

Transylvania County Soil & Water Conservation District



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

INTRODUCTION

The following report reflects the activities and accomplishments of the Transylvania County Soil & Water Conservation District for fiscal year 2018-2019. These accomplishments were only achievable because of the strong relationships that the district has built over the years with the citizens of Transylvania County and our many partners in conservation.

We hope that 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 activities in our local schools and our outreach efforts through community conservation.


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

Thank you!

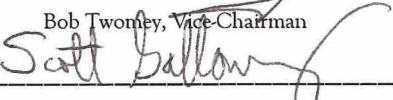
The Transylvania SWCD Board of Supervisors



Dick Bragg, Chairman



Bob Twomey, Vice-Chairman



Scott Galloway, Secretary/Treasurer



Alan Johnson, Member



Joffrey Merrill, Member



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



Allocated **\$52,587** through the **NC Ag Cost Share Program** for landowners to install water quality practices.

Completed **11 debris removal projects** in the **French Broad River** with **\$38,290** in funds.



Rented the ag equipment to **26 landowners**.

Gave **45 classroom presentations** and had **over 800 posters** completed, and nearly **200 essays** written for our contests.



Had **3 Area 1** conservation contests winners and **1 state** contest winner!

Conducted our **48th annual conservation field days** for **Brevard MS** and **Rosman MS** seventh graders.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Installed several BMPs through the EQIP program.

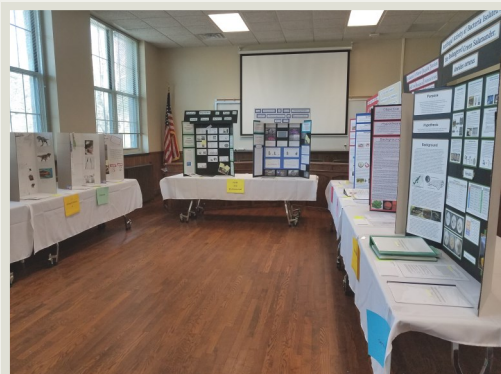


Sponsored 7 Envirothon teams to compete in the Area 1 Envirothon and **1 team** to the state competition.

Awarded the **Outstanding Educator of the Year** for 2018-2019.



Participated in several educational outreach activities.



Hosted the annual awards banquet and honored award recipients and volunteers.



DISTRICT CONSERVATION

NC AG COST SHARE PROGRAM

During fiscal year 2018-2019, the District **allocated \$39,087 in regular assistance funds and \$13,500 in TV2 drought funds** 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 **1,173 Tons of sediment on 190 acres**, from going into our stream and rivers. These funds were applied as follows:

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	Installed	Planned
Livestock Watering Tank	6	3
Livestock Exclusion	6,012 ft.	2,300 ft.
Water Line	3,623 ft.	1,400 ft.
Heavy Use Area Protection	400 sq. yds.	608 sq. yds.
Stone	163 Tons	576 Tons
Ag. Road Repair	–	125 ft.
Concrete Livestock Feeding Area	–	22 cu. Yds.
Pasture Renovation	20 ac.	45 ac.
Stream Crossing	1	1
Vegetation Establishment	.3 ac.	1.8 ac.
Diversion	–	150 ft.
Stream Restoration	–	300 ft.



Six livestock watering tanks and over a mile of livestock exclusion was installed to keep cattle out of the French Broad River and improve water quality.

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 including, but not limited to, fencing (exclusion and interior), livestock watering tanks and pipeline, creek/stream crossings, cover crops, prescribed burning. We also work with producers to help enhance pollinator habitat on their land.

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. EQIP supports the conservation priorities established by the Transylvania County SWCD.

The year 2018, as a whole, brought many environmental hardships, with flooding being the most prominent and devastating one. In the midst of it all, the producers were still able to put Conservation BMPs on the ground to protect our vital resources. In FY 2019 we **installed 3,416 linear feet of fence, 1,050 linear feet of livestock pipeline, 21 acres of prescribed grazing, 5 livestock watering tanks, 1600 square feet of Heavy Use Area Protection and 1 Seasonal High Tunnel through the EQIP program.** Any agricultural producer can be eligible to participate in the EQIP program and would need to contact the local NRCS office for details.

EQIP PROGRAM



Prescribed grazing



Seasonal High Tunnel



Livestock watering tank with heavy use area protection

DISTRICT CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

This year, The District planned a **50 feet long streambank restoration project** on King Creek. The project will save approximately **81 Tons** of soil each year from entering King Creek. The District has also **helped many landowners** in a variety of ways including: erosion control and seeding information, streambank stabilization, culvert installation and pasture management recommendations. Staff also referred many landowners to the Divisions of Water Quality or Land Quality if they had issues that needed enforcement authority.

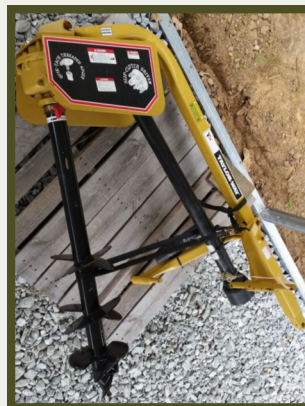
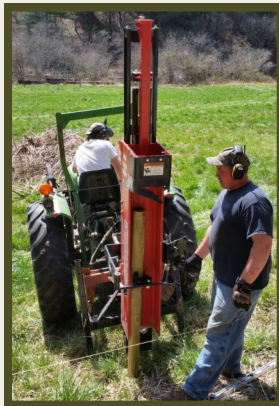


EQUIPMENT RENTAL



Thanks to previous TVA grants, we have a lime spreader, conservation seeder, fertilizer spreader, 2 weed wipers, manure spreader, post auger and driver, and a trailer to haul the equipment. Farmers have been very receptive to the rental equipment and are glad to have access to this equipment to make improvements to their fields and pastures.

For FY 2019, the equipment was rented by **26 landowners, for a total of 36 days** for use on about **750 acres**. Rental fees/charges **brought in \$1,670** which was set aside in a reserve account for maintenance and repair of the equipment.



DISTRICT CONSERVATION

COUNTY DEBRIS REMOVAL

The district received **\$25,000 from County Commissioners, \$20,000 from the state, and \$10,000 from the Transylvania Tourism Development Authority** to remove debris from the French Broad River in the county. The district was able to **complete 11 projects** that **affected 665 linear feet** of streambank. Large trees and other debris are not only causing severe erosion on streambanks, but are also safety hazards for recreational users of the river. Below are before and after pictures of some of the projects.

Project - Before



Project - After



Project - Before



Project - After

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

CONTEST PRESENTATIONS

The Poster, Essay, and Speech Contest theme for 2018-2019 was *"The Living Soil"*. Education Coordinator, Jo Ann McCall, gave **45 classroom presentations**. The program was designed to teach students about the benefits of soil and how we can conserve it.



The Living Soil
over 800 posters
completed



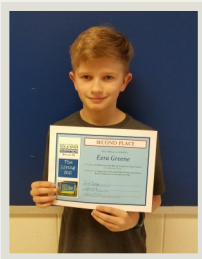
6th & 9th GRADE CONTESTS

The District had a **power point contest** for 6th graders. Students developed a computer power point presentation that described why soil is important and how we can take care of it. The District also had a **computer generated poster contest for 9th graders**.

Both district entries won **1st place at the Area 1 contests**, and the 9th grade entry won **2nd place at the state level!**



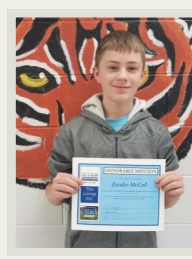
Izzy Gentle
1st Place



Ezra Greene
2nd Place



Ella Mooney
3rd Place



Zander McCall
Hon. Mention

6th Grade
Power Point

9th Grade
Computer
Poster



(L to R) Jaida Ansari- 1st Place– 2nd Place State

Logan Stamey- 2nd Place

Noah West- 3rd Place

Cambrie Lyday- Honorable Mention

Katie Strickland- Honorable Mention

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

POSTER CONTESTS

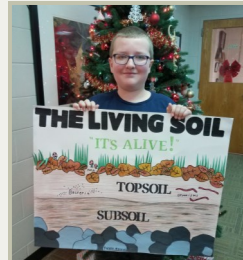
**poster Contests are for
3rd - 6th graders!**



3rd Grade 1st Place
Ava-Kate Snipes



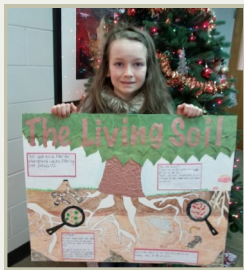
4th Grade 1st Place
Korbin Bradley



5th Grade 1st Place
Ryan Lamb



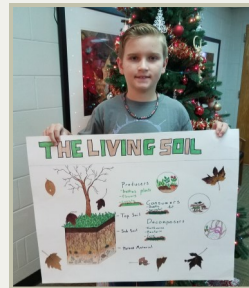
6th Grade 1st Place
Wilson DeGarmo



3rd Grade 2nd Place
Ella Grace McNeely



4th Grade 2nd Place
Farrah Metcalf



5th Grade 2nd Place
Austin Smith



6th Grade 2nd Place
Cooper Weaver



3rd Grade 3rd Place
Sadie Cade



4th Grade 3rd Place
Macy Rogers



5th Grade 3rd Place
Jameson Rybka



6th Grade 3rd Place (tie)
Hayley Hogsed & Ellery Zink



Honorable Mention:

3rd Grade: Kylie Campbell, Bailey Hunter, Gracyn Searcy

4th Grade: Reagan Brown, Cadence Marlee Owenby

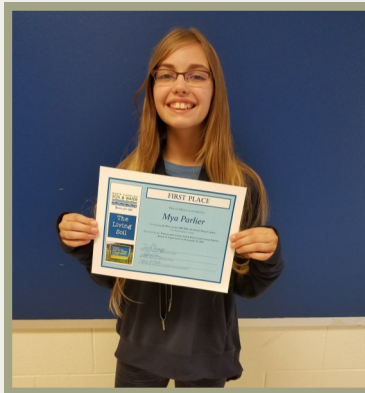
5th Grade: Olivia DeMoss, Sarayd Dugan, Tristin Powell

6th Grade: Brogen Justice, Hannah LaFever

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

6TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Essay theme
"The Living Soil"



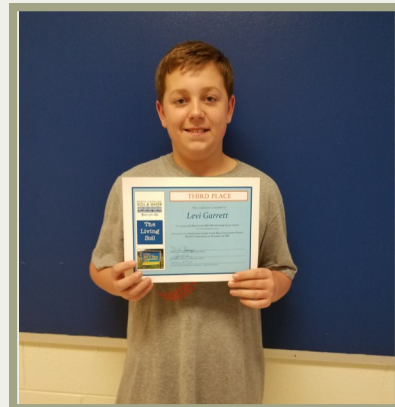
Mya Parlier
1st Place

Over 200
Essays!



Brooke LaRowe- 2nd Place

Mya also won 1st place at the Area level, and Honorable Mention at the state level.



Levi Garrett- 3rd Place

ENVIROTHON

On March 23, 2019, 31 middle school and 22 high school Envirothon teams descended on the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville for the Area 1 Envirothon competition. The Transylvania SWCD sponsored **6 middle school teams, and 1 high school team** to attend the competition. The high school team placed high enough to advance to the state competition in Burlington on May 3rd and 4th. The Rosman "Curious George" team won **4th place** at the Area level, and placed 21st at the state competition.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

ENVIROTHON



Brevard Middle School Team-
Deer EPA



Brevard Academy Team-
Science Kids



Brevard Academy Team-
1 Earth



Rosman Middle School Team-
Joe the Catfish



Rosman Middle School Team-
'Merican Yetis



Rosman Middle School Team-
The Patriots



Rosman High School Team-
Curious George

Rosman High School "Curious George" Team
Placed 4th in the Area 1 Envirothon, and 21st at
the State Competition in Burlington on
May 3rd & 4th.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

7TH GRADE CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

ROSMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL 7th GRADE CONSERVATION FIELD DAY
April 22, 2019– Everett Farms

78 Students



BREVARD MIDDLE SCHOOL 7th GRADE CONSERVATION FIELD DAY
April 25, 2019—Sycamore Flats

199 Students



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



The District awarded Frank “Buster” Rogers, Forest Ranger with the NC Forest Service, the **Conservation Educator of the Year Award**. Mr. Rogers was selected as the educator of the year because of his continued participation in the district’s conservation field days, landowner workshops, and tree sales. The district appreciates his dedication to conservation education over the years!

PRESENTATIONS



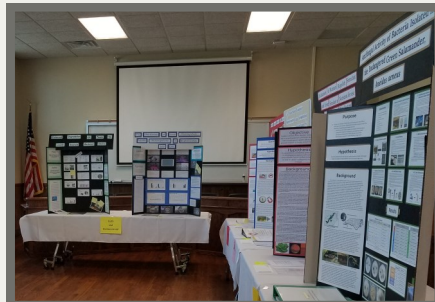
Jo Ann McCall, Education Coordinator, made several presentations to many different groups.

She gave a “How to Plant a Garden” presentation for the entire 3rd grade class at Rosman Elementary School, earthworm presentations to the pre-school 2-4 year old classes at Brevard Methodist Church, and met with the Envirothon teams to help them prepare for the Area competition.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



The district participated in a variety of outreach activities including: T. C. Henderson Elementary School’s May Day festival, the Transylvania County Schools Science Fair judging, the Rosman High School senior project judging, and facilitating a Food, Land and People workshop for Brevard College Environmental Studies students.



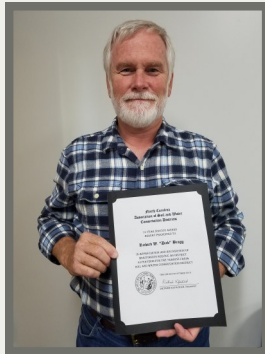
SPECIAL ITEMS

ELECTIONS/ SWEARING IN

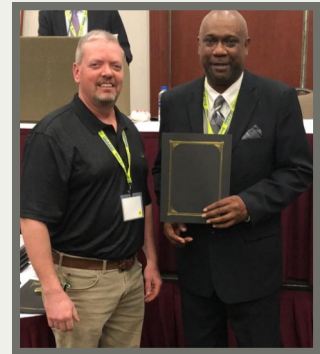
Bob Twomey and Joffrey Merrill were re-elected to the Board of Supervisors in November. Alan Johnson was nominated by the Board of Supervisors for reappointment by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. All three supervisors took the oath of office and were sworn in on December 3, 2018 for their new 4 year term.



SERVICE AWARDS



Chairman Dick Bragg received a 15 year service award during the Area 1 fall meeting for his service as a Board Supervisor. Jeff Parker also received a 25 year service award during the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual meeting in January, 2019. Jeff has been with the Transylvania SWCD since 2000, and also worked for Buncombe SWCD for 7 years.



APPRECIATION RECEPTION

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, Area 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.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

DIVISION STAFF



Jeff Young

The supervisors and staff of our District want to acknowledge the help and assistance received from Jeff Young, Technical Sections Chief, Rachel Smith, Engineer, Loring McIntyre, Engineering Technician, Dalton Buchanan, Soil Scientist and Davis Ferguson, Regional Coordinator, all with the Division of Soil and Water. We consider them valuable assets to our organization.

Thanks Jeff, Rachel, Loring, Dalton and Davis!



Rachel Smith



Loring McIntyre



Dalton Buchanan



Davis Ferguson

DAVIS FERGUSON



Davis Ferguson, Area Coordinator with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, retired this year with over 20 years of service with the Division. Davis was a tremendous help to Area 1 and served as a liaison between districts in Area 1 and the NC DSWC. The district thanks Davis for his many years of service and wishes him well in his retirement!

Thanks, Davis!

PROGRAMS SUMMARY

The following table captures the inputs and outcomes of the District's programs for FY 2018-2019, and represents the commitment to fulfill the mission of the district of improving water quality and educating citizens about conservation.

Program	Input	Outcomes (Planned & Installed)
NCACSP	\$52,587	190 acres affected
		1,173 Tons of soil kept from streams
		1,320 pounds of N managed
		660 pounds of P managed
CCAP	\$2,500	81 Tons of soil kept from streams
French Broad River Debris Removal	\$38,290	11 projects completed
		665 feet of streambank affected
Ag. Equipment Rental	\$1,670	26 landowners used equipment
		36 rental days
		750 acres affected
Education Programs	\$5,657	60 presentations
		9 outreach activities
		1,583 citizens reached

PARTNERS



IN CONCLUSION

MISSION STATEMENT

Transylvania SWCD's mission:

“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 voluntary program designed to meet changing needs.”



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & STAFF



(L to R) Jeff Parker- District Director, Bob Twomey- Vice Chairman, Jo Ann McCall -Education Coordinator, Joffrey Merrill -Member, Scott Galloway- Secretary/Treasurer, Dick Bragg- Chairman, Alan Johnson- Member, Emily Pohlman- NRCS District Conservationist

