

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016

PHONE 336.593.2846 ext. 3 • FAX 336.593.9232 • [www.stokesswcd.org](http://www.stokesswcd.org)

### NO TILL DRILL AVAILABLE for RENT

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District has a Truax FlexII-88 no-till drill to seed or renovate pastures and hayland as well as seed wildlife plantings in Stokes County. The drill is a great tool for managing forages such as fescue, orchard grasses, and grass-clover mixes. It provides a means for better seeding precision, and reduces volume of seed needed. It has a seeding width of 5.3 feet, so it is ideal for those smaller areas and a 40 hp tractor is all you need to pull it! Fall is a good time to seed for vigor and stand improvement so call us today to reserve the drill at 336.593.2846 ext. 3. **RENTAL RATES - \$10/acre, with a \$50 minimum (open-hole pin hitch needed for towing)** ♦



Stokes SWCD – Truax FlexII-88 No-Till Drill

### Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine Highlights the Dan River

In a two part series titled, *The Many Faces of the Dan River*, Bruce Ingram, writing for the *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine, tracks the Dan River “as it winds through Virginia and North Carolina”. In Part 1 the main focus of the article is conservation issues facing the Dan with Part 2 identifying preservation efforts underway at the local level which highlights two Stokes County farms – Bruce Tilley’s farm in Westfield and Willis Overby’s farm in Lawsonville. Both farms have had stream stabilization work as well as best management practices installed to protect water quality. Check out the July and August (2010) issues today ♦



### STATE COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LANDOWNERS

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District has received state funding through the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program for 2011. This program emphasizes water quality, in an effort to reduce the input of agricultural non-point source pollution from sediment, nutrients, animal wastes, and pesticides into streams, rivers and other water sources throughout Stokes County. It pays 75% of a predetermined average cost for approved Best Management Practices (BMP's) to be installed. These practices include but are not limited to: heavy use area protection, livestock exclusion fencing, watering facilities, field borders, grassed waterways, long term no-till, wells (ag. use only), cropland conversion to grass/trees, critical area planting, and strip cropping. Applications are now being accepted. Approval of applications is based upon the highest need of water quality improvement with the Stokes Soil and Water District Board making final decisions – funding is limited. Contact Tom Smith at 593.2846 ext. 3 if you are interested in participating in this program or for more general information. Applications are also available on our website under the Programs tab ♦

### FEDERAL COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LANDOWNERS

Are you an agricultural landowner who wants to improve your soil quality by installing conservation practices such as no-till planting, sod based rotation or small grain cover crops? Do you have erosion problems on your crop fields? Are you a livestock operator that wants to improve your water quality by fencing the cows out of the creek and installing watering facilities? Would you like to try planting a different forage such as a native warm season grass that can tolerate the hot, dry weather conditions? Are you a vegetable grower that is planning to become certified organic? Are you a forest landowner that is actively managing your timber and wants to improve the wildlife habitat by pre-commercial thinning or prescribed burning? Do you have steep cropland, cutover timberland or pastureland that you would like to plant in trees? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then EQIP may be able to help you. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a federal cost share assistance program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible applicants. Applications are being accepted now and are ranked according to the environmental benefits produced. To find out more about this program, please contact Dede DeBruhl at 336-593-2846, ext. 3 ♦



### BIG SWEEP – SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2

Volunteers are needed to participate in the annual Big Sweep – Litter Cleanup on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Stokes County. Those who volunteer will be picking up litter on our roadsides, streams and open spaces. **Last year 583 people volunteered for this worthwhile event in Stokes County collecting 9,020 lbs. of litter.** The official date of the 2010 event is October 2 but litter pickup can be done at any time. Please Contact Sara Jo Durham at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 to register a date and location to participate ♦

*Pictured to the left are Big Sweep volunteers from High Point University at Moratock Park in Danbury displaying the trash they collected along the Dan River earlier this year.*

### 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*

Sara Jo Durham, *District Technician*

Rodney Wright, *Watershed Coordinator*

Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

## STOKES SOIL & WATER 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

On June 3 the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual awards banquet at Mountain View Community Center in King. At this banquet Bobbie & Myra Bennett along with their daughter, Lisa & her husband Darryl and their daughter Hailey were recognized as the 2010 Conservation Farm Family of the Year for applying sound conservation on their 250 acre farm in Lawsonville. The Bennett-Sheppard farm currently operates 3 chicken houses (30,000 birds) and maintains over 40 acres of pasture and hayland for 22 head of cattle. The remaining 180 acres is in timber. Numerous best management practices have been installed over the years to protect water quality and prevent erosion, so congratulations to the Bennett-Sheppard Family Farm for a job well done!



Front row l to r: Darryl, Lisa & Hailey Sheppard, Myra Bennett  
Back row l to r: Bobby Bennett, James Booth

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of the 2010 Conservation Teacher of the Year, Ben Hall from North Stokes High School. Mr. Hall is a teacher whose commitment and dedication continues to encourage and motivate students in his high school Agriculture, Agri-Science & Horticulture classes by involving them in hands-on projects everyday so that students can receive a better understanding of our natural resources. A few of these projects include the new school Shakespeare Garden, the 2-tier Rain-Garden at the school's entrance – that is consequently the largest in piedmont North Carolina, and the school's new organic vegetable garden, to name a few. Congratulations Mr. Hall ♦



l to r: Marvin Cavanaugh, Ben Hall

## DAN RIVER GRANT IS GREAT SUCCESS!

The 319 grant has been a great success for Stokes, Caswell, and Rockingham counties. We hope to be able to eventually remove the Dan River from the 303d list of impaired rivers by use of these additional funds to address the fecal coliform bacteria and turbidity problems of the Dan River. The program is still being administered out of the Stokes County Soil and Water office in Danbury. Many best management practices have been installed, such as the following; fencing out cattle from streams and supplying water tanks and agriculture wells, cropland conversion, long term no-till, grass waterway and field border repairs, and cropland rotation. We are still taking applications although the majority of the funds have been utilized. We will be attempting to seek additional funds in the future and advise individuals to still apply if they are interested.

**DID YOU KNOW???** ▪ The Dan River enters the northwest corner of Stokes County, near the community of Asbury, flowing diagonally across the county toward the community of Pine Hall, dropping approximately 500 feet in elevation on its course through Stokes. ▪ There are more than 56 miles of the river in Stokes County. ▪ The Dan River is said to be named for an early Saura Chief, Danapaha ♦

## LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Each year the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District sponsors one high school student from Stokes Co. Schools to attend the annual Resource Conservation Workshop in Raleigh on the campus of NC State University. This sponsorship includes \$350 for registration and \$100 for meals. This year Abby Lawson from North Stokes High School was chosen to represent Stokes County at the weeklong workshop held on June 20-25. The workshop is a truly unique opportunity for North Carolina's high school students to experience a study into the world of conservation careers, college life and environmental impacts. Topics studied include Soil Conservation, Wildlife & Fisheries Management, Forest Management, Nonagricultural uses for Soils, and Water Quality Management. Students are chosen from a pool of applications by the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District Board ♦ *Pictured to the right – Abby Lawson*



**TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE** – To order tree seedlings contact the NC Forest Service at 1-888-NC TREES or go to [www.dfr.state.nc.us](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us). Different varieties of hardwoods, pines and cedars are available ♦



Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District  
PO Box 98  
Danbury, NC 27016

**55 GAL. RAINBARRELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT THE SOIL & WATER OFFICE FOR \$70 EACH. Barrels come complete with lid, gutter attachment and spigot. Call 593-2846 x. 3 to reserve your barrel!**

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.