

THE TRANSYLVANIA SWCD'S 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Est. 1955

July 1, 2014- June 30, 2015

Price: FREE

Exclusive!

DISTRICT RELEASES 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Introduction

The following report reflects the activities and accomplishments of the Transylvania County Soil & Water Conservation District for fiscal year 2014-2015. These accomplishments were only achievable because of the strong relationships the district has built over the years with the citizens of Transylvania County and its many partners in conservation.

We hope you will enjoy learning specifically about the many conservation improvements we have assisted our customers with during the past year. We are equally proud of the educational accomplishments in our local schools and our outreach efforts through community conservation.

The district celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. Included in our report are some of the district's highlights and milestones since being formed in 1955.

Thank you to the agencies who contributed to the Transylvania County Soil & Water Conservation District financially and to those who contributed with their time by helping us successfully implement all of our technical assistance and education programs.

Thank You!

District Highlights



Allocated \$52,322 in funds for the NC Ag Cost Share Program.

Continued working with Rosman Middle School to install a **raingarden** on campus.



Funded a total of \$178,122 in contracts for producers in the county.

Secured a \$13,878 grant from TVA to purchase a post driver, auger, manure spreader and equipment shed for the district.



Division of Water Resources

Continued administering the \$85,000 DWR grant by installing streambank stabilization on the East Fork River.

Removed 7 debris jams from the French Broad River through funds set up by Transylvania County Commissioners.



Conducted the 44th annual 7th grade conservation field days.

Participated in several outreach activities, including the Mountain State Fair, WNC Regional Science Fair, Vision Class, and more.



District Highlights

Wetlands
Are
Wonderful!

Gave 40 classroom presentations on the "Wetlands Are Wonderful" contest theme.

Had 6 Area 1 contest winners and 2 state contest winners.



Sponsored 8 teams to compete in the Area 1 Envirothon.

Had 7 Envirothon teams attend the State competition.



Hosted the district's annual appreciation and awards banquet.

Commemorated the SWCD's 60 years of conservation.



Honored the Conservation Farm Family of the Year and the Conservation Educator of the Year.

District Conservation

NC Ag Cost Share Program

During fiscal year 2014-2015, the District allocated **\$52,322** to landowners in Transylvania County for Best Management Practices that improve water quality. The practices installed and planned during this fiscal year will save an additional **1,645 Tons** of sediment from going into our stream and rivers. These funds were applied as follows:



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	Installed	Planned
Livestock Exclusion	11,100 ft.	17,900 ft.
Watering Tanks	3	7
Wells	1	2
Pipeline	1,300 ft.	3,650 ft.
Heavy Use Area Protection	180 sq. yds.	420 sq. yds.
Ag. Road Stabilization	615 ft.	634 ft.
Cover Crop	25 ac.	125 ac.
Cropland Conversion	27.5 ac.	27.5 ac.
Solar Fence Charger	0	1
Critical Area Planting	.1ac.	.1 ac.
SOIL LOSS	Installed	Planned
Amount Kept from Streams	421 T	1,224 T
NUTRIENTS MANAGED	Installed	Planned
Nitrogen Reduction	1,720 lbs.	1,720 lbs.
Phosphorus Reduction	107 lbs.	107 lbs.
ACRES AFFECTED	Installed	Planned
Acres Affected by practices	92.5 ac.	330.5 ac.

The first NCACSP contract in Transylvania County was written in 1985. Since then, the District has been allocated more than \$1.2 million for conservation!

District Conservation

Community Conservation Assistance Program

For the past few years, the Division of Soil & Water Conservation has been working to get more funding for the NC Community Conservation Assistance Program. This program is designed to assist urban, suburban, and rural landowners with treatment and storage of polluted stormwater runoff and improve the water quality of our state's waterways. During this fiscal year, the District has been working on a bio retention area at a local high school with CCAP funds.



Ag WRAP Projects

The purpose of the Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program, or AgWRAP, is to increase water use, efficiency, availability, and storage for agricultural purposes. The district applied for, and **received funds in PY 2014, in the amount of \$20,000**. One project for construction of a new pond for irrigation was completed this year. The second project should be completed in the upcoming year.



Ag WRAP pond during construction



Pond during construction



Pond after completion

District Conservation

County Debris Removal Projects

Transylvania County allocated \$27,500 to be handled by the district to remove debris from the French Broad River in the county. Large trees and other debris are not only causing severe erosion on streambanks, but are also safety hazards for recreational users of the river. The district was able to fund 7 projects to remove large debris jams out of the French Broad River. Below are before and after pictures of some of the projects.



District Conservation

Division of Water Resources Grant

During last fiscal year, the district **has been working on a grant** from the Division of Water Resources for **\$85,000**. This money is being used to complete several projects, including: repairing a stream stabilization project that was damaged by recent flooding, 3 additional streambank stabilization projects, and a stream restoration project.



Eroding streambank



Stabilized bank with livestock and rock vane

TVA Grant

The district was **awarded a \$13,878 grant** from the TVA settlement funds. With these grant funds, the district will purchase a post hole auger, post driver, manure spreader, and a building to store the equipment. Thanks to previous TVA grants, we have a lime spreader, conservation seeder, fertilizer spreader, 2 weed wipers and a trailer to haul equipment. Farmers have been very receptive to the rental equipment and are glad to have access to the equipment to make conservation improvements on their land.



NRCS Conservation

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is an agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We offer technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to put conservation practices on the land. There are a wide variety of practices that can be utilized to address resource concerns. We also work with producers to help enhance pollinator habitat on their land.

For FY2015, NRCS planned **conservation practices on over 900 acres**. We have **432 acres** of land with BMP's applied to improve soil quality, **607 acres** of land with BMP's applied to improve water quality, **205 acres** of grazing land with BMP's applied to protect the resource base and **90 acres** of land with BMP's applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat on non-federal lands.



Livestock watering tank



Stock trails installed

The Environmental Quality incentives Program (EQIP) is one of the programs agricultural producers utilized for financial assistance to install their conservation practices. EQIP conservation plans can address issues on many different land use types, including pasture-land and grazing systems, cropland, forestry and even wildlife. For FY 2015, NRCS **processed 12 applications for assistance totaling \$305,055**. **Four** applications were selected for funding, bringing a **total of \$178,122** to agricultural producers in Transylvania County.



Fencing



Pollinators at work

Community Conservation

Annual Tree & Plant Sale

The District's annual Tree Seedling and Plant Sale was held inside the Social Services Building and DSS Building in March. The District sold hardwoods, green giant arborvitaes, apple trees, blueberry plants, rhubarb, raspberries & blackberries, and asparagus plants.

The District raised over **\$2,350** for educational programs such as the conservation contests and the Envirothon. Thanks to the many volunteers who were there to make it happen and also to our customers!



Appreciation Banquet



The District had its **annual Appreciation Reception** at the Rogow Room. It is the District's chance to thank all the people that helped us with our education projects during the year. Awards were presented to the Educator of the Year, Farm Family of the Year, Area and State Envirothon team winners, and Area and state contest winners. Commissioners and legislators are also invited so that we can thank them for their continued support of the District's conservation efforts.

Outreach Events

The district participated in a **variety of outreach activities**, both local and regional, this year. Jeff Parker assisted with the Transylvania County Vision Class, and the "Whose Water is it Anyway?" Conference. Jo Ann McCall helped setup the Area 1 Mountain State Fair display, and also worked with district employees from other SWCDs at the Western NC Regional Science Fair.



Community Conservation

Conservation Educator of the Year

The District awarded Alan Johnson, owner of Hi-Lo Mountain Nursery and Landscaping, the **Conservation Educator of the Year Award**. Alan was awarded the educator of the year award because of his consistent help with our conservation field days over the years, and his countless hours teaching Scheck Job Corps students and adults about native riparian plants, invasive plant species, and the importance of pollinators. Alan was also instrumental in helping get native plant materials for the RMS rain garden project, and laying out what area each different plant species should go.



Conservation Farm Family of the Year

Each year the Soil & Water Conservation District selects an exceptional local farm to recognize as its "**Outstanding Conservation Farm**". This year McCall's Produce in Little River was awarded the honor during the District's annual Awards Banquet. The farm and produce stand is owned by TR McCall and his son Mark McCall and wife Dolly. The whole family, including Mark and Dolly's two sons works on the farm where they grow and sell a wide variety of vegetables, berries and fresh cut flowers. They were chosen as the 2014-2015 Outstanding Conservation Farm of the year because of their continued efforts to improve water quality and reduce erosion by partnering with the District to install Grassed Waterways, cover crops and stabilizing their Ag. roads used for harvesting crops. We appreciate local farmers like the McCall's for their interest in conserving the natural resources of Transylvania County.



Conservation Education

44th Annual 7th Grade Field days

Brevard Middle School- 171 Students At Brevard MS



Stations:
Fish ID: Jennifer Rowe

Pollinators: Alan Johnson

Air Quality: Keith Bamburger

Water Quality: Alan Smith & Neill Cagle

Chestnut Foundation:
Don Surette & Catherine Fraise

Surveying: Shane Wyatt

Boating Safety: Michael Rising

Forestry: Frank Rogers, Tyler Warren & Jimmy Patterson

Herding Demo: Dwight Parker

BMP Tour: Joffrey Merrill & Jeff Parker



Rosman Middle School- 84 Students At Everett Farms



The District's first conservation field day was held in 1971.

Conservation Education

Presentations

Jo Ann McCall, Education Coordinator, gave 40 **classroom presentations** for the "Wetlands Are Wonderful" NC Association of SWCDs annual conservation contests. The presentations were given to 3rd through 6th graders. She also did a "**Soils of NC**" program with the 1st grade class at T.C. Henderson Elementary School. She assisted Education Coordinators from Henderson and Haywood SWCDs to facilitate a **Food, Land and People teacher workshop** for Brevard College students.



9th Grade Computer Generated Contest

For the first time, the District had an entry in the NCASWCD annual **9th grade computer generated poster contest**. Ingrid Findlay, 9th grader from Brevard High School, entered the district contest and **won 1st place in both the Area and State contests**.



Board Chairman Dick Bragg with Ingrid Findlay, 9th grade 1st place state poster contest winner.

6th Grade Essay Contest

The District had over 200 sixth graders participate in the District's **6th grade essay contest** this year. Frank Parsen's essay also won **1st place at the area level**.



1st- Frank Parsens



2nd- Brie Mullins



3rd- Paul Cabin

Conservation Education

Wetlands Are Wonderful! Poster Contests

1st Place Winners



Christina McDonald
3rd Grade



Kyleigh Heath
4th Grade



Laikyn Buchanan
5th Grade



Kylie Worley
6th Grade

2nd Place Winners



Abigail Malmin
3rd Grade



Esperanza Hernandez
4th Grade



Ashlyn Kerber
5th Grade

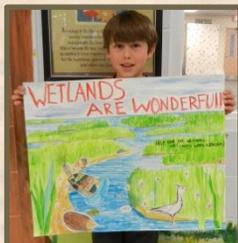


Clare Kennerly
6th Grade

3rd Place Winners



Baker Buchanan
3rd Grade



Drew DeGarmo
4th Grade



Andrew Stamey
5th Grade

Jennifer Miranda
6th grade

Area Winners:

3rd grade: Christina McDonald- 2nd place

4th grade: Kyleigh Heath- 1st place

5th grade: Laikyn Buchanan- 1st place

6th grade: Kylie Worley- 2nd place

State Winner:

5th grade: Laikyn Buchanan- 1st place

Conservation Education

Area Envirothon

This year, the district **sponsored eight teams** to go to the Area Envirothon competition in Waynesville. Seven of those teams placed high enough to qualify to go to the state event.



Bewilderbeasts
Rosman MS



Nature Avengers
Rosman MS



Einstein Bunnies
Rosman MS



Incrementally Bored
Rosman HS



Brevard Blue FFA
Brevard HS



Freshman Fury FFA
Brevard HS



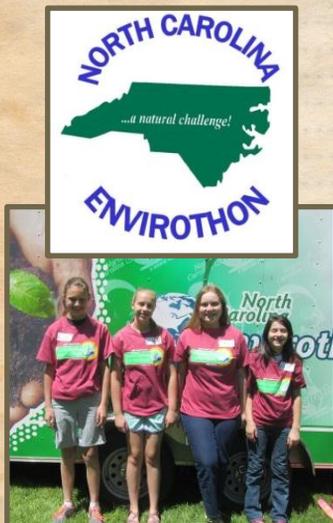
Rosman High FFA
Rosman HS



Cathey's Chaco Crew
Rosman HS

State Envirothon

The district **sponsored seven teams** to go to the state Envirothon in Burlington. The Rosman FFA team was the 4th top scoring FFA team at the event. The Brevard Blue FFA team was the **highest scoring FFA team**, and earned the right to compete in the National FFA competition in Kentucky this fall.



The Brevard Blue FFA team accepts a **1st place FFA award** from Manly West, President of the NCASWCDs..

Conservation Education

Resource Conservation Workshop

The District sponsored Eliza Witherspoon, rising Junior at Brevard High School, to attend the **Resource Conservation Workshop** in Raleigh on June 21-26. Eliza won the prestigious S. Grady Lane \$500 Scholarship, the Area 1 Glenn Carson Memorial Scholarship for \$250, and a cash award of \$50. The district was proud to be represented so well at the RCW, and wishes Eliza all the best with her educational and career goals!



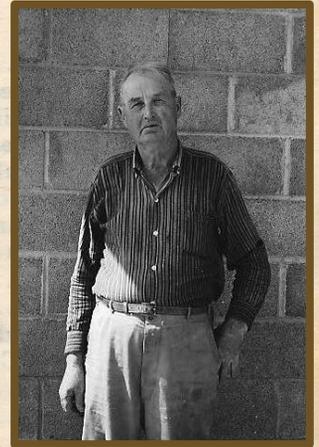
Envirothon & HS Trainings

Jo Ann McCall held several Envirothon training sessions throughout the school year where the team members learned about forestry, soils, the Chowan River and aquatic macro invertebrates. Also, Jeff Parker and Shane Wyatt showed the Rosman High School Environmental Biology class some survey techniques during construction of the Ag WRAP pond.

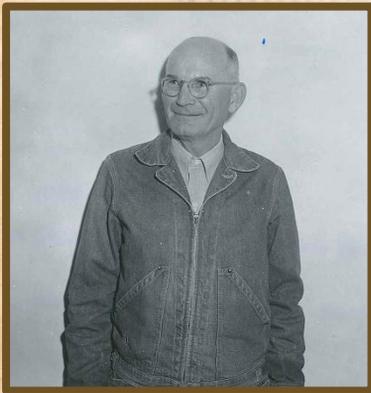


District History

This year, the District celebrates 60 years of soil and water conservation in Transylvania County. The district was formed in March of 1955. M. H. Shuford, G. W. Whitmire and C. C. Garren were the first appointed supervisors of the district, with M.O. McCall and Edward Mackey joining in 1957, to complete the 5 member Board. On December 19, 1957, the first French Broad River Watershed Program was discussed with various agencies. Since 1957, flood protection has been addressed at least 3 separate times due to the need for flood damage reduction.



G.W. Whitmire



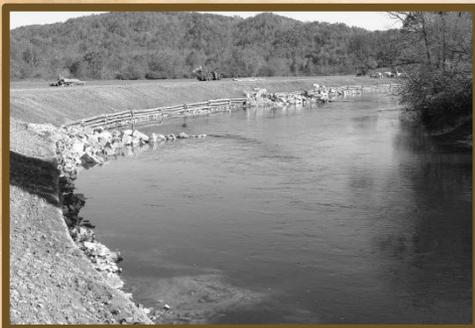
Harry Newland

H. E. Newland, District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, prepared the first 100 conservation plans in the county. These plans were handwritten, and addressed soil erosion problems, cropping sequences, and pasture and forest management.

The District began its first annual 7th grade Conservation Field Day in May of 1971. This is the longest running conservation field day in the state, and one of the highlights of the year for the District.



Conservation field day- 1971



NCACSP Streambank stabilization project

In July 1987, the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program began in Transylvania County. The NCACSP is designed to reduce the delivery of agricultural non-point source pollution into the waterways of the state. Since it started, the NCACSP has allocated over **\$1.2 million** to citizens of Transylvania County to reduce sediment and animal waste into local streams.

District History

SUPERVISORS:

M. H. Shuford	1955 - 1957
C. C. Garren	1955 - 1957
G. W. Whitmire	1955 - 1970
M. O. McCall	1957 - 1959
Edward Mackey	1957 - 1961
Clarence Brown	1959 - 1962
Randall Kitchen	1959 - 1963
W. W. Brittain	1959 - 1982
Homer McCall	1962 - 1964
Harry Blake	1962 - 1967
John D. Smith	1964 - 1967
J. A. Whitmire	1964 - 1974
Jones Garren	1968 - 1987
N. B. Woody	1969 - 1974
Owen Lee	1974 - 1986
Randal J. Lyday	1970 - 1987
M. H. Shuford	1982 - 1994
Albert Plemmons	1987 - 1994
Thomas Mitchell	1987 - 1994
Steve Cochran	1974 - 1999
Harry Corbin	1987 - 1999
George Alexander	1995 - 2005
L. C. "Bud" Case	1995 - 1998
Michael Whitmire	1995 - 2014
Charles J. Bryson	1998 - 2014
Carroll Parker	1999 - 2000
David Cantrell	2000 - 2001
Donny Fisher	2000 - 2005
Dick Bragg	2001 - Present
Scott Galloway	2005 - Present
Alan Johnson	2005 - Present
Bob Twomey	2014 - Present
Joffrey Merrill	2015 - Present

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Helen Cochran	1981 - 1998	District Secretary
Donald R. Fisher	1988 - 1997	District Resource Specialist
Bo McCall	1997 - 2000	District Resource Specialist
Jeffery Parker	2000 - Present	District Director
Helen Russell	1998 - 2008	District Secretary/Ed. Coordinator
Jo Ann McCall	2009 - Present	Education Coordinator

USDA, SCS, NRCS EMPLOYEES:

Harry E. Newland	1955 - 1960	Work Unit Conservationist
M. H. Shuford	1957 - 1981	Conservation Technician
Grover McPherson	1960 - 1965	Work Unit Conservationist
John Brown	1965 - 1968	Planner
John Smith	1965 - 1968	Planner
Bert Sutton	1968 - 1973	Work Unit Conservationist
John W. Andrews	1974 - 1978	Work Unit Conservationist
Robert Carter	1979 - 1984	District Conservationist
Sally Stokes	1982 - 1984	Soil Conservationist
Marilyn Stowell	1983 - 1985	Soil Conservationist
Bob Twomey	1984 - 2012	District Conservationist
Emily Pohlman	2013 - Present	District Conservationist

Since it began, the Transylvania SWCD, in partnership with the NRCS, has brought in **over \$7.6 million to Transylvania County** for the installation of conservation practices.

Check out more about the district history at our website:

<http://transylvaniacounty.org/soil-and-water>

Finances

***Special thanks
for our funding!***

REVENUE ACCOUNTS*	
Transylvania County	107,203
Annual Tree Seedling Sale	2,351
Div. of Soil & Water Conservation Matching Funds	3,600
Div. of Soil & Water Conservation Technical Assistance Funds	26,760
Grant Receipts for Projects	33,597
Equipment Rental Fees	320
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	173,831
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS*	
Salaries & Benefits	119,169
Supplies	2,330
Postage	276
Telephone	1,824
Contract Services	1,200
Annual Tree Sale	3,000
Copy Costs	100
Advertising	115
Travel and Training	2,750
Educational Materials/ Programs	4,295
Dues & Subscriptions	841
Computers/Hardware Maintenance	2,660
Non- Cap Equipment	900
Grant Related Expenditures	34,371
TOTAL EXPENSES:	173,831

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**

**NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION**

NC Agricultural Cost Share Program
Community Conservation Assistance Program

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

TVA

**USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**



Division of Water Resources

***Some details were omitted for clarity.**



Board & Staff



District Board and Staff: Jeff Parker, District Director; Bob Twomey, Vice Chairman; Jo Ann McCall, Education Coordinator; Joffrey Merrill, Board Member; Scott Galloway, Secretary/Treasurer; Dick Bragg, Chairman; Alan Johnson, Board Member; Emily Pohlman, NRCS District Conservationist.

Length of Service Awards & Oath of Office

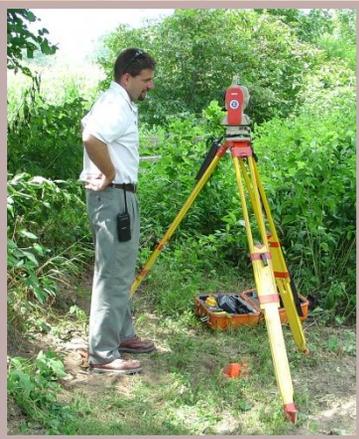
Mike Whitmire, former Board Chairman, received a **length of service award** from the NCASWCD for 20 years of service to the District, as well as a plaque from the Board for his service to the District. Scott Galloway also received a 10 year service award. Alan Johnson, Bob Twomey, and Joffrey Merrill took the **oath of office** in December for their current terms on Board.



Special Recognition

The supervisors and staff of our District want to acknowledge the help and assistance received from Jeff Young, Engineer, Shane Wyatt, Engineering Technician, and Davis Ferguson, Regional Coordinator, all with the Division of Soil and Water. We consider them valuable assets to our organization.

Thanks Jeff, Shane, and Davis!



Jeff Young



Shane Wyatt



Davis Ferguson

In Memory



Helen Cochran went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Helen served as the District Secretary from 1981 to 1998. She loved to knit, crochet, and camp with her husband, Steve, who was a District Supervisor for 25 years. Helen also served at her church in many different areas, including Sunday School teacher and Outreach Coordinator for the elderly. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed in her community.

Mission Statement

Transylvania SWCD's mission is to: Conserve, enhance, and promote the natural resources of Transylvania County by providing technical assistance, environmental education, and economic incentives to county citizens through a diversified and voluntary program designed to meet changing needs.

