

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007**



Organization

Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in December of 1946. Cumberland SWCD is a locally controlled, special purpose governmental subdivision of the State of North Carolina and is governed by a board of supervisors. The District supervisors are charged with the responsibility of promoting soil and water conservation and establishing conservation programs in the county, which is done primarily through the cooperation of other agencies and local units of government. Members of the Board serve four year terms with three seats being filled in the general election and two seats being appointed by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

District Supervisors

Mr. D. H. Vinson is a farmer and resident of the Beaver Dam community. He is serving his second term on the Board. Mr. Vinson is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Wingate Collier began his appointment in 1996. He produces coastal bermuda grass and manages a swine operation. Mr. Collier and his wife, Janet, volunteer their time and efforts at SWCD events. The Colliers reside in Wade. He is serving as Vice-Chairman.

Charlie W. Guy is an elected supervisor and has served on the District's Board for eight years. Mr. Guy is a developer and resides in Fayetteville.

Clifton McNeill has served as an appointed supervisor for Cumberland SWCD for thirty-seven years. During his tenure, he has served as chairman of the Cumberland SWCD and the Area VII Association. Mr. McNeill is a farmer in Grays Creek.

Mr. Robert "Bob" White was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November, 2006. He is a realtor and insurance salesman.



Mission Statement

The mission of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources and administer programs designed to encourage individual responsibility to conserve, improve and sustain our soil and water resources for future generations.

Stewardship Attitude

A major goal of the District is educating and informing the public. We are committed to helping landowners understand and succeed at land stewardship. We also recognize that the future of our natural resources depends on nurturing and attitude of stewardship in the minds and hearts of children.

Our Sincere Thanks

The Board of Supervisors and Staff of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all landowners, agencies and groups who cooperate and assist the District in carrying out its conservation programs.

Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission
USDA Farm Service Agency
Cumberland County Cooperative Extension
North Carolina Department of Agriculture
NC Forest Service
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Cumberland County Parks and Recreation
Cumberland County Board of Education
Watershed Action Team
Cape Fear River Assembly

With Special Thanks to

Cumberland County's Information Services Department
for their assistance in maintaining and updating our web site.

Conservation Awareness Day



Pictured L to R: Larry Simpson, Curtis Dowd, D. H. Vinson, Doug Bullard and Wingate Collier

North Carolina's fourth annual Conservation Awareness Day, an outreach event sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, was held March 21, 2007 on Halifax Mall in downtown Raleigh. The annual event helps familiarize lawmakers with the work and outreach of the state's ninety-six soil and water conservation districts.

Cumberland SWCD supervisors and staff helped prepare and serve more than 870 fried fish lunches to legislators, general assembly staff and other guests.

FFA Soil Judging Contest

Cumberland SWCD staff assisted with the FFA Federation's soil judging contest on November 14, 2006 in Columbus County.

Students were tested on their knowledge of soil properties and characteristics.





Ashley Phillips receives award at Area VII contest from Edward Davis and Bobby Stanley of Columbus County SWCD

Poster, Essay and Public Speaking Conservation Contests

Ashley Phillips had the audience in the palm of her hand as she expounded on the importance of wetlands in our environment at the Area VII public speaking contest in Whiteville on March 16, 2007. Ashley, a student at Village Christian Academy, won first place in the seventh grade competition and represented Cumberland County at the State Public Speaking contest held in Raleigh on May 5, 2007



Brett Hannah Beighley

Brett Hannah Beighley, S.H.A.R.E. Home Study student, won third place in the eighth grade area competition.



District Newsletters

Cumberland SWCD publishes "Conservation News" quarterly during the year. Six hundred fifty copies of each issue are printed at the county print shop and are mailed via the County's mailroom.

Each issue features messages from District Conservationist, John Ray, and Conservation Technician, David Faircloth. John and David use their space to describe and promote federal programs.

Larry Simpson also contributes messages about the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program to keep producers informed of sign-up dates and deadlines for the program.

"Backyard Conservation" is a section for information about planting trees, watering yards, attracting wildlife, bird habitat and other items of interest for urban and rural households.

"Conservation in the Classroom" is an annual publication for educators in Cumberland County. 2,350 copies of this newsletter are distributed to public, private and home school educators in September. Information on the educational programs of the District are highlighted: the Envirothon program, conservation contests, teacher workshops, the loan library, Resource Conservation Workshop, interesting web sites and classroom lessons.

Visit Our Website at:
http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/soil_water/

2007 Tree Seedling Sale



Tree seedlings are sold annually by the District staff, as a fund raising project to provide additional funding of the District's educational activities. An order form is included in the District's fall newsletter and pre-paid orders are taken through December 1st. Trees are ordered and delivered in mid-December. This year, 1,750 longleaf pine, loblolly pine and eastern red cedar seedlings were sold to the public for windbreaks, farm enhancement and for use in home landscaping.

Summary of 2007 NC Agriculture Cost Share Program



Since 1989, the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) has been assisting farmers and agricultural landowners in Cumberland County with installing or implementing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) on farm land that improve or protect water quality.

Many BMPs have been developed to help reduce the amount of nutrients, herbicides, pesticides and sediment that leaves agricultural land and enters our waterways. Some of the most commonly used BMPs in the District are: no-till cropping systems, cropland conversion to permanent vegetation, animal waste management systems and water control structures.

During the 2007 program year, Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District wrote a total of eleven NC Ag contracts. These contracts consisted of three contracts that will convert present cropland to trees; one for the planting of 8.5 acres of longleaf pines and two for the planting of 34.7 acres of loblolly pines. Together they totaled \$4,798.00.

The majority of funds for this program year were obligated for the establishment of permanent grassland on cropland. Seven contracts, converting 128.9 acres of present cropland to grassland were written, for a total of \$29,017.00.

Another contract obligating \$16,141.00 for the retrofitting of a swine lagoon irrigation system was also written. This upgrade will allow the lagoon effluent to be sprayed onto hayland in an environmentally safe manner, allowing the nutrients in the swine manure to be used by the growing hay.

Collectively, in Cumberland County, contracts for the 2007 program year should reduce the amount of nitrogen entering our ground and surface waters by nearly 12,000 pounds and reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our waters by about 21 pounds. Also, soil erosion will be reduced by about 375 tons of soil.

Each year, according to NCACSP guidelines, a percentage of Cost Share BMPs are "spot checked" by the District Supervisors to insure continued compliance.

Larry Simpson, NCACSP Technician



Tye Pasture Pleaser Model 2007



John Deere Model 1590



Great Plains Model 706NT

Grain Drill Rental

An Affordable Resource for Area Landowners

In 1998, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a no-till grain drill for the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. The objective was to encourage farmers to convert to the no-till method and discontinue the practice of conventional tillage. No-till planting allows seeds to be planted with minimal disturbance to the soil surface and eliminates the need for conventional cultivation. This method allows the residue from previous crops to remain on the soil surface, thus protecting it from the elements that cause erosion. There are several other advantages to using the no-till method, such as fewer trips across the field, resulting in reduced fuel, time and labor costs, as well as less wear and tear on machinery.

To help accomplish this goal, Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District now has three no-till grain drills available for rent. The original drill, a Tye Pasture Pleaser, model 2007, was purchased in 1998. It plants a swath seven feet wide and rents for five dollars per acre with a twenty-five dollar minimum rental fee. In the fall of 2004, a John Deere, model 1590, was purchased with Fayetteville-Cumberland Storm Water Services funds. This is a larger, heavier drill that plants ten feet wide. Rental is eight dollars per acre, or a minimum charge of fifty dollars per day for the number of days kept by the renter, whichever is most. The newest drill in the line-up is a Great Plains model 706NT. Purchased in the spring of 2007, it plants seven feet wide and rents for five dollars per acre, with a twenty-five dollar minimum.

These drills are used to plant a variety of seeds including small grains in the fall behind row crops, overseed bermudagrass fields for winter grazing or winter spray area on hog farms. Many renters also use the drills to plant millet and other grasses for warm season forage in the spring and early summer, and soy beans in the spring and early summer. Sunflowers and rice have also been planted with these drills.

A tractor with at least eighty horse power is recommended for use with the John Deere, while a tractor with at least fifty horse power is recommended for use with the Tye and the Great Plains. All three drills raise and lower by hydraulics therefore the tractors used must be equipped with remote hydraulic hook-ups.

The drills are rented on a "first come-first served" basis, or by reservation. Most renters call ahead to schedule the time they want and some even call a year in advance.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Provider of Technical and Program Assistance

The staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service / Fayetteville Field Office is District Conservationist, John M. Ray, Jr., and Conservation Technician, David Faircloth. This staff administers several programs that provide technical assistance to the land users served by Cumberland and Hoke Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) had a very successful year in 2006-07. NRCS designated a Special Projects. NRCS worked with landowners, in an area adjoining Fort Bragg and running to Ramsey Street, to fund prescribed burning, conversion of cropland and pastureland to longleaf pine and conversion of pasture and hayland to native warm season grasses. The five WHIP contracts totaled \$192,492.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) placed one waste storage facility and one swine water management program in Cumberland County. Those contracts totaled \$48,051.

Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality = 2,620 acres.
Land with conservation applied to improve water quality = 1,632 acres.
Two Comprehensive Nutrient Management plans were applied.



Conservation Education

In 2006-2007 Cumberland Soil & Water Conservation District's conservation education program made over 5850 contacts through classroom visits, Envirothon team training, distribution of literature and participation in special events.

Education Coordinator, Kay Bullard, presented eighty hands-on conservation lessons in classrooms and libraries. Students received activity books and teachers were given a packet of information and activities to supplement their curriculum. 128 teachers requested and received class sets of stewardship booklets for their kindergarten – sixth grade students in Cumberland County public, private and home schools.

As a partner of the "Watershed Action Team" the District participated in the annual Big Sweep and Litter Free cleanups of waterways; and had booths at Clark Park Nature Day and Cape Fear Botanical Garden's May Day - "A Community Called Earth" environmental awareness events.



Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) Scholarship

Trevor Nance and Jay Adkins, both Cape Fear High School / Cape Fear Agriculture Academy students, were the recipients of this year's RCW Scholarship. The students spent one week on the NCSU campus to learn about environmental conservation. Trevor Nance is pictured above.

Cumberland County Fair Exhibit

The District's **Cumberland County Fair** exhibit for 2006 highlighted backyard conservation. The display showed how rain barrels can be outfitted to gutters to save water for yard and garden use. Handouts included brochures on backyard conservation and other publications of interest to the general public.

Envirothon Team Training

The District sponsored several workshops for Cumberland County Envirothon teams during the year. Professor Rebecca Westbrooks of Southeastern Community College taught two sessions on current environmental issues. Division of Soil & Water Conservation soil scientist, Channa Witanachchi, provided training in soils and local environmental educator, Fred Booth, taught the aquatics sessions.



NC Project Food, Land and People Educator Workshop

Nineteen educators received a curriculum of fifty-four lessons and ten hours of continued education credits free when they attended a two-day NC Food, Land and People (FLP) educator workshop on June 19 & 20. The workshop was co-sponsored by Cumberland and Robeson Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Kay Bullard of Cumberland SWCD and Joanna McPhatter of Robeson SWCD were facilitators for the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation's signature education program. FLP provides educational resources and promotes approaches to learning that help educators and students in grades PreK-12 to better understand the interrelationships among agriculture, the environment and the people of the world.





Third Grade Soil's Lessons

The District's most requested educational program is the soils lesson for third grade. Students discover soil forming factors when "Chef Soil" mixes up a batch of soil. They get "soiled" learning about soil characteristics and have fun making their own soil profile. The lesson is planned according to the goals and objectives of the NC Standard Course of Study.



May Day at Cape Fear Botanical Garden

Children enjoyed making "soil crayons" at the District's booth at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden's annual environmental awareness event, "May Day - A Community Called Earth".



Environmental Awareness & Earth Day

128 Cumberland County educators requested, and received, class sets of grade level appropriate booklets for their students to celebrate Earth Day in April. The District supplied handouts to library branches during County Government Week.

Clark Park Nature Day & Parks and Recreation Summer Programs

The District participated in community events by providing exhibits and hands-on activities.

Above: students at Stoney Point Recreation Center enjoy painting with soil. Below: Making a soil profile at Clark Park Nature Day.



Very Special Arts Festival

Student volunteers performed puppet skits for the pre-school children at Cumberland County Schools' **Very Special Arts Festival** on May 5th. Gigi Torres, an Earth Team volunteer for the District, organized the puppeteers.

Watershed Action Team

The District is an active partner in the Watershed Action Team (WAT). The WAT is a group of local resource professionals who share the vision of bringing environmental education to the general public and teachers in Cumberland County. Through educator workshops and public education efforts, the WAT seeks to engage students and adults in an ongoing process of preserving our environment.



Area VII Middle School First Place Winner
Cumberland H.O.M.E. Team "Condors"



Area VII Middle School Second Place Winner
Cumberland S.H.A.R.E. Home Study Team "Black Widows"

Area VII Envirothon



Students huddle under an umbrella to discuss a test question.



The rain stops long enough for this team to use a Biltmore Stick to figure out the size of a tree.

Cumberland County's Lake Rim Park was the setting of this year's **Area VII Envirothon** on March 29, 2007. This was the third year that Cumberland County has hosted the Area VII Envirothon.

Twenty-four teams from the NCASWCD Area VII counties of Cumberland, Robeson, Bladen, Columbus and Sampson competed for the opportunity to go to the State competition in April.

Resource professionals from NC Forest Service, USDA-NRCS, Jones Lake State Park and local environmental educators served as station presenters for the event.

Volunteers for the event included supervisors and staff of Area VII Districts, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources staff.



Area VII High School Third Place Winner
Cumberland S.H.A.R.E. Home Study Team "Human Beings"



Area VII High School First Place Winner
Cumberland H.O.M.E. Team "Intelligent Designs"



State Envirothon

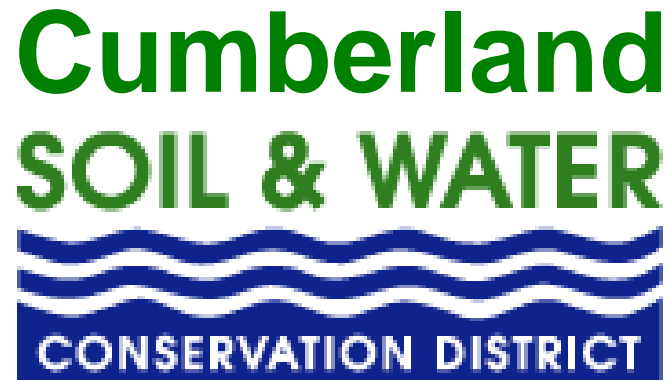
CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON TEAM EARNS HIGHEST SCORE AWARD AT STATE ENVIROTHON

Cumberland SWCD sponsored two high school and two middle school teams at the 2006 State Envirothon on April 27 and 28 at Cedarrock Park, Burlington NC.

S.H.A.R.E. Home Study Team "Human Beings" placed seventh out of fifty teams in the high school competition and earned a highest score medal for Current Environmental Issues.

In the middle school competition H.O.M.E. School Team "Condors" placed seventh and S.H.A.R.E. Home Study Team "Black Widows" placed eighth in the event. There were fifty-seven middle school teams in the competition.





The District would like to thank the following advertisers whose continued support makes it possible for us to publish our quarterly newsletter "Conservation News" :

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