

WAKE
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
919-250-1050

Visit us at:
wakegov.com/swcd

What We Do:

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) assists landowners and land users in managing soil, water, plants, and animals effectively. In addition to dedicated technical assistance, financial assistance is provided through state and federal programs to support the implementation of best management practices for the land of Wake County and all that it supports.

Who We Are:

Board of Supervisors

Thomas Dean, Chair
Bill Cole, Vice Chair
Patrick Johnson
Matt Overby
Jenna Wadsworth

District Staff

Natural Resource Conservationists

Teresa Furr
Teresa Hice
Joshua Vetter

Environmental Educator

Sheila Jones

District Director

Dale Threatt-Taylor

USDA NRCS Staff

District Conservationist
Matthew Kinane

Soil Conservationist

Themis Stone *

*On detail in Alamance County

Concerning Conservation

Special Issue

December 2014

LOCAL FAMILY HONORED FOR CONSERVATION

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District congratulates its 2014 Conservation Farm Family of the Year:

The Dan Moore Family.

The Moores have been part of North Carolina's farming community since 1793. Their family continuously farmed the original Mt. Tirzah homestead in Person County. After serving in the Army during World War II, Dan's father purchased a cattle farm located just outside of Garner on the edge of Swift Creek. Upon his father's death in 2003, Dan took over farm operations on behalf of his mother, maintaining the traditional open grazing practices of his father. In 2009 Dan purchased the farm from his mother and has been slowly changing the management practices ever since.

The Moore family has successfully implemented a Grazing Management Plan. The multiple benefits of this type of grazing include trampling weeds and increasing the residue on the surface. This increases the soil's organic matter. The family has also renovated an old well and



installed solar panels to power the well pump. For nutrient recycling, produce is collected from the farmers market and fed to the animals on areas where the soil is lacking in nutrients. During the winter, any hay fed to the cattle is rolled out on the surface in areas of weak vegetation to increase the organic matter and to introduce new grass seed.

Dan Moore is a recognized leader in his community and the Triangle area. His company, R.W. Moore Equipment Company, was awarded the Triangle Business Journal's Fast 50 in 2006 and 2007. Dan received the Triangle Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Leadership Award for being a

top community and business leader before he turned 40 years old. His company won the first ever Wachovia/Wells Fargo "Integrity in Business Award" in 2010 presented by the Garner Chamber of Commerce. Dan serves on the North State Bank Advisory Board for Garner, is a member of the NC Agritourism Association and the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association.

From 2001 to 2013, Dan served as President for the John Deere Construction and Forestry Dealers Association. Dan now serves as Vice President of the Wake County Agribusiness Council.

Congratulations to the Dan Moore family!

Apply Today for NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Funds

The NC Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is available to assist farmers who are interested in implementing practices which improve soil and water conservation. Best Management Practices (BMPs) can improve the efficiency and sustainability of your farming operation by reducing soil erosion, optimizing nutrient usage, and maintaining the water quality on your land and surrounding land.

Conservationists at Wake Soil and Water Conservation District can offer guidance on the implementation of BMPs and help you apply for the Ag Cost Share Program, which can reimburse up to 75% of the costs of approved BMPs for your agricultural operation.

Contact Wake Soil and Water Conservation District if:

1. Land has been farmed or in forestry for at least 3 years,

and

2. There is a suspected soil, natural resources, or any other water quality issue.

Our main office number is 919-250-1050.

Visit the following website for a list of BMPs which are approved for cost share: <http://ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/index.html>

MEET OUR 2014 CONSERVATION WINNERS!

Each year the Wake District Board of Supervisors applauds the hard work and dedication of Wake County's "outstanding conservationists." These are everyday people who go the extraordinary mile in installing conservation practices on their farm, strengthening the economics for local foods and sustainable agriculture, enacting environmental stewardship for the present and future, supporting Wake District in accomplishing its conservation

mission, delivering the conservation message to a broader audience, or educating the next generation to care for the natural resources that sustain us. These local conservation heroes received engraved plaques and recognition at the Annual Conservation Awards Celebration hosted by the Friends of Wake SWCD. Award winners and their guests were treated to a delicious dinner served by The Forks Cafeteria of Wake Forest. The entire evening

was made possible by generous sponsors: Dr. B.C. Raynor Family Dentistry, Eastside Septic Cleaning Service, Pinter Construction & Development, Inc., NC Farm Bureau, Trent Lovick & Central Carolina Construction, Frank Lovick, North State Bank, River Guardian Foundation, Homestead Building Co., and Novozymes Nature's GREEN-RELEAF Composting. All event photos by Tamaro Johnson of Artige Photography www.artigephotography.com

The 2014 Agriculture Economic Development Award was presented to **The Produce Box** and its Founder Courtney Tellefsen for outstanding commitment and contributions in sustaining agricultural development and local foods for Wake County citizens. Courtney Tellefsen started The Produce Box with one farmer in a 10x15 office in a 75-year-old warehouse back in 2007. Today her company supports 50 North Carolina farmers and operates in more than 20 cities. The business has over 250 employees and a customer base of 8,000 families.



For modeling tremendous volunteer spirit with gung-ho initiative and dedication to Wake County Big Sweep, the Wake SWCD presented the 2014 Big Sweep Excellence Award to **Parnell Bell**. He is the founder of the nonprofit organization Blue Phoenix Group of North Carolina and has led 10 seasonal cleanups thus far. Parnell and his 157 volunteers have removed 5,060 pounds of litter from Marsh Creek. Parnell goes the extra mile to make his volunteers feel special and truly appreciated. At every cleanup he offers snacks and drinks that he provides out of his own pocket. He also provides take-home give-aways for everyone, and official Big Sweep certificates for children to document their volunteer hours to the community.



This year the Dan Wilkinson WRAL Conservation Communication Award honors the **North Carolina Forest Service** for their leadership in delivering the art of forest communication. This prestigious award is presented to an individual or organization that makes outstanding effort to deliver the natural resource stewardship message to the community. The North Carolina Forest Service, within the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, works hard to write informative publications and conduct effective outreach to a wide range of audiences. In particular, Wake District finds the publications of the Forest Stewardship and Forestry Nonpoint Source Branches very useful in staying informed on forest stewardship strategies, water-resource projects across the state, and in helping landowners protect water quality.



Special Issue

The North Carolina Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee



and the **NC Forestry Association** were recognized for their dedication and support to the Wake District and received the 2014 BC Raynor Friend of the District Award. The Implementation Committee and the Forestry Association provide funds that support our work to preserve family farms and forest land in Wake County. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is an independent, nonprofit organization that is responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry

Initiative® (or SFI®) program. The NC Forestry Association is a private, non-profit partnership of over 4,000 forest managers, landowners, mill operators, loggers, furniture manufacturers, and educators concerned about the long-term health and productivity of the state's forest resources and the industries they support. For many years they have co-sponsored the annual Keeping the Farm Workshop, a very important event that educates Wake County's farm, forest, and agribusiness community on important estate issues.

The 2014 Conservation Partner of the Year Award goes to **Theodore Feitshans**, an

Extension Professor at NC State University. Every year Ted participates in the annual Keeping the Farm Workshop and provides Wake County landowners with up-to-date information on new financial and legislative changes. Every session that Ted has led at the annual workshop is so well attended that the team has to ask some of the workshop attendees to move closer and squeeze together to make room. As a Professor at NC State, Ted has developed a dynamic and vital Extension education program in environmental and agricultural law. His work covers liability avoidance and risk management, estate planning and business succession, oil and gas law, environmental compliance, and land use. Applied research interests include pesticide drift regulation, property interests in oil and gas rights, farmland preservation, and water quality.



Randy and Iris Senzig with The Center for Human-Earth Restoration (CHER) were honored with the 2014 Community Conservation Award for their nonprofit's outstanding work with urban and underserved children in teaching them about the great outdoors. CHER leads children in outdoor science experiments, plant surveys, individual reflective journaling, and lively group discussions. CHER offers a myriad of innovative programs such as summer camps, school

programs, after-school enrichment classes, adult workshops, classes for elders, North Carolina Celebrates Aldo Leopold Festival, and a nature poetry contest. This year the organization is working with Fuquay-Varina Middle School's entire 8th grade—a total of 270 students and is hoping to expand its program to other schools so many more tweens & teens can benefit from this environmental education experience.

Protect Nutrient Sensitive Waters by Enrolling in the NC Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Did you know that...

You can protect nutrient sensitive waters by participating in the North Carolina Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)?

The CREP program helps to reduce sediment, nutrient loading and pesticide runoff, and also provides habitat for small wildlife and enhances the aquatic habitat.

CREP provides incentives such as federal annual payment from \$40-\$150/acre per year for 1-15 years (depending on soil rental rates), state one-time bonus payment from \$75-\$675/ acre (for 30-years and permanent agreements only), additional cost-share money for practice installation, and state and federal tax credits and deductions.

To qualify, the cropland or the marginal pasture must be located next to ditches, streams, rivers or wetlands within the Chowan, Tar-Pamlico, and Neuse River Basins and the Jordan Lake Watershed.

For additional information contact the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District or go to <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/files/crepmain.htm>

Did you know that...

**2015 is the
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF SOILS!**

Wake County's
Voluntary Agricultural
Districts Program
VAD

Sign up today to help preserve the agricultural heritage of your land. By participating in the Wake County Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program, you can join over 40 agricultural, forestry, and horticultural landowners with over 5,600 combined acres enrolled. Members identify primary farm communities and increase community pride by joining forces as agricultural districts. Unlike conservation easements which are permanent, the VAD program is voluntary and non-binding and is administered by Wake Soil and Water Conservation District.

In addition to an attractive sign identifying your land as a VAD, notification of the presence of VAD will be filed with the register of deeds and other county offices. This notification helps to inform any purchasers of real estate property to expect certain agricultural activities, in order to prevent conflicts between VADs and non-farm landowners nearby. Landowners belonging to VADs also will not be assessed for water or sewer systems operated by participating units of government.

Although a VAD must consist of 100 acres or more, two or more qualifying farms within one mile of each other may join together to form a VAD. Forestry and agricultural landowners are encouraged to apply to join nearby existing VADs, in order to increase the sense of community in agriculture.

For more information, or to receive a VAD application, please call Dale Threatt-Taylor at 919-250-1068.

2015 CONSERVATION CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year! 2015 is the International Year of Soils!**
- 13 Wake SWCD Board Meeting**
Farmers and landowners are welcome to attend! Please call 919-250-1050 for time and location.
- 16 Deadline for 1st batching period for EQIP cost share.**
Contact District Office ASAP for more information 919-250-1050
- 28 Keeping The Farm Workshop FREE!** The 10th annual workshop designed to help Wake County landowners with estate planning, leases and liabilities, food safety rules, and more. Free lunch if registered by January 23. Call 919-250-1050 or email keepfarm2015@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY

- 4 WCAC Breakfast Kick-Off to Southern Farm Show**
Farmers and landowners are invited to attend the Wake County Agribusiness Council Annual Breakfast at 7:00 AM in the Hunt Horse Complex, NC State Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the door or by calling Wake District at 919-250-1050.
- 10 Wake SWCD Board Meeting**
Farmers and landowners are welcome to attend!
Please call 919-250-1050 for time and location.

MARCH

- 10 Wake SWCD Board Meeting**
Call 919-250-1050 for time and location.
- 20 Area IV Envirothon**
Wake County Envirothon teams compete against teams from 10 other counties. Go Wake teams, go!

APRIL

- 14 Wake SWCD Board Meeting**
Call 919-250-1050 for time and location.
- 22 Earth Day**
Farmers work every day of the year to protect rich soil, clean water, fresh air, healthy forests and wildlife.
- 26-May 3 Stewardship Week**
A national observance to celebrate what we can do to conserve precious natural resources. The 2015 theme is "Local Heroes / Your Hardworking Pollinators."

JULY

- 1 50th Anniversary of Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (July 1, 1965)**
We'll be celebrating this fall and you are invited! Details forthcoming...

26-29 70th International Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference

A Reminder about EQIP!

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

is a voluntary program that helps producers install measures to protect the soil, water, air, and other natural resources while ensuring sustainable production on their farms, ranches and

working forest lands. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers EQIP funding and provides participants with professional conservation expertise.

The application deadline for FY 2015 funding consideration is January 16, March 20, and May 15, 2015.

EQIP has a continuous sign-up period. Applications will be accepted at any time of the year. Applications received up to a certain date are evaluated and ranked for funding assistance. Eligible applications received by that date will be evaluated and considered for funding.

Have you been thinking about Forestry and Wildlife Management Plans for your farm?

NRCS offers financial assistance for Conservation Activity Plans

A Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) can be developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. Typically, these plans are specific to certain kinds of land use such as transitional to organic operations, and grazing forest land. CAP can also address a specific resource need such as management of nutrients or address an integrated pest management concern like herbicide resistant weeds. With a CAP plan, producers can then apply for financial assistance to implement the needed conservation practices.

In Wake County, contact District Conservationist Matthew Kinane at 919-250-1055 for additional information.