

Winter

2012-2013



Southern High School Received \$30,714 for Agricultural Education Enhancement Program

The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District has received a grant from the National Institute for Agriculture (NIFA) for the implementation of a Environmental Science Research Station that we refer to as the Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC). This project began this fall on the Southern High campus and will be implemented over the next two years. The BETC program will enhance student performance in Science, Math, Engineering and Agriculture and offer hands on experience in science research and stormwater engineering and design. The Durham SWCD staff and members of the SWCD Board and Farmland Protection Advisory Board are working with Kenneth Barnes, the School's Principal and Amy Jenkins, the Occupation Course of Study teacher at Southern High School, to develop a school-based industry and install the BETC research station.

Please contact the office for more information on this program 919-560-0558.



The students have installed the nursery fabric and are filling the raised beds with soil.



The students leveling the area for the nursery production

DURHAM SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION CORNER

Certified Environmental Educator

October 2012– District staff member, Jennifer Brooks became a certified NC Environmental Educator through the NC Office of Environmental Education.

Environmental Education Certification recognizes an educator's understanding and stewardship of NC's natural resources and the knowledge and skills to be environmental education leaders in their community. Participants must complete over 200 hrs of specialized trainings. This achievement benefits not only Durham Soil & Water but the entire state and contributes to the future of NC's environment. Congratulations Jennifer!



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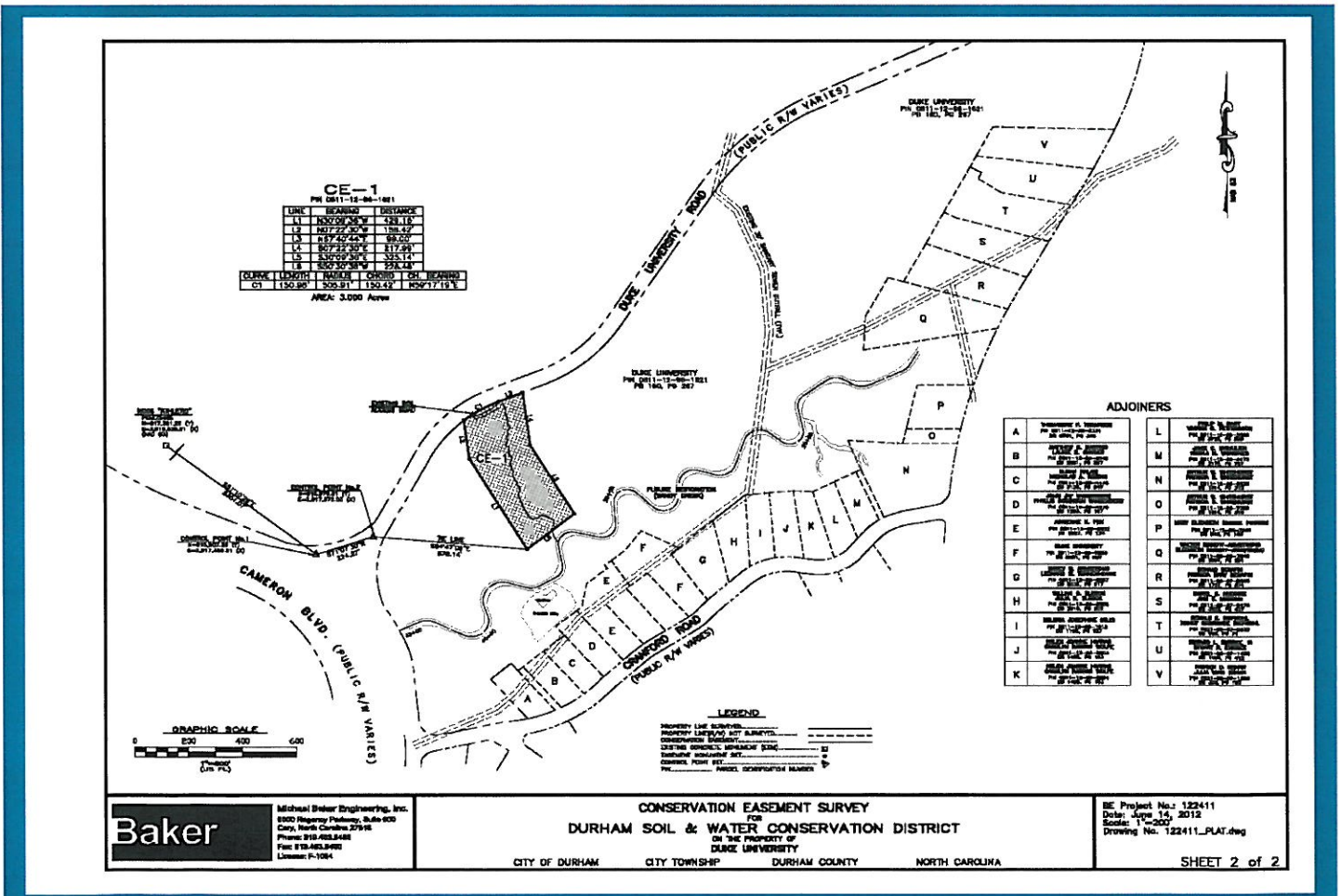


District Receives Funds to Restore Sandy Creek, Phase V

On October 16th the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District received official notification of funding in the amount of \$399,995 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). The District's application was one of one hundred fifty-seven local governments, state agencies and land trust that requested over \$122,000,000 during CWMTF 2012 grant cycle. Only six restoration projects were funded during this funding cycle. The proposed project seeks to improve water quality on the Duke University campus in Durham. The project stream is part of Phase 5 of a watershed scale effort to improve water quality in the Upper Sandy Creek Watershed. Sandy Creek is a headwater tributary to the Jordan Lake reservoir and a state-designated Natural Heritage Program Priority Area.

Phase V includes the construction of approximately 3,128' of stream restoration along an Upper Sandy Creek. The terminus of the project has a drainage area of 1.46 square miles. 100% of the proposed project is on Duke University property. Duke University will donate a conservation easement to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District to hold and monitor for perpetuity. The project begins at Anderson Street and flows through Duke Forest before entering a culvert under Academy Road which is the end of the project. The permitting for the entire Phase 5 project has been completed and awaiting construction.

Once completed this watershed scale effort will treat approximately 1365 acres of the Upper Sandy Creek. Duke University representatives are presently in discussions with the Division of Water Quality for nutrient credits generated through the university's donations towards the project.





Durham Soil & Water Conservation District 2013 Conservation Contests: *Water...the Cycle of Life*

Contests & Grade Eligibilities:

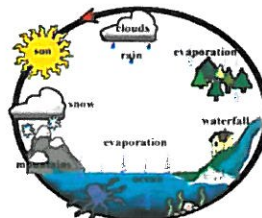
- Poster Contest: 3rd-6th grade
- Essay Contest: 6th grade
- Public Speaking: 7th & 8th grade
- Computer Designed Slide Show: 6th grade
- Computer Designed Poster Contest: 9th grade

There will be a 1st and 2nd place award given for each category in Durham County:

- 1st place - \$50 and entered in regional competition
 - 2nd place - \$25

****Educators who have a 1st place winning student in any category will receive \$30 to use towards school supplies****

The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring **Conservation Contests** for all Durham County students in grades 3-9! These contests are open to public, private, homeschool students and student clubs. A 1st & 2nd place prize will be awarded to contest winners in each grade category. 1st place winning entries will advance on to Area-level contests. Last year, several winners from Durham County went on to compete in state-level contests and placed 1st or 2nd in NC!



The theme for the 2013 contests are:

Water...the Cycle of Life

This encompasses a wide range of topic ideas that the students can incorporate in their entries, such as ecology, conservation, natural resources, and will meet the NC DPI Standard Course of Study in a variety of Goals & Objectives.

DEADLINE : All contest entries are due to the Durham SWCD office by **February 14, 2013 at 5pm.**

Please call or email for complete rules and registration.

**Durham Soil and Water
Conservation District**

721 Foster St
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919-560-0558
Fax 919-560-0563

E-mail jbrooks@doonc.gov

Soil and Water...Your's for Life!

Big Sweep 2012



Thank You to all the Durham residents who came out for the 2012 Big Sweep cleanup! Durham County had a great volunteer participation with 416 volunteers working to clean up Durham.

Those 416 volunteers cleaned 25 different sites around the County, properly disposing of an estimated 20,513 pounds of trash. This trash was found in various parks, neighborhoods, properties and roadsides, as well as local streams, rivers and other water bodies around the county.



This year's event was sponsored by the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Durham Stormwater Services Division and Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc. Trash disposal assistance was provided by Durham County's General Services Department and the City of Durham's Neighborhood Im-

provement Services.



Some of the more unusual items collected include: 1 toilet, 2 skate boards, large piece of board, 15' of hard plastic tubing 3 basketball ,1 plastic downspout extension filled with mud, 1 plastic planter, 1 wooden door, rusty bicycle, metal pipes, 3 TV's, 2 shopping carts, 25 weight plate, volleyball post with net attached, car battery, 2 car bumpers, plastic lawn chair, tricycle, tricycle parts, paint cans, drywall, car mats, child car seat, car parts- bumpers, tire rims, hubcaps, pieces of torn tires, 1 gasoline can, 2 pieces of rebar, 1 plastic milk crate, 2 Five-gallon buckets, Kiddie car, 1/2 door, Duke University Police and Security traffic cone, Wooden Pallet, Cast iron grate from an old storm drain, Camping stove top and grate, Plywood door to a cabinet, parts of a rear projection TV and a total of 12,860 lbs of trash hauled off in a dump truck.

North Carolina Big Sweep was founded as Beach Sweep in 1987 by Dr. Lundie Spence of the NC Sea Grant College Program. In that year, the Sweep was nothing



more than a hastily-planned coastal cleanup. However, the success that year, attracting over 1,000 volunteers and collecting over 14 tons of debris, allowed the Sweep to grow and rapidly expand inland. In 1989, the public-private partnership officially became Big Sweep, the nation's first statewide waterway cleanup. A few years ago, NC Big Sweep expanded its mission to include not just our waterways but our whole environment. Since its founding, NC Big Sweep has had more than 300,000 volunteers and collected over 10.3 million pounds of trash from our environment in North Carolina.



2012 Environmental Field Days

About 422 third graders from 6 schools across Durham County attended the 2012 Durham County Environmental Field Days event from Oct 9-11th. The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the event at the Dr. Roberts Environmental Education Park in Bahama, NC. Students participated in learning stations taught by local resource professionals dealing with a variety of nature related topics, such as soils, water quality, forestry and wildlife.



Presenters at the stations were from the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District, the EPA, the Eno River Association, the City of Durham Stormwater Services, the NC Parks Division, the Neuse Riverkeepers Association, the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, the City of Durham Water Management Division, the Durham County Engineering Department and the Durham County Cooperative Extension Services.

The event this year was sponsored by the Durham County Farm Bureau and the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board.



Ag Cost Share



In September, the Durham District received \$37,312 in cost share allocations from the NC

Division of Soil and Water for Best Management Practice installations during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Due to high demand and water quality improvement needs, the District has already allocated 82% of its funds. However, the District is still accepting applications for the remaining funds and in anticipation of a spring allocation from the NC Division of Soil and Water.

The Agriculture Cost Share Assistance Program (ACSP) is a voluntary program for farmers and agricultural landowners to help address natural resource concerns on the land and non-point source pollution from agricultural activities. The program provides technical and financial assistance for the installation of best management practices.

If you are a landowner or renter of an existing agricultural operation, including horse farms, and have been operating for more than three years, you may be eligible to participate in the North Carolina Agriculture Cost

Share Program. Qualified participants can be reimbursed up to 75% of a predetermined average cost for each BMP installed.

The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for assistance. Interested farmers and landowners should contact the District for more information.



Community Conservation Assistance Program

The CCAP program is a voluntary state-funded program intended to assist landowners with best management practices in order to improve water quality on urban lands. This voluntary incentive-based cost share program is administered by the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, who rank



eral and state agencies over the past two fiscal years. If you have an erosion or water quality issue on your property or would like more information on the CCAP program please contact the office at 919-560-0558.



the applications for assistance by the water quality benefit to be attained. The Durham district receives an annual allocation for projects from the Division of Soil and Water and the Durham District received an additional \$59,676 in grant funds from fed-



Durham Homeowner's Pledge to Participate in the Voluntary Nutrient Reduction Program

Durham Soil and Water Conservation District has a new program to educate and encourage homeowners to reduce fertilizer applications to their property by 40%. The program encourages homeowners to follow fertilizer application guidelines that will help the county reduce its nutrient loading into the Jordan and Falls reservoirs. In fiscal year 2012 Durham SWCD staff met with 18 community organizations to unveil this program which educates citizens on water conservation practices that will further assist the county and prepare for future water demands as the population of Durham increases. If you would like more

information on this program you can review the program on our website. Please call 919-560-

0058 if you would like to sign a pledge and participate in the program.

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE FERTILIZATION FOR ESTABLISHED LAWNS IN THE PIEDMONT

LAWN GRASS TYPE	Monthly Application Rate (lb N/1000 sq. ft.)												Total lb. N Per 1000 sq. ft. per yr.
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Bermudagrass	Basic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
	High	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tall Fescue	Basic	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3
	High	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	6
Zoysiagrass	Basic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
	High	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Zoysiagrass	Basic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
	High	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4

Recommended by Carolina Lawns - A Guide to Maintaining Quality Turf in the Landscape by NCSU, ASU, University Cooperative Extension

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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VOLUNTARY NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROGRAM

HELP US PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA'S DRINKING WATER.

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District

721 Foster Street
Durham, NC 27701

Phone: (919) 560-0558
www.co.durham.nc.us/departments/swcd

Watershed News

Durham County has an important part in improving the water quality of two reservoirs serving Triangle residents. For each reservoir, the NC legislature passed Nutrient Management Strategies; the Jordan Lake rules passed on August 11, 2009 and the Falls Lake Rules were passed in January of 2011. These nutrient reduction strategies have specific requirements for local governments and landowners to implement in order to improve water quality.

Falls Lake Watershed Baseline for Agriculture

The Durham Soil and Water staff compiled the baseline data for Agriculture producers in the Falls watershed and in comparison the Agriculture producers documented a 28% reduction in Nitrogen losses in crop year 2011 than they reported in the baseline period of 2006. This reduction exceeds the Stage I reduction required of 20%. Collectively agriculture producers in the Falls Lake watershed have achieved a 31% Nitrogen reduction.

The Falls Watershed Rules also

require that all agriculture operations register their operation with the Local Advisory Committee. The registration forms are available at the Durham district office or www.dconc.gov. To date, 47 agriculture operations have registered in Durham County.

The Soil and Water Department staff will continue to register local agriculture producers and assist the Local Advisory Committee to develop its Local Nutrient Control Strategy. This strategy, once completed

will document, using accepted nutrient accounting methods, the annual progress toward the nutrient reductions required by agriculture producers. The report and the documented progress are to be submitted to the Falls Water Oversight Committee and the Environmental Management Commission. If you have any questions about the Fall's rules and your agriculture operation please contact the office at 919-560-0558.

Jordan Lake Watershed Baseline for Agriculture

The Durham Soil and Water staff compiled the baseline data for Agriculture producers in the Jordan watershed and in comparison the Agriculture producers documented a 60% reduction in nutrients losses in crop year 2011 than they reported in the baseline period between 1997 and 2001. This reduction exceeds the requirement of a 35% Nitrogen reduction required by the Jordan rules passed in 2009 for agriculture producers.

The Jordan rules also have a requirement for all fertilizer applicators and a management strat-

egy for controlling land applied nutrients in the Jordan watershed. The rule requires that a person who hires an applicator to apply nutrients to the land that they own or manage in the Jordan watershed shall ensure either that the applicator that they hire has attended and completed nutrient management training or that the applicator they hire follows a nutrient management plan that has been developed for the land they own or manage. This rule applies to properties of at least five acres including cropland for commercial purposes,

commercial ornamental and floriculture production, golf courses, public recreation lands, road or utility rights-of-ways or any other commercial or institutional lands or combination of lands under common management that totals at least five acres. The Durham district staff will assist land owners with their nutrient management plan or they can hire their own Technical Service Provider to write the plan for them. If you have any questions please call the office at 919-560-0558.

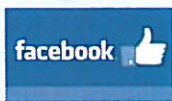


2012 Supervisor Election

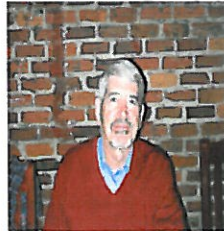
DURHAM SOIL & WATER

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www.dconc.gov



Congratulation to Supervisor, Danielle Adams for being re-elected as Durham Soil & Water Supervisor. Adams was sworn into office on December 3, 2012.



Congratulation to Supervisor, Curtis Richardson for being re-appointed as Durham Soil & Water, Supervisor. Richardson was re-appointed by the NC Soil & Water Commission November, 2012.

Tree Seedling Sale

The District's Annual Tree Seedling Sale is underway. Please contact us today to secure your order of any of the below trees. Orders can be picked up on Feb 6, 2013. 919-560-0558



Elderberry

Price: 5 for \$10 or 10 for \$15



Chickasaw Plum

Price: 5 for \$10 or 10 for \$15



Pawpaw

Price: 5 for \$13 or 10 for \$18



Beauty Berry

Price: 5 for 10 or 10 for \$15



Chinese Chestnut

Price: 5 for \$13 or 10 for \$18



Buttonbush

Price: 5 for \$10 or 10 for \$15



Spice Bush

Price: 5 for \$13 or 10 for \$18



Mayhaw

Price: 5 for \$10 or 10 for \$15