

# LANDSCAPE NEWS

WINTER 2010

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**CLEAN STREAMS CERTIFICATION TRAINING**

A program of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County office and the City of Winston-Salem Stormwater Division.

**Date:** February 5, 2010

**Time:** 1-4 PM

**Location:** Forsyth Agriculture Building  
 1450 Fairchild Rd  
 Winston Salem, NC 27105

**Cost:** \$10

**Pesticide Credits:** 1 hour credit - H L N D X

**Contact Person & Phone #:** Annette Presley at 703-2850

The Clean Streams program trains green industry professionals on what it takes to protect area creeks while doing their jobs as well as introduces types of best management practices utilized to prevent or reduce water pollution.

*As a result of this program, participants will:*

- Learn about relevant water quality topics.
- Receive 1 hour of pesticide credits.
- Get a free window decal.
- Have free use of the Clean Streams logo.
- Get free marketing and advertising, including recognition on the city website and in city-sponsored advertising in local newspaper(s).

**AGENDA**

1. What is a Watershed and what are our WQ problems?
2. Understanding a soil test report.
3. Best Management Practices to Control Nitrogen & Phosphorus: Finding the Right Tools.
4. Rain Gardens a New Attractive Solution to Water Runoff Issues.
5. What is the Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program?
6. TEST

**UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE**

- January 12 -16. 2010 Green & Growin’ Show: Greensboro, NC. To register go to: [www.ncnla.com](http://www.ncnla.com) or call 919-816-9118.
- January 25 – 28. 2010 North Carolina Turfgrass Conference: Raleigh, NC. To register: Call 919-380-9446.
- February 5th. Clean Streams Certification Training: Winston-Salem, NC. 1 hour pesticide credit applied for in LNDX. Contact Stephen Greer/Wendi Hartup (336)703-2850 for more information. See enclosed registration form on back page.
- March 25th. Area Landscape Workshop: Greensboro, NC. 3 hours pesticide credit applied for in LNDX, 3 hours Irrigation CEU credit. Contact Karen Neill (336)375-5876 for additional information.



## UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN RALEIGH

An attempt was made in 2001 to pass a legislation requiring a license to perform landscape contracting in North Carolina. That attempt did not pass. In late 2009 a draft bill was written and moved through the legislative process in that session in order to qualify for consideration in the 2010 session. Over the next few months it will be discussed, debated and with this will come a decision on whether to move forward with the bill. Remember this is only draft much work must take place before it can become a bill and voted on.

This draft bill is the result of the N. C. Green Industry Council, the N.C. Nursery Landscape Association and other interested green industry associations and business owners through reviewing and putting into place a practice act that could benefit irrigation and landscape contractors. With coming legislative decisions on Best Management Practices, water efficiency actions and elevating professional standards this group felt it necessary to place this draft before the state legislature.

It is important that you are informed about the process and the information within the draft bill. The information listed below was put together by the North Carolina Green Industry Council. Mark Peters is the president of the GIC and has put together 10 overview points about the legislative draft. Please read it carefully, his contact number is listed at the bottom of the overview. If you wish to look up the entire draft bill it is listed as HB 1408.

If time permits I would encourage you to attend the 2010 Green & Growin' Show to be held January 12 – 16 in Greensboro at the Sheraton Four Seasons Convention Center and Greensboro Coliseum. A part of the show will be the Green Industry Green Council Town Hall Meeting on January 13th from 2:30 – 3:30 PM. They will be discussing the Landscape Practice Act. This is the draft bill mentioned in this article.

### Proposed Landscape Contractor License Legislation Overview

1. HB 1408 submitted to the legislature in the 2009 session is a draft bill, a placeholder for the final version of the proposed legislation that will be submitted after the bill is vetted and revised by the membership of NCNLA, TCNC, NCSPA, CIA, GIC and other interested green industry trade associations, affiliated groups or individuals through town hall meetings that began in August at the NCNLA Summer Green Show and will continue across the state until early April of 2010.
2. The current effort to pass this legislation does not represent what happened in 2001. Times have changed dramatically. Many individuals and groups that opposed the Practice Act in 2001 have now come forward in support of the current effort. The economic and regulatory environment has also changed. Increasing emphasis on water conservation and sustainable practices make what landscape contractors do very important to our water resources and the environment. Skilled, well trained, professional landscape contractors should be recognized as having the ability to meet these important needs of an increasingly urban environment.
3. The basic question is: do we want to be recognized as a professional trade (landscape contracting) based on knowledge, skill, training, best management practices, sustainable business practices and continuing education that is in control of our own industry or do we want someone else to regulate our profession?
4. Consumer Protection. Based on all the above mentioned reasons a licensed landscape contractor could provide the consumer with a better, safer product or service as well as a value for services comparable to the money paid for the services.
5. Professionalism. As previously stated; training through preparatory classes, testing, continuing education requirements and adherence to both minimum standards and best management practices could establish a high level of professionalism for landscape contractors. This also supports the consumer protection and safety aspect.
6. Self Determination and Regulation. This legislation will remove landscape contracting from ambiguous and confusing oversight by current general contracting statutes. It will establish, regulate and enforce minimum standards and best management practices specific to landscape contracting.
7. Opportunity. Provide meaningful professional career opportunities for anyone interested in becoming a landscape contractor in the state of North Carolina through mentoring, education, training, networking, and

active involvement in one or more relevant trade associations.

8. Exemptions: This is an extremely important point in discussing this issue. There will be a dollar threshold established that below which no license would be required. This would allow single operator businesses or small businesses to continue to provide landscape services without a license. The draft legislation establishes that limit at \$7500.00 annually per customer. Discussion at town hall meetings has focused on lowering this limit to mirror the limit established by the recently passed irrigation contractor license of \$2500.00. Other exemptions include anyone that does landscape work on their own property, golf courses.... (See the draft bill for full details).
9. Grandfathering: Another critical aspect of the legislation that does not completely appear in the current draft bill would also follow the provisions in the irrigation contractor license. Anyone that has been engaged in the business of landscaping or related services as defined by the legislation for ten years or more and can provide adequate references and pays the license application fee and is approved by the licensing board would be grandfathered. All currently registered landscape contractors (under the current title act) that complete the application requirements and pay the license fee would be grandfathered. (Currently there are about 1000 registered landscape contractors in NC). These provisions would allow a very large number of individuals currently doing landscape contracting work to obtain the new license with very little investment in time or money. (Estimate is 3500 to 4000 individuals). By comparison the irrigation contractor license using this same process resulted in nearly 1600 licensees.
10. Continuing Education Requirements: Currently ten CEU's annually have been proposed. These education credit classes would be widely available from green industry trade associations, supply and equipment vendors, the cooperative extension service and community colleges statewide.

So far the interest and desire to pass this legislation has been very positive. The details are still being hammered out and this effort will continue for the next 4-5 months in preparing the final bill for the 2010 Short Session. If you questions or comments about the draft legislation please contact the GIC Legislative Committee Co-Chair Mark Peters at 336-669-2399.

## **N C D A & C S S E E K S T O R E D U C E P O S T A G E C O S T S , S A V E P A P E R B Y P U T T I N G S O I L T E S T S A N D O T H E R A G R O N O M I C R E P O R T S O N L I N E**

Beginning Nov. 1, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will no longer routinely mail out paper copies of agronomic reports. This policy will apply to reports for soil tests and nematode assays, as well as plant tissue, waste, solution and soilless media analyses.

All these reports are readily available through the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division's Web site, [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi).

"By making the switch to electronic-only reports, the NCDA&CS will work within its limited budget to save significantly on postage, printing and paper costs," said Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise, director of the Agronomic Division. "Although environmental and fiscal benefits are driving this change, clients should also see increases in convenience and efficiency. Online reports are available to clients faster than mailed reports and make record keeping much easier."

"Copies can be easily downloaded and saved, and the analytical data can be exported into spreadsheet

format," Hudak-Wise said.

Eventually, the NCDA&CS would like to notify all clients via e-mail when their reports are available online. Clients who provide a valid e-mail address on their sample information form, or who register an e-mail address with the Agronomic Division online, can receive electronic notification. In the interim, all other clients will receive a postcard with instructions on how to find their reports.

Clients who visit the Agronomic Division home page should select the "Find Your Report" link from the left-column navigation bar. This link takes visitors into the division's laboratory-information site, known as PALS. For most people, using the "Quick Report Search" link is the most convenient way to access reports.

Basic instructions are outlined at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/reportsearch.htm](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/reportsearch.htm). Anyone who has difficulty using the PALS report-search feature or has questions can call (919) 733-2655 for assistance during regular weekday office hours.

**February, 5 2010**  
**Forsyth Agriculture Building**  
**Clean Streams Registration**

**Registration: \$10**

Please print a completed copy of this form and mail to:  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Forsyth County Center  
1450 Fairchild Rd, Winston Salem, NC 27105

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pesticide credits offered: 1 hour credit - H L N D X.**  
**Contact Annette Presley 703-2850 for further information.**