



Conservation Comments



**August
2012
Summer Edition**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

"The purpose of Conservation:

The greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time" ~ Gifford Pinchot

[NC Soil & Water Conservation Districts Celebrate 75th Anniversary](#)

[History of Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#)

Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their governing Boards of Supervisors were formed nationwide out of concern for the nation's soil and water resources. This concern grew out of the devastating Dust Bowl in the west, severe water erosion in the south, and other conservation problems of the 1930's and even earlier. Legislation adopted by individual states, beginning in 1937, formed local Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which there are now 96 in North Carolina.

Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolina native from Anson County, was instrumental in coordinating national efforts toward solving the critical conservation problems that the country faced. Dr. Bennett, known internationally as the "Father of Soil and Water Conservation", can be credited with laying the foundation for the soil and water conservation programs of today.

Through the efforts of Bennett and his close working relationship with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a model law known as the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law was drafted which would enable states to create local soil and water conservation districts.

The purpose of these districts was to provide local input and direction to the fledging federal conservation programs that were administered by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service which were established two years earlier in 1935. On February 27, 1937, President Roosevelt corresponded with state governors across the United States, urging each state to adopt legislation similar to the "model law". That same year, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a soil and water conservation districts law known as NC General Statute 139, and the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District, in the home county of Dr. Bennett, was chartered on August 4, 1937.

75th Anniversary Soil & Water Conservation Districts	1
History of Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District	2
Soil & Water Conservation Awareness Month	3
Joint District Issues Committee Meeting	4
Annual NCASWCD Spot Checks SE NACD Annual Meeting	5
Contest Awards Banquet Jr. Master Cattlemen Program Farm Animal Day	6
Tree Planting District Calendar	7
Contact Information	8

History cont....

Brown Creek District was the first Soil and Water Conservation District organized in the United States although 21 other states enacted similar legislation later in 1937. Nearly four-fifths of the states enacted similar laws in the next three years. By 1947, all of the other states and the territories of Hawaii and Alaska had passed legislation which created local Districts.

Under this law, Soil and Water Conservation Districts were organized to plan and carry out a locally led, voluntary incentive based conservation program that addressed local needs. District affairs are managed by individuals and groups involved in a coordinated conservation program, utilizing resources from local, state, and federal agencies. It was felt that local people, working with the Federal Government and federal agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, could better guide and direct programs aimed at addressing local natural resource concerns.

At first, Districts were organized along watershed rather than county boundaries. As a result, in the early days most districts included more than one county or parts of several counties. Many of the original state laws that were established on a watershed basis were later changed to allow conservation districts to be established along county lines. Today, most districts are organized in that way. One exception in North Carolina is the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District which includes Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Perquimans, and Pasquotank counties.

Today the 96 North Carolina Soil and Water Districts in North Carolina are serving over 85,000 school children and adults each year through their conservation education efforts. In addition, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are instrumental in improving the state's natural resources by providing technical assistance to landowners to help them solve their natural resource problems through voluntary, incentive based conservation programs. Their actions are improving the lives of all North Carolina citizens through implementation of programs that protect and improve soil and water quality on both agricultural and non-agricultural lands.



Emerson Wilson, (right) discusses soils on his farm

[History of Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

Soil and water conservation has a long history in Alleghany County and has involved many people. It began on the local level when Alleghany and Ashe Counties were organized April 21, 1941 as the New River Soil Conservation District. The first board of supervisors included: Wade E. Eller, J. W. Gambill, Dennis Franklin, Emmett Reeves, and Alton Thompson.

The current Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District was formed April 11, 1961, when Alleghany separated from the New River District, as a governmental subdivision of North Carolina in an act providing for the division of large conservation districts that were originally established along watershed boundaries.

Members of the original Board of Supervisors for the Alleghany SWCD were: Richard Morrison, Emerson Wilson, Lonnie Davis, Jim Leff Osborne, and Robert Joines.

Governor Beverly Perdue has proclaimed the month of August as
“SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS MONTH”
 in North Carolina

State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS MONTH

2012

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first soil and water conservation district in the nation was established in North Carolina on August 4, 1937, by passage of NC General Statute 139 and was known as the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District whose boundary is now Anson County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, there are now 96 soil and water conservation districts which cover all of North Carolina and are led by 492 elected and appointed North Carolina citizens known as soil and water conservation district supervisors who lead local soil and water conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized soil and water conservationist, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolina native from Anson County, dedicated his life to soil and water conservation and brought national attention to soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bennett recognized that a national soil and water conservation program with local leadership would be the most successful model for working with local private landowners in addressing erosion problems; and

WHEREAS, at Dr. Bennett's urging, President Franklin Roosevelt promoted similar state legislation that would create local soil and water conservation districts across the United States to lead and direct soil and water conservation programs at the local level; and

WHEREAS, since 1937, North Carolina soil and water conservation districts have been instrumental in improving the state's natural resources through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, and continue to be the primary voice for the protection, wise use, and conservation of all of the state's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the actions of soil and water conservation districts improve the lives of all North Carolina citizens, both rural and urban, through the implementation of programs that protect and improve water quality and other natural resources of the state, on agricultural and non-agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's 96 local soil and water conservation districts deliver effective conservation education programs to over 85,000 school children and adults each year; and

WHEREAS, August 4, 2012, marks the 75th anniversary of the first soil and water conservation district in North Carolina and the nation and represents a significant milestone in natural resource conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 2012, as **“SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS MONTH”** in North Carolina, and encourage citizens to support their local soil and water conservation district.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

Joint District Issues Committee Meeting



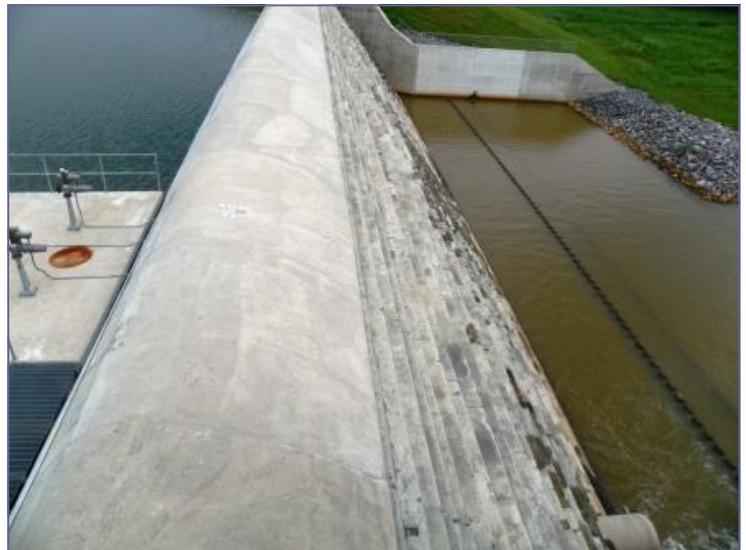
DIC Members tour the
Deep Creek 5-D
PL566
Watershed Project
Yadkin County

On behalf of Yadkin SWCD, Area 2 DIC Chair, Jo Linville, welcomed Areas 1, 2 and 8 to the annual joint DIC Meeting on July 24th at the Yadkin Campus of Surry Community College in Yadkinville.



The agenda included updates from the following:
Areas 1, 2 and 8; the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Director, Pat Harris;
NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director, Michelle Lovejoy;
NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Executive Director, Dick Fowler;
NCASWCD staff Julie Hinshaw and David Williams;
NRCS Assistant State Conservationist,
Alan Walker.

Jason Walker, Yadkin SWCD, recently received a national award from the American Council of Engineering Companies on April 17th in Washington DC for his work on the Deep Creek Watershed Dam 5 D project



NCSWCD Annual Spot Checks



May 25, 2012



Alleghany SWCD

Vice-Chairman

Jim Dixon

Supervisors

Bobby Evans

Terry Hall

Chris Huysman

conduct spot checks on various cost share projects located within Alleghany County

SE NACD Annual Meeting-Destin Florida

Linda Hash, SECDEA Treasurer, attended the SE NACD Annual Meeting held on July 29 -31 in Destin Florida. The conference included roundtable discussions with NRCS leaders and partners; a Soil to Spoon presentation; What NACD does for you; farm tours of Chautaugua Vineyards, Gum Creek Lodge and Marshall Farms, Inc.; conservation tours of Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, Eglin Air Force Armament Museum and Anderson Pond Conservation Project; a narrated water quality tour of Destin Harbor, East Pass at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, Holiday Isle and Norriego point; water quality issues and concerns were discussed during the tour.

Alleghany SWCD Awarded Grant



**NC Agricultural Development &
Farmland Preservation
Trust Fund**

NCDASCS

Linda Hash, Alleghany SWCD, is pleased to announce that Alleghany County has been awarded \$15,000 from the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to be used in the development and implementation of a county wide Farmland Protection Plan.

A local committee will be formed to identifying the needs, issues and concerns to be addressed in the Farmland Protection Plan. Members of this committee will include representation from Alleghany SWCD Board, Alleghany Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, Alleghany County Extension Service, Blue Ridge Conservancy, NC Forestry Service, NC Wildlife Resources, NC Farm Bureau, NC Farm Credit, local farmers and businesses within the county.

Awards Banquet-May 8, 2012

The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its annual awards program Tuesday, May 8th, at the Lions Club Pavilion. Those recognized included county winners in the 5th grade poster contest, 6th grade essay contest, and the 7th and 8th grade speech contest.



There were approximately 90 people present for the awards program including those students receiving awards and their families. Several teachers, principals, superintendent, assistant superintendent, county commissioner, and the Allegheny SWCD board and staff were also present to honor the conservation contests winners.

Allegheny SWCD Vice-Chair Jim Dixon was recognized for 35 years of dedicated service to Allegheny SWCD. County Commission Chair, Ken Richardson received a plaque in recognition for his many years of dedication and support of conservation programs in Allegheny County.

Congratulations to all those recognized!

Jr. Master Cattlemen Class



Six students from Allegheny and Ashe counties recently participated in the Jr. Master Cattlemen program offered by the NC Cooperative Extension Service in Allegheny. Topics covered during the week long course included Forage Production, Behavior & Handling, Health Management, Soil Sampling/Plant ID, Carcass Traits, Marketing, Farm Management, Body Conditioning Scoring, Fence Systems, Tractor Safety, and Environmental Concerns of Farming Operations.

The following students received a scholarship from the Allegheny and Ashe County Cattlemen Association:

Luke Souther-Allegheny Kenneth Jones-Allegheny
Micheala Harless-Ashe Dakota Elliott-Ashe

Farm Animal Day

A total of 93 second graders from Allegheny County attended the Farm Animal Day held May 11, 2012 at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds; the event was hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension Service.

Students spent the day learning about farm animals, medications, plants, animal by products and much more; students had a great time petting goats, sheep, calves and a miniature horse.



Tree Planting



Local AHS students plant trees at the
Davis Ball Field
(trees provided by Alleghany SWCD)

The various types of trees were donated by
New River SWCD in Virginia

Pictured L to R:

Houston Murphy
Austin Sprinkle
Sebastian Sandoval

Not pictured- teacher/instructor Zach Bennett

District Calendar

August 23rd—Farmland Protection Plan Committee Meeting

Conference Room/SWCD Building 9:00 am

August 28th—State Envirothon Meeting

Greensboro, NC 1:00 pm

September 11th—District Board Meeting

The Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

September 25th—District Issues Committee Meeting

Location TBA

September 26th—NW Envirothon Meeting

Boone, NC

October 9th—District Board Meeting

The Pines Restaurant 7:30 am

October 11th—Area 2 Fall Meeting

Location TBA

November 13th—FPP Advisory Board Meeting

Conference Room/SWCD Building 9:00 am





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

ALLEGHANY SWCD

P O Box 127 (90 S. Main St., Room 200)

Sparta, NC 28675

Visit us on the web at: Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

Phone: 336-372-4645 or 336-372-7777 Fax: 336-372-7402

E-mail: linda.hash@nc.nacdnet.net or Janie Woodle allegswcd@skybest.com

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

Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday

