successfully used for several years and have been reported in some detail in previous reports. These projects will be listed on this report but will not be reported in detail except where there have been significant changes in procedures and results obtained.

#### 1960 CHANGE IN STATUS OF CONSERVATIONIST

During the year for which the report is made, the Conservationist moved his office to the Agricultural Engineering building where he became administratively assigned to the Agricultural Engineering Department. Prior to this change in headquarters and assignment, he had occupied offices with the staff of the State Soil Conservation Committee and was administratively accountable to the Director of the Extension Service.

In accordance with the 1960 Plan of Work, the Conservationist's year's work has been focused on these general areas of operation:

1. Informing the public on natural resources conservation
2. Increasing the conservation knowledge of youth
3. Rendering direct assistance to supervisors of soil conservation districts in carrying out their educational activities
4. Rendering assistance to the State Soil Conservation Committee
5. Inter-agency organization activities
6. Special assistance in small watershed projects

1. Informing the Public on Natural Resources Conservation.

The State Soil Conservation Committee, at the request of the Conservationist, appropriated \$500.00 for the preparation of a series of discs of radio spot news. The radio news editor of Extension and the Conservationist prepared one disc bearing six shorts during 1960. Seventy-three copies of the disc were reproduced and sent to selected radio stations throughout the state. A survey of the stations was made to ascertain the degree of use made of the disc. Approximately forty-five of the stations replied that they used the discs several times. Only one station indicated that it did not make use of the material. Plans are now being developed to produce additional discs in 1961.

Approximately six radio talks on timely conservation topics were made during the year, which were sent to all radio stations served by the V. P. I. Extension Service.

The Conservationist appeared on the program of the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Garden Clubs to discuss natural resources conservation and he displayed a soil and water conservation exhibit at this convention, which attracted much attention. During the year he met with representatives of faculty and student body at Mary Baldwin College to discuss natural resources conservation. A program was presented to a County Board of Agriculture and one day was devoted to conferences and field trips with conservation specialists of India.

Under the direction of the President of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts supervisors, the Conservationist edited one of the quarterly newsletters published by the Association, prepared two news articles for state-wide publications and several articles for daily and weekly papers which were distributed through the editorial office of the Extension Service.

Approximately eight thousand copies of the Progress Report on Virginia water resources were distributed to key persons throughout the state.

A soil and water conservation section was conducted in connection with the Institute of Rural Affairs held at the land grant college this past summer. The program consisted of a classroom discussion of soil differences, which was followed by a field trip to show these differences. The areas examined in the field had been previously mapped and each participant was given a copy of the map. Each area delineated on the map was bored with a soil auger attached to a pick-up truck and the core inspected by the group. The demonstration was attended by 60 to 75 farm leaders.

## 2. Increasing the Conservation Knowledge of Youth.

For the fifth consecutive year, conservation short courses were conducted for public school teachers. The purpose of the short course is to provide additional training for teachers in the subject of wise land use, thereby increasing the effectiveness of conservation and resource use teaching in the public schools of Virginia. More than 65 different organizations assisted in providing scholarships for the teachers who attended the 1960 course. Soil Conservation Districts, Garden Clubs, Maak Walton Leagues, and many others have been ardent supporters of this program. Including the 78 teachers who received training in this course during 1960, there are now approximately four hundred teachers who have taken this three semester hour credit course and are annually teaching approximately 20,000 Virginia boys and girls an added appreciation for our natural resources. Many reports received from teachers who have enrolled in the course reflect results and enthusiasm comparable to that shown in Mrs. Widener's report, which we have included as Exhibit "A" of this report.

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As a second step in the process of trying to get more conservation taught in the public schools, a committee consisting of a representative of the Virginia Academy of Science, one from the Virginia Resource Use Education Council, and one from the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts, has been appointed to study the problem. This committee, of which the Extension Conservationist is a member, has met once and another meeting has been scheduled for the latter part of January. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will be asked to meet with the committee in its next meeting to further discuss the matter. While it is recognized that the process for reaching the ultimate goal will be slow and tedious, much encouragement is held for reaching the much sought after objective of stepping up natural resource conservation teaching in the public schools of the state.

Land appreciation projects for 4-H Club members were participated in by more counties in 1960 than any previous years. Fifteen county teams were selected to participate in the state contest, which was held here on the V. Z. I. campus in connection with state 4-H Short Course Week. Procedures used in training club members in this project were the same as had been employed in past years, except that an area meeting and field study was conducted in one Extension district between dates of county training and the district contest. Soil Conservation Service personnel have been most cooperative in the conduct of the land appreciation project as well as other projects carried out by the Extension Soil Conservationist.

The Conservationist assisted the Director of 4-H Conservation Camp in planning the program of instruction for the 150 campers who participated in the 1960 conservation camp. He also provided a week of instruction in soil

and water conservation for this camp. The instruction differed somewhat from that of past years in that groups of campers developed model conservation farms which depicted the agriculture, terrain, and conservation patterns of the (1) coastal plain (2) northern piedmont (3) southern piedmont, and (4) valleys and mountain areas of western Virginia, as a part of their instruction. Each group selected its reporter, who gave a report to the entire camp assembly explaining why the group selected the particular land use and conservation practices they did.

The campers for Conservation Camp are very well selected by County Extension personnel on merits of their leadership abilities and their interest in natural resource conservation.

A conservation tour was sponsored for public school teachers of Arlington and Fairfax counties of Virginia and the District of Columbia in cooperation with the Washington Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. Sixty-one teachers and other conservationists were in attendance and observed. Good farming practices as well as stream siltation were observed on the tour. Also included with the tour was a conservation demonstration by one of the teachers who had been enrolled in the conservation short course, and her seventh grade students.

### 3. Direct Assistance to Soil Conservation Districts.

The Conservationist served as Chairman of a Training Program committee for training soil conservation district supervisors. This was the first attempt to conduct a state-wide training program for supervisors. There were two meetings conducted, one at Richmond and the other at Roanoke. The meetings, which began with dinner on the first day and terminated by 3:30 p.m. the following day, were well attended. Supervisors were high in their praise

for the training and they voted to request that similar meetings be conducted in the future to help inform them and keep them current on their opportunities for service.

Supervisors were assisted by the Conservationist in planning and conducting programs for six area meetings and the state-wide annual meeting. Concerted effort is devoted to getting the supervisors to accept responsibility for planning and carrying out these and other activities in the soil conservation districts program.

Supervisors were assisted in several state-wide projects. Notably among these were the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Conservation Awards Program and the observances of Soil Stewardship Week and Natural Resources Conservation Week. Several contacts were made with individual district supervisors and boards of supervisors both by letter and by personal contacts to explain the advantages to be derived from participating in the Goodyear Awards Program and to encourage district boards to enter the program, while, not having everything to be desired for dealing with the soil and water conservation program, this awards program definitely provides the best measuring stick to districts for taking inventory of where they are with the job and suggesting things that they might do to strengthen the district of any program yet devised. All Virginia district boards that have participated in the program are quick to state that their district is stronger because of it.

The Soil Stewardship observance of 1960 was participated in by all of the Virginia districts. The methods of making contacts with the ministers of the district varied from writing them and enclosing the literature with a request for participation to dividing the list of ministers among the five soil conservation district board members and each member visiting with the minister and

discussing the districts program and urging use of the material and over-all participation in the observance. Activities featured in this observance include radio and television programs by lay people and ministers alike, news articles, conservation tours for ministers, meetings, special showings of stewardship films, and Sunday school lessons and sermons devoted to soil stewardship. While no summary is at hand covering the results of this observance, it is known that each of the twenty-nine districts participated and district supervisors are very enthusiastic about the response from the ministers.

Natural Resources Conservation Week was observed this year for the tenth consecutive year. It is the considered opinion of several conservation leaders of the state that this observance has added many new friends for the conservation program.

The activities participated in during the several years in which the observance has been conducted were again used in 1960. Significant in this list is the Proclamation Statement by the Governor of the Commonwealth. At the time Governor Almond issued the 1960 Statement, newspaper, radio, and television editors were present to take pictures, write up the news, and make radio tapes. The radio tape was sent to all radio stations of the state and the Statement by Governor Almond was widely distributed to various organizations and agencies of the state. Each soil conservation district, armed with the Governor's Statement and other news materials, launched its own program in recognition of the observance.

The Governor's Proclamation Statement was sent to the 400 teachers who have enrolled in the Conservation Short Course with an appeal that they do all possible to call the observance to the attention of students and others of

the community. A number of responses are on file to bear out the fact that splendid effort was made by the teachers in interest of this observance. An example is included as Exhibit "G" of this report.

A letter of appeal for assistance in the observance was sent to Presidents of the Federation of Garden Clubs, the Federation of Womens Clubs and the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. An example of the response from the Federation of Garden Clubs is shown as Exhibit "H" of this report.

The Conservationist served as an advisor to two soil conservation district boards of supervisors in the revision of their programs and work plans during the year. In light of the current developments in water conservation and other items affecting soil and water conservation programs, most district work plans and programs are now out of date and need to be revised.

Time has been devoted to attending meetings of the Board of Directors of the Association to advise with the membership and to serve in an advisory capacity on committees appointed to carry out various objectives of the board. As an example, the board voted at one of its 1960 meetings to endorse a slogan contest for Virginia public schools and the project was referred to the education committee of the Association. The Conservationist was asked to work with this committee in formulating rules and in developing plans for carrying out the contest and in obtaining a sponsor for the same. By sitting with the various committees in the initial stages of project development as in the above case, one can more effectively assist the organization in the development of its educational program.

The Annual Meeting of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts provided the Conservationist with several ideas pertaining to district educational activities in other states which have been transmitted to districts

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as contacts have been made with individual board members and with district boards of supervisors.

The Conservationist attended fourteen soil conservation district board meetings during the year to assist with various aspects of their educational program. He brought to the board the experiences of other districts and he gave board members suggestions for their consideration in developing and carrying out an educational program.

4. Rendering Assistance to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The Extension Conservationist serves as Secretary to the State Soil Conservation Committee. He records official actions of the Committee and handles such correspondence and other duties as pertain to the assignment as Secretary. In addition, he serves on committees as requested by the State Committee and performs other duties assigned by the Committee. He works with the staff of the Committee in a program of assistance to the 30 districts of the state. This includes transmitting information from the State Committee to districts and bringing to the Committee the needs of districts as expressed by board members and as observed in visits to districts. It includes assistance in developing conservation publications for use in districts, training supervisors in the performance of their duties, and other related matters.

The Conservationist appeared on the program of the meeting of the committees and employees of eight northeastern states which was held at Hershey, Pennsylvania in May, 1960. The Virginia State Committee has invited the group to Virginia for the Annual Meeting March 12-14, 1961, and has requested the Extension Conservationist to serve as Chairman of the program and arrangements committees for this meeting.

5. Inter-agency Organization Activities and Relations

During the year the Conservationist served on several programs and committees which have for their purpose bringing together the thinking and actions of groups with responsibility for soil and water conservation. Some of these are:

- (1) Chairman, Land Committee, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin.
- (2) Chairman, Natural Resources Committee, Virginia Academy of Science.
- (3) Member, Virginia Resource Use Education Council
  - a. Several subcommittees
- (4) Special committee for the selection of conservation practices under the cost sharing program of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.
- (5) Sub-committee on the Conservation Needs Inventory.

The Conservationist appeared on the program of the Annual Meeting of Virginia Soil Conservation Service personnel, which was held on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute campus. He also conferred with officials of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, Virginia Division of Forestry, and the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries on further coordination of efforts in the soil conservation districts program.

In-agency Assignments of the Conservationist

The Conservationist served on the following committees:

- (1) 4-H Short Course
- (2) Agricultural Extension Service Annual Meeting

- (3) Chairman, Soil and Water Conservation Section, Institute of Rural Affairs.
- (4) Chairman, Social and Recreation Committee, Agricultural Faculty

6. Special Assistance in Small Watershed Work.

Preparation of a movie on small watershed development, which was begun in 1959, had to be postponed because of loss of personnel in the television production staff at V. P. I. A publication entitled, "How You Can Benefit From a Small Watershed Program," was published under the auspices of the State Soil Conservation Committee. A news article was prepared for publication in the Southern Planter, and two radio talks were made on the small watershed program. Contacts were made with Extension Agents in counties where watershed applications have been approved.

EXHIBIT A

Example of how teachers use information and materials in conservation short course offered public school teachers.

Chilhowie, Virginia  
December 12, 1960

Mr. E. W. Mundie  
Extension Soil Conservationist  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Mundie:

1. We began our study the third week in October - Conservation Week.
2. The class was divided into groups: (a) Wildlife (b) Forest (c) Soils and water (d) Mineral

Each group was responsible for its own committee (a) Reporting (b) Bulletin boards (c) Newspaper articles (d) Posters (e) Essays (f) Check-up exercises.

3. We started by writing news articles - the best one was chosen to be sent to the county newspaper. (It was not published due to the fact, I believe, that the Soil Conservation District had run an article that week.) This was a language assignment.
4. We set up a bulletin board for the benefit of the entire school on "Conservation and What It Means."
5. We saw, during this first week, three films borrowed from your film library. The other 7th grade groups saw these (85 pupils)
6. We entered an exhibit in the local Apple Festival (won a blue ribbon)
7. We made two field trips: (a) To identify trees and observe a new forest (b) To see the exhibit down-town which had been set up by the Soil Conservation District.
8. Following the first field trip we took the Tree Identification Test No. 1 which came from your Forestry Department. Incidentally, the high scores on this test were captured by the poorer students who fail to excel in other subject matter.

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EXHIBIT A, (Con't)

9. Each child kept a notebook (of his very own) in which he recorded data and pictures. Some were quite good--others were a complete "mess."
10. We made good use of the maps and charts you gave me. The groups made many of their own: (a) Results of fire (b) Minerals of Virginia (c) Bird calendars "Bird of the Day" copies after the "Bird of the Month" from the Wildlife Magazine. (d) And others
11. The study lasted for five weeks - followed by the 100 question test which we took in your class. The average grade was 83.4.
12. During the week of "open season" on deer, we had several lessons on safety.

I want to thank you for your interest and hope that I can influence some other teacher to take advantage of such a wealth of information and materials which is theirs only for the asking.

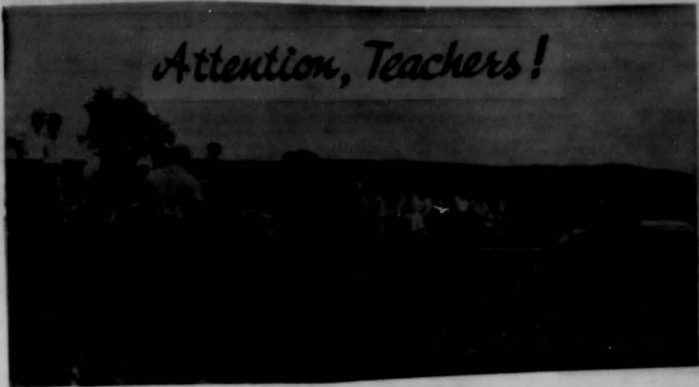
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mrs. Kyle C. Widener

Note: Mrs. Widener was enrolled in the 1960 Conservation Short Course at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

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*Attention, Teachers!*



PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION  
SHORT COURSE IN 1961

An opportunity to study the conservation of  
Virginia's soils and waters, minerals, for-  
ests, wildlife and marine life.



**A Short Course**

**to Study**

**Virginia's Natural Resources**



Sponsored by  
The Virginia Resource Use Education  
Council

In Cooperation with  
Virginia State College  
Peterburg, Virginia

EXHIBIT C

An example of teacher participation in the observance of Natural Resources Conservation Week.

Whitewood High School  
Whitewood, Virginia  
November 11, 1960

Mr. E. W. Mandie  
Extension Soil Conservationist  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Mandie:

Finally, I was able to collect brief sketches from a representative sampling of our class groups indicating the types of projects and activities in which they engaged in observance of Conservation Week in our School, and am now in position to give you sort of resume of our projects and activities.

About a week prior to the week set aside by Governor Almond in his proclamation for Conservation Week in Virginia, I brought up the subject in our F. T. A. meeting, read the Governor's proclamation to them, announced to them our intention as a School to participate actively in the observance of Conservation Week, and requested to support of the parents and teachers present in helping to make our School and community conscious of the need for the active participation of everyone in formulating and carrying out plans for conservation of the natural resources in this area served by our School, and in our County. We advised the F. T. A. of the wealth of materials available in our school library and elsewhere on conservation, and encouraged their use by everyone concerned.

All teachers and class groups in our School listened to the Governor's proclamation regarding Conservation Week over our public address system, and were requested to make and carry out appropriate plans for its observance, and to report to me briefly what they did by way of its observance. The teachers were requested to develop in their students a clear understanding of the meaning of conservation, as related to our natural resources; to lead them to a realization of the need for conservation practices in this particular area; and to develop in them an awareness of the practical steps that can and ought to be practiced by everyone, individually and collectively, in conserving our natural resources.

Our Librarian reminded our teachers and pupils of materials for study on this subject that were available in our Library. She distributed to the various class groups booklets on conservation obtained from the American Forest Products Industries. She visited various classrooms, and talked with teachers and pupils concerning Conservation Week observance. Near the end of the week she revisited and observed the projects carried out by our various class groups. She also distributed materials from our Library to the various teachers for use by their class groups.

EXHIBIT C (Continued)

During the week I, personally, visited several of the class groups engaged in conservation projects and activities, talked to some of the groups about the various phases of conservation we studied during the past summer at the College of William and Mary, and gave them what I considered to be some of the highlights of our experiences. I was very much impressed by the variety of projects undertaken by our various class groups, and with the bulletin board displays of charts, collections, reports, and posters completed by them. Some of our groups had already been actively engaged in conservation study before learning about Conservation Week, and other groups expressed a desire to continue their study of conservation over a more prolonged period than just one week.

In connection with the observance of Conservation Week, we have had a K. V. G. group organized in our School by our local and district fire wardens. We have arranged through these wardens to obtain and distribute for planting in this area two thousand pine seedlings from our State nursery. We have entered subscriptions to the Virginia Wildlife Magazine for each of our seven class groups, grades 5 through 7. We have entered our School in the Wildlife Essay Contest, and expect to have entries by our art classes in the Keep Virginia Green Poster Contest.

Our pupils and teachers generally, have been very enthusiastic in their work and accomplishments in observance of Conservation Week. We feel that both teachers and pupils have learned much that will help to develop an awareness among the people of this community of the need for conservation practices, and to give impetus to the conservation movement in this area.

Already, some of our teachers have expressed an interest in taking the conservation short course next summer. We are hoping that the interest in practice of conservation measures in this area will grow to the point that the entire community will become conservation conscious and that this consciousness can be spread to our surrounding areas, and particularly to the industries operating in this area.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William Hansey  
Principal.

Note: Mr. Hansey was enrolled in the 1960 Conservation Short Course at the College of William and Mary.

EXHIBIT D

Examples of how Garden Clubs responded to observance of Natural Resources Conservation Week.

1331 Ashland Circle  
Norfolk 9, Virginia  
September 28, 1960

Dear Mr. Mundie:

Would it be possible for you to send me 15 copies of Governor Almond's statement on the Natural Resources Conservation Week, so I can send them out to our various districts along with my letter and hope to get a lot of publicity.

Yours truly,

/s/ Helen Schneider  
State Publicity Chairman

\* \* \* \* \*

Galax, Virginia  
October 8, 1960

Mr. E. W. Mundie  
Box 179  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Mundie:

Thank you for your letter of September twenty-fourth with the copy of the statement issued by Governor Almond proclaiming the week of October 16-22 as Natural Resources Conservation Week.

I am a little slow getting started; but I wonder whether you have more copies of the statement that I might mail to some of the papers and clubs in my Southwest District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. We have 45 clubs in our District. The Bristol and Roanoke papers are the most widely read in the District.

If more copies are not available, I shall turn the copy I have over to our local paper and see that they forward clippings to other papers in the District; however, I am sure the individual clubs can publicize Natural Resources Conservation Week more thoroughly than the papers.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Rancee S. Naugh

Chairman Conservation  
Southwest District, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

EXHIBIT E



Governor Almond Addressing the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisor Group.



President Elect R. Duval Dickinson, Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and Quintus Massie, Louisa County Farmer, Discussing the Soil Conservation District Program at Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil Conservation Districts Supervisors.