



Conservation Comments



**2014
Spring Edition**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

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

Area 2 Spring Meeting	1
Poster-Essay-Speech Contest Winners	2
SWCD Contest Winners School Level	3
5th Grade Poster	4
6th Grade Essay	
District Competition	
Area 2 Contest Night	5
NW & State Envirothon	6
District Issues Committee	8
No-Till Drill	
District Calendar	
District Board & Staff	9

**Area 2
Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Spring Meeting
"Growing Conservation"**



Jim Dixon
35 years
dedicated service

Pictured Left to Right:
Toby Bost—Jim Dixon

Alleghany SWCD Supervisor, Jim Dixon, was presented a plaque for 35 years of dedicated service as District Supervisor on the Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District Board at the Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Spring Meeting held March 13, 2014, at the Forsyth Ag Center. The Area 2 SWCD Business Session included reports from the Area Treasurer, District Issues Committee, NCCDEA and the NW Envirothon Committee.

Area II Awards and Area II Contest Results were presented by Area II Chair, Toby Bost and John Walters, 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; Franklin Williams, NACD Chair; Pat Harris, DSWC Director; Alan Walker, ASTC-FO, NRCS.

“The Living Soil” 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 including the Blue Ridge Christian (BRC) School. The 5th graders competed in a poster contest, 6th graders in an essay contest, and 7th and 8th graders competed in public speech contests. The school winners 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-Makenzie Lyall, Sparta School; 2nd place-Mastin Sanders, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Marshall Rea, Glade Creek School; 4th place-Rylee Smith, BRC School. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place-Mitchell Rea, Glade Creek School; 2nd place-Blake Murphy, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Lily Nilo, BRC School; 4th place-Zack Hash, Sparta School. 7th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-, Lucy LeMasters, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Kaitlyn Davis, Sparta School; 3rd place-Skye Snider, BRC School; 4th place-Teri Hall, Glade Creek School. 8th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Paige Weaver, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Krestin Moxley, Sparta School; 3rd place-Summer Choate, Piney Creek School; 4th place-Shyanne Perry, Glade Creek School.

The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Burke County March 20th. Allegheny's students placed as follows in the Area Contests: Makenzie Lyall, Sparta School, won Honorable Mention and received a certificate in the 5th grade Poster Competition; Mitchell Rea, Glade Creek School, won 2nd place in the 6th grade Essay Competition and received \$35 and a medallion; Lucy LeMasters, Piney Creek School, took 2nd place in the 7th grade Speech Competition and received \$35 and a medallion; Paige Weaver, Piney Creek School, won Honorable Mention in 8th grade Speech and received a certificate.

Contest Awards Banquet

An awards banquet was held May 6th at the Sparta VFW to recognize all those who competed in the county competition





5th Poster-6th Essay-7th & 8th Speech
Blue Ridge Christian School
(Pictured L to R)
(Front Row)

Rylee Smith-Danhtay Choate-John Prest-Lily Nilo-
Matthew Hettlemen-Morgan Neugent
(Second row)
Skye Snider-Landon Douglas-Caleb Dalton-Summer
Choate-Kassidy White-Caitlyn Collins



5th Poster-6th Essay-7th & 8th Speech
Piney Creek School
(Pictured L to R)
(Front row)

Mastin Sanders-Mary Beth Burgiss-Hannah DeBord
Blake Murphy-Hope Gambill-Devin Nygaard
(Second row)
Karley Phipps-Clay Basic-Lucy LeMasters
Paige Weaver-Haley Hall-Jeremiah Billings

SWCD Contest Winners—School Level

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

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

Makenzie Lyall-Ashlin Williams-Hannah Moxley
Brandon Nichols-Cole Murphy
(Second row)
Will Vestal-Kaitlyn Davis-Steven Moxley
Krestin Moxley-Garrett Wishon-Autumn Blevins
Not pictured: (Zack Hash)



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

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

Mitchell Rea-Marshall Rea
(Second row)
Lena Letterman-Miles Weatherman-Macy Davis
Madison Patrick-Danielle Denton
(Third row)
Taylor Allen-Teri Hall-John Rea
Lauren Carpenter-Shyanne Perry



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



Mitchell Rea—1st Place
6th Grade Essay
Glade Creek School

The Living Soil

Did you know the ground beneath you is actually a living soil? "The skin of the earth" is a mixture of minerals, organic matter, gases, water, and organisms. This living soil has been a provider since before the dinosaur age. It is essential for all life forms to survive. Conservation efforts must continue in order for every life on earth to thrive.

The Earth's soil has been living for millions of years. It is forty-five percent rock particles, twenty-five percent water, twenty-five percent air, and five percent organic matter. One square inch of soil can contain up to one billion living organisms, varying from the size of a cell, to the size of a small mammal. Soil has different life cycles that are very important to these organisms. Over large periods of time, these cycles help support plant growth, water storage, purification processes, and create an environment for organisms to aid in decomposition. This makes soil one of the most precious resources today.

Makenzie Lyall—1st Place
5th Grade Poster
Sparta School

The living soil is necessary for the existence of life itself. Approximately seventy-thousand types of soil are present in America. Each type of soil has its own purpose. Different soils hold many different nutrients and have varying water absorption levels. Humus, topsoil, subsoil, weathered rock, and bedrock all make up Earth's tough "skin". Sand, silt, and clay are three forms of topsoil living things depend upon. Without the proper management of this living soil, it would weaken and gradually disappear. Food, water, and air would no longer be produced.

Conservation of the living soil is an immediate need for our survival today and in the future. It takes at least five hundred years to create one inch of topsoil, and only one instance of neglect to erode it. Best Management Practices (BMP'S) are available and very helpful when they are used wisely to combat soil erosion. It is a natural process that occurs faster with the involvement of humans. Crop rotation, replanting forests after fires, maintaining proper soil balance from fertilizers, protecting our shorelines, not littering, replenishing the earthworm population, and moisture control are just a few ways to help combat soil erosion. Everyone should help make these small lifestyle changes now to insure a healthier habitat for the future.

The living soil begins and ends our survival. It must be conserved and safeguarded for coming generations. Wendell Berry once said "The soil is the great connector of our lives, the source and destination of all". The living soil has built our past, provides our present, and ensures our future. Now, what can you do to help protect it?

Area 2 Contest Night - March 20, 2014 - Caldwell County



**Lucy LeMasters—Piney Creek School
2nd Place—7th Grade Speech**



**Paige Weaver—Piney Creek School
Honorable Mention—8th Grade Speech**



Not Pictured

**Makenzie Lyall—Sparta School
Honorable Mention—5th Grade Poster**

**Mitchell Rea-Glade Creek School
2nd Place-6th Grade Essay**

Alleghany teams compete in NW Envirothon

The Northwest Envirothon Competition, sponsored by the Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held Thursday, March 27, 2014, 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 3-5 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 56 teams, representing 10 of the 13 counties in Area 2, participated in this year's event. Many local sponsors and volunteers helped make this event a huge success. 15 Alleghany teams competed in the NW event: 1 team from Alleghany High School: "Green Machine", team advisor, Larry Cole; 7 teams from Glade Creek School: "Flower Assassins", "Las Tortugas", "Green Mafia", "Environmental Awesomeness", "The Four Eco-Teers", "Groovy Goundhogs" and "Battling Bucks" team advisors Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson; 5 teams from Piney Creek School: "Conservationators", "Titanium", "Brain Storm", "Buck Commanders" and "Super Bacon Stars", team advisors Becky Sanders and Shelley Warnick; 3 teams from Sparta School: "Grizzly Bears", "Battling Bobcats" and "Awesome Eagles" team advisor Elaine Reales.

The top 7 high school and middle school teams from each of 8 Area events competed at the statewide competition on April 25-26 at Cedarock Park in Alamance County. The "Conservationators" from Piney Creek School placed 5th and "Flower Assassins" from Glade Creek School took 6th place in the Area event and participated in the state competition where they were tested on their knowledge on North Carolina's environment and natural resource issues.

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.

5th Place - "Conservationators"

Piney Creek School

L-R 1st Row

Ely Young-Owen Mills-Hanna DeBord

2nd Row

Alex Thomas-Ted Carter/Wilkes SWCD

Matt Weddington

For more information,
please visit

www.ncenvirothon.org

6th Place - "Flower Assassins"

Glade Creek School

L-R 1st Row

Avery Chandler-Colby Brooks

2nd Row

Luis Guzman-Ted Carter/Wilkes SWCD

Danielle Denton-Nathan Gandar



State Envirothon - April 25-26

Conservationators - Glade Creek School

Flower Assassins - Piney Creek School



District Issues Committee Update

The Area 2 District Issues Committee (DIC) met March 26th at the Edwin McGee Natural Resources Conservation Center in N. Wilkesboro, NC.

The DIC welcomed newly elected Chairman, Al Childers, Watauga SWCD Supervisor, Jack Huss, Vice-Chairman, Burke SWCD Supervisor, and Leigh Calloway, Secretary, Yadkin SWCD.

Jack Huss provided an update on District Realignment and the committee reviewed and discussed Area 2 Speech Contest guidelines. The next DIC meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2014, 10:00 am, at the Edwin McGee Center in N. Wilkesboro.



Drill rental
\$8 an acre

Minimum fee
\$25 per rental

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 2 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

June 10th ~ District Board Meeting ~ Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

June 10th ~ RC&D Meeting ~ Boone 6:00 pm

Educational Events

June 22nd through 27th ~ Resource Conservation Workshop, NCSU, Raleigh



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

Paul Edwards / Chair

Bobby Evans / Vice-Chair

Terry Hall / Secretary - Treasurer

Jim Dixon / Member

Chris Huysman / Member

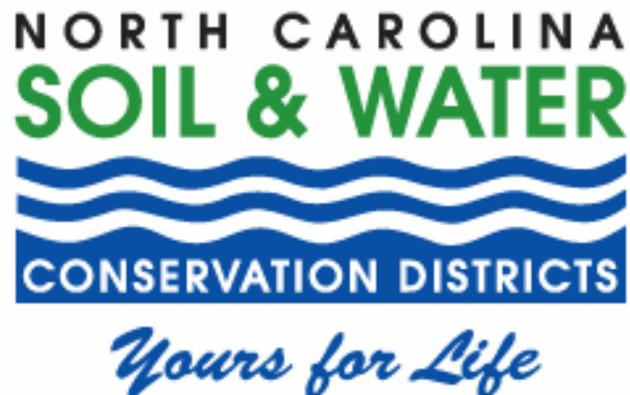
SWCD Staff

Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist

Janie Woodle/Adm. Asst/Tech/Edu. Coord.

NRCS Staff

David Tucker/District Conservationist



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

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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