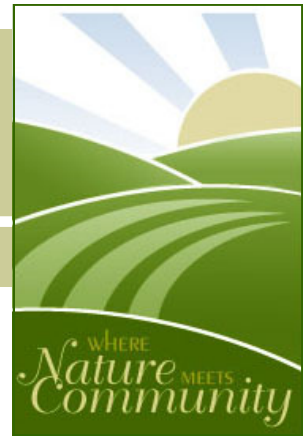


Conservation Conversations

Published By

Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District
Suite 101, 49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 250-4785 - www.buncombecounty.org



NOVEMBER 2015

**Buncombe County
Friends of Ag Breakfast**
Tuesday November 17, 2015
At 7:00 a.m.

**Join us and enjoy a complimentary
breakfast featuring fresh food from local
Buncombe County farms.**



Topic: Avian Influenza
**Speaker: Dr. Sarah Mason, Director
of Veterinary/Poultry for NCDA**
**Location: WNC Ag Center, Virginia
Boone Building
1301 Fanning Bridge Road**

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

CHRISTMAS TREES!!!

The Buncombe SWCD will be selling #1 Fraser Fir Christmas Trees again this year. The 6 and 7 foot trees are locally grown and harvested a day or so before the sale to insure maximum freshness and longevity. They will be sold at a cost of \$32 each, and all you have to do to get one is call the SWCD office to reserve it, send us your payment, and then come by the office on the sale days and pick it up.



You may call the District anytime between now and November 18th to buy a tree. The dates and times of the sale are November 23rd from 3 to 7 p.m. and November 24th from 12 to 7 p.m. The sale location is 49 Mount Carmel Road in the Erwin Hills community. Proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit our environmental education programs, so buy a tree and help our environment too!!



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.

SWCD OFFICE RELOCATION

The Buncombe SWCD offices are now located in the Erwin Hills Community, adjacent to Erwin Middle School. Our phone numbers are the same with the exception of the FAX number which is now 828-250-6008. The offices of the N. C. Cooperative Extension Service, Buncombe County Center are also located in the building. Our address is 49 Mount Carmel Road, Suite 101, Asheville, NC 28806.



THANK YOU JIM!

Board Chairman Jim Coman announced his retirement from the Board of Supervisors in October, 2015. Jim served as in Associate, Appointed, and Elected Board member positions since 1985. He served as Board chairman for many of those years. The Board and staff would like to express their sincere appreciation to Jim for his many years of service to the Board of Supervisors of the Buncombe SWCD. We will miss Jim's knowledge and leadership on the Board, but wish him well on his future endeavors.



2015 FALL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD DAYS

The District held its fall Environmental Education Field Days on September 29th, and October 1st, 2015. Approximately 450 students from Hominy Valley, North Windy Ridge, Haw Creek, and Sand Hill Venable schools attended the events. Stations included pollinators, reptile ecology, stream ecology, the water cycle, wildlife, soils, waste reduction, agriculture, and natural science. The event was scheduled to be held on the farm at Warren Wilson College but after weeks of very dry weather, heavy rains made it necessary to move the event inside and **Crossroads Assembly Church** in West Asheville

agreed to be the host site. The students had a great time learning about all the different aspects of the natural environment.



Special thanks to all our presenters which included **Christine Brown, Katie Nelson** and **Sarah Coury** from Asheville Greenworks; **Virginia Hamilton, Dan Varick**, and **Annie Courtway** from Warren Wilson College; **Keisha Lipe** from the City of Asheville; **Susan Fay** and **Amy Kinsella** from Holmes State Forest; **Shannon Lora** and **Lauren Pyle** from the WNC Nature Center; and **Melissa Wilson** from Montreat College.



NEW NRCS SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

The USDA-NRCS recently announced the selection of Emily Koone as Soil Conservationist for Buncombe County. Emily, a native of Rutherford County, graduated from N. C. State University and has previously worked in Moore and Rutherford Counties. Her latest position was in Yadkin County. She will be starting in Buncombe November 2, 2015. We welcome Emily to the Buncombe SWCD and look forward to working with her!!

MOUNTAIN STATE FAIR

The Buncombe SWCD was a part of the Area I Soil and Water Conservation Districts exhibit at the Mountain State Fair September 11-20, 2015. The exhibit was located in the Davis Arena and featured the Soil Tunnel along with brochures and handouts from Area 1 Districts. Staff from several Districts worked 4 hour shifts and answered questions and greeted visitors to the fair.

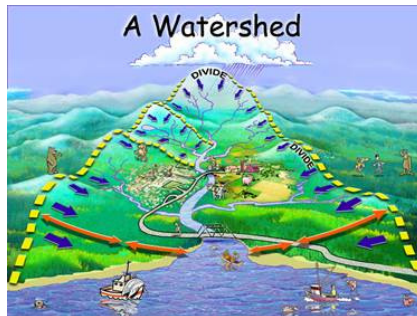


It's Contest Time!!!

The Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring Conservation Poster, Essay, and Public Speaking contests this year!

The theme for both contests is "**We All Live in A Watershed**".

This encompasses a wide range of idea topics that the students can incorporate in their competition entries, such as hydrology, conservation, natural resources, and many more...



Who's eligible?

Poster Contest - Any Buncombe County student (public, private, or home school) in **3rd - 5th grade!**

Essay Contest - Any Buncombe County student (public, private, or home school) in the **6th grade!**

Public Speaking Contest - Any Buncombe County student (public, private, or home school) in the **7th or 8th grade!**

The Poster and Essay contests runs until **January 11th, 2016**. All entries must reach the District by 4:00 pm on that date. The Public Speaking Contest will be held at the District office on **January 14, 2016**.



Prizes:

Not only do the contests provide a great way for the students to explore an issue on their own, but there are prizes for the students and winning teacher!

There will be a 1st, 2nd & 3rd place county-wide awards given in both the Essay and Poster Contests and 1st place winners will be eligible for the Area contest.

1st place - \$50 cash

2nd place - \$25 cash

3rd place - \$15 cash

(The teacher of the winning student will receive \$50 gift card)

More information about the contests can be obtained at:

<http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Soil/Default.aspx> or
taira.lance@buncombecounty.org (828-250-4785)

SIZEMORE APPOINTED TO AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

At their October 20th meeting the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners appointed Amanda Sizemore to serve on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Amanda is a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in

Horticulture. She and her husband Jeremy operate Cane Creek Valley Farm, growing organic vegetables. They have two children Emma and Judson. You can learn more about their farm at: <http://www.canecreekorganics.com>.



District Board Members

VACANT	Chairperson
JEFF FOSTER	Vice-Chairperson
ELISE ISRAEL	Treasurer
DAVID SNELSON	Secretary
WILLIAM HAMILTON	Member

District and NRCS Staff

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

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



SEEDLING SALE REMINDER

The District will be having its annual tree seedling sale the first week of March 2016. We will be sending out more information prior to the sale. In addition to white pine seedlings we will be selling Black Cherry, Black Walnut, Butternut, Persimmon, River Birch, Southern Crabapple, Crape Myrtle, and White Oak.

Hardwood seedlings will be sold for **1 dollar each** and White Pine will be sold for **25 cents each**. March is an ideal time to plant bare root seedlings, so plan ahead and come out to our seedling sale! Look for more information in our February 2016 newsletter and on the County website.

WEBPAGE

Ariel Dixon recently worked with the Buncombe County IT staff to update the Buncombe SWCD webpage. The webpage contains a lot of information about the District and the NRCS and the programs and services that we offer. We are listed under County Services at www.buncombecounty.org.



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL EACH QUARTER. WE WILL NOT GIVE OUT YOUR EMAIL OR SEND YOU SPAM. SEND AN EMAIL TO:

taira.lance@buncombecounty.org to be added to the email list.

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TRACTOR & BACKHOE WORK

Swannanoa, NC 28778
Home: 828-298-8429

email: vlmcintyre1@bellsouth.net
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