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Type	oral presentation
Category	Benefits of Stream Restoration
Title	<i>Goose Creek (Bluewildlife) Stream and Wetland Restoration Project</i>
Abstract	Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) was recently awarded part of a multi-million dollar stream and wetland restoration project located in Fauquier County, Virginia. The project is being funded by the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (VARTF), which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This is the largest stream restoration project completed by VARTF to date with final construction scheduled for May 2009. WEG initially completed a feasibility study and then evaluated various funding options – ultimately working with multiple agencies to secure funding. One of the key mechanisms was the landowner’s willingness to donate an easement on the entire 119-acre property to the TNC. The landowner played a significant role in public outreach, championing academic studies, and vision throughout the project to achieve desired goals. Much of the existing stream and wetland resources were degraded due to previous agriculture activities and landscape was maintained in fescue with little to no riparian buffer. Overall, the restoration project encompassed approximately 7,632 LF of stream restoration, 5 acres of wetland creation, 1 acre of wetland enhancement, and 33 acres of riparian buffer restoration. Bolling Branch, which has a 6 square-mile watershed, accounts for approximately 5,347 LF of the restoration and incorporated Priority I and II restoration activities. Utilization of larger plant materials will increase survivability of planted species, accelerate habitat and provide greater root density for bank and floodplain stabilization. In total, over 1,000 tons of sediment load annually will be removed from the watershed, aquatic habitat increased, terrestrial habitat niches incorporated for target species (waterfowl, predator birds, deer, quail), and riparian buffer function restored as a result of the project.