

Update on the Sedimentation Education Program

Presentations/Exhibits

The Sedimentation Education Specialist participated in the annual Area VII Envirothon held on March 23, 2017 at Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County. The mission of the Envirothon is “to develop knowledgeable skilled and dedicated citizens who have an understanding of natural resources and are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.” Teams of middle and high school students, across the region, came together for an ecology field day/competition. Five member teams are tested on their knowledge of natural resources in the following subject areas: Wildlife, Soils, Forestry, Current Environmental Issues and Aquatics. The top middle school and high school teams at the area Envirothons qualify for the statewide NC Envirothon.

The Sedimentation Education Specialist was invited to participate in the 2017 Cumberland County Green Schools and Sustainable Sandhills Earth Day Celebration hosted by Cape Fear Botanical Garden. The event is scheduled to be held April 25-26, 2017 at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden in Fayetteville, NC. The Enviroscape will be utilized at the event to educate student on water pollution, and issues that affect the environment.

The Sedimentation Education Specialist was invited by Magnolia Elementary School, to participate in a career event on May 4, 2017. The event is intended to help students to start generating ideas about the occupational possibilities that are available.

The Sediment Education Specialist has been invited to attend West Pender Middle School in Burgaw during May to participate in a Career Fair. Students in grades 6-8 will be able to talk with various representatives to learn about their respective career fields and educational backgrounds. The students will have the opportunity to explore displays, and ask questions about the industries represented. Invited guests include companies that represent all of the career clusters identified by the United States Department of Education. The Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources will represent the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster.

Workshops

Fall E&SC Design Workshops-Update

The Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources is involved in preliminary planning with the Southeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) and NCSU Department of Crop & Soil Sciences for the fall 2017 Innovative Erosion and Sediment Control Design Workshop. The date has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2017. The planning team is working to generate an agenda including critical design topics and case studies to help address problematic sites.

Annual Workshop and Banquet for Local Programs

The 2017 Local Programs Annual Erosion and Sedimentation Control Workshop is scheduled for March 28-29 at the Renaissance Centre in Wake Forest, NC. Accommodations were planned for two representatives from each of the 53 local programs to attend the training.

The Sedimentation Control Commission was represented at the event by Mr. Jonathon Bivens, during the awards luncheon ceremony. Awards are presented each year to recognize local governments that have excelled in erosion and sedimentation control efforts. Nominations were submitted by the regional offices, and final selections were determined by staff. The winner selected this year was Mecklenburg County. The DEQ Assistant Secretary Sheila Holman presented the keynote address.

The collaboration between the local program volunteers and DEMLR staff was vital to the success of the workshop this year. Several programs volunteered to sponsor breaks, while others offered assistance with workshop logistics. Staff received positive feedback from participants supporting the workshop structure and content.