



Conservation Digest

GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WINTER 2011-2012



NRCS' Hollis Berry Retires



Hollis Berry with 2011 Cooperator of the Year at Awards Banquet



Hollis Berry on a stream bank restoration project



Hollis celebrates retirement with District Conservationist

The Natural Resource Conservation Service Greenville field office recently said goodbye to retiring soil conservation technician, Hollis Berry. On December 12th, NRCS and the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District honored Hollis and celebrated his many years of conservation service with a retirement party.

Hollis began his federal career when he entered the Air Force in 1962. After being stationed throughout the world, he ended his Air Force career to attend Sumter Technical College, where Hollis served as the veterans' liaison. It was during those studies that he learned of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service).

In 1987 Hollis became the soil conservation technician for the Pickens field office. With the closure of that office in 1999 due to restructuring, Mr. Berry was reassigned to the Greenville field office. During his tenure in the Greenville field office, Hollis demonstrated a commitment to conservation and expert technical skills.

Hollis' attention to detail and strong work ethic made him an outstanding employee. He was never one to shy away from work. Hollis proved to be exceptionally adaptable when new challenges were presented to him. When NRCS transitioned to online mapping systems, Hollis was ready and willing to figure it out, resulting in many, many conservation plan maps for farmers. Not only did Hollis learn the new system, but he also became the GIS guru. His GIS skills assisted hundreds of landowners with pond issues, construction designs and recommendations for maintenance.

Hollis Berry leaves his mark through the thousands of acres of conservation planning and practice application on farms in Greenville and Pickens counties resulting in less erosion, better grazing for cattle and improved water quality.

Hollis has an outstanding commitment to his community, working countless hours in disaster clean-up. After Hurricane Hugo, Hollis stepped up for NRCS and spent six months in the low country assisting with oversight of debris clean-up. When Tropical Storm Jerry hit Greenville County, Hollis served as the inspector overseeing stream bank repairs. When storms hit the North Carolina coast in 1999, Hollis again offered his help. He continued to help the Upstate with stream bank stabilization in Greenville and Pickens counties following hurricanes Francis and Ivan in 2004.

Hollis will be missed by NRCS, Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District and citizens throughout Greenville and Pickens counties. We wish Hollis the best in his retirement and thank him for the many years of service and commitment to conservation!

District welcomes Community Relations Coordinator: Katy Sides

Katy Sides joined the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District on November 28, 2011 as the Community Relations Coordinator for Stormwater. Katy previously served as the Information and Graphics Specialist for the City of Toccoa, Georgia, in their Planning and Downtown Development office. Her work there focused on creating relationships with the media, elected officials and community organizations, managing grant projects, and providing a media campaign for the offices through traditional print and social media sources.

Katy received her Bachelor of Arts from Furman University in Political Science and Sociology, as well as her Master of Public Administration from the University of Georgia, with a specialization in Local Government Management. During her time at UGA, she participated in several internships, including one in which she conducted survey work and research on community development issues in Americus, Georgia. She also served as the research intern for Georgia Municipal Association and completed various research assignments as requested by local governments across the state. Additionally, Katy's undergraduate and graduate research covers issues ranging from understanding the development of environmental attitudes and behaviors to a look into suburban and urban development practices.

Katy is married to Bartley and has a chocolate lab, Addy, that has prepared her well for the "Scoop the Poop" campaign. She is thrilled to be back in Greenville and excited to work for GCSWCD. She is excited to learn about existing behaviors that impact stormwater and to work with the District to establish creative ways to teach people that they can collectively impact stormwater and make the community stronger.



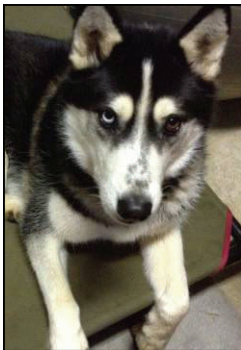
Pet owners rewarded for keeping waters clean



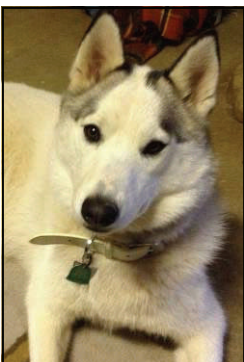
Dog owner, Brian Cole, receives a pet waste composting system from District Manager, Kirsten Robertson. The prize was awarded as part of the bacterial water pollution awareness campaign in local parks.



Codee, park enthusiast



Marko, professional tail wagger



Shya, expert treat tester

Bacterial pollution from stormwater runoff is a big threat to Greenville County waters. One important source of this pollution is pet waste. Pet waste left on the ground washes *E. coli* into local waters. The Environmental Protection Agency identifies pet waste as a large source of bacterial water pollution. GCSWCD educates the general public about bacterial pollution from *E. coli* and provides simple, practical ways for everyone to be part of the solution to water pollution.

This fall, the Conservation District mounted a month-long public awareness campaign in Greenville County parks. Local park staff rewarded responsible dog owners spotted 'scooping the poop' with a "Scoop the Poop" t-shirt, reusable tote bag and pet waste bag dispensers. These pet owners were entered into a prize drawing for the Doggie Dooley pet waste digester composter package.



Sketch of Codee by owner, Brian Cole

The grand prize winner is Brian Cole of Greer. He is the proud owner of three Siberian Huskies: Codee, Marko and Shya. Brian and his pets regularly enjoy Greenville County parks and always 'scoop the poop'. His new pet waste composter will help keep his yard clean, his dogs happy, and County waters clean. Congratulations, Brian, Codee, Marko and Shya!

Don't forget to 'Scoop the Poop'!
Grab it. Bag it. Toss it.

2011 Urban Conservationist of the Year: Fountain Inn Rain Garden Project at The Center



Mayor Gary Long of Fountain Inn and Dan Powell, City Planner, accept the Urban Conservationist of the Year 2011 Award on behalf of the partners on the Fountain Inn Rain Garden Project at The Center.

Organizations from the Upstate are doing their part to put the “green” in Greenville County. The Fountain Inn Rain Garden Project at The Center is part of the environmentally-friendly development happening in downtown Fountain Inn. Project partners include Keep Greenville County Beautiful, South Carolina Native Plant Society (Upstate Chapter), Fountain Inn History Center, South Carolina Champions of the Environment, M-Fuge, Palmetto Pride, Fountain Inn Garden Club, Greenville Technical College, Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission, Arbor Engineering, and Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District.

This year, GCSWCD recognizes each of the partners in the Fountain Inn Rain Garden Project at The Center for their contribution to water quality and community outreach.



Other Rain Garden Project partners were on hand to celebrate. Pictured: Dan Powell, Tammie Cohrs, Stefan Cohrs, Albert Futrell and Donald Owings

2011 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year: Donnie King



Donnie King, 2011 Cooperator of the Year

Contributed by Donnie King, Cooperator of the Year

Our farm started in 1942 when my grandfather purchased 43 acres in the Ware Place community. In 1946, my dad added 107 acres and purchased our first registered Herefords. The farm now consists of approximately 100 acres of pasture with the remaining 50 acres in trees. Today, we have a three-way partnership with my dad, who is now 88; my brother, Rickey; and me. We maintain 20-25 registered brood cows and two bulls. Depending on our calf crop and replacement needs, we market 10-15 heifers and 5-8 herd bull prospects each year.

Our cattle are raised on grass – we do not creep feed our calves; however, we do provide some concentrated feed after weaning. We purchase all the hay we use from neighbors, generally 400-500 square bales each year.



*Pam and Donnie King
at the 2011 GCSWCD Awards
Banquet*

The EQIP program has been very beneficial to our operation. In 2010, we installed a 325 foot well, 660 feet of water line, and two Richie waterers. This allowed us to fence cattle off a small creek on the back side of our property. A total of 333 feet of fencing was installed. This creek has a very steep and uneven bank, which made it dangerous for our cows. Our cattle are now more safe and have cleaner water to drink due to these improvements.

My family and I are very appreciative to NRCS for the support we have received in making these positive changes to our farm.

Conservation Education Teacher of the Year:

Jody Childs



Mr. Jody Childs, physical education teacher at Slater-Marietta Elementary, is the 2011 Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Childs works with students during an after-school Science Club to help them increase their science content knowledge and to encourage their love for nature. He has also secured several grants which have benefited the students, the school, and the community. He was selected for this honor for his commitment to teaching elementary school students the importance of conserving and protecting our state's natural resources. Jody has been integral in developing the "Trout in the Classroom" program, the "Play in the Shade" program, and the "Carolina Fence Garden" project. Mr. Childs also serves on the Board of Directors for the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

Congratulations, Mr. Childs and Slater-Marietta Elementary School!



2011 Essay Contest Winners



"Human beings and forests have always had a complex relationship. We have depended on forests as long as we have lived on the planet. We get clean air to breathe, food and water from them, fuel, shade and shelter." - **Colin Whaley, 6th Grade**



Sixth Grade Essay Contest Winners (Pictured Left to Right)

Colin Whaley, *Hillcrest Middle School*
Bhumika Jakkaraddi, *Beck Academy*
Ethan Lam, *Beck Academy*
Hannah Marshall, *Mauldin Middle School*
Not Pictured:
Alena Patton, *Mauldin Middle School*

2011 Essay Contest Winners



"Man loves hunting, fishing, hiking and taking photographs in the woods. There is a connection of life between man and the forest. Life might have originated in the ocean, but when life evolved...forests provided a place to live." - **Kyle Kenny, 7th Grade**



Seventh Grade Essay Contest Winners (Pictured Left to Right)

Parker Roberson, *Northwest Middle School*

Brianna Edens, *Northwest Middle School*

Rhyan Neideigh, *Hillcrest Middle School*

Kyle Kenny, *Hillcrest Middle School*

Alec Johnston, *Riverside Middle School*

Adam Benson, *Hillcrest Middle School*

Not Pictured:

Bradley Johnson, *Hillcrest Middle School*

2012 Essay Contest:



Open to 5th- 8th grade students

It is important to understand where the food comes from that you eat each day. You see a wide variety of products in your local grocery store, but how much of it started with the dirt beneath your feet? This year's essay contest explores how food goes from **Soil to Spoon**.

Contest Rules:

- ◆ The essay topic for this year is "Soil to Spoon"
- ◆ Essay should be 350-400 words for 5th & 6th graders; 600-750 words for 7th & 8th graders
- ◆ Essays must be typed or hand written (in ink) on one side of the paper
- ◆ You **MUST** have a TITLE page as your first page with the following information: **student name; home mailing address; name of school; name of teacher; and grade level**
- ◆ **Essays should address the following questions:**
 1. **Where does your food come from?**
 2. **What foods do you eat that grow in the soil?**
 3. **What is soil?**
 4. **What connection do you have to soil and farms?**

3 awards in each grade level- \$50 cash prize per student

Special "thank you" gifts for teachers of award winners

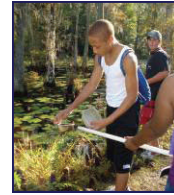
Deadline: 5:00 PM on Friday, March 30, 2012

Please mail or hand-deliver entries to:
Essay Contest
Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District
301 University Ridge, Ste. 4800
Greenville, SC 29601

Questions about the essay or contest? Contact JC Ward at 864-467-2755 ext. 103 or jcward@greenvillecounty.org

Affiliate Memberships

Sponsor Education Programs



To become a member of the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District, fill out the form below and return it with your **tax deductible** gift. Donations help the District award essay contest winners, provide environmental education presentations in schools, and sponsor delegates to the South Carolina Institute for Natural Resources.

Your gift helps the District educate the public about natural resource conservation, places your name on District newsletters and annual reports, and secures an invitation for you and a guest to our Annual Awards Banquet.



Donate Today!

Name

Business Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail

Select a Category: **\$1000** **\$750** **\$500** **\$200**
 \$150 **\$100** **\$50** **Other** _____

Please make checks payable to Greenville County Soil & Water.

**Return to: Greenville County Soil & Water,
 301 University Ridge, Ste. 4800, Greenville, SC 29601**

Front Cover: This edition's front cover picture is the site of a trout habitat enhancement project installed by NRCS and partner organizations in the South Saluda River.

**GREENVILLE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
301 University Ridge, Suite 4800
Greenville, SC 29601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District
301 University Ridge, Suite 4800, Greenville, SC 29601 864-467-2755

Commissioners

Dr. Robert Hanley, Chairman • Claire Bradbery, Vice-Chairman • Danny Howard, Secretary-Treasurer • Darrell Harrison • David Gible • Ben H. Dillard, Commissioner Emeritus

Commissioners meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM at County Square in a meeting that is open to the public. Call 864-467-2755 for details on location of the conference room.

Commissioners are unpaid volunteers, three elected in the general election for a four-year term and two are appointed.

Affiliate Member Donations Underwrite the Conservation Education Effort for the District

Benefactor—\$1,000

*GE Power Systems
Renewable Water Resources*

Friend – \$500

*Strange Brothers Grading Co., Inc.
Darrell & Georgia Harrison*

Sustaining – \$150

*AgSouth Farm Credit
Ashmore Brothers, Inc.
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Caliber Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Farm Bureau of Greenville County
McCall Environmental*

Associate – \$100

*Butch & Diane Kirven
R. Patrick Jenkins, P.E.
Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pecan Dale Farmstead
Rogers & Callcott Engineers*

Contributing - \$50

*Alliant Energy
Bob & Claire Bradbery
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Case
Dennis & Judy DeFrancesco
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle
Jim & Beverly Fogle
Furman University
Dr. & Mrs. Rob Hanley
Hayes Food Products, Inc.
Howard Farms
Grady M. & Mary Rose Jones
Land Design Services
Lynne Newton
Fred & Kay Payne
Paul Wickensimer
J. Randall & Pat Wynn*

Regular – \$35

*Joe M. Barron, P.E.
Bob Jones University
Cely Construction Company, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Earle
Dr. William Gressette
Danny & Nan Howard
Dr. Walter McPhail
North Greenville University
Melvin Pace, Pace Building Company
Ted V. Howie Realty*

In-kind Donors

*Dr. John Hains
South Carolina Native Plant Society
TreesGreenville*

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the conservation district prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202)-720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.