

CHATHAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

Chatham to attend 2016 North American Envirothon

The 2016 International Envirothon being held in Forest Ontario Canada welcomed 52 teams of students from across North America including Chatham County's own Woods Charter. The 5 member High School team, the Philslothicals, won the state contest which set them on a journey to Canada for the North American contest. The contest was held July 24-29 in Forest Ontario.

The Envirothon program is an effective educational tool, capable of supplementing environmental education both inside and outside the classroom. Led by volunteer advisors, teams usually meet from late autumn until spring. Teams work collaboratively to develop their knowledge of ecology and natural resource management and to practice their environmental problem-solving skills in preparation for Envirothon competitions.

The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is always looking for additional schools to be involved with this program. If you would like your school to become involved, call our office at 919-542-8240 for additional information.



Resource Conservation Workshop June 26-July 1, 2016

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State University Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.



The Workshop is a weeklong workshop and involves study and hands on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. In order to achieve success, students come prepared to meet the primary objective under several awards programs as scholarships are awarded.



Applications were requested across the county. Students from Woods Charter and Chatham Charter jumped at the chance to attend. The 2016 students attending the workshop are Caroline Blythe from Woods Charter and Sarah Mason, from Chatham Charter.



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CHATHAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

2016/2017 Conservation Education Contests

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring Conservation Poster, Essay, and Public Speaking contests this year!

The theme for all the contests is “**Soil and Water....Yours for Life**”. This subject focuses on the importance of soil and water to our future and our daily lives and the importance of conservation and sustainability.

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” --- Aldo Leopold

Who’s eligible?

Poster Contest -Any Chatham County student (public, private, or home school) in **3rd - 6th grade!**

Essay Contest - Any Chatham County student (public, private, or home school) in the **6th grade!**

Public Speaking Contest - Any Chatham County student (public, private, or home school) in the **7th or 8th grade!**

The Poster and Essay contests runs until **January 20, 2017**. All entries must reach the District by 4:00 pm on that date. The Public Speaking Contest will be held at the District office on **January 19, 2017. Time TBA**

Prizes:

Not only do the contests provide a great way for the students to explore an issue on their own, but there are prizes for the students and winning teacher!

There will be a 1st, 2nd & 3rd place county-wide awards given in all the Contests.

1st place - \$50 cash

2nd place - \$25 cash

3rd place - \$15 cash

1st place winners in the county contest will be eligible for the Area contest.

More information about the contests can be obtained at:

919-542-8240

or email:

Brenda.williams@chathamnc.org



Students can explore the environment around them while possibly earning prized money!



NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS!

Call for cost share applications

For BMPs such as:

Livestock Exclusion

Stream Crossing

Prescribed Grazing

Nutrient Management

Grassed waterways

Conservation Tillage

Critical Area Planting

Irrigation ponds

No-Till Grain Drill Rental

In order to promote the use of conservation tillage and cover crop use on Chatham County farmland, the Chatham SWCD offers a no-till grain drill for rental. The drill is available to rent for \$8.00 per acre and can be picked up at the Chatham County Agriculture Center during normal hours of operation with a confirmed reservation made by SWCD staff.

- No-Till Grain Drill Specifications
- Planting Area - 5' wide
- Overall - 8' wide
- Pin with Lock Clip
- Minimum of 35 hp tractor
- Full Sized Truck for Road Transport

Call 919-545-8353 to reserve

Continued WORKSHOP

Carolyn Blythe was nominated for the S Grady Lane Scholarship. The S. Grady Lane Nominees – S. Grady Lane, former Division Director, helped start RCW. Students are recommended by counseling staff for scholarship interviews on the basis of citizenship, leadership, and demeanor. Being nominated for this award is a great honor. Kailee Shumate, Wilkes SWCD won this award. However, Carolyn was the winner of a \$500 scholarship and a \$100 cash for placing 1st in the written portion of the workshop.

Both young ladies spoke before the SWCD Board on August 11 to give the board a report of the lessons learned and how important the program was to them.

It has been going on ever since, wherever man's culture of the earth has bared the soil to rain and wind.” --- Hugh H. Bennett and W.C. Lowdermilk, circa 1930s





More photos of our State Envirothon team
at the International Envirothon, Ontario
Canada

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E-mail: brenda.williams@chathamnc.org

Middle & High School Students
Do you want to get an
Envirothon Team
started in your school?

All you need is 5 students who
are interested in:

- Forestry - Water Quality -
- Wildlife - Soils-
- Current Environmental Issues-

*For more information about how
to get your team started contact:*

Chatham Soil & Water Conservation
at
919-542-8240 or email
Brenda.williams@chathamnc.org

