



BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District 155 Airport Road Washington, NC
Newsletter Spring/Summer 2024

SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE

In addition to holding their regular meetings, the Supervisors also attend other meetings and trainings to keep informed of the priorities and upcoming issues in the field of soil and water conservation.

2024 NCASWCD ANNUAL MEETING

The 80th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held at the Sheraton Imperial Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC on January 7-9, 2024.

George Teague, President, presided over the General Session. Breakout sessions, committee meetings, and other informational sessions took place during the meeting.

Attending from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Kyle Gentry, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.



2024 NCASWCD AREA 5 SPRING MEETING

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 29, 2024 at Camp Cale in Hertford, NC.

Chairman Steve Harris (Pasquotank SWCD) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. Roll Call was taken and Matt Thomas, Camp Cale Director, welcomed everyone. The Treasurer's Report was given by Maurice Berry, Jr. (Pasquotank SWCD).

Standing Committee and Partnership Reports were then given.

Guest speakers were Keith Larick, Director of NC Farm Bureau Natural Resources, Nathan Lowder, Regional Soil Health Specialist, NRCS, Amanda Sand, Executive Direct for the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Sid Cayton. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

PROGRAM NEWS



AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

For Program Year 2024, the District was allocated \$118,785 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Agriculture Cost Share Program. The District opened a batching period in September 2023 to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September 2023 batching period, a total of six Cover Crop applications were received. Six Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the September 2023 meeting. The District received eleven additional Program Year 2024 ACSP applications for practices including Land Smoothing, Water Control Structures, Erosion Control, Residue and Tillage Management, Filter Strip, and Precision Agrichemical Application. These applications were reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2024 meeting. Eleven applications were approved; five for Residue and Tillage Management, one for Land Smoothing, two for Filter Strip, one for a Water Control Structure and two for Precision Agrichemical Application. Additional ACSP activities performed during this period include annual spot checks of active contracts and addressing a maintenance issue on an agricultural pond repair contract.



AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AgWRAP)

For Program Year 2024, the District was allocated \$10,000 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practice installation. The District received 8 applications for Irrigation Wells. Two applications for Irrigation Wells were approved at the January 2024 Board Meeting.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

The District was allocated \$25,500 in November 2023 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) practices. With the allocation received, the District's Board of Supervisors approved one contract for a Marsh Sill.

PROGRAM NEWS

COST SHARE PROGRAMS FUNDS ANTICIPATED

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District anticipates receiving cost share program Year 2025 allocations for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission in July 2024. These funds will be available to assist farmers and landowners with the installation of best management practices that will decrease the amount of sediment, nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemicals, and other pollutants entering the surface and ground waters of the state. Best management practices through AgWRAP will help increase water use efficiency, availability, and storage in addition to conserving and protecting water resources.

For Program Year 2025, that begins on July 1, 2024, farmers, landowners, and operators may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices such as residue and tillage management, precision nutrient management, precision agrichemical application, cover crops, land smoothing, water control structures, agricultural pond restoration/repair/sediment removal, lagoon closures, rain gardens, irrigation wells, well closures, and agricultural water supply ponds.

2024 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) SPOT CHECK AND CONSERVATION TOUR

The Program Year 2024 Annual Spot Check and Conservation Tour of permanent practices still under maintenance for ACSP and AgWRAP was conducted on January 22, 2024. Eight active contracts for ACSP and AgWRAP were randomly selected for site visits to ensure that cost share practices were being maintained as required by program regulations.

STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (StRAP) PHASE II

Phase II of the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program began in November of 2023. Grillot Construction was selected as the contractor to complete this phase. Phase II is for 17,800 linear feet and was completed in December 2023.

Stream	Location	Length (ft.)
South Creek	Aurora	9,300
Indian Run	Pantego	8,500

During a meeting of the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission on June 27, 2024, additional funds were allocated for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program. The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was allocated \$104, 082 to continue with stream debris removal projects.

EDUCATION NEWS



2024 ENVIROTHONS



Area 5 Envirothon Training Day

The 2024 Area 5 Envirothon Training Day was held at Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County on March 7, 2024.

Area teams rotated through Wildlife, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatics/Ecology, and Current Environmental Issues stations as a preparation for the upcoming Coastal Envirothon.



Coastal Envirothon

Fifteen Beaufort County teams participated with more than 400 middle school and high school students vying for trophies and prizes at the NC Coastal Envirothon competition at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center. Eight of those teams qualified to advance to the State Envirothon competition on April 26-27, 2024 at Cedarock Park in Burlington, NC.

Qualifying to attend the State Envirothon were student members from the Sparkplugs, Yung Roots, and Nerd Herd teams from Northside High School, Fearsome Fivesome team from Beaufort Early College High School, FFA Tulip Tippers team from Terra Ceia Christian, and the Trash Pandas, Backwood Mallards, and Golden Girls teams from Northeast Elementary.

**NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
TRASH PANDAS**

1ST PLACE OVERALL MIDDLE SCHOOL



(L to R) Emmalyn Hudson, Kinsleigh Sawyer, Laney Brinn, Allie Davis, and advisor Melanie Simmons. Not pictured advisor Melanie Halsey.

**NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
SPARKPLUGS**

3RD PLACE OVERALL HIGH SCHOOL



(L to R) Sam Doane, Graham Wynne, Emerson Asby, advisor Ronald Crider, and Sandler Molt. Not pictured advisor Casey Schulte.



EDUCATION NEWS



COASTAL ENVIROTHON

C O A S T A L



Yung Roots-Northside



Nerd Herd-Northside



Tree Huggers-Northside



Backwood Mallards-Northeast



Golden Girls-Northeast



Tree People-Northeast



Fearsome Fivesome
Beaufort Co Early College



Eco Green
Beaufort Co Early College



The Ivy Explorers
Beaufort Co Early College





EDUCATION NEWS



COASTAL ENVIROTHON

C O A S T A L



Geeky Goblins-Pungo



Ding Bats-Pungo



Backstabbing Beavers-Pungo



FFA Tulip Tippers-Terra Ceia



Katherine Alligood, advisor at Beaufort County Early College, uses a Biltmore stick to estimate tree trunk diameter.

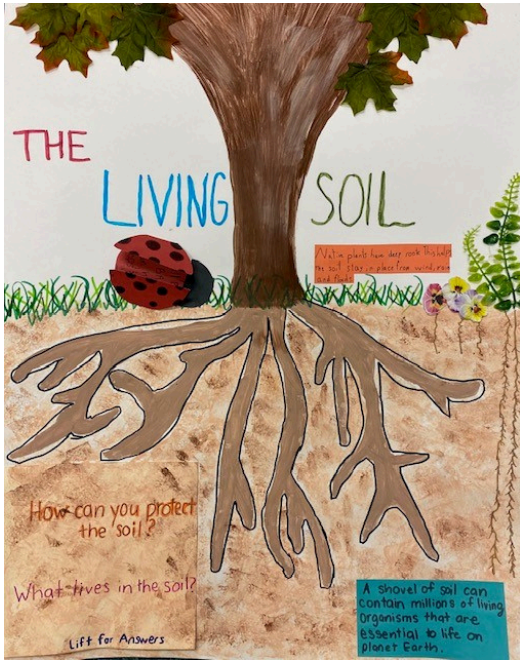


Yung Roots team from Northside High School at a testing station.



EDUCATION NEWS

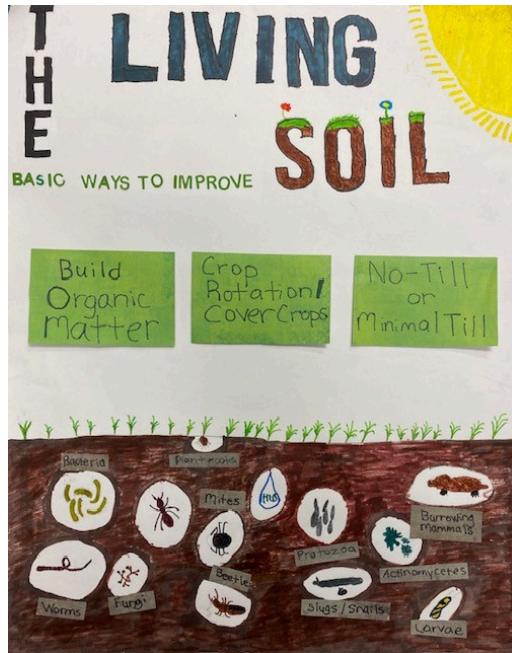
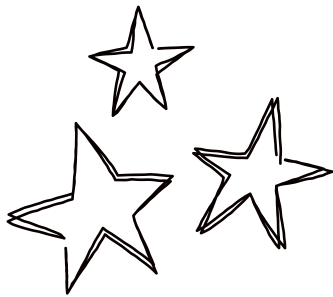
CONTESTS-4th Grade Posters



Susan Knox, Teacher
Pungo Christian Academy

Charlie Ann Parkinson
Pungo Christian Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox

1st Place District
1st Place Area



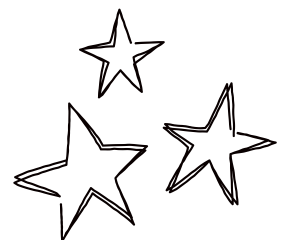
Wyatt Howell
Pungo Christian Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox

2nd Place District



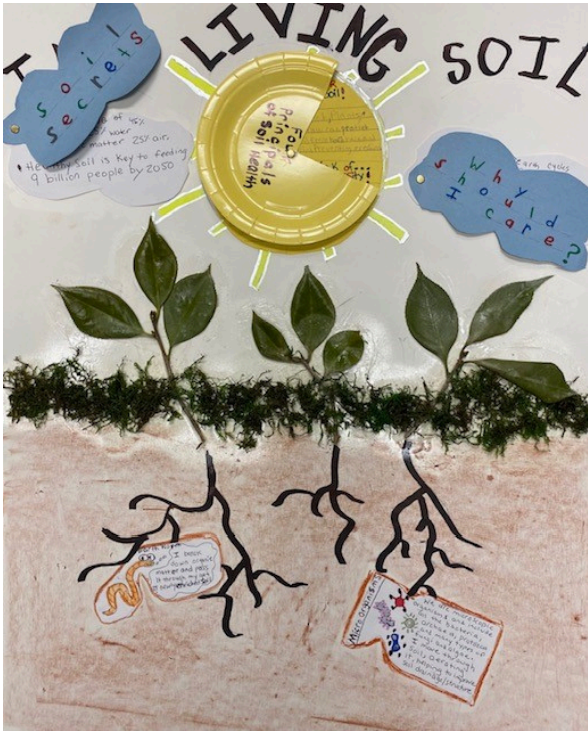
Kaylee Gilkeson
Pungo Christian Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox

3rd Place District



EDUCATION NEWS

CONTESTS-5th Grade Posters



Lauren Guy, Teacher
Unity Christian Academy

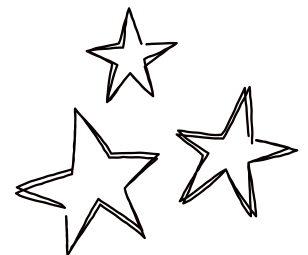
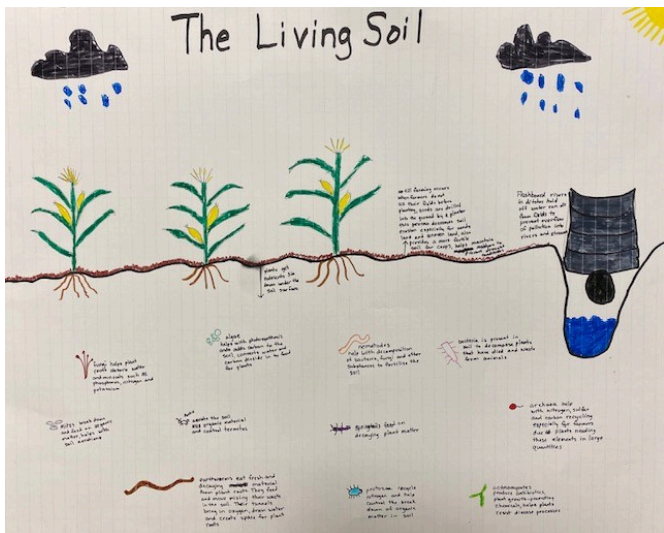
Branson Vinson
Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

1st Place District
1st Place Area



Graylyn Moore
Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

2nd Place District

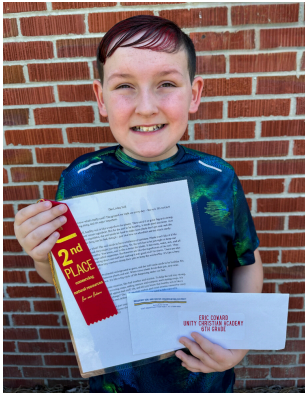


Blayne Holland
Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

3rd Place District

EDUCATION NEWS

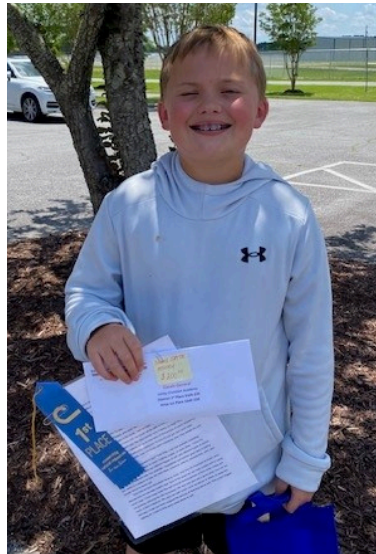
CONTESTS-Essays-6th Grade



Eric Coward

Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

2nd Place District



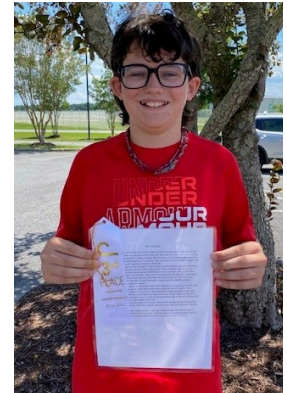
Gavin Gerard

Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

1st Place District

1st Place Area

1st Place STATE



Jackson Evans

Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Lauren Guy

3rd Place District



Lauren Guy, Teacher
Unity Christian Academy

Honorable Mention: 4th Grade Posters

Pungo Christian Academy

Braydin Latham, Aubree Forman, Sam Jackson,
Kinsley Russ, Anabelle Pence, Bowen Respass,
Beckam Pair (Teacher: Susan Knox)

Honorable Mention: 5h Grade Posters

Unity Christian Academy

Unity Christian: Carter Ashley
(Teacher: Lauren Guy)

Honorable Mention: 6th Grade Essays

Unity Christian Academy

Unity Christian: Michael Manning, Zoey Robinson
(Teacher: Lauren Guy)



EDUCATION NEWS

Resource Conservation Workshop



NC High School students participated in the annual Resource Conservation Workshop June 16-21, 2024, in Wake County. The event was held on the campus of North Carolina State University.

Soil and Water Conservation District Boards across the state chose students to participate in the Resource Conservation Workshop. The workshop is based on demonstrated conservation interests. Four days of resource topics are taught by an innumerable number of resource professionals and NC State University staff. Students also receive information and insight into careers in natural resource management throughout the week. The fifth day culminates the classroom and field sessions where a written exam is conducted.

Joanna Sauls
Beaufort County
Early College

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was represented by Joanna Sauls, daughter of Teri and Jamin Sauls, and a sophomore at Beaufort County Early College.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is made possible by various organizations, including North Carolina State University, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Soil and Water District Staff and Supervisors across the state of North Carolina, the North Carolina District Employees Association, and the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Current freshmen, sophomores, or juniors who are interested in attending the 2025 Resource Conservation Workshop in June 2025 may contact the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Office at 946-0359, Ext. 3.

Stewardship Week

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), is celebrating the 69th Annual Stewardship Week from April 28 – May 5, 2024. This year's Stewardship Week theme is "May the Forest Be with You, Always."

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a member of NACD, which oversees the annual Stewardship Week program, one of the largest national annual programs that promotes conservation.

"Soil and water conservation are intimately intertwined with forest health," said NACD President Kim LaFleur. "This year's Stewardship Week recognizes the importance forests serve in the protection of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds."

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in an effort to assist the people of Beaufort County with implementing conservation programs and promoting efforts that protect and improve natural resources.

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a vital resource to those interested in expanding awareness about the importance of water as a resource for our communities and ecosystems. We rely on water for drinking, cleaning, swimming, growing our food, and so much more. People, animals, and plants all need healthy watersheds to survive.

During the year, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stewardship through our various education programs. Placemats promoting this year's theme were distributed during Stewardship Week.

This year's Stewardship Week resources celebrating "May the Forest Be with You, Always" are available for free download on the NACD Stewardship Week website. <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/stewardship-week/>



**BEAUFORT SWCD
PROMOTES
SOIL AND WATER**

STEWARDSHIP WEEK





*Board Meetings are open to the public and are held
the 3rd Monday of each month, except
July and August, at 5:30 p.m. in the office of the:*

*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District
Beaufort County Agricultural Center
155 Airport Road
Washington, NC 27889*

Board of Supervisors



James Allen
(Board Chairman)



Tracy Warren
(Board Vice Chairman)



Sid Cayton
(Board Supervisor)



Archie Griffin
(Board Secretary)



Wayne Black
(Board Supervisor)

District Staff

*Ann Williams
Office Manager*

*Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Conservation Technician*

*Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator*

USDA-NRCS

*Kyle Gentry
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist*

*Anthony Hester
Soil Conservationist*

Soil and Water...Yours for Life

Please support our sponsors who make this newsletter possible!

The logo for Nutrien, featuring a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the word "Nutrien" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for the Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District. It features the words "BEAUFORT" and "SOIL & WATER" in a bold, sans-serif font. "BEAUFORT" is in black, and "SOIL & WATER" is in green. Below the text are three blue wavy lines representing water. At the bottom, the words "CONSERVATION DISTRICT" are written in white on a blue rectangular background.