



# Conservation Comments



January  
2016  
Winter Edition

## Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

### Blue Ridge RC&D Welcomes New Members

*“A river is the report card for its watershed”  
Alan Levere, Connecticut Department  
for Environmental Protection*

Blue Ridge  
RC&D

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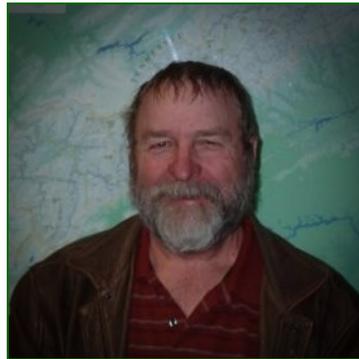
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The Blue Ridge Resource and Development Council is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that works with local government officials, businesses, educators, state and federal agencies, and residents in the counties of Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

BRRC&D seeks funding and provides assistance to implement

various projects throughout the seven counties to improve the quality of our natural resources.

In December Al Childers, Watauga County, was reappointed to a new term on the BRRC&D board; Al serves as supervisor on the Watauga Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Alvin Dixon, Alleghany County, was appointed to a new term on the board; he currently serves as supervisor on the Alleghany SWCD board.

Janie Woodle, Education Director for

Alleghany SWCD, was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of Linda Hash; she will serve as secretary to the board.



*For more information on Blue Ridge RC&D  
please visit their website:*

**<http://www.blueridgercd.org/>**

## NCASWCD 72nd Annual Meeting

The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held its 72nd Annual Meeting January 3-5, 2016, in Durham. This meeting of conservation partners from across North Carolina provides an opportunity to come together and address the needs of the association while providing training opportunities for district supervisors, staff, and members of the conservation partnership.

The theme for this year was “*Conservation - Contagious Enthusiasm*” and was presided over by State Association President Manly West, Supervisor from Currituck County, Albemarle SWCD. Activities on Sunday included various board meetings, work sessions, new supervisor orientation, NC Soil and Water Commission meeting, President’s welcome reception and dinner. A memorial service was conducted in honor of those supervisors from across the state who have passed during 2015.

During Monday’s general session, Commissioner Steve Troxler, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, gave the key note address, “*Comments From The Top*”, and provided an update on departmental priorities and legislative issues. Dr. Charles Petty, Family Success Unlimited, Inc., was the featured speaker; he addressed the “importance of maintaining energy and purpose in one’s life and work, and discovering some ways to achieve and maintain a healthy productivity”; “Memorandum of Agreement Partnership Signing” was presided over by Franklin



Williams, NC NACD Board Member. Breakout training sessions were provided on the following topics: *Why do I want to be a supervisor?*; *Trends in Agriculture (Organics)*; *2016 Executive Committee Orientation*; *Nutrient Trading*; *Urban Focus*; *Ready, Set, Grow!*; and *Keeping NC Farms and Forests Vibrant and Resilient*. Resource Committee meetings were conducted in the afternoon, followed by the Conservation Education Dinner and Education Awards program, which included presentation of the Envirothon Hall of Fame award, Food, Land, and People awards, and other Envirothon awards.



Tuesday’s general session featured a video “Faces of Agriculture: The Albemarle Region”; Length of Service, Urban Conservationist of the Year, and Earth Team awards were presented; election of Piedmont Commission Seat was conducted. Greg Fishel, Chief Meteorologist, WRAL TV in Raleigh spoke on “Climate Change”; Ray Starling, General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Staff of US Senator Thom Tillis, gave the keynote address. NRCS, District Employees Association, Auxiliary, Division, and Foundation reports were given during the NCASWCD business meeting. Action items included Nominating Committee report, Rules of Procedure Amendment and Committee reports.

Outstanding Conservation Farm Family awards were presented during the banquet on Tuesday; Ralph and Suzanne Britt from Duplin County, won in the Coastal Region; Circle D Farms, Oscho and Eric Deal, Rowan County, won the Mountain Region; Baker Farms, Robert, Bobby, and Mark Baker, Rockingham County, won the Piedmont Region and was recognized as State Farm Family of the year.



Jimmy Gentry, President, and Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director, NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, presented the NCFSWC Award to Dick Fowler, retired NCASWCD Executive Director. Manly West, 2015 NCASWCD President, handed over the gavel to incoming 2016 President, J. Ben Knox, who spoke of his vision for the Association for the coming year.



## 9th Annual Allegheny County Envirothon Competition



Students from Allegheny County schools recently participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual County Envirothon competition sponsored by the Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This program is a competitive event in which high school and middle school teams of up to five members compete in a natural resources and ecology field day.

The competition covered the following resource subjects: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and current environmental issues, which included such topics as: “Cleaner air is linked to stronger lungs in Southern California children”, “October is get to know GMO month” and “Invasive Species-National Wildlife Federation”.

A total of 23 teams gathered at the Lions Club in Sparta to compete in the environmental education training: 2 teams from Allegheny High School, “Loco Lobos” and “Perspicacious Canines”, team advisors Hannah Ward and Danny Jones; 2 teams from Blue Ridge Christian School, “Environmental Warfare” and “Swamp Stompers”, team advisor Elizabeth Davis; 7 teams from Glade Creek School, “Dark Side of the Moon”, “Environmental Awesomeness”, “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles”, “The Bandits”, “The Fantastic Four”, “The Plantarians”, and “The Top Class”, team advisors Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson; 4 teams from Piney Creek School, “Fossilized Flowers”, “Pizza Dragons”, “Science Warriors”, and “Swarm”, team advisor Becky Sanders; 9 teams from Sparta School, “EnviroBubbles”, “Green Warriors”, “Untouchables”, “The Minks”, “The Rebels”, “Sprinkles of Thunder”, “LJJGC”, and “the untouchable bananas”, team advisors Jessica Holyfield, Rochelle Todd, and Chris Brady; the advisors rotated through each station with their students during the morning sessions.

At the Soils station, David Tucker with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), taught the students how to use a soil survey to determine which soils were suitable for growing crops. In Forestry, Russell Choate, NC Forestry Service, taught students to identify different species of trees. In Wildlife, Mike Edwards, Stone Mountain State Park, discussed what was needed to maintain healthy habitats. In Aquatics, Scott Robinson, New River State Park, taught students important facts about water quality and quantity. In Current Environmental Issues, Amy Lucas, Allegheny County Extension, discussed facts about the French Broad River, the population growth increase of coyotes in Eastern NC and how far apart scientists and the American public are on science issues such as the safety of eating GMO’s or genetically modified foods.

Awards were presented after testing in each category. The team receiving 1<sup>st</sup> place in the high school competition was “Perspicacious Canines” from Allegheny High School; team members, Allie Jones, Will Vestal and Leah McGrady. 1<sup>st</sup> place in the middle school competition was presented to “Science Warriors” from Piney Creek School; team members Ely Young, Hanna Debord, Mastin Sanders, Mary-Beth Burgiss and Lily Gardner. All the teams will compete on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the McGee Educational Center in Wilkes County along with teams from twelve other counties in Area 2.

The event was organized by Soil and Water Educational Director Janie Woodle. The local competition is an annual event which will serve as training for the regional and state competitions held in late March or early April each year.



# County Envirothon



**Aquatics**

In Aquatics Scott Robinson, New River State Park, teaches students important facts about water quality and quantity

Amy Lucas, Alleghany NC Cooperative Extension, discusses Current Environmental Issues such as the population growth of coyotes in Eastern NC and the safety of eating GMO's or genetically modified foods



**Current  
Environmental Issues**

At the Soils Station, David Tucker with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) teaches students about the physical properties of soil



**Forestry**

At the Forestry Station Russell Choate, NC Forestry Service, teaches students to identify local species of trees



**Soils**

Mike Edwards, Stone Mountain State Park, talks about local wildlife & how to conserve wildlife resources



**Wildlife**



**“Science Warriors”**  
 Piney Creek Elementary School  
**1st Place**  
 Ely Young~Mastin Sanders  
 Lily Gardner  
 Mary-Beth Burgiss  
 Hanna Debord  
 Becky Sanders, Advisor

**“Perspicacious Canines”**  
 Allegheny High School  
**1st Place**  
 Will Vestal  
 Leah McGrady  
 Allie Jones  
 Danny Jones, Advisor



# Thank You

## Sponsors & Volunteers!

**Whitney  
Greene**

**Veronica  
Riley**

**Allegheny Farm Bureau**  
**Carolina Farm Credit**  
**Food Lion ~ Lowes Foods**

For more information please visit the following website:

[North Carolina Envirothon](http://North Carolina Envirothon)



## Allegheny County Rural Community Safety Field Day

4th grade students from the Allegheny County School System participated in the Rural & Community Safety Field Day sponsored by Allegheny Cooperative Extension on September 25 at the Allegheny Fairgrounds. The event is designed to develop safe practice habits around the home, on the farm, and in rural communities and to educate youth on accident prevention. Soil and Water Education Director, Janie Woodle provided presentations on water safety.

Fun and educational presentations were provided on the following topics:

- ◆ **Safety Smarts**—To increase awareness of potential hazards associated with animals and to increase safe practices around animals
- ◆ **Chemical Safety**-To increase knowledge of the potential hazards associated with chemicals and drugs
- ◆ **Gun Safety**-To increase safe and age appropriate gun handling and storage practices
- ◆ **Wildlife/Nature**-To reduce exposure to critter hazards in and around the home
- ◆ **Machinery/Equipment**-To reduce the number of injuries associated with machinery and outdoor equipment including farm tractors, power take offs and lawn tractors
- ◆ **Animal Safety**-To increase awareness of potential hazards associated with animals and to increase safe practices
- ◆ **Fire Safety**-To reduce the number of fire related injuries through increased knowledge of fire prevention, detection and escape
- ◆ **Water Safety**-To increase knowledge of pond and river safety and procedures for water related emergencies



### Water Safety Station September 25, 2015



## Upcoming Training or Workshops

### The North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council 2016 Winter Conference Series



**February 16, 2016**

**10:00 AM**  
Lois G. Britt Agricultural  
Service Center  
165 Agriculture Drive  
Kenansville, NC

**February 17, 2016**

**10:00 AM**  
Iredell County  
Cooperative Extension  
444 Bristol Drive  
Statesville, NC

**February 18, 2016**

**10:00 AM**  
WNC Regional  
Livestock Center  
474 Stock Drive  
Canton, NC

**Agenda includes:**

Managing Bermudagrass Based Forage Systems  
Producing High Quality Harvested Forage  
Utilizing Forages in Waster Management Systems  
Trade Show, NCSU Extension Update and more!

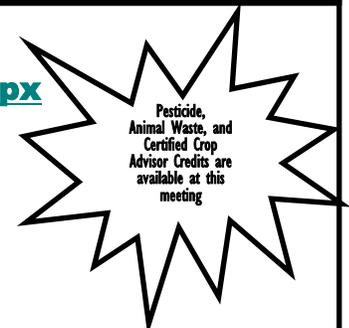
**Agenda includes:**

What We Know About Managing cue Toxicosis  
Legume contribution in fescue systems:  
plant and animal responses  
The Transition from KY 31 to Novel Endophyte  
Tall Fescue  
Trade Show, NCSU Extension Update and more!

**Register Online**

<http://www.nccattle.com/fgcwinterconferenceregistration.aspx>

	<u>before 2/8/16:</u>	<u>after 2/8/16: or at door:</u>
Includes 2016 Membership	\$45	\$55
Students	\$10	\$10
Agency/Extension Staff	\$20	\$30



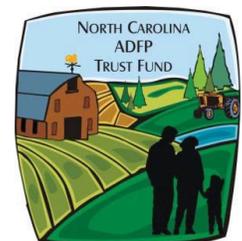
### 2016 Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Farmland Preservation Workshops

*The Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Farmland Preservation Workshops are for agricultural advisory board members, county representatives, program staff, farmers, landowners, elected officials and anyone responsible for, or interested in, farmland preservation and the administration of the Voluntary Agricultural Districts program. The workshops are free and open to the public.*

**Agenda includes:**

- Discuss/Explain VAD Model Ordinance
- Solar Lease Issues
- District Reports: 2016 Plan of Action, Challenges and Successes
- Legislative Updates, Tax Questions and DOT Topics
- Program Opportunities from ADFP Trust Fund, Soil & Water, and NC Forest Service

**Thursday, March 17**  
**Forsyth County**  
**Agricultural Center**  
**Registration begins at**  
**8:30 a.m.**





## 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

**Bobby Evans / Chair**

**Chris Huysman / Vice-Chair**

**Terry Hall / Secretary - Treasurer**

**Alvin Dixon / Member**

**Bill Osborne / Member**



*Yours for Life*

### District Staff

Linda Hash, Director/Conservationist

Janie Woodle, Admin. Assist./Ed. Director

### NRCS Staff

David Tucker, District Conservationist

### NCDA&CS

#### Division 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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Sparta, NC 28675

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