

**WAKE
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
919-250-1050**

What We Do:

The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) assists landowners and land users in managing soil, water, plants, and animals effectively.

Who We Are:

Board of Supervisors

Thomas Dean, Chair
Jenna Wadsworth, Vice Chair
Patrick Johnson, Treasurer
Matt Overby
David Adams

District Staff

Natural Resource

Conservationists

Teresa Furr
Joshua Vetter
Vonnie Wescott

Environmental Educator

Sheila Jones

District Operations

Specialist

Jessica Pope

District Director

Dale Threatt-Taylor

USDA NRCS Staff

District Conservationist

Matthew Kinane

Soil Conservationist

Themis Stone

Visit us at:

WakeGov.com/swcd

Concerning Conservation...

Special Issue— January 2016

2015 Farm Family of the Year: A Leader in Conservation

This year's farm family award was given to **Adams Vineyards**, owned by a family that has been farming in Wake County for eight generations. Their family farm consists of over 100 acres with 11 acres of grapes and three acres of other fruits. The majority of the land is still in traditional row crop production for sweet potatoes, tobacco, wheat and soybeans.

The vineyards were first planted in 2006 by the late John Quincy Adams III, also known as "Johnny". The vineyards he planted consisted of five acres of Muscadine Grapes (the native grape to the SE US) and three acres of other fruits, including blackberries, peaches, apples and pears. In 2008 the winery was built and upon opening, became the "First Winery and Vineyard in Wake County and the Triangle Area." John Quincy Adams III was the owner and winemaker until October 2010, when he suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. With John's passing, his wife Joyce became the General Manager and son Quincy became the second generation winemaker. Since 2011 the winery has won North Carolina's Best Muscadine Cup, two "Best in Show"



awards, and 75 medals—including one double gold and 24 gold medals.

In 2012 Quincy contacted the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance with increasing irrigation water availability and storage; protecting and conserving water resources on the farm; reducing cropland erosion; and increasing soil productivity. The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District provided Adams Vineyard with a certified conservation plan and technical assistance.

In the spring of 2013 Adams Vineyard began implementing the irrigation well and micro-irrigation system to conserve and protect the vital water resources on their farm. In the spring of 2014 they began implementing the conservation crop rotation on all existing cropland and

started the construction and installation of the grass-waterways, field borders and critical area plantings. They are also in the process of implementing cover crops on all existing cropland and also on the vineyard acreage to reduce soil erosion and build organic matter for crop productivity.

The time, effort and commitment that Joyce and Quincy have put into their conservation efforts on their farm has been incredible. Their dedication to the stewardship and protection of Black Creek will provide endless benefits of water quality improvements to the citizens of Wake County. This award expresses our appreciation and gratitude for all of the outstanding conservation work completed by Adams Vineyards. Congratulations!

Program Opportunities:

The NC Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is available to assist farmers who are interested in implementing practices which improve water quality. Best Management Practices (BMPs) can improve the efficiency and sustainability of your farming operation. Conservationists at Wake Soil and Water Conservation District can offer guidance on the implementation of BMPs and help you apply for the Agriculture Cost Share Program, which can reimburse a percentage of the costs of approved BMPs for your agricultural operation.

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) is another conservation program that can help you manage the natural resources on your farm. AgWRAP specifically focuses on ensuring that farms have the water quantity needed to efficiently manage their farm's water needs. This program can also reimburse a percentage of the costs incurred to implement the recommended measures needed to ensure an adequate supply of water on the farm.

Contact Wake Soil and Water Conservation District if you have any natural resource concerns on your property.

919-250-1050

Wake District Celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

Each year the Wake District Board of Supervisors applauds the hard work and dedication of Wake County's "outstanding conservationists." These are everyday people who go the extraordinary mile in supporting or implementing conservation efforts. Our local conservation heroes received engraved reclaimed wood plaques and recognition at the 50th Anniversary Conservation Awards Celebration, which was generously hosted by

the Friends of Wake SWCD. Award winners and their guests were treated to a delicious dinner served by The Forks Cafeteria of Wake Forest. The entire evening was made possible by generous sponsors: Dr. B.C. Raynor Family Dentistry, Abundant Space Self Storage, North State Bank, Novozymes North America, River Guardian Foundation, and Wakefield High School FFA. Thank you!

"DIG IT: The Secrets of Soils" Team Wins the Dan Wilkinson WRAL Conservation Communication Award



Commissioner Sig Hutchinson and meteorologist Elizabeth Gardner (WRAL TV5) present the WRAL Conservation Communication Award to the deserving individuals who brought the wonderful Smithsonian soils exhibit to North Carolina.

The Dan Wilkinson WRAL Conservation Communication Award is given to an individual or an organization that makes outstanding effort to deliver the natural resource stewardship message to the community. This year, we chose to honor the team who worked tirelessly to bring "DIG IT: The Secrets of Soils" to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Dr. John Havlin, Mike Vepraskas, Deb Kozlowski, and Dr. David Lindbo, along with members of North Carolina State University-Department of Soil Science, contributed their professional and fundraising expertise. Albert Ervin, Wendy Lovelady, Jody Stebben, Javan Sutton, Tammy Stern, and others with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences customized the exhibit to truly reflect North Carolina's soils and agriculture. Dr. Richard Reich, Beth Ferrell and other North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services staff coordinated outreach for the exhibit. Together, this team made it possible for over 250,000 visitors to see this amazing exhibit for free.



Poster Contest Winners

The Top Ten winners of the "We All Live in a Watershed" poster contest beam while holding their framed certificates. The fifth grade students' entries were judged for a balance of scientific content and



original artwork by Wake Soil and Water Conservation District and Novozymes North America Inc. From left: Emma Nogara from Green Hope Elementary in Cary, Heidi Dittus from Hunter Elementary in Raleigh, Lillian Chen and Chakri Vemulapalli from Green Hope, Luna Salerno from Hunter, Angelina Uy from Adams Elementary in Cary, Devika Venugopalan from Green Hope, Kaden Stevenson from Hunter, Victoria Vu and Aahana Mukherjee from Green Hope.

BC Raynor Friend of the District Award

North State Bank received the BC Raynor Friend of the District Award, which was created to honor recipients who, like Dr. Raynor himself, generously support the District. For five years North State Bank has donated funds towards our annual Conservation Awards Celebration. Sharon Moe, Senior Vice President and Market Executive,



accepted the award on behalf of North State Bank– which was presented by Commissioner Jessica Holmes (on right). Sharon has served on the Friends of Wake District Board of Directors for over five years. We thank North State Bank and its representatives, who continue to invest in locally-led conservation!

Big Sweep Excellence Award:

For consistently leading fall and spring Big Sweep litter cleanups with volunteers for many years, the Town of Garner was honored with the 2015 Big Sweep Excellence Award. Garner award recipients from left to right: Parks Assistant Director Rob Smith, Parks Marketing and Events Coordinator Kendrick Mayes, and Outdoor Education and Parks Manager Katie Spencer receive



the award from John Phelps, Jr., Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Associate Board member. The Wake District coordinates Wake County Big Sweep, a county-wide effort to engage Wake County towns and residents in removing unsightly debris from local creeks, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Keeping the Farm Workshop

When: March 16, 2016
8AM to 4PM

Where: Wake County
Commons Building

What:
The 11th annual Keeping the Farm workshop will consist of presentations by and discussions with farm law professionals and educators, law enforcement, and many other topics tailored to answer questions that Wake County farmers and landowners may need answered in order to help them keep farming.

Register:
919-250-1050

Welcome aboard!



Our newest Wake Soil and Water Conservation District Board Supervisor – David Adams- was sworn in at the December meeting. We are excited to have David Adams represent Wake County and contribute to the board's important conservation decisions!

Wake County's Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program

Sign up today to help preserve the agricultural heritage of your land. Members identify primary farm communities and increase community pride by joining forces as agricultural districts. Unlike conservation easements which are permanent, the Voluntary Agricultural Districts program is voluntary and non-binding and is administered by Wake Soil and Water Conservation District.

In addition to an attractive sign identifying your land as a VAD, notification of the presence of VAD will be filed with the register of deeds and other county offices. This notification helps to inform any purchasers of real estate property to expect certain agricultural activities, in order to prevent conflicts between VADs and non-farm landowners nearby.

In the future, Wake County may decide to alter the ordinance and allow smaller acreages to form a VAD, so stay posted for updates!

For more information, or to receive a VAD application, please call Dale Threatt-Taylor, District Director, at 919-250-1068.

2016 CONSERVATION CALENDAR

JANUARY

12 **Wake SWCD Board Meeting**

Farmers and landowners are welcome to attend! Please call 919-250-1050 for time and location.

FEBRUARY

9 **Wake SWCD Board Meeting**

Farmers and landowners are welcome to attend!

MARCH

8 **Wake SWCD Board Meeting**

Call 919-250-1050.

16 **Keeping The Farm Workshop**

FREE! The 11th annual workshop designed to help Wake County landowners with estate planning, leases and liabilities, food safety rules, and more. Free lunch is provided with pre-registration. Call 919-250-1050 for more information.

18 **Area IV Envirothon**

Wake County Envirothon teams compete against teams from 10 other counties in Nash County. Go Wake teams, go!

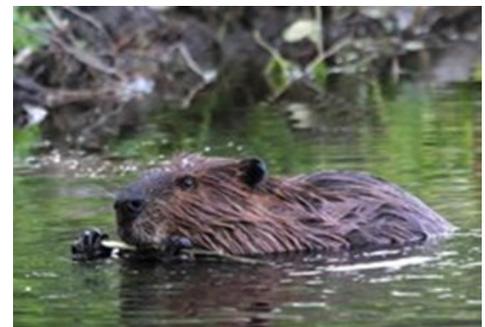


Beekeeper Surveys: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reaching out to beekeepers and farmers across the nation in December 2015 and January 2016 to gather information. Beekeepers should expect to receive two surveys from NASS, the results of which are slated for release in March 2016 and May 2016. The surveys are archived at:

www.nass.usda.gov

The Beaver Management Assistance

Program (BMAP) is a Wake County program administered by the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District, with technical assistance provided by wildlife specialists in the US Department of Agriculture. The program began in October 2015, and we have already received several requests for assistance with beaver management. If you have questions about how the program works, please contact the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District.



When land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land, when both end up better by the partnership, we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold