

Spring, 2018



# Guilford Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Conversation

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For More Details, Check Out The Official Website:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>

Or contact your local Soil & Water Education Coordinator:

[krooks@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:krooks@guilfordcountync.gov)



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 Crop and Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

### Resource Conservation : Workshop

Dates: June 24 to June 29, 2018

#### Workshop Description

The Resource Conservation 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 should come prepared to meet the primary objective of the workshop -- learning about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.

#### Participant Eligibility

Students (grades 10-12) who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conservation and are nominated by their local soil and water conservation districts are eligible. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND.** The Districts give priority to rising juniors and seniors. Students may participate only one time in this workshop.

#### Subjects to be Covered

- Soil characteristics and soil conservation
- Forest, wildlife and fisheries management
- Nonagricultural uses for soils
- Water quality and watershed management

#### Costs

The cost of the workshop is \$425.00 per student, which will be **paid by the sponsoring district.** This includes room, linens, instructional supplies, insurance and planned meal functions. A refrigerator and microwave are provided in most rooms. Each year the Guilford SWCD selects 1 to 3 students to sponsor for the week-long residential camp. Interested students should visit the following website to download the application and submit to Kyleene Rooks at [krooks@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:krooks@guilfordcountync.gov)

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>



# Conservation Conversation

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

### Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 14, 1-5 pm

**Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library**  
1420 Price Park Dr.

Spend a day caring for and celebrating our planet. This event follows Greensboro Beautiful's [Great American Cleanup](#). Begin the day there and then come to the library for the celebration, exhibits and entertainment.

*Activities are sponsored by the City's Parks and Recreation and Field Operations departments, Greensboro Public Library, and Friends of the Greensboro Public Library.*

Children's Activities at Earth Day include:

- Hayrides
- Face-painting and nature crafts
- Scout try-its and badge activities
- Live animals
- Guided hikes and kids hands-on activities
- Eco-art
- Hands-on nature/gardening exhibits
- Alternative vehicles
- Solar demonstrations
- Nature photography exhibit
- Entertainment



*We will see you there!*

### Envirothon Winners from your County!

On March 20th teams from 11 counties competed in the Area 3 Envirothon. The top 7 teams from Middle and High School will be moving to the State Envirothon April 27/28th. Here's how Guilford County's Teams placed:



Middle School: The Academy of Lincoln's very own Team "Pandamonium" in first place! Congratulations ladies!

### **Join us for Water Week!!!**

National Drinking Water week is recognized the week of **May 6-12, 2018** by the American Water Works Association. This years' them is "**Protect the SOURCE**". Drinking Water Week is a unique opportunity for water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the importance of water in our lives. The City of Greensboro Water Resources department will help celebrate National Drinking Water by offering a variety of family friendly water related community events. Visit [www.greensboro-nc.gov/water](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/water) for more details.

### **CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE A FREE CLASSROOM PROGRAM**

Guilford SWCD is still scheduling programs for the 2017/2018 school year. As always, programs are based on the N.C. Academic Contest Standards and are **FREE** to all schools/groups in Guilford County.

Some of the programs we offer include: Water Cycle, Soils, Watersheds and Water Quality, Wetlands and more.

Kyleene Rooks, our Education Coordinator, has a background in biology and resource conservation work. She will soon be a certified Environmental Educator and facilitates many teacher workshops including Project WET.

## Jordan Lake Buffer Rules

### What do you need to know about Jordan Lake Buffer Rules?

On August 11th, 2009, the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ), began implementation of the Jordan Lake Buffer Rules. If you own property that is within the Jordan Lake watershed, YOU COULD BE AFFECTED. The purpose of the Jordan Lake Buffer Rules are to protect and preserve existing riparian buffers throughout the Jordan watershed as described in 15A NCAC02B.0262, in order to maintain their nutrient removal and stream PROTECTION FUNCTIONS. Also, this Rule will help protect the water supply uses of Jordan Reservoir and designated water supplies throughout the Jordan watershed.

### **What is a riparian buffer?**

- A vegetated area bordering a body of water, such as a stream, lake or pond

### **How do riparian buffers work?**

- The vegetated area closest to the body of water stabilizes the streambank and provides shade and habitat to aquatic life. The outer reaches of the vegetated buffer slow and spread out the flow of water over the land, trapping sediment and attached pollutants.



### **How are the riparian buffers beneficial?**

- Riparian buffers filter Stormwater runoff before it enters the stream. The vegetation within the buffer absorbs excess nutrients and sediment, controls erosion, moderates water temperature and provides habitat for wildlife. They also provide flood control and protect property.

### **The Buffer Rule Applies To:**

- Intermittent streams
- Perennial streams
- Lakes
- Reservoirs
- Ponds
- Modified natural streams

### **The Buffer Rule DOES NOT Apply To:**

- Manmade ponds & lakes outside natural drainage ways
- Ephemeral stream
- Ditches or manmade conveyances
- 404 wetlands

### **Definitions:**

- **Intermittent:** well-defined channel that contains water only part of the year; typically winter and spring.
- **Perennial:** well-defined channel that contains water year round during a year with typical rainfall
- **Ephemeral:** flows in direct response to precipitation event

### **Are there provisions to allow existing uses to remain in the riparian buffer?**

- Yes. A use is considered “existing” if it was present within the riparian buffer prior to August 11, 2009 (See Jordan Lake Rules).

### **How do I know if I am located within the Jordan Lake watershed?**

- Go to [www.jordanlake.org](http://www.jordanlake.org) then click on maps and then enter your address in the box provided.
- More than 50% of Guilford County lies within the Jordan Lake watershed.

### **How Wide Is It?**

- **50 foot buffers on all surface waters including Intermittent and perennial streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds and modified natural streams .**
- **Zone 1: The first 30 feet from the water’s edge is undisturbed vegetation.**
- **Cone 2: The outer 20 feet is managed vegetation.**



# Conservation Conversation

## No-till and Cover Crops: Why They Are Important To Farmers

By 2050, the world will contain 9 billion people, and producing enough food over the long haul will require farmers to protect the soil that will be producing that food.

By restoring soil health through conservation tillage and cover crops, farmers will be rebuilding the carbon or organic matter those soils once contained. One major benefit of that improvement is restoring the soil's natural "glues," that give it an aggregate stability and make it more resilient and more able to withstand the pressures of water that come with a 2-inch rain.

This increases the capacity of soil to retain water, rather than having it run off, taking valuable topsoil and nutrients with it.

By contrast, soils that have been no-tilled can absorb much more water, which can then be called up by the crop when weather turns dry.

No-till and cover crops have shown good results with irrigated land. By increasing the water-holding capacity of their soil, irrigators had been able to get more mileage out their systems and increase efficiencies.

Another benefit of increased water-retention capacity would be the reduction of downstream flooding in lowland areas, which frequently drowns out a lot of agricultural production.

Soils with good aggregate stability also resist compaction better, which allows producers to get in the field sooner in the spring, and handle traffic better during the rest of the season.

The world is currently losing about 23 billion tons of topsoil from farms each year, or roughly .7 percent. Once that soil is removed from where it's supposed to be, it loses its functionality and then becomes "dirt," rather than soil. At that rate, over the next 150 years, all the topsoil in the world could be wiped out, unless we make changes.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, said in the aftermath of the American Dust Bowl, "A nation that destroys its soils, destroys itself."



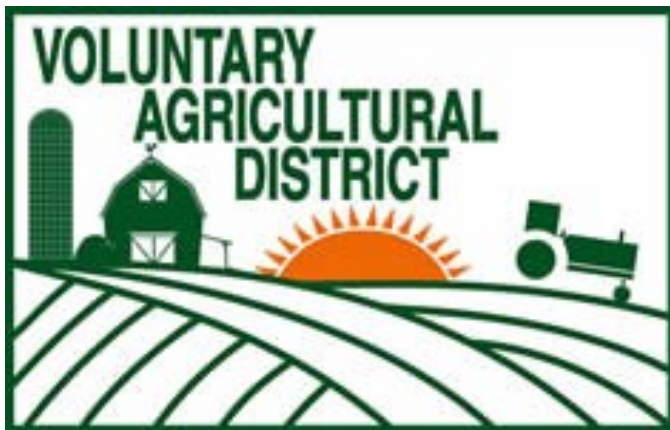
### COVER CROP USES

BENEFICIAL INSECTS	CHICKEN FORAGE	COMPACTION CONTROL	DEER ATTRACTANT	EROSION CONTROL	FORAGE	GREEN MANURE	NITROGEN FIXATION	NITROGEN SCAVENGER	NO TILL	ORGANIC MATTER	WEED SUPPRESSION
Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa
Barley	Chicory	Clover	Chicory	Barley	Chicory	Barley	Clover	Barley	Barley	Barley	Barley
Clover	Clover		Clover	Clover	Clover	Buckwheat	Cowpeas	Flax	Buckwheat	Buckwheat	Buckwheat
Buckwheat	Cowpea		Cowpea	Cowpea	Forage Pea	Cowpea	Forage Pea	Rye	Clover	Flax	Clover
Chicory	Flax		Forage Pea	Oats	Rape	Flax		Ryegrass	Flax	Forage Pea	Forage Pea
Cowpeas	Forage Pea		Rape	Rye	Turnips	Forage Pea		Vetch	Forage Pea	Oats	Oats
Flax	Rape		Turnips	Wheat	Vetch	Oats		Wheat	Oats	Rye	Rye
Vetch	Turnips		Vetch			Rye			Rye	Ryegrass	Ryegrass
	Vetch					Ryegrass			Ryegrass		Vetch
						Vetch			Vetch		Wheat
						Wheat			Wheat		



We would also like to say thank you to everyone who came out in February to help make our annual tree sale successful! We will see you again next year!

## Conservation Conversation



### What is an Agricultural District?

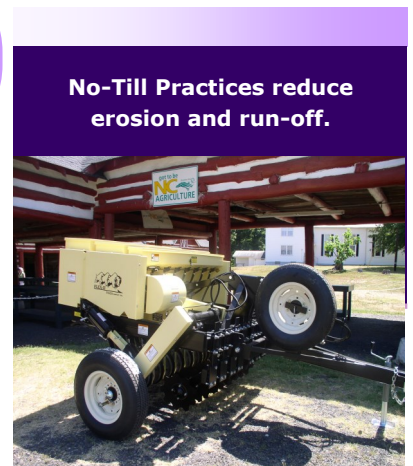
The purpose of an agricultural district program is to encourage the preservation and protection of farmland from a non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic and social well being of North Carolina.

Since we began in 2000, 374 Guilford County farms have signed on as Voluntary Agricultural Districts; making that almost 14,519 acres of farmland preserved.

### *No-Till Drill for Planting Needs*

The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss in our county by renting our no-till drill.

The 5.5 foot drill is best used for pasture reseeding and can be rented for \$10/acre with a minimum rental rate of \$30.



### *Weed Wiper Available*

#### What is a Weed Wiper???

The concept is simple. Herbicide solution, is supplied to an absorbent surface. The herbicide soaked surface only contacts weeds taller than the crop. Chemical is transferred to the surface of the weeds as the applicator "wipes" over them. Key elements include a surface that will hold solution without dripping, a way to prime the surface, a way to mount the unit so the height can be adjusted, and weeds that are taller than desirable plants. Renting our Weed Wiper allows you to treat pastures despite windy weather, prevents damage to other desirable crops surrounding your weeds, and keeps money in your pocket by cutting down your herbicide rates. It's also far better for the environment!

- The district now has a fully operational Weed Wiper at the rental rate of **\$50.00** first day and **\$30** for each successive day; to be used by the user/lessee for the purpose of controlling weed competition in hay, cropland and pastureland.  
**(RENTAL MINIMUM COST is \$50.00)**
- Call the SWCD office to find out more information or to check availability.
- The district can provide technical services in planning and/or, where required, certifying land treatments/conservation practices on the farm or field being treated by the land user/lessee.
- The Weed Wiper is an efficient tool for using minimal amounts of herbicide chemicals while saving money and time.
- The District is available to offer technical advice for planning land treatments, conservation practices and other best management practices being considered on the land user/lessee's property.

# Conservation Conversation

## Check out our Cost Share Programs

### NC Agricultural Cost Share Program

**(NCACSP):** The district works with agricultural landowners and producers to

- ◇ Develop and approve individual conservation plans
- ◇ Identify the best management practices (BMPs) best suited for your operation
- ◇ Design BMPs and help ensure their longevity; and
- ◇ Acquire preliminary approval of a cost share contract



### Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP):

is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various BMPs on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly related to agricultural production. Guilford Soil & Water works to:

- ◇ Educate landowners on water quality, Stormwater management and retrofit practices
- ◇ Develop and improve individual conservation plans
- ◇ Identify the BMPs best suited for your property
- ◇ Design BMPs and help ensure their longevity; and
- ◇ Acquire preliminary approval of cost share contract



### Agricultural Water Resource Assistance Program

**(AgWRAP):** AgWRAP is administered by the NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission by your local soil and water conservation districts too:

- ◇ Identify opportunities to increase water efficiency availability and storage
- ◇ Implement BMPs to conserve and protect water resources
- ◇ Increase water use efficiency; and
- ◇ Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes



Applications are accepted on a rolling bases, however funding is received at the top of the fiscal year in July.

For more information on the process contact Jamey Walker:  
[jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov) or 336.641.2443

# Conservation Conversation



*Events and Announcements.....*

**We sell bluebird boxes, bird feeders, and wood duck boxes year round!**  
**Bluebird Boxes \$20: Bird Feeders \$30:**  
**Wood Duck Boxes \$40**

**Board Meetings: 1st Wednesday of Each Month**  
**9:00 a.m. Rm 106 of Ag. Center**

**We're on the web!**  
<http://www.myguilford.com/planning-and-development/soil-and-water-conservation/>



Phone: 336-641-2440  
 Fax: 336-641-2441

Millie Langley - Soil Conservationist [mlangle@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:mlangle@guilfordcountync.gov)

Jamey Walker - Soil Technician [jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:jwalker1@guilfordcountync.gov)

Kyleene Rooks - Education Coordinator [krooks@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto: krooks@guilfordcountync.gov)

*Yours for Life*

**Our Mission** *...to promote the conservation of natural resources in Guilford County through education, information, technical assistance, and available economic incentives.*

The Guilford Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina, charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the District. The District partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to carry out these responsibilities. As a local organization, we work with citizens, agencies, and landowners to plan and direct programs for the conservation and development of our natural resources. We work closely with other state, federal, and local agencies, such as NC Department of Agriculture, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, NC Forest Service, NC Cooperative Extension, etc. to provide effective natural resource management and environmental education.

- Our Team:**
- Millie Langley, Soil Conservationist
  - Jamey Walker, Soil Technician
  - Kyleene Rooks, Education Coordinator
- District Supervisors:**
- George Teague , Chairman
  - Harold Alexander, Vice Chairman
  - Ray Briggs, Secretary/Treasurer
  - Lewis Brandon III, Member
  - Anna Amoriello, Member