



CONSERVATION
Employee Training

August 22 - 25, 2016 | Asheville

Catch the vision!

Message from Commissioner Troxler



Welcome to Conservation Employee Training!

Whether you are a longtime employee or new to this job, training is integral to staying on top of your field. As a farmer and former soil and water district supervisor, I know the importance of what you do. Soil and Water Conservation Districts lead the way for

conservation and preservation of our state's farms, forestlands and open spaces that maintain our environment and agribusinesses.

I hope the training you receive this week will help you to **Catch the Vision** and take a renewed sense of purpose to your district.

Sincerely,

Message from the Division Director

Welcome to the 2016 Conservation Employee Training! The bar has been raised again. I commend the CET coordinators and instructors for their work in providing you with quality training sessions to enhance your knowledge, skills and abilities.

My hope is you're able to step back from your daily routines to see the big picture of soil and water conservation in North Carolina. How does your involvement as a conservationist, technical specialist, educator, manager or administrator make a difference? How do you contribute to our citizens' understanding of conservation or the installation of conservation best management practices on private lands? Once you see the big picture and the critical role you play in the conservation movement, you're well on your way to **Catch the Vision!**



Best wishes for a successful workshop!

Pat Harris

Message from the NCASWCD President

Welcome to Asheville!

We value the work district employees bring to local soil and water conservation boards and the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Association partnership. We are excited that you are taking part in this week's Conservation Employee Training program.

The NCASWCD has placed a strong priority on district supervisor training this year. Equally important is ensuring that district employees have access to valuable training tools that can help them in their roles in assisting district soil and water boards around the state. These week's CET sessions are filled with robust information we believe will be very beneficial to you.

I also want to thank district employee volunteers who helped with the 2016 SE Regional NACD meeting held recently in Cherokee. It was a great success and it couldn't have been done without you.

Thanks for your participation and have a great time learning and visiting with your fellow colleagues!

Sincerely,



Special thanks to these sponsors:

*NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation
N.C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation
Districts
N.C. Conservation District Employees Association
N.C. Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

MONDAY, August 22

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Laurel Registration Area

Registration Opens

10-12 p.m.

Foxfire Room

DEA Board Meeting

1 – 5 p.m.

Mt. Pisgah/ Mt. Pilot

General Session

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission Listening Session, moderated by Pat Harris

Your input is valuable! NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission members Ben Knox, Manly West and Bill Yarborough will be on hand to hear your thoughts on key issues facing soil and water conservation districts and programs. The audience will also have opportunity to weigh in on these topics collectively, through the use of response clickers and real time surveys. This session promises to be both interactive and a unique learning experience for all involved!

6 p.m.

Charles D. Owen Park

Area Team Building Competition & Supper

Separate registration fee of \$10 through NCCDEA
Charles Owen Park is located at 875 Warren Wilson Road, Swannanoa

TUESDAY, August 23

7 – 9 a.m.

Laurel Registration Area

Registration Open

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All Day workshops

See course descriptions and locations on following pages. Choose one:

Purchase Knob Field Exploration

Strengthening the Conservation Framework

Preparing your District for Success

10 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

12 – 1 p.m.

Mt. Mitchell/Mt. Roan

Lunch provided at hotel for onsite groups

3 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

5:45 – 7 p.m.

Mt. Mitchell/Mt. Roan

Welcome Supper

9 p.m. until

Mt. Mitchell/Mt. Roan

District Employees Fund Raising Event

Separate registration of \$10 through NCCDEA

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.

Strengthening the Conservation Framework

Mt. Pilot Room

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.

Preparing your District for Success

Blue Ridge Room

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.

WEDNESDAY, August 24

7 – 9 a.m.

Laurel Registration Area

Registration Open

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All Day workshops

See course descriptions and locations on following pages. Choose one:

Advance Project Wild

Cropland Conservation Planning

Pasture Conservation Planning

Basic Survey Training Using Levels

MS Office Skills

Conservation Easements

10 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

12 – 1 p.m.

Mt. Mitchell/Mt. Roan

Lunch provided at hotel for onsite groups

3 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Mt. Mitchell/Mt. Roan

Banquet

Advanced Project Wild – Bats Workshop

Mt. Pilot Room

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.

Cropland Conservation Planning

Mountain Horticulture Crop Research Station, Mills River

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.

Pasture Conservation Planning

Lynn Brown Farm, 100 Browntown Road, Leicester

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.

Basic Survey Training Using Levels

Mt. Pisgah Room, Buncombe Co. Sports Park

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.

MS Office Skills – Intermediate Level Training

Foxfire Room

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. Please have Microsoft Office 2013 installed on computer prior to class. Class size may be limited due to availability of training equipment.*

Conservation Easements

Blue Ridge Room

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.

THURSDAY, August 25

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Workshops (choose one below)

10 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

Half-Day Workshops

Soil & Water Yours for Life Contest Theme Training

Mt. Pilot Room

Join enthusiastic SWC District educators to discuss and sample techniques for teaching about urban and agricultural best management practices. Explore hands-on demonstration tools for use with classroom groups, field day groups and adults. Walk away with BMP solutions and make-n-take resources for your classroom presentations. Criteria III EE Certification credit will be available for this session.

Nutrient Management Software Updates*

Blue Ridge Room

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. Certified Conservation Planner Credits approval pending.

Planning and Designing for Water Wells

Mt. Mitchell Room

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.

Google Applications* +

Foxfire Room

Learn to use Google Drive to collaborate, create online forms, share documents and more! These resources can be excellent tools for committee work or 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 laptop. If you do not have a laptop, indicate this during workshop registration. There will be a limited number of laptops available for use.*

+ If bringing your own laptop, install Google Chrome web browser prior to coming to class.



North Carolina Division of
SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION

Yours for Life