

Conservation Comments

**2016
Summer Edition**



Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

"Despite artistic pretensions, sophistication and his many accomplishments, Man owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains"
~ Unknown author

Resource Conservation Workshop



**Resource
Conservation
Workshop**

1
2

Tree Give Away

2

Local residents Isabel Engel, Savannah Cleary, and Anna Kilmartin were among a select group of North Carolina high school students who attended the Resource Conservation Workshop conducted at N.C. State University June 26th - July 1st. Isabel, the daughter of Elizabeth and Steve Brooks, Savannah, the daughter of Barbara and Jerry Cleary, and Anna, the daughter of Wrenn and John Kilmartin, were sponsored by the Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to attend this week long event. Ninety-two students were selected based on their academic achievements and interest in pursuing a career in natural resource management or a related field.

**SE NACD
Regional
Meeting**

3

**Conservation
Employees
Training**

4

The annual workshop was organized by a countless number of resource professionals and university staff and offered an intensive study of conservation practices and hands-on training. The four days of resource topics included subjects such as soil characteristics and soil conservation, wildlife and fisheries management, forest management, nonagricultural uses for soils, and water quality and watershed management. 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.

**Haybuster
No-Till Drill**

5

The celebration of fifty-three 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-two students all week and helped them with the daily logistics of dorm and campus life.

**SWCD
Contact
Information**

6

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 scholarships.

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Resource Conservation Workshop

After the workshop, the students attended the Alleghany SWCD monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 12th, to report on the success of the workshop.

Savannah stated the workshop was very educational, she learned a lot about how agriculture affects our economy and environment; her favorite was the water quality session on Tuesday; the workshop was a good opportunity to receive an orientation of the college and to learn a lot about NCSU; she will definitely recommend the workshop to others.

Wrenn Kilmartin spoke on behalf of her daughter, Anna, who learned a lot from the workshop; Anna appreciates the hard work everyone does to protect the environment and she would like to continue to learn more about the world in which we live.

Isabel noted that the workshop was fun and provided her with an opportunity to not only learn more about our environment, but also to explore various ways to protect it. She learned a lot about soil composition, soil chemistry, different soil types, farm organics, and about various types of pollinators other than bees; she especially enjoyed looking for dung beetles in cow waste. She liked NCSU, the workshop is a great introduction to agriculture and she will definitely recommend it to others.

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

Tree Give Away



Approximately 4,000 trees, donated by the New River SWCD in Galax, Virginia, were provided at no cost to local citizens

A wide variety of seedlings, including Chestnut Oak and Yellow Poplar, were available at the Alleghany Fairgrounds on June 2nd and at the local farmers market on June 4th

1500 seedlings were provided to Chelsea Blount, New River Conservancy, for a youth tree planting workshop
Remaining trees were donated to New River State Park





2016 SE NACD Regional Meeting

The National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2016 Southeast Regional Meeting was held on the tribal lands of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, N.C.

The theme for the meeting was “*Visit the Past, Imagine the Future*” and tied in the history and heritage of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and the Great Smoky Mountains. Those attending the meeting were given information and resources on how soil and water conservation districts can maintain their relevance and importance today and into the future.

Sunday activities included SE Region Board Meeting, NASCA Meeting, Conservation Partnership Round Table Meeting and an agriculture display provided by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Monday’s general session included opening remarks from Steve Troxler, Commissioner, NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services; keynote address “*The Future Starts Today*” was presented by Jones Loflin, HOPE Inc. NACD update was presented by Dick Went, Second Vice President, NACD; Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director, NC Foundation for Soil and Water, gave an overview of “*How Foundations Can Build SWCD Capacity*”; Georgia District Showcase “*Advancing Conservation through Innovation and Partnership*”. Concurrent afternoon sessions included “Trends in Agriculture”, “Soil Health”, “Community Conservation and Outreach” and “The Benefits of Agricultural Water Management”.

General session on Tuesday included Virginia District Showcase “*Breaking through the Buzz: Building Virginia SWCD Capacity through Collaboration Research and Programming*”; Tennessee District Showcase “*a Partnership Approach to Permit Streamlining in Tennessee*”; tours in the afternoon focused on agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, community conservation and education, and Cherokee culture.



Conservation Employees Training

The annual Conservation Employees Training (CET) workshop is scheduled for August 22-25 in Asheville, NC. The CET provides conservation district, division, and NRCS employees from across the state with administrative and technical training on agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs), community conservation, district law and operations and environmental education. Conservation district employees are given the opportunity to network with other districts across the state, discuss district issues and concerns, build professional relationships, and focus on how to more efficiently put conservation on the ground to protect North Carolina's natural resources.

Events on Monday include SWC Commission General Session, NCCDEA meeting and an area team building event.

Workshops on Tuesday include training on "Salamanders and the Effects of Acid Deposition", "Effects of Air Pollution on Terrestrial Invertebrates", "Strengthening the Conservation Framework", "Preparing your District for Success", "Media Relations", "Stretching the district dollar", and "Supervisor Development".

Training on Wednesday includes "Advanced Project Wild - Bats Workshop", "Cropland Conservation Planning", "Pasture Conservation Planning", "Basic Survey Training Using Levels", MS Office Skills-Intermediate Level Training", and "Conservation Easements".

The workshop concludes on Thursday with training on "Soil & Water Yours for Life Contest Theme", "Nutrient Management Software Updates", "Planning and Designing for Water Wells" and "Google Applications".



No-Till Drills Available

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 spring and fall planting needs.

Allegheny County, realizing the benefits of no-till farming, encourages county residents to utilize the Haybuster 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

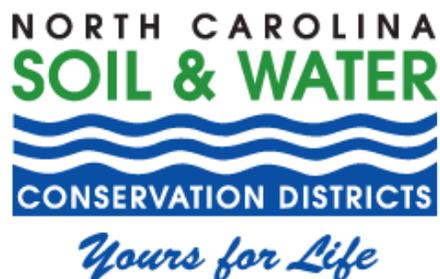
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District Staff

Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist
 Janie Woodle/Admin. Asst./Ed. Director

NRCS Staff

David Tucker/District Conservationist



NCDA&CS Div of Soil & Water Conservation

Rob Baldwin, Western Regional Coordinator

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

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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