

Conservation Comments



2017
 Spring Edition

Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

"Man - despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments - owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains."

~ Unknown Author

NCACSP 2017 Annual Spot Checks

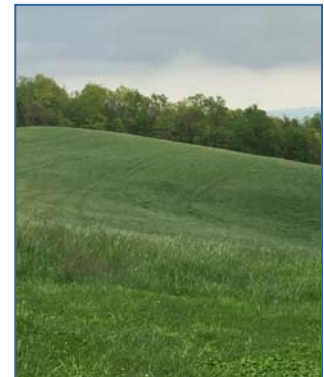
The following SWCD Supervisors and District staff participated in Annual Spot checks conducted May 9th on various NC Ag Cost Share projects located within Alleghany County

Annual Spot Checks
 Annual Spring Meeting

1



Bobby Evans
 Chris Huysman
 Terry Hall
 Alvin Dixon
 Bill Osborne
 Linda Hash
 Janie Woodle



Resource Conservation Workshop
 2017 Conservation Contests

2

Contest Winners
 School Level

3

4

5



Area & State Contest Winners

6

Area & State Envirothon Winners

5

NCASWCD Spring Meeting Conservation Opportunities

District Board Information:
 Board & Staff Contacts

6

The Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Spring Meeting was held March 9, 2017, at The Depot, Cody Creek Banquet Hall in Dobson, NC. SWCD Supervisors Terry Hall, Alvin Dixon, staff Linda Hash and Janie Woodle, attended the meeting. In addition to agency updates, speakers Dick Everhart and Alan Walker presented on the *Western Stream Initiative* and the *Boots on the Ground Initiative*. Cost Share updates and training were provided by Division staff and Area 2 Contest results were announced.

Local Students to attend Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State

Rylie LaRue and Sydni Smith are among a select group of North Carolina high school students who will attend the Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) at NC State University June 25th - 30th.

The RCW is a weeklong workshop and involves study and hands on participation in a wide range of conservation topics and is provided by North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Educational programs.

They were chosen based on their academic achievements and interest in pursuing a career in natural resource management or a related field.



Rylie LaRue

Sydni Smith

“Soil & Water...Yours for Life” Soil & Water Conservation Contest Winners



The Allegheny Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently provided educational programs as requested in the 5th - 8th grades of each school and the 9th grade at Allegheny High School. This year's theme was “Soil & Water...Yours for Life”. The 5th graders competed in a poster contest, 6th graders in an essay contest, 7th and 8th graders competed in public speech contests, and 9th grade in a computer designed poster. The winners at the school level received certificates and cash awards from Allegheny SWCD. First place winners from each school competed in a county-wide competition

in January. Results of the county competitions are: 5th Grade Poster winners: 1st place-Zoe Gambill, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Olivia Campbell, Glade Creek School; 3rd place-Genesis Li, Sparta School; 4th place-Amber Hirschy, Blue Ridge Christian School. 6th Grade Essay winners: 1st place-Cindy Lopez, Glade Creek School; 2nd place-Sophia Hargnett, Blue Ridge Christian School; 3rd place-Alex Barr, Sparta School; 4th place-Christabella Williams, Piney Creek School. 7th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Hazel Pasley, Sparta School; 2nd place-Danielle Taylor, Piney Creek School; 3rd place-Lauren Hettleman, Blue Ridge Christian School; 4th place-Abbie Joines, Glade Creek School. 8th Grade Speech winners: 1st place-Hanna DeBord, Piney Creek School; 2nd place-Avery Hamm, Sparta School; 3rd place-Ethan Snider, Blue Ridge Christian School; 4th place-Jennifer Miles, Glade Creek School. Allegheny High School 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster winners: 1st place-Rylie LaRue; 2nd place-Sydni Smith; 3rd place-Blake Murphy.

The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Caldwell County March 16th. Allegheny's students placed as follows in the Area Contests: Zoe Gambill, Piney Creek School, took 2nd place in the 5th grade Poster Competition, she received \$35 and a medallion; Cindy Lopez, Glade Creek School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 6th grade Essay Competition; Hazel Pasley, Sparta School, took 1st place in the 7th grade Speech Competition and received \$75 and a medallion; Hanna DeBord, Piney Creek School, received an Honorable Mention in the 8th grade Speech Competition; Rylie LaRue, Allegheny High School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster. Hazel Pasley won 1st place in the State Contest in Raleigh on May 4th.

An awards banquet was held April 5, 2017 to recognize all those who competed at the county competition.

SWCD Contest Winners School Level



Alleghany High School

9th Computer Designed Poster

(Pictured L to R)

Rylie LaRue

Sydni Smith

Blake Murphy



Blue Ridge Christian School

5th Poster - 6th Essay ~ 7th & 8th Speech

(Pictured L to R)

Amber Hirschy ~ Holly Hall

Sophia Hargnett ~ Will Snider

Stella Snider ~ Lauren Hettleman

Autumn Hirschy ~ Anthony Paolino

Ethan Snider ~ Rylee Smith



Glade Creek School

5th Poster - 6th Essay ~ 7th & 8th Speech

(Pictured L to R)

Olivia Campbell ~ Connor Bottomley

Karley Gentry ~ Cindy Lopes ~ McKenzie Hudson

Abbie Joines ~ Maria Tadeo Orduna

Abby Smith ~ Jennifer Miles

Continued from page 3

SWCD Contest Winners School Level



Piney Creek School

5th Poster - 6th Essay ~ 7th & 8th
Speech

(Pictured L to R)

Zoe Gambill ~ Carson Bare

Mack LeMasters

Christabella Williams ~ Shayna Lewis

Camille Green ~ Danielle Taylor

Hayley Bare ~ Forster Mabe

Hanna DeBord ~ Isabella Wyatt

Austin Douglas



Sparta School

5th Poster - 6th Essay ~ 7th & 8th
Speech

(Pictured L to R)

Genesis Li ~ Olivia Blevins

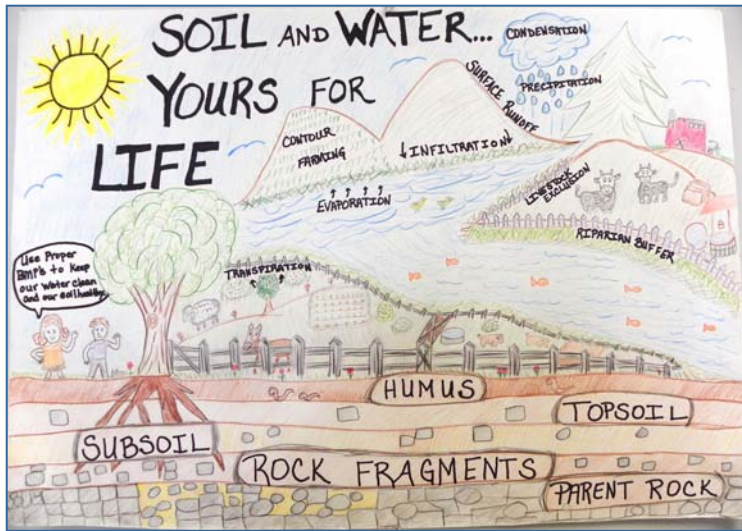
Alex Barr ~ Alexandra Vestal

Trinity LaRue ~ Hazel Pasley

Madison Todd ~ Avery Hamm

MaKenzie Lyall

Soil and Water Conservation
5th Grade Poster - 6th Grade Essay - 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster



Cindy Lopez—1st Place

6th Grade Essay
Glade Creek School

Soil & Water...Yours for Life

Imagine that as a child, you loved to go to a special field of flowers along a pretty flowing river. You moved away, and years later you come back to the same field but this time, everything is almost dead and contaminated. You feel so sad and you want to fix it, but how?

Before you can fix anything, you need to know the threats to soil. Two threats of soil are soil desertification, and salinization. Soil desertification is when fertile soil becomes desert-like and loses nutrients. Another threat to soil is poor salinity levels in the soil. Soil salinity happens when mineral weathering occurs and this causes the soil to have more salt than it needs to have. Unfortunately, the soil is not only threatened, but the water as well.

Water is one of our most valuable resources. It is sad to think that our water is getting continually contaminated and quality water is becoming scarce. Remember the flowing river? Well now it is a small river, and it is almost fully contaminated. To help in this situation, you must know the source of the pollution. This is called point-source pollution. You are aware that there is a farmer with cattle near the river further north, and you are positive the cows are affecting the quality of water. Therefore, point-source pollution is coming from the cows at the barn. But now you want to try to figure out what is affecting the quantity of water. This is called non-point pollution, which means that you don't know where the water is being contaminated or who is contaminating the water. Now that you have identified the threats; what can you do?

Conservation methods for soil and water are called best management practices (BMPs). Some BMPs for soil are crop

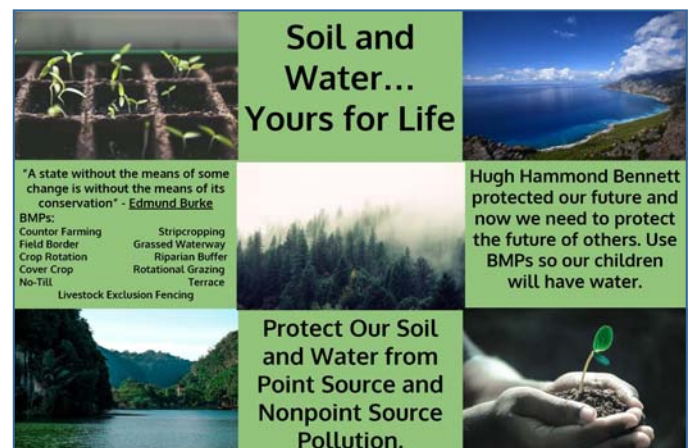
Zoe Gambill—1st Place
5th Grade Poster
Piney Creek School

rotation and terrace farming. Crop rotation is when a farmer plants one crop and next year they plant something else. This way only one mineral is being depleted a year and not again and again. This helps prevent soil depletion, desertification, and soil salinization. Terrace farming is a BMP that is used on hilly or mountainous land, which decreases erosion and surface runoff, and it also supports crops that require irrigation like rice.

There are a many BMPs for water and there is one that helps irrigating crops. You can use pond water instead of well water for irrigating your crops and pond water is better than well water because using well water will deplete drinking water levels. Another BMP is a system called decontamination infiltration where you put dirty water in a tank, and it cleans it.

After a lot of work and a long time, the field is starting to bloom with little sprouts. You just saved soil and water for the future. Though this small story may not be real, the problems and threats to soil and water are. You can help it with these BMPs and knowledge of threats and solutions.

Rylie LaRue—1st Place
9th Grade Poster
Allegheny High School



Area 2 Contest Night - March 16, 2017 - Caldwell County



**Zoe Gambill—Piney Creek School
2nd Place—Area Competition
5th Grade Poster**

Denny Norris ~ Watauga SWCD Chairman



**Cindy Lopez—Glade Creek School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition**



**Hazel Pasley—Sparta School
1st Place—Area Competition
7th Grade Speech**

Denny Norris ~ Watauga SWCD Chairman

**Hazel Pasley
wins 1st Place
in State Speech
Competition**



**Hanna DeBord—Piney Creek School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition
8th Grade Speech**

Denny Norris ~ Watauga Chairman



**Rylie LaRue—Alleghany High School
Honorable Mention
Area Competition
9h Grade Poster**

Denny Norris ~ Watauga Chairman



The Speech contest is one of many educational opportunities offered throughout the year by the Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District

Hazel Pasley, a 7th grade student from Sparta Elementary School, won 1st place in the soil and water conservation State Level Public Speaking Contest on May 4th in Raleigh. Hazel is the daughter of Lucas and Iboya Pasley; her teacher at Sparta School is Jenny LeMasters.

Students competing at this level have advanced through three and sometimes four tiers of competition to represent their area against sinners from across North Carolina. Hazel was awarded \$200 in addition to a prestigious plaque for her hard work and dedication in reaching this level of competition.

Speeches must be from four to six minutes in length and demonstrate comprehensive subject knowledge, originality and the skillful use of facts.

Contestants are also judged on appropriate body language, voice, diction and style.

Alleghany teams compete in NW Envirothon

The Northwest Envirothon Competition, sponsored by the Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held Thursday, March 31, 2017, at the McGee Center in Wilkes County. This program is a competitive event in which high school and middle school teams compete in a natural resources and ecology field day. The competition covered the following resource subjects: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and current environmental issues. A total of 51 teams, representing 9 of the 13 counties in Area 2, participated in this year's event.

Alleghany had 11 teams registered for the competition: 3 high school teams included: "Gator Done", "Like a Moss" & "Otter Chaos" from Alleghany High School, team advisors Hannah Brady & Lindsay Formwalt. 8 middle school teams participated: 2 teams from Blue Ridge Christian School: "Environmental Warfare" & "Mind Benders", team advisors Elizabeth Davis and Joseph Edwards; 2 teams from Glade Creek School: "Environmental Attitude" and "The Specimens", team advisors Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson; 3 teams from Piney Creek School: "Avada Kedavra", "The Enviro Warriors", and "The Envirothings", team advisor Becky Sanders; 1 team from Sparta School: "Nature Power", team advisors Jessica Holyfield and Chris Brady.

The seven highest scoring teams in middle school and high school advance to the state competition. In the middle school competition "The Envirothings" won 1st place, team members Hanna DeBord, Mary-Beth Burgiss, Abbe Bourne, and Ally Hanson; "Avada Kedavra" took 4th place, team members Ely Young, Isabella Wyatt, Lily Gardner, Mastin Sanders, and Austin Douglas; both teams are from Piney Creek School.



1st place - NW Envirothon

The Envirothings—Piney Creek (L-R)

Hanna DeBord~Ally Hanson~Mary-Beth Burgiss
Abbe Bourne~Claude Shew, Wilkes SWCD Supervisor



4th place - NW Envirothon

Avada Kedavra—Piney Creek (L-R)

Ely Young~Lily Gardner~Austin Douglas~Isabella Wyatt
Mastin Sanders~Claude Shew, Wilkes SWCD Supervisor

Alleghany teams compete in State Envirothon

The "The Envirothings" and "Avada Kedavra" competed in the State Envirothon on April 28-29 in Burlington at Cedarrock Park. "The Envirothings" placed 7th out of the 48 middle school teams competing in the event.

State competition is the highest level of competition for middle school teams; high school teams, however, compete for a chance to participate in the North American Envirothon which includes teams from all over the U.S. and Canada.

7th Place - State Envirothon

The Envirothings, Piney Creek School (L-R)

Team Advisor Becky Sanders, Abbe Bourne, Hanna DeBord, Ally Hanson
Mary-Beth Burgiss, Bryan Evans, NCASWCD Executive Director
Photo by Becky Sanders

For more information please visit: www.ncenvirothon.org





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



Yours for Life

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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