



Resource Conservation Workshop

The photos from the 2014 Resource Conservation Workshop are now available online at the URL below.
<https://plus.google.com/photos/108243563815820676349/albums/6030745649792076417?authkey=CNypmtii6emBmQE>

NC Soil & Water Conservation Districts did an outstanding job of selecting the 87 students who participated in this year's 51st Resource Conservation Workshop. Comments from counselors and staff were consistently 'brightest, best behaved, most courteous' group of students ever. And thanks are in order to the eight Association Areas who were responsible for supplying two counselors each and for paying counselor registration and stipend fees.

After a week of classroom and field sessions and a written exam, the culminating Award Luncheon was held on Friday, June 27th. Students' parents attended before taking the trip home. Dick Fowler, NCASWCD Executive Director, was a gracious Master of Ceremonies; and Association President, John Langdon, gave an inspiring closing statement. And congratulations are in order for Steve Bennett who was recognized and awarded a plaque upon his pending retirement for 40 years of service to the Resource Conservation Workshop.

The counselors worked hard to narrow the list to only eight students who would be interviewed for the prestigious S. Grady Lane Scholarship. Grady Lane was the first chief of the NC Soil and Water Conservation Section and a contemporary of Steve Bennett. He was devoted to the RCW for a number of years but died at an early age. Grady's family established the scholarship in his honor to be awarded to a student who embodied high moral character and studious habits (requires a minimum 75 percentile grade on final test) and has a financial need.

This year's scholarship judging panel consisted of Division of Soil & Water Conservation Director, Patricia Harris; NCASWCD President, John Langdon; Dale Threat-Taylor of Wake SWCD and representing NCCDEA; and Beth Farrell of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The eight interviewed students were also considered for the NC Conservation District Employees Association's scholarship.

Leadership staff for the RCW were: Ralston James, Eric Pare, Steve Bennett – all Regional Coordinators with the Division of Soil & Water Conservation; Liz Driscoll, NCSU Soil Science & Horticulture; and Shedrick Samuels, NCSU McKimmon Center administration.

Counselors who served from Soil & Water Conservation Districts were: Tyler Ross, McDowell SWCD; Dennis Testerman, Cabarrus SWCD; Pamela Steuer, Caldwell SWCD; Leslie Meadows, Alexander SWCD; Elizabeth Hamm, Pitt SWCD; Sherry Harris, Chowan SWCD; Elissa Riley, New Hanover SWCD; Brian Lannon, Camden SWCD; Pamela Stroup, Gaston SWCD. Other volunteer counselors were Freda Pyron, Anna James, Kaitlin Bunch, Tara Hughes, Earl Miller, and Tyler Clark.

The four days of resource topics were taught and facilitated by an innumerable number of resource professionals and university staff. I won't list all the names here, but special thanks is extended to the organizing groups: NCSU Soil Science Department (Soil Science Day), Falls Lake US Army Corps of Engineers (Water, Wildlife, Recreation & Fish Management Day), Clemmons Educational State Forest (Forestry and Forest Management Day), and Wake Soil & Water Conservation District (Soil & Water Day).

Merit Scholarships and Cash Awards were given to the following students for their high placement on Friday's exam.

1st Place---Kathryn Wescott.....Beaufort SWCD----\$500.00 scholarship plus \$100.00
2nd Place---Timothy Chisholm.....Iredell SWCD----\$275.00 scholarship plus \$100.00
3rd Place---Charles Maus.....Perquimans SWCD----\$100.00
4th Place---Daniel Lightfoot.....Wake SWCD----\$75.00
5th Place---Sydney Simmons.....Sampson SWCD---\$50.00

The following students were nominated by counseling staff to be interviewed for the prestigious S. Grady Lane Scholarship.

Grady Lane Nominees

Leah McGrady – Alleghany SWCD
John Nix – Buncombe SWCD
James Giddens – Johnston SWCD
Carly Simpson – Martin SWCD
Richard Honeycutt – Clay SWCD
Samantha Beasley – Haywood SWCD
Bridget Knapp – Wake SWCD
Charles Maus - Perquimans

And the following students were awarded scholarships on the results of their interviews with the judging panel.

Grady Lane Scholarship----John Nix-----\$500.00 scholarship – Buncombe SWCD
DEA Scholarship-----Leah McGrady-----\$1,000.00 scholarship – Alleghany SWCD

The Resource Conservation Workshop is a wonderful product of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' educational programs. Every member of the Conservation Partnership can be proud of the RCW. Thanks to each of you for your loyal support.