



# Conservation Digest

GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WINTER 2010-2011



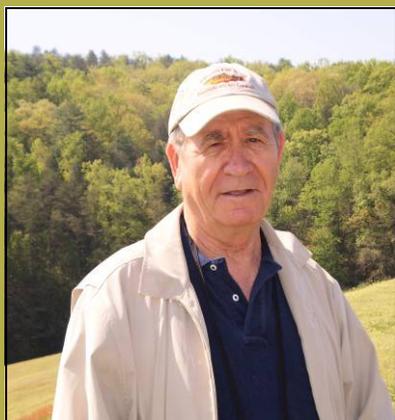
# Renewed Enthusiam on the Commission



*Dr. Robert Hanley, Chairman  
Marine biologist*



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



*Darrell Harrison, Commissioner  
Earth Team volunteer with NRCS*

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome three returning Commissioners to their volunteer positions. Both Chairman Rob Hanley and Secretary/Treasurer Danny Howard were re-elected in the general elections by Greenville County residents for a four-year term of office. In addition, Darrell Harrison, who is appointed by the SC Department of Natural Resources, has been re-appointed this year. All three have served the Commission and the County skillfully throughout their respective tenures. We look forward to a bright future for the District with their capable involvement.

Commissioners serve as volunteers and meet monthly to hear reports on conservation work in the County and direct the actions of the District for ongoing and long-range projects. The Commissioners also make decisions on project funding. During their volunteer hours, Greenville County Commissioners also represent the District at state-wide meetings on resource conservation and tour area farms. Three are elected in the general election for four-year terms and two are appointed by recommendation of the Commission and final approval by SC DNR.

A new election year always brings renewed enthusiasm, and we look forward to more great things from these dedicated Commissioners. Congratulations to all and welcome back!

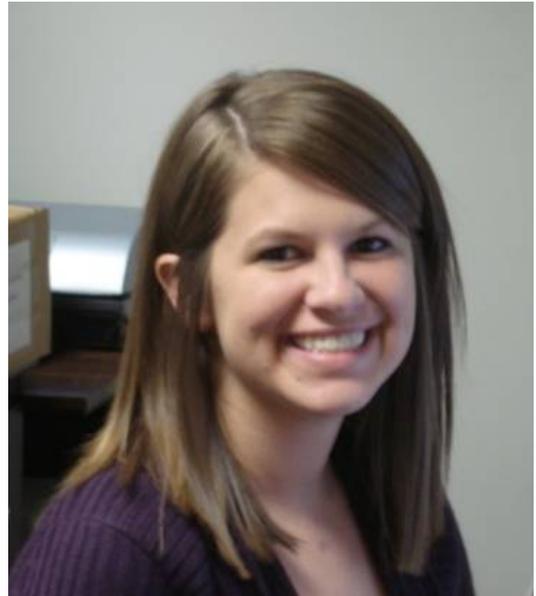


*Commission Field Tour to Table Rock Reservoir in 2010  
Pictured from left: Commissioner Darrell Harrison,  
Commissioner David Gibble, Secretary/Treasurer Danny  
Howard, and Vice-Chairman Claire Bradbery*

# NRCS welcomes new intern, Heather Coleman

*The Greenville NRCS field office is pleased to welcome its newest intern, Heather Coleman, a student at Clemson University. Heather will be working with the Greenville office through May 2011 and contributed the following background information so our members and friends can get to know her a little better.*

About 220 miles separate the Greenville County Square building and where I call home: Dillon, SC. I've lived all 22 years there and have deep roots in the agricultural community. My great-grandfather farmed, my grandfather farmed, and now my daddy farms. We have a little over 300 acres of wheat, corn and soybeans. My father also has his own custom spraying business. He is a Commissioner on the Dillon Soil & Water Conservation District Commission. Needless to say, I have a solid background in farming.



I am currently a senior at Clemson University, majoring in Agricultural Education, and will graduate in May. I selected the Ag Ed major because I wanted to teach, but quickly realized I was not cut out for the classroom. While researching careers in the Extension service, I came across the internship with NRCS. I started last summer in the Dillon field office but since it was time to get back to school, I was transferred to the Greenville field office. I was told that it would be a completely different experience and after being here for a week, I found out that is true. There are a lot of differences between the two counties, such as size of the counties, number of farmers and what is farmed.

This will be a great opportunity to see a whole new side of NRCS, learn even more aspects of the job, meet new people who contribute to the Greenville field office, and see what else the agency can offer people in the Upstate.





# YOU DUMP IT, YOU DRINK IT

## USED MOTOR OIL CONTAMINATES OUR WATER

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR USED MOTOR OIL. CALL 1-800-CLEANUP TO FIND OUT WHERE.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill dominated worldwide media for several months. Reports of damage caused by the Exxon Valdez still make headlines 22 years later. However, most oil pollution doesn't happen in major, newsworthy events. Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in lakes, streams, and rivers. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into the nation's waters. This is 16 times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska!

Used motor oil spilled during do-it-yourself oil changes or leaked from vehicles seeps into the ground, contaminates drinking water, and can find its way to some waterways through rain runoff. A single quart of motor oil that seeps into groundwater can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. The 3 to 4 quarts of oil that most car engines hold have the potential to pollute more than 100 miles of waterway, causing death of waterfowl and aquatic life, and water plants that are vital to the natural ecosystem's health.

Oil is tough for an ecosystem to break down because it doesn't dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers. Oil and petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife, and plants.

Greenville County is ready to help! Solid Waste Division recycles used motor oil at several locations throughout the County. The Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District and Land Development Division partnered with Solid Waste this year to distribute educational information and oil recycling pans to Greenville County residents. We can all be part of the solution to pollution!

### Clean Water Tips: How can you maintain your vehicle and keep waters clean?

- Check for oil leaks from your vehicle regularly and fix them promptly
- Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or into a ditch. For disposal tips, contact Greenville County Solid Waste Division.
- Recycle used motor oil. For more information on recycling, visit [www.greenvillecounty.org](http://www.greenvillecounty.org)
- Buy recycled oil to use in your car
- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work
- Clean up spills, drips and leaks

## 2011 Essay Contest:



Open to 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

In honor of the International Year of Forests, the 2011 Essay Contest theme is “**Forests for People: More than you can imagine!**” We want to connect people to the forest whether they have one in their back yard, in their state or no forests at all.

### Contest Rules:

The essay topic for this year is “Forests for People: More than you can imagine!”

Essay should be 350-400 words for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 600-750 words for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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. **What is a forest?**
2. **Are forests important? Why?**
3. **What is forest management? Why are forests managed?**
4. **What connection do people have to the forest?**
5. **How can you protect forests?**
6. **In South Carolina, who protects forests?**

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

**Deadline: 5:00 PM on Friday, February 18, 2011**

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](mailto:jcward@greenvillecounty.org)

# In Memory of Eugene "Gene" Dobbins



Thomas Eugene Dobbins, Agricultural Engineer for the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District, passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Gene was born in Townville, South Carolina and graduated from Townville High School and Clemson University. Conservation was always a vital part of his life. He was active in 4-H and FFA Livestock projects throughout high school and college. During his career, Gene served as Assistant State Conservation Engineer and as a Professional Engineer. He retired from the Natural Resource Conservation Service after 38 years of service and continued to work with Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District as an engineer. Mr. Dobbins served as an integral team member for many GCSWCD projects, including the Long Branch Baptist Church greenway, Lake Conestee project, and numerous Partners for Trout habitat restorations.

Gene was also committed to helping his fellow man. He and his wife, Nancy, served as foster parents for 30 years, caring for more than 100 children. Mr. Dobbins was a member of Hepsibah Baptist Church in Seneca and was a former member of Townville Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon and Sunday School Director. He was committed to helping others in every way possible. The Soil & Water Conservation District extends its deepest sympathy to the entire Dobbins family. Gene will be greatly missed.

## District Staff & Partners

Linda Creel, GCSWCD Administrative Assistant  
Kirsten Robertson, GCSWCD District Manager  
JC Ward, GCSWCD Education Program Manager

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

# 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 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**       **\$35**

*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 a trout habitat enhancement project. The sunken logs running horizontally across the lower part of the picture are strategically placed to provide overhead cover for aquatic wildlife.*

**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 Gibble • 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*

**Friend – \$500**

*Strange Brothers Grading Co., Inc.*

**Donor – \$200**

*Pecan Dale Farmstead*

**Sustaining – \$150**

*AgSouth Farm Credit*

*Ashmore Brothers, Inc.*

*Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative*

*Farm Bureau of Greenville County*

*McCall Environmental*

**Associate – \$100**

*Butch & Diane Kirven*

*Pat Jenkins, P.E.*

*Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

*Rogers & Callcott Engineers*

**Contributing - \$50**

*Bob & Claire Bradbery*

*Dennis & Judy DeFrancesco*

*Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle*

*Hayes Food Products*

*Howard Farms*

*Grady M. & Mary Rose Jones*

*Lynne Newton*

*Paul Wickensimer*

*J. Randall & Pat Wynn*

**Regular – \$35**

*Joe M. Barron, P.E.*

*Bob Jones University*

*Dr. William Gressette*

*Danny & Nan Howard*

*North Greenville University*

*Melvin Pace, Pace Building Company*

**In-kind Donors**

*Dr. John Hains*

*South Carolina Native Plant Society*

*TreesGreenville*

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