

November/December 2003

Environmental Update



NCCE – Onslow County Center
Onslow County Multipurpose Complex
4024 Richlands Hwy.
Jacksonville, NC 28540
(910) 455-5873
Fax (910) 455-0977
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow>



It's that time of year again!

Now is a good time to collect your soil samples for next year's gardening. Your local county Cooperative Extension office has the soil boxes and submittal forms, as well as information on how to collect representative samples. In general, collect a separate sample for each distinct use area: lawn, vegetable garden, flower garden, problem area, etc. The NC Department of Agriculture analyzes the samples and sends the results directly to you. There is no fee for this service ... and you get a wealth of information. You can also look up your sample results on-line by going to the NCDA&CS web-site:

<http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/>

Under "Access Information" select "Grower" and then type in your last name.

Homebuyer's Education Course:

The City of Jacksonville Community Development Division offers a "Homebuyer's Education Course". This class provides useful information on obtaining a mortgage loan, shopping for a home, home inspections, title insurance, managing credit, homeowner's insurance, and home maintenance.

Onslow's Cooperative Extension office participates in this event with the home maintenance presentation. Information on moisture control, indoor pests, air filters, septic systems and other issues is covered.

The next class will be Saturday, January 10, 2004 from 9 am – 5 pm. If you are interested in the class, contact Patricia Hatch (910-938-5256) to register.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day!

WHEN: Saturday,
November 15, 9am-3 pm

WHERE: UNC-W
Parking Lot K, near Trask
Coliseum and tennis
courts, 601 S. College Rd.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste is harmful to our health and our natural resources.

Household hazardous waste can pollute our streams, rivers, drinking water, and ground water. These wastes can also interfere with treatment processes at the landfill and the wastewater treatment plants.



The following items **will** be accepted:

- Pesticides & herbicides in **labeled** containers
- Paint, solvents, paint thinner, & cleaners
- Mercury & fluorescent tubes
- Fuels, motor oil, & antifreeze
- Household & auto batteries
- Used tires (no rims!)

The following items **will not** be accepted: ammunition, smoke detectors, TV's, propane gas cylinders, tires with rims, medications, industrial materials, furniture, and trash.

Coordinated by: New Hanover County Dept. of Environmental Management, the City of Wilmington, New Hanover Cooperative Extension, and UNC-W.

For Additional Information Call 341-4373

Hewletts Creek Community Meeting:

*Sponsored by the New Hanover
Soil and Water Conservation District*

WHEN: Thursday, November 20 at 7pm
WHERE: Holly Tree Elementary
WHO: Hewletts Creek area residents and
 other interested citizens

AGENDA (Tentative)

7-7:15 Sign-In & Welcome

7:15-7:30 Introduction:

General Water Quality information, Shellfish
 harvesting status, population, issues, etc.

Speaker: to be determined

7:30-7:45 Phase II and You:

General information on stormwater regula-
 tions (Phase II), what it means to a resident
 and what you can do to become a solution to
 stormwater pollution.

*Dave Mayes, Director &
 Jennifer Butler, Outreach Coordinator,
 City of Wilmington Storm Water Services*

7:45-8:15 BREAK:

At this time, refreshments will be served and
 the participants will break into discussion
 groups. Each group will develop a list of
 common concerns/issues in their watershed
 and possible solutions.

8:15-8:30 Oyster Restoration:

The Coastal Federation will share information
 on the various oyster research taking place in
 Hewletts Creek as well as several volunteer
 efforts (oyster shell recycling and oyster bed
 renourishment).

*Tracy Skrabal, Senior Scientist &
 Ted Wilgis, Coastkeeper,
 North Carolina Coastal Federation*

8:30-8:45 The Hewletts Creek Greenway &
 Riparian Buffers:

Information on efforts that are currently
 underway to preserve undeveloped lands
 along a crucial stretch of the middle branch of
 Hewletts Creek. Agencies involved include:
 New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation
 District, NHC Tidal Creeks Program and City
 of Wilmington. Information will also be
 presented on riparian buffers, cost share
 programs, and native plants.

*Shelly Miller, Community Conservationist &
 Bill Hart, Supervisor, NH Soil & Water and
 Chris O'Keefe, NHC Planning Department*

For additional information, contact:
 Shelly Miller, 910-798-6032

Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
 Extension Area Specialized Agent
 Natural Resources-Environmental Education

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