

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)
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1937

North Carolina
Division of Soil & Water Districts

2007

Celebrating 70 years of working lands conservation

In the early 1930's, along with the greatest depression this nation has ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. The storm stretched across the nation. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a Soil Scientist from North Carolina, was on Capitol Hill testifying about the erosion problem, when he threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. A short time later the very first soil & water district in the nation was formed here in North Carolina, in Anson County in 1937 which is the birthplace of Hugh Hammond Bennett. Bennett is now known as the "Father of Soil & Water Conservation". The Stokes County Soil & Water Conservation District was later organized in 1941 as a part of the Dan River Conservation District which was composed of Rockingham, Stokes, Caswell and Person Counties. In July of 1960 Stokes County separated from the group and formed its very own soil & water district.

This year now marks the 70th Anniversary of the formation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. An Anniversary Celebration & Tour was held on August 7-9. Each soil & water district in the state was encouraged to send a county representative to attend the celebration. The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District selected Stanley Smith and his wife Sandra. Pictured above are Stanley & Sandra as they visited the Hugh Hammond Bennett home site. Below that is a picture of Willard Nelson, James Booth (Stokes Soil & Water Supervisors) along with Sandra and Stanley Smith in Anson County at the Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District, the first in the Nation.



2007 CONSERVATION FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

On May 24th the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District recognized David McKinney and his wife Marty and children Ashton, Taylor and Landon as the 2007 Stokes County Conservation Farm Family of the Year. The McKinney's were selected because of the extra efforts they put forth while farming to conserve our natural resources. David and his family operate his father's farm in King, consisting of approximately 100 acres in which he grows 60 acres of flue-cured tobacco. He also leases six other farms in the area totaling 250 additional acres in which he grows more tobacco as well as 40 acres of hay and 45 acres of small grain. Best management practices installed on all the farms tended include: 3 acres of grassed waterways, 5 acres of field borders, 125 acres of field strip cropping with sod based rotation, 2 acres of critical area seeding and significant wildlife habitat management has also been established. David and his family received a plaque and a sign to erect on their farm recognizing their achievement. Pictured to the left (top) David McKinney & James Booth (bottom) David and his wife Marty and their children Ashton, Landon and Taylor. Congratulations to you all and keep up the good work!

The Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Advisory Board has 2 new board members (these members filled expired terms of past members): David Hartman from Sauratown Township and Tony Mabe from the Yadkin Township. For a complete list of Advisory Board Members and/or information on the program go to www.stokesswcd.org or call the Soil & Water office at 336-593-2846 ext. 3.



Remember Big Sweep Litter Pickup on October 6, 2007 – Call Stokes Co. Coordinator, Sara Jo Durham at 593-2846 ext. 3 for more details.



DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Booth, *Chairman*
Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chairman*
Willis Overby, *Secretary/Treasurer*
John East, *Member*
Willard Nelson, *Member*

STAFF

Dede DeBruhl, *District Conservationist*
Tom Smith, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*
Jane Dobson, *NRCS Technician*
Sara Jo Durham, *District Technician*
Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

FOREST LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR



For the first time in District history, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District recognized a Forest Landowner of the Year. The award went to Stephen & Texie Jessup of Francisco. Jonathan Young, from the NC Forest Service, presented a slideshow highlighting the sound forest management practices implemented on the Jessup Farm. The farm consists of 360 acres of which 261 acres are woodlands and 99 acres are used for agriculture purposes. In the mid 1990's the Jessup's began a process of harvesting timber from their property in several stages and then replanting new trees in the areas harvested. In 2004, the Jessup's updated their land management plan and harvested 10 more acres that were also replanted. Pictured to the left is Jonathan Young along with Stephen & Texie Jessup receiving their award at the 2007 Soil & Water Awards Banquet. Congratulations!



CONSERVATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Billie Woosley, an 8th grade Science/Math teacher at Southeastern Middle School, was recognized as the 2007 Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District. Ms. Woosley believes that science affects everything you do and she wants students to study, explore and become interested in the world around them. Some of the projects her students participated in were: designing and building amusement parks based on plant and animal cells, studying the balance of nutrients and how they affect natural resources, and creating a ground cover model showing how erosion affects the environment. Pictured to the right is Marvin Cavanaugh, Soil & Water Supervisor, and Ms. Woosley as she receives a plaque and a check for \$100 for her outstanding work as an Educator. Congratulations Ms. Woosley and keep up the good work!



COST SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE



If you have water quality, soil erosion, or soil quality problems on your farm, you may be eligible for cost share assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). To be eligible, the applicant must be an agricultural producer and have an annual minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products produced or sold from the operation. Eligible conservation practices include sod-based rotation, no-till planting, fencing, alternative watering systems, cropland conversion to grass or trees and many others. All applications will be ranked according to environmental benefits. **All applications must be received by November 1, 2007 to be considered for 2008 funding.** If your application is approved, a conservation plan will be developed to implement practices beginning in the spring of 2008. NRCS will make site visits beginning in mid-September. For more information, please call the office at 593-2846 and ask for Jane or Dede.

BE WATER WISE...There are a number of ways to save water – here are a few tips!

With the recent drought, many have seen the need to conserve water or be "water wise". Saving water is easy when you think about it. The following are several water-saving tips that can help you save hundreds of gallons of water around your home: **check for water leaks (put food coloring in your toilet tank-if it seeps into the toilet bowl-you have a leak), turn water off while brushing your teeth, run washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full, use garbage disposal sparingly-compost instead, keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks, use a broom instead of a water hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk, minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours-when temperatures are cooler and winds lighter, wash your car in the grass and use a bucket to hold water, plug your bathtub before turning the water on-then adjust temperatures as the tub fills up, direct your downspouts and other runoff toward shrubs-trees and gardens, purchase energy efficient toilets and shower heads and avoid installing ornamental water features and fountains that spray water into the air - trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation.** For more tips go to www.wateruseitwisely.com/100ways/se.shtml



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

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