

Conservation Conversations

Published By

Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District
Suite 101, 49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806
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February 2017



Buncombe County Friends of Ag Breakfast Tuesday, February 21st, 2017

At 7:00 a.m.

WNC Ag Center, Virginia Boone Building
1301 Fanning Bridge Road

**TOPIC: ENERGY CAP - SMALL FARMER
ENERGY GRANTS**

Come join us for the Buncombe County Friends of Ag Breakfast. Enjoy a complimentary country breakfast. Chat with farm friends old and new.

RSVP: ARIEL.ZIJP@BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG
OR CALL (828)250-4794

TREE SEEDLING & PLANT SALE MARCH 3RD & 4TH



Buncombe SWCD will hold its annual tree seedling sale on March 3rd & 4th, 2017 at **BUNCOMBE COUNTY SOIL & WATER OFFICE, 49 MOUNT CARMEL ROAD, ASHEVILLE NC**. The sale will begin on Friday and run through Saturday or until we are out of seedlings.

DATE & TIMES:

MARCH 3 10:00 AM – 5:00PM
MARCH 4 10:00AM – 5:00 PM

Seedlings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on the days of the sale. **No pre-orders will be taken as in past years.**

Eastern White Pine seedlings are 50 cents each and the hardwood species are \$2.00 each. New this year we will have several species of berries for sale.

The following species are available:

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to conserve the soil, water, and related natural resources of Buncombe County by providing education, information, technical assistance, and economic incentives to county citizens and by establishing new programs in concert with other appropriate agencies and organizations to meet changing needs.

Plants	
Blackberry – Thornless Prime Ark	\$3.00
Raspberry – Caroline	\$3.00
Blueberry – Blue Crop	\$6.00
Blueberry – Duke	\$6.00
Strawberry – Springbearing Cardinal	\$0.50
Strawberry – Everbearing Seascape	\$0.50



Seedlings	
Eastern Redbud	\$2.00
White Dogwood	\$2.00
Red Mulberry	\$2.00
Elderberry	\$2.00
Persimmon	\$2.00
Bartlett Pear	\$2.00
Plum	\$2.00
White Pine	\$0.50

All seedlings are bare root and range in height from 18 inches to 36 inches. March is the ideal time of year to plant bare root seedlings. Species such as Mulberry, Persimmon, Elderberry, Bartlett Pear and Plum bear fruits for wildlife.

Contact Taira Lance with any questions or requests. (828) 250-4785 or



taira.lance@buncombecounty.org



ASAP Business of Farming Conference

Saturday February 25, 2016 8:30-5:00pm

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) is hosting a conference at AB Tech Conference Center focusing on teaching farmers and helping them network in Asheville's farming and food community. The conference offers business and marketing classes, networking sessions and other resources to help promote the growth and success of farms and farmers. The conference features different opportunities for farmers to meet with wholesale buyers, professional consulting, business, conservation and agricultural exhibits and a locally grown lunch. The conference is AB Tech Conference Center, Asheville, NC. If you are interested please read more and purchase tickets at the website below.

<http://asapconnections.org/events/business-of-farming-conference/>

CCAP Project at Leicester Community



Center

The Leicester Community Center worked with the Soil and Water Conservation District to do a stream bank protection project in the fall of 2016. The stream banks on the property were eroding and undermining several large trees that lined the stream. A gully had formed where surface runoff from the street and playground areas entered the stream. The District worked with Division of Soil and Water Conservation engineer Jeff Young to develop a design for sloping and stabilizing the banks and installing a

drop box and pipe to control the gully erosion. The project was completed in late fall with the exception of five rows of live stakes that will be installed in February of 2017. The live stakes will sprout and the small shrubs such of silky willow and silky dogwood will provide shade to the stream and the roots will help stabilize the streambanks. Thanks to Greg Brookshire and the Community Center for their help on a good project that will help protect water quality in the Newfound Creek Watershed!



Seed

Drill Available for Spring Planting

The drought conditions of the summer of 2016 may have resulted in some loss of stand in pastures or hayfields. If this is the case, over seeding may be beneficial to insure a vigorous stand of desirable grass species. The Buncombe SWCD has a no-till seed drill that can be used to drill grass seed into existing stands. It is available for rental with a minimum rate of \$50/day or \$10/acre and can easily be transported to your farm with a pickup and requires about a 50 horsepower tractor with remote hydraulics for operation.



The North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council 2017 Winter Conference Series

**March 7, 2017
10:00 AM**
Pitt County
Extension Office
403 Government Circle
Greenville, NC

**March 8, 2017
10:00 AM**
Wilkes County
Extension Office
416 Executive Drive
Wilkesboro, NC

**March 9, 2017
10:00 AM**
WNC Regional
Livestock Center
474 Stock Drive
Canton, NC

“Capturing the Benefits of Productive Pastures”

J. B. Daniel
State Forage Agronomist
Farmville, VA

“Matching Forages to Livestock Life Stages”

John Andrea
Extension Forage Specialist
Clemson University

“Using Forages to Meet Animal Needs”

Local Producers Panel

Trade Show, NCSU Extension Update
and much more!

To register go to the following website or call:

<http://www.nccattle.com/nc-forage-grasslands-council/events/winter-conference/registration>

919-552-9111

Registration Online before February 28, 2017

NCFGC Members = \$20
Non-members = \$45
Students = \$10
Agency/Extension Staff = \$20

Registration at the door

NCFGC Members = \$30
Non-members = \$55
Students = \$10
Agency/Extension Staff = \$30

**Pesticide and
Animal Waste
Credits are
available at this
meeting**

District Board Members

JEFF FOSTER	Chair
ELISE ISRAEL	Vice-Chair
DAVID SNELSON	Secretary
WILLIAM HAMILTON	Treasurer
LOUISE SCRUGGS	Member

District and NRCS Staff

GARY HIGGINS	District Director
TAIRA LANCE	Environmental Educator
ANTHONY DOWDLE	NCACSP Soil Conservationist
ARIEL DIXON	Soil Conservationist/Farmland Pres.
EMILY KOONE	NRCS Soil Conservationist

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Asheville, NC 28806

CAMP WILD

Buncombe County Soil & Water will be hosting a Youth Environmental Stewardship Camp this summer June 19 - 23, 2017 for Middle School and August 7 - 11, 2017 for High School. Camp WILD is a 5 day long summer day camp with one night of camping, focusing on having fun while learning in the WILD outdoors! We explore some of the local sights and attractions of WNC while learning about how to conserve, protect, respect and enjoy the wilderness! Camp Wild is open to current Envirothon students and remaining slots will be determined on an application process of current 6th - 12th grade students. The cost for the camp will be a non-refundable 30.00 deposit thanks to a generous Envirothon Grant from The Pigeon River Fund. Below is a tentative schedule:



Monday, -- Soil Science

8:00 - Buncombe SWCD- Orientation
9:00 - Biltmore Estate: Geocache Scavenger Hunt
10:00 - Explore Estate
11:30 - Lunch: Bring Your Own
1:00 - Bent Creek: Soils Lesson/ Lab
2:30 - Soils Relay Race/Dessert
5:00 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

Tuesday, -- Forestry

8:00 - Buncombe SWCD
9:30 - Cradle of Forestry
11:45 - Lunch: Bring Your Own
12:15 - Pink Beds Picnic & Explore Wetlands
2:00 - Sliding Rock

5:00 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

Wednesday, -- Environmental Issues/ Solid Waste/ Recycling

8:00 - Buncombe SWCD
9:30 - Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Ctr. (Purchase Knob): Amphibian research & hike
12:00 - Lunch at Purchase Knob - Bring Your Own
1:30 - Haywood County Landfill
3:00 - Juke Box Junction - Recycling Game & Ice Cream
5:00 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

Thursday, -- Aquatics & Wildlife

7:30 - Buncombe SWCD
10:00 - Ripley's Aquarium
12:30 - Lunch provided
2:00 - Cades Cove Overnight Camping - Set Up Camp
3:00 - Hayride with Ranger
6:00 - Dinner provided - Hot Dogs and Hamburgers
8:00 - Campfire & Outdoor Movie

Friday, - Water

8:00 - Breakfast - Sausage, Bacon, Eggs & Pancakes
9:00 - Nature Hike
11:00 - Tubing @ River Rats - Lunch provided- sandwiches
2:00 - Travel Home
5:30 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

For more information please contact Taira Lance, Environmental Educator @ (828) 250-4787 or email at taira.lance@buncombecounty.org.



CAROLINA FARM CREDIT, ACA
701 Brevard Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806
670-9474



SYCAMORE VALLEY FARM

Farm Fresh Produce
Amish Goods
Seasonal Items

2555 New Leicester Hwy.
Leicester, NC 28748