

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

CISTERNS INSTALLED THROUGH CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CCAP)

This past spring, Leonard Hicks and his wife Linda applied for and were awarded cost share assistance through the NC Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) to install three 550 gallon cisterns to harvest rainwater on their property in Pine Hall. CCAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production. Eligible landowners may include homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and community groups who have a resource concern on their property.



The Hicks family have always been conservation-minded so when they heard about the CCAP program they contacted the Soil & Water office for more information. At the time they were watering their ¾ acre vegetable and fruit garden with rainwater collected in rainbarrels that were placed under the drip-line of their outbuildings; water was then gravity feed to the garden by water hose. They had over 30 rainbarrels on their property as seen in the top right picture. Although harvesting the rainwater with all the barrels was a good idea, it proved to be time consuming and also created another problem – erosion, which occurred when the barrels would fill up with water and then run over onto ground.



The three newly installed cisterns now on the Hicks property have replaced many of the small rainbarrels. The tanks were designed to handle stormwater runoff from 2 outbuildings by collecting roof water into a gutter system which empties into the (3) 550 gallon, air-tight, mosquito-free above ground tanks. Once water is retained a ½ horsepower electric portable pump is hooked up to the cisterns and water is pumped to sprinklers and drip hoses in the garden area. These units all have overflow drainage pipes that transport excess water from the tank to a secure and stable grassed area, preventing erosion. A 1 ½ inch rainfall will completely fill the 550 gallon tanks so that the water can be recycled as needed.



The Hicks' say that this system is a quicker, easier, and more efficient way to harvest rainwater and without the cisterns they wouldn't have had much of a garden this year. They also want to encourage others to conserve and harvest "free" rainwater. For more information on the CCAP program or cisterns, please contact Tom Smith at the Soil & Water office at 593-2846 ext. 3 ♦



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COST SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LANDOWNERS

Our office offers a variety of cost share programs (both state & federally funded) that assist landowner's wanting to install conservation best management practices (BMPs) on farmland that reduces soil erosion and improves water quality. The following is a partial list of best management practices offered through our programs:

Critical Area Seeding

Sod Based Rotation

Livestock Exclusion from Streams

Grassed Waterways

Strip Cropping

Stream Crossings

Ag. Wells

Field Borders

Field Buffers

Stock Trails

Watering Facilities

No-Till Cropping System

Pasture & Hayland Renovation

Heavy Use Areas

Waste Storage Structure

Applications must be submitted and approved prior to beginning work in order to be eligible for assistance. Programs can pay up to 75% of a pre-determined average cost to install approved bmp's. Most programs require a 10 year maintenance period on installed bmp's. The following is a list of available programs:

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program – applications accepted year-round

Dan River 319 Grant Program – contact our office for program information

NC Community Conservation Assistance Program – applications accepted year-round (non-farmland)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program – application deadline October 14, 2011

Conservation Reserve Program – applications accepted year-round

Contact the Soil & Water office for information on any of our programs (336-593-2846 ext. 3) or visit our website for program listings and information (www.stokesswcd.org) ♦

DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

STOKES SOIL & WATER 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS



I to r: Johnny East, Amy & Mike Martin

On June 2 the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual awards banquet at Mountain View Community Center in King. At this banquet Mike and Amy Martin were recognized as the 2011 Conservation Farm Family of the Year for applying sound conservation on their 267 acre farm in Westfield. The Martin farm consists of 85 acres of tobacco in rotation with small grain and fescue, 40 acres of pasture, and 80 acres of hayland. The Martin's also manage 55 head of cattle and 4 horses and they lease 350 additional acres for crop and hayland production in the Westfield area. Many best management practices have been installed on their farm over the years to protect water quality and prevent erosion...Congratulations to Mike & Amy Martin for a job well done.



I to r: Marvin Cavanaugh, Crystal Boyles

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of the 2011 Conservation Teacher of the Year...Mrs. Crystal Boyles, a kindergarten teacher at King Elementary School. Mrs. Boyles has worked with her students and the entire school promoting environmental stewardship by creating and coordinating an outstanding recycling program. She received a grant from the NC Zoo to implement the program which allowed her to purchase large and small recycling bins and a large aluminum can trailer that collects thousands of cans that are recycled for cash which, in return, helps with school needs. Congratulations Mrs. Boyles – our 2011 Conservation Teacher of the Year.



I to r: Jonathan Young, Sam Lindamood

Others recognized at the banquet include the 2011 Forest Landowner of the Year, Sam Lindamood, from the Sandy Ridge community, who was awarded a plaque from the NC Forest Service for practicing sound forest management on his 358 acre farm. Sam's farm consists of 81 acres of loblolly pines that have been planted in the last 5 years as well as 146 acres of mixed hardwoods that range in age of 70 years and up. He also manages 55 acres of open space that is seeded in clover and orchard grass, 15 acres of wildlife plots, and 25 acres of crop production. Sam is a great steward of the natural resources on his farm and wants to leave the land in better condition for future generations...Congratulations Sam – our 2011 Forest Landowner of the Year ♦

“Visit our website at www.stokesswcd.org to view our 2010-11 Annual Report”

BIG SWEEP – SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1

Volunteers are needed to participate in the annual Big Sweep – Litter Cleanup on October 1st in Stokes County. Those who volunteer will be picking up litter on our roadsides, streams and open spaces. **Last year 324 people volunteered for this worthwhile event in Stokes County collecting 91,440 lbs. of litter.** Please contact the Soil & Water office at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 to register a date and location to participate ♦

SARA JO DURHAM RETIRES FROM SOIL & WATER

On May 13, 2011 Sara Jo Durham, District Technician, retired with 21 ½ years of dedicated service to the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District. She began her duties in the conservation office on October 17, 1989. Throughout the years she has served on many committees and volunteered numerous hours educating citizens on the importance of protecting our natural resources. She has also received many awards for her hard work including the Southeast Region Professional Employee of the Year award as well as many local and state awards for her coordination of the NC Big Sweep program in Stokes County.

Thank you Sara Jo, for your hard work and commitment over the years - we wish you the best in retirement ♦

NO-TILL SOD DRILL AVAILABLE FOR RENT...CONTACT OUR OFFICE FOR DETAILS



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

TREE SEEDLINGS FOR SALE – To order tree seedlings contact the NC Forest Service at 1-888-NCTREES or go to www.dfr.state.nc.us. Different varieties of hardwoods, pines and cedars are available ♦

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