

DRAFT PROGRAM - 2026

Guest Speakers (Invited)

NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler
 NC Farm Bureau Federation President Shawn Harding
 EBCI Chief

2025 NCASWCD Officers

President – Barbara Bleiweis (Mecklenburg)
 First Vice President – Gail Hughes (Orange)
 Second Vice President – Steve Harris (Albe – Pasquotank)
 Immediate Past President – Billy Kilpatrick (Duplin)
 Secretary – Wayne Collier (Cumberland)
 Treasurer – Josh Myers (Guilford)
 NACD Board Member – Myles Payne (Alexander)
 Alt. NACD Board Member – Craig Myers (Davie)
 Asst. Chaplain – Tracy Warren (Beaufort)

82nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NC ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**JANUARY 3-7
 Harrah's Cherokee Resort and
 777 Casino Drive
 Cherokee, NC**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 (Additional Registration Required)

12:00 PM to 6 PM BASIC TRAINING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

12:30-2:30 PM NCASWCD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Barbara Bleiweis, NCASWCD President, Presiding
1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit

1:00-3:00 PM FIRST TIMERS AND NEW SUPERVISOR ORIENTATION

Billy Kilpatrick, Past President, Facilitator
2 Hours of Supervisor Training Credit

2:00-3:00 DEA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lisa Marochak, DEA President, Presiding

2:00-6:00 PM REGISTRATION OPEN

2:00-6:00 PM EXHIBIT HALL REGISTRATION & MOVE IN

2:00-3:00 PM AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Betty Mathews, President, Presiding

3:00-5:00 PM NC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING

Barbara Bleiweis, Chair, Presiding
1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit

5:00-6:00 PM PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION

A complimentary reception will be served, floating event

7:30 PM MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tracy Warren, Chaplain Presiding
Inspirational Message: Tracy Warren
Special Music: Conservation Pickers

9:00 PM NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING (*If Needed)

Billy Kilpatrick Immediate Past President, Presiding

9:00 PM INFORMAL MUSIC JAM

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

6:00 – 7:00 AM EXHIBITOR MOVE IN

6:30 AM – 2:00 PM REGISTRATION OPEN

6:45 AM SUPERVISORS' BREAKFAST

Doors Open 6:30 AM

Gail Hughes Vice-President, Presiding Invocation:
Tracy Warren, Chaplain
Oaths of Office -- New Area Chairs

Comments from Candidates for 2nd VP, Mountain
Commission and Coastal TRC Seat

1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit (?)

The initials SB are on your nametag if you purchased this meal in advance.

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM EXHIBIT AREA OPEN

7:45 to 9:00 AM AUXILIARY HOSPITALITY

Food and Coffee Provided

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM BANQUET SEATING RESERVATIONS

(Bring name tag to make seating selection.)

8:30 AM GENERAL SESSION
Welcome: Barbara Bleiweis President, Presiding

Invocation: Tracy Warren, Chaplain
Presentation of Colors: Association Veterans
America, the Beautiful, Madison Bridges
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President
Jackson County / EBCI Welcome

Executive Director Annual Report – Bryan Evans

Foundation/Grange – President Gentry/President David Allen

North Carolina Farm Bureau – President Shawn Harding

COMMENTS FROM THE TOP – Commissioner Steve Troxler
1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit

9:30 AM – NOON AUXILIARY INFORMATIONAL
SESSION & BUSINESS MEETING
See Separate Agenda for Auxiliary Activities

10:00AM BREAK

10:30 AM Leadership BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1.5 Hours of Supervisor Training Credit per Session

SESSION #1 - *Leadership in Accessibility*

Allison Channell, Mecklenburg SWCD, will present “Conservation for Everyone”- the District’s platform to increase conservation education outreach by providing conservation courses and materials in other languages

SESSION #2 – *Leadership in Innovation and Collaborative Partnerships*

Myles Payne, Alexander SWCD

SESSION #3 - *Leadership in Managing Growth and change*

Kristina Fischer/ Bryan Evans - Panel discussion on District challenges for Supervisor recruitment, and compliance with attendance and training requirements and the role the Commission plays. The recruitment of new supervisors will also be discussed in the context of the changing demographics of conservation leaders.

SESSION #4 - *Leadership in Outreach and Education*

Gail Hughes, Jessica Wilson, Jessica Davis This session will discuss multiple and creative ways to connect with and educate communities on conservation. The Association's Education Coordinator, Jessica Davis, will share her work in developing unique education programs and tools.

SESSION# 5 - Leadership in Policy and funding Advocacy

Josh Myers, Craig Frazier, Craig Myers- Panel discussion on methods and challenges to increasing Conservation funding and its direct link to conservation perception by state and federal lawmakers.

NOON CONSERVATION AWARENESS LUNCH
Craig Frazier, Legislative Committee Chair, Presiding

1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit

The initials CA are on your nametag if you purchased this meal in advance.

1:30 PM COMMITTEE CHAIRS' AND RECORDERS' MEETING

2:00-3:00 PM RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Meetings Staggered)

3:00-4:00 PM RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (Meetings Staggered)

District Operations Committee

Finance Committee

Legislative Committee

Water Resources Committee

Community Conservation Committee

Education Committee

Natural Environment Committee

Research and Technology Committee

Supervisor Training Credits offered based on presentations

6:30 PM CONSERVATION EDUCATION DINNER
David Harris, Education Committee Chair, Presiding

Education Awards: Envirothon Hall of Fame
EE Awards and Recognitions
Teachers of the Year

The initials ED are on your nametag if you purchased this meal in advance.

8:00 PM AUXILIARY AUCTION

9:00 PM INFORMAL MUSIC JAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

7:45 to 9:00 AM AUXILIARY HOSPITALITY

7:30 to 5:00 PM REGISTRATION OPEN

7:00 to 2:00 PM EXPO OPEN

8:30 AM GENERAL SESSION

Barbara Bleiweis President, Presiding

Invocation: Tracy Warren, Chaplain

8:45 AM Ongoing Projects - Biochar Update update/Overview

9:05 AM Biochar Project Strategy/ funding and Practice (Panel and PPT)

Good Neighbor Authority Bill Yarborough/Cavan

Fitzsimmons

USDA/ NRCS EQIP Dalton Buchanan

NACD Barbara Bleiweis

ELECTION – 2nd VP seat, Mountain Commission and Coastal TRC Seat

10:00 – 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30AM GENERAL SESSION Resumes

Barbara Bleiweis President, Presiding

Milton Heath Lecture – Envirothon- Building Future Conservationist

Area 1 and 2 Education Team

1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Length of Service

NCASWCD Outstanding Employees of the Year and District Awards

9:30 –Noon AUXILIARY INFORMATION SESSION
and BUSINESS MEETING

NOON DEA LUNCHEON

Lisa Marochak, DEA President, Presiding

The initials DL are on your nametag if you purchased this meal in advance.

1:30 PM NRCS STAFF MEETING

1:30 PM NCASWCD BUSINESS MEETING
Gail Hughes - 1st Vice President, Presiding

Parliamentarian, TBD

REPORTS

NRCS Comments	Tim Beard, State Conservationist
District Employee's Association Report	Lisa Marochak, President
Auxiliary Report	Betty Mathews, President
RC&D Report	Matt Settlemyer, RC&D
	Southwest Council ED
Division Comments	David Williams, Director
Foundation Report	Jimmy Gentry, President Amanda Sand, Exec. Dir.
<i>1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit</i>	

ACTION ITEMS

Nominating Committee Report	Billy Kilpatrick
Other Actions Items (TBD)	
Committee Reports	Committee Chairs

6:30 PM BANQUET
Barbara Bleiweis, President, Presiding

Invocation: Tracy Warren, Chaplain

OUTSTANDING N.C. CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY AWARDS

PIEDMONT REGION – THOMAS FAMILY FARMS (PERSON SWCD)

MOUNTAIN REGION – LINGERFELT FAMILY FARM (LINCOLN SWCD)

President's Awards	Barbara Bleiweis
NC Foundation Presentation	Jimmy Gentry, President
Outgoing President's Remarks	Barbara Bleiweis, President
Installation of 2026 NCASWCD President	
Handing Over the Gavel	Barbara Bleiweis, 2025 President
Incoming President's Remarks	Gail Hughes, 2026 President
9:00 – 11:00 PM INFORMAL MUSIC JAM	

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

9:00 AM NCASWCD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST MEETING

1 Hour of Supervisor Training Credit