

Beaufort Conservation News

Annual Report

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024



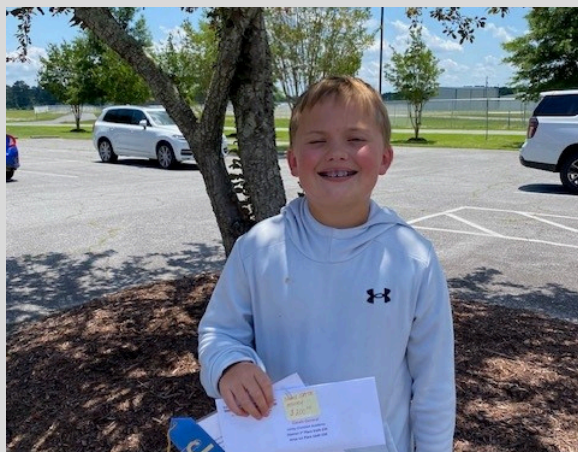
Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the state. Annual and long-range programs of conservation and development within the District's boundaries are developed and carried out with the assistance of local, state, and federal agencies.

Congratulations to Gavin Gerard 6th Grade State Essay contest winner!

2024



The Living Soil



The Living Soil



1ST PLACE DISTRICT, AREA 5, AND STATE

6TH GRADE

UNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TEACHER: LAUREN GUY

SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE



2023 NCASWCD AREA 5 FALL MEETING

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 9, 2023 at Camp Cale in Hertford, NC.

Chairman Steve Harris (Pasquotank SWCD) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. Roll Call was taken by Vice-Chairman David Collier (Pitt SWCD), and the Treasurer's Report was given by Maurice Berry, Jr. (Pasquotank SWCD).

After a Business Session, Partnership Reports were given.

Guest speakers were Chad Poole, Biological and Agricultural Engineer from NC State, Keith Larick, Natural Resources Director of NC Farm Bureau, David Williams, Director of Division of Soil and Water Conservation, and Lee Cannady, East CREP Specialist.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black, Office Manager, Ann Williams, and Education Coordinator, Debbie Boyd. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Kyle Gentry, NRCS, Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING



The 80th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, NC on January 7-9, 2024. This year's theme was From the Mountains to the Sea... "Preserving our Natural Resources."

George Teague, President, presided over the General Session. Breakout sessions, committee meetings, and other informational sessions took place during the meeting.

Beaufort County Supervisor, Tracy Warren, was reappointed Assistant Chaplain for the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts during the meeting.

Attending from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Kyle Gentry, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.



2024 NCASWCD AREA 5 SPRING MEETING

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 29, 2024 at Camp Cale, in Hertford, NC and was hosted by the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

After a Business Session, Partnership Reports were given.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Sid Cayton. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS



AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

The District has participated in the ACSP since 1987. It has been, and continues to be, a superb means of helping farmers and owners of agricultural land apply conservation measures to assist in protecting our waterways and the environment.

For Program Year 2024, the District was allocated a total of \$128,785 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Cover Crop applications were taken until the September 18, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting where six Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved. A supplemental contract for Lagoon Biosolids Removal was approved at the October 16, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Applications for all other practices were accepted until the January 22, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting. During the meeting, eight applications were approved for practices including Residue and Tillage Management, Land Smoothing, Precision Agrichemical Application, and Filter Strip. Five Residue and Tillage Management contracts were approved at the February 20, 2024 District Board of Supervisors meeting, an application for Land Smoothing accompanied with Residue and Tillage Management was also approved. An application and contract for Precision Agrichemical Application was approved at the March 18, 2024 District Board of Supervisors meeting. During the April 15, 2024, District Board of Supervisors meeting, contracts for Precision Agrichemical Application and Land Smoothing accompanied by Residue & Tillage Management were approved, two Cover Crop applications were approved as well. Two contracts for Cover Crop were approved at the May 20, 2024 District Board of Supervisors meeting. A Cover Crop application/contract was approved at the June 17, 2024 District Board of Supervisors meeting.



AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AgWRAP)

Mandated in 2011, AgWRAP was established to assist farmers and landowners in increasing water use efficiency and availability on agricultural land and to conserve and protect water resources using best management practices.

For Program Year 2024, the district was allocated \$14,974 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. At the January 22, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting, two applications for Water Supply Wells were approved. One contract was approved at the March 18, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting, and the other one was approved at the June 17, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

The purpose of the Community Conservation Assistance Program is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical, and financial assistance.

For Program Year 2024, the District received two applications for Marsh Sill to submit in the regional application process. One application was approved for \$27,000.

ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS



BEAUFORT COUNTY BEAVER BOUNTY PROGRAM

Established in 2004, the county's Beaver Bounty program reimburses registered landowners \$10 per beaver tail for beavers trapped on their property. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the District had a budget of \$200. Twenty tails were received and \$200 paid out to two landowners. Since the program's establishment, 79 landowners and 26 trappers have registered for participation in the program. A total of \$6,450 has been paid to landowners for 645 beaver tails.

2020 WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Phase III of the 2020 Watershed Restoration Project began in October of 2022. Phase III was completed in June of 2023. A total of 81,500 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase III. Phase IV of the 2020 Watershed Restoration Project began in December of 2023. Phase IV was completed in November of 2023. A total of 54,800 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase IV.

STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (StRAP)

Phase I of the StRAP program began in December of 2022. Phase I was completed in February of 2023. A total of 22,329 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase I of the StRAP program. Phase II of the StRAP program began in October of 2023. Phase II was completed in November of 2023. A total of 17,800 linear feet of streams and creeks were cleared in Beaufort County during Phase II. Phase III will begin in October of 2024.

ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

2023 BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL DAN WINDLEY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD DAYS AT GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK

Over 500 fifth grade students, teachers, and chaperones, from Beaufort County attended the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 15th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days. The educational event was held at Goose Creek State Park November 6-8, 2023.

On each school's assigned day, attendees were divided into groups to rotate at fifteen-minute intervals throughout six stations. Stations included Aquatics, Soils, Wetlands, Forestry, Conservation, and Soil Bracelets and were instructed by representatives from various agencies who specialize in the topics covered. Presenters were from Goose Creek State Park, NC Estuarium, Beaufort County Cooperative Extension, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, other Area 5 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, as well as retired volunteers who specialize in their fields. The District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.

Environmental Field Days was started 36 years ago by Mr. Dan Windley from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Windley passed away in September 2006. To honor his family for their continued dedication to this yearly event, the name of the event was changed to the Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days in 2008.



The Windley-May family



November 2023

ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

2024 ENVIROTHON EVENTS

Training Day

The 2024 Area 5 Envirothon Training Day was held at Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County on March 7, 2024.

Area teams rotated through Wildlife, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatics/Ecology, and Current Environmental Issues stations as a preparation for the upcoming Coastal Envirothon.



Coastal Envirothon

Fifteen Beaufort County teams participated with more than 400 middle school and high school students vying for trophies and prizes at the NC Coastal Envirothon competition at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center. Eight of those teams qualified to advance to the State Envirothon competition on April 26-27, 2024 at Cedarock Park in Burlington, NC.

Qualifying to attend the State Envirothon were student members from the Sparkplugs, Yung Roots, and Nerd Herd teams from Northside High School, Fearsome Fivesome team from Beaufort Early College High School, FFA Tulip Tippers team from Terra Ceia Christian, and the Trash Pandas, Backwood Mallards, and Golden Girls teams from Northeast Elementary.



ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces District, Area, and State Contest Winners

“The Living Soil” was the theme for the 2024 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in 3rd-5th grades in the county. The essay contest was for 6th graders only. There were 40 total entries this year. Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were Pungo Christian Academy and Unity Christian Academy.

The competition starts at the county level. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes. Teachers who have first place student winners also receive cash prizes. First place winners in the Beaufort County competition advance to Area 5, where they compete with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts in sixteen eastern NC counties. Area 5 first place winners advance to the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation State competition in Raleigh, where they compete with other first place Area entries submitted from across the state of North Carolina.

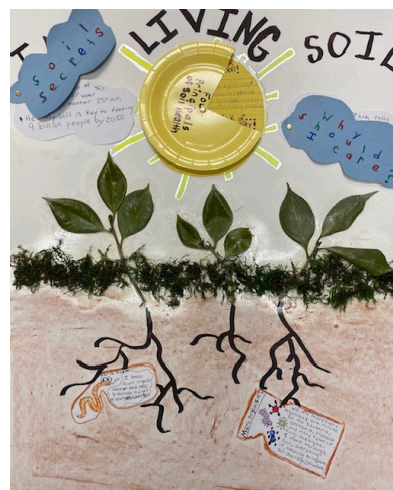
Charlie Ann Parkinson, a 4th grade student at Pungo Christian Academy, and Branson Vinson, a 5th grade student at Unity Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the District and Area 5 poster competition and qualified for the State poster competition. Gavin Gerard, a student at Unity Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the District and Area 5 essay competition, and also qualified for the State essay competition for his essay. Gavin won first place and a \$200 check in the state competition.



CHARLIE ANN PARKINSON
1ST PLACE DISTRICT AND AREA 5
4TH GRADE
PUNGO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
TEACHER: SUSAN KNOX



BRANSON VINSON
1ST PLACE DISTRICT AND AREA 5
5TH GRADE
UNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
TEACHER: LAUREN GUY



The Living Soil

ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

Resource Conservation Workshop

High School students participated in the annual Resource Conservation Workshop June 16-21, 2024, in Wake County. The event was held on the campus of North Carolina State University.

Soil and Water Conservation District Boards across the state chose students to participate in the Resource Conservation Workshop. The workshop is based on demonstrated conservation interests. Four days of resource topics are taught by an innumerable number of resource professionals and NC State University staff. Students also receive information and insight into careers in natural resource management throughout the week. The fifth day culminates the classroom and field sessions where a written exam is conducted.

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District was represented by Joanna Sauls, daughter of Teri and Jamin Sauls, and a sophomore at Beaufort County Early College.



Joanna Sauls
Beaufort County
Early College

The Resource Conservation Workshop is made possible by various organizations, including North Carolina State University, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Soil and Water District Staff and Supervisors across the state of North Carolina, the North Carolina District Employees Association, and the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Stewardship Week

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) celebrated the 69th year of Stewardship Week April 28–May 5, 2024. The 2024 Stewardship Week was themed “May the Forest Be With You Always.”

During the year, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stewardship through our various education programs. Placemats were distributed during Stewardship Week.

The 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.



Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 5:30 p.m. in the office of the:

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



James Allen
(Board Chairman)



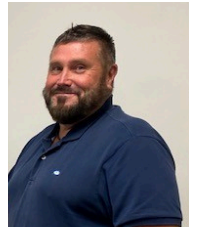
Tracy Warren
(Board Vice Chairman)



Sid Cayton
(Board Supervisor)



Archie Griffin
(Board Secretary)



Wayne Black
(Board Supervisor)



District Staff

Ann Williams
Resource Conservation Office Manager

Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Conservation Technician

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

Kyle Gentry
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservationist

Soil and Water...Yours for Life

Please support our sponsors who make this newsletter possible!

The logo for Nutrien, featuring a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the word "Nutrien" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District. It features the words "BEAUFORT" and "SOIL & WATER" in a bold, sans-serif font. "BEAUFORT" is black, and "SOIL & WATER" is green. Below the text are three blue wavy lines representing water. At the bottom, the words "CONSERVATION DISTRICT" are written in white, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.