



Serving Hickman, Lewis, Wayne, & Perry Counties

Buffalo-Duck River Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) Annual Report

WHO WE ARE:

The Buffalo-Duck River Resource Conservation and Development Council is a non-profit organization, locally governed by a board of directors, and is sponsored by county and municipal governments to address priority needs in Hickman, Lewis, Perry and Wayne Counties.



ENVIROTHON:

Buffalo-Duck River Resource Conservation & Development Council hosted their annual Regional Envirothon on April 19TH. This year's event was held at Camp Meribah in Centerville, TN with 9 teams participating.

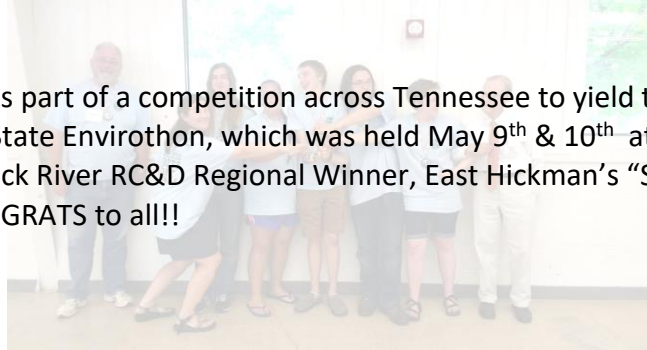
The Envirothon teams consist of 5 high school aged students with up to 2 alternates that are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife and one current environmental issue (which this year was Invasive Species). The Envirothon is designed to promote greater awareness to natural resources and environmental issues.

The winner of the Buffalo-Duck River Regional Envirothon for 2017 was "Sweet Mafia" from East Hickman that was coached by Leanna McCaleb (left); 2nd place went to East Hickman, coached by David Flowers (middle); and 3rd place went to Frank Hughes, coached by Eleonore Pulley (right).

The Buffalo-Duck River Resource Conservation & Development Council appreciates the dedicated teachers and volunteers that make it possible for the students to participate in the Envirothon and exposing them to a wide range of career choices by meeting environmental professionals who represent various branches of the government and private enterprise.

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors this event was a success by **TDA Nonpoint Source Program; First Farmers & Merchants Bank; Meriwether Lewis; Bank of Waynesboro; Lewis County Farm Bureau; Town of Centerville; Bates & Bates Law Office; American Forest Management, Inc; First Bank of Linden.**

The Regional Envirothon is part of a competition across Tennessee to yield top teams that can then go on to compete in the State Envirothon, which was held May 9th & 10th at Clyde York 4-H Camp in Crossville. The Buffalo-Duck River RC&D Regional Winner, East Hickman's "Sweet Mafia" placed third in this event --- CONGRATS to all!!



Tourism Conference:

On November 1 the Buffalo-Duck River RC&D partnered with the Southeast Festivals & Events Association to host the Tourism Conference that was held at the Hickman County Emergency Management building. It was a full day of WONDERFUL sessions and a chance for people in our 4 counties that work in festivals and events to hear from others with what has worked or not worked for them.



SEFEA Conference:

The BDR RC&D sponsored to send 2 people from each of the 4 counties to attend the SEFEA conference that was held in Louisville, KY. It was such a positive sponsorship that the board voted to do it again in 2018 when the conference will be held in Murfreesboro, TN.

TN FireWise Communities Program

BRD RC&D manages a grant that funded by the TDA Forestry Department every year and they receive 10% of what is spent to manage these grants. In 2016-2017 the grant was in the amount of \$270,000.00 and in 2017-2018 the grant will increase to \$310,000.00. The national Firewise Communities program is a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire- before a fire starts! The Firewise Communities approach emphasizes community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home construction and design, landscaping, and maintenance. **While many people play an important role in making homes safer from wildfire, no one has more control over the safety of a home than homeowners!** For more information visit their website <http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise.html>.