

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR - STATE / NATIONAL LEVEL 2006 CONSERVATION EDUCATION AWARDS**

### **SYNGENTA TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM**

Each year the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts awards elementary and secondary teachers with Syngenta Education Awards. Teacher applicants are screened through a nomination form available at Tri-County/City SWCD. This form should be returned to Tri-County/City SWCD by April 21, 2006. Finalists will be chosen and only the winners will be asked to put together a comprehensive notebook, print photographs, etc., and they'll have all summer to put the notebook together.

State winners will be recognized at the 2006 VASWCD Annual Meeting.

First-place national award winners will receive a monetary award, the amount to be announced at a later date, and travel expenses to the NACD's 2006 Annual Meeting, the location also to be announced at a later date.

Tri-County/City SWCD will nominate one teacher in each national category (K-6 and 7-12).

### **PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY**

■ The purpose of the Teacher of the Year contest is to recognize the outstanding conservation education efforts of our nation's teachers.

■ Elementary (grades K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12) educators will be recognized in separate categories. All teachers in public, parochial, and private schools in the City of Fredericksburg and King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford Counties are eligible to participate in the local program.

■ To be eligible for the

contest:

■ Educators must be teaching full-time in the classroom and be personally responsible for developing a conservation education program.

■ A candidate's nomination must be endorsed by Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District.

■ Teachers who are conservation district officials are ineligible; teachers who are associate officials are eligible to compete.

■ Team teachers are eligible, but awards will only be made to the designated leader.

■ Educators who have won a first-place national award in the last ten years are not eligible to compete at the national level.

■ Educators who submit an entry and do not win a national award may resubmit their entries the following year.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

Any teacher who meets the eligibility requirements may enter the contest. Teachers can nominate themselves, or someone else in the district may nominate them. To enter the contest:

■ Fill out the entry form (obtained either through Tri-County/City SWCD or from the NACD website -- <http://www.nacdnet.org/pu/baff/awards/teach.htm> -- and have it signed by the chairperson of Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District.

■ Submit a typewritten narrative which addresses

the five items under "Content of Narrative."

■ Include the entry form, narrative, and one or two letters of reference from a school administrator, co-worker, community organization, etc.

■ Finalists will be chosen and notified by early June, 2006. Winners will be required to assemble a more extensive notebook of accomplishments, pictures, news clippings, etc. to send on to the national competition by fall of 2006. Award winners will receive their awards at the VASWCD Annual Meeting.

### **DEADLINES**

#### **April 21, '06**

Nominations must be submitted to Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District.

#### **May 1, '06**

Conservation district submits the winning teacher entry from each category to the education committee chairperson of its state association.

#### **September 06**

State winning entries to be mailed to the NACD Service Center.

National winners will be selected and notified in December of 2006.

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**CONTENT OF NARRATIVE**

Narratives must be typewritten and double-spaced on one side only of 8½" x 11" paper. Type must not be smaller than 12 point (elite). Narratives must address the five items listed on this page. The response for each item must not exceed two pages and should be treated as a separate section. On every page, identify by number in the upper right-hand corner the item to which the response applies. Supporting

materials should be located after each response.

- Describe your program for involving students in the betterment of natural resources.

- List and describe the areas of study incorporated in your conservation education program.

- Describe any assistance received from community organizations or resource specialists from local, state or federal agencies or organizations.

- Explain how the program is being extended to other grades, other areas and to people in the community.

- Document how your students have applied their knowledge of natural resource conservation to individuals, groups, schools and community projects.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

- Judging is based on data provided in response to items under "Content of Narrative" and on supporting materials. All materials should support the following question: How has the teacher shown concern, scope and originality in incorporating natural resource conservation into his or her curricula? Judges' decisions are final.

**TOO BUSY TO COMPETE ON STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?**

- TCCSWCD would like to recognize a local conservation "Teacher of the Year." We realize that busy teaching curriculum may not allow you time to complete a labor intensive conservation project and all the documentation required for the State and National contests.

- See our *Tri-County/City Teacher of the Year* flyer or call for more information. No "comprehensive notebook" will be required. We'll select from applications



**Got Questions?  
Please Contact Us !**

**TRI-COUNTY/CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**Visit us on the web: <http://tccswcd.naswcd.org>**