

Educators Newsletter

The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District offers **FREE** educational opportunities & resources to teachers and educators on nature, the environment, STEM focused activities and more:



- * Conservation Contests
- * NC Envirothon program
- * NC Resource Conservation Workshop
- * Classroom Presentations
- * Bookmark Contest
- * Environment Education Learning Library
- * 3rd Grade Environmental Field Days
- * Teacher/Educator Workshops
- * And more...



Like us on Facebook at [Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)



Follow us on Twitter at [DCoSWCD](#)



Check out our YouTube channel at [Durham SWCD](#)

Contact us at:
Durham SWCD
201 E Main St
5th floor
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919-560-0558
Fax: 919-328-6192

We are on the web at:
<http://dconc.gov/swcd>

Durham SWCD

The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is:

*To conserve, enhance and promote the natural resources of Durham County by providing technical assistance, **environmental education** information and economic incentives to county citizens and by exhibiting a diversified program to meet its changing needs.*

The District is dedicated to encouraging and sponsoring a strong and active Environmental Education Program for all age groups in Durham County.

Our goal is to support educators and teachers in teaching environmental and conservation education. We offer **FREE of charge** a number of different education programs for

various age levels throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact us for more information about any of the programs you see detailed here or for information on how your student can participate.



District Staff:

- Eddie Culberson, Director
- Lisa Marochak, Senior Administrative Officer, Education Coordinator
- Mike Dupree, Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager

Board of Supervisors:

- Talmage Layton, Chair
- Danielle Adams, Vice Chair
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- Ray Eurquhart, Supervisor
- David Harris, Supervisor
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- Kathryn Spann, Associate Supervisor
- Melissa Rooney, Associate Supervisor
- Becky Emmons, Associate Supervisor
- Natalie Murdock, Associate Supervisor
- Laura Marie Davis, Associate Supervisor

Calendar of Events at a Glance....

July 2018 - June 2019

- * Classroom Presentations by appointment (p3)
- * 3rd Grade Field Days by appointment (p5)
- * Teachers Workshops available (p8)

February 2019

- * 8th - Conservation Contest entries due (p4)
- * 8th - Area 4 Envirothon team registration due (p6)
- * TBA - District Public Speaking Contest event (p4)

April 2019

- * 18th - District K-2nd grade Bookmark Contest entries due (p10)

May 2019

- * 3rd & 4th - NC Envirothon statewide competition (p6)

August 2018

- * Conservation Contests for 3rd - 9th grade opens (p4)

March 2019

- * 1st - District K-2nd grade Bookmark Contest opens (p10)

June 2019

- * TBA - SWCD Annual Educational Awards Banquet

October 2018

- * 6th & all month - Durham Big Sweep (p5)

- * 21st - Area 4 Envirothon competition (p 6)

July 2019 - August 2019

- * July 28 - Aug 2 - NCF-Envirothon in Raleigh (p 7)

Classroom Resources

Environmental Education Learning Library

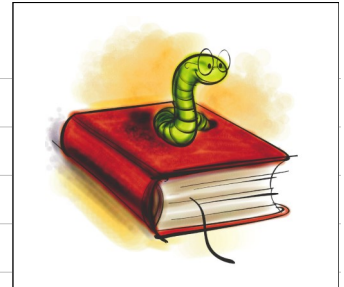
The Durham SWCD Environmental Education Learning Library provides environmental education materials to teachers and other educators who work with children and aspire to share the joy of nature and the environment with them.

The library contains fiction and non-fiction books, videos & magazines about the environment and

natural resources targeting ages 2-9.

All Learning Library materials are available FREE of charge for a two week loan period to qualified participants. Application, Request Sheet and a book list can be downloaded from our website at

<http://dconc.gov/swcd>.



**Durham County
Environmental Education
Learning Library**

Classroom Presentations - Pre K - 12th grade

We offer classroom presentations and hands-on activities on a variety of natural resource topics for classes across Durham County.

Popular presentations include; soils/erosion, watershed models, wildlife, water quality, vermicomposting, recycling, watersheds, pollinators and more.

We also offer presentations on agricultural education topics such as gardening, greenhouse production, animal agriculture, best management practices and more.

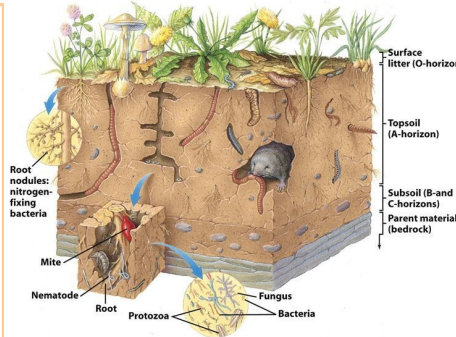
To arrange for a presentation, please call 919-560-0558 or email:

* Lisa Marochak at lmrochak@dconc.gov



2018-2019 Conservation Creativity Contests

Students: Show off your creativity by participating in the 2018-2019 Conservation Creativity Contests



THE LIVING SOIL

Learn more about Soil & Water at

<http://dconc.gov/swcd>

Or contact us at 919-560-0558 for complete rules and entry forms

Students in Grades 3rd - 9th are encouraged to participate in our annual Conservation Creativity Contests.

The Durham contests are part of a statewide series sponsored by the NC Association of Conservation

Districts, with multiple opportunities to win awards and prize money.

1st place winners in Durham will advance to a regional contest and if successful will then go on to a state-level event.

This year's theme is **"The Living Soil."**

Durham prizes:

1st place - \$50 + award presented at annual District Awards Banquet

2nd place - \$25 + certificate presented at annual District Awards Banquet

Teachers: Please note, if one of your students wins 1st Place in one of the Conservation Creativity Contests you will receive \$30!

Contest entries due on: Friday, February 8, 2019



2018-2019 Conservation Creativity Contests:

* *This year's theme, 'The Living Soil, can be incorporated into &/or enhance the NC DPI Standard Course of Study, Essential Standards for Science for each grade level. Grade level correlations are available upon request.*

CONTESTS:

Open to all public schools, private schools, homeschool students and student clubs in Durham County.

- ◇ Poster Contest: 3rd-6th grade
- ◇ Essay Contest: 6th grade
- ◇ Computer Designed Slide Show: 6th grade
- ◇ Public Speaking: 7th & 8th grade
- ◇ Graphic Design Poster: 9th grade

Please let us know if you are interested in your students participating in any of these contests

3rd grade Environmental Education Field Days

Durham 3rd graders are invited to spend a day learning about their environment from local resource professionals.

The 3rd Grade Environmental Education Field Day is a chance for Durham students and teachers to put down the book, get out of the classroom and learn first hand about our natural world directly from scientists and conservationists while having fun!

This year we are bringing the field day to you! Book a date now to have us visit your school and hold a "field day" on your campus. All we need is a space outdoors (& class-

rooms inside in case of rain) and we will bring the scientist and resource professionals to you!

Topics include:

Soils, Water/Aquatic Environments, Forestry/Plants, Wildlife & Environmental Issues

Open to all Durham County Public or Private 3rd grade classes! The event is **Free** of charge; however participation size for each day is limited. Availability is on a first come first serve bases.

Call 919-560-0558 or email Imarochak@dconc.gov



DATES: OCTOBER - MAY

(YOU PICK YOUR DATE)

TIME: MORNING OR AFTERNOON

(TIMES MAY VARY TO FIT YOUR SCHEDULE)

THE FIELD DAY WILL INCLUDE 4-5 SESSIONS & SESSIONS ARE TYPICALLY 25-30 MINS EACH

Durham Big Sweep



Durham Big Sweep is a Countywide trash clean-up event sponsored every fall. Volunteers are encouraged to help clean-up Durham by pledging to clean-up a site.

Schools or students can participate by hosting a clean-up of their school grounds!

Challenge your class to make a positive difference by removing unsightly litter and

debris. Help protect our environment for everyone's enjoyment; people and wildlife. Students will learn about respect for our environment and the impact our actions have on others.

District staff are available to present litter and recycling lessons to classes to help the students understand the importance of Big Sweep year-round.

Schools or classes can register to participate at DurhamBigSweep.org or contact us at 919-560-0558 or Imarochak@dconc.gov for more information.



NC Envirothon

The NC Envirothon program is a hands-on environmental science and natural resources competition for middle school and high school students. Five member teams of students study, train and are then tested on their knowledge of five subject areas: Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife, Forestry and Current Environmental Issues.

Through outdoor activities, team work, critical thinking, leadership skills training and more, the Envirothon program is helping to develop tomorrows informed leaders of tomorrow today!

Durham has an active Envirothon program and is committed to its growth. District staff will work with each team to coordinate the necessary training they need to succeed.

For more information on Durham County's Envirothon program, please call 919-560-0558 or email Imarochak@dconc.gov

Dates to Remember:

March 21st - Area 4 Envirothon regional qualifying competition

May 3-4 - NC Envirothon state competition

July 28 - Aug 2 - 2019 NCF-Envirothon international competition

(see pg 7 for more information)

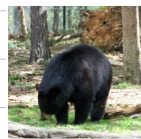


Envirothon - areas of study

SOILS / LAND USE - Learn about soil structure, how to interpret maps, and evaluate land forms, and about soil characteristics that affect urban and agricultural land issues. Gain an understanding of what an important ecosystem lies below the surface.



WILDLIFE - Students learn firsthand from wildlife experts about animal populations, their dynamics, and the importance of habitat conservation. Learn identification skills used by wildlife resource professionals in the field.



FORESTRY - Students develop an understanding of the practices for maintaining healthy forest ecosystems through the help of professional foresters. They learn the basics of species identification and forest structure and dynamics as well as management.



CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - Students will explore the facets of current environmental issues facing our state, nation & the world, and learn the complexity of real-life environmental decisions.



AQUATICS - Students study marine and freshwater ecology to assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They learn to identify aquatic organisms, learn about watershed management, and non-point source pollution issues.



2019 NCF-Envirothon Competition comes to NC

In July 2019, over 500 of the brightest high school students, advisors, parents/chaperones and volunteers from across the U.S., Canada and China will be visiting North Carolina to participate in the 2019 NCF-Envirothon.



The 2019 NCF-Envirothon competition is the ultimate, international-level competition for high school teams participating in the Envirothon program. Thousands of dollars in scholarships are available for winning teams.

The event is hosted by a different state or Canadian province each year, but in 2019 it will be in North Carolina.

This is a unique opportunity to experience the top-level Envirothon competition right in our own backyard!

The 2019 event will be held from July 28th - Aug 2nd in Raleigh, NC and will be based in and around the campus of NC State University. The competition will be six days of education, activities and fun! Below is a sample of what will happen each day:

Day 1 - Team Registration, Opening Ceremony and then a Trading Session/Ice Cream Social.

Day 2 - Training Day, teams will learn about Soils/Land Use, Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife and the CEI topic "Agriculture & the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World."

Day 3 - Testing Day, teams will be tested in the five subject areas!

Day 4 - Educational (Fun) Day, teams (& volunteers) have a day to unwind, while also learning a little more about NC. Possible travel destinations include the NC Coast!

Day 5 - Oral Presentation (OP) Prep Day, teams will receive their OP scenario for the first time, and then be sequestered away from everyone for 6-8 hours to develop a 20 minute OP.

Day 6 - OP Judging Day, teams will deliver their OPs to one of several groups of judges. The top three scoring teams will re-present their OPs in front of everyone and a new set of judges. After dinner, the Awards Ceremony will reveal who will walk away with the top prize!

We need a huge number of volunteers to help each day of the event, as well as set-up and break-down on the days leading up to and after the event. Some duties include:

- judge Oral Presentations
- help with set up and take down
- guide teams between stations
- help with food & drink logistics
- be bus monitors
- take pictures
- be team buddies
- check in and check out teams
- be test runners
- And Much More!
- be timers or monitors

We are recruiting volunteers now that can help us show the world how great North Carolina is! Teachers please consider spending a day or more volunteering! Email jbrooks@dconc.gov if interested.

To learn more about the 2019 NCF-Envirothon visit www.ncenvirothon.org and click on the 2019 NCF-Envirothon tab

Teacher of the Year Contest

Nominate yourself or an outstanding K-12th grade teacher you know that excels in conservation & environmental education in the classroom.

Each year the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes outstanding conservation education efforts of Durham County's teachers by awarding a **Conservation Education Teacher of the Year** award to deserving teachers in **Elementary, Middle and High School**.

All K-12th grade teachers in public and private schools in Durham County are eligible. Winners from each category will be awarded a plaque and a cash prize of \$100 at our Annual Conservation Awards Banquet. Winners may go on to be entered in the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Teacher of the Year competition.

Eligibility:

- Educators must be teaching full time in the classroom and be personally responsible for utilizing a conservation education program.
- Shown concern, scope, and originality by integrating environmental education into his/her curriculum.
- Provide a positive environmental role model.
- Team teachers are eligible, but awards will be made to the designated team leader.

For a complete list of rules and the registration form, please email Imarochak@dconc.gov or call 919-560-0558

Deadline for Entries: Entries must be received by the first Friday in April of each year.



2018 Elementary Teacher of the Year, Anna Morrison, 1st grade teacher at Central Park School

Teachers Workshops

The Durham SWCD offers 3 different curriculum based workshops for teachers and educators;

- * **Project Food, Land & People** - a K-12 curriculum that helps people better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment and people of the world.
- * **WOW! Wetlands are Wonderful** - a K-12 curriculum that helps people better understand wetlands and their importance in a healthy environment

Teacher CEU and EENC certification credit hours are available for each workshops.

Interested teachers should contact the District at 919-560-0558 or Imarochak@dconc.gov to inquire about organizing a training at your school today!



BETC (Bionomic Education Training Center)



BETC is a workforce development training program with curriculum that addresses water quality and conservation Best Management Practices.

Two units of curriculum were developed for the BETC program: a 30-day unit on engineering rain gardens and cisterns for water quality improvements and a 11-day unit on soils and water analysis. *Though written for high school, the curriculum can be easily adapted to use in middle schools.*

The curriculum provides students with an opportunity to obtain hands-on work experience in STEM, and encourages them to pursue careers in Green Infrastructure Technology and develop entrepreneurial skills.

If you are interested in bringing BETC to your school, please contact mdupree@dconc.gov or call 919-560-0558



NC Resource Conservation Workshop

The Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) is a weeklong camp for students who are interested in conservation, the environment and/or our state's natural resources. The camp is sponsored by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The RCW targets hopeful future environmental professionals by giving students a first-hand look at a wide array of conservation careers that they may not know about.

Since the camp is housed on the campus of NC State University, it also gives students a chance to explore college life.

The Durham SWCD's Board of Supervisors is committed to sponsoring at least one Durham County student delegate per year who wants to attend the workshop. The Durham SWCD will pay all registration fees. All the student will be responsible for is a few meals on their own and transportation to and from NCSU at the start and end of camp.

2019 RCW Date: June 2019 (exact dates to be announced in late winter)

Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible (priority will be given to rising seniors).

Contact us at 919-560-0558 or Imarochak@dconc.gov for an application packet.





Soil & Water

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Durham SWCD
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5th floor
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919-560-0558
Fax: 919-328-6192

We are on the web at:
<http://dconc.gov/swcd>

KG-2nd Grade Bookmark Contest

Durham County kids in K - 2nd grade are invited to participate in the annual Spring Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District. Winners from each grade level will have copies of their bookmark given to their whole class! The contest is open to any public, private or homeschooled K-2nd grader in Durham County. Contact Lisa Marochak at 919-560-0558 or Imarochak@dconc.gov for full rules and the official entry form.

Dates: March 1 - April 18, 2019



2018 1st grade - 1st place



2018 KG - 1st place



2018 2nd grade - 1st place

Join our Mailing List

Stay abreast of the latest happenings by joining our e-mail list.

- email - Imarochak@dconc.gov to be added today!