

Swain Soil and Water Education Newsletter

Spring-Summer 2020

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The theme for the 2020 Bookmark Contest was "Wetlands are Wonderful"



The contest was open to 3rd-5th grade students in Swain County. There were 137 participants this year. East Elementary and Mountain Discovery Charter School each had winners who received money prizes and goodie bags. First place in both schools got their bookmark design printed and distributed county-wide! This is an annual contest with a rotating theme schedule that takes place at the beginning of each year. In addition to the bookmark contest, Swain SWCD offers poster contests, essay contests, computer designed slide show contests, and speech contests.

Upcoming themes:
 2020-2021: We All Live in a Watershed
 2021-2022: Soil & Water... Yours for Life
 2022-2023: Water, The Cycle of Life
 2023-2024: The Living Soil

2020 Bookmark Contest



Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
2020



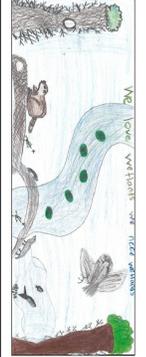
Abigail LeCureux, 3rd Grade
Mountain Discovery Charter School

- Winners from MDCS 3rd grade:
 1st—Abigail LeCureux
 2nd—Natalie Warner
 3rd—Kiera Dyer



- Winners from East 3rd grade:
 1st—Alaya Fuller
 2nd—Delaney Sneed
 3rd—Alexis Tranter

Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
2020



Alaya Fuller
East Elementary 3rd Grade



Swain Soil & Water Conservation District
2020



Brylee Lambert
East Elementary 4th Grade

- Winners from East 4th grade:
 1st—Brylee Lambert
 2nd—Myleigh Parton
 3rd—Sophy Welch

Congratulations to Swain County Scholarship Winners!

Each year, there are several scholarships available for students through Soil & Water funded programs. We are so proud of the students from Swain County who took home scholarships in 2020!



**Mary Helmer, 2020 NCCDEA Scholarship Winner;
2020 Careers in Conservation Scholarship Winner**

Mary is currently studying at NC State University and will be graduating in December with her bachelors degree in Environmental Science. Mary wishes to pursue a career in environmental education, and is working on obtaining her NC Environmental Educator Certificate.



Brady Kirkland, 2020 Swain SWCD Scholarship Winner

Brady is currently attending Haywood Community College to study Fish & Wildlife Management. He plans to transfer to Western Carolina University, and then pursue a natural resource-related career in fish or wildlife biology.



NCADFP Project Update: FFA Barn at Swain County High

In 2018, Swain SWCD received a \$65,800 grant from North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (NCADFP) to build a new Future Farmers of America livestock facility at Swain County High School. This barn will provide necessities to the growing FFA program, be the new home for FFA livestock, and serve as a hub for the animal science curriculum. A huge shout out to carpentry instructor, Derek Oetting, for leading the charge on design and construction! A contract extension for the project has been awarded and the barn should be completed in 2021. Thank you to NCADFP, Swain County Schools, FFA, and all of our community partners for making this project possible.



Envirothon 2020

The Envirothon program is an environmental science contest for middle and high school that consists of 5 subject areas—wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and current environmental issues. Swain SWCD worked with two teams this year, "Team Green Not Mean" from Mountain Discovery Charter School and a team from Swain County High School.

While the regional competition typically happens in Haywood County each spring and the state competition takes place in Burlington each year, all in-person events were cancelled for 2020. Before the cancellation, many teams had time to study the resource areas with hands-on lessons and educational field trips.

MDCS's team spent the first couple months of the spring semester participating in an Envirothon elective, in which they studied a different subject area every Tuesday. This elective included lessons on wildlife skulls and tracks, a trip to Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, and an afternoon of macroinvertebrate sampling in Deep Creek. Even though they didn't get to compete this year, Swain SWCD is so proud of them!



"Team Green Not Mean" had fun on a trip to Joyce Kilmer to see a true old growth forest and learn about tree ID!



The team sampled for macroinvertebrates in Deep Creek and learned about water quality.



Photos by Shelby Cook

N.C. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



You don't have to participate in any of our traditional programs to take advantage of our education resources! We are working to keep our social media pages updated with fun environmental education resources you can participate in from home, and we are happy to provide free educational materials like coloring pages, puzzles, and worksheets via email!

Other education highlights from 2019-2020...



Boy Scouts replicate conservation practices at the 2020 Cataloochee Merit Madge Midway Event.

AT-HOME NATURAL SCIENCE LESSONS

FOR FREE

If you need assistance with understanding something that has been assigned to your child, or if you need more resources/a hands-on lesson, contact us! Both of our staff are certified NC Environmental Educators and have experience teaching all ages. We would be glad to help you with any of the following topics: wildlife, ecology, forestry/plant life, soils, water, climate, pollinators/insects, agriculture, etc.

Message us on Facebook
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Flyer by Creeden Kowal



Students at Bright Adventures Pre-K study local wild animals and the tracks they leave behind!



Pre-K students do an "erupting snowball" experiment after learning about the water cycle!

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