



July 1, 2008

Dear Soil & Water Conservation Districts:

The forty-fifth annual Resource Conservation Workshop was recently held at North Carolina State University. Seventy-seven students attended and were given instruction on: soils, wildlife, water quality, septic systems, forestry, recreation, wastewater treatment, and other general topics. They were also exposed to professionals career employees from several local state and federal agencies and one private environmental firm: Division of Forest Resources, Wildlife Resources Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, Division of Parks & Recreation, NRCS, Durham, Wake and Johnston Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Stantec and various departments of NCSU.

This workshop gives these students an idea of what dorm life is like and exposing them to University life. Then there is the resource education aspect, exposure to various career opportunities and the opportunity to meet new people from different parts of the state.

This workshop is a great educational opportunity and one great partnership. The sponsors are: NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Soil Science Department of NC State University, Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society, Office of Professional Development-NCSU, District Employees Association and Mckimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education.

At the end of the workshop, the students are given a test for scholarships, and prize money. All of the students are winners because they leave been enlightened about our natural resources, they learn what college life is like, and are exposed to professional groups for career opportunities. They are also encouraged to give a report back to their local Soil & Water District Supervisors on their activities.

The test winners were:

1. Stephanie Tolar-Johnston SWCD (\$500.00 scholarship & \$100.00 cash and \$1,000.00 Mckimmon Center Scholarship if she attends NCSU)
2. Misty Varnell-Wilson SWCD (\$275.00 scholarship & \$100.00 cash)
3. Stuart Beam-Rutherford SWCD (\$100.00 cash)
4. Justin Milstein-Robeson SWCD (\$75.00 cash)
5. Zachery McNeil-Lee SWCD (\$50.00 cash)

The \$1,000.00 Mckimmon Center Scholarship is given to the highest scoring student who attends NCSU.

Each counselor group selects the best overall student during the week from their group, who has exhibited good study habits, good moral behavior, leadership potential, and general good behavior during the week. These students are interviewed for the Grady Lane Scholarship. The winner during this interview receives the Grady Lane Scholarship while the second place student receives the DEA Scholarship.

The following students were nominated:

1. Stephanie Tolar-Johnston SWCD
2. Misty Varnell-Wilson SWCD
3. Stuart Beam-Rutherford SWCD
4. Randy Stroup—Transylvania SWCD
5. Antonio Jackson—Guilford SWCD
6. Rebecca McMichael—Davidson SWCD
7. Rhett Bunce—Cumberland SWCD
8. Jack Ward—Brunswick SWCD
9. Nathaniel Hartsell- Nash SWCD

Stuart Beam of Rutherford SWCD was selected as the Grady Lane winner and Misty Varnell was the winner of the DEA Scholarship.



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