

Summer 2017  
WILSON COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Newsletter



# Summer 4-H Programs



Each year, the district assists with 4-H programs such as Project Catch. This year in June, kids ages 5 to 15 met at Batts Farm for a day of education and fishing. The day began with instructions on how to use the fishing rods and reels along with a couple of hours of fishing. It ended with a short program presented by the wildlife officers from the NC Wildlife Commission.



# 2017 Area IV Envirothon

*Offering young minds a challenge!*

The Area IV Envirothon serves as the qualifying event for the NC Envirothon state-level competition. Teams from the Area IV Region compete against each other in order to advance on to the state-level event.

This year the Area IV Envirothon was held Thursday March 23rd in Johnston County at the Johnston County Ag Center. Thirty-four middle school teams and twenty-four high school teams competed representing Wilson, Johnston, Nash, Halifax, Wake, Durham, and Granville Counties.

Advisors were Maria Wise, Kathryn Thomas, Sharma Speight, Leigh Anne Howard, Lisa Johnson, Rebecca Barry, Cheryl Johnson, and Elizabeth Logan. Bridgestone Americas of Wilson is a continued Platinum Sponsor of the Regional Area IV Envirothon and this year, for the first time, we welcomed Smithfield Foods as a Platinum Sponsor.



## What is the Envirothon?

The Envirothon program is a hands-on environmental and natural resource competition for middle and high school students. The program will test student teams on their knowledge and awareness of environmental issues. The Envirothon curriculum provides hands-on training in ecology and natural resource management while emphasizing teamwork. Areas of study incorporate 5 major subjects: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils/Land Use and Current Environmental Issues.

The Envirothon program helps develop environmentally aware youth, able to assume future leadership roles. Many students go on to pursue careers in environmental law, natural resource management, etc. or go on to be doctors, lawyers and more with a background and understanding about nature and the environment.



Ricky Hayes and Josh Pate of the Wilson District provided hands-on training for all the teams from September until the event in March. The participation of Wilson County is among the best in the State and our teams have dominated the Area IV events for several years.

Five Wilson middle school teams and one Wilson high school team earned the right to compete at the State level. The Middle School teams were "Thermal Shock" and "E.T." from Homeschool, "Maniacs Mayflies" from Wilson Preparatory Academy, "BAND" from Speight Middle School, "Fierce Rubber Duckies" from Springfield Middle School, and the high school team was, "Those Homeschoolers". All moved on to compete in the State event at Cedarock State Park in Burlington, NC April 28-29, 2017.

Nine other teams competed in the area event representing Wilson Preparatory Academy, Darden Middle School, Elm City Middle School, The Homeschool, Speight Middle School, and Toisnot Middle School.

# 2017 Area IV Envirothon

*Offering young minds a challenge!*

Wilson County Teams moving onto the State Envirothon





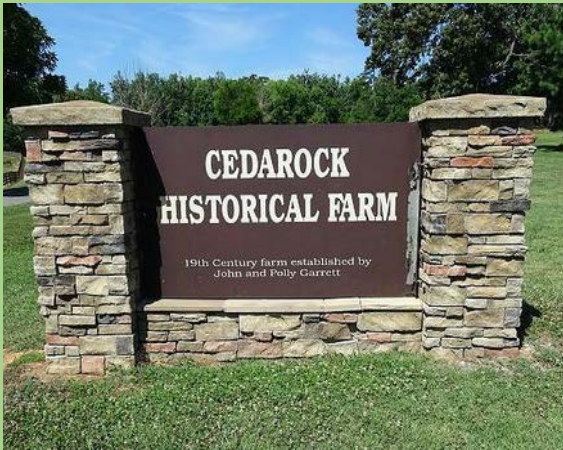
# 2017 North Carolina State Envirothon

Hundreds of North Carolina's brightest middle and high school students competed at the 2017 North Carolina Envirothon at Cedarock Park near Burlington, April 28-29, 2017. The two-day event is designed to test the knowledge and skills of students that have a strong interest in natural resources conservation.

The North Carolina State Envirothon is a hands-on, natural science academic event that challenges and engages students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. High school and middle school teams demonstrate their management knowledge and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on five categories: soils/land use, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current environmental issues.

There were fifty-one high school teams and forty-eight middle school teams in the competition. Representing Wilson were five middle school teams and one high school team and two of those teams placed in top ten. The High School Team "Those Homeschoolers" placed third with team members Eric Barry, Emily Raynor, Emma Skinner, Kimberly Johnson, and Ethan Barry. The Middle School Team "Thermal Shock" placed ninth with team members William Drake, Landon Beamon, Alexander Judd, Michael Harris, and Turner Adams. The advisers for the top ten teams were Rebecca Barry and Lisa Johnson. The remaining Wilson middle school teams participating were "BAND" from Speight, "Fierce Rubber Duckies" from Springfield, "E.T." from Home School and "Maniac Mayflies" from Wilson Preparatory Academy.

The North Carolina Envirothon is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts from across the State. The mission is to provide and promote leadership in the knowledge of natural resources by offering a quality education program in soils/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, and wildlife/habitat for teachers, students and citizens of North Carolina.



# 2017 North Carolina State Envirothon



# Envirothon Teams Proclamation



**Wilson County Commissioners were pleased to recognize, as part of a proclamation, the High School team “Those Homeschoolers”, Middle School Team “Thermal Shock”, their advisors, and the staff from the Soil & Water Conservation District for their participation in the 2017 North Carolina State Envirothon Competition and placing in the top ten. We are proud of all of our students that participated in our environmental education programs and contests.**



# Wilson Soil AND Water Conservation District 2016 Contest

*"Soil and Water... Yours for Life"*

Wilson County students began working on their posters, essays, slide presentations and public speaking skills just a few weeks after school started in September 2016. Teachers requested hands on sessions in the classrooms to give their students a better idea of the contest theme. Ricky Hayes and Josh Pate visited the majority of the elementary schools in Wilson County to present programs related to "Soil and Water". The winners of the contest were announced in the Spring of 2017.



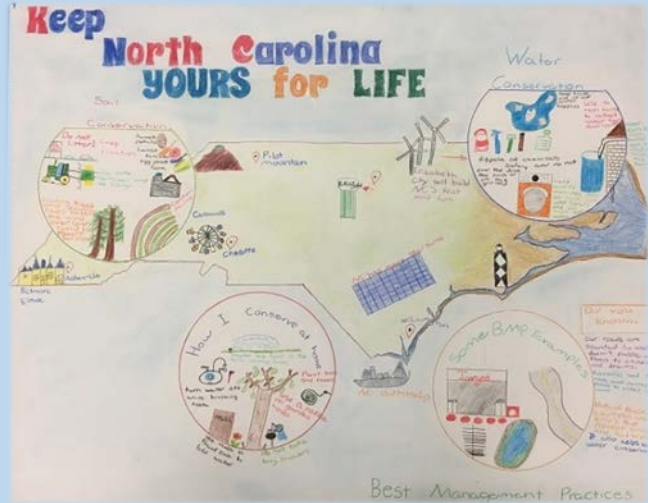
## Area IV and State Speaking, Poster, and Essay Contest Winners



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Poster Contest Winner -1st Place Area IV  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Poster Contest Winner 2<sup>nd</sup> Place State  
Callie Mooring – Rock Ridge Elementary School



4th Grade Poster Contest Winner – 1st Place Area IV  
Paige Matthews – Rock Ridge Elementary School



6th Grade Poster Contest Winner – 1st Place Area IV  
Christina Watson – Springfield Middle School



6th Grade Essay Contest Winner – 1st Place Area IV  
Turner Jenkins – Toisnot Middle School



# FLOATING THE CREEK

Ricky Hayes and Josh Pate of the Wilson County Soil & Water office floated thirty miles of Contentnea Creek in Wilson County to assess Hurricane Matthew damage in hopes of receiving state funding to clean out the creek.



# North Carolina Soil *AND* Water Mobile Soils Classroom

Wilson Soil and Water Conservation District now has access to a new tool for environmental education. The trailer is one of three available across the State and can be used to teach students K-12 about soil health and quality. Numerous hands-on demonstrations are included.



# Conservation Programs

The Wilson County SWCD is currently accepting applications for NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, Agriculture Water Resources Program, Community Conservation Assistance Program & Environmental Quality Incentive Program. These programs are voluntary cost share programs designed to assist landowners with installation of various Best Management Practices that help protect or improve water quality in our state.

## AG Cost Share Tour

In March, the Wilson County SWCD held the annual cost share tour. The supervisors and office staff first met at the Ag Center for a brief board meeting. Then, a tour is included to randomly selected areas throughout the county where cost share practices have been applied.

## NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

The major cause of water quality problems in North Carolina and in much of the United States is nonpoint source pollution. In many places, damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive fertilizer use, animal waste contamination, and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program helps address nonpoint pollution by providing technical and financial resources. If you are a landowner or renter of an existing agricultural operation that has been operating for more than three years, you are eligible to participate in the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program.



## Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) is administered by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission through the Wilson County SWCD. The AgWRAP program is actively working towards reserving water resources in Wilson County.

The purposes of the AgWRAP are to:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources
- Increase water use efficiency
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes



## Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a federal voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. NRCS is in charge of this program. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.



## Ag Cost Share



*Pictured above is a grassed waterway put in place to reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution.*

## CCAP



*Pictured above is a grassed waterway used at the Ag center to help with storm water pollution.*

## AgWRAP



*Pictured above is sediment removal to increase water storage for irrigation.*

## EQIP



*Pictured above is dry litter storage. This structure provides environmentally safe storage of litter and allows for proper timing of litter application to crops. It also stabilizes litter for pathogen and insect control.*



## Wilson County Soil & Water Conservation District

1806 Goldsboro St. SW  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Office: 252-237-5147 Ext. 3  
Fax: 252-243-2711

Check out our new website:  
<http://www.wilson-co.com/departments/soil-water>

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 am – 5:00 pm

### 2017 Holiday Schedule

Labor Day	September 4
Veterans Day	November 10
Thanksgiving	November 23 & 24
Christmas	December 25, 26 & 27

### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

September 5, 2017	5:00 pm
October 2, 2017	5:00 pm
November 5, 2017	5:00 pm
December 4, 2017	5:00 pm



## About the Wilson County SWCD

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The Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina and organized to develop plans and programs for the protection and management of Wilson County’s natural resources. The district provides assistance in erosion control, drainage, soils descriptions, aerial photos, animal waste management, and conservation planning and design.

### Mission Statement

We are committed to quality leadership and customer service for the conservation of our natural resources.

### Vision Statement

To provide quality and timely service to our customers through technical excellence, positive attitudes, and team work.

### Our Staff

Ricky Hayes

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### Meet our Board of Supervisors



Left to right:  
Bryan Lamm –Chairman  
Gary D. Scott – Vice Chairman  
Dwight Batts – Secretary & Treasurer  
Alan Sharp – Member  
Carroll Coleman – Member