

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)

PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016

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### **FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT – THURSDAY, APRIL 5 at NORTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL**

Mark your calendars – The 2018 FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT will be held at North Stokes High School on Thursday, April 5 from 6-9 PM; FREE FOOD (BBQ or Chicken and all the fixins'), ENTERTAINMENT, RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES. Please call 336-593-8179 or 336-593-2846 ext. 3 by April 2 if you plan to attend...we need a count for food preparation. ♦

*Pictured to the left is the featured entertainment for the evening – “Travis Frye & Blue Mountain”*

### **DEDE DEBRUHL RETIRES FROM *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)***

On December 29, 2017 Dede DeBruhl retired from the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS-Stokes Office) after 30 years of dedicated service to the NRCS agency. Dede was assigned to Stokes County in 2000 and worked here for the past 17 years. She was a pleasure to work with and always went above and beyond to assist landowners with their conservation needs to prevent soil erosion and protect water quality. With Dede now retired, her fellow Team members will now cover her duties in Stokes County which include working with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) along with any other federal programs available to our area. These Team members also cover Forsyth, Surry, Yadkin and Wilkes Counties. Team members are Lee Holcomb, James Rodriguez, Greg Wagoner, Pacer Sheets and Jeremy Evans. Please join Stokes SWCD in welcoming them to our county. *Pictured to the right is Dede (blue shirt) working with local landowners on their conservation plan.* ♦



### **FUNDING AVAILABLE IN AUGUST TO INSTALL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES - PLAN AHEAD NOW**

If you have erosion problems or water quality issues on your farm, you may be eligible to receive cost share assistance through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. These voluntary programs have proven successful in addressing agricultural non-point source pollution problems. Eligible participants may receive up to 50-75% cost assistance on practices such as riparian buffer restoration, excluding livestock from streams or ponds, installing alternative watering systems for livestock, heavy use area protection, converting cropland to grass or trees, and long term no-till planting to name a few. Funding for these practices are allocated to our office once a year, so start planning now if you have a need for approved best management practices on your farm. If you are interested in applying for either of these programs, please call the Stokes SWCD office at 336-593-2846 ext. 3 for an application and program information. Approval of applicants are based on highest need of water quality improvement. Contracts must receive final approval before practices are installed. ♦

#### **DISTRICT BOARD**

James Booth, *Chairman*  
Marvin Cavanaugh, *Vice Chairman*  
Johnny East, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Willard Nelson, *Member*  
Michael Booth, *Member*

#### **STAFF**

Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*  
Tom Smith, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*  
Lee Holcomb, *Supervisory Soil Conservationist*  
James Rodriguez, *Soil Conservationist*  
Greg Wagoner, *Soil Conservation Tech*

Pacer Sheets, *Soil Conservation Tech*  
Jeremy Evans, *Soil Conservationist*

## STUDENTS WIN LOCAL CONTESTS, ADVANCE TO REGIONAL COMPETITION

On November 2, 2017 the Stokes SWCD held its annual county-wide poster contest (for students in grades 3-6) & essay contest (for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade). The contest theme was "Water...The Cycle of Life". Congratulations to the following students who placed - their entries will advance to the regional competition being held on March 8 in Watauga Co.:

### 3rd GRADE POSTER CONTEST

**Aubrie Lovings – 1st Place (Lawsonville Elem.)**  
**Robert Sloan – 2nd Place (Nancy Reynolds Elem.)**

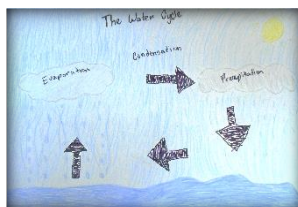


3rd GRADE



### 4th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

**Lillie Flinchum – 1st Place (Lawsonville Elem.)**  
**Molly Hilton – 2nd Place (Germantown Elem.)**



4th GRADE

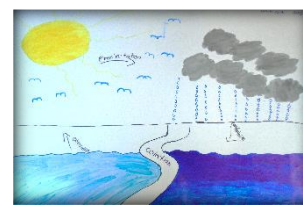


### 5th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

**Emily Lawson – 1st Place (Mt. Olive Elem.)**  
**Abigail Chandler – 2nd Place (London Elem.)**

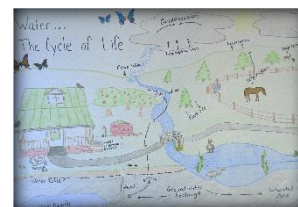


5th GRADE

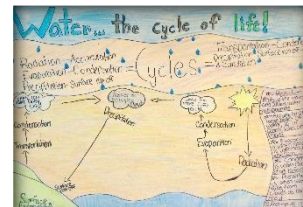


### 6th GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

**Isabella Butler – 1st Place (SEMS)**  
**Kaitlin Jones – 2nd Place (SEMS)**



6th GRADE



These students will be recognized and given awards at the Stokes Soil & Water Banquet on May 22nd.

*Pictured to the right (left-hand column) – 1<sup>st</sup> place posters for each grade level; (right-hand column) – 2<sup>nd</sup> place posters for each grade level. ♦*

## STOKES EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS PREPARE TO COMPETE IN REGIONAL ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> students from the Stokes County Early College will travel to Wilkes County to compete in the regional NW Envirothon Competition sponsored by the Area 2 Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's. The Envirothon is a competition in which middle school and high school teams are tested on their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. Winning teams will advance to the State Envirothon being held on April 27 & 28 in Alamance County. *Pictured to the left are the Early College students competing in the event on March 22<sup>nd</sup> along with their Team Advisor Mr. Sayrd Price. We wish you all the best in the competition! ♦*



## STUDENT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting applications from students in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade to attend the 2018 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) on June 24-29 at NC State University. The RCW is a week-long workshop for high school students to spend time in the field learning about our natural resources and their management in today's environment. Participants will meet & receive guidance from natural resource professionals, win cash awards & scholarship money, and so much more. Topics of study include: Soil Characteristics & Conservation, Wildlife & Fisheries Management, Forest Management, Nonagricultural Uses of Soils, Water Quality & Watershed Management. To view photos from past events & a promotional video, please visit the following website <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html> . Applications can be found at [www.stokesswcd.org](http://www.stokesswcd.org) under the education tab or you can call the office for more details at 336.593.2846 ext. 3 - ask for Janice. The deadline to submit applications to the Stokes Soil & Water office is Friday, March 9. ♦