

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report 2012



Mission

Our mission is to protect natural resources through education, programs, and cooperative efforts with partner organizations to achieve common goals for the benefit of all citizens of Greenville County by promoting and enhancing prudent soil and water conservation practices.

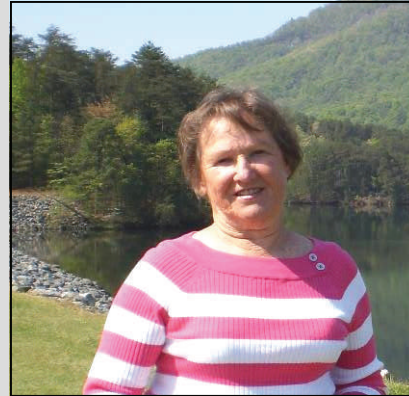
Objectives

Urban & Land Use Planning • Conservation Awareness • Sustainable Agriculture
Water Quality and Quantity • Customer Service

Commissioners



*Dr. Robert Hanley, Chairman
Marine biologist*



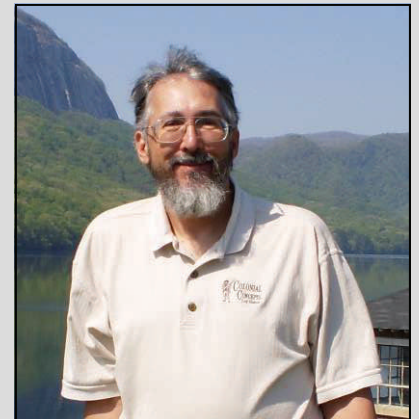
*Claire Bradbery, Vice-Chairman
Cattle farmer*



*Danny Howard, Secretary-Treasurer
Clemson Extension Office
Lead County Agent*



*Darrell Harrison, Commissioner
Earth Team volunteer with NRCS*



*David Gibble, Commissioner
Business owner and Farmer*

Affiliate Member Donations Underwrite the Conservation Education Effort of the District

Businesses and individuals across the Upstate supporting the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District's educational program with financial donations during 2011-2012:

2011-2012 Affiliate Members

Regular - \$35

Colin Buckner
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Earle
Dr. William N. Gressette
Danny & Nan Howard

Dr. Walter McPhail
North Greenville University
Melvin Pace, *Pace Building Co.*

Contributing - \$50

Alliant Energy
Bob & Claire Bradbery
Mr. & Mrs. John Case
Dennis & Judy DeFrancesco
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle
Jim & Beverly Fogle
Furman University
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hanley

Dr. David Hargett
Howard Farms
Grady & Mary Rose Jones
Land Design Services
Lynne Newton
Fred & Kay Payne
Paul Wickensimer

Associate - \$100

Pat Jenkins, P.E.
Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pecan Dale Farmstead

Rogers & Callcott Engineers, Inc.
J. Randall & Pat Wynn

Sustaining - \$150

AgSouth Farm Credit
Ashmore Brothers, Inc.
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Caliber Engineering Consultants, LLC

Farm Bureau (Greenville County)
McCall Environmental
SynTerra

Supporting - \$200

Butch & Diane Kirven

Friend- \$500

Darrell & Georgia Harrison
Strange Brothers Grading Company, Inc.

Benefactor- \$1,000

ReWa

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 family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). The USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

A Message from the Chairman



Partnerships are the hallmark of conservation district history, and were the foundation upon which federal and state conservation district legislation was written. The Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District has benefitted from federal, state and local partnerships. On the federal level, our staff works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in helping landowners identify and implement appropriate conservation practices. On the state level, the District receives funding from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and benefits from SC DNR leadership. At the local level, the District is generously supported by Greenville County for which the District manages the education component of the County's state-issued storm water discharge permit.

The District also has partners who generously support our efforts to reach out to the community. Affiliate Member contributions allow the District to provide conservation education to Greenville County teachers and to engage students through our annual essay contest.

These partnerships and District staff have enabled the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District to continue its mission of putting soil and water conservation practices in place. As a result of programs undertaken by District staff, earlier this year the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts recognized GCSWCD as the Outstanding Conservation District of 2011.

Another District program that has received note is the 'There is no Poop Fairy' campaign. The 'Poop Fairy' character can be seen on the District's web-site (accessible from Greenville County's web-site under Departments), at local pet stores and at the County's Animal Care Facility and reminds us that when not properly managed, pet waste hurts our rivers and streams. District staff is working on a new educational campaign that promises to be as educational and eye catching as the winged, slightly bald 'Poop Fairy'.

To all of our supporters, thank you for allowing the District to continue to place conservation on the ground. Please drop by our offices at Greenville County Square or join the Commission during one of the monthly Commission meetings.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert W. Hanley, Ph.D.
Chairman

2012 Outstanding Conservation District of the Year



Chairman, Robert Hanley, receives the District's proclamation from Greenville County Councilman, Butch Kirven



GCSWCD staff and Commissioners receive SCACD Outstanding District "Pump" Award



NRCS District Conservationist, Lynne Newton, thanks Hollis Berry for his years of service at his retirement party



2012 Urban Conservationist, Cecil Leviner, at the Greater Greenville Sanitation's Green Waste site



Center pivot at Davis Dairy in Greenville County



2012 Cooperators of the Year, Davis Dairy



Mushroom Mountain teacher workshop, led by Tradd Cotter



A student at Long Branch Baptist Church demonstrates the anatomy of a tree



Education Program Manager, JC Ward, is interviewed by Fox Carolina about the importance of recycling



Students match animals and lifespans

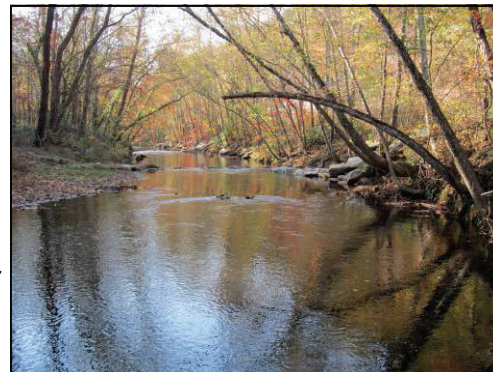


Outreach staff at an information booth at "Yappy Hour"

From the District Manager's Desk...

Submitted by Kirsten Robertson, District Manager

The Greenville District's most notable water quality project was in partnership with the Foothills Resource Conservation and Development Council, NRCS, DNR and the landowners. The project included upgrades to trout habitat on approximately a half mile of the South Saluda River. The District provided design expertise for the project. We have worked with this consortium for years, and this latest was the longest stretch of river rehabilitated thus far.



Our partnership with local water districts, neighboring conservation districts and with NRCS has allowed the 'Every Drop Counts' irrigation check program to continue for another year. In this program, a homeowner or producer in a supporting water district area is given a free audit of their irrigation system. The audit includes evaluation of soil, timer settings, and the efficiency of the system, resulting in helpful hints to conserve water. This conservation saves money and helps keep the water where it's wanted, instead of having it turn into runoff water.

In the third phase of projects with Long Branch Baptist Church, a shade sail was donated by the district to cover a bench near the new playground the church has opened to the community. The Long Branch projects have continued for four years and have gone from several blocks of dilapidated houses to a beautiful park setting with a trickling stream, multiple trees, an outdoor education center and now a fun-filled place for children to play. The Long Branch Baptist Church has turned a place of despair into a place of joy. We are proud to have partnered with such a great community.



The Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District chose to be a primary sponsor of the Greenville Organic Foods Organization Urban Farm Tour this year. The farm tour draws around 500 people to visit little slices of farm life nestled in the city. One of our own Commissioners, David Gible of Blueberry Hill farm, has been one of the farms to visit on the farm tour for two years. We appreciate the chance to further the education of people learning about growing their own food.

2011-2012 Education Program Report



Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District's educational programs convey messages of natural resource conservation to a wide, multi-generational audience. Education Programs are made possible through the generosity of Affiliate Member donations.

- 584 County teachers participated in environmentally-themed workshops and training seminars through the SWCD. Workshops included activities from Project WILD, Leopold Education Project and Project WILD Aquatic
- 20 school classroom presentations, reaching 500 students, were delivered by Education staff
- 10 afterschool, summer camps and community group presentations on conservation were provided by Education staff, reaching 159 children
- 4 middle school students were awarded Science Fair prizes, recognizing projects on water quality and conservation
- With SWCD assistance, Brook Glenn Elementary School provided classrooms with indoor plants to improve air quality for 487 students
- The District provided a ComposTumbler and 14 worm bin composters to Greenbrier Elementary's garden club to set up a school lunch composting program, reaching 350 students throughout the year
- 64 local business owners and employees participated in water quality presentations and acted as partners in the District's storm water programs
- 3590 members of the public stopped by the SWCD's educational booths at Bark in the Park, Party for the Planet (Greenville Zoo), Greenville County Science Teachers' Association (Roper Mountain Science Center) and Earth Fest (Greenville Tech)
- 1,175 pet waste bag dispensers were given to dog owners at events throughout Greenville County
- 100 oil recycling pans were distributed through Greenville County Solid Waste Division's Recycling Centers
- 4 newsletter articles on water conservation were distributed to Homeowners' Associations
- Environmental Attitudes & Behavior survey of pet owners in association with Greenville County Recreation District was conducted
- The District sponsored Greenville Recreation District summer camp programs for children in need
- The annual essay contest had a record 455 entries this year
- District Education Program Manager, JC Ward, served as chair for the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina's conference in Greenville County

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Submitted by Lynne Newton, District Conservationist

This year has been another very productive one, as NRCS continued working with farmers and landowners in Greenville County, getting conservation on the ground, and helping people help the land. Along with providing technical assistance for erosion problems, drainage challenges and pond issues, farmers received cost-share funding from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). These funds were used to install watering tanks, construct fencing, address heavy use areas, create water bars and position three high tunnels. (In case you are wondering what a high tunnel is: it is a polyethylene covered structure with no electrical, ventilation, or heating system and is at least 6 feet in height, modifying the climate to create more favorable growing conditions for vegetable and other specialty crops grown in the natural soil beneath it.) High tunnels cover several crop rows, are wide enough to allow crop growth to full maturity under the tunnel, and are tall enough to allow spraying, cultivation and harvest to occur with the tunnel intact. Natural resource benefits from using tunnel structures include: (1) improved plant quality, (2) improved soil quality, and (3) improved water quality through methods such as reduced nutrient and pesticide transport.



High tunnel

NRCS also provides conservation planning assistance for farmers and landowners. Our staff can help you identify options that provide the greatest conservation benefit for your land. Included in your plan are your objectives and goals, aerial photographs, soils maps and soils descriptions and a schedule for applying conservation practices. If you are interested in a conservation plan or would like more information about the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) give us a call at 467-2755 ext. 108.

Fiscal Summary of Benefits to Greenville County Citizens	
Construction	\$24,317
Education	\$29,094
Money disbursed through NRCS's EQIP program	\$49,191
Total	\$102,602

Soil & Water Conservation District Staff



Pictured from left: JC Ward, Education Program Manager; Kirsten Robertson, District Manager; Katy Sides, Community Relations Coordinator

Not pictured: Linda Creel, Administrative Support

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff



Pictured from left: Chris Workman, Program Coordinator; Lynne Newton, District Conservationist; Collin Buckner, Soil Conservationist



**GREENVILLE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Greenville, SC 29601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED