



# Conservation Comments



**2016  
Spring Edition**

## Alleghany Soil & Water Conservation District

*"Water has a voice. It carries a message that tells those downstream who you are and how you care for the land"*  
~ Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Association

***"Planning for Conservation Success"***  
**Area 2 Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Spring Meeting**

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Terry Hall  
25 years  
dedicated service

Pictured L to R  
Association President Ben Knox ~ Terry Hall

Alleghany SWCD Supervisor, Terry Hall, was presented a plaque for 25 years of dedicated service as District Supervisor on the Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District Board at the Area 2 Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Spring Meeting held March 10, 2016, at YMCA Camp Hanes in King, NC. SWCD Supervisors Bobby Evans, Terry Hall, staff Linda Hash and Janie Woodle, attended the meeting.

Rick Morris, Stokes County Manager, extended a warm welcome to Area 2; reports were provided by the Area Treasurer, District Issues Committee, NCCDEA, NW Envirothon Committee, NRCS, NACD, Association President Ben Knox and Association Executive Director Julie Groce; the Nominating Committee was selected and action was taken on Area 2 Resolutions. Representative Kyle Hall, 91st District, spoke during the business session; cost share training was provided by Division staff. Area 2 Awards were presented and Area 2 Contest results were announced.

## NCACSP Annual Spot Checks



The following participated in Annual Spot checks conducted May 10th on various NC Ag Cost Share projects located within Alleghany County

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

Lisa Fine NCACSP Environmental Specialist  
District Staff: Linda Hash ~ Janie Woodle  
NRCS Staff: David Tucker



## Local Students to attend Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State



Isabel Engel, Savannah Cleary, and Anna Kilmartin are among a select group of North Carolina high school students who will attend the Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) at NC State University June 26th - July 1st.



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

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



## **“We all live in a Watershed” Soil & Water Conservation Contest Winners**

The Alleghany Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently sponsored educational contests in the elementary schools. Janie Woodle, Education Director, provided environmental educational programs and resource materials as requested in the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades of each school and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Alleghany High School. This year's theme was “***We all live in a Watershed***”. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders competed in a poster contest, 6<sup>th</sup> graders in an essay contest, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders competed in public speech contests, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade in a computer designed poster. The school winners received certificates and cash awards from Alleghany SWCD.

The first place poster, essay and speech winners from each school competed in a county-wide competition in February. Results of the county competitions are: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place-Elijah Campbell, Glade Creek School; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Marley Williams, Piney Creek School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Alexandra Vestal, Sparta School; 4<sup>th</sup> place-Sophia Hargnet, Blue Ridge Christian School. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place-Hazel Pasley, Sparta School; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Danielle Taylor, Piney Creek School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Lauren Hettleman, Blue Ridge Christian School; 4<sup>th</sup> place-Clara Friesland, Glade Creek School. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place-Kenzi Lyall, Sparta School; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Luke Bottomley, Glade Creek School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Ally Hanson, Piney Creek School; 4<sup>th</sup> place-Ethan Snider, Blue Ridge Christian School. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place-Sydni Smith, Glade Creek School; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Morgan Neugent, Sparta School; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Hope Gambill, Piney Creek School; 4<sup>th</sup> place-Matthew Hettleman, Blue Ridge Christian School. Alleghany High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Designed Poster winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place-Cameron Hawkins; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-Jordan Lyall; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-Caleb Osborne.

The first place competitor in each event competed in a 13 county Area competition in Caldwell County March 17<sup>th</sup>. Alleghany's students placed as follows in the Area Contests: Elijah Campbell, Glade Creek School, took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Poster Competition, he received \$25 and a medallion; Hazel Pasley, Sparta School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Essay Competition; Luke Bottomley received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Speech Competition; Sydni Smith, Glade Creek School, took 1st place in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Speech Competition, she received \$75 and a medallion; Cameron Hawkins, Alleghany High School, received an Honorable Mention certificate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Designed Poster.

**Sydni Smith, Glade Creek School,  
won 2nd place in the 8th Grade Speech  
Competition in Raleigh on May 6th**



*An awards banquet was held May 3rd at the Sparta VFW to recognize all those who competed in the county competition*

## SWCD Contest Winners — School Level



### Alleghany High School

9<sup>th</sup> Computer Designed Poster  
(Pictured L to R)

**Caleb Osborne**

**Jordan Lyall**

**Cameron Hawkins**



### Blue Ridge Christian School

5<sup>th</sup> Poster - 6<sup>th</sup> Essay ~ 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Speech  
(Pictured L to R)

**Sophia Hargnet ~ Will Snider**

**Lauren Hettleman ~ Anthony Paolino**

**Abbie Joines ~ Stella Snider ~ Ethan Snider**

**Rylie Smith ~ Dahntay Choate ~**

**Matthew Hettleman ~ Jessie McCall**



### Glade Creek School

5<sup>th</sup> Poster - 6<sup>th</sup> Essay ~ 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Speech  
(Pictured L to R)

**Cindy Lopez ~ Nicholas Rea**

**Elijah Campbell ~ Maria Tadeo-Orduna**

**Kasden Hoffman ~ Clara Friesland**

**Isabella Campbell ~ Jennifer Miles**

**Luke Bottomley ~ Sydni Smith ~ Macy Davis**

Continued from page 4 .... **SWCD Contest Winners—School Level**



5<sup>th</sup> Poster-6<sup>th</sup> Essay-7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Speech

**Piney Creek School**

(Pictured L to R)

**Marley Williams ~ Logan Pugh ~ Phoebe Murphy  
Danielle Taylor ~ Kendra Hunt ~ Forster Mabe  
Ally Hanson ~ Mastin Sanders ~ Blake Murphy  
Alley Blevins ~ Hope Gambill**



5<sup>th</sup> Poster-6<sup>th</sup> Essay

**Sparta School**

(Pictured L to R)

**Madison Todd ~ Caitlin Dowell ~ Hazel Pasley ~ Alexandra Vestal ~ Karlie Keeper ~ Patience Preston**



7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Speech

**Sparta School**

(Pictured L to R)

**Rylie LaRue ~ Jordan Pugh ~ Morgan Neugent ~ Kenzi Lyall ~ Avery Hamm ~ Emily Joines**

## Soil and Water Conservation

### 5th Grade Poster - 6th Grade Essay - 9th Grade Computer Designed Poster



**Hazel Pasley—1st Place**  
6th Grade Essay  
Sparta School

### ***We all Live in a Watershed***



Watersheds contain all things, including us. We are made 50%-70% of water. We need 5 pints of water per day. That makes 1,825 pints per year and if you multiply that by 7.2 billion people... well, that's a lot of water. Even though 75% of the Earth is made of water, only 1% is drinkable. Water is second in the resources that make life possible, oxygen is the first. Water is only recycled through the water cycle. Therefore, we need to keep our water clean so it stays drinkable.

A watershed is the land that is drained by a stream, river, or lake. So to keep our water clean, we need to watch out what we do in watersheds. Our activity has a big effect on watersheds. We are not the only ones who live in watersheds, birds, animals, and fish do too! All of the actions we take in watersheds affect our natural resources as well. There are many ways we can pollute our water. There are 2 kinds of water pollution called point source and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution means that you can point to the source of the pollution. For example, a factory's discharge pipe. Non-point source pollution means that the pollution comes from many different places such as runoff from paved parking lots. Both of these kinds of pollution can have a negative effect on a watershed and could result in terrible water qualities.

**Elijah Campbell—1st Place**  
5th Grade Poster  
Glade Creek School

There are ways to prevent this from happening, however, without going against farmers. These are called Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs address water quality using conventional methods. An example of a conventional method is a stormwater pond. A stormwater pond increases good water quality by reducing the sediment in the water. An important way to improve the water quality is reducing erosion which reduces sediment and therefore reduces nutrient levels which keeps the water clean.

Also, it is important to filter the water in some way. A few examples of how to do this are riparian buffers, grassed waterways, and filter strips. Riparian buffers are trees and plants that are placed on both sides of a stream. This BMP filters the water through its roots and prevents erosion by slowing the rain before it hits the ground. Grassed waterways are placed where a stream goes downhill. The grass slows the water flow and spreads out the stream to reduce erosion. Filter strips are located between crop fields and streams. Filter strips filter out contaminants from runoff.

In conclusion, watersheds are very important in the survival of mankind and are easily polluted by our actions. Therefore, we need to take care of the watershed we live in and help keep the water qualities in good conditions. The best way to do this is using BMPs which increase water qualities by filtering the water and reducing erosion. Watersheds are our home and we need to do our best to take care of them!

**Cameron Hawkins—1st Place**  
9th Grade Computer Designed Poster  
Alleghany High School

No matter where you live, work,  
or visit, you are in a watershed!!



Be a good land steward and  
keep protecting the watersheds  
all around us.

## Area 2 Contest Night - March 17, 2016 - Caldwell County



Luke Bottomley—Glade Creek School  
Honorable Mention—Area Competition  
7th Grade Speech

James Booth ~ Area 2 Chairman



Sydni Smith—Glade Creek School  
1st Place—Area Competition  
2nd Place State Contest  
8th Grade Speech

*Not Pictured*

Elijah Campbell—Sparta School ~ 3rd place—5th Grade Poster  
Hazel Pasley—Sparta School ~ Honorable Mention—6th Grade Essay  
Cameron Hawkins ~ Honorable Mention—9th Grade Computer Designed Poster

### Sydni Smith Wins 2nd Place in State Level Speech Competition

Sydni Smith, an 8th grade student from Glade Creek Elementary School, won 2nd place in the soil and water conservation State Level Public Speaking Contest on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh.

Students competing at this level have advanced through three and sometimes four tiers of competition to represent their area against winners from across North Carolina.

Sydni was awarded \$100 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.



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

## Alleghany teams compete in NW Envirothon

The Northwest Envirothon Competition, sponsored by the Area 2 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held Thursday, April 7, 2016, 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 61 teams, representing 9 of the 13 counties in Area 2, participated in this year's event. Alleghany had 20 teams registered for the event: 2 teams from Alleghany High School: "Locos Lobos" and "Perspicacious Canines", team advisor, Danny Jones; 2 teams from the Blue Ridge Christian School: "Environmental Warfare" and "Swamp Stompers", team advisor Elizabeth Davis; 7 teams from Glade Creek School: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles", "The Fanatastic Four", "Dark Side of the Moon", "The Plantarians", "Environmental Awesomeness", "The Top Class" and "Bandits", team advisors Hope McClure and Melissa Gibson; 4 teams from Piney Creek School: "Science Warriors", "Swarm", "Fossilized Flowers" and "Pizza Dragons, team advisor Becky Sanders; 5 teams from Sparta School: "The Rebels", "The Minks", "EnviroBubbles", "Green Warriors", and "The Untouchables", team advisors Rochelle Todd, 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 "Science Warriors" from Piney Creek took 1st place and the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" took 3rd place.



1st place - NW Envirothon  
**Science Warriors**-Piney Creek (L-R)

Ely Young~Mastin Sanders~Claude Shew, Wilkes SWCD Supervisor  
Lily Gardner~Mary Beth Burgiss~Hanna DeBord~Becky Sanders, Advisor



3rd place - NW Envirothon  
**Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**-Glade Creek (L-R)

Melissa Gibson, Advisor~Macy Davis~Claude Shew,  
Wilkes SWCD Supervisor~Evan Wagoner~Haley Rife~Sydni Smith  
Hope McClure, Advisor

## Alleghany teams compete in State Envirothon

The "Science Warriors" and the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" competed in the State Envirothon on April 29-30 in Burlington at Cedarock Park. The "Science Warriors" placed 10th out of the 43 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.

10th Place - State Envirothon  
**Science Warriors**, Piney Creek School (L-R)

Lily Gardner, ~ Mary-Beth Burgiss, ~ Ely Young  
Hannah Debord, ~ Mastin Sanders

For more information please visit: [www.ncenvirothon.org](http://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**

### SWCD Staff

**Linda Hash/Director/Conservationist**

**Janie Woodle/Adm. Asst/Tech/Edu. Coord.**

### NRCS Staff

**David Tucker/District Conservationist**



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

### **ALLEGHANY SWCD**

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