

Beaufort Conservation News

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Our Mission

The mission of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use and management of the natural resources within its boundaries by providing dedicated leadership, technical excellence and educational information to the citizens of Beaufort County. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to providing equal services to all clients without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

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.



NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 2025 Annual Meeting

The 81st Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held at the Sheraton Imperial RTP, in Durham on January 5-7, 2025. Billy Kilpatrick NCASWCD President, presided over the meeting. This year's theme was "Commitment to Conservation". Attending from Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen and Tracy Warren. James Allen received a Length of Service Award for 30 years of service and Tracy Warren received a 20 year Length of Service Award. Barbara Bleiweis was sworn in as NCASWCD President at the end of the annual meeting.



Camp Cale



2025 NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 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.



PROGRAM NEWS

FUNDS ANTICIPATED FOR AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

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.

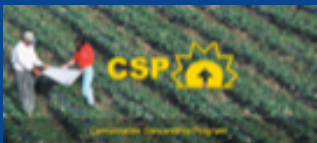


On-going Program – The Natural Resources Conservation Service and District Staff helped many individuals, land users, and units of government during our last fiscal year . Some of those required more than one visit to get a practice installed or to resolve resource problems. Among the services provided, the Beaufort County Soil Survey and aerial photography from the past were furnished to many individuals, contractors, environmental consultants, foresters, realtors, and others to assist them in making planning decisions.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

This program is available to help producers and landowners install conservation practices that improve soil and water quality. Practices such as cover crop, conservation tillage, nutrient management, and water control structures just to name a few. As with all our programs, an approved contract must be in place before any practices can be installed. For a complete list of practices go to <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>. Applications can be taken all year long, but our normal deadline for upcoming year funding is around October or November. This changes annually. For more information feel free to contact the office and setup an appointment with Anthony Hester (anthony.hester@usda.gov).



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

This program is available to help producers and landowners enhance their current operation (Cropland, Pastureland or Forestland). CSP contracts are for 5 years, and the contract payment limitation is \$200,000. The current minimum payment is \$4,000 a year. Payment rates are based on payment schedule, number of acres enrolled, and the amount of resource concerns met at time of application. Resource concerns are focused based enhancements which address those concerns may be scheduled. The enhancements do not have to be performed on all enrolled acres. Like with all our programs, an approved contract must be in place before any practices can be installed. For more information feel free to contact the office and setup an appointment with Anthony Hester (anthony.hester@usda.gov). Applications can be taken all year long, but our normal deadline for funding is later in the year around October or November. This changes annually. More information is located at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program>



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 with the following Scope of Work.

Stream	Location	Length (ft)
Mitchell Branch	Washington	22,300
Old New Bern Gut	Chocowinity	5,000
Bar Gut	Chocowinity	3,000
Windley Gut	Washington	2,100
Lowe Gut	Washington	1,800
Pineygrove Gut	Washington	5,400
Total		39,600



Boyd Creek



Harvey Creek

2025 Poster Contest

Winners

Wetlands are Wonderful

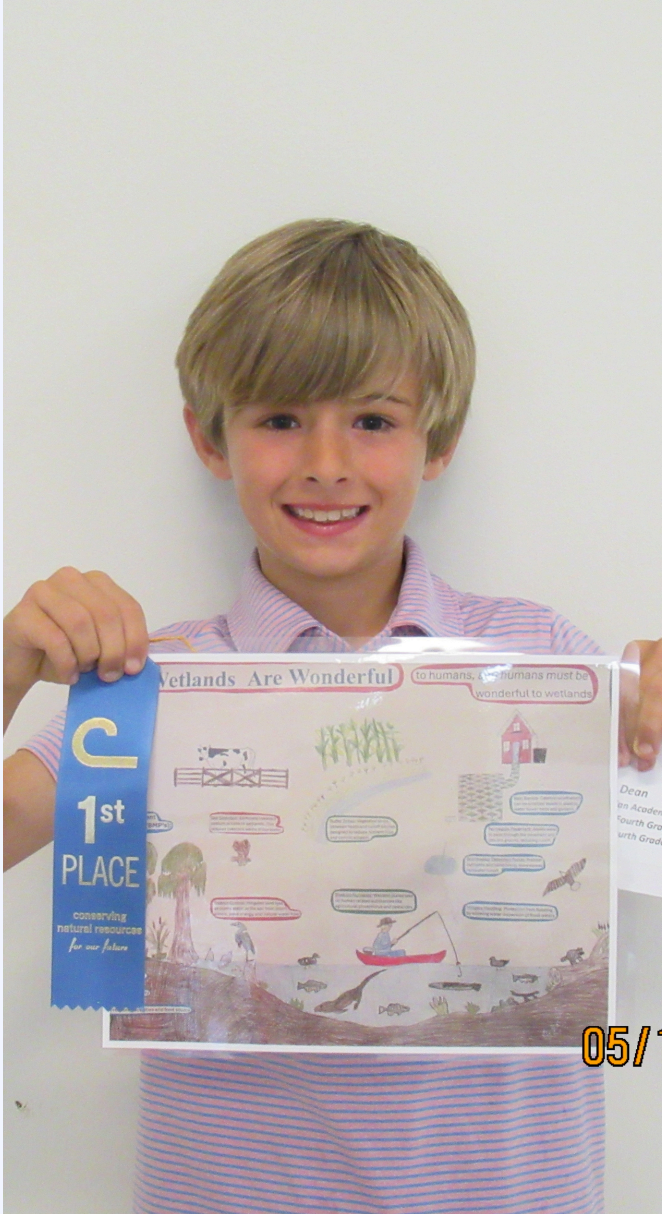
4th Grade

EMER DEAN

1st Place in Beaufort SWCD

1st Place in Area 5

*Teacher of All 4th grade Winners
Susan Knox
Pungo Christian Academy*



**2nd Place
Brad Dudley**



**3rd Place
Gage Boyd**



5th Grade Winners

1st Place
Kayla Herndan



2nd Place
Tripp Midgette



**Teacher of All 5th grade
Winners**
Angie Kolibabek
Unity Christian Academy

3rd Place
Thea Brinson



Wetlands Are Wonderful 6th Grade Essay Contest Winners



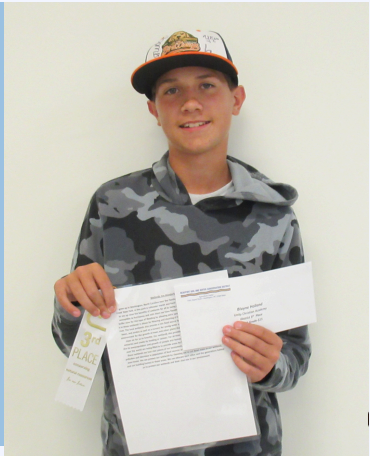
**1ST PLACE
BRANSON
VINSON
AND
2ND PLACE IN
AREA 5 CONTEST**

**2ND PLACE
HANNAH WILLIS**



Teacher of all 6th Grade Essay
Winners
Angie Kolibabek
Unity Christian Academy

**3RD PLACE
BLAYNE
HOLLAND**



2025 Poster / Essay Contest
Wetlands are Wonderful
Honorable Mention

3rd Grade

Northeast Elementary
Teacher: Kathy Brinn
Jensen Bridwell
Brian Sanchez

4th Grade

Northeast Elementary
Teacher: Kathy Brinn
Charlett Nobles
Leslie Lewis

5th Grade

Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Angie Kolibabek
Hannah Webb
Jeremiah Torres
Anna Powell
Eli Jones

Pungo Christian
Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox
McKinley Moore
Addison Elliott
Rex Hodges
Hunter Luther
Piper Hudnell

6th Grade

Unity Christian Academy
Teacher: Angie Kolibabek
Carter Ashley

**YOU
DID
IT!**

COASTAL ENVIROTHON

The 2025 Areas 5 and 6 Coastal Envirothon was held at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center in Craven County on March 18, 2025.

Beaufort County had 23 teams participating at this event; 11 from Northside High School, 3 from Beaufort County Early College, 2 from Washington Montessori, 5 from Northeast Elementary, and 2 from Pungo Christian Academy.



Beaufort County had four high school teams and three middle school teams move on to the State Envirothon on May 2-3, 2025.

The Trash Pandas and Coastal Pollutants were both from Northside High School and were coached by Casey Schulte.

The Spring Peepers and Green Gang were from Beaufort Early College and were coached by Katherine Alligood.

The Golden Girls, Science Sleuths and Enviro X were from Northeast Elementary and were coached by Melissa Elliott.

The Golden Girls won First place in the Middle School Division of Coastal Envirothon.

COASTAL ENVIROTHON HIGH SCHOOL TEAM PICTURES

Busy Beavers - PCA



Yung Roots - NHS



Wild and Rooted - NHS



Trash Pandas - NHS



The Sea Turtles - WMCS



The Pirates - WMCS



Team Dewey - NHS



Swamp Donkeys - PCA



COASTAL ENVIROTHON HIGH SCHOOL TEAM PICTURES

The Spring Peepers - BCECHS



Partridge in a Pear Tree - NHS



Habitat Honchos - BCECHS



The Green Gang - BCECHS



Coastal Pollutants- NHS



Bison or Buffalo - NHS



4 Calling Birds- NHS



3 French Hens- NHS



COASTAL ENVIROTHON HIGH SCHOOL TEAM PICTURES

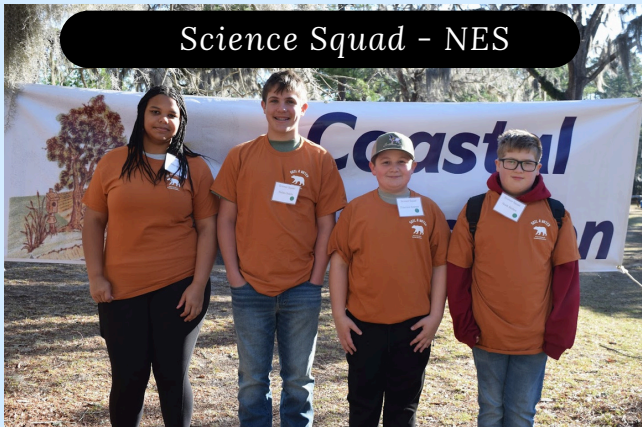


COASTAL ENVIROTHON HIGH SCHOOL CANDID PICTURES



COASTAL ENVIROTHON MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM/CANDID PICTURES

Science Squad - NES



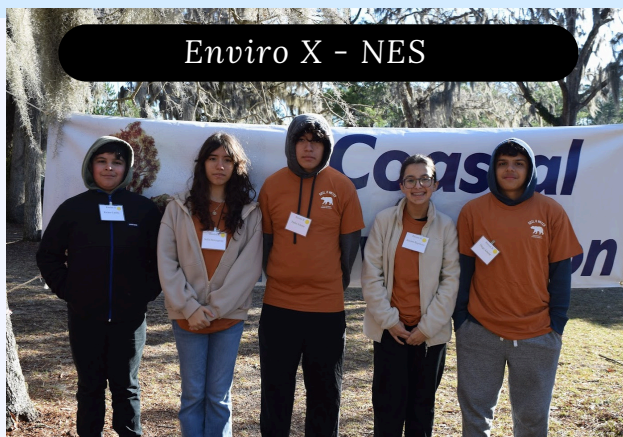
Science Sleuths - NES



Explorers - NES



Enviro X - NES



The Golden Girls



The Golden Girls- 1st Place



RESOURCE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Resource Conservation Workshop is a weeklong intensive study and hands on conservation workshop requiring student application and participation in a wide range of conservation topics. The workshop is intended to engage students to learn about natural resources and their management in today's environment. Students participate in field study, tours, hands-on sessions as well as evening activities that focus on college-decision making and career decisions. Awards and scholarships are won and presented to the students under several awards programs.

The Resource Conservation Workshop students stay on campus at NC State in dormitories and attend workshop sessions in Williams Hall, Lake Wheeler Soils Field Lab as well as field studies at Falls Lake State Recreation Area and Clemmons State Educational Forest in Clayton.



Northside High School students
Emerson Asby and Chloe Black.



Washington Montessori Public Charter
Djillany Bacha and Ayla Dixon

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Crop and Soil Sciences Department of N.C. State University, and the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter – Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was proudly represented by 4 students from Beaufort County Schools.

Emerson Asby is a rising Junior at Northside High School and is the son of Josh and Alexa Asby.

Chloe Black is a rising Senior at Northside High School and is the daughter of Wayne and Reatta Black.

Ayla Dixon is a rising Sophomore at Washington Montessori Public Charter School is the daughter of John and Anna Dixon

Djilanny Bacha is a rising Junior at Washington Montessori Public Charter School and is the son of Chansie Lieval.

STEWARDSHIP WEEK

The 2025 NACD Stewardship Week theme, **Home is Where the Habitat Is**, highlights the essential role that both natural and managed habitats play in supporting biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. But this theme is more than just a catchy phrase – it's a reminder that every habitat, from sprawling forests to bustling urban parks, contributes to the health of our planet.

Habitats do more than provide shelter for wildlife; they clean our air and water, prevent erosion, regulate climate, and sustain the ecosystems that make life possible. Whether it's the wetlands that filter pollutants, grasslands that support pollinators, or the trees in your own backyard, these spaces are vital to both nature and humans.

Stewardship Week : April 27 – May 4, 2025

Stewardship Week unites communities in celebrating and protecting our natural resources. Conservation districts and their partners host workshops, field visits, and community events to promote soil health, water quality, and pollinator habitats.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
STEWARDSHIP@NACONET.NET

BEAUFORT
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

During the year, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stewardship through our various education programs. Coloring Placemats promoting this year's theme were distributed during Stewardship Week to the NC Estuarium, Goose Creek State Park, and the Cooperative Extension Office. Additionally, a Canva presentation was sent out to all schools to share with K-12 students with information about habitat types and their uses.



*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

Melanie Simmons
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

Anthony Hester
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Soil and Water...Yours for Life