



# WAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

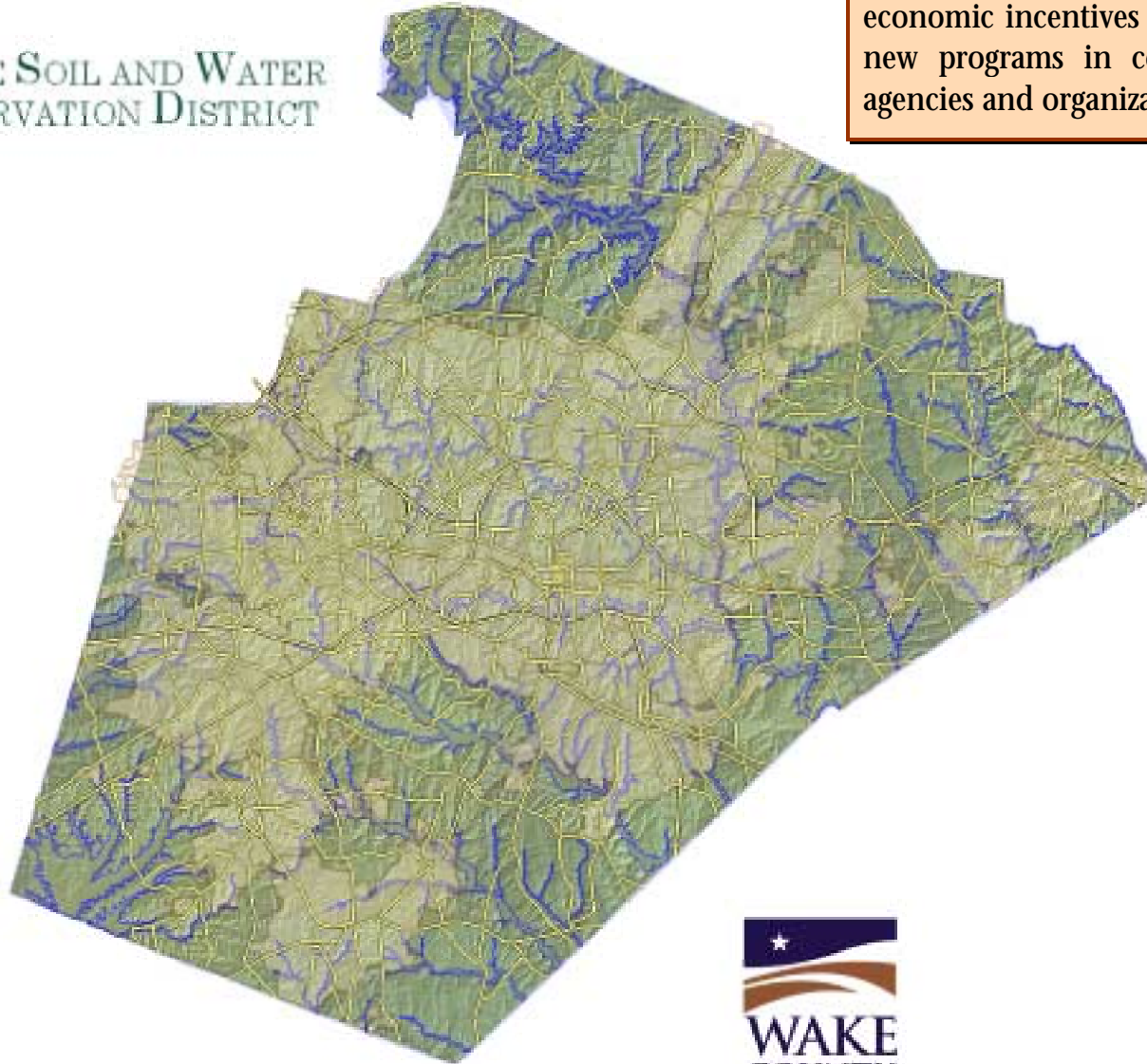


Annual Report 2007-2008

*Protecting the Natural Resources of Wake County*

## Our Mission

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to conserve the soil, water and related natural resources of Wake County by providing education, information, technical assistance and economic incentives to county citizens and establish new programs in concert with other appropriate agencies and organizations to meet changing needs.



# Moving Forward into New Horizons

## Overview

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District faced the 2007-2008 year with challenges. In light of the growth of the county's population, the county's Environmental Services Department and the District chose to reassess its current direction. We evaluated our current skills and developed new trainings and innovative ways to create science based solutions for future natural resource challenges.



We began the year completing projects that had begun in the previous season of the year. Fall work demanded our inventory and evaluation, planning, and implementation of best management practices. As we evaluated our current and future workload we determined the need for a technical update in biological and engineering skills. Through partnerships with the Environmental Services Water Quality Division and with NCSU Cooperative Extension Service, training sessions were developed to enhance the Natural Resource Conservationist skills. District staff also used this year to explore professional development and training in our newest frontier –



Community Conservation Assistance, utilizing urban best management practices. We also extend congratulations to our newest Conservationist, Teresa Furr, for not only participating in several trainings with our partner, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for Job Approval status, but also for completing a NCSU Wetland Delineation and Hydric Soils course. Senior staff was also trained in benthic macro invertebrate monitoring. This workshop honed our skills in

stream ecology and taxonomy of aquatic insects that are key indicators for stream water quality. While this report reflects the accomplishments of 2007 -2008 it also establishes a foundation for the years ahead. New and dynamic needs of the land users and the public interest have demanded new services.

We will continue to collaborate with our partners and citizens to create the most effective, practical, and reasonable solutions to the natural resource issues addressing Wake County's environment. With input from the landowners, businesses, community organizations, new and established partnerships and others we are motivated to make great strides in communication, education, and information that result in solutions for our clients. Our goal to protect the natural resources is essential to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Wake County. The Board of Supervisors, District staff, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are committed to this work. We know that in order to have healthy watersheds we must be diligent in our efforts. We want Wake County to continue to be a great place to live, work, and play.



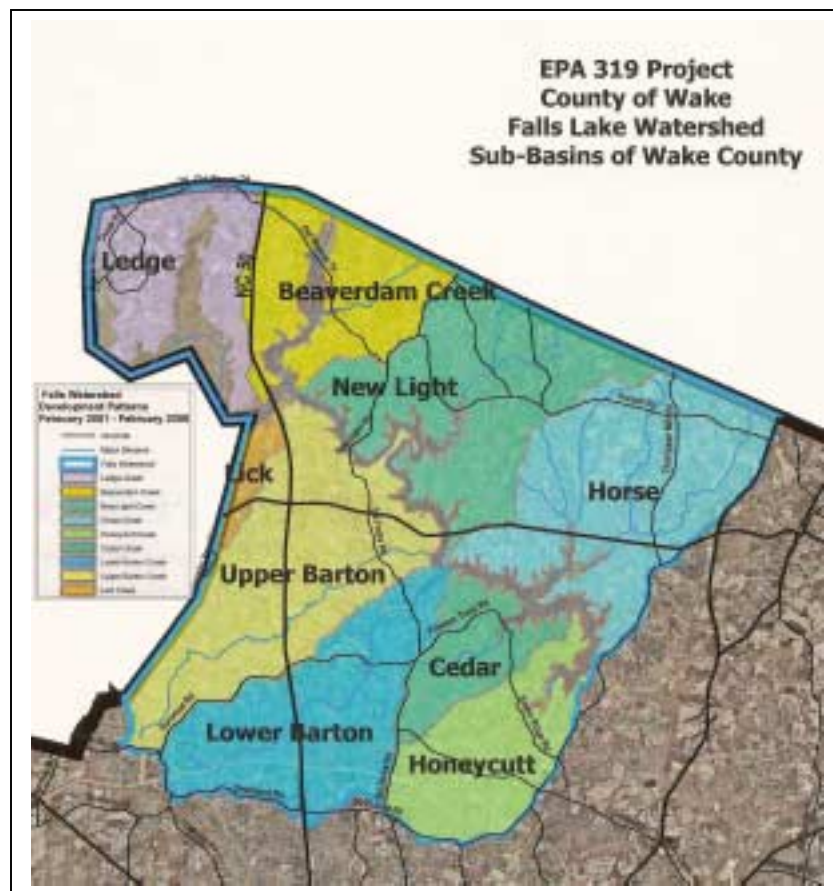
A Dynamic District for a Dynamic County

# Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Highlights 2007 - 2008

## Watershed Management

We will promote the management of our natural resources through a comprehensive watershed planning approach.

- Lead Stream and Watershed Conservationist completed Watershed analysis of Falls Lake Watershed in Wake County for the EPA 319 grant. Work continues with collection of data at strategic points of sub-basins for monitoring.
- Provided two assessments reports on potential Open Space parcel for Wake County – initiated new pilot process for Open Space assessments
- Lead Biological and Aquatic Conservationist began studying Poplar Creek watershed and the Lake Myra watershed. Conducted monthly and storm event water sampling, testing, and watershed evaluations resulting in more efficient repairs of failing erosion control practices on Mark's Creek.
- Continued natural resources inventory of strategic properties including the Proctor tract, Po Boy Farm, and Sugg property



# Highlights 2007 - 2008



## Expertise in Sustaining Working Lands

We will provide scientific and technical expertise to protect water quality, preserve biodiversity, and support private working lands.

Natural Resource Conservationists and USDA NRCS District Conservationist wrote conservation plans on many tracts throughout the county. Planned agronomic and engineering practices include (but are not limited to) sustainable forest management, establishment of longleaf pines, cropland conversion to grass, trees, and wildlife, field borders and more.

## *Putting Conservation on Working Lands*

The Wake District is motivated to inventory problems, evaluate, plan, **implement** best management practices and improve the water quality of the streams in Wake County, report and continue monitor the progress. This major principal defines our mission in the County. We “put conservation on the land.”

This year the technical staff designed solutions to runoff, erosion, nutrient management, and other natural resource issues. Applied practices included diversions, critical area planting, tree planting, spring development, stream crossing for animals, well and well head protection, heavy use area, stock trails, fencing and livestock exclusion, grassed waterways, and more.

## Components of a Conservation Plan

- Conduct a field visit for **Inventory and Evaluation** of any and all resource problems: soil quality, vegetative, human impact, animal and nutrient management issues, wildlife, ecological balance, wetland, etc.
- **Survey site: collect data**, topographical information, slope measurements, grid survey, soil borings, etc.
- **Design** engineering or agronomic practices according to NRCS technical guidelines
- **“Layout”** or flag site-specific areas for practices prior to construction beginning.
- Supervise construction of BMPs. Staff supervision prevents excessive cost to landowner.
- Survey BMPs as built, **check out** for compliance to specifications, spot check by Engineers and others as required.

## **By The Numbers – North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program**

July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

\$ Encumbered **\$70,917** for twenty-one new cost share contracts to install conservation practices in Wake County to reduce non-point source pollution on agricultural land.

\$ Expended **\$ 60,081** installing conservation practices in Wake County to reduce non-point source pollution on agricultural land.

\$ Landowners out of pocket expenses for the water quality practices are a minimum of **\$15,000**.

- Installed 18 acres of cropland conversion to grass to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering surface waters.
- Installed 51 acres of cropland conversion to trees to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering surface waters.
- Installed 4 livestock watering tanks, 9 heavy use areas, 2 wells, and 2,733 feet of livestock exclusion to remove animals from creeks, streams, and ponds to improve water quality.

Through the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program alone the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District has...

- ✓ Saved 791 tons of soil from carrying nutrients and pollutants to our streams
- ✓ Prevented 1,059 pounds of nitrogen
- ✓ Prevented 394 Phosphorus
- ✓ Addressed and managed 556 pounds of nitrogen from animal waste
- ✓ And managed 423 pounds of phosphorus from animal waste

- Installed 8 acres of field borders and grass-waterways to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering surface waters.
- Converted 18 acres from conventional tillage to three-year conservation tillage to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and improve soil health.
- Converted 20 acres of cropland to a sod-based rotation to reduce erosion and nutrient runoff in order to improve stream quality within Wake County.
- Installed 2 stream crossings on animal operations to control and reduce impacts of soil and nutrients on the stream.

### **Partners in Conservation**

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program  
Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

**By The Numbers - NRCS**  
**July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008**

- Encumbered **\$200,000** to assist local units of government to develop a plan to protect and restore 1.5 miles of Swift Creek.
- Expended **\$185,490** for completed design work on the White Oak Green Level Creek restoration project.
- Encumbered **\$4,698** to two new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost share contracts to install conservation practices in Wake County to reduce non-point source pollution on Agricultural lands.
- Expended **\$684.00** on three Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts

- Expended **\$11,440.00** on 10 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts.
    - 0.3 acres Grassed Waterways
    - 71.6 acres Prescribed Burning
    - 0.4 acres Critical Area Planting
    - 100 L Feet Lined Waterway/Outlet
    - 0.3 acres Heavy Use Area Protection
    - 0.9 acres Pest Management
    - 26.0 acres Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
    - 8.0 acres Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
    - 25.5 acres Long-Term No-till
    - 61.4 acres Residue Management – Seasonal
    - 466 L Ft Animal Trails and Walkways
    - 1 each Watering Facility
    - 1 each Spring Development
  - Expended **\$3,288.00** on 2 contracts for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
    - 119.7 acres Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
    - 94.8 acres Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
    - 4.8 acres Pest Management
- Assisted the participants of 9 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contracts to implement buffers along cropland to provide habitat for nesting birds and to restore native vegetation.
- 11.7 acres Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
  - 4374 linear ft. Field Border
  - 8.5 acres Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
  - 12.3 acres Conservation Cover
  - 6.6 acres Prescribed Burning

**Partners in Conservation**

United States Department of Agricultural  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Raleigh Field Offices  
Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

## Wake District Takes Advantage of Unexpected Opportunities

### NC Agricultural Drought Recovery Response Program

In 2007 and 2008 North Carolina experienced an exceptional drought. Although the average citizen began to be uncomfortable with water restrictions and personal conservation practices the farmers, landowners, and ranchers felt the impact in their wallets. The economic stresses of the drought lead the North Carolina General Assembly to approve funding through the well-established North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP). The Drought Recovery Response Program is funded partially through the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission through the Rural Economic Development Center and partially through appropriations from the General Assembly.

The Wake District to date has been allocated **\$83,260** from the N.C. Soil and Water Commission for the Drought Recovery Response Program. The Wake District has received so far 37 applications from Wake County landowners totaling \$460,785 in requests for drought related needs.



The funding is targeted at landowners that want to restore pasturelands to a usable condition, or to improve existing water supplies for livestock watering or irrigation. Practices include well drilling and re-drilling, pond renovation and construction, pasture renovation, conservation irrigation and micro-irrigation. All practices must be installed according to the NC Soil and Water Commission guidelines and NRCS Standards and Specifications.



### **NC Community Conservation Assistance Program**

As Wake County's land use is changing and becoming more urbanized, the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District must continue to protect the natural resources within the urban and suburban areas of the county. The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) authorized by the NC General Assembly in 2006 was developed to follow the successful North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) model. CCAP is a voluntary program that targets urban and suburban landowners to help them reduce their contribution to non-point source pollution. CCAP provides technical and financial resources through the NC Soil and Water Commission to the local soil and water conservation districts. Eligible participants include homeowners, businesses, schools, churches, community groups and local governments. Essentially all public and private lands are eligible for the program.

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District received an allocation of **\$77,503** from the NC Soil & Water Commission for the Community Conservation Assistance Program. Identified projects within Wake County include installing cisterns, bioretention areas, rain gardens, and stormwater wetlands to treat and reduce stormwater pollution into creeks and streams.



# Highlights 2007 - 2008

## Environmental Stewardship

We will engage citizens through creative education and outreach to foster environmental stewardship practices in daily activities.

### 42 ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET

**WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP THEME!** To carry out a "We All Live in a Watershed" theme throughout the Conservation Awards program, Wake District led 200 guests in a hands-on activity that introduced the "watershed" concept reinforced by the evening's keynote speaker Larry Perry, an award-winning local farmer who spoke on "Watershed Stewardship". The Top Ten 5<sup>th</sup> grader and their posters were publicly recognized at the banquet and their illustrations of watershed management practices were described. Banquet guests went home with water conservation tips, shower timer, and leak tester kit.

In partnership with the Wake County Board of Commissioners, Wake District presented a large number of deserving 2007 awards that included:

#### **2007 Conservation Farm Family of the Year**

The William Brinkley Family,

#### **Urban Stormwater Management Award**

City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Division

#### **The Dan Wilkinson WRAL Conservation Communication Award**

Neuse River Foundation

#### **Environmental Stewardship Award**

WRAL-TV 5 Documentary Unit

#### **Earth Team Volunteer Award**

Cary HS Life Skills Class

#### **Big Sweep Excellence Award**

Kathryn Converse

#### **Big Sweep Partnership Award**

City of Raleigh Parks Dept.

#### **Outstanding Service Award**

Ken Cromartie

**AWARD RECEIVED!** From North Carolina Big Sweep, Wake District received the "**2007 Special Achievement Award for Citizen Participation**" for increasing 538 volunteers participating in its **Wake County Big Sweep** program in 2006 to 888 in 2007 equaling an additional 350 volunteers or 65% increase overall! This is especially note-worthy since Wake District inherited the Wake County Big Sweep Program from Solid Waste Management / Wake Keep America Beautiful in November 2005, and has directed the fast-growing countywide program with 50% less staff than before.

### RESULTS for FALL 2007 BIG SWEEP

- 538 volunteers collected a volunteer TOTAL of 8.24 tons (10,600 lbs. trash, 2,325 lbs. recyclables, 1,060 lbs. tires, 2,500 lbs. white goods) from 39.75 miles of shoreline & roadsides at 24 waterways in 6 Wake County municipalities (Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Morrisville, Raleigh, and Wake County).

Note: Total from North Wake Landfill scales = 20,140 lbs. or 10.07 tons.

Note: 538 volunteers worked ~1,450 hours (divided by 2,000 hours/year) = the equivalent to 0.73 FTE

( x \$17/hour) = savings to Wake County of **\$24,650**

### RESULTS for SPRING 2008 BIG SWEEP

- 177 volunteers collected a volunteer TOTAL of 5.43 tons (7,400 lbs. trash, 1,280 lbs. recyclables, 2,080 lbs. tires, 100 lbs. white goods) from 10.63 miles of shoreline at 12 Wake County waterways in 5 Wake County municipalities (Garner, Holly Springs, Morrisville, Raleigh, and Wake County).

Note: Bass Lake cleanup cancelled due to bad weather.

Note: Total from North Wake Landfill scales = 2,900 lbs. or 1.45 tons.

Note: 177 volunteers worked ~514 hours (divided by 2,000 hours/year) = the equivalent to 0.26 FTE

(\$17/hour) = savings to Wake County of **\$8,738**

## *Environmental Stewardship continued*

**EPA 319 GRANT for FALLS LAKE WORK BEGINS ON \$185K WATER QUALITY GRANT!** Knowing the value of working with stakeholders, Wake District gathered together a group that shares a mutual interest in the watershed management of Falls Lake (recently placed on the state's Draft 303(d) List as an impaired watershed not supporting its designated use. This team of residents, environmental organizations and government agencies agreed to form a working Education and Information committee responsible for developing and implementing the grant's deliverables. Stakeholders included local residents, NC Division of Water Resources-DENR, Neuse River Foundation, Wake County Blue Point County Park, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Five other working committees began watershed analysis, water quality monitoring, and the implementation of rural and urban BMPs to protect tributaries and ultimately, Falls Lake reservoir. Wake District's Natural Resources Conservationists made several 319 Grant presentations to different stakeholder groups.



## **TOOLS for ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS**

**BEST EDUCATION PRACTICES!** One of only three trained facilitators in the state, Wake District's Environmental Education Specialist co-facilitated an 8-hour TOOLS for Environmental Educators workshop at the 2007 Annual Conference of Environmental Educators of North Carolina. This crash course on pedagogy and best education practices is designed to improve the delivery of environmental education by both formal and non-formal educators.

## **PROJECT FOOD, LAND & PEOPLE**

**TRAIN-the-TRAINER!** Wake District co-facilitated an 18-hour Food, Land & People Facilitators' Training in partnership with NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation-DENR, Franklin & Johnston Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Blue Jay Point County Park. This Train-the-Trainer workshop is conducted every two years to ensure a cadre of trained professionals to conduct FLP workshops statewide. Wake District's Natural Resource Conservationist led the tour of a local organic farm that is also a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) enterprise and the Wake District's 2007 Conservation Farm Family winner. Wake District's Education Specialist created a new lesson on Learning Modalities and new handouts entitled "Top 10 FLP Field Trip Tips" and "Recipe for Facilitating a Successful FLP Workshop" as well as coordinated two behind-the-scenes field trips to a grocery store and restaurant.

## **WATER QUALITY PRESENTATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**CLEAN WATER EDUCATION!** A total of 118 adults actively participated in several of Wake District's public presentations on the EPA 319 Falls Lake Grant Project, community conservation ideas for Black Horse Run Subdivision, stream training, water quality volunteering, and the Open Space and Preservation Advisory Committee canoe trip.

## **EARTH DAY EVENT AT PRAIRIE RIDGE- MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**SECOND ANNUAL INVASIVE SPECIES EDUCATION!** A total of 8 adults actively participated in identification and removal of invasive Bradford Pear trees on the Prairie Ridge site. Gloved and armed with loppers and saws, the brave participants scoured the pasture to remove the invasive ornamental with sharp thorns, which gave as good as it got. The group finally called out the big gun and pulled out the chain saw.

**\$48K CCAP GRANT AWARDED!** Coordinated on-site meeting between NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation engineers, District Natural Resource Conservationists, and Brentwood Elementary to begin stormwater retrofit design for campus. Reviewed state engineers' completed plan for a constructed stormwater wetland with City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Division and Wake County Facilities, Construction & Design. Met with Brentwood teacher to note anticipated concerns regarding the design in order to better present the plan to the school Principal and neighborhood associations. Drafted PowerPoint presentation explaining the CCAP project.

***CLEAN WATER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP***

**COLLABORATIVE STORMWATER OUTREACH!** Wake District's Environmental Education Specialist serves as Wake County's lead liaison to the Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP), a coalition of 30 municipalities that develop stormwater outreach collaboratively for three NC river basins: Cape Fear, Neuse, and Tar-Pamlico.

***ENO RIVER FESTIVAL***

**FIRECRACKER EFFORT!** During the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, Wake District conducted stormwater outreach to 300 festival-goers of all ages at the Eno River Festival in partnership with CWEP, Upper Neuse River Association, and the Eno River Association.

***ENVIROSCAPE***

**FROM GROCERY STORES to GARDEN CLUBS!** Wake District conducted numerous EnviroScape sessions where participants learn about stormwater pollution & solutions: Eno River Festival, Brookhaven Night Garden Club, Earth Day at Whole Foods Market of Cary, Fuquay-Varina High School's Science Night, and Envirothon study sessions for participating high schools. Prepared & loaned out EnviroScape model to fellow Water Quality sections: Sediment & Erosion Control and Environmental Health.

***NC STATE FAIR***

**BEYOND FUNNEL CAKES!** Wake District staff engaged over 500 visitors to the NC State Fair in learning about the conservation work of Districts across the state by spinning the Conservation Wheel of questions, answers, and fabulous conservation prizes!



***CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST***

**WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED!** Over 500 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and 18 teachers from 21 Wake County 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms participated in the 2008 Conservation Poster Contest. Wake District's education specialist developed a study guide and criteria rubric for participating teachers to provide background information, rules, and "winning suggestions" on new theme "We All Live in a Watershed". Wake District elevated the poster contest to a higher level in conceptual content by encouraging schools to identify their school's watershed and to illustrate stormwater BMPs.

Wake District's conservationists helped each participating school identify their local watershed and produced GIS maps for 10 schools in 9 watersheds in 5 municipalities (Cary, Garner, Raleigh, Wendell & Zebulon).

With two guest partners, Wake District judged 100+ poster entries with the NC Division of Water Resources-DENR and NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program. The Judges distributed list of winners with certificates & ribbons to all 5th graders who entered and invited Top Ten to Conservation Awards Banquet. The attributes of each Top Ten poster were described and all 10 were publicly displayed at the Banquet.

**PRIME TIME TV!** After the New Year, five of the Top Ten posters were spotlighted and broadcast during prime time on WRAL-TV 5's 6 o'clock News by Chief Meteorologist Greg Fishel.

**SPECIAL PRIZE!** Upon special invitation by the Neuse Riverkeeper, Wake District's Top Ten poster winners enjoyed a spring kayak trip down the Neuse River courtesy of the Neuse River Foundation and Paddle Creek outfitters. The students and their parents were able to compare the clarity of the river water at the dam base to that further downstream, seeing first-hand the impacts of stormwater & nonpoint source pollution as tributaries delivered sediment to the Neuse River.

## AREA 4 ENVIROTHON

### WAKE COUNTY HOSTS REGIONALS!

Wake District played a major role in hosting the 2007 Area 4 Envirothon in Wake County to 375 middle & high school students, 35 teachers, and 40 adult volunteers. As host, Wake District secured the official site and **Platinum Sponsorships** with Bond Park – Town of Cary Parks & Recreation and non-denominational Crosspointe Church of Cary. Wake District also secured two major sponsors: Whole Foods of Cary - **Platinum Sponsor** (\$1K) and REI of Cary - **Gold Sponsor** (\$500).

To encourage students to apply their knowledge to action, Wake District initiated a **new Envirothon “Action Pack”** that provided every Area 4 Envirothon student with environmental stewardship action items such as water conservation kits, Swat-A-Litterbug kit, wildflower seeds, tree seedlings, and frisbees for outdoor recreation.

Wake District staff also developed **new documents** for Committee that included Sponsor Solicitation Packet, VIP Invitation, and Volunteer Job Description Table.

### AREA 4 ENVIROTHON RESULTS

**WAKE TAKES 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE!** Out of a total of 29 high school teams competing, Wake County’s “Sub-Chronic Exposure” team from Enloe High School in Raleigh captured 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and advanced to the 2008 NC Envirothon (missing 1<sup>st</sup> Place by 8 points). Wake District had five other high school

teams to rank in the top half, placing 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> respectively. Five new Wake County teams placed 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>.

### NORTH CAROLINA ENVIROTHON

Promoted and recruited Wake County 11 Wake County high school teams to participate in the 2008 Envirothon from 7 schools in 4 municipalities (Cary, FV, Raleigh & Wake Forest). Wake District provided study manual CD to all teams and provided additional information to new Team Advisors. Working with a diversity of Professional Mentors, Wake District coordinated & conducted a total of 10 study sessions on soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Wake District staff volunteered at 2008 Area 4 and 2008 North Carolina Envirothon.

**WAKE TEAM 2<sup>nd</sup> in STATE!** Enloe High School’s “Sub-Chronic Exposure” represented Wake County well at the 2008 NC Envirothon with a tremendous 2<sup>nd</sup> Place finish out of 56 competing high school teams from across the state. The five-member team won **Topic Expert medallions for perfect scores** in Forestry and Current Environmental Issues, as well as the highest score in Wildlife.

**DISTRICT BOARD AWARDS 2 FULL SCHOLARSHIPS!** Wake District’s Board of Supervisors awarded two \$465 scholarships to two deserving Wake County high school students

to attend the 2008 Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU: Joshua Tsujimura from Wakefield High School in north Raleigh and Megan Caro from Fuquay Varina High School.

For three days, Wake District’s conservationists conducted a hands-on Soil & Water Conservation field component for all 80 RCW students and their adult chaperones.

Wake scholar, Joshua Tsujimura presented a review of his week-long experience at RCW to illustrate what he had learned and to encourage the Board to continue its support of the RCW scholarship program as he found it extremely worthwhile. Joshua was accompanied by his teacher Jodi Riedel who wrote his recommendation letter.

Upon request, Wake District’s education specialist served as a Mentor for several environmental science projects: 1 student from Holly Springs HS (soils bioremediation) and 3 students from Garner HS (stormwater, nutrient enrichment and non-point source pollution, water quality).

Wake District’s education specialist engaged 108 2nd graders in learning about “Compost” in celebration of Joyner Elementary’s Science-Go-Round in Raleigh. To introduce middle & high school students to career paths in natural resources management, Wake District conservationists participated in several High School Job Fairs and Risk Fest 2008 that reached 125 Wake County students.



# Highlights 2007 - 2008

## Leadership in a Changing Environment

We will continue to provide innovative leadership in natural resources management in Wake County's changing environment

### Keeping the Farm Workshop

Wake Soil and Water Conservation District work with its partners to conduct one of the most effective and productive workshops this year. Approximately 180 landowners and citizens attended the **Keeping the Farm** workshop. According to the survey collected at the workshop by the citizens, the workshop addressed current and urgent issues facing Wake County landowners. The workshop also provided options for landowners to consider for future preservation of their estates. Productive working lands and managed forest not only provides agribusiness income to the county but it also prevents loss of air quality, decreases stream degradation, controls sediment and nutrient load from our streams.

A few of the planning partners include:

- NCSU Cooperative Extension Service Wake Center
- NC Farm Transition Network
- NCSU Department of Agricultural and Economic Resource
- NC Division of Forest Resources
- NCSU Department of Forestry
- Wake County Division of Forest Resources
- USDA Farm Service Agency Raleigh Office
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Triangle Land Conservancy



*Wake County Commissioner Harold Webb address the large crowd at the Keeping the Farm workshop*



### Wake County Voluntary Agricultural District Program

Enrolled four new farms in the program this year. This brings a new total of 37 farms, establishing 24 Districts, encompassing **4,326** acres in voluntary protection of working lands, forest, and beautiful scenic open space.

# Meet the District

## District Board of Supervisors

Donnie Woodlief	Chair
Marcia Lieber	Vice Chair
John Phelps	Secretary / Treasurer
Thomas Dean	Member
Joy Elliot	Member



## Staff

Larry Petrovick	Natural Resource Conservationist, Biological and Aquatic Lead
Tom Hill	Natural Resource Conservationist, Watershed and Stream Assessment Lead
Teresa Hice	Natural Resource Conservationist, Agronomic and Engineering Lead
Teresa Furr	Natural Resource Conservationist, Program and Community Conservation Lead
Sheila Jones	Environmental Educator of Adults and Youth, and Volunteer Coordinator
Bonnie Williams	Administrative Assistant
Dale Threatt-Taylor	District Director, Natural Resource Conservationist

## Federal Staff

Matthew Kinane	District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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## Board Associates

Stewart Adcock, Kay Adcock, Carlyle Teague, Gerald White, Lacy Maddox, Marilyn Grolitzer

We extend a special appreciation to our partners in this environmental arena. Without your assistance and sincere desire to help us protect our natural resources, the Wake District would not have had such a successful year.

Thank You!