

Beaufort Conservation News

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

April-June
2020

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USDA-NRCS

Bill Gardiner
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservation Technician

Supervisors and Staff Update

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

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working under North Carolina Phase II. You may come inside the Agricultural Center and call us at 252-946-4989 Ext. 3 to let us know you are here.

Please respect social distancing measures and follow the State of North Carolina's 3W plan: wear a cloth face covering; Wait 6 feet apart; Wash hands often and use hand sanitizer.



Unsolicited Seeds from China



USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is aware that people across the country have received unsolicited packages of seed from China in recent days. APHIS is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection and State Departments of Agriculture to prevent the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protect U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds.

Anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds from China should immediately contact their State plant regulatory official or APHIS State plant health director. Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State Department of Agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

People with questions can also call:

844-820-2234

Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

CustomerServiceCallCenter@aphis.usda.gov



Bill Gardiner, District Conservationist



Bill Gardiner, a dedicated conservationist and Colorado native, spent his first years in southern Colorado where the great plains meet the Rocky Mountains. However, with a father in the U.S. Air Force, the family moved frequently. He developed a keen appreciation for travel and to experience diverse cultures and places. He has lived in six states and overseas in the Philippine Islands.

His high school years were spent in Irmo, South Carolina. After graduation, he moved to Colorado and attended Colorado State University where he graduated with a B.S Degree in Wildlife Management. Bill has worked for a variety of state and federal agencies and NGOs. Early in his career he worked as a range technician with the U.S. Forest Service in both Colorado and Washington State. He did fisheries work with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. He spent three winters on Japanese and American fishing boats in the Bering Sea working as a fish biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Alaska. He worked for the Nature Conservancy on their Santa Cruz Island preserve off the California coast researching feral pig population control and their affects to native species and habitats.

He spent five years as a habitat biologist/land planner with the Colville Confederated Tribes in eastern Washington State. While there he led a multi-discipline Viable Ecosystem Assessment Team to assess changes in forest and rangeland conditions due to wildfire suppression and other human caused changes to the ecosystem. This research was used to develop forest management plans and land treatment prescriptions to restore forest health and fire resilience on Native American managed lands.

Bill has spent the last 18 years as a District Conservationist working for the NRCS in California and Colorado. In northern California, he served two conservation districts helping to restore native salmon populations and reduce irrigation water use conflicts in agriculture. In Colorado, irrigation system development, livestock management, conservation easements to protect working ranches and revival of the local food economy has been his focus.

He will be accompanied by his wife Maarit, a native of Finland and professional translator. They have two grown children. Their daughter lives in Barcelona, Spain and son resides in Lima, Peru. They are looking forward to living and working in a place where the water is not frozen for six months a year.

Program News

GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE LAND



Funds Anticipated for Cost Share Programs



The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District anticipates receiving cost share program allocations for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission in July. These funds will be available to assist farmers and landowners with the installation of best management practices that will help to 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 2021, that begins on July 1, 2020, farmers, landowners, and operators may apply for cost share assistance to install conservation practices such as conservation tillage, 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.

If you would like more information or would like to apply for funds, call the District's Office at 946-4989 (Ext. 3) or come by our office at 155 Airport Road, Washington, NC. District staff members will be available to assist you and can visit your farm to discuss solutions for protecting creeks, streams, lakes, and rivers in the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River Basins.

2016 Disaster Recovery Program

Revisions to the Phase IV scope of work were completed and approved. Temporary easements will be requested from landowners effected along the proposed work area. It is anticipated that work to be completed under Phase IV will be finalized and published for bid during the 3rd quarter of 2020.

2020 Watershed Restoration Project

Beaufort SWCD has been awarded a grant for \$334,554, to be used to clean up waterways damaged by Hurricane Florence/Dorian. The grant allows for debris blocking the natural flow of water to be removed. No sediment removal will be permitted. Temporary easements will be requested from landowners effected along the proposed work area. It is anticipated that a Request for Proposal for work to be completed will be finalized and published for bid during the 3rd quarter of 2020.



USDA-NRCS NEWS

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

We have received applications for the CSP program for 2020. These applications are evaluated according to the number of national resource concerns that are currently being met or not being met as stewardship thresholds are determined. Each applicant must be meeting stewardship thresholds for at least two resource concerns on each land use at the time of application. The applicant must also agree to address one additional resource concern for each land use by the end of the contract to be eligible.



NRCS will present a variety of CSP conservation activities for the participant to consider implementing on the offered land, based on the resource stewardship thresholds they would like to meet or exceed. The variety of CSP conservation activities that are offered give you many options for selecting enhancements or practices that help you improve your current management system, increase profits, and meet your stewardship goals. These improvements work naturally with the land to bring out the land's best potential. Once your operation has been evaluated, is found eligible for CSP, and you have chosen the conservation activities you will adopt, your application will be ranked to determine how well your current and future management system will address national, state, and local natural resource priorities. Your application will be rated against other eligible applications that have similar resource challenges in the same local ranking pool, with the highest scoring applications receiving contract offers first.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



At this time, applications have been taken but no pre-approvals have been issued for Beaufort County. Pre-approvals should be issued later this year. Once they are considered pre-approved, these participants are required to sign a contract and agree to implement the planned conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications as scheduled. Starting a practice prior to written contract approval will result in the ineligibility of that practice for EQIP assistance. If you have resource concerns that need to be addressed on your land, please contact our office.

2020

Education

2020

2020 Beaufort SWCD Poster/Essay Contest Results “Wetlands are Wonderful”

Third Grade Poster: NO POSTERS SUBMITTED

Fourth Grade Poster

1st Place—Lilly Prince (Pungo Christian Academy) Teacher: Susan Knox

2nd Place—Dylan Knox (Pungo Christian Academy) Teacher: Susan Knox

3rd Place—Ryan Rouse (Pungo Christian Academy) Teacher: Susan Knox

Lilly Prince received 1st Place in the Area 5 (16 counties) competition.

Honorable Mention:

John Small: Caroline Swanner, Braeden Sadler, Ashley Vega, Glendy Chavez (Art Teacher: Lisa Moore)

Pungo Christian: Robert Babb, Sid Stoop, Nathan Van Vuren (Teacher: Susan Knox)

Fifth Grade Poster

1st Place—Aubin Sadler (Unity Christian Academy) Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

2nd Place—Hazy Murphy (John Small) Art Teacher: Lisa Moore

3rd Place—Amy Ruth Hodges (John Small) Art Teacher: Lisa Moore

Aubin Sadler received 1st Place in the Area 5 (16 counties) competition.

Honorable Mention:

John Small: Ava Peters, Riley Toler, Jahn Magana, Alison Groover (Art Teacher: Lisa Moore)

Unity Christian: Grace Elizabeth Cherry, Caleb Lewis (Teacher: Angie Kolibabek)

Sixth Grade Essay

1st Place—Landon Brame (Unity Christian Academy) Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

2nd Place—Jacob Kozemchak (Unity Christian Academy) Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

3rd Place—Silvana Groen (Unity Christian Academy) Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

Landon Brame received 1st Place in the Area 5 (16 counties) competition.

Landon Brame received 1st Place in the STATE competition.

Honorable Mention:


Unity Christian: Kaitlin Mason (Teacher: Angie Kolibabek)

2020 Beaufort SWCD Poster/Essay Contest Results

“Wetlands are Wonderful”



4th Grade Poster Winners



Wetlands are Wonderful!

Did you know wetlands have **SUPER POWERS**??!

They are:

- ★ **Water cleaners!** They trap sediment and filter pollutants!
- ★ **A shoreline shield!** They keep storms from destroying the shore and help with erosion.
- ★ **Animal homes!** Many species make their homes in wetlands.
- ★ **A sponge!** They absorb extra rainfall and storm surges to keep surrounding areas from flooding.
- ★ **FUN!** You can bird-watch, kayak, canoe/fish and hunt in wetlands.

Clear Water Award

1st PLACE



1st Place-District and Area 5

Lilly Prince

Pungo Christian Academy

Teacher: Susan Knox

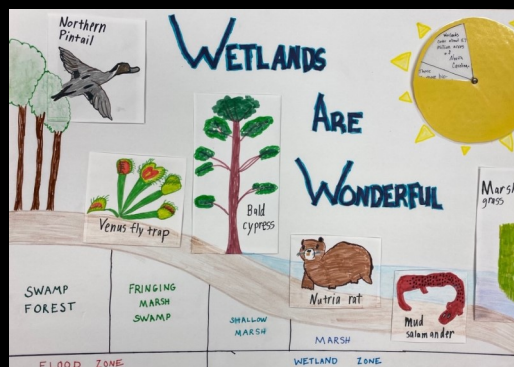


2nd Place-District

Dylan Knox

Pungo Christian Academy

Teacher: Susan Knox



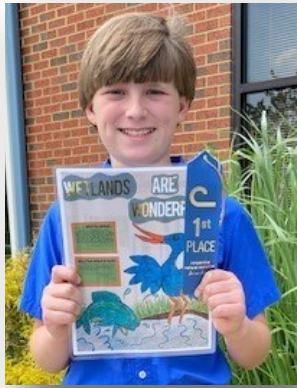
3rd Place-District

Ryan Rouse

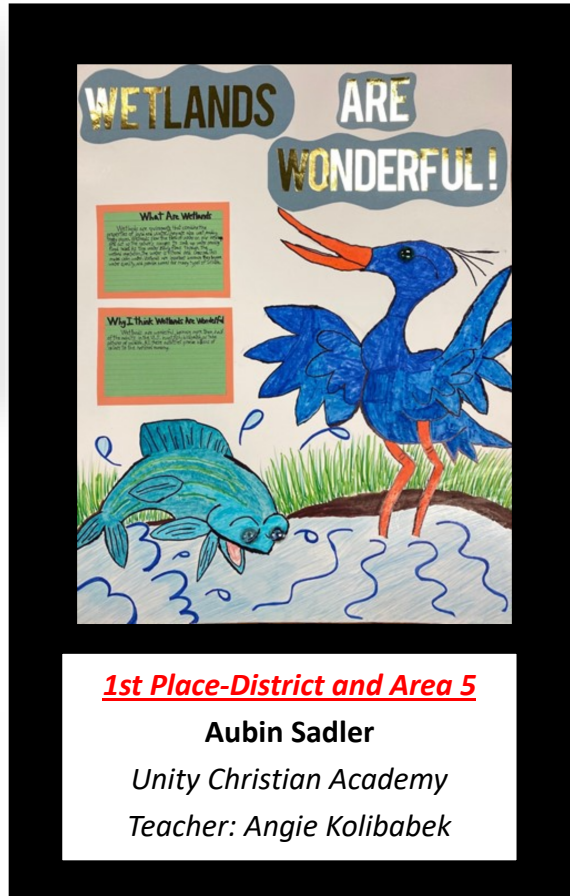
Pungo Christian Academy

Teacher: Susan Knox

2020 Beaufort SWCD Poster/Essay Contest Results
 "Wetlands are Wonderful"



5th Grade
 Poster Winners



Angie Kolibabek

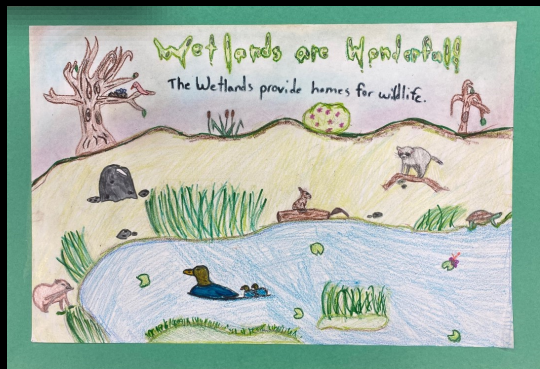


1st Place-District and Area 5

Aubin Sadler

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



Lisa Moore

2nd Place-District

Hazy Murphy

John Small School

Art Teacher: Lisa Moore

3rd Place-District

Amy Ruth Hodges

John Small School

Art Teacher: Lisa Moore

2020 Beaufort SWCD Poster/Essay Contest Results

"Wetlands are Wonderful"

6th Grade Essay Winners



Teacher: Angie
Kolibabek

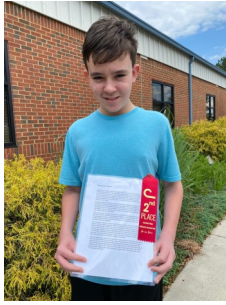
Wetlands are Wonderful!

Living in Eastern North Carolina, sometimes we take the area for granted. We live in an area filled with what is called wetlands. Wetlands are areas where water covers soil all or part of the time. Some common names are marshes, estuaries, swamps, mires, and ponds. Wetlands are a critical part of our natural environment. They protect our shores from wave action, reduce the impact of floods, improve water quality and absorb pollutants. They provide habitat for animals and plants and many contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals found nowhere else. They are among the most productive ecosystems in the world.

While walking in the woods to the pond behind my house it is easy to see many of the thousands of plant species growing in wetlands such as mosses and grasses to shrubs and trees. Huge numbers of birds spend part or all their life cycles in wetlands that provide habitat and food sources for them to raise their young and survive, such as wood ducks, heron, ibises, and egrets.

Fish also use wetlands for breeding, feeding, and shelter, in coastal or inland environments. My brother Cole and I often go out on the boat fishing for flounder, sea trout, and striped bass. Shrimp, oysters, clams, as well as blue and dungeness crabs are found in the marshes and estuaries. For mammals such as beavers, black bears, otters, deer, minks, and muskrats, wetlands provide important food, water, or shelter. Wetlands are also home to many amphibians and reptiles like alligators, snakes, turtles, newts, and salamanders.

Human impact such as overfishing can have lasting effects on wetlands. If you over fish the rivers then there will be less breeding. If this happens the animals that rely on these eggs from the breeding grounds will have lost their food source and could become extinct. Wetlands are more important than most people even imagine. In order to save the wetlands for future generations and in turn save the animals that call this area home, we need to curb the environmental impacts such as chemical pollution from factories, fertilizers from agriculture, plastics from recreational activities as well as sewage waste. Everyone needs to do their part to protect the wonderful wetlands that I call home.



2nd Place Essay
District

Jake Kozemchak
Unity Christian Academy



Wetlands Are Wonderful

My Mom and I moved to Beaufort County in the Summer of 2017 from Durham. I was excited to have a house on the Pamlico River and see so much water everywhere we went! She took me out in her kayak before I got too big to fit and we even use an old kayak for sledding when we get snow. Our family also has a house on Topsail Island and my favorite thing to do there is fish in the creeks and marshes along the Intracoastal Waterway with my Pop Pop. All my favorite things in life have to do with being out on the water.

My Mom says the wetlands are something that tie us all together in Eastern North Carolina. Our state's rich history began with the earliest explorers traveling by water into the wetlands and recording what they saw by drawing it. Our property was drawn by John White, who was one of the settlers in the Lost Colony and was Virginia Dare's grandfather. There is a cypress tree on a point on our property that matches a drawing John White made in the late 1500's.

When mom kayaks, she goes into Jack Creek. She said there are otters everywhere and that they swim up to her kayak and play with each other in the water. She said she will get a bigger kayak so I can go this Spring. We don't see otters by our house because they don't swim in the open river. They rely on the safety of the marsh and tall grasses to hide from predators.

After Hurricane Florence, we spent months picking up trash! The marsh grasses and swamps on our property seemed to catch everything that was in the river! It's a good thing though, because it's better for our marsh grasses to catch the trash so we can pick it up, than for the trash to stay in the river and make fish and other wildlife sick. Our marsh grasses were sort of like the pool filter we used to have when we had a pool at our old house. We cleaned the pool filter out pretty much every day in order to keep the pool clean, and it was always easier to clean it daily than to ignore it and let it get really dirty, then have to spend a long time cleaning up the mess.

I think the wetlands are kind of like a pool filter. They clean the runoff from inland areas, and they catch trash from the rivers and creeks. But people must clean them out and take care of them. Don't pollute the wetlands and kill the grasses growing there that catch the trash and provide shelter for wildlife. More than half of the 220 million acres of wetlands that existed in what would later become the United States when John White explored North Carolina have been destroyed. I hope people will always work to keep our Wetlands Wonderful!



6th
Grade
Essay
Winners



Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

Wetlands are Wonderful

Wetlands are wet, muddy, soggy, boggy places. They slow the flow of water on our landscape, and act as nature's sponges to soak up water providing flood relief. As the water slowly flows through wetland vegetation, the water is filtered and cleansed. This process contributes to clean water.

I think wetlands are wonderful because they are so wet, and I love the water! I think that it's very sad that once widespread throughout the world, wetlands are rapidly vanishing. Scientists even estimated that by the middle 1970s, 64% of wetlands in the US had disappeared. Before colonization, North Carolina had an estimated 11 million acres of wetlands.

I hope people will start to care about *wetlands*, so they won't go extinct.

In 1996, North Carolina had only about 5.7 million acres, a 48% decrease from what it was in the 1970s.

I think that wetlands are beautiful. They're majestic, and I just love them. I also believe it's amazing that people can rely on food produced in association with wetlands. Rice, grown in wetland paddies, accounts for 20% of the world's nutritional intake.

It's kind of amazing that so many things can come from one thing. It boggles my mind that wetlands are so big but can become so small. It crushes my heart that no one knows how great wetlands can be, no, how wonderful they can be, and I'm going to tell you how wonderful they really are.

Life on earth requires water, fresh water to be exact, and only about 1% of the world's freshwater is accessible for human use. Wetlands often serve as groundwater discharge sites; maintaining base flow in streams and

and supporting ponds and lakes. In some places, wetlands are very important in recharging groundwater supplies.

Wetland sediments, plants, and marine life absorb pollutants from pesticides, industry and mining, including heavy metals and toxins; thereby removing the substances from the water supply.

Wetlands act like a giant sponge, soaking up excess water and reducing flood risks. Along the coast, wetlands create a protective barrier between communities and the sea's destructive forces. Wetlands, especially peatlands, also store large amounts of carbon, an important benefit given the increasing impacts of climate change.

Lastly, I think we all can benefit personally and as a society from spending time in wetlands. Many people have formed less than ideal opinions about wetlands without spending any measurable amount of time exploring them and considering their worth. A little education and interaction with something unfamiliar can go a long way in shaping one's attitudes. Moreover, wetlands make great outdoor classrooms, engaging students young and old through sight, touch, sound, smell, and sometimes even taste! Wetlands can also provide an ideal location for both passive and active recreation such as hunting, paddling, and walking and from this essay, you and I now know the various benefits of spending time in nature and showing love and care for God's creation!

I hope you loved this essay that I have written for you very much!



3rd Place Essay
District
Silvana Groen
Unity Christian Academy



Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 6:00 p.m. in the office of the:

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



Board of Supervisors

*(L to R) Archie Griffin, James Allen, Chairman,
Joe Rogers, Vice-Chairman, Tracy Warren Sec./Treasurer, Sid Cayton*



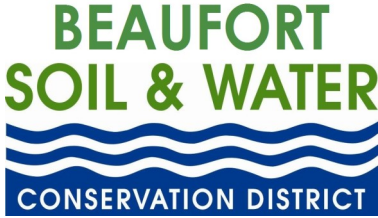





If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more.



Mission Statement:

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.

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