

# Beaufort Conservation News

Annual Report

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025



*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the state. Annual and long-range programs of conservation and development within the District's boundaries are developed and carried out with the assistance of local, state, and federal agencies.*

## **Congratulations to James Allen, Supervisor 30 Year Length of Service Award**

# 2025



**30 YEARS**

**LENGTH OF SERVICE**

**PRESENTED BY BILLY KILPATRICK -  
PRESIDENT OF NCASWCD**

# SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE



## *2024 NCASWCD AREA 5 FALL MEETING*

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 14, 2024 at Camp Cale Conference Center.

Chairman Steve Harris, Pasquotank SWCD, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. Roll Call was taken, and the Treasurer's Report was given by Maurice Berry, Jr., Pasquotank SWCD.

A Business Session was held, and Partnership Reports were then given.

Guest speakers were Keith Larick, Natural Resources Director for NC Farm Bureau, Vernon Turner, Meteorologist, Spectrum News, Jennifer Roach, NCDA&CS DSWC-CREP, and Rodney Woolard, NCDA&CS Farmland Preservation. Beaufort County Supervisor, Tracy Warren, received his 20-year Length of Service Award presented by Billy Kilpatrick, President of NCASWCD.

Attending the meeting 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 Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.



## *2024 BSWCD December Supervisors' Meeting*



On December 9th, the BSWCD Board of Supervisors meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Agricultural Center. Beaufort County Superior Court Clerk Sherry Gravely administered the oaths of office to Tracy Warren and Sid Cayton as they begin their 2024-2028 terms in office as board supervisors.

# SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE

## *2025 ANNUAL MEETING*



The 81st Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, NC on January 5-7, 2025.

Billy Kilpatrick, President, presided over the General Session. Breakout sessions, committee meetings, and other informational sessions took place during the meeting. The theme for 2025 was "Commitment to Conservation." Barbara Bleiweis was sworn in as the new Association President.

Supervisor James Allen received his 30-year Length of Service Award during the meeting. Supervisor Tracy Warren was sworn in as the Association's Chaplain.

Attending from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen and Tracy Warren.

## *2025 NCASWCD AREA 5 SPRING MEETING*



The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on Monday, March 10, 2025. A presentation about Biochar Use and Production was made by Barbara Bleiweis, NCASWCD President and Kristin Trippe, USDA ARS from Corvallis, Oregon. Standing Committee Reports and Partnership Reports were given and guest speakers included Rodney Woolard from NCDA&CS Farmland Preservation, Keith Larick from NC Farm Bureau and Bryan Hulka from NC Farm Service.

Attending were Supervisors James Allen, Wayne Black, Tracy Warren; Office Manager Ann Williams; District Resource Conservation Specialist Nathaniel Woolard; and Education Coordinator Melanie Simmons.

# ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS



## AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

The district has participated in the ACSP since 1987. It has been, and continues to be, a superb means of helping farmers and owners of agricultural land apply conservation measures to assist in protecting our waterways and the environment.

For Program Year 2025, the district was allocated a total of \$62,923 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Agriculture Cost Share Program.

The district opened a batching period in September 2024 to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September 2024 batching period, a total of six Cover Crop applications were received. Six Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the September 16, 2024 Board Meeting.

Applications for all other practices were accepted until the January 21, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting. During the meeting, four applications were approved for practices including, Land Forming & Smoothing, Residue and Tillage Management and a Water Control Structure. Two Residue and Tillage Management contracts were approved at the February 18, 2025 District Board of Supervisors Meeting. An application for Residue and Tillage Management was approved at the May 19, 2025 District Board of Supervisors Meeting. During the June 9, 2025, District Board of Supervisors Meeting, contracts for a Water Control Structure, Residue and Tillage Management and Land Forming & Smoothing accompanied by Residue & Tillage Management were approved.



## AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AgWRAP)

Mandated in 2011, AgWRAP was established to assist farmers and landowners in increasing water use efficiency and availability on agricultural land and to conserve and protect water resources using best management practices.

For Program Year 2025, the District was allocated \$15,609 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. At the January 21, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting, two applications for Water Supply Wells were approved. One contract was approved at the March 17, 2025, Board of Supervisors Meeting, and the other one was approved at the April 21, 2025 Board of Supervisors Meeting.



## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

The purpose of the Community Conservation Assistance Program is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical, and financial assistance.

For Program Year 2025, the district received four applications for Marsh Sills to submit in the regional application process. Two applications were approved for \$40,500 each. Both Marsh Sills were installed in June of 2025.

# ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS



## NC Beaver Management Assistance Program

The Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) aims to help manage beaver-related issues on all lands. BMAP specialists work to educate customers about beaver management options. If necessary, they will remove beavers and/or dams using humane and environmentally acceptable techniques.



## STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (StRAP)

Phase I of the StRAP program began in December of 2022. Phase I was completed in February of 2023. A total of 22,329 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase I of the StRAP program. Phase II of the StRAP program began in October of 2023. Phase II was completed in November of 2023. A total of 17,800 linear feet of streams and creeks were cleared in Beaufort County during Phase II. Phase III was completed in April of 2025. A total of 21,400 linear feet of streams and creeks were cleared in Beaufort County during Phase III.

Phase I of the 2024 StRAP funding is scheduled to begin in October of 2025.

# ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

## **2024 BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL DAN WINDLEY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD DAYS AT GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK**

Over 450 fifth grade students, teachers, and chaperones, from Beaufort County attended the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 16th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days. The educational event was held at Goose Creek State Park November 4-6, 2024.

On each school's assigned day, attendees were divided into groups to rotate at fifteen-minute intervals throughout six stations. Stations included Aquatics, Soils, Wetlands, Forestry, Conservation, and Wildlife and were instructed by representatives from various agencies who specialize in the topics covered. Presenters were from Goose Creek State Park, NC Estuarium, Beaufort County Cooperative Extension, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, Domtar, NRCS APHIS, and retired USDA NRCS personnel. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.

Environmental Field Days was started 37 years ago by Mr. Dan Windley from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Windley passed away in September 2006. To honor his family for their continued dedication to this yearly event, the name of the event was changed to the Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days in 2008.



*The Windley-May family*



*November 2024*

# ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

## 2025 ENVIROTHON EVENTS

### Training Day

The 2025 Area 5 Envirothon Training Day was held at the Senator Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston on March 6, 2025.

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

Twenty-three 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 May 2-3, 2025 at Cedarock Park in Burlington, NC. The Golden Girls team from Northeast Elementary won the Middle School Competition.

Qualifying to attend the State Envirothon were student members from the Trash Pandas and Coastal Pollutants from Northside High School, Spring Peepers and the Green Gang from Beaufort Early College High School, and the Golden Girls, Science Sleuths, and Enviro X from Northeast Elementary.



# ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

## Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces District and Area Contest Winners

“Wetlands Are Wonderful” was the theme for the 2025 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in 3rd-5th grades in the county. The essay contest was for 6th graders only. There were over 50 total entries this year. Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were Pungo Christian Academy, Northeast Elementary, and Unity Christian Academy.

The competition starts at the county level. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes. Teachers who have first place student winners also receive cash prizes. First place winners in the Beaufort County competition advance to Area 5, where they compete with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts in sixteen eastern NC counties. Area 5 first place winners advance to the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation State competition in Raleigh, where they compete with other first place Area entries submitted from across the state of North Carolina.

Emer Dean a 4th grade student at Pungo Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the District and Area 5 poster competition and qualified for the State poster competition.



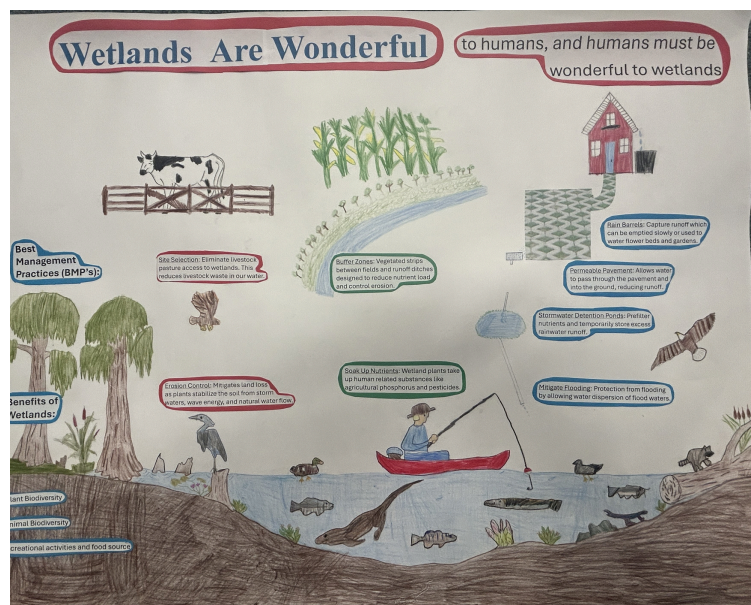
**EMER DEAN**

**1ST PLACE DISTRICT AND AREA 5**

**4TH GRADE**

**PUNGO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**TEACHER: SUSAN KNOX**



*Wetlands Are Wonderful*

# ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

## Resource Conservation Workshop

High School students participated in the annual Resource Conservation Workshop June 15-20, 2025, 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.

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was represented by 4 students. Emerson Asby, son of Josh and Alexa Asby, is a rising Junior at Northside High School. Chloe Black, daughter of Wayne and Reatta Black, is a rising senior at Northside. Two students represented Washington Montessori Public Charter School. Ayla Dixon, daughter of John and Anna Dixon, a rising sophomore and Djillany Bacha, son of Chansie Lieval, is a rising Junior.

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.



Emerson Asby and Chloe Black  
Northside High School



Djillany Bacha and Ayla Dixon  
Washington Montessori  
Public Charter School



## Stewardship Week

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) celebrated the 70th year of Stewardship Week April 27-May 4, 2025. The 2025 Stewardship Week was themed "Home is Where the Habitat Is."

During the year, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stewardship through our various education programs. Placemats were distributed during Stewardship Week and a Canva presentation was sent out to all schools to share with students.

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation.



*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*



**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*  
*Resource Conservation Office Manager*

*Nathaniel Woolard*  
*District Resource Conservation Technician*

*Melanie Simmons*  
*Education Coordinator*

**USDA-NRCS**

*Anthony Hester*  
*Team 14*  
*Supervisory Soil Conservationist*

*Soil and Water...Yours for Life*