



Conservation Comments



April 2013
Spring Edition

Allegheny Soil & Water Conservation District

"All the water that will ever be is, right now"
~ National Geographic 1993



Allegheny Farmland Protection Plan

Allegheny Farmland Protection Plan

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Approximately 80 farmers and landowners from various areas of Allegheny attended one of four Farmland Protection Plan Community meetings held across the county recently; those attending represented the following agricultural commodities, groups and/or agencies: dairy, beef, Christmas trees, pasture/hayland and small vegetable farmers; Farmers Market, Blue Ridge Conservancy, Carolina Farm Credit, Allegheny Farm Bureau, Forest Service, Cooperative Extension and Soil and Water Conservation.

At each of the meetings, retired Extension Director, Bob Edwards, reviewed the benefits of a county wide Farmland Protection Plan. In order to gain a true assessment the plan will address all

agriculture in the county, identify challenges facing farmers, list opportunities, and research the availability of grants to assist the farming community; once the plan is in place Allegheny will qualify for funding without a 30% match requirement.

B. Edwards will prioritize data gathered from each of the community meetings to incorporate in the Farmland Protection Plan for Allegheny County, which will enhance and encourage agricultural and agribusiness activities; the plan is scheduled to be completed November 2013.

The community meetings were sponsored by a grant from the NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.



Area 2 Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Spring Meeting

“Success Through Conservation in the Mountains”



Pictured Left to Right:
Dick Fowler—Paul Edwards—Tommy Houser

Allegheny SWCD Chair, Paul Edwards, was presented a plaque for twenty-five years of dedicated service as District Supervisor on the Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District Board at the Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Spring Meeting held March 14, 2013, at the Newton Ag Center.

The Area 2 SWCD Business Session included reports from the Auditing Committee, Area Treasurer, Nominating Committee, District Issues Committee, NCCDEA and the NW Envirothon Committee; Area II Awards and Area II Contest Results were presented by Area II Chair, Susie Devine and Toby Bost, Vice-Chair. Bill Yarborough, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, provided a NCDA & CS Report; other reports were provided by Dick Fowler, NCASWCD President and Executive Director; Tommy Houser, Association President; Donna Lichtenwalder, RC&D, Carolina Land & Lakes; Mike Fenley, Representative from Richard Burr's office; Franklin Williams, NACD Chair; Pat Harris, DSWC Director; Alan Walker, ASTC-NRCS.

“Water...the Cycle of Life” Soil & Water Conservation Contest Winners

The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently sponsored educational contests in the elementary schools. Environmental educational programs and resource materials were provided as requested in the 5th - 8th grades of each school and the 9th grade at Allegheny High School. The 5th graders competed in a poster contest, 6th graders in an essay contest, 7th and 8th graders competed in public speech contests, and 9th grade in the recently added computer designed poster category. The school winners (pictured) received certificates and cash awards from Allegheny SWCD.

The first place poster, essay and speech winners from each school competed in a county-wide competition in February. Results of the county competitions are: 5th Grade Poster winners: 1st place-Alley Doub, Sparta School; 2nd place-Hope Gambill, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Haley Rife, Glade Creek School. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place-Karley Phipps, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Autumn Rose, Sparta School; 3rd place-Katie Gibson, Glade Creek School. 7th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-, Griffin Goralski, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Krestin Moxley, Sparta School; 3rd place-Madison Patrick, Glade Creek School. 8th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Sophia Walton, Sparta School; 2nd place-Savannah Cleary, Glade Creek School; 3rd place-Taylor Wagoner, Piney Creek School; 9th Grade Poster: 1st place-Tanner Rutherford, 2nd place-Kendra Phipps, 3rd place-Brooke Payne, Allegheny High School.

The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Burke County March 21st. Allegheny's students placed as follows in the Area Contests:, Alley Doub, Sparta School, took 2nd place in the 5th grade Poster Competition, she received \$35 and a medallion; Karley Phipps, Piney Creek School, won 3rd place in the 6th grade Essay Competition, she received \$25 and a medallion; Griffin Goralski, Piney Creek School, took 1st place in the 7th grade Speech Competition, he received \$75 and a medallion and will compete in the State Competition to be held May 10th in Raleigh; Sophia Walton, Sparta School, took 2nd place in 8th grade Speech, she received \$35 and a medallion; Tanner Rutherford, Allegheny High School, took 2nd place in 9th grade Computer Designed Poster, he received \$35 and a medallion.

An awards banquet is scheduled for May 7th at 7:00 at the Sparta VFW to recognize all those who competed at the county competition.



9th Grade Computer Designed Poster

Alleghany High School
(Pictured L to R)

Tanner Rutherford
Kendra Phipps
Brooke Payne



5th Poster-6th Essay-7th & 8th Speech

Piney Creek School
(Pictured L to R)
(Front row)

Griffin Goralski-Kailey Hodges-Hope Gambill
Tiffany Vargas-Corey Hampton
(Second row)

Jeremiah Billings-Haley Hall-Taylor Lawson
Taylor Wagoner-Kansas Brooks-Rianna Evans

SWCD Contest Winners—School Level

5th Poster-6th Essay-7th & 8th Speech

Sparta School
(Pictured L to R)
(Front row)

Krestin Moxley-Nathaniel Maynard-Morgan Lyons
Sophia Walton-David Cox-Laura Walker
(Second row)

Alley Doub-Chloe Caudill-Harley Taylor
Will Vestal-Joshua Spurlin
(Back row)

Marlene Scott, Principal

5th Poster-6th Essay-7th & 8th Speech

Glade Creek School
(Pictured L to R)
(First row)

Haley Rife-Kelsey Jasso-Mitchell Rea
(Second row) Katie Gibson-Teri Hall-Keegan Alford
(Third row)

Madison Patrick-Isabella Villarruel-Jacob Simpson
(Fourth row) Savannah Cleary-Brooke Tracy-
Qwenton Johnson



Soil and Water Conservation 6th Grade Essay—5th Grade Poster—9th Grade—Competition

Karley Phipps—Piney Creek School

1st Place 6th Grade Essay County Competition

Water: The Cycle of Life

I'm Ish the Fish and living in this pond gets a little boring, sometimes. I'm not that good at making friends, well at least fish friends. My best friend is a raindrop, named Zayn. I know it sounds silly, but it's true! Every few weeks he comes to visit me. On his last visit, he explained to me that whenever the clouds were turning gray that he would appear. While looking up at the clouds, I noticed they were starting to darken! Zayn was coming!

When Zayn got to the pond, I asked him why he only came when the clouds were turgid. He began to explain a valuable lesson; the lesson of his life. Zayn began the explanation with evaporation.

"Evaporation is when raindrops, like me, turn into gas," he told me, "after that, we raindrops, rise in the air. We are absolutely invisible!" he continued. "It's like we're unseen spies on a secret mission to condense!"

I became jealous. Oh, how I longed to be a raindrop!

Zayn continued his instruction with condensation. "Condensation is when all the fun stops and we turn back into a liquid to form clouds."

I asked him if there are different types of clouds.

He responded, "Yes there are! Cirrus clouds are the high clouds made of ice crystals, cumulus clouds are regular clouds that are puffy, stratus clouds are low clouds like fog, and cumulonimbus clouds are huge, tall gray clouds. I live in all types of clouds."

Zayn proceeded with the next step of the lesson, precipitation. "Precipitation comes in many different forms such as rain, hail, sleet, and snow," he explained.

This was all making sense to me! I told Zayn; I have always been puzzled about how it rains.

Zayn went on, "Well now you know! This is when I come down to the ground to visit with you, Ish!" He continued, "This is almost as fun as getting evaporated. When I am being precipitated as rain, it is like skydiving from an airplane!"

Zayn continued to tell me even more about this amazing lesson.

He explained, "Collection is where the precipitation either soaks into the ground or runs off into a body of water."

In amazement I understood: "That's how you get to my pond!"

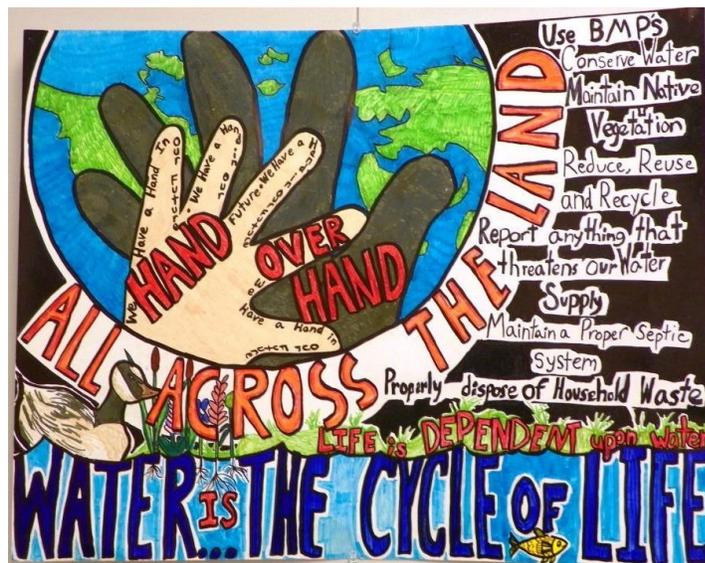
Zayn replied, "Indeed Ish! That is exactly how I get to come visit you. Oh, Ish, I will only get to stay for a little

while before the water cycle begins again." Zayn stated sadly. "But never fear; the fun doesn't stop here! No! When the evaporation starts, I am then catapulted back up, as if I am on a bungee cord!" This is "Water: The Cycle of Life."

As he was magically bungeed back into the sky, I realized that I really didn't want him to go. I screamed one last proclamation to my dear friend Zayn, "Now I know why water is the cycle of life! See you later! We will have more fun at the next collection!"

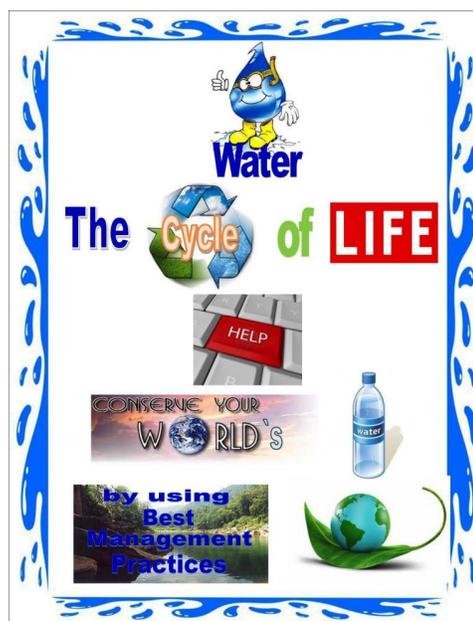
Alley Doub—1st Place

5th Grade Poster Competition



Tanner Rutherford—1st Place

9th Grade Poster Competition



Area 2 Contest Night-March 21, 2013-Burke County, NC



Karley Phipps—Piney Creek School
3rd Place—6th Grade Essay



Griffin Goralski—Piney Creek School
1st Place—7th Grade Speech
Griffin will compete in State Speech Contest



Sophie Walton—Sparta School
2nd Place—8th Grade Speech



Tanner Rutherford—Alleghany High School
2nd Place—9th Grade Computer Designed Poster

Not
Pictured

Alley Doub
Sparta
School

2nd Place
5th Grade
Poster



Alleghany teams compete in NW and State Envirothon Competitions

The Northwest Envirothon Competition, sponsored by the Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at the McGee Center in Wilkes County. The Envirothon is a hands-on, natural science academic event that challenges and engages students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. High school and middle school teams, each consisting of three to five students, demonstrate their management knowledge and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on five categories: soils/land use, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current environmental issues.

A total of 40 teams, representing 9 of the 13 counties in Area 2, participated in this year's event.

Alleghany had 13 teams registered for the NW event: 2 teams from Alleghany High School: "Gang Green" and "Green Machine", team advisor, Larry Cole; 7 teams from Glade Creek School: "Rabid Raccoons", "Outdoor Masters", "Dirty Detectives", "Conservation Cowboys", "Ecological Experts", "Flying Squirrels" and "Animal Adventurers" team advisor Sam McClure; 4 teams from Piney Creek School: "Camo Zebras", "Manly Pink Unicorns", "Awesome Sauce" and "The Hunters", team advisor Alison Lewis.

In the middle school competition "Rabid Raccoons" from Glade Creek School took 7th place; in the high school competition Alleghany High School team "Green Machine" took 3rd place. In order to qualify for the statewide competition, teams had to place in the top 7 in their division in one of eight different Area level qualifying events.

"Rabid Raccoons" from Glade Creek and "Green Machine" from Alleghany High School, competed in the State competition April 19-20 in Alamance County, where they were tested on their knowledge on North Carolina's environment and natural resource issues.

For months, teams have been studying and learning natural resource issues and hands-on skills such as wildlife identifications, forestry measurement techniques, tree identification, soils classification, stream ecology and water quality sampling techniques and more.

At the NC Envirothon, awards were given to top teams at the middle and high school levels. Scholarship prizes were also up for grabs by top placing high school teams. In the middle school competition, Wilson County 4-H Envirothon Club "Organic Waste" won while Davidson County Home School team "High Rock FFA" took first place in the high school competition. The Davidson County high school team goes on to the North American Envirothon held in Montana in August to represent NC and compete against teams from across the US and Canada.

The NC Envirothon is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts from across NC. The mission is to provide and promote leadership in the knowledge of natural resources by offering a quality education program in: soils/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife/habitat and current issues to the teachers, students and citizens of North Carolina. For more information, please visit www.ncenvirothon.org



Rabid Raccoons-7th Place

L to R:

1st Row: Laramie Toliver—Colby Brooks
2nd Row: Advisor Hope McClure—Seth Hammack
Jordan Roten—Advisor Vicky Brooks



Green Machine-3rd Place

L to R:

1st Row: Advisor Larry Cole
Seth Hayden—Morgan Jasso
2nd Row: Colby Andrews—Olivia Petras

District Issues Committee Update

The Area 2 District Issues Committee (DIC) met March 25th at the Edwin McGee Natural Resources Conservation Center in N. Wilkesboro, NC. Alan Walker, NRCS ASTC-FO, provided a brief update on the Western NC Stream Initiative; IBEAM issues were discussed; soils training was provided by Robin Watson.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Areas 8 and 1 and is tentatively scheduled for July 23, 2013; Watauga offered to host the meeting.



No-Till Drills for Spring Planting Needs

The Alleghany 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 the two no-till grass drills available for your planting needs.

A no-till drill works by placing seed directly in the ground in one pass without prior soil preparation. This saves fuel and eliminates exposing topsoil to wind and water erosion.

No-till farming provides many economic and environmental benefits to the farmer. Since soil is not touched from after harvest until the next growing season, there is less 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.

Please call 336-372-7777 to rent the Truax or Tye no-till drill

District Calendar



District Events

May 10th—State Speech Contest ~ Raleigh

May 14th—District Board Meeting & Annual Spot Checks

June 11th—District Board Meeting ~ Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

June 11th—RC&D Meeting ~ Boone 6:00 pm

July 23rd—Joint District Issues Meeting, Areas 1, 2, & 8

Educational Events

May 7th—District Contest Awards Banquet ~ Sparta VFW 7 pm

June 23rd through 28th—Resource Conservation Workshop ~ NCSU, Raleigh

District Board of Supervisors



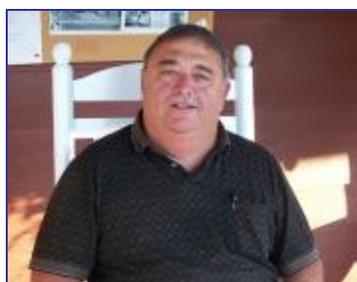
Paul Edwards
Chairman



Jim Dixon
Vice-Chair



Terry Hall
Secretary/Treasurer



Bobby Evans
Member



Chris Huysman
Member

Allegheny SWCD Staff



Linda Hash
Director/
Conservationist



Janie Woodle
Admin. Asst/Tech/
Education Director

David Tucker
District
Conservationist



Greg Wagoner
Soil Conservation
Technician



In Honor of

Elwood H. Davis

November 3, 1929—January 7, 2013

District Supervisor

1974—2003



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, 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 work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Development, US Army Corps of Engineers, NC Forest Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, NC Cooperative Extension, etc. to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

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



"Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

ALLEGHANY SWCD

P O Box 127 (90 S. Main St., Room 200)
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Visit us on the web at: Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District
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E-mail: linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net or janie.woodle@nc.nacdnet.net

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

*Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday
Please contact our office for details*