

STOKES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)  
PO BOX 98 • DANBURY, NC 27016  
PHONE 336.593.2846 ext. 3 • [www.stokesswcd.org](http://www.stokesswcd.org)

### FARMER APPRECIATION – THURSDAY, APRIL 6– SOUTH STOKES HIGH SCHOOL



Mark your calendars – The 2017 FARMER APPRECIATION EVENT will be held at South Stokes High School on Thursday, April 6 from 6-9 PM; FREE FOOD (BBQ or Chicken and all the fixins'), ENTERTAINMENT & DOOR PRIZES. Please call 336-593-8179 or 336-593-2846 ext. 3 by April 3 if you plan to attend...we need a count for food preparation ♦

*Pictured above is the featured entertainment for the evening – “Rich In Tradition”*

### LITTLE SNOW CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT COMPLETED

In November 2015, the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was awarded grant funding from the NC Division of Water Resources, the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, and the Dan River 319 Grant Program, for a stream restoration project on a badly eroded stretch of Little Snow Creek which is located in the Dan River Watershed in Stokes County. Additional funding to complete the project in its entirety was later awarded through the USDA, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), National Fish & Wildlife Federation, and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

The leg-work for this project first began in 2011 with a site assessment study completed by the Stokes SWCD and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Findings from the study verified severe downstream bank erosion that resulted in a more sinuous stream pattern with tighter meandering bends cutting into the landowners pasture. In order to prevent the ongoing stream bank erosion, down-cutting of the stream channel, loss of land, and loss of aquatic habitat in downstream waters, a design plan was developed by NCWRC and funding was secured by the Stokes SWCD to repair the affected areas.

Project construction was awarded to Carolina Environmental Contracting, Inc. (CEC) located in Mt. Airy, NC. On October 24, 2016 CEC began construction which involved bank stabilization and natural stream restoration work within a 2,100+ linear feet reach of Little Snow Creek. Repair work included clearing, grubbing, grading, stream bank reshaping, structure installation, livestock stream crossing, sediment and erosion control measures, seeding and planting, as well as agricultural best management practices such as permanent livestock exclusion fencing and a livestock drinker system.

Results from installed practices led to a reduction in stream channel length from 2,156 feet to 1,700 feet which took the stream back to its natural channel pattern before the erosion began. Reshaping of the stream banks to a more dependable channel dimension also allowed for better transportation of sediments through the reach. Root wad structures, toe wood, j-hooks, log vanes, rock vanes and rock cross-vanes were installed improving the aquatic habitat and also stabilizing the stream bank. Native herbaceous shrubs and riparian trees were planted to further stabilize floodplains and stream banks. Completion of this project will result in a significant step towards improving water quality and aquatic habitat within Little Snow Creek and the Dan River.

To ensure the long term integrity of the work completed, the landowner agreed to donate a permanent conservation easement along the repaired area to the Stokes SWCD.

Agencies that partnered with the Stokes SWCD on the project include, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Carolina Environmental Contracting Inc., NC Department of Water Resources, NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation, EPA Section 319, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund ♦



BEFORE



SITE ASSESSMENT STUDY



CONSTRUCTION



COMPLETED PROJECT

#### DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

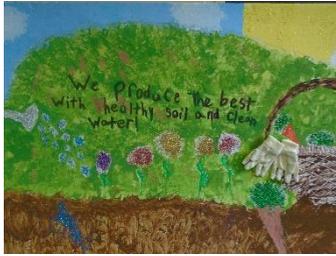
Dede DeBruhl, *District Conservationist*  
Tom Smith, *District Soil/Watershed Conservationist*  
Janice Pack, *Adm. Asst./Education Coordinator*

## STUDENTS WIN LOCAL CONTESTS, ADVANCE TO REGIONAL COMPETITION

On November 3, 2016 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 "SOIL & WATER...YOURS FOR LIFE". Congratulations to the following students who placed:

### 3rd GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Laken Ford – 1st Place (Mt. Olive Elem.)  
Calliope Wilkes– 2nd Place (Nancy Reynolds Elem.)



3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE



### 4th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Cameron Smith– 1st Place (Germantown Elem.)  
MaKayla Bullins– 2nd Place (Germantown Elem.)



4<sup>th</sup> GRADE



### 5th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Jaden Tuttle – 1st Place (Germantown Elem.)  
Breana Ortiz– 2nd Place (Germantown Elem.)



5<sup>th</sup> GRADE



### 6th GRADE POSTER CONTEST

Sara Stothers– 1st Place (SEMS)  
Emma Bingman – 2nd Place (PGMS)



6<sup>th</sup> GRADE



### 6th GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Lauren Parrish – 1st Place (PGMS)  
Daniel Pitt – 2nd Place (PGMS)

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

First place winners from Stokes County will compete at the regional level on March 9 in Surry County.

*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. ♦*

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS SCHEDULED IN APRIL

On April 25, 26, & 27 the Stokes Soil & Water Conservation District will host Environmental Awareness Days for all 5th grade students in Stokes County at Hanging Rock State Park. The Stokes SWCD has offered this program to students for over 30 years. Each day students will participate in 8 mini-workshops set-up throughout the park as they travel from station to station to learn about current environmental issues that correlate with the Common Core Essential Standards for 5th grade science. ♦



## 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 2017 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) on June 25-30 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 10. ♦

## FUNDING AVAILABLE TO INSTALL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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 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. ♦