

TYLER WITKOWSKI, SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

Tyler grew up in the Rising Sun/Port Deposit area of Cecil County where he thought he was going to pursue a career as a mechanical engineer. As he branched out into many different interests, he found soil science and took his first class with Dr. Ray Weil, and joined the soil judging team. During the rest of his college life Tyler spent time learning about soils in class, in the lab, and out in the field. This is where he competed in the college soils competition for 3 years; sending him to Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. After his last national competition, he participated in the first international soil judging competition held during the International Soil Congress in South Korea. He was the highest placed U.S. participant as well as part of the first-place team. After graduating from the University of Maryland in December 2013 with a B.S. in Soil Science he worked in multiple places and positions. In 2014 Tyler was in Cecil County as a Cecil Soil Conservation District conservation planner, worked on soil survey databases as an NRCS employee in Minnesota for 2 years, participated in the Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Park soil survey, and assisted field staff in Southwest Virginia as an NRCS Soil Scientist from 2016 to 2018. After that he was grateful to accept an NRCS Soil Conservationist position that brought him back home to Cecil County. Tyler looks forward to learning more from the farming community, how to implement soil health practices, and how best help the community implement conservation.

In Tyler's free time he enjoys biking and appreciating the outdoors with his wife, Michelle.

