

# The District Current

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## His Legacy Lives On

Theron Maybin, a man of great passion and dedication to the continuation and growth of agriculture in Henderson County, passed away on February 17, 2017. He will be truly missed as he was a great asset and notable leader in the agricultural community. Maybin was elected to the Henderson County Soil & Water Board of Supervisors in 2002, where he served as Vice-Chairman for 15 years. The Henderson County Board of Commissioners appointed Maybin as a member of the Agricultural Advisory Board at its inception in 1992. He served as Vice Chair for that Board from 1992-2002 and as Chairman from 2002-2017. He was a lively person and brought both joy and technical expertise to his work. Our district is extremely grateful for his involvement, support, and the strong legacy that he left.



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April Hoyt, Soil Conservationist/Edu. Coord.  
Rachel Smith, Watershed Resources Coordinator  
Caroline Wicker, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Pohlman, NRCS District Conservationist

## Apple Valley Kids in the Creek

The Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District, in partnership with many other organizations, held a mini Kids in the Creek Event in December for Apple Valley Middle School. Around 300 eighth grade students had the opportunity to participate in this event. Students were able to attend various sessions along Clear Creek that runs through the school's property. They identified and classified macroinvertebrates found in the stream, conducted a stream survey analyzing the upstream and downstream impacts, and tested water quality.

The students then conducted additional testing in the spring to compare results regarding the stream quality. Activities were aligned with the eighth grade course of study and essential standards. The opportunity for hands-on learning helped to reinforce in-class instruction.



Photo Credit: (2016, December 16). Apple Valley Students Wade into Water Quality Lesson. *Times-News Online*. Retrieved from: <http://www.blueridgenow.com/news/20161215/apple-valley-students-wade-into-water-quality-lesson>

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## Educational Contest Winners

This year's theme was "Soil & Water...Yours for Life!". We had a great selection of carefully crafted 5<sup>th</sup> grade posters, well-written 6<sup>th</sup> grade essays, and thoughtfully delivered 8<sup>th</sup> grade speeches. Our judges had a great time reviewing all the submissions. First place county winners go on to compete at the Area level. This year Kimber Belk won for 8<sup>th</sup> grade speech at both the county and area level. She will go on to represent Henderson County at the State competition in May. We wish her the best of luck! Next year's theme will be "Water...The Cycle of Life". If you are a teacher and would like to participate in next year's contests please call our office at 697-4949. We'll come to your classroom and do a presentation on the water cycle, and help give guidelines on creating a great poster/essay/speech! Students have the opportunity to win cash prizes for their hard work! This year's winners, all from Immaculata Catholic School, are listed below:

### Poster Winners: 5th Grade

- 1st Place—Caden Conroy
- 2nd Place— Boaz Brown
- 3rd Place— Emily Pieski

### Essay Winners: 6th Grade

- 1st—Emma Slebonick
- 2nd—Connor Matt
- 3rd—Tie! Laura Grace McSwain and Blakely Morgan

### Speech Winners: 8th Grade

- 1st— Kimber Belk
- 2nd- Cael Conroy
- 3rd— Anne Marie Jones



Winner of the 8th grade speech contest, Kimber Belk, will compete at the State competition in May. She is pictured with Davis Ferguson, Western Regional Coordinator- Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

## The Wonderful Work of Pollinators

When you think of the term “pollinator” what is the first thing that comes to mind? “Honey bee”, right? Perhaps you have thought that the honey bee (non-native, European *Apis mellifera*) is the most important pollinator that we have. Many people do— consider all the folks that have beehives. According to The Xerces Society, bees are in fact the most important single group of pollinators. However, did you know that there are approximately 4,000 species of native bees in North America? That’s just bees! There are many other pollinator species including flies, butterflies, wasps, and even some beetles that play a very crucial role in agriculture. In 2009, the crop benefits from **native** insect pollination in the United States were valued at more than 9 billion dollars!



Photo Credit: Emily Pohlman, USDA-NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is actively encouraging farmers to protect and/or create pollinator habitat that will help the survival of these native pollinator species. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers cost assistance to help producers plant pollinator habitat on their farmland. If you are interested in learning more about pollinator habitat and how to establish it on your farm, please contact your local USDA Service Center for more information at 828-697-4949.

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### CCAP Project

In a jointly funded project, the City of Hendersonville and the Community Conservation Assistance Program, a cost share program administered by the District, worked together to repair approximately 60 linear feet of streambank on Wash Creek in Hendersonville. The streambank erosion had gotten within several feet of the sewer line. The streambank was rebuilt to add approximately 10 feet to protect the sewer line. A J-hook Vane, a rock structure that protects twice its length in streambank, was installed to help decrease the stress in the near bank region. In addition, livestakes and native herbaceous vegetation were planted to restore the riparian buffer along the bank.



Before: Streambank erosion along Wash Creek



After: Stabilization of Streambank on Wash Creek Protects Sanitary Sewer Line

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**Henderson and Transylvania Counties.**

No-Till Drill Available for hire to seed / reseed Pastures and Cover crops.  
Land Owner supplies the seed.  
\$30 per Acre or \$60 per Hour.  
Travel charges to field may also apply.  
Call or Text (828)-329-0150

The advertisement features a photograph of a yellow and black no-till drill machine parked in a grassy field. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

### Upcoming Soil Health Field Day

On April 27, 2017, the public is invited to attend a Soil Health Field Day at Whitaker Family Farms in Horse Shoe. If you are interested in utilizing cover crops to improve the health and productivity of your soil, this workshop is for you! David Lamm, the National Soil Health Team Leader, Russell Hedrick of JRH Grain Farms, and Dr. Greg Hoyt, retired NC State University Professor and Extension Specialist will discuss the importance and value of cover crops. The day will also include information about programs available for assistance with cover crops, a tour of demonstration plots, and a complimentary lunch. **To register, contact Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District at (828) 697-4949 by APRIL 20, 2017.**



NC FOUNDATION for  
**SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION**



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

### Henderson County Soil and Water Staff Changes

Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District has experienced a few staff changes recently. Laurie Brokaw, our previous Education Coordinator, retired after 14 years of service with the Soil and Water Conservation District. We will miss her strong work ethic and friendly personality. April Hoyt filled the Education Coordinator position in January. April has a background in Ecology and over a decade of Environmental Education experience. She has worked with Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District for the past four years. Caroline Wicker, a native of eastern North Carolina, joined the team on March 13th as the new Administrative Assistant. Caroline received a biology degree from Asbury University, was a 4-H Agent with Cooperative Extension, and worked at Van Wingerden International before joining the Soil and Water team.



Caroline Wicker,  
Administrative Assistant



Our mission:

To provide educational, technical and financial assistance to conserve soil, improve water quality and enhance the natural resources of Henderson County.

