Changing the world one tree at a time — Laurie Brokaw (middle) and Monica Booth watch as Toby Linville, Director of Henderson County Code Enforcement, prepares to pay for his trees at this year’s HCSWCD Annual Tree Seedlings Sale. More on this year’s tree sale on Page 3.

Photo by Jonathan Wallin
Haywood County native Alan Walker has been named NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations over Area 1. Area 1 includes Henderson County and [the 12 other western-most NC counties.]

Walker takes the place of Carol Litchfield, who retired last year.

“Alan has been a tremendous asset over the years and glad to say that I look forward to him continuing that trend for years to come,” said State Conservationist JB Martin.

Walker grew up on a farm that raised tomatoes, tobacco and beef cattle, and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1983 with a degree in Plant and Soil Science. He has been with the NRCS since 1986.

“The one thing I learned early on in my career was the importance of our partnership in North Carolina and the close working relationship of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board Supervisors, Soil and Water District employees and the NRCS,” Walker said in a letter to Drew Brannon, chairman of the Henderson County SWCD Board of Supervisors. “I look forward to working with you and the other members of our conservation family...to help our clients protect and conserve our natural resources.”
SALE BRINGS THOUSANDS OF TREES TO COUNTY

By Monica Booth

An early taste of spring-like weather made for a great day for the 2012 Henderson Co. SWCD Tree Seedling sale.

Perhaps bolstered by the mild winter and early spring, sales of tree seedlings were brisk, with several tree species selling out quickly. River Birches appeared to be on this year’s Most Wanted Trees list, as they were the first to sell out. Soon after that, other species began selling out, such as Crape Myrtles and Persimmons.

In all, the District sold nearly 7,000 tree seedlings, and were able to donate Dogwood seedlings to the schools that participated in this year’s HCSWCD education contests. Proceeds from the HCSWCD Tree Seedling sales go towards funding the education contests, as well as other community events.

To be the first to find out about next year’s tree sale, call the office or email Monica.booth@nc.nacdnet.net to be added to our email list.

February seedlings bring summer greenery (in a few years) — Above, Jonathan Wallin works to put together an order of tree seedlings for a waiting customer. Each tree species is labeled and the trees’ roots are carefully wrapped in wet newspaper and sealed in a plastic bag for transport. At left, Laurie Brokaw hands a tree seedlings customer his change as he participates in this year’s annual tree seedlings sale, as volunteer John Brokaw looks on.

Photos by Monica Booth
The Henderson Co. SWCD hosted J. B. Martin, the NRCS North Carolina State Conservationist at the March meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

“The local folks are going to have a better perspective than what we have, trying to do things from afar,” Martin said. “That’s why I come out [to the districts] so much, so I can see for myself. It’s very important to be in tune locally, meet good folks and see what their views are.”

Martin has said he has a goal of visiting each of the 100 conservation districts in the state.

HCSWCD Board Chairman Drew Brannon agreed that visiting the local districts is vital to a working relationship. “It’s important to keep the lines of communication open,” Brannon said. Brannon said he believes this is the first time a State Conservationist has visited Henderson County.

Martin also invited the Supervisors to keep in touch with him. “If there’s anything in the district that you can recommend or bring forth, I really encourage you to do that, because we don’t have all the answers. If there’s something we can improve on our side that would be a better benefit to the folks in this area, never hesitate to let us know.”

Brannon thanked Martin for attending the meeting and invited him to come back whenever he can.

NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST VISITS HENDERSON CO. SWCD

By Monica Booth

Making a point — NRCS State Conservationist J.B. Martin, left, speaks to the Henderson Co. SWCD Board of Supervisors during their March 12 meeting as Supervisor Greg Hoyt looks on.

A meeting of the minds — Clockwise from left, District Director Jonathan Wallin, Soil Conservationist/Education Coordinator Laurie Brokaw, NRCS District Conservationist Bob Twomey, Watershed Resources Coordinator Shaun Moore and Supervisor Theron Maybin listen to J.B. Martin’s remarks at the March 12 HCSWCD Board of Supervisors meeting.

Photos by Monica Booth