

Conservation Employee Training – Crown Plaza Hotel, Asheville – August 22-25, 2016

MONDAY, August 22 –

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Registration Opens

1 – 5 p.m. – General Session; SWC Commission Listening Session, NCCDEA Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Area Team Building Competition & Supper – separate registration of \$10 through NCCDEA

TUESDAY, August 23 –

All Day

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Purchase Knob Field Exploration-Appalachian Highland Science Learning Center, Haywood County

- *Salamanders and the effects of acid deposition*, Susan Sachs, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
The Great Smoky Mountains are known as the “Salamander Capital of the World!” Salamanders are an especially abundant and diverse group in the Great Smokies. There are 30 species of salamanders within the boundaries of the Park. Since salamanders breathe through their skin they are more susceptible to water and air pollution. During this study Educators will work in groups to collect and record data in taking an inventory in monitoring many of the salamanders found in the park. This session qualifies for 2 hours of Criteria II credit for the EE Certification.
- *Effects of Air Pollution on Terrestrial Invertebrates*, Susan Sachs, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
All plants and animals are important to the ecosystem. Although often overlooked, terrestrial invertebrates are as important to the ecosystem as the large vertebrates are. The functional responses of terrestrial invertebrates to soil pH, soil temperature, and air temperature provide a complete assessment of the ecosystem model. During this study Educators will be assisting in monitoring the population of terrestrial invertebrates in a predetermined area. Students will be studying the species richness (the number of different species in a given area), diversity (the number of species in an area and also their relative abundance), species evenness (a measure of how evenly members of a sample are distributed across the species), and density (measurement of population per unit area). This session qualifies for 2 hours of Criteria II credit for the EE Certification.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Strengthening the Conservation Framework

- This session is designed to be an interactive discussion on the processes of obtaining job approval authority and certification as a conservation planner both from the agency and district employee perspective. The group will explore the creative methods for obtaining mentoring and training opportunities; utilizing JAA/CCP to benefit your district and your individual professional advancement; how districts can fulfill its roles and responsibilities to expedite technical assistance from DSWC and NRCS; and expanding your state cost share program knowledge. Certified Conservation Planner credits available pending approval.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Preparing your District for Success

This session is designed to help you improve your skills in three critical areas for district success:

- *Media relations* - Is your district skilled in media relations? Are you prepared to handle media attention and ensure press opportunities are positive exposure for your district? Are your marketing materials fresh and exciting? Are you engaged in social media? Join us and learn how to transform your district from the best kept secret, to the topic everyone is talking about...
- *Stretching the district dollar* - Are you being challenged to “do more with less”? Are you doing all you can to manage your district’s finances in the most effective way? Hear from districts about the value of partners, grants received to support district projects, and innovative district fundraising initiatives. Get training on division policy related to grant funding and scholarship opportunities. Leave the session with ideas to best leverage your funds to meet district objectives.
- *Supervisor development* - Learn how to work with your district board supervisors to promote and encourage positive leadership. Review resources and materials that are available to you, and understand the leadership opportunities available to your supervisors, and how to support them in their roles. Get information on Associate Supervisor programs used in other districts. Participate in a discussion forum regarding supervisor training and leadership development needs, to help guide future efforts.

EVENING

5:30 – 7:00 – Welcome Supper

8:00 – 11:00 – District Employees Fund Raising Event – separate registration of \$10 through NCCDEA

WEDNESDAY, August 24 –

All Day

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. –Advanced Project Wild – Bats Workshop

- This short course will cover bats and their habitats. Capitalizing on children's natural interest in wildlife it will include portable and hands-on activities for mixed age groups. Project Wild workshops have balanced instruction that is neutral on value-sensitive issues; provides effective methods for teaching problem-solving and decision-making; and inquiry-based learning is integrated into its activities. This session qualifies for Criteria III credit for the NC Environmental Education Certification.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. –Cropland Conservation Planning

- This session is designed to provide participants with interactive activities regarding conservation planning on cropland. Discussions and activities will include conservation planning principles, identifying resource concerns and designing for compatible BMPs. Please plan to be in the field all day. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. –Pasture Conservation Planning

- This session is designed to provide participants with interactive activities regarding conservation planning on pastureland. Discussions and activities will include conservation planning principles, identifying resource concerns and designing for compatible BMPs. Please plan to be in the field all day. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. –Basic Survey Training Using Levels

- This training is intended for new employees and those who need some refresher or reinforcement training in the area of surveying with an engineer's level or a laser level. The attendees are encouraged to bring the equipment they have available for their daily use. Areas to be covered include field book format and use, setting a level, peg checks, surveying a profile, cross-section, closed loop/traverse and a small grid survey (if time permits), reducing notes and checking closure (accuracy). Please plan to be in the field all day. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. – MS Office Skills – Intermediate Level Training

- Professional trainers from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College will join us to provide intermediate-level training in MSOffice software, including Word, Publisher and Excel. Bring your own equipment if possible... class size may be limited due to availability of training equipment.

***Question for participants - Will you bring your own machine (must have MS Office 2013 for training purposes)?

8:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Conservation Easements

- Do you need guidance and information related to conservation easements? Join us for training on district considerations for conservation easement programs, developing easement baseline documentation reports that meet program requirements (ADFP, ALE), and best practices for stewardship monitoring activities. This training should increase your confidence in holding easements in your district, and provide example materials for use in district projects.

EVENING

6:30 – 8:00 – Banquet

THURSDAY, August 25 –

8:00 – 12:00 – Soil & Water Yours for Life Contest Theme Training –

- Join a group of enthusiastic SWC District educators to discuss and sample techniques for teaching about urban and agricultural best management practices (BMPs). Explore hands on demonstration tools for use with classroom groups, field day groups, and older citizens too. Walk away with BMP solutions and a make-n-take resources for your contest themed classroom presentations. Receive the theme alignment to the standard course of study along with printed and web resources. Criteria III EE Certification credit will be available for this session.

8:00 – 12:00 – Nutrient Management Software Updates

- This interactive training will highlight the changes to the NC Nutrient Management Software as well as allow you to work through waste management plan scenarios. Be sure to bring your own laptop, if you have one. If you do not have a laptop be sure to indicate this during workshop registration. There will be a limited number of NCDAs laptops available for use. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

8:00 – 12:00 – Planning and Designing for Water Wells

- This session will focus on the conservation planning objectives and the design criteria for water wells. Discussion will take place on programmatic policies and AgWRAP ranking criteria. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

8:00 – 12:00 – Google Applications

- Do you want to learn more about the free applications available through Google to increase efficiency in your district work? Use Google Drive to collaborate - create online forms, share documents, and more! These resources can be excellent tools for committee work, or for activities in your district. Team registrations for 2017 Envirothon competitions may be handled using this software – come build your skill set to be ready to support your Area event! Bring your own equipment if possible... class size may be limited due to availability of training equipment.

***Question for participants - Will you bring your own machine (must have Google Chrome web browser installed for training purposes)?