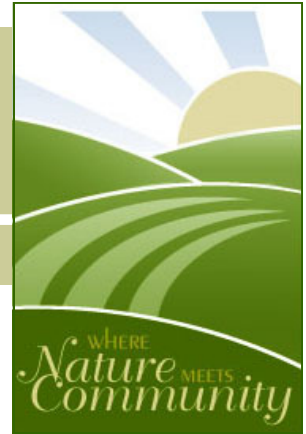


Conservation Conversations

Published By

Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District
Suite 204, 155 Hilliard Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 250-4785 - www.buncombecounty.org



February 2015

Buncombe County



Friends of Ag Breakfast Tuesday, February 17th, 2015

At 7:00 a.m.

WNC Ag Center, Virginia Boone Building
1301 Fanning Bridge Road

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

Guest Speaker: Ila Hatter, Teacher & Lecturer on Wildcrafting

Topic: "The woods and fields are a table always spread" for picnics and profit

**RSVP: MARIA.WISE@BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG
OR CALL (828)250-4794
MEGHAN_BAKER@NCSU.EDU OR CALL (828)250-4883**

TREE SEEDLING SALE MARCH 6 & 7

The Buncombe SWCD will hold its annual tree seedling sale in March, 2015 at Jesse Israel and Sons Nursery at the WNC Farmer's Market. The sale will begin on Friday and run through Saturday or until we are out of seedlings.



Date & Times:

March 6 10:00 am – 5:00pm
March 7 9:00am – 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 25 cents each and the hardwood species are \$1.00 each.

The following species are available:

EASTERN WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*) – a large tree, commonly 100 feet or more in height and 2 to 4 feet in diameter and well suited to Buncombe County. White pine is not suitable for street or roadside planting although it makes an excellent ornamental for parks and lawns. Other uses include planting for Christmas trees, planting along property lines and other open areas for windbreaks, and as a noise barrier.

BLACK CHERRY or **WILD CHERRY** (*Prunus serotina*)
- Medium sized tree 50'-80' tall; rapid growth rate;

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.

prefers full sun and grows in many soil types. Produces white flowers in early spring and reddish black berries in summer that attract birds. It is used in furniture and in flooring.

BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans nigra*) - a valuable forest tree that grows among other species on bottomlands and moist fertile hillsides throughout North Carolina and across most of the eastern United States. Its more important uses include fine furniture, cabinetwork and gunstocks. Its nuts are also prized for distinctive flavor and nutshells are used as an abrasive in certain manufacturing processes. The nuts also are a favorite food of squirrels.



BUTTERNUT (*Juglans cinerea*) - Medium tree with growth; typically found on wetland sites; wood used for furniture and flooring

CRABAPPLE (*Malus* spp.) - a small tree 20 - 40 feet tall. This tree has aromatic white flowers in spring and will multiply from its roots. It produces a very popular food for wildlife and will grow on a wide variety of soil types and sites.

CRAPEMYRTLE (*Lagerstroemia indica*) - a flowering tree with multiple large branches, showy flower panicles, deciduous tree that is variable in size, averaging about 20 to 25 feet.

DOGWOOD, FLOWERING (*Cornus florida*) - The Dogwood is a small tree 30 - 40 feet tall, slow to moderate grower, berries may be eaten by many animal species but are poisonous to humans.

PERSIMMON (*Diospyros virginiana*) - grows throughout North Carolina. Persimmon is a slow growing tree of moderate size (25 to 50 feet tall with a diameter of about one-foot). It is sometimes planted for its edible fruit and is valued as an ornamental.

RIVER BIRCH (*Betula nigra*) - River birch can grow 50 to 90 feet tall but is often seen 40 to 50 feet. It normally grows with a central leader and small-diameter, dark-colored lateral branches. It lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches.

WHITE OAK (*Quercus alba*) - a large, long-lived tree species that occurs naturally over most of the eastern United States. Its acorns are a valuable, but inconsistent, source of food for birds and mammals; more than 180 species use these acorns for food.

All seedlings are bare root and range in height from 10 inches to 36 inches. March is the ideal time of year to plant bare root seedlings. Species such as

crabapple, persimmon, butternut and white oak bear fruit/nuts for wildlife.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Do you have any interest in conserving your natural resources and improving the land management of your farm? If you are interested in these topics please contact District Conservationist Kara Cassels about working on an NRCS conservation project for your farm. This is a free service offered to Buncombe County landowners, to provide guidance on how to best protect your natural resources.

Within 2014, we funded approximately \$122,000 and have already completed \$11,922 of those contract totals, on properties spanning across approximately 400 acres in Buncombe County. We currently are working with these 10 contracts in Buncombe County on projects that range from Seasonal High Tunnels to Agrichemical mixing facilities. The seasonal high tunnels are to cover crops in order to extend the growing season in an environmentally friendly way. The agrichemical mixing facility will be used as a facility to provide an environmentally safe place to mix, store, and load and clean up agrichemicals in order to reduce spillage and pollution of natural resources. The waste storage facility is an impoundment of either an embankment or a pit to collect agricultural wastes as a part of the farm's waste management system. We are also working on a variety of forestry operations including brush management, forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat management, restoration and management of rare and declining habitats and Early Successional Habitat Development. Through these projects, we hope to improve our local Buncombe county resources and protect them for the future generations.

If you are interested in applying or requesting information to get started with conservation planning, please contact Kara Cassels, District Conservationist at 828-250-4785 or at kara.cassels@nc.usda.gov



WNC Stream Initiative Project completed fall 2014 in Leicester, NC

2014 SWCD Board of Supervisors Election/ReAppointment

Elise Israel is a resident of the Candler area, and worked for the Buncombe County SWCD for nearly 10 years prior to becoming a member of the Board of Supervisors in 2002. She works as a realtor and school teacher and has served 4-year terms as a member of the board. She also serves as Treasurer of the Area I Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. She owns a small farm and works with horses. Elise was elected on November 4, 2014 for a 4 year term.



William Hamilton has worked with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy over the last 9 years to help landowners voluntarily protect over 3,000 acres from sub-division and development. William was elected on November 4, 2014 for a 4 year term.

Jim Coman has served for 20 years as a Board Member. Jim is a retired Planner from Buncombe County. He and his wife live in Leicester Jim serves as Chairman and was reappointed on December 1, 2014 for a 4 year term.



Thank You Chase

At their December 2014 meeting, the SWCD Board and staff presented an appreciation plaque to Chase Hubbard for his service to the Board from 2010 to 2014. Chase is



the Farm Manager at Warren Wilson College and his knowledge, farm experience, and community involvement have been a tremendous asset to our Board. We are very appreciative of his contributions to the SWCD programs. He and the farm staff at WWC are especially helpful in providing a site for our Environmental Education Field days and student help as well.

ASAP's 12th Annual Business of Farming Conference

ASAP's Business of Farming Conference is a day of learning and networking for farmers and those seriously considering farming as a profession. Each year our conference offers business and marketing themed workshops, networking opportunities, and resources to help farmers grow their businesses. The conference also features meetings with wholesale buyers, professional consulting opportunities, business and agricultural exhibits, and a locally sourced breakfast and lunch. ASAP's 2015 Business of Farming Conference will be held on Saturday, February 14 and will feature a new location at the UNC Asheville Sherrill Center located in downtown Asheville, North Carolina. There are 17 workshops to choose from for both beginning and experienced farmers, and NEW this year Friday afternoon intensives hosted by regional farmers and agricultural professionals.

The main conference will be held on Saturday, February 14, 8-5:30 pm. Friday afternoon intensives will be held on February 13 between 1-5 pm in multiple off-site locations. The conference sells out every year so register today to secure your spot! <http://asapconnections.org/events/business-of-farming-conference/>

District Board Members

JIM COMAN
WILLIAM HAMILTON
JEFF FOSTER
ELISE ISRAEL
DAVID SNELSON

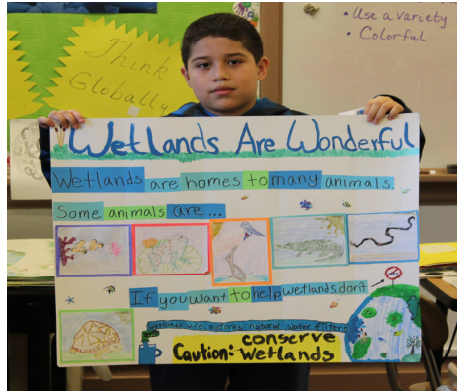
District and NRCS Staff

GARY HIGGINS	District Director
TAIRA LANCE	Administrative Assistant/ Education Coordinator
ANTHONY DOWDLE	NCACSP Soil Conservationist
MARIA WISE	Soil Conservationist/Farmland Pres.
KARA CASSELS	NRCS District Conservationist

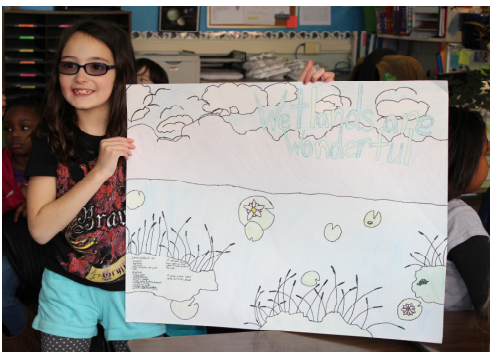
Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District
 155 Hilliard Avenue, Suite 204
 Asheville, NC 28801

2014 SWCD Poster Contest

BC SWCD Annual Poster Contest wrapped up on December 11th. This years theme focused on “Wetlands Are Wonderful.” The Poster Contest is open to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in Buncombe County. Thanks to our judges Tiffany Smith, Jeff Foster and Gary Higgins. The first place student in each category will have his/her poster sent to the Area 1 judging in February. We would like to thank all those students and teachers that participated in the contest. Congratulations to the following 1st place winners:



**4th Grade
 1st Place
 Jaime Gonzalez
 Rauda
 Leicester
 Elementary**



**3rd Grade
 1st Place
 Talia
 Weizman,
 Issac Dickson
 Elementary**



**5th Grade
 1st Place
 Natalie Ford
 Pisgah Elementary**

MCINTYRE FARMS

WOODMIZER SAWMILLING, NURSERY STOCK
 CUSTOM WOODWORKING
 TRACTOR & BACKHOE WORK

Swannanoa, NC 28778
 Home: 828-298-8429

email: vlmcintyre1@bellsouth.net
 Cell: 828-280-6587



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



Jesse Israel & Sons Nursery & Garden Center, Inc.

Flowering Trees & Shrubs
 Landscaping Supplies
 Member N.C. Assoc. of Nurserymen
 WNC FARMERS MARKET



Jackson & Perkins Roses
 Bedding Plants
 Rhododendron
 (828) 254-2671