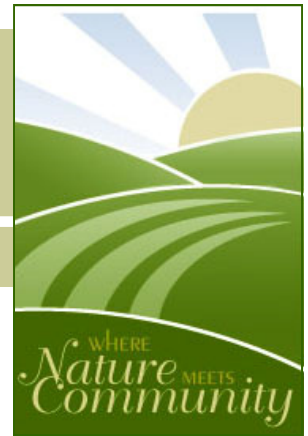


# Conservation Conversations

Published By

**Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
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May 2018



## **Buncombe County Friends of Agriculture** **Breakfast** **May 15 2018**

The Buncombe County Friends of Agriculture Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, May 15th at 7 am. We will welcome guest speaker Greg Carter of Deep Woods Mushrooms and he will share his knowledge about these fascinating organisms and what it takes to raise mushrooms.

Join us for a free local foods breakfast with fresh food from Buncombe County Farms! We encourage you to join the Ag community to learn about new opportunities in the local community and ways to diversify your enterprise.

This event is held at the Virginia Boone Building at the WNC Ag Center (gate 5). The breakfast is free and begins at 7am. All are welcome!



## **2018 Area 1 Envirothon**

The North Carolina Envirothon is an annual event in which teams compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The teams, each consisting of five students from participating schools, home study groups, and environmental clubs, exercise their training and problem solving skills in a competition centered on five testing categories; soils/land use; aquatic ecology; forestry; wildlife; and current environmental issues. High School and Middle School competitions are held in each of the eight areas of the N. C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The top seven teams from each area competition go on to the state Envirothon held at Cedar Rock Park near Burlington, North Carolina. 27 middle school and 31 high school teams from 16 counties in Western North Carolina competed in the Area I Envirothon held March 23, 2018 at the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville. Buncombe County SWCD sponsored 20 Teams that

### **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.

competed at the Area Envirothon. Buncombe County took 3 placings of the top 7 qualifying teams for State as follows:

**LIVID LIZARDS**

2ND Place Middle School  
Valley Springs Middle  
Natalie Henry-Howell  
Susan Blackmon



**THE G.O.A.T.S.**  
4TH Place Middle School  
Valley Springs Middle  
Natalie Henry-Howell  
Susan Blackmon



**MIZELL MINIONS**  
5TH Place High School  
Nesbitt Discovery Academy



**Special Thanks to Bojangles for supporting the Envirothon!**



**Cost Share Programs Sign-Up**

Sign-up for cost-sharing programs will be held July 1 thru July 31st, 2018.

The **Agricultural Cost Share Program** provides a 75% cost share on over 60 best management practices including those intended to reduce sediment and nutrient loss; animal waste management; agrichemical pollution prevention; stream protection; and erosion/nutrient reduction.

The **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program** provides a 75% (caps may apply) on best management practices on farms that increase the availability of water such as ponds; pond repairs; water collection systems; increasing the efficiency of irrigation; and water supply wells.

The **Community Conservation Assistance Program** provides a 75% cost share on best management practices that improve water quality in an urban setting. Practices



**North Carolina State Envirothon**

Three Buncombe Teams traveled to Burlington on April 27 –28 to compete in the State Envirothon. Great job Buncombe Teams!! Thanks to Leslie Gehris for driving the bus.

include seeding eroding areas; streambank stabilization; backyard wetlands and rain gardens; pet-waste receptacles; cisterns, and grassed swales.

If you want more information or wish to apply for funds, call the District office at **828-250-4785**. **Please call before the deadline.** It only takes a few minutes to complete the application form. Forms can be mailed to you and accepted for consideration if they are received back in our office by **July 31, 2018**.

### Spring Field Days!!

The Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors Environmental Education Field Days in the fall and spring. Students travel to nine stations on the day of the event where they learn about soils, reptile ecology, stream ecology, the water cycle, wildlife, pollinators, waste reduction, elk, and falconry from resource specialists. The students spend 20 minutes at the station listening and participating in hands-on learning activities. The Spring 2018 Field Days were held at The Big Ivy Community Center on Dillingham Road in Barnardsville. **900** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from North Windy Ridge and Eblen



Intermediate Schools attended April 10-12, 2018. Buncombe SWCD was very lucky to partner with The Big Ivy Community Center, the students were able to find lots of macro invertebrates indicating excellent stream health. Big Ivy is also ranked at 100, the only site in Buncombe to achieve this for stream quality through the stream monitoring of EQI. This makes the Big Ivy a perfect place for students to get in the creek. During lunch

students were able to visit the historical cabins and fire tower which made for a perfect day of learning.



Thanks to our presenters

Soils	Dalton Buchanan, NCDA Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Wildlife	Daniel Manget, Environmental Educator, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife	Taira Lance, Environmental Educator, Buncombe SWCD
Falconry	Jeff Curtis, Curtis Wright Outfitters
Aquatics	Emma Rast & Ingrid Felsl, Americorps Educator
Aquatics	Ariel Zijp & Jessica Hughes, Buncombe SWCD
Stream Ecology	Robert Brown, Environmental Educator, Riverlink
Water Cycle	Keisha Lipe, Storm Water Specialist, City of Asheville
Waste Reduction	John Connelly, Americorp/Asheville Greenworks Educator
Pollinators	Christine Brown, Environmental Educator, Asheville Greenworks
Elk	Erin Lamm, Park Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Reptile Ecology	Tori DuVall, WNC Nature Center

#### 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 ZIJP	Soil Conservationist/Farmland Pres.
JESSICA HUGHES	Administrative Assistant
JOHN OTTINGER, EMILY POLMAN, JOHN GEORGE	NRCS Soil Conservationists

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

## CAMP WILD

Middle School - July 23 - 27

High School - August 6 - 10



### Monday, -- Soil Science

8:00 – Buncombe SWCD- Orientation

9:00 – Biltmore Estate

9:30 -11:30 – West Side (Greenhouses, Hydroponics, Biodiesel)

11:30 - 1:00 – Lunch BRING YOUR OWN

1:00 – 3:00 – Forestry & Soils on the Estate/Explore

3:15 – 4:15 – Farm & Barnyard Activities

5:00 – Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

### Tuesday, –Aquatics \*\*change of clothes, shoes & towel

8:00 – Buncombe SWCD

9:00 – Sliding Rock

12:00 – Lunch: BRING YOUR OWN

1:00 – Pink Beds Picnic & Explore Wetlands (mountain bog)

1:30 – 3:45 – Aquatics & Fish Hatchery

5:00 – Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

### Wednesday, – Forestry

8:00 – Buncombe SWCD

9:30 – Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Ctr. (Purchase

Knob): Amphibian research & hike *\*Rangers advise wearing*

*long pants and closed-toe shoes (no sandals or flip flops)*

12:00 – Lunch at Purchase Knob – BRING YOUR OWN

1:30 – 4:00 – Juke Box Junction –Snorkeling & Recycling

Game & Ice Cream **Bring river clothes**

5:00 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

### Thursday, – Aquatics & Wildlife

8:00 – Buncombe SWCD

10:00 – Travel to Crossnore Forestry Training Center

12:00 - Lunch provided

1:30 – Rope Course

3:00 – Corn Hole, Horse Shoe, Tubing

6:00 – Dinner provided

8:00 - Campfire & Outdoor Movie

### Friday, - Water \* Extra socks & shoes recommended

8:00 – Breakfast

9:00 – Travel to Grandfather Mountain

10:00 – Explore & GPS Scavenger Hunt

12:00 Lunch provided-

3:00 – Travel Home

5:00 - Parents pick up at Buncombe SWCD

\*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 \$30 per student thanks to a generous grant from the Pigeon River Fund. Areas of study include soil science; forestry; environmental issues; solid waste; recycling; aquatics; wildlife; and water quality.

**Contact Taira Lance at 828-250-4787 or**  
**taira.lance@buncombecounty.org for information.**



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



### **MCINTYRE FARMS**

WOODMIZER SAWMILLING, NURSERY STOCK  
CUSTOM WOODWORKING  
TRACTOR & BACKHOE WORK

Swannanoa, NC 28778

email: vlmcintyre1@bellsouth.net