

Conservation Comments



**January
 2015**

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

“Wetlands have a poor public image....Yet they are among the earth’s greatest natural assets...mankind’s waterlogged wealth.”
Edward Maltby, Waterlogged Wealth, 1986

Soil & Water Conservation District Board Members Take Oath of Office



Judge Richard Doughton (center)

L to R

Chris Huysman ~ Alvin Dixon ~ Terry Hall ~ Bill Osborne

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Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District extends a warm welcome to Alvin Dixon and Bill Osborne, who were sworn into office on December 1, 2014, as the newest members of the SWCD board.

Alvin Dixon was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Jim Dixon; Bill Osborne was elected to his first term.

Congratulations to re-elected Supervisor Terry Hall, who serves as Secretary/Treasurer to the SWCD board, and to Chris Huysman, who was reappointed for another term and serves as Vice-Chairman of the board.

In Appreciation SWCD Supervisors Paul Edwards and Jim Dixon

A “retirement” celebration was held November 18, 2014, to honor Paul Edwards and Jim Dixon for service and dedication to the Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District.

Approximately 50 family, friends, fellow board members, farmers and local officials attended to show their appreciation. Paul and Jim served as supervisors to the SWCD Board for more than 63 years combined.



Allegheny SWCD Supervisor Bobby Evans presents clocks to Paul Edwards, 27 years of service and to Jim Dixon, 36 years of service



NCASWCD 71st Annual Meeting



The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD) hosted its 71st Annual Meeting January 4-6, 2015, in Greensboro. This meeting of conservation partners from throughout North Carolina provides an opportunity to come together and address 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 - Called to Duty*” and was presided over by State Association President John Langdon, Supervisor

from Johnston SWCD. Sunday’s events included various work sessions and board meetings, orientation for new supervisors and a quarterly meeting of the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. During a memorial service, Dennis Franklin, who served as supervisor on the SWCD board when Alleghany and Ashe Counties were combined as the New River SWCD was remembered.

Monday’s general session was addressed by Commissioner Steve Troxler, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; featured speakers were Jones Loflin, HOPE Inc. and Debbie Hamrick, NC Farm Bureau Federation. Breakout sessions included training in the areas of Nature Deficit Disorder; Budget Fiscal Control Act and Tax Implications for Districts; Drainage Issues; Community Conservation. Resource Committee meetings were held in the afternoon, followed by the Conservation Education dinner and awards program in the evening.

Tuesday’s morning session included “Soil Health - Farming and Ranching for the 21st Century” by Ray Archuleta, Agronomist, USDA-NRCS, Greensboro. During Length of Service Awards Ceremony, Linda Hash, Director Alleghany SWCD, received a plaque for 25 years of service. John Finch, Nash SWCD was awarded the *National Supervisor of the Year Award* during the NC District Employees Association luncheon. The Association’s business session ended in the afternoon with reports from the eight standing committees. Tuesday evening’s Banquet included: recognition of the *Mountain Region Farm Family Conservation Award* - The Fork Farm & Stables, Jim Cogdel, Stanly County; *Piedmont Region and State Farm Family Conservation Award* - Rockin’ B Farm, Mickey Bowman Owner, Randolph County. Wake Supervisor, John Phelps was inducted into the *Conservation Hall of Fame* for his service.

Outgoing remarks were given by 2014 President John Langdon followed by remarks from Manly West, incoming 2015 President.



Linda Hash receives 25 year Service Award from NC Association of SWCD’s President, John Langdon



“Wetlands are Wonderful” 2015 Poster, Essay and Speech Contests

The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts promotes conservation contests at District, Area and State levels to provide students an opportunity to become aware of and share their concerns for soil and water conservation.

Alleghany SWCD recently provided poster, essay and speech contest information and resource materials to teachers and students in the 5th through 8th grades in Sparta, Piney Creek, Glade Creek, Blue Ridge Christian School and 9th grade at Alleghany High School. Participation in the contests meets certain curriculum goals and objectives required by the NC Dept. of Public Instruction Grade Level Competencies.

First place posters, essays, and names of speech contestants at the school level must be submitted to the Soil and Water office by January 15, 2015.

The county competition is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2015, in the conference room of the Alleghany County Administration building.

Contests rules may be accessed through the Division of SWCD’s homepage at this link:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/contests.html>

(**Note**, not all contests are offered in all counties - local deadlines provided by SWCD staff will apply)

5th Grade Poster Contest

- Posters should be no larger than 24 x 36 inches
- Mounted materials cannot stick out more than 1/8 of an inch from the paper
- Any coloring materials suitable for poster work may be used
- Posters must be original work of the student
- Posters should be submitted flat and not rolled
- Posters must be identified on the back with the student’s name, school and contact information

6th Grade Essay Contest

- Essays must bear the title of the essay contest “Wetlands are Wonderful”
- Be limited to 300-500 words - all words will be counted
- Be written on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper
- Be sure to use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Essays must be identified on the back with the student’s name, school and contact information

7th & 8th Grade Speech Contest

- Speeches are limited to 4 - 6 minutes
- Use of visual aids are not allowed
- Memorize your speech - use of note cards is acceptable for back up
- Dress appropriately - no holey jeans, sweatshirts with school logo, etc.
- Do not make personal contact with the judges or audience
- Personal information such as name, school or hometown cannot be provided in the speech

9th Grade Computer Generated Poster Contest

- Poster orientation may be portrait or landscape
- Posters may be created using any software of the student's choice
- Posters should be designed so that if printed on paper they would be no larger than 24 x 36 inches
- Posters must be identified on the second page of the poster document with student's name, school and contact information
- Posters should be submitted electronically in one of the following formats

GIF - Graphics Interchange Format	PPY - Microsoft PowerPoint File
JPEG - File Interchange Format	PUB - Microsoft Publisher File
PDF - Adobe Acrobat File	TIFF - Tag Image File Format
PNG - Portable Network Graphics Format	

Prizes:

School level	Area level	State level
3rd - \$10	3rd - \$25	2nd - \$100
2nd - \$15	2nd - \$35	1st - \$200
1st - \$25	1st - \$75	

Upcoming 2015 Educational Events**January 15, 2015 - Contest Deadline**

Posters, essays and names of speech winners must be submitted to Alleghany SWCD

February 17, 2015 - County Speech, Essay & Poster Contests

10:00 am-County Admin Bldg.

March 19, 2015 - Area 2 Speech, Essay & Poster Contests

6:00 pm-Caldwell County Library

March 26, 2015 - NW Envirothon Competition

McGee Center-Wilkes



8th Annual Allegheny County Envirothon Competition

Students from Allegheny County school system recently participated in the 8th Annual county-wide 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 5 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: “What is Urban and Community Forestry”, “Wetland Functions and Values” and “Benefits of Riparian Zones”.

A total of 18 teams gathered at the Lions Club in Sparta to compete in the environmental education training: 2 teams from Allegheny High School, “Environmentalists” and “Spartan Enviros”, team advisor Whitney Greene; 3 teams from Blue Ridge Christian School (BRC), “Earth Warriors”, “Enviro-army”, and “S.A.S”, team advisors Elizabeth Davis and Janna Murphy; 7 teams from Glade Creek School, “Golden Stardust”, “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles”, “Power Rangers”, “NC/Duke”, “Dangerous Deer”, “Environmental Awesomeness” and “Flower Assassins”, team advisors Hope McClure, and Melissa Gibson; 4 teams from Piney Creek School, “Science Warriors”, “Panthers”, “AFCW”, and “Hershey Panthers”, team advisor Becky Sanders; 2 teams from Sparta School, “C.S.I” and “The Legends”, team advisors Elaine Reales and Jennifer Sheets; 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, N.C. Forestry Service, taught the 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, Jeff Matheson, New River State Park, taught students important facts about water quality and quantity. In Current Environmental Issues, Amy Lucas, Allegheny County Extension, discussed articles about the ecology of the Chowan River Basin, wetland functions and values, and the benefits of riparian zones.

Awards were presented after testing in each category. The team receiving first place in the high school competition was “Spartan Enviros” from Allegheny High School; team members Leah McGrady, Jordan Milhake, Lloyd Cuevas, Deannah Milhake and Estephanie Chavez. First place in the middle school competition was presented to “Science Warriors” from Piney Creek School; team members Hannah Debord, Ely Young, Owen Mills, and Mary-Beth Burgiss.

All of the teams will compete on March 26, 2015, at the McGee Educational Center in Wilkes County along with teams from twelve other counties in Area 2. The local competition is an annual event which serves as training for regional and state competitions held in March and April each year.



Team Advisors

(Left to Right)

Melissa Gibson, Piney Creek Elaine Reales, Sparta
Hope McClure, Glade Creek Jennifer Sheets, Sparta
Whitney Greene, Allegheny High



At the Soils station-right, David Tucker with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) teaches students how to use a soil survey to determine which soils are suitable for growing crops

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



Right: Mike Edwards, Stone Mountain State Park, talks about how to maintain a healthy habitat for wildlife



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



Right: Amy Lucas, 4-H Agent, discusses articles about the Emerald Ash Borer, NC Coyotes and Groundwater





“Science Warriors”

Piney Creek School
1st Place
Elementary School

Left to right:

- Advisor Becky Sanders**
- Hanna Debord**
- Mary-Beth Burgiss**
- Ely Young**
- Owen Mills**

“Spartan Enviros”

Allegheny High School
1st Place
High School

Bottom row from left:

- Estephanie Chavez**
- Deannah Milhake**
- Advisor Whitney Greene**
- Leah McGrady**
- Lloyd Cuevas**



A very special Thank You to our Sponsors!



- Allegheny Farm Bureau**
- Carolina Farm Credit**
- Food Lion**
- Lowe's Food**



In Remembrance.....**R. Dennis Franklin**

September 1, 1927 – January 27, 2014

Dennis was a member of the New River SWCD Board when Allegheny and Ashe Counties were combined and was elected chair of the District in 1956.

He was a charter member of the Allegheny Voluntary Farmland Preservation Advisory board serving from 2003-2011.

**George Lewis Upchurch**

April 27, 1939 – September 25, 2014

Lewis was a charter member of the Allegheny Voluntary Farmland Preservation Advisory board serving from 2003-2014.





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

District Staff

Linda Hash, Director/Conservationist
Janie Woodle, Admin. Assist./Ed. Director

NRCS Staff

David Tucker, District Conservationist



NCDA&CS Div of Soil & Water Conservation

Rob Baldwin, Regional Coordinator

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

ALLEGHANY SWCD

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