



Conservation Comments



**2015
Fall Edition**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

*“Water is the oil of the 21st Century”
Andrew Liveris, CEO DOW Chemical...
cited in “Running Dry”, The Economist, 21 August 2008*

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Area 2 Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Fall Meeting Looking Beyond.....

The Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Fall Meeting was held October 8, 2015, at the at the Midway Baptist Church in West Jefferson. SWCD Supervisor, Alvin Dixon, NRCS staff, David Tucker and SWCD staff Janie Woodle attended the meeting.

The business session included the Area 2 Treasurer’s report, Area 2 Resolutions, Election of Officers, Standing Committee nominations; District Issues Committee and NW Envirothon reports.

John Walters, Area 2 Chair, presented Length of Service and Area Awards; Area 2 Conservation Farm Family presentation was provided by Randy Willis, Catawba SWCD.

Reports were provided by Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director, NC Foundation for Soil and Water; Manly West, Association President; Rick McSwain, Area 2 President; Bryan Colvard, Area 2 Representative; Pat Harris, DSWC Director; Jerry Raynor, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist; and Alan Walker, NRCS Area Conservationist.



Photo by:
Michelle Lovejoy
Executive Director
NC Foundation
Soil and Water

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program Advisory Board

The purpose of the Voluntary Preservation Program is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development.

A total of 11549.23 acres of farmland in Alleghany are currently enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP); 7491.79 acres agriculture, 3666.69 acres forestry, and 390.75 acres horticulture.

The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners recently approved the reappointment of David Gambill and Yancy Sparks to each serve a three year term on the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Advisory Board.

VAD Advisory Board

Millie Richardson, Chair ~ Aaron Ray Tompkins, Vice-Chair

Alvin Dxon ~ Bettie Upchurch ~ Bobby Evans ~ Bradford Gambill

David Gambill ~ Roger Williams ~ Yancy Sparks

Alleghany SWCD
PO Box 127
Sparta, NC 28675



NC Co-operative Extension Service
PO Box 7
Sparta, NC 28675

9th Annual County Envirothon Competition

The Envirothon competition is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that challenges and engages students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. In-class curriculum is combined with outdoor training to help students learn and experience more about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues.

Envirothon teams, comprised of students in 5th through 12th grades, will compete in the 9th Annual Alleghany County Envirothon on Thursday, October 29th, 2015. Envirothon team advisors are Danny Jones and Hannah Bledsoe, Alleghany High School; Elizabeth Davis, Blue Ridge Christian School; Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson, Glade Creek Elementary; Becky Sanders, Piney Creek Elementary and Chris Brady, Jessica Holyfield, and Rochelle Todd, Sparta Elementary.

This event provides additional training and experience for local teams who will compete in the 13 county NW Envirothon, April 7, 2016, and hopefully, will qualify to compete at the state level April 29-30, 2016.

Presentations will be provided by the following: Aquatics, New River State Park; Current Environmental Issues (CEI), Amy Lucas, NC Cooperative Extension Service; Forestry, Russell Choate, NC Forest Service; Soils, David Tucker, NRCS; Wildlife, Mike Edwards, Stone Mountain State Park.

The Alleghany County Envirothon is sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit, Alleghany Farm Bureau, Food Lion, Lowes Foods, and Alleghany SWCD

Resource Conservation Workshop



Local resident Garrett Wishon was among a select group of North Carolina high school students who attended the Resource Conservation Workshop conducted at N.C. State University June 21st – 26th. Garrett, the son of Johnny and Linda Wishon of Sparta, was sponsored by the Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation district (SWCD) to attend this week long event.

Ninety-six students were selected for the 52nd Annual Resource Conservation Workshop from Sunday through Friday. Students were selected based on their academic achievements and interest in pursuing a career in natural resource management or a related field.

The annual workshop offers an intensive study of conservation practices and hands-on training. The four days of resource topics were organized by an innumerable number of resource professionals and university staff which included NCSU Soil Science Department (Soil Science Day), Falls Lake US Army Corps of Engineers (Water, Wildlife, Recreation & Fish Management Day), Clemmons Educational State Forest (Forestry and Forest Management Day), and Wake Soil & Water Conservation District (Soil & Water Day). Students also received information and insight into careers in natural resource management. Concepts were reinforced throughout the week and brought together in a culminating activity with students devising land-use plans.

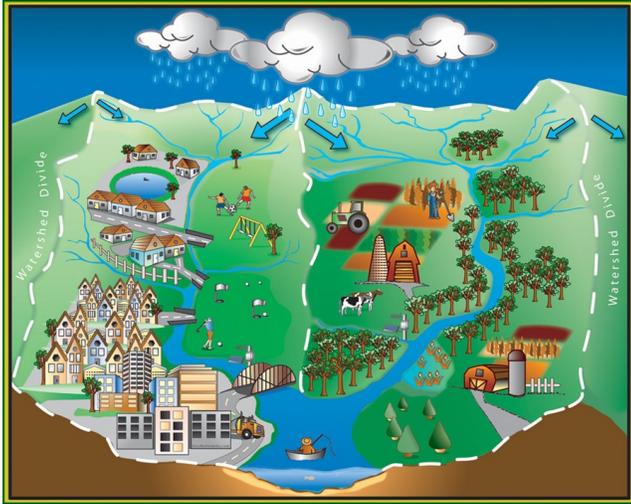
The celebration of 52 years of this workshop reinforced the commitment by the numerous workshop instructors to provide engaging, hands-on activities for students to explore their profession. Students were housed in campus dormitories while attending the workshop; counselors provided by Soil and Water Conservation Districts stayed with the ninety-six students all week and helped them with the daily logistics of dorm and campus life.

The Resource Conservation Workshop scholarships and cash awards are given to students with the top five scores from Friday's written exam. In addition, the RCW counselors worked hard to nominate only eight students to be interviewed by a panel of judges for the S. Grady Lane and the NC Conservation District Employees Association's scholarship.

After the workshop, Garrett attended the Alleghany SWCD monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 14th, to report on the success of the workshop. Garrett noted that he learned a lot of new information and was exposed to things he had never seen before. He stated that the workshop opened his eyes to many valuable opportunities and different careers within the natural resource field. Garrett was grateful for the opportunity and recommends the workshop to others who are interested in pursuing a career in the natural resource field.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is provided by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' educational programs

Soil and Water Conservation Contests "We all live in a Watershed"



The theme for this year's Annual Soil and Water Conservation Contest is "We all live in a Watershed". Contests include 5th grade poster, 6th grade essay, 7th-8th grade speech, and 9th grade computer designed poster contest.

The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts promotes conservation contests at District, Area and State levels to provide students an opportunity to become aware of and share their concerns for soil and water conservation.

Contest presentations, materials, curriculum goals and objectives, rules, regulations, and resource materials will be provided to teachers and students in 5th through 8th grades in Sparta, Piney Creek, Glade Creek, Blue Ridge Christian School and 9th grade at Alleghany High School. Participation in the contests meets certain curriculum goals and objectives required by the NC Dept. of Public Instruction Grade Level Competencies.

First place posters, essays, and names of speech contestants at the school level must be submitted to the Soil and Water office by January 8, 2016. The county competition is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016, in the conference room of the Alleghany County Administration building.

First place winners at the school level will compete in the County Contest on February 9th, 2016. Those students who take first place in the County Contest will advance to the 13 county Area competition held in March and hopefully qualify for the State Contest to be held May 2016 in Raleigh. Students who competed at the county level will be recognized for their accomplishments at the Alleghany Soil and Water Awards Banquet scheduled May 3rd, 2016.

Contests rules may be accessed through the Division of SWCD's homepage at this link:
<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/contests.html>

(Note, not all contests are offered in all counties - local deadlines provided by SWCD staff will apply)

**Deadline to submit winning entries from each school to the
Soil and Water office is
Thursday, January 8th, 2016**

Contest Rules

5th Grade Poster Contest

- Posters should be no larger than 24 x 36 inches
- Mounted materials cannot stick out more than 1/8 of an inch from the paper
- Any coloring materials suitable for poster work may be used
- Posters must be original work of the student
- Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled
- Posters must be identified on the back with the student's name, school and contact information

6th Grade Essay Contest

- Essays must bear the title of the essay contest "Wetlands are Wonderful"
- Be limited to 300-500 words - all words will be counted
- Be written on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper
- Be sure to use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Essays must be identified on the back with the student's name, school and contact information

7th & 8th Grade Speech Contest

- Speeches are limited to 4 - 6 minutes
- Use of visual aids are not allowed
- Memorize your speech - use of note cards is acceptable for back up
- Dress appropriately - no holey jeans, sweatshirts with school logo, etc.
- Do not make personal contact with the judges or audience
- Personal information such as name, school or hometown cannot be provided in the speech

9th Grade Computer Generated Poster Contest

- Poster orientation may be portrait or landscape
- Posters may be created using any software of the student's choice
- Posters should be designed so that if printed on paper they would be no larger than 24 x 36 inches
- Posters must be identified on the second page of the poster document with student's name, school and contact information
- Posters should be submitted electronically in one of the following formats

GIF - Graphics Interchange Format	PPY - Microsoft PowerPoint File
JPEG - File Interchange Format	PUB - Microsoft Publisher File
PDF - Adobe Acrobat File	TIFF - Tag Image File Format
PNG - Portable Network Graphics Format	

	School level	Area level	State level
Prizes awarded to be at each level	3rd - \$10	3rd - \$25	2nd - \$100
	2nd - \$15	2nd - \$35	1st - \$200
	1st - \$25	1st - \$75	

County Buys New Drill



The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting one of two no-till grass drills available for your fall planting needs.

Allegheny County, realizing the benefits of no-till farming recently purchased a new Haybuster no-till grass drill to replace the old Tye drill that has been rented for 15 years through the Soil and Water

Conservation office. Allegheny residents may utilize this drill to over-seed pasture or hayland, plant a winter cover on cropland or prepare wildlife plots. In addition to the Haybuster, the smaller Truax drill is also available for pasture improvement on smaller fields as well as wildlife plantings.

No-till farming provides many economic and environmental benefits to the farmer. A no-till drill places seed directly in the ground in one pass without prior soil preparation which saves fuel and eliminates exposing topsoil to wind and water erosion. The previous year's crop residue left on the soil surface traps moisture, builds organic matter and makes better use of nutrients, cutting down on chemicals the farmer must use. Since soil is not touched from after harvest until the next growing season, there is less erosion. No-till uses less fuel than conventional broadcast re-seeding because fewer passes are needed over a field; the amount of grass seed needed is reduced due to seed being dropped directly into the soil which greatly increases seed germination, especially in dry hard-packed soil.

Both the Haybuster and the Truax no-till drills are available for rent at the rate of \$8 per acre (\$25 minimum per rental). A minimum 45 HP tractor is required when operating drills in the field.

**For more information or to schedule rental of the drills
please call the Allegheny Soil & Water Office at
336-372-7777**



Our Mission Is...

...to promote the conservation of natural resources in Alleghany County through education, information, technical assistance, and available economic incentives.

The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina found under GS-139, charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the District. The District partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to carry out these responsibilities. As a local organization we work with citizens, agencies, and land owners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We also work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NCDA&CS, Resource Conservation and Development, US Army Corp of Engineers, NC Forest Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, NC Cooperative Extension, to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

Alleghany District Board of Supervisors

Bobby Evans / Chair

Chris Huysman / Vice-Chair

Terry Hall / Secretary - Treasurer

Alvin Dixon / Member

Bill Osborne / Member

SWCD Staff

Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist II

Janie Woodle/Adm Asst/Edu Director

NRCS Staff

David Tucker/District Conservationist



Please contact our office for more information about any of our programs

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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Sparta, NC 28675

Visit us on the web at : [Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District](http://AlleghanySoil&WaterConservationDistrict.com)

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Email: Linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net or Janie Woodle allegswcd@skybest.com

Office Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday