

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Celebrated 75th Anniversary in August

Anson native, Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett considered the "Father of Soil and Water Conservation."

Governor Beverly Perdue has proclaimed the month of August as "Soil and Water Conservation Awareness Month" in North Carolina. Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their governing Boards of Supervisors were formed nationwide out of concern for the nation's soil and water resources. This concern grew out of the devastating Dust Bowl in the west, severe water erosion in the south, and other conservation problems of the 1930's and even earlier. Legislation adopted by individual states, beginning in 1937, formed local Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which there are now 96 in North Carolina.

Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolina native from Anson County, helped coordinate national efforts toward solving the critical conservation problems that the country faced. Dr. Bennett, known internationally as the "Father of Soil and Water Conservation," helped lay the foundation for the soil and water conservation programs of today.

The purpose of these districts was to provide local input and direction to the fledgling federal conservation programs that were administered by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service which were established two years earlier in 1935. On February 27, 1937, President Roosevelt corresponded with state governors across the United States, urging each state to adopt legislation similar to the "model law."

That same year, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a soil and water conservation districts law known as N.C. General Statute 139, and the Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District, in the home county of Dr. Bennett, was chartered on August 4, 1937. This District was the first Soil and Water Conservation District organized in the United States although 21 other states enacted similar legislation later in 1937.

Nearly four-fifths of the states enacted similar laws in the next three years. By 1947, all of the other states and the territories of Hawaii and Alaska had passed legislation which created local Districts.

Under this law, Soil and Water Conservation Districts were organized to plan and carry out a locally led, voluntary incentive based conservation program that addressed local needs. District affairs are managed by individuals and groups involved in a coordinated conservation program, utilizing resources from local, state, and federal agencies. It was felt that local people, working with the Federal Government and federal agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, could better guide and direct programs aimed at addressing local natural resource concerns.

At first, Districts were organized along watershed rather than county boundaries. As a result, in the early days most districts included more than one county or parts of several counties. Many of the original state laws that were established on a watershed basis were later changed to allow conservation districts to be established along county lines. Today, most districts are organized in that way. One exception in North Carolina is the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District which includes Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Perquimans, and Pasquotank counties.

Originally formed as the Tri-Creek Soil and Water Conservation District, the Yadkin Soil and Water District operates from the USDA Service Center at 209 East Elm Street, Yadkinville, NC. The Yadkin District assists landowners with the evaluation and implementation of best management practices on privately owned land to minimize erosion and protect water quality. For questions or concerns regarding assistance with any of the programs outlined above, please contact the Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District office at 336-679-8052.

Register Now for SPCC's 12-Week & 8-Week Classes

Still want to take college classes this fall? Good news! South Piedmont Community College has several classes that are available in condensed formats this fall. Registration continues for 12-week classes that begin Sept. 13 and for second eight-week classes that begin Oct. 15. It should be noted that some of these classes, particularly the second eight-week ones, have prerequisites.

As usual, new students must complete an SPCC application, take their placement tests and complete orientation before registering.

For more information about which classes are available in the shorter sessions, go online to www.spcc.edu or call 704-290-5100 in Union County or 704-272-5300 in Anson County.

South Piedmont Community College

SPCC has the following position available:

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Finance & Administrative Services Division

SPCC is seeking applications for an Assistant Vice President for Information Services. This is a full-time, 12-month position on the OCH Campus in Monroe, but will involve travel between all three SPCC locations.

Minimum Requirements: Master's Degree in the technology field; Five years of leadership in computer related position; Ability to negotiate, manage contracts and projects with outside vendors; Experience in an educational environment.

Position is open until filled. An application, job description and other details may be found at www.spcc.edu or contact us at:

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SPCC has the following position available:

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Finance & Administrative Services Division

SPCC is seeking applications for an Organizational Development Specialist for the Human Resources, Payroll, and Organizational Development department. This is a full-time, 12-month position based on the OCH Campus with some travel between all SPCC locations.

Minimum Requirements: Associate's Degree in Business Administration or related field; Two years of Human Resources experience; Previous experience supporting a staffing or recruitment department; Three years of customer service experience; Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access. See job description for more detail. Position is open until filled.

Position is open until filled. An application, job description and other details may be found at www.spcc.edu or contact us at:

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