WATERSHED CONSERVATION

By Shaun Moore

We’re not just about cost-share conservation programs. Believe it or not a large part of our technical services are provided to people who don’t want any financial assistance but just want sound conservation advice. This is especially true when it comes to concerns along streams simply because, in part, our moist climate results in many people having streams on their property.

The requests we receive for stream related assistance are wide ranging. For instance, some of the stream related projects we have been busy providing technical assistance on, include a request from one homeowner for advice on how to stabilize a 15 foot long section of a small streambank that is eroding and close to causing damage to a favorite deck; a request from a landowner who feared a small upstream dam had broke and risked flooding a structure and silting up the stream; and a request from a Home Owners Association to assess an eroding streambank which has grown into a request for a plan that will see the stabilization of nearly a half mile of French Broad River bank, two plus acres of riparian buffer restoration, reconstruction of a wetland that will approximate the sites pre disturbance hydrologic condition from more than 100 years ago, as well as nearly 10 acres of early successional habitat management that will maintain the homeowners long range views and aesthetic values while protecting water quality and increasing wild bird and small mammal habitat.

These are just three examples of the several projects we’re currently or have recently assisted on. All of these projects help address a high demand for sound technical advice in our moist county while helping landowners protect their property with the additional bonus of providing significant water quality benefits to everyone living downstream...and we all live downstream.

NRCS

We are pleased to welcome Emily Pohlman as the new District Conservationist for Henderson and Transylvania counties. Emily is a graduate of Clemson University and has worked with NRCS for 12 years. She has served as the DC for Aiken County, SC for the past 7 years. Emily is looking forward to this opportunity and was excited to join our team in North Carolina in early June. Emily’s interests include horses, of which she has 4, and almost anything outdoors. She looks forward to spending as much time as possible in the mountains hiking, riding horses or motorcycling. Please join us in welcoming Emily to North Carolina and especially to Area 1.

Changing the world one tree at a time — More on this year’s seedlings on Page 3.
Contest Winners

From staff reports

5th Grade Poster Contest:
1st – Hope Palmer,
Atkinson Elementary
2nd– Katherine Ayala,
Sugarloaf Elementary
3rd– Bailey Foster,
Upward Elementary

6th Grade Essay Contest:
1st – Caitlin Conroy
2nd – Katherine Pace
3rd – Matana Dalton

AREA 1 Contest Winners:
6th Grade Essay:
Caitlin Conroy 2nd Place
8th Grade Speech:
Kolbe Murrey 2nd Place

8th Grade Speech Contest :
1st – Kolbe Murrey
2nd – Quinn Kelsh
3rd – Billy Gold
Honorable Mention: Jenna Burns

Above: Immaculata Catholic School 8th Grade Speech Contest Winners

Above: a family plants their seedling at their home.

Left : Bailey Foster, Poster Contest

Right: Pete Richards Dentistry gives away seedlings in support of earth day!

Conservation Programs Available PY14 Sign Up Period
Open Until September 28, 2013

We are currently accepting applications for North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP), Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). These programs are voluntary and are funded through the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Soil & Water Conservation (NCDA&CS – SW) and administered through our office.

These programs can provide technical assistance and help pay a portion of the costs for installation of accepted water quality improving practices. To be eligible for either program, there must be an existing water quality problem. The BMP’s must be designed by District staff or partner agency engineers, be maintained for up to 10 years, completed after a signed contract is approved.

Whether you live on a farm or in a neighborhood, we may be able to help you with erosion, agrichemical, and/or animal waste problems on your property. If you have any questions or think your water quality problem might qualify for assistance, call Jonathan Wallin, Shaun Moore or Laurie Brokaw at the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District (828) 697-4949.

Visit http://www.nacgr.gov/swc/ for in depth details on these programs.

This year Pete Richards Dentistry gave away seedlings from the SWCD seeding sale in support of Earth Day. The office gave trees away on April 16th to their patients. This was the first tree giveaway in the office and all of the patients really enjoyed the idea of giving away trees to support earth day. We have many patients living in senior living facilities who were so excited to receive the tree that they were finding people at the home to help plant the tree. The seedlings were packaged with the image below and given to the patients.

Above: Pete Richards DDS gives seedlings for Earth Day!