



Conservation Conversations

FALL, 2016

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To Receive Quarterly Newsletters by MAIL, Call our office or Email Elizabeth: ewillia0@myguilford.com

Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil... [Hugh Hammond Bennett](#)



Greetings from Guilford SWCD!

The 2015-2016 year was very busy for Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District.

FY 2016 Accomplishments

- * Guilford SWCD assisted with 27 Ag "Cost Share" applications and funded nearly \$95,000 for the installation of BMPs. There were 18 ACSP & AgWRAP contracts.
- * Over 112 farms received technical service and 3,000 acres received oversight from our staff.
- * We worked with 11 Farms representing 659 acres to process Voluntary Agriculture District applications and 7 Farms representing 429 acres to process Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District applications.
- * 7 Farms used our no-till drill assistance program on nearly 29 acres.
- * Staff has educated approximately 4,000 school students and adults; while reaching thousands through the WFMY Good Morning Show Tree Planting Spots and Fox 8 Morning Show.

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

(Applications due January 31, 2017: Click link to download:

<http://www.myguilford.com/planning-and-development/soil-and-water-conservation/>

The Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) is a voluntary, cost share based program offering financial and technical assistance for the installation of best management practices (BMPs) to address nonpoint source pollution.

Through this program, we work with agricultural landowners and renters to:

- Identify BMPs suited to your operation.
- Develop & approve conservation plans.
- Design & oversee installation of BMPs.
- Provide technical assistance to ensure proper operation & maintenance.

Applications are accepted throughout the year and will be ranked according to county resource concerns. Eligible applicants can be reimbursed up to 75% of a predetermined average cost for each installed BMP.

The major cause of water quality problems in NC is nonpoint source pollution. In many areas, damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excess nutrients, animal waste contamination and accidental spills of agricultural chemicals.

ACSP provides technical and financial assistance to install practices such as: field borders, grassed waterways, composters for animal waste management, handling facilities for agrichemicals, stream protection practices, and erosion/nutrient reduction practices such as conservation tillage and livestock exclusion.

To learn more, visit: www.ncagr.gov/sw/acsp.html or call 336-641-2440.



Community Conservation Assistance Program **(Applications due January 31st, 2017)**

CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of best management practices on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. Interested landowners may submit applications to Guilford SWCD for practices such as: abandoned well closures, cisterns, pet waste receptacles and rain gardens. Application will be ranked based on local water quality priorities. If eligible, a conservation plan is prepared for the applicant to install the BMP and the landowner may be reimbursed up to 75% of pre-established average cost of the BMP.

Conservation Items for Sale or Rent:

The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District invites you participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting our no-till drill. The 5-foot drill is best used for pasture reseeding and can be rented for \$10/acre.



The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to have wildflower seed packets for sale. There are 4 types of mixes which include: Shade, Bird & Butterfly, Low Growing and Southeastern. The packets cover 400 square feet for only \$5. Wildflowers can be planted in Spring, Summer and Fall. Once established, wildflowers enhance the attractiveness of your landscape, help control erosion, provide food and cover for wildlife and provide maximum enjoyment with minimal care.

Bluebird boxes, bird feeders and duck boxes are also available in the Guilford SWCD office. Please call: 336-641-2440 for availability and prices. All proceeds from wildflower seeds and bird boxes are used for the educational programming of Guilford County citizens.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program - NRCS

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat. Applications received will be evaluated and ranked



for funding assistance. Check out the website to learn more:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

2016 Conservation Awards Banquet

The Guilford SWCD Conservation Awards Banquet was held on May 24th at the Agriculture Center. Many awards were given out:

BE A WISE WATER SAVER POSTER

First & Second Grades:

Maleiya Thomas (Jones Elem) 1st Place
Dyua Isley (Erwin Elem.) 2nd Place

WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED POSTER

Third Grade:

Angelina Gonzalez (Peck Elem.) 1st Place
Also won 2nd Place for the Area 3 Competition.
Vonte Adams (Kirkman Park Elem.) 2nd Place
Christopher Leonard (Sumner Elem.) 3rd Place

Fourth Grade:

Amos Shay (Peck Elem.) 1st Place
Also won Honorable Mention for the Area 3 Competition.

Fifth Grade:

Laura Truong (Millis Road Elem.) 1st Place
Also won 1st Place at the Area 3 Competition.
Sophia Caldwell (Jesse Wharton Elem.) 2nd Place
Noelle Kondeas (Jesse Wharton Elem.) 3rd Place

Sixth Grade:

Evelyn Chang (Academy at Lincoln) 1st Place
Also won 1st Place at the Area 3 Competition.
Peyton Youth (Academy at Lincoln) 2nd Place
Zoya Bowangaowala (Academy at Lincoln) 3rd Place

Essay – Sixth Grade:

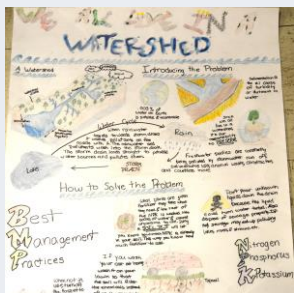
Luke Harrington (Academy at Lincoln) 1st Place
Also won 3rd Place at the Area 3 Competition.
Fiona Carlone (Academy at Lincoln) 2nd Place
Alaina Randolph (Academy at Lincoln) 3rd Place

2016 RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Three students were selected to attend the 2016 RCW...an intensive, weeklong workshop held at NC State University.

Erin Dillon (4-H and Homeschool Student)
Elijah Ide (NW Guilford)
Alex Wolfe (SW Guilford)

3rd-6th
Winning Posters





2016 ENVIROTHON

Every year, Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state hold competitions in environmental sciences and natural resource concepts which include: Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils and Current Environmental Issues for middle and high school students.

The following teams participated in the Area 3 Envirothon on March 22:

High Point Christian Academy— 2 Teams

The Academy At Lincoln Middle School— 2 Teams



The following team placed in the top seven and qualified for the State Envirothon:

The Academy At Lincoln—Envirothugs



If you have a team of 5-7 students (Public, Private, 4-H, Homeschool) who are interested in Environmental Issues, check out the NC Envirothon website for more information. All study materials are on the website and our Education Coordinator is available to teach key lessons.

Our 2016 Awardees:

Conservation Educator of the Year

McKenzie Smith

Water Quality Specialist with Greensboro Water Resources – Stormwater Division

- UNC-G: BS and Masters – Environmental Aquatic Microbiology
 - Pursuing Environmental Education Certification
- Collaborates with Guilford SWCD to provide essential water quality educational outreach to Guilford County citizens.

Conservation Supervisor of the Year

Lewis A. Brandon, III

- Served on the Board for 30 Years with 14 Years as Chairman
- Supporter of Soil and Water Educational Programs & Contests
 - Founding Member of the Piedmont Land Conservancy
- Has served on the Guilford County Advisory Board for Environmental Quality, Well Rules Committee and was Vice Chair of the Forecast 2015 (Guilford County Long Range Planning)

**McKenzie Smith
Water Quality
Sampling**



**Lewis Brandon
District Supervisor**



Conservation Farm Family

Kearns Family Farm Limited Partnership

Anne Hice

- 130 acre, 6th Generation Farm in Pleasant Garden designated as a Century Farm
- Installation of Best Management Practices such as exclusion fencing, livestock watering tanks, Geotextile Fabric and gravel for heavy use areas such as stream crossings and watering tank areas
- First Farm Family in Guilford County to enroll in the Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District Program



Anne, her children Eric and Heather with Family

Solar Powered Well Pump

Many thanks to our sponsors: Guilford Farm Bureau and Greensboro Water Resources.



GUILFORD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Millie Langley, Soil Conservationist
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Elizabeth Williams, Education Coordinator



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To Receive Quarterly Newsletters by MAIL, Call our office or Email Elizabeth:

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DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

George Teague..... Chairman
Harold Alexander.....V. Chair
Ray Briggs.....Secretary/Treas
Lewis Brandon.....Member
Richard Phillips.....Member
Anna Amoriello.....Assoc.
Member
Dan Kerns...Associate Member



Our Website:

<http://www.myguilford.com/planning-and-development/soil-and-water-conservation/>

RESOURCE INFORMATION:

Aerial Photography – Historical Aerial Photographs will be unavailable indefinitely. However, Several years including: 1957, 1962, 1967, 1970, 1983, 1991, 1995, 1998 and 2000 are NOW available through our GIS Online Service at: <http://www.myguilford.com/gis/online-services-gis/>

Soil Survey info – Google “Web Soil Survey” or go to:

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

There are other cost-share programs available through USDA-NRCS and can information may

be found on the following website: www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov

For more information please contact us:

Main Office 336-641-2440 Fax 336-641-2441

Soil Conservationist, Millie Langley mlangle@myguilford.com

Soil Technician, Jamey Walker jwalker1@myguilford.com

Education Coordinator, Elizabeth Williams ewillia0@myguilford.com

Come by our office at 3309 Burlington Rd. Greensboro, NC 27405 (Room 108)

Our Mission...is to promote the conservation of natural resources in Guilford County through education, information, technical assistance and available economic incentives.

