

Beaufort Conservation News

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

January - June
2021

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Pantego, NC

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Resource Conservation Office Manager

Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Conservation Specialist

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

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 open. When at the Agricultural Center to meet with Soil and Water Conservation Staff, please call 252-946-4989, Ext. 3 to let us know you are here so that we may meet you in the lobby to allow access to our offices through the Farm Service Agency entrance.



NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' 2021 Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held virtually January 4-5, 2021. Chris Hogan 2021 NCASWCD President, presided over the meeting. Attending virtually were Supervisors James Allen, Joe Rogers, and Tracy Warren; Office Manager Ann Williams; and District Resource Conservation Specialist Nathaniel Woolard.

2021 NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5 Spring Meeting

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held virtually on Thursday, February 18, 2021. Chairman Richard Cannon presided over the meeting. Presentations were made on the History of Draining, Communicating Agriculture to the Public, Feral Swine Management, and Job Approval Authority. Standing Committee Reports and Partnership Reports were made.

Attending online were Supervisors James Allen, Joe Rogers, and Tracy Warren; Office Manager Ann Williams; District Resource Conservation Specialist Nathaniel Woolard; and Education Coordinator Debbie Boyd.



"Soil and Water...Yours for Life"



Program News

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)



For Program Year 2021, the District was allocated \$18,743 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practices. During the January meeting, the District's Board of Supervisors approved 3 applications and contracts for irrigation wells.

Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

For Program Year 2021, the District was allocated \$56,505 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for ACSP practices. During September's meeting, one supplemental contract for land smoothing and three cover crop applications and contracts were approved by the District's Board of Supervisors. The District received an additional seven ACSP applications for practices including water control structures, land smoothing, lagoon biosolid removal, crop residue management, filter strip and cropland conversion. During the January meeting, the District's Board approved one application for land smoothing and water control structures and one application for lagoon biosolid removal. Additional ACSP activities performed during this period included annual spot checks of active contracts and addressing a maintenance issue on an agricultural pond repair contract.



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 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 2022, that begins on July 1, 2021, 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.

2021 Best Management Practices (BMP) Spot Check and Conservation Tour

The Program Year 2021 Annual Spot Check and Conservation Tour of permanent practices still under maintenance for ACSP and AgWRAP was carried out on March 8, 2021. Six 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.

Program News

2016 Disaster Recovery Program

Phase IV stream debris removal under this program has been completed. Final inspection was on March 9, 2021. The remaining funds associated with this grant will be used for beaver removal in all segments that have been cleared of debris. Beaver removal work is expected to begin in September 2021.

2020 Watershed Restoration Project

Phase I stream debris removal work began on March 5, 2021. The contractor worked until the end of April before ending for reasons pertaining to limited access to creeks because crops are in fields and the Anadromous Fish Spawning Moratorium. Work is expected to resume in September 2021.



Cherry Run

Before



*Stream
Debris
Removal
Perry Branch*

During



After



2021

Education

2021



The 2021 Areas 5 and 6 Coastal and North Carolina State Envirothons were held in an online format in accordance with current guidelines aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Coastal competition was held virtually on March 16th and the State competition was held virtually on April 16th.

Over fifty Beaufort County Middle School and High School students competed in both competitions. All Beaufort County teams participating in the Coastal event qualified for the State competition. Teams representing Beaufort County in the high school competition included the Kung Fu Pandas and Macrogains from Washington Montessori High School and the Marbled Salamanders, The Clueless, and Carolina Mudpuppies from Northside High School. Middle School teams competing were the Academic Aardvarks and Enviro Eagles from Washington Montessori Middle School and Chicks With Kicks, Irrational Polluters, Climate Crew, and Nature Freaks from Northeast Middle School.

The Irrational Polluters (Northeast) were first place in the Middle School competition and the The Clueless (Northside) were first place in the High School competition, each having the highest score for Area 5 in the Coastal competition. The Climate Crew (Northeast) was the overall third place team for Middle School. Each of these teams were presented trophies by Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, on behalf of the Coastal Envirothon.

Beaufort County's Envirothon advisors are Daphne Cullom, Northside High; Melanie Simmons, Northeast Elementary; Crystal Swindell, Washington Montessori High School; and Lynn Harrington, Washington Montessori Middle School.

Envirothon is the most widely recognized hands-on environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. This intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Scores determine winning placements.

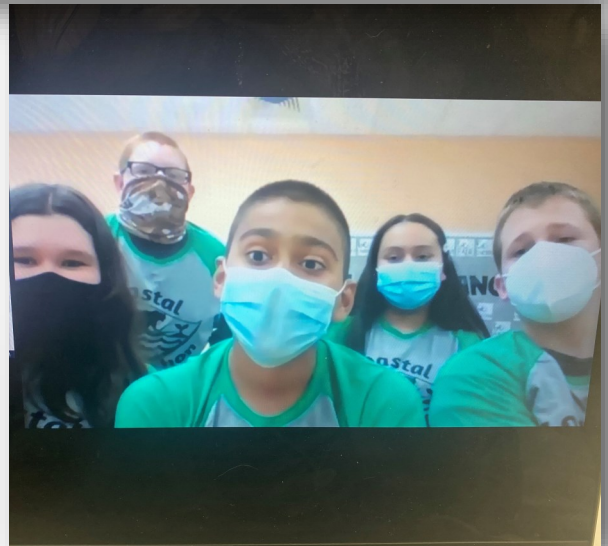
Locally, the Envirothon competition is coordinated by soil and water conservation districts in Areas 5 & 6 and sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, goes over the guidelines for testing with students via ZOOM.

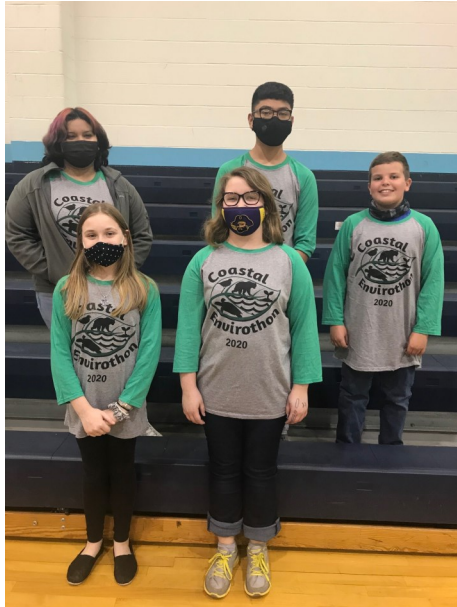
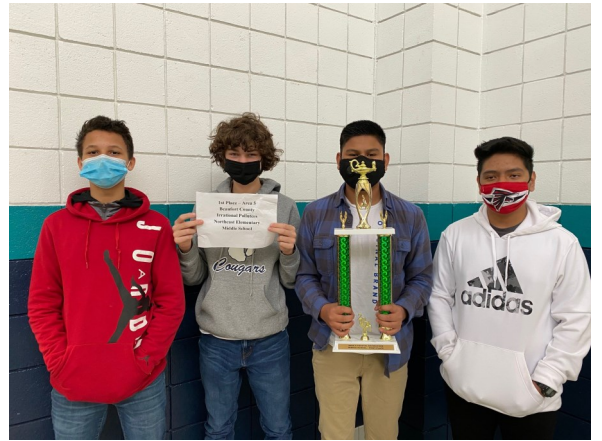
(photo courtesy of Crystal Swindell)

ZOOMING IN FOR
THE
2021 VIRTUAL
ENVIROTHON





*Irrational
Polluters
1st Place-Area 5
2021
Coastal
Envirothon*



*Northeast
Middle
School*

*Advisor:
Melanie Simmons*

Nature Freaks



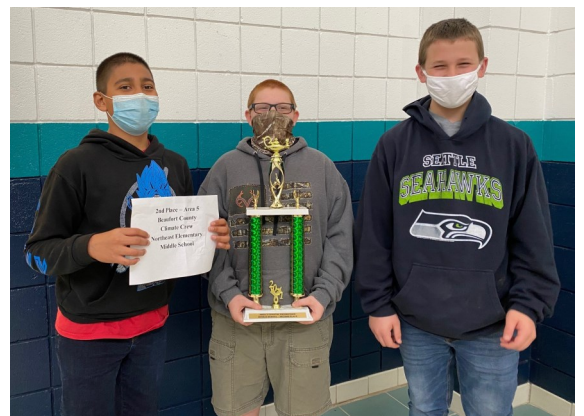
Chicks With Kicks



(Team photos courtesy of
Melanie Simmons)



*Climate
Crew
3rd Place-Area 5
2021
Coastal
Envirothon*





*The Clueless
1st Place-Area 5
2021 Coastal Envirothon*



*Debbie Boyd, BSWCD Education
Coordinator, presents
Advisor, Daphne Cullom,
with the team trophy for
Northsides's The Clueless team.*

Northside High School



Advisor: Daphne Cullom

(Team photos courtesy of
Daphne Cullom)



Marbled Salamanders



Carolina Mudpuppies



*Academic
Aardvarks
3rd Place-Area 5
2021
Coastal
Envirothon*



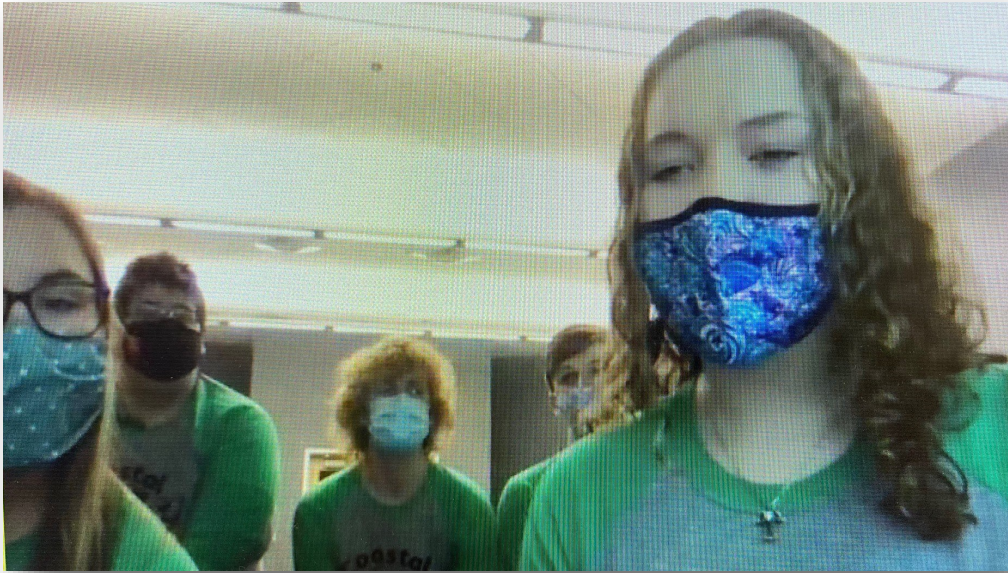
Washington Montessori Middle School



Advisor: Lynn Harrington

*Enviro
Eagles*





*Kung Fu
Pandas*



Washington Montessori High School



Advisor: Crystal Swindell

Macrograins



(photo courtesy of Crystal Swindell)

2021

Education

2021



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces Contest Winners



“Where Does Your Water Shed?” was the theme for the 2021 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in third through fifth grades in the county. The essay contest was for sixth graders only.

Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were Chocowinity Primary, Chocowinity Middle, Northeast, Pungo Christian Academy, and Unity Christian Academy.

First, Second, and Third Place winners received cash prizes. Teachers who had first place student winners also received cash prizes. In addition to their awards, the first-place winners’ posters from Beaufort County competed with other districts in the Area 5 competition, which includes sixteen counties. Marshall Rutledge, a student at Pungo Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the Area 5 competition for fourth grade. Unity Christian Academy students receiving first place and a cash prize in the Area 5 competition were Daisy Cherry for fifth grade poster and Aubin Sadler for sixth grade essay. Marshall Rutledge was also a first place STATE winner in the 4th grade poster contest. Daisy Cherry was a second place STATE winner in the 5th grade poster contest. Aubin Sadler was a first place STATE winner in the 6th grade essay contest.

Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, presented ribbons, cash, and check prizes to the winners at an awards ceremony held on May 11th. Congratulations to all the winners!

Next year’s contest theme will be “Soil and Water...Yours for Life.”



POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Pictured with their ribbons, awards, and poster pictures are, front row left to right, Marshall Rutledge (Pungo Christian Academy), Palyn Sammons (Chocowinity Primary), and Deuce Mann (Pungo Christian Academy), middle row, left to right, Haley Woolard, Gabe Purcella, Codey Simpson, and Daisy Cherry, all from Unity Christian Academy and back row, left to right, Teachers Angie Kolibabek (Unity Christian Academy) and Susan Knox (Pungo Christian Academy).



ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Pictured with their ribbon, awards, and essays from left to right are Aubin Sadler, Ava Peters, and not pictured Caleb Lewis all from Unity Christian Academy. Their teacher is Angie Kolibabek.

2021



Education

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's
Poster/Essay Contest Results
"We All Live in a Watershed"

2021

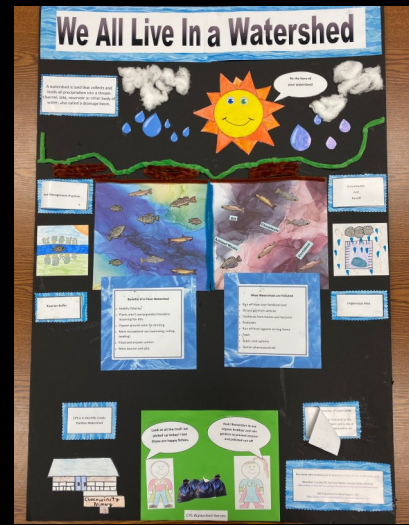


4th Grade Poster Winners



1st Place-District, Area 5, and STATE

Marshall Rutledge
Pungo Christian Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox



2nd Place-District

Palyn Sammons
Chocowinity Primary
Teacher: Emily Smith



3rd Place-District

Deuce Mann
Pungo Christian Academy
Teacher: Susan Knox



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Education

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's
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"We All Live in a Watershed"

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5th Grade Poster Winners



1st Place-District, Area 5, and

2nd Place STATE

Daisy Cherry

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



2nd Place-District

Codey Simpson

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



3rd Place-District

Gabe Purcella

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



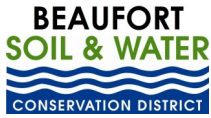
3rd Place-District

Haley Woolard

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

2021



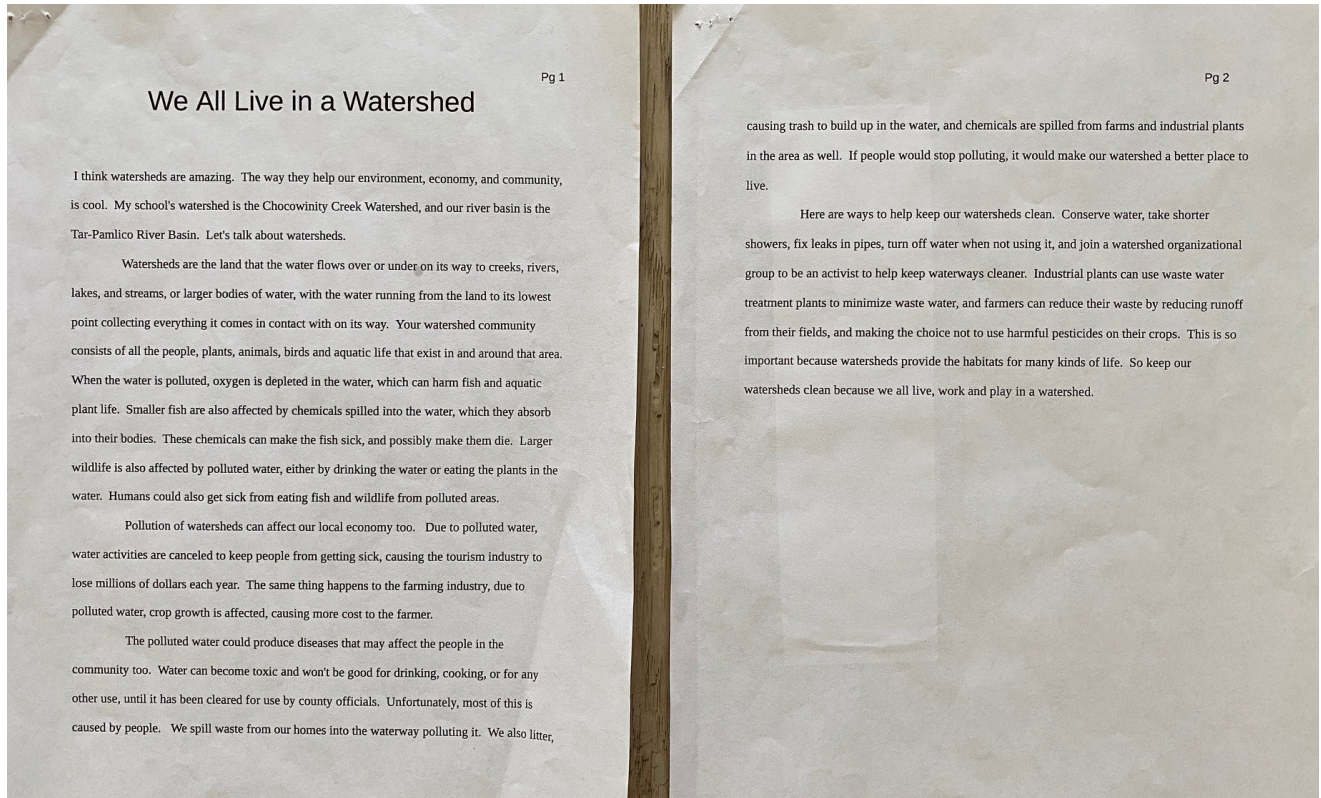
Education

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Poster/Essay Contest Results "We All Live in a Watershed"

2021



6th Grade Essay Winners



1st Place-District, Area 5, and

STATE

Aubin Sadler

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



2021



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2021



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Poster/Essay Contest Results "We All Live in a Watershed"

6th Grade Essay Winners

We All Live In A Watershed

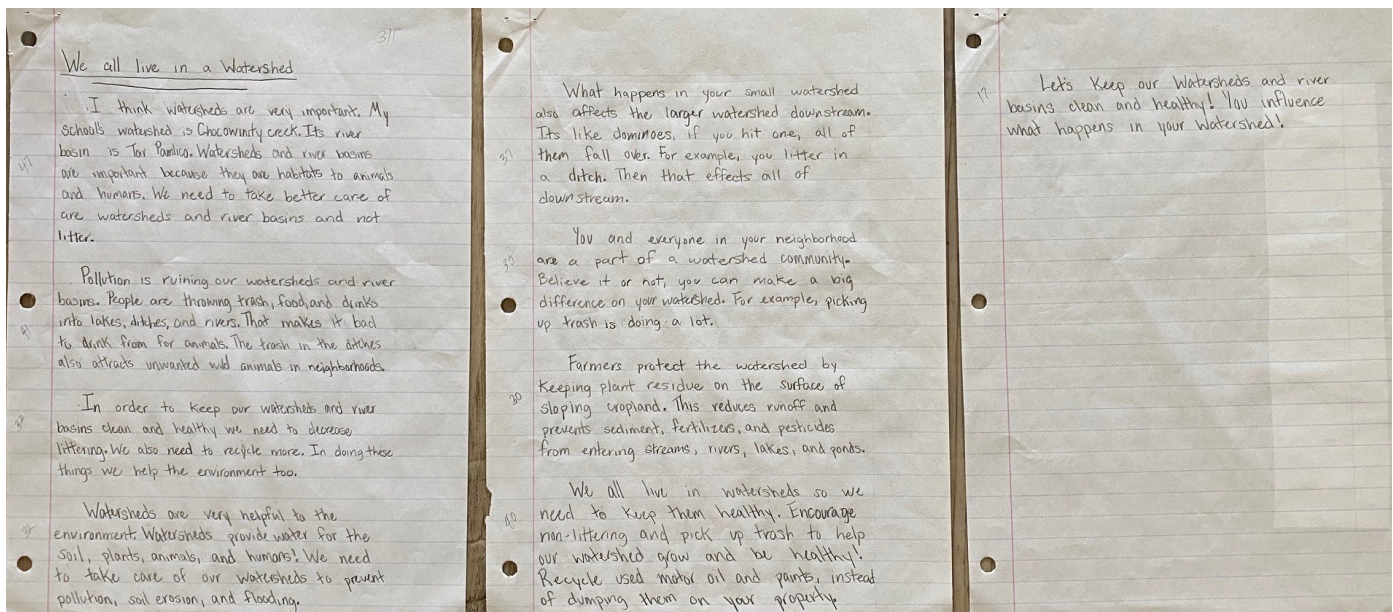
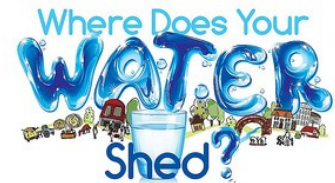
My river basin is the Pamlico-Tar river basin and my watershed is Chocowinity creek. Both have many purposes and supply our community with resources from industrial to recreational. For me and my family we love the water and love to fish so we have spent a lot of time in both of these waterways. We love to catch shad, bass and sometimes just boat ride. There are a lot of people in our area who love to do this but unfortunately are not good about keeping the areas clean. They will throw trash in the water, put chemicals in the water with old boats; even local construction pollutes the water. Sometimes factories will have drainage runoff with harmful chemicals that will kill the fish and other wildlife that uses the waterways as a resource. As humans we continue to enjoy the water but we don't think about the damage we cause. Fishing is fun but it is also a source of food and income for many in our area. If the water is polluted the fish get sick and die. Or they get sick and we eat them and then we get sick. If the water is nasty then people will no longer want to come to our area to use it for recreational purposes and then they won't be shopping at our stores and businesses which hurt our community. Just being aware of what you are doing and where you put your trash can make a big difference. If you don't want to live in a nasty house then neither do the fish and wildlife that are in our waterways. If we would stop to think about how we like to live and how we would want to be treated then I think that people would be better about not polluting our waterways. Our actions have consequences from the local fisherman to the local business owner so we should respect our waterways. If we don't in the years to come they will not be clean and we will not be able to enjoy them.

2nd Place –District

Ava Peters

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek



3rd Place-District

Caleb Lewis

Unity Christian Academy

Teacher: Angie Kolibabek

BEAUFORT SWCD PROMOTES SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK



The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District wants to remind you that each of us has a connection to natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) celebrated the 66th year of Stewardship Week April 25 – May 2, 2021. The 2021 Stewardship Week was themed “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities”.

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. NACD represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

“Educating the public about the importance of our connection to our natural resources in our daily lives is an essential part of what conservation districts advocate for in their communities,” **said NACD President Michael Crowder**. “Trees and forests are critical to providing clean air and water, healthy soil, shade, abundant wildlife habitat, jobs and valuable products we use every day.”

“Conservation districts have a long-standing history of working with state and private forest owners in helping promote and safeguard our nation’s forested lands,” **Crowder said**.

Free, downloadable Stewardship Week resources celebrating the theme “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” are available on NACD’s website at <https://www.nacdnet.org/store/>.

For more information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District at
252-946-4989 Ext. 3.

The National Association of Conservation Districts is the nonprofit organization that represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, their state and territory associations and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For more than 70 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices. For more information about NACD, visit: www.nacdnet.org.

[Resource Conservation Workshop](#)

Due to Covid-19 mandates, North Carolina State University was unable to hold the Resource Conservation Workshop on their campus this year. The weeklong workshop will hopefully be held on the campus next summer.



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 (Secretary), Sid Cayton***

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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who make this newsletter possible.

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