



THE ALEXANDER SWCD TIMES

THE BILL CHAPMAN MEMORIAL AWARD

THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN RECOGNIZING LOCAL CITIZENS, TEACHERS, AND BUSINESSES THAT HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND TO DO THEIR PART IN PRACTICING AND TEACHING CONSERVATION. EVERY YEAR, WE HONOR OUR FORMER SUPERVISOR BILL CHAPMAN BY GIVING OUT THE BILL CHAPMAN MEMORIAL AWARD.

THIS AWARD WAS CREATED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND STAFF TO RECOGNIZE AN EDUCATOR OR A COMMUNITY MEMBER THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THEIR ENDEAVORS WHILE HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILL CHAPMAN. BILL, A LIFELONG DAIRY FARMER, SERVED ON THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD FROM 1991 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 2022. BILL NEVER MET A STRANGER AND WAS A TRUE CONSERVATIONIST.

THIS YEAR, WE WERE PROUD TO PRESENT THE BILL CHAPMAN MEMORIAL AWARD TO MR. COY REESE.

COY HAS DEDICATED MUCH OF HIS LIFE TO PROMOTING AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY. HE HAS SERVED ON THE ALEXANDER FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD SINCE ITS BEGINNING IN 2002, INCLUDING TIME AS BOTH VICE-CHAIR AND CHAIR. OVER THE YEARS, HE HAS OPENED HIS FARM FOR THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 3RD GRADE AG HISTORY TOUR, SPOKEN TO COUNTLESS GROUPS, AND PARTICIPATED IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COY REESE FOR BEING A TRUE CONSERVATIONIST AND A WELL DESERVING RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. THE BILL CHAPMAN MEMORIAL AWARD
2. AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
3. AGRICULTURE WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE
4. VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM
5. BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
6. 2026 ENVIROTHON
7. 2026 CONTEST WINNERS
8. STATE SPEECH WINNER
9. EDUCATION PROGRAMS
10. CONTACT INFORMATION





Agriculture Cost Share Programs

EACH YEAR, THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER DISTRICT IS APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM FROM THE N.C. SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION. THESE PROGRAM DOLLARS ARE ALLOCATED FROM THE STATE TO ADDRESS NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST FARMERS IN THE INSTALLATION OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES WHICH HELP DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF SEDIMENT, ANIMAL WASTE, NUTRIENTS, CHEMICALS AND OTHER POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS FROM ENTERING THE SURFACE AND GROUND WATERS OF THE STATE. LANDOWNERS AND OPERATORS THAT ARE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS MAY APPLY FOR COST SHARE ASSISTANCE TO INSTALL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S) ON THEIR FARM. THESE BMP'S INCLUDE: SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL, LITTER STORAGE STRUCTURES, POULTRY COMPOSTERS, LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FROM STREAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALTER NATIVE WATERING SYSTEMS, STOCK TRAILS AND HEAVY-USE AREAS FOR LIVESTOCK IN CONFINED AREAS, AND OTHER PRACTICES THAT BENEFIT WATER QUALITY. ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER DISTRICT'S PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS EACH YEAR ON JULY 1ST AND RUNS THROUGH JUNE 30TH. TYPICALLY, THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER DISTRICT WILL HAVE A ONE MONTH SIGN-UP PERIOD TO ACCEPT NEW PROGRAM YEAR APPLICATIONS. ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE PRIORITIZED ACCORDING TO A LOCALLY ADOPTED RANKING PROCESS BASED ON WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS. THE APPLICATIONS PROVIDING THE MOST WATER QUALITY BENEFITS WILL BE APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN PRIORITY ORDER. ANY APPLICATIONS THAT ARE NOT FUNDED IN THE FIRST BATCHING PERIOD WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING IF ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DOLLARS BECOME AVAILABLE LATER IN THE YEAR.



AGRICULTURE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

THE NC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION ADMINISTERS THIS WATER QUANTITY PROGRAM ACROSS THE STATE. THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CAN APPLY FOR FUNDS UNDER THIS PROGRAM TO ADDRESS WATER QUANTITY ISSUES ON FARMLANDS. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S) THAT MAY BE OFFERED INCLUDE: NEW POND CONSTRUCTION, POND REPAIR/RETROFIT, POND SEDIMENT REMOVAL, NEW WELLS, CONSERVATION IRRIGATION, AND OTHER PRACTICES THAT ADDRESS WATER AVAILABILITY ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS. PROJECTS MUST BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT THEY HAVE AN AGRICULTURAL NEED FOR MORE WATER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM (FOR EXAMPLE: NO WATER OR LIMITED WATER RESOURCES ONSITE). IF APPLYING FOR A POND PRACTICE, THE POND WATER MUST BE NEEDED FOR SOME AGRICULTURAL USE TO BE ELIGIBLE. IN ADDITION, THE PARTICULAR PROPERTY MUST HAVE BEEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO APPLYING TO BE ELIGIBLE. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



THE ALEXANDER COUNTY VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE SOIL & WATER OFFICE, HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE ORIGINAL ORDINANCE WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN MARCH OF 2002. SINCE THAT TIME, THE PROGRAM HAS GROWN TO TOTAL OVER 13,842 ACRES.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE HEALTH, SAFETY, & RURAL AGRICULTURAL VALUES; WHILE INCREASING AWARENESS & PRIDE IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY'S WAY OF LIFE. VOLUNTARY PROTECTION OF FARMLAND SAFEGUARDS FROM RESIDENTIAL AND/OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INCREASES PROTECTION AGAINST NUISANCE LAWSUITS. ONCE YOUR LAND IS ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM, THE COUNTY GIS SITE WILL SIGNIFY TO POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE PURCHASERS THAT THEY ARE MOVING INTO A VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT OF WORKING FARMLAND, AND LETS THEM KNOW UPFRONT THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE CERTAIN NOISES, SMELLS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRADITIONAL FARMING. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE PROGRAM, A FARM MUST: BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESENT-USE VALUE TAXATION PROGRAM, INCLUDE A MINIMUM OF 10 ACRES, AND BE PROPERLY MANAGED. PARTICIPANTS WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT THEY PLAN TO CONTINUE FARMING THE LAND FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS. THE ORDINANCE WAS UPDATED IN 2023 TO COMPLY WITH REVISIONS TO STATE STATUTES. UNDER THE REVISED ORDINANCE, FARMLANDS ARE AUTOMATICALLY RENEWED IN THE PROGRAM AFTER 10 YEARS AS LONG AS THE OWNER DOESN'T REQUEST REMOVAL OR THE LAND USE CHANGES TO NON-AG. EVEN WHEN LAND IS TRANSFERRED DUE TO SELLING PROPERTY, DEATH, ETC., THE LAND WILL REMAIN IN THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM AS LONG AS IT REMAINS IN AGRICULTURE USE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE LANDOWNER CHANGE FOR OUR RECORDS.

THERE ARE SEVERAL BENEFITS FOR LANDOWNERS TO JOIN THE PROGRAM. OTHER BENEFITS FOR FARMERS INCLUDE RECOGNITION THROUGH AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT SIGNS, THE RIGHT FOR THE ADVISORY BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON CONDEMNATION IN THE DISTRICTS. THIS PROGRAM WILL BE A WONDERFUL TOOL THAT WE CAN USE TO PROTECT THE RAPIDLY VANISHING FARMLAND AND TO HELP PRESERVE OUR RURAL WAY OF LIFE IN ALEXANDER COUNTY. THE ALEXANDER VOLUNTARY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM VAD ADVISORY BOARD MEETS QUARTERLY AND CONSISTS OF CHAIRMAN COY REESE, VICE CHAIR EUGENE WHITE, JD SINK, TRACI FOX, KENT HERMAN, DUSTIN QUEEN, AND BRYANT CHAPMAN.



BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS PROUD TO OFFER THE NORTH CAROLINA BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BMAP) TO ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS IN ALEXANDER COUNTY THIS FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2026).

BMAP HELPS ADDRESS BEAVER DAMAGE ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS USING A COMBINATION OF MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE FLOODING, PROTECT PROPERTY, AND ADDRESS ISSUES THAT IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND AGRICULTURE. DUE TO PRACTICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE PROGRAM'S GOAL IS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC BEAVER DAMAGE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN TO ELIMINATE BEAVERS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

THE PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES, THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND PARTICIPATING COUNTIES. BECAUSE ALEXANDER COUNTY IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN BMAP, ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS CAN RECEIVE BEAVER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AT A REDUCED COST SHARE RATE - \$25 PER VISIT (UP TO 15 VISITS PER YEAR) AND \$150 PER DAM REMOVED. AN INITIAL CONSULTATION IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE. LANDOWNERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED GUIDANCE ON ADDRESSING BEAVER DAMAGE THEMSELVES AT NO CHARGE.

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY BEAVERS ON YOUR PROPERTY AND WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE OR DETERMINE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT OFFICE AT 828-632-0638.

2026 LOCAL TEAMS COMPETE IN AREA AND STATE LEVEL ENVIROTHON COMPETITIONS

THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD) ANNUALLY SPONSORS TEAMS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NW ENVIROTHON COMPETITION. THE ENVIROTHON IS AN AREA-LEVEL, ACADEMIC COMPETITION, WITH 5 MEMBER TEAMS COMPETING ON MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS IN 5 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES: AQUATICS, CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, FORESTRY, SOILS, & WILDLIFE. STUDENTS PUT A LOT OF EXTRA TIME INTO STUDYING TO PREPARE FOR TRIVIA, IDENTIFICATION, AND SKILLS IN EACH CATEGORY. TEACHERS SERVE AS TEAM ADVISORS AND DEDICATE A LOT OF TIME IN GETTING THE TEAMS READY FOR THE COMPETITION.

ALEXANDER SWCD ALSO HELPS THE TEAMS PREPARE BY VISITING THE SCHOOLS TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIROTHON, GIVE STUDY TIPS, AND LINE UP OTHER PROFESSIONAL SPEAKERS TO ALSO HELP THEM STUDY. THE NW ENVIROTHON WAS HELD ON MARCH 24TH (MIDDLE SCHOOL) AND MARCH 25TH (HIGH SCHOOL) INCLUDING 13 COUNTIES.

ALEXANDER COUNTY HAD FIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS (3 FROM EAMS AND 2 FROM MCA) AND 2 HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS FROM AEC (ADVISOR SHELLY CAIN) COMPETE IN THIS AREA LEVEL COMPETITION. THE TOP SEVEN TEAMS FROM THE AREA 2 NW ENVIROTHON QUALIFIED TO COMPETE AT THE STATE ENVIROTHON HELD APRIL 25TH AND 26TH AT CEDAROCK PARK IN BURLINGTON, NC. ALEXANDER COUNTY HAD THREE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE STATE EVENT.

FROM EAST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL, "THE BIOTICS" TEAM INCLUDED KRISTIN WHITE, AVERY BARNES, JOSLYN HAMLIN, AND IZAAK BOWELS WITH TEACHERS JASON ERKMAN AND KELLY THIS. ALSO FROM EAST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE "ALEXANDER THE GREAT" TEAM INCLUDED HALEY HICKS, NATALY HERNANDEZ, DYLAN WESTERN, JENNA MILLER, AND KAMERON HALL WITH TEACHERS JASON ERKMAN AND KELLY THIS. FROM MILLERSVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, THE "LIONS TEAM 2" INCLUDED CARTER JONES, COLT HEFNER, ETHAN FRYE, ATHENA JOHNSON, AND NELAH CLARK WITH TEACHER VALORIE CHAPMAN.

EAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS



MCA



AEC

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS



2026 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

THE ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD) HELD OUR YEARLY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONTESTS FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR. THE SCHOOL WINNERS FROM EACH CATEGORY WERE HONORED AT OUR SOIL & WATER AWARDS BANQUET HELD ON APRIL 14TH AT LILEDOWN BAPTIST IN TAYLORSVILLE, NC. ALL OF THE EDUCATION CONTESTS SHARED THE THEME “WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED!” CONTESTS INCLUDE A 5TH GRADE POSTER CONTEST, A 6TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST, A 9TH-12TH GRADE ESSAY, A 6TH GRADE COMPUTER DESIGNED SLIDE SHOW, OR POWERPOINT, A 9TH- 12TH SLIDE SHOW, OR POWERPOINT, A 7TH, 8TH, AND 9TH—12TH GRADE SPEECH CONTEST. AS ALWAYS, WE HAD SOME GREAT ENTRIES, AND THE JUDGES HAD A HARD TIME DECIDING ON SOME OF THE WINNERS. THE ALEXANDER SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO AGAIN CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE 2026 CONSERVATION CONTEST PARTICIPANTS AND WINNERS ON A JOB WELL DONE! THE STUDENTS RECEIVED AWARDS AND WERE PRESENTED WITH RIBBONS AND CHECKS.



- FIFTH GRADE POSTER WINNER- COLTON GRINDSTAFF, HIDDENITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- SIXTH GRADE ESSAY WINNER- MADELYN WIKE, MILLERSVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
- SIXTH GRADE SLIDE SHOW WINNER- SOPHIA BENTLEY, MILLERSVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
- SEVENTH GRADE SPEECH WINNER- BRIELLE MILLSAPS, EAST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL
- EIGHTH GRADE SPEECH WINNER- NAYELI GALARZA DE LEON, EAST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL
- NINTH-TWELVE GRADE SLIDE SHOW WINNER - SADIE GILREATH, ALEXANDER EARLY COLLEGE
- NINTH-TWELVE GRADE SPEECH & ESSAY WINNER ANGELIQUE CARICO, ALEXANDER CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



8TH GRADE STATE SPEECH SOIL AND WATER CONTEST WINNER



8TH GRADE SPEECH CONTESTANT NAYELI GALARZA DE LEON FROM EAST ALEXANDER MIDDLE SCHOOL TRAVELED TO RANDOLPH COUNTY TO COMPETE IN THE NC ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS STATE SPEECH CONTEST ON MAY 1ST. WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THAT NAYELI PLACED 1ST IN THE STATE IN THE 8TH GRADE DIVISION. SHE FIRST COMPETED IN HER SCHOOL SPEECH CONTEST BEFORE ADVANCING TO THE ALEXANDER COUNTY COMPETITION, WHERE SHE EARNED 1ST PLACE. SHE THEN MOVED ON TO THE AREA 2 COMPETITION AND AGAIN PLACED 1ST TO QUALIFY FOR THE STATE CONTEST.

NAYELI REPRESENTED ALEXANDER COUNTY AND THE AREA 2 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS VERY WELL, AND ALEXANDER SWCD IS EXTREMELY PROUD OF HER ACCOMPLISHMENT. CONGRATULATIONS, NAYELI!

ALEXANDER SWCD SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS EVERY YEAR THAT ARE BASED ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL THEME. THE 2026 THEME WAS “WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED”. WE BELIEVE THESE CONTESTS HELP STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY GAIN AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT BY PARTICIPATING IN THESE CONTESTS, STUDENTS WILL IN TURN BECOME BETTER STEWARDS AND ADVOCATES OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

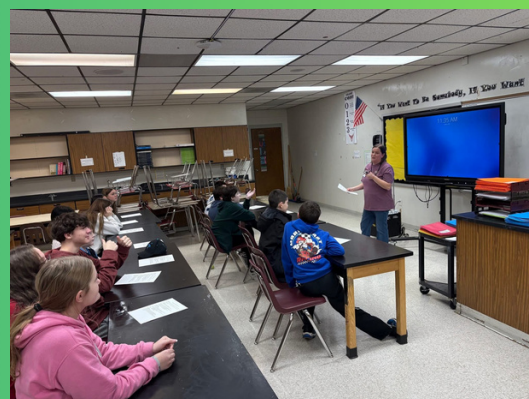




2025/2026 EDUCATION PROGRAMS



THE ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFERS FREE, HANDS ON PROGRAMS FOR ALL ALEXANDER COUNTY SCHOOLS (K-12). WE ARE HAPPY TO VISIT YOUR CLASSROOM TO HELP SUPPORT AND ENHANCE YOUR ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION GOALS. OUR PROGRAMS COVER A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES. EACH LESSON IS INTERACTIVE AND ENGAGING, DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE CURIOSITY, INSPIRE LEARNING, AND HELP STUDENTS MAKE REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM!



ALEXANDER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

EUGENE WHITE-CHAIRMAN

BRYANT CHAPMAN- VICE CHAIR

COLBY HERMAN- SECRETARY/TREASURER

KATHY BUNTON- MEMBER

JD SINK- MEMBER

THE ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
MEETS AT 12:00 PM ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN
THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

**151 WEST MAIN
AVENUE, SUITE 3,
TAYLORSVILLE,
NC 28681**

PHONE: (828)-632-0638

FAX: (828)632-5253

**OFFICE HOURS: 8AM-5PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT:**

**ALEXANDERCOUNTYNC.GOV
/DEPARTMENTS/SOIL-
WATER/**

DISTRICT STAFF

**PAMELA BOWMAN-
DIRECTOR**

**TYLER CORNETT- SOIL
CONSERVATIONIST**

**HANNAH BENGE- OFFICE
ASSISTANT**

NRCS STAFF

**WILL FAULKNER-
SUPERVISORY SOIL
CONSERVATIONIST**

**MADDY OAKES- SOIL
CONSERVATIONIST**



**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK
@ALEXANDERSWCD**