

2014

WHAT A YEAR!



APPALACHIAN RC&D COUNCIL



FARMERS AND BUYERS NETWORKING IN BRISTOL

this year

AmeriCorps VISTA field report [P.1](#)

Accomplishments in 2014 [P.2-3](#)

Grants secured [P.2](#)

Business supporters [P.3](#)

Upcoming events [P.4](#)

How you can help [Insert](#)

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Local Lands and Local Hands

Letter from the Chair This past week I was in Cookeville for a meeting of Tennessee RC&D Councils. For nearly twenty years, as many of you know, I came to be quite familiar with what RC&Ds were doing across the state. Three years after the loss of federal funding nationally, the face of these meetings looks different. Many of our sister Councils have had to close their doors and are no longer serving their communities. It is significant that the Appalachian RC&D is still here. As you will read inside this newsletter, we have had an amazing year. Riding back from Cookeville, I again asked myself why it is that I am so lucky to continue to be plugged into such an active organization. I realized that it is because of you—supporters, volunteers and friends. Alongside our Board, staff and AmeriCorps, you believe that **promoting “local hands” and conserving “local lands” leads to stronger economy and benefits future generations.** You have demonstrated this belief with your time, talents, and financial gifts. Since we do rely upon private contributions for our conservation, education, and promotion initiatives, we are deeply grateful for your continued support this year.

Roy Settle

Chairman of the Board



Notes from the Field The past ninth months serving with the ARC&D have been truly inspiring. On Nov. 1st—only a few short weeks ago—I was the first one behind the counter of Boone Street Market, ringing up hundreds of customers during Opening Day. The result of hard work, partnerships, and community effort, Jonesborough finally opened the doors of this new community-based, all-local, farmer-centered business model. As a VISTA, my role has been farmer recruitment, applying for grants, and volunteer organizing. Thanks to the Market, I've gotten to know local farmers, including sixteen-year-old Dominick and life-long producer Arland Johnson. Both have added additional streams of income and connected to new customers. I am also proud of recent numbers showing how the Jonesborough Farmers Market tripled EBT redemption, due, in some part, to my outreach—customers from all walks of life now have greater access to fresh local food. With only three months left in my VISTA service I am looking forward to witnessing continued dedication, passion, and support from this community.

Thank you!

~ **Veronica Limeberry**

\$260,100 in Grants Secured

\$1,500 TN Arts Commission: Taking the Quilt Trail mobile

\$2,500 TN Nature Resource Conservation Service: Youth Community Gardens

\$6,000 East Tennessee Foundation Arts Fund: Downtown Quilt Trails (awarded in 2012 but continuing in 2014)

\$10,000 Aslan Foundation: Conserving farmland in NE TN

\$11,400 TN Department of Agriculture: Buyer-Producer networking events

\$98,700 USDA Agricultural Marketing Service: Building a collaborative food system in northeast TN and southwest VA (2 yrs)

\$130,000 TN Department of Forestry: Firewise communities in East TN



THE QUILT TRAIL MOBILE APP FOR IPHONE/IPAD USERS WILL BE ON ANDROID IN 2015.

Greene Unicoi Washington

"The display of family quilt squares is not only a beautiful and colorful way to enliven our down-town, it showcases local history. I have no doubt that the Trail will become a significant attraction, helping local tourism and economic growth."

Amy Saxonmeyer

President, Greeneville Arts Council



"SNOWBALL" UNVEILING AT GREENEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Quilt Trail takes to Main Street, telling stories of family and heritage with each new brush stroke, and encouraging visitors to let public art be their guide while exploring historic downtowns.

In the 11th year of the Quilt Trail, three more barns were added to our "clothesline of quilts," which now boasts 110 sites--explorable at www.QuiltTrail.org or by downloading the mobile app onto your iPhone or iPad. But thanks to the East Tennessee Foundation Arts Fund, downtown quilt trails took a front seat in 2014. In **downtown Greeneville**, a group of volunteers decided they too believed in the power of art to tell stories and strengthen community. They have transformed a cluttered storage room into a painting studio at the Nathanael Greene Museum and will unveil three 8' x 8' squares by the end of 2014. These will be hosted by the Public Library, the Antique Market, and the Cave Law Firm. The group's ambition is to do a dozen squares to create a walking trail. Lastly, we must remember two Greeneville Quilt Trail heroes who passed away this year. **James Ben Stockton** begged the ARC&D to expand into downtown Greeneville and "think outside the barn"...and when we finally did it was a great success. **Earl Fletcher** placed the schoolhouse quilt square on the Nathanael Greene Museum. As director, Earl added a Quilt Room right off the main lobby and he often called the museum the "beginning of the Quilt Trail." These gentlemen are both missed.

"Veronica has been a huge asset getting Boone St. Market up and running. It was perfect timing when ARC&D approached us with the idea of sharing a VISTA."

Karen Childress

Director,
Jonesborough Locally Grown

This year we were able to revitalize ARC&D's reputation for leading the Locally Grown movement by providing new opportunities for networking and information sharing, assisting with the opening of the all-local Boone Street Market, and securing over \$100,000 in agriculture grants.

A full time beef cattle farmer, a public graduate student from ETSU, two men just beginning to sell produce. These faces are a snapshot of the diverse stakeholders brought together at any given **Friends of Ag** event. We estimate that 200 people have attended a Friends of Ag event and come away well fed on local ingredients—and well educated. And we are convinced that many attendees would not have been brought together if not for this effort. It has also raised the profile of the importance of agriculture in the media. Our recent success being awarded a **USDA Local Foods Promotion grant** will be a two-year challenge to build a fresh and equitable food system in northeast TN and southwest VA with Appalachian Sustainable Development and Jonesborough Locally Grown. Our guiding principle is to collaborate with *all* regional partners so that efforts are integrated, not duplicated. Starting in 2015 we will have a full-time staff person devoted to this endeavor, so stay tuned!

Carter Johnson Sullivan



13 TEAMS FROM 6 SCHOOLS
COMPETED AT ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL
(COLD) ENVIROTHON.



FILM ON LOCAL FARMS (AT
ARCD.ORG) BY ELEANOR.

Quilt Trail... Downtown Kingsport now has 18 quilt squares on its walking trail, the result of over 1,000 hours of volunteer time. Thanks to donations from several businesses, First Frontier Quilters, and the city, visitors to downtown will soon see a plaque at each quilt site and a rack card map will be available.

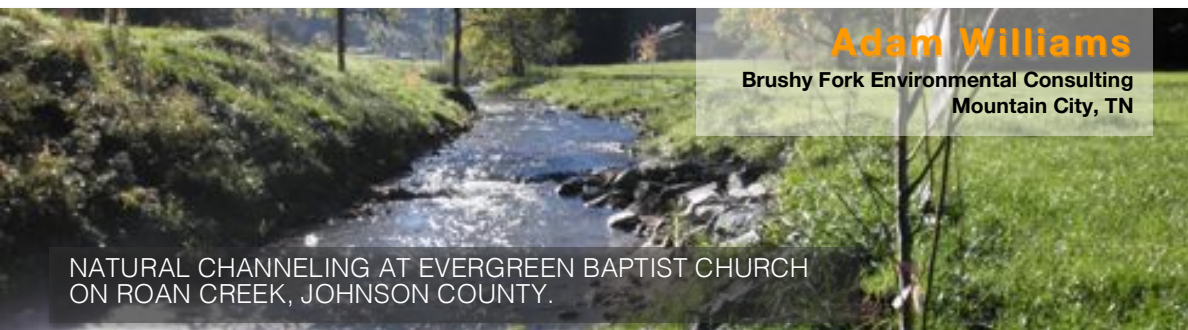


Locally Grown... Expanding on Friends of Ag in Washington County, the TN Dept. of Agriculture has awarded us a Specialty Crops grant to coordinate a **Buyer-Producer Mixer** series in the Tricities—speed dating for farmers and businesses that want to buy local, such as chefs, distributors, and grocers. The mixers also feature food made with local ingredients. When we got a suggestion card after the first mixer in Bristol that read, “more time, bigger plates”, we knew we put on a successful event. The second mixer, to be held in February, will focus on farms selling direct to restaurants and ideas for cross-promotion.

Twenty years of responsible fiscal management has made us a regional go-to for administration of state funds that must be implemented through a nonprofit. This year marked the close of a five-year “319” grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and TN Dept. of Agriculture to reduce pollution in the impaired

Roan Creek watershed of Johnson County. This project benefited many landowners by providing cost-share to stabilize stream banks. The grant was also used to stabilize streams in advance of installing Doe Mountain’s Adventure Trails system. And up and down east Tennessee, mountain communities are addressing woodland fire by applying to become a **Firewise community.** Through the TN Department of Forestry, they receive grants for training and fire mitigation (brush removal, etc.). ARC&D administers Firewise funds for several communities and supports the outreach and monitoring of state fire safety professionals.

“In the past, govt. agencies typically used “hard bank” techniques which often just passed the pollution problem downstream. In Roan Creek we used innovative Natural Channel methods. Not only does this stabilize the bank to prevent landowners from losing more land, it creates trout and aquatic habitat, and reduces sediment.”



Adam Williams
Brushy Fork Environmental Consulting
Mountain City, TN

NATURAL CHANNELING AT EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
ON ROAN CREEK, JOHNSON COUNTY.

We are very
grateful for
your support!

Farm Credit Mid-America
Farm Bureau Washington
County
Washington Farmers Coop
First Bank and Trust Ag
Lending
Tennessee RC&D Council
Conservation
Legacy/Appalachian Coal
County VISTA Team
Hillhouse Graphics
Tennessee Quilts
Heavenly Stitches Quilt
Shoppe
Bagel Exchange
Carriage House
Cindy Saadeh Fine Art
City of Kingsport
Frank Gibson Law Firm
Holston Habitat for
Humanity ReStore
First Frontier Quilters of
Kingsport
Boone Street Market
Pleasant Valley Farms/the
Saylors
Love Grains/the Loves
Brushy Fork Environmental
Consulting
Cave Law Firm
Greeneville Antique Market
Greeneville-Greene County
Public Library
Nathanael Greene Museum
Main Street Pizza Company
The Fresh Market



Emily Bidgood

Project and Development Coordinator.



Veronica Limeberry

AmeriCorps VISTA, Locally Grown Coordinator & Assistant Manager of Boone Street Market.



Eleanor Goodrich

AmeriCorps Associate, Local food and farm media intern.



Dmitry Tumanov

AmeriCorps Associate, mobile technology intern.

Upcoming Events

- **November 30th** – Unveiling of the Andrew Johnson Quilt Square at the Cave Law Firm, Greeneville, 2:30pm, and Open House.

- Friends of Ag will meet for a program and breakfast **every 3rd Thursday**, 7:00-8:00am, Jonesborough Farm Bureau (1103 Boones Creek Rd), December through March.

- **February 9th** – Buyer-Producer Mixer event, “speed dating for farmers and businesses.”

- **March 3rd** – the first East Tennessee *Growing Agriculture Conference*: workshops, one-on-one consultations, and exhibitors, at Walter’s State Expo Center, Morristown.

- **April 15th** – The 22nd regional northeast TN Envirothon Competition.

DETAILS: www.ARCD.org facebook.com/AppRCD

PICTURED BELOW: ROCKY FIELD FARM, CONSERVED UNDER EASEMENT WITH THE LAND TRUST FOR TENNESSEE.

VISIT ARCD.ORG TO SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTERS “THE FAT QUARTER: NEWS FROM THE QUILT TRAIL” AND “WHAT’S LOCAL TRICITIES.” **STORIES, EVENTS AND MORE.**

Appalachian RC&D Council
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