**2004-2005 Educational Contest**

**Public Speaking Contest**

“The Living Soil” was the theme for this year’s Educational Contest involving Henderson County eighth graders competing in a Public Speaking Contest, sixth graders competing in an Essay Contest, and fifth graders competing in a Poster Contest. Anthony Jordan from Rugby Middle School won first place in the Public Speaking Contest with his excellent presentation. Ivan Padron of Flat Rock Middle School came in a “very” close second, Hannah Brain of The Mountain Community School won third, and Christian Fraley of Apple Valley Middle School, honorable mention. Each student did a wonderful job making it very difficult for our three judges. Judges were Joy Staton, Mary Jo Pagett, and Jan Prichard.

- **First Place**
  - Anthony Jordan of Rugby Middle School
  - He is pictured here with Bob Holbert, Master of Ceremonies

- **Second Place**
  - Ivan Padron - Flat Rock Middle
  - Michelle Furbee - Teacher

- **Third Place**
  - Peggy McCarter - Teacher

- **Honorable Mention**
  - Christian Fraley - Apple Valley
  - Wendy Henderson - Teacher
Eleven out of thirteen elementary schools participated in the Fifth Grade Poster Contest for a total of ninety-seven posters. We collected and judged the top three posters from each class that participated. Each year, the first place poster goes on to an Area 1 Contest held in Waynesville. If the poster wins the Area 1 Contest, it is then sent on to the NC State Contest. Ms. Cooper, teacher of our first place winner (Jaclyn Fann) received $100.00 to spend on class room supplies. If not for our county teachers, we wouldn't be in the position to get our conservation message out to our county students.
Jennifer Jordan won $50.00 for first place, plus $10.00 for winning her school competition. Ms. House and Ms. Robinson received $100.00 to purchase classroom supplies for having the first place winner. Eva Ward won $25.00 for second place, and $10.00 for winning her school competition. Third place winner, Katie O’Shea received $20.00, plus $10.00 for winning her school competition.

Two out of six middle schools participated in the Sixth Grade Essay Contest.

A special thank you to our judges. This is very stressful for them because each student does such an incredible job. Henderson County should be proud of their youth. Judges of the Public Speaking Contest were Jan Prichard, HR Director - Henderson County, Joy Staton, Director - Henderson County Cooperative Extension Service, and Mary Jo Padgett, Mayor Pro-tem - Hendersonville, NC.

Another special thank you goes to Bob Holbert, CED - Farm Service Agency for being our Master of Ceremonies of the Public Speaking Contest. He added a “touch of class” to the program.

Special Note: Congratulations to Anthony Jordan of Rugby Middle School. He won first place in the Area 1 Competition of the Public Speaking Contest and will go to Raleigh in May for the State Competition. “Way to go Anthony.” Good Luck!

Also: Congratulations to Jennifer Jordan of Rugby Middle School. She has also won the Area 1 Competition and her Essay has been sent to Raleigh for judging in the State Competition. “Great job” and good luck to you as well!

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**Invitation:** You are all invited to wish Bob Carter, NRCS District Conservationist well in his retirement. We will be gathering to wish him well here at the USDA Service Center on Friday, April 29, 2005 from 2-5. Please drop by!