



**SMOKY MOUNTAIN RC&D**  
**Annual Report 2016-2017**

*The purpose of the Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the area by promoting sustainable development and promoting the wise use of cultural and natural resources.*

*The Smoky Mountain RC&D Council meets quarterly. The largest project that was organized and implemented this year by the Smoky Mountain RC&D Council was the regional Envirothon. The council also sponsored the Knox Soil Conservation District Farmer's Banquet on October 4<sup>th</sup>.*

**Envirothon:** The Envirothon was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Holston River Park in Knox County. A total of 11 teams participated this year, which is two more than the previous year and included a new school participating with two teams! The Council chose to switch from t-shirts to reusable water bottles and Frisbees as gifts to the participants. We redesigned the logo for the printing and also excluded the actual year so as to use the remaining bottles and Frisbees at next year's event. Whole Foods donated a \$50 gift card for the event to be used at their store for purchasing fruit for the morning of the event. A local restaurant, Pizza Palace, gave us a great discount on our purchase of pizzas for lunch in support of the event and its environmental educational purpose. A local non-profit Urban Demonstration Garden, Beardsley Community Farm, gave us three buckets to collect compost from the event; which was delivered back to the farm following the event! We had a great group of volunteers and staff from our region come and assist in a successful Envirothon competition...even though it did rain the entire time!

**Knox & Blount County Annual Banquets:** The council participated as a sponsor of Blount County and Knox County Soil Conservation annual banquets. Vice Chair, Justin Teague, and Executive Director, Ashley Caraco, were able to attend in support of the Knox County Soil Conservation District. The council will again be a sponsor of the Banquets in 2017.

**Board Members**

- Russell Harris, Chairman**
- Justin Teague, Vice Chairman**
- Ashley Caraco, Executive Director**
- Bill Williams, Council Member and TN RC&D Council President**
- Broadus Hubbs, Council Member**
- Andy Daugherty, Council Member**
- Cynthia Foster, Council Member**
- Charlene DeSha, Council Member**



***Future Hopes for 2017-2018***

- Improve and update the current Smoky Mountain RC&D Council website
- Focus on Fire Adapted Communities and Firewise Programs in our region