

## New Hanover Soil & Water Conservation District

# MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

*Stay informed of your local district happenings!*

Questions? Email [soilwater@nhcgov.com](mailto:soilwater@nhcgov.com)

[SoilWater.NHCgov.com](http://SoilWater.NHCgov.com)

March 2021

### Virtual Stormwater Series

Submitted by Staff

Managing stormwater is a top concern of residents and land managers in New Hanover County. Stormwater issues range from flooding to water quality implications and other environmental concerns.

Beginning in March, the New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District will welcome stormwater experts to its digital stage.

"If people want to learn about best practices, we have found leaders in the field that are willing to share their knowledge with the public," said Amy Renfranz, Program Coordinator with the district. "There will be useful information for everyone, from the person concerned about their backyard to landscape designers and engineers."

#### Upcoming Programs

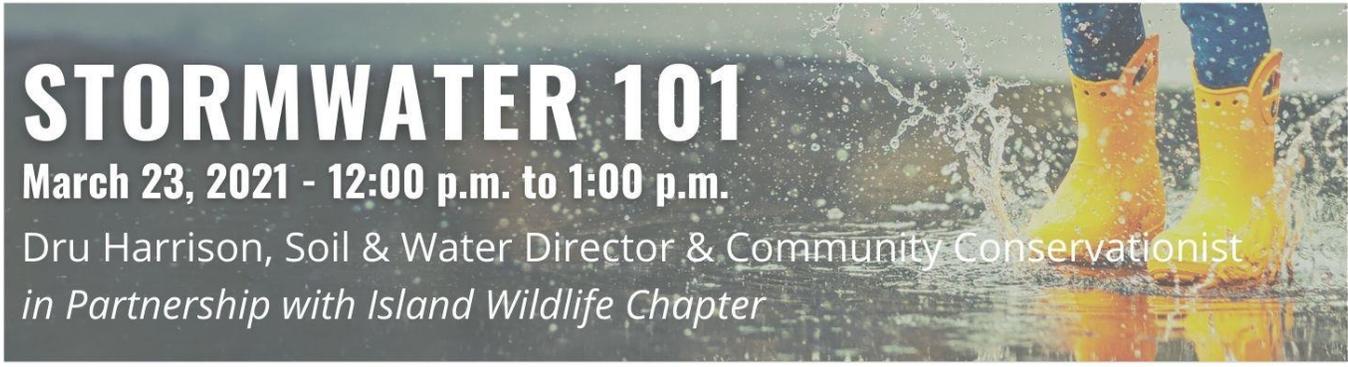
On April 27, Hunter Freeman and Daniel Weibke (McAdams) will showcase nature-based solutions that deliver triple bottom line benefits to developers, regulators, and residents. They will discuss how stormwater control measures can be adapted to fit within the urban form and how collaboration between researchers, regulatory agencies, environmental non-profits, and the design community can be leveraged to deliver sustainable projects to serve the increasing demand for housing and commercial space in North Carolina.

On May 27, Shannon Currey (Hoffman Nursery) and Debbie Hamrick (NC Farm Bureau) will make the case for plants being a priority in stormwater control features. It will include an overview of the benefits of plants in stormwater design, how to work with the green industry for success, and match up plants with their specific benefits. Presenters will share a list of resources stormwater practitioners can use to incorporate more plants into their work.

Pre-registration is required. Register by visiting <https://forms.gle/1MkAkVVA8au8WYvh6>.

#### In This Issue

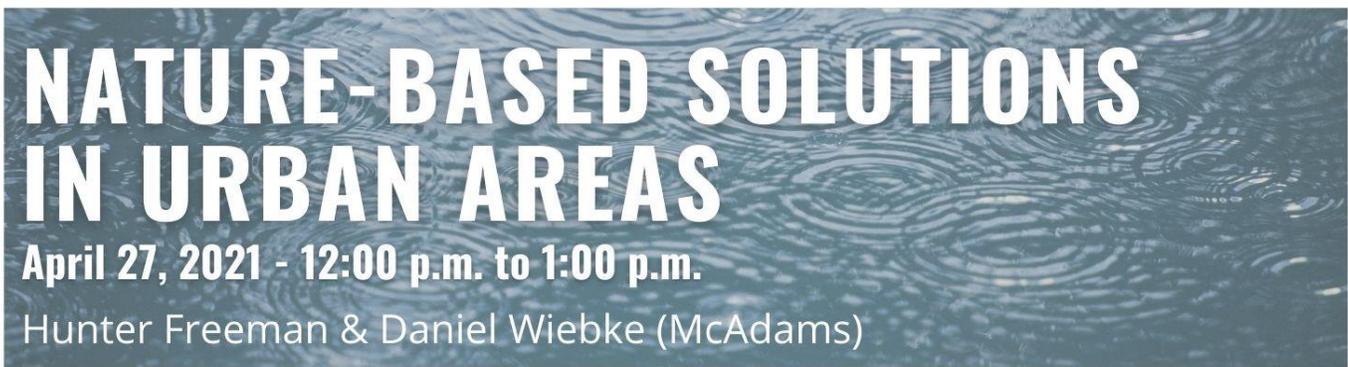
Virtual Stormwater Series – Page 1  
Wilmington's Earth Day Celebration Goes Virtual – Page 3  
Storm Drain Marking and Your Neighborhood – Page 4  
BMP Highlight: Grasscycling – Page 4



# STORMWATER 101

March 23, 2021 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Dru Harrison, Soil & Water Director & Community Conservationist  
*in Partnership with Island Wildlife Chapter*



# NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN URBAN AREAS

April 27, 2021 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hunter Freeman & Daniel Wiebke (McAdams)



# PUTTING THE "GREEN" IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

May 27, 2021 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Shannon Currey (Hoffman Nursery) and Debbie Hamrick (NC Farm Bureau)

**NEW HANOVER SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# VIRTUAL STORMWATER SERIES

Learn from the experts in stormwater management  
without ever leaving your home or office!

**Hosted on Zoom. Register for free today!**

Pre-registration is required. Register for the March 23rd "Stormwater 101" Presentation with the Island Wildlife Chapter (<https://www.facebook.com/islandwildlifecb>). Register for the April & May events here: <https://forms.gle/1MkAkVVA8au8WYvh6>.

## Wilmington's Earth Day Celebration Goes Virtual

Submitted by Staff

Aiming to provide information about the diversity of earth-friendly places and events in our area, the Wilmington Earth Day Alliance will unveil its newly created "Choose Your Own Adventure" website at the end of March 2021. The website will contain an interactive map, event calendar, and ways for people to report their activity and be entered to win prizes.



The goal of the site is to create a kind of one-stop shop for all Earth Day or earth-friendly happenings in our region during the entire month of April for people to get involved in.

The events and places included on the website will allow for the full range of environmental experiences. If you are looking for an opportunity to build your awareness of the environment, you will find information about the various parks in our area. Celebrate the Earth through the simple enjoyment of a walk through the woods.

There are other events aimed at building knowledge of the environment for all ages. For example, you can find whole listings of family-friendly virtual or in-person programming on topics ranging from butterflies with Halyburton Park or FrogWatch with the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

If you and your family are ready to take the next leap forward into stewardship, the Earth Day Alliance site will be a hub for event links for clean-up opportunities and plantings hosted by various organizations across the region. Additionally, you will be able to find listings for the Ocean-Friendly Establishments in our area, an accreditation that shows stewardship in action.

For more information about the Wilmington Earth Day Alliance's program visit:

<https://www.wilmingtonearthday.com/festival>.



## Storm Drain Marking and Your Neighborhood

Did you know that stormwater is not treated before it empties into a local waterway? No surprise, it is the primary cause of water pollution in our area.

You can help spread the word by marking the storm drains in your area! If you live in a neighborhood within the City of Wilmington city limits, we can help coordinate a volunteer event complete with storm drain markers and materials. Reach out to our Program Coordinator today to learn more and schedule your event: [arenfranz@nhcgov.com](mailto:arenfranz@nhcgov.com) or (910) 798 - 7137.



SIGN UP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY!

# Storm Drain Marking

Storm drain markers, materials, and event coordination offered free of charge to your City of Wilmington community! Reach out today to schedule your community event.

## BMP Highlight: Grasscycling

Many of Wilmington's waterways are impaired but fixing the problem can be as easy as leaving your grass clippings where they fall. "Grasscycling" refers to leaving grass clippings to sit on top of grass as a natural fertilizer after mowing your lawn.

### Five Reasons to Grasscycle

- It saves time. Grasscycling reduces mowing time – eliminating time handling and bagging clippings.
- It saves money. When you let clippings lie, you no longer spend money on disposal.
- It reduces the amount of chemical fertilizer that you use on your lawn.
- It saves space in landfills.
- It keeps clippings from being blown into the road and storm drains (which is against the law). If they enter our waterways, grass clippings can clog storm drain systems and increase nutrient loads in the water – resulting in algal blooms.



### How to Grasscycle

- Mow when the grass is dry.
- Mow before your grass gets too high. If you do have to mow longer grass, mow it down once and then go over the clippings to chop them into smaller bits.
- Be sure to keep your mower blade sharp.
- Consider purchasing a mulching blade attachment or a whole new mulching mower - if it's time to replace your entire mower.
- If the grass is excessively long, collect the clippings and use as mulch around your trees and shrubs or as compost in your garden. Grass clippings are roughly 75% water and will decompose quickly.

