

Conservation Digest



GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPRING 2010

District Engineers Work with Rivers Instead of Fighting Them

Contributed by Kirsten Robertson, District Engineer



Mountain stream in Pisgah National Forest



Course leader Dave Rosgen (center) in the field



Engineers attend Rosgen Workshop

You can't bully a river. This is a lesson I learned in the coldest part of February when I attended a week-long river course in Asheville, NC taught by Dave Rosgen, a world-renowned expert on river flow. The District has designed fish habitat using Rosgen structures in co-operation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Partners for Trout, and the Foothills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. We have enhanced trout habitat in several streams and rivers in the northern part of Greenville County. This partnership has also used Rosgen structures to slow water naturally in urban settings in the County.

The course taught fundamentals of river structure and described aquatic characteristics and stream restoration during three days in the classroom. The purpose of the course was to show how to work with the river instead of against it. When we try to bully a river into place, in many instances it will fight back. Over the years, the same "fix" will have to be implemented again and again, wasting millions of dollars.

In addition, the course included two days of field work. The syllabus warned that the field work would be undertaken no matter what the weather was, and they weren't kidding. I found myself up to my waist in a cold mountain stream in Pisgah National Forest, with four inches of snow on the ground, and a steady 37 degree rain the whole day. Having appropriate clothing and experiencing the thrill of learning something new made the day a highlight of the course, despite the weather.

The class gave me a new respect for and love of rivers. I came away with a strong grounding in the basics of rivers and an introduction to the design of structures that work with instead of fight the river. I'm looking forward to implementing my new knowledge to save money while enhancing aesthetics, improving fish habitat, and guiding the river naturally.

Here's a quote from Hal Boyle that sums up what I learned at the Rosgen course. "What makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt -- it is sure to get where it is going, and doesn't want to go anywhere else."

District Outdoor Learning Center Part of Disney's Give-a-Day Program



We are proud to announce that our Outdoor Learning Center work day has been recognized by Disney as a worthwhile volunteer opportunity! Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District is planning and installing an Outdoor Learning Center at Grove Elementary. Assistance at our big work day on March 20th will earn volunteers a free one-day pass to Disney Theme Parks. Disney is awarding one million free passes this year to participants volunteering at qualified projects. We look forward to creating a beautiful outdoor space for education.

If you would like to volunteer for the work day or other opportunities in Greenville County, please visit http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/disneyparks/en_US/WhatWillYouCelebrate/index?name=Give-A-Day-Get-A-Disney-Day.

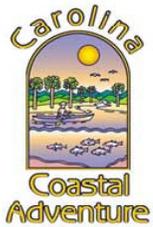
Partnership Conference 2010



The 2010 Partnership Conference included something for everyone. For participants with interests in agriculture, the Soil & Water Conservation Service hosted a workshop, which included web resources for farming naturally.

To motivate all partners to continue making positive changes for conservations, Conservation Districts and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shared exciting news. Berkeley County SWCD created blueways trails, aerial photos on GIS, and participated in the beach sweep, Horry County SWCD further developed existing land trusts, and Pickens County SWCD implemented a new mobile irrigation lab. DNR is sponsoring two Natural Resource Schools in Kershaw and Pickens counties to encourage children to get outdoors.

All conference attendees were encouraged to meet with their county and state legislators. Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District has already been working on this, meeting with each County Council member to express appreciation for their support and to inform them of the important work we do throughout the county.



Seven Students Sponsored for CCA



*Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2009 Participants
(Left to Right:) JC Ward, Counselor; Dillard Robertson; Kristen Chester; Brandon Larmore;
Nishea Hutley; Talia Young; Travis Calhoun; Peyton Drummond*

This Fall, the Greenville Conservation District selected seven lucky students to participate in the Carolina Coastal Adventure (CCA).

The Berkeley County Soil & Water Conservation District hosts CCA at the Santee Cooper Somerset Facility in Moncks Corner each year. Students from all of the 46 conservation districts across South Carolina attended. The group from Greenville County was the largest delegation from a single county.

The ninth and tenth graders were treated to a weekend on the coast, where they learned about marine wildlife, coastal environments, and water quality issues.

CCA also featured interactive educational experiences at Cypress Gardens and leisurely afternoon canoeing in Old Santee Canal Park. Students particularly enjoyed cast-net fishing and trawling the ocean aboard the Department of Natural Resources' Discovery vessel. A bonfire on the banks of Lake Moultrie capped off the weekend as our delegates said goodbye to new friends.

Greenville County also sent two counselors from the Upstate, DNR's Ken Forrester, an experienced CCA'er, and the District's JC Ward, a first-time counselor.



Students enjoy the Cypress Gardens Swamp Tour



Kayaking was a highlight for the kids

School Programs

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District reached a record number of students in Greenville County during the 2009-2010 school year! The School District allows staff from GCSWCD to present interactive, educational experiences to children of all ages as part of their cooperative agreement with Greenville County.

Historically, the GCSWCD has offered a soils class and a water quality class for area schools. In 2009, JC Ward, District Education Program Manager, developed new classes for each grade, which meet the South Carolina Standards for Science. This year, 62 new classes were led by JC, which amounts to 1,860 students reached by the GCSWCD's message of natural resource conservation. The new classes have led to some interesting educational opportunities, such as participation in Science Day and features on school internet blogs.

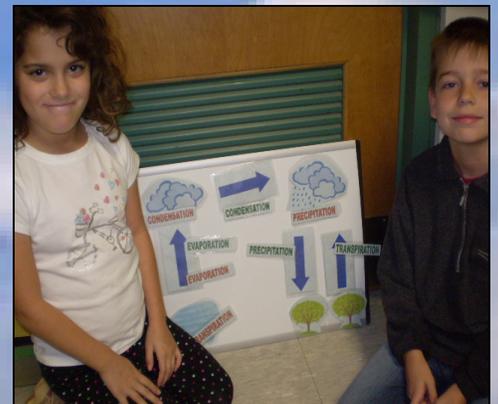
GCSWCD is proud of the overwhelming, positive responses from students, teachers and administrators!



Chinese Mystery Snails are a featured guest in classes. These snails eat algae & keep water clean for other animals.



Heritage Elementary students discover how their choices impact water quality through Enviro-scape presentations.



Class volunteers race to label the water cycle. These winners worked with classmates to achieve victory.

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Action Essay Contest

2009-2010

NEW Conservation Action Essay Contest!



- ◆ Open to students in 6th to 12th grade in teams of 2 to 4
- ◆ Awards are granted by grade-level: 6-8th; 9-10th; & 11-12th
- ◆ Students select a conservation issue to explore and take action to help our planet
- ◆ The conservation action or observation must be for a period of at least 2 months
- ◆ All projects must consist of a hands-on field study or observational component and a written summary of the project
- ◆ Write-ups of projects are due by March 31, 2010
- ◆ Technical assistance is available through the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District

Cash Prizes awarded

1st place team per category—\$150

2nd place team per category—\$100

3rd place team per category—\$50

For complete rules and helpful hints for student projects, please contact the Education Department at 864-467-2755 ext. 103 or e-mail jcward@greenvillecounty.org

Homeowners' Association Materials Available



Greenville County has been working to identify the major source of water pollution in local waters. Choices that we make every day impact the quality of our water. In an effort to educate the public on sources of water pollution, GCSWCD developed a series of presentations, brochures and newsletter articles for Homeowners' Associations (HOA's).

If you or your HOA is interested in scheduling a presentation or receiving educational materials, please contact the Education Department at 467-2755 ext. 103 or jcward@greenvillecounty.org.

The following materials are available:

Reduced cost pet waste bag dispensers and educational signs.

Presentations and brochures on 'Scoop the Poop' (pet waste pollution), 'Stop the Drop' (pest goose waste pollution) and 'Detention and Retention Pond Maintenance'.

A variety of articles on water pollution suitable for newsletters or HOA board updates.



Save the Date!!!

EEASC Conference 2010

June 11-13, 2010

The Environmental Education Association of South Carolina’s (EEASC) conference returns to the Midlands of South Carolina! Come out for FUN while you increase your ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY. Join with to take your “Awareness to Action”.



Improve your environmental literacy and green IQ with workshops and sessions that may include Project Learning Tree, the new National Environmental Education Guidelines, Green Steps, Leopold Education Project, and “Greening the Education Fields”. Also, enjoy kayaking local rivers, scoping out the River Walk, participating in live and silent auctions, and attending the annual awards banquet. Family-oriented outdoor activities will also be provided at free or reduced costs.

EEASC—Questions? [Contact us!](#)

www.eeinsc.org

Joshua Castleberry, MEERM

Phone: (803) 778-6601

Fax: (803) 778-7879

E-mail: castleberryjs@cctech.edu

Multi-cultural Approach to Protect Water Quality



Si lo tira, se lo toma: "You dump it, you drink it" is the Environmental Protection Agency's recycle motor oil campaign's theme. Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager, Kirsten Robertson, represented the District at Hispanic Day on the campus of Furman University.

Spanish-language educational materials and bumper stickers were distributed along with 50 recycled motor oil pans. These pans safely transport used motor oil from homes to recycling centers. Dumping used motor oil or allowing it to drain into storm drains pollutes the waters of Greenville County. Recycling the oil is a great way to keep Greenville's waters clean.

District Staff & Partners

Linda Creel, GCSWCD Administrative Assistant
Gene Dobbins, GCSWCD District Engineer
Kirsten Robertson, GCSWCD District Manager
JC Ward, GCSWCD Education Program Manager
Silica Larkin, GCSWCD Education Intern

Hollis Berry, NRCS Soil Technician
Collin Buckner, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Lynne Newton, NRCS District Conservationist

Ken Forrester, SC DNR Program Coordinator

Affiliate Memberships sponsor Education Programs



To become a member of the Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District, fill out the form below and return it with your **tax deductible** gift. Donations help the District send teens to Carolina Coastal Adventure, 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 a 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** **\$35**

Please make checks payable to Greenville County Soil & Water.

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

**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

Renewable Water Resources

Friend – \$500

Strange Brothers Grading Co., Inc.

Sustaining – \$150

AgSouth Farm Credit

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative

Caliber Engineering Consultants, LLC

Farm Bureau of Greenville

McCall Environmental

Associate – \$100

Dobbins Engineering, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle

Dr. William Gressette

Dr. & Mrs. Rob Hanley

Butch & Diane Kirven

Pecan Dale Farmstead

Rogers, J.L. & Calcott Engineers, Inc.

Charles & Martha Wright

Contributing - \$50

Bob & Claire Bradbery

John & Teresia Case

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Howard Farms

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J. Randall & Pat Wynn

Regular – \$35

Bob Jones University

Cely Construction

Danny Howard

North Greenville University

Melvin Pace, Pace Building Co.

In-kind Donors

Dr. John Hains

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