

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report



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2014



Our 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:

- Urban and Land Use Planning
- Conservation Awareness
- Sustainable Agriculture

District Commissioners

Danny Howard, Darrell Harrison, Claire Bradbery, Dr. Rob Hanley, Ed Nabers
 Treasurer Commissioner Vice-Chairman Chairman Commissioner



Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District
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A Message from the Chairman

The Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District celebrated 75 years of service to Greenville County this year. Our annual banquet, held each year in May, included a summary of achievements the District has accomplished since its creation in 1939.

From working with our federal and state partners to put conservation practices 'on the ground' to educating county residents on how to keep our rivers and streams clean, we continue to encourage and assist land owners with protecting our natural resources.

One significant event this year was the passage of the 2014 federal Farm Bill. This legislation assists agricultural producers to undertake voluntary programs that benefit both the producer and the environment.

Financial and technical assistance can be obtained through the Farm Bill programs; Environmental Quality Improvement Projects, Conservation Stewardship, and Agricultural Management Assistance.

The Regional Conservation Partner Program, which is new to the Farm Bill, leverages federal dollars with resources from partnering organizations. The District is supporting a Regional Conservation Partner Program proposal that is currently under review.

Our staff keep busy providing technical assistance to county residents, implementing a septic tank improvement program in the Middle Saluda River basin, and supporting Greenville County with storm water public education and outreach.

Some staff accomplishments include visits to many area schools, working with Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations, the introduction of a Pollution Prevention Workshop Series, coordinating with community groups to plant several rain gardens in underserved neighborhoods, and assisting the Conestee Nature Preserve.

We invite you to drop by our office in County Square. Better yet, visit us on the internet at www.greenvillesoilandwater.com, or friend us on Facebook.

Yours in conservation,

Rob Hanley
Chair



District Activities



Poop Fairy Campaign Fans



Community Pollinator/Herb Gardens Planted by Volunteers



District Vehicle All Dressed Up



"Conservation Conversation" Segment on Your Carolina



Dr. Hanley Thanks Interns Jordan Kessee and Maddi Phillips



NRCS AGRI+CULTURE Movie



Trout Release in the Saluda



Team Yucky Ducky at the Duck Derby



Getting Ready to Play Stormwater Plinko!



"Build Your Own Tumbling Composter" Workshop



General Yucky Ducky & Fans



Certified Rain Garden Professionals!

From the District Manager's Desk...

Staff

The District had big changes this year with staff. JC Ward and Katy Sides left their positions in the Education Program, and we wish them well in their respective journeys. They did a fantastic job getting the new and improved stormwater education program flying.

In January, we hired Lynn Pilewski as Education Program Coordinator and Kristen Henry as Community Relations Coordinator. We are thrilled to have them! They hit the ground running and are continuing to reach out in inventive and exciting ways to educate about stormwater pollution and about our new initiative in teaching about the origins of our food. We are continually amazed at their creativity and energy.



Kirsten Robertson
District Manager

Grants

The Greenville County SWCD participated in several grant efforts this year.

- We administered an EPA 319 grant to repair/replace septic tanks in the Middle Saluda Watershed in northern Greenville County.
- We participated in an EPA 319 grant for the Pacolet watershed for septic tanks and agricultural conservation practices in partnership with Spartanburg County.
- We supported a three year Conservation Innovation grant at Pecan Dale Farmstead through NRCS for drought resistance planning for goat and sheep farmers.
- Kitchen Herb/Pollinator Gardens were planted at four homes in the Judson Community using SEEA Grant funds. In addition, two community rain gardens were installed at Judson Community Garden and Happy Hearts Community Center with help from the residents of the communities and the Greenville Evening Rotary club.

Technical Assistance

- Engineer met one-on-one with 90 residents to give technical advice on erosion, drainage, sinkholes, and streambank stabilization.
- The Every Drop Counts Irrigation Check program, sponsored by the district, performed free irrigation analysis for farmers and homeowners.
- We maintained 9 dams in the county to help alleviate flooding in the Huff Creek, South Tyger River, and Rabon Creek watersheds.
- We partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help multiple farmers with conservation practices in the county through cost-share grants.

We look forward to another great year of serving Greenville County residents!

Affiliate Membership

Since 1971, citizens, businesses and educational institutions in Greenville County have donated tax deductible gifts to the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District. The District uses affiliate member funds to provide a wide variety of environmental education programs, demonstration projects and outdoor learning opportunities.

District education programs reach students of all ages, classroom teachers, informal educators, pet owners, homeowners, farmers, contractors, members of the public and elected officials.

We need your help to continue these important programs!

- Awards for elementary & middle school students for essays written on natural resource conservation topics
- Sponsorship of high school students to attend Envirothon and Governors' Institute for Natural Resource Education
- Workshops for educators in Project WILD, Project WET and Leopold Education Project
- Classroom programs for Greenville County elementary schools, reaching hundreds of students each year
- Interactive exhibit displays at area events, fairs, and Earth Day celebrations
- Funding for Outdoor Learning Centers, community rain garden projects and school-based conservation programs

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Affiliate Members

Educators

Strange Brothers Grading Company, Inc.
Darrell & Georgia Harrison

Patrons

Ashmore Bros. Inc.
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Caliber Engineering Consultants, LLC
Farm Bureau (Greenville County)
Hyatt Regency Greenville
Eugene C. McCall, Jr.
Ed & Judy Nabers
Padula's Plants and Gardens
John W. Parris
Pecan Dale Farmstead

Supporters

AgSouth Farm Credit
Arbor Engineering, Inc.
Pat Jenkins, P.E.
Butch & Diane Kirven
Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.
In Memory of Ben & Kathryn Leonard
Rogers & Callcott Environmental

Contributors

Bob & Claire Bradbery
Dennis & Judy DeFrancesco
Mrs. Vance Drawdy
Mrs. Evelyn L. Earle

75 Anniversary of the District



Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District celebrates its 75th Anniversary this fall. As a special way to remember our history, we put together an art piece with photos of District activities over the years. The large photo in the center was taken in 1939, the year that the District was founded. Surrounding images tell the history of conservation in Greenville County.

For Their Support

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle
Jim & Beverly Fogle
David & April Gible, Blueberry Hill
William N. Gressette, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hanley
Dr. David L. Hargett
Danny & Nan Howard
Ted V. Howie
Howard Farms
Grady & Mary Rose Jones
Dr. Walter McPhail
Lynne Newton
Fred & Kay Payne
Gary & Fran Richardson
SynTerra
Paul Wickensimer
J. Randall & Pat Wynn

Forever Friends

North Greenville University
Melvin Pace, Pace Building Company

2014 Banquet Sponsors

The Commerce Club
Greenville Rotary Evening Duck Derby
Golden Corner Barn Quilts
Hyatt Regency Greenville
Nature Walk Photography

Education Report

In Greenville County and Beyond...

- Education total reach for the year was **2,798,664** citizens.
- A new website was set up at YuckyDucky.com to focus attention on our stormwater campaign mascot. This website was filled with educational materials and continues to grow each month. We have also introduced PoopFairy.info for pet waste related information.
- **The Yucky Ducky Show** video was produced this year, educating on proper disposal of yard waste. This video has been shown on YouTube as well as linked to digital campaigns at WSPA and FoxCarolina, which received over 1,400,000 total impressions.
- Almost 15,000 members of the public stopped by educational booths at Duck Derby, Southern Home and Garden Show, Earth Day Fairs at Michelin, Party for the Planet, Yappy Hour, and Park Hop.
- Our "There is No Poop Fairy" campaign was adopted by Albuquerque, NM and Corpus Christie, TX.
- Education Staff (and General Yucky Ducky) make monthly appearances on WSPA's **Your Carolina**, teaching about pet waste and stormwater pollution.
- Lynn Pilewski and Kristen Henry are now Certified Residential Rain Garden Professionals.



Children run the Poop-Stacle Course to learn about the proper way to dispose of pet waste.

School Programs

- With GCSWCD assistance, Slater-Marietta Elementary School continued their Trout in the Classroom project and trout release.
- Five middle school students were awarded science fair prizes for projects relating to soil and water conservation.
- Our annual essay contest had 252 entries from 8 schools. Twelve winners were chosen from grades 5 through 8.
- Education Staff made presentations at 9 schools, teaching 400+ children about pollution prevention. An additional 400 students were taught about growing beans at Party for the Planet at the Greenville Zoo.

Community Outreach

- Pet waste stations were delivered to apartment complexes and to Animal Care, and Scoop the Poop signs were provided to citizens/groups.
- We partnered with Greenville Evening Rotary on the Duck Derby event, reaching almost 10,000 people with our messaging on stormwater pollutants.
- In partnership with Greenville Evening Rotary, Trees Greenville, and CITY Initiative, community rain gardens were planted at Happy Hearts Community and the Judson Community.
- Compost Bins were installed at Carolina High School and Happy Hearts Community Center in partnership with Keep Greenville County Beautiful.
- 1455 pet waste bag dispensers were distributed throughout Greenville County to dog owners.
- Presentations were made at 3 HOAs and 2 community groups educating on stormwater pollutants, reaching 180 participants.



District vehicle wrapped with educational messages

Community Outreach

Kristen Henry, Community Outreach Coordinator

Maddi Phillips, Conservation Outreach Assistant

The education department has been hard at work in the community teaching about the effects of stormwater runoff and pollution on our local waterways. Using a combination of educational materials, interactive games and activities, and promotional items, the staff has been engaging the community on the importance of stormwater pollution prevention.

2014 annual events have included the spring and fall Southern Home and Garden show to highlight yard waste; Waggin' at the Waterpark (Greenville Parks and Rec) and Yappy Hour (Noma Square) to highlight pet waste; a series of Earth Day events; a Yucky Ducky Kids Club Summer Park Tour; and several local television appearances and radio ads.

Our Pollution Prevention Workshop Series kicked off in September. Featured workshops include DIY Tumbling Composters, Rain Gardens, and Rain Water Harvesting with Rain Barrels.

Staff made many presentations at local HOA/NA meetings to promote educational campaigns and other services offered by GCSWCD.

BY THE NUMBERS



K-12 Programs

Lynn Pilewski, Education Program Coordinator

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a wide range of curriculum options to Greenville County school children.

Our annual photography contest kicks off this fall. Along with our spring essay competition, these programs educate kids on conservation issues.

Teachers are able to schedule staff for classroom presentations on stormwater and "Connecting Kids to the Land". There is even an assembly option featuring General Yucky Ducky himself!



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

From left: Chris Workman, Program Coordinator, Lynne Newton, District Conservationist, Collin Buckner, Soil Conservationist



Soil and Water Conservation District Staff

From left: Lynn Pilewski, Education Program Coordinator, Kirsten Robertson, District Manager, Kristen Henry, Community Relations Coordinator, Maddi Phillips, Conservation Assistant, (Not Pictured) Linda Creel, Administrative Support

Staff Directory

Kirsten Robertson
Linda Creel
Lynn Pilewski
Kristen Henry
Lynne Newton
Collin Buckner
Chris Workman

District Manager
Administrative Support
Education Program Coordinator
Community Relations Coordinator
NRCS District Conservationist
NRCS Soil Conservationist
DNR Program Coordinator

Extension 110
Extension 111
Extension 103
Extension 117
Extension 108
Extension 115
Extension 109

NRCS Update

Lynne Newton, District Conservationist

The local food movement is growing in the upstate and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is here to help our farmers meet the demand by improving the resources on their farms.

We provide technical and cost share assistance to farmers to address resource concerns such as soil health, water quality or erosion on their farms and timberland.

This past year, farmers installed high tunnels, micro irrigation, watering tanks, pipeline, heavy use areas, wells, fencing, applied brush control of invasive species, herbaceous weed control and planted trees. They also installed bee boxes and planted pollinator habitat.



High tunnel in practice



Bee Box at
Lake Conestee Nature Park



Pollinator Meadows improve habitat for bees and other insects and birds beneficial to our crops

These practices and many more are eligible for cost share funding through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive program.

Please give us a call and we will be glad to visit your farm to develop a conservation plan and work with you to better your farm.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

Save the date for these District events that will be happening over the next several months! Stay tuned for more information!

2014

Cruise-In at the Square
Rain Garden Workshop

October 18
December 5

2015

Southern Home and Garden Show
Rain Barrel Workshop
Earth Day
Reedy River Duck Derby
GCSWCD Spring Gala Luau

Early March
March 20
April 22
May 2
May 14