



Conservation Comments



**July 2013
Summer Edition**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

"Water has become a highly precious resource. There are some places where a barrel of water costs more than a barrel of oil." ~ Lloyd Axworthy, Foreign Minister of Canada (1999 News Conference)

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**Griffin Goralski
State Winner**

Griffin Goralski, a seventh grade student at Piney Creek School, won second place in the Soil and Water Conservation State Speech Contest. His prize at the state level was a plaque and \$100. The event was held Friday, May 10th, in Raleigh.

Prior to competing in the state contest, Goralski took first place in both the countywide contest Feb. 12th and the 13-county area contest on March 21st.

**Tiffany Mount attends
Resource Conservation Workshop**

Local resident Tiffany Mount was among a select group of North Carolina high school students attending N.C. State University during the week of June 23rd to learn about environmental conservation. Tiffany, the daughter of Kenny and Treva Mount of Laurel Springs, was sponsored by the Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to attend this week long event.

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. Instructors come from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other conservation organizations; Counselors were provided from the eight SWCD areas.

Students are taught in soil and water conservation, forestry, wildlife and fisheries management, water quality control, watershed planning and other topics related to natural resource management. Students are housed in campus dormitories while attending the workshop. Several cash awards and scholarships were presented on Friday to the students based on scores on an exam given at the end of the week or leadership demonstrated during the course.

The workshop sponsors include the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Soil Science Department of N.C. State University, Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the NC Conservation District Employees Association.

Conservation Farmer of the Year



Frances Huber, Owner, and Bobby Irwin, Manager, of Brush Creek Farm, took first place in the Area and Regional Conservation Farm Family competition and went on to win second place in the State Competition.

The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Outstanding Conservation award recognizes farmers/farm families who are taking the initiative to implement sound, innovative and cost-effective conservation techniques, and are actively engaged in conservation education and community involvement. Frances, with help from farm manager, Bobby Irwin has implemented more than 21 best management practices to decrease erosion, improve water quality, stabilize streambanks and improve timber stands and

wildlife habitat. The farm has hosted numerous educational events to teach students about farming and how to take care of the environment.

Frances' forward thinking and promotion of rotational/prescribed grazing has been a strong influence on the local farm community. Several tours, pasture walks, workshops, and trainings have taken place on her farm to promote the local Soil and Water district as well as NRCS programs.

As a farmer in Alleghany County with a deep respect and appreciation of nature, Frances' goal is to help preserve and enrich her farm while encouraging others to do the same.

"I want to get the conservation message out because it makes sense and it's the right thing to do".



**BRUSH
CREEK
FARM**





Best Management Practices

Feed Waste Storage Facility
Alternative Watering System
Hands on workshops



Stream Restoration

**Restored
vegetative
corridors to
stabilize
streambanks,
reduce erosion
and enhance
fish and wildlife
habitat**



Annual Spot Checks

The following participated Annual Spot checks conducted May 14th on various NC Ag Cost Share projects located within Alleghany County.



- Paul Edwards, Chairman
- Jim Dixon, Vice Chair
- Terry Hall, Secretary/Treasurer
- Bobby Evans, Member
- Chris Huysman, Member

District Staff: Linda Hash ~ Janie Woodle
 David Tucker, District Conservationist
 Rob Baldwin, Area II Coordinator



Maggie Evans - SWCD Intern & NRCS Earth Team Volunteer



Alleghany SWCD & NRCS extend a warm welcome to NCSU intern Maggie Evans. She is the daughter of Alvin and Cindy Evans, who own and operate Evans Dairy in partnership with SWCD Supervisor, Bobby Evans. NRCS District Conservationist, David Tucker, will involve Maggie in various EQIP projects such as stream restoration. She will also be assisting NC State Swine Research Associate, Silvana Pietrosevoli, to conduct research for more environmentally friendly swine housing techniques on Brush Creek Farm, owned by Frances Huber and managed by Bobby Irwin.

Maggie is pursuing her degree in Agricultural & Environmental Technology at NC State University. She is an active member in the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers as well as the Dairy Science Club. She hopes to pursue a career in Crop Sciences or Environmental Conservation.



Tree Give Away

Alleghany SWCD distributed free trees to local residents on a first come, first serve basis. A wide variety of trees were available, including oak and pine. The seedlings were 18 to 36 inches and ready to plant. The seedlings were provided by the New River/ Grayson County SWCD.

Thank you to volunteer, Lisa Caudill for distributing trees at the Farmers Market.





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

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Paul Edwards, Chairman ~ Jim Dixon, Vice-Chairman ~ Terry Hall, Secretary/Treasurer
Bobby Evans, Member ~ Chris Huysman, Member

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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*