



Conservation Digest

GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPRING 2013



2013 Banquet Keynote Speaker: Tradd Cotter



*Keynote Speaker: Tradd Cotter
Owner, Mushroom Mountain*

Tradd Cotter, founder of Mushroom Mountain, recently moved his laboratory and growing operation to Liberty, South Carolina, at the base of the fungal-rich Appalachian Mountains. He has been studying the art of identifying and cultivating mushrooms for over 20 years in the Southeast. Currently he is actively researching relationships between bacteria and fungi as well as developing methods for studying quorum sensing for interkingdom interactions. Tradd's foundation in commercial cultivation has evolved into a wide-spectrum of applications for bioremediation, perpetual food systems, natural pesticides, and recycling strategies to improve the local and global quality of life not just for humans, but for all the organisms with whom we share planet Earth. The research farm and laboratory are currently testing many natural products and processes that will have a profound effect on the reversal of environmental damage and lead planetary stewardship by example.

Tradd lectures and consults throughout the country on mushroom cultivation, recycling and composting with fungi, waste stream reduction and capture, mycoremediation, and the benefits of understanding and expanding our positive relationships with the natural world around us.

Tradd and his wife Olga are actively involved with educational programs and workshops, spreading the knowledge and benefits of mushrooms at a viral pace by maintaining a vigorous lecturing and travelling schedule all over the U.S. Tradd will be releasing his first publication, "Organic Mushroom Cultivation and Mycoremediation for Everyone" in August 2013.

2013 Urban Conservationist of the Year: City of Travelers Rest



Dianna Turner
City Administrator, City of
Travelers Rest



Mayor Wayne McCall
City of Travelers Rest



Chief Lance Crowe
Travelers Rest
Police Department

The City of Travelers Rest has been selected as the **2013 Urban Conservationist of the Year** by the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District. The City transformed Buncombe Road Park and greenways; is dedicated to litter prevention programs; supports recreation on the Swamp Rabbit Trail; developed a pedestrian-friendly downtown; and encourages numerous outdoor recreation opportunities.

Adopted by City Council in November 2006, the "Downtown Revitalization" plan was started to create "elements" in Travelers Rest such as:

- Points of Interest
- Branding Concepts
- Streetscape
- Buncombe Road Park
- Infill and Redevelopment



These revitalization efforts have been a resounding success, with new businesses opening, even in a struggling economy. Existing businesses have also had remarkable increases in their sales as well, resulting from additional parking, easier access, and the popularity of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. The City of Travelers Rest engages the community through outreach and support of numerous public education projects.

Elected officials and staff of the City of Travelers Rest, thank you for your investment in our future!

Conservation Education Teacher of the Year:

Tracey Carney



Ms. Tracey Carney, middle school science teacher at Sterling School, is the 2013 Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Carney independently developed a series of hands-on environmental science projects for her students. Tracey's students use the nearby Sliding Rock Creek Park as a kind of laboratory, to incorporate the real world into the science curriculum. They perform chemical analysis of the water in the creek to see for themselves the role that plants play in fighting pollution and to explore the creek's denizens from microorganisms to crayfish.

Additionally, Ms. Carney and her students will be engaging area residents in their projects. "They're going to be working with the community, planning meetings and sharing their data," says Carney.

Studies in the park will focus on native plants to determine those that work best in the creek's ecosystem. Results will be featured in a large display in Sterling School. A model of the park with acrylic panels will allow all students in the school to keep track of each section of the park for years to come.

Tracey Carney's innovative, inquiry-based projects benefit the local environment, community and her students.

Congratulations, Ms. Carney and Sterling School!

2013 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year: Arthur "Mickey" Fisher Granjammer's Farm

Submitted by Arthur "Mickey" Fisher



Arthur "Mickey" Fisher accepts the award at the 2013 Awards Banquet

When our grandchildren were in early elementary school, they came for a visit and found their grandmother in the kitchen making jam. "What are you doing?" they asked. "Making jam," she replied. They exclaimed, "Well, that makes you a Granjammer doesn't it!" From that day forward, they have called her Granjammer.

Following retirement in 2001, after 46 years as a pastor, we moved into our home in Greer and became farmers. We purchased the house, built in 1910, and 14 acres of land in 1978, but needed to decide what to do with the land. At a six-week Clemson workshop, a professor declared, "Any idiot can grow blueberries." We opted to test that statement. We would grow blueberries!



We put our first 300 plants in the ground in 2002 and chose to operate under the name Granjammer's to honor the grandchildren. Today we have more than 1,800 blueberry plants and 200 blackberry plants. To claim more useable land, we added a high tunnel with a grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency and cut terraces into a steep bank.

With additional workshops and conferences through Clemson Extension, consultations with established farmers, counsel from nursery operators, the mentorship of Robert Jackson and countless hours working the crops, Granjammer's has earned a favorable reputation for high quality fruits and vegetables. We currently supply blueberries to farmers' markets in Charlotte, Spartanburg and Greenville.

This year marks the beginning of our second decade of farming. It has been a wonderfully rewarding journey. We have learned a lot, made some great new friends and gained confidence that we can be a reliable supplier of quality farm products. Our latest project is the construction of a roadside stand in the Greer community, which will be ready for the 2013 harvest.



2013 Essay Contest Winners



"Every single year, at least 75% of us, humans throw our trash on the streets, and that affects the watershed." -

Daniel Dimitrov, 5th Grade



Fifth Grade Essay Contest Winners

(Pictured Left to Right)

Daniel Dimitrov, *Mitchell Road Elementary*

Brandon Cisneros, *Monarch Elementary*

Alli Pauley, *Monarch Elementary*

Ms. Sara Roe—Teacher, *Monarch Elementary*

Not Pictured:

Madison Merkel, *Monarch Elementary*

Ms. Mindy Lyons—Teacher, *Mitchell Rd. Elementary*

"The word 'watershed' comes from the German 'wasserscheide', meaning a division or separation of waters." -

Alli Pauley, 5th Grade

2013 Essay Contest Winners

"Some forms of pollution can be difficult to isolate and control, such as failing septic systems, parking lots, construction sites, irrigation systems and drainage systems. It's important to educate yourself and others and encourage them to get involved and take action to help save our watersheds." -

Reggie Campbell, Jr., 6th Grade

Sixth Grade Essay Contest Winners

(Pictured Left to Right)

Jannie Pinckney, *Mauldin Middle School*
Madeline Lane, *Mauldin Middle School*
Ms. Debbi Long—Teacher, *Mauldin Middle*
Tori Hartman, *Mauldin Middle School*
Reggie Campbell, Jr., *Mauldin Middle School*



"All living things live in a watershed so whatever they do affects the environment, even if they don't live near water, they will affect the watershed and the quality of the water that animals, plants and humans depend on.." -

Kevin Kerr, 7th Grade

Seventh Grade Essay Contest Winners

(Pictured Left to Right)

Ms. Allison Wilder—Teacher, *Hillcrest Middle*
Ms. Sara Austin—Teacher, *Hillcrest Middle*
Jason Bise, *Hillcrest Middle School*
Erin Boyd, *Hillcrest Middle School*
Kevin Kerr, *Riverside Middle School*

Not Pictured:

Cody David, *Hillcrest Middle School*
Ms. Cindy Woody—Teacher, *Riverside Middle*

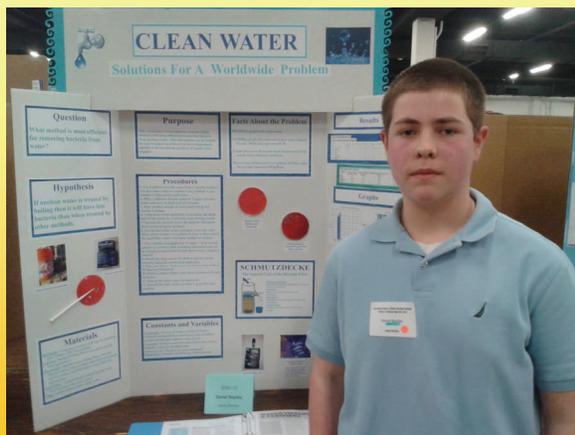




Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes

Outstanding Science Fair Projects

Each year, Roper Mountain Science Center and the South Carolina Academy of Science showcase middle and high school projects in the Regional Science Fair. In March 2013, the TD Convention Center housed the independent research of more than 200 local teen scientists. Of those entries, four outstanding middle school projects were selected as the SWCD's special award winners. Our congratulations go out to each participant as well as our award winners!



Daniel Bayliss

“Clean Water: Solutions for a Worldwide Problem”

Daniel's project examined the effectiveness of a variety of water treatments to improve water quality by removing or eliminating bacterial contamination. Of the treatments he examines, Daniel was able to determine that boiling water is the most effective in eliminating harmful bacterial contamination.



Audrey Dods "Soil Showdown"

Audrey demonstrated which type of soil was most effective for plant growth in this region. Audrey took soil samples from her yard to determine its composition. She then compared the growth rate of the same plant seeds in clay, sand, mulch and loam soils. Clay, in fact, did not grow plants as well as other soil types.

Olivia Kilton "Think Before You Drink"

Olivia investigated the level of water contamination for coliform bacterial pollution in waters available in and around Greenville County. Her project used water samples from rainwater harvesting rain barrels, tap water and local lakes. Olivia measured quantities of actual pollutants in the samples involved in the study.



Heather Thompson "Caution! No Swimming"

Heather was curious about which river in Greenville County would have the safest, cleanest water. She harvested water from the Reedy River, Enoree River and Saluda River to evaluate in her project. Heather considered measurements of bacteria levels and pH in all rivers in her study.



Education Booths featured in Greenville County Celebrations

Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District employees and partners toured the county this Spring to bring the public interactive educational booths and exhibits. Our booths were featured at numerous Earth Day events, Greenville Recreation District activities, Friends of Lake Robinson Day and pet adoptions at Greenville County Animal Care. Our pollution prevention message was spread to more than 6,400 citizens of Greenville County at educational booths.



Duck Derby 2013 featured our Yucky Duckies for the first time in a mini race. Intern, Caley DeGroot, and Community Relations Coordinator, Katy Sides, man the derby booth.



United Way volunteer assists Education Program Manager, JC Ward, and Katy Sides at the Week of the Young Child booth.



Visitors to Greenville Rec.'s 'Super Saturday' booth studying the Enviro-scape pollution model.



'Every Drop Counts' Program Director, Anne Haueter, presented water conservation messages at five Earth Day events this year.



JC and Katy remind pet owners to "Scoop the Poop" to keep pet waste out of local water at a Greenville County Animal Care adopt-a-thon.



Katy presents water quality information in front of the lion exhibit at the Greenville Zoo's Party for the Planet.

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,

Front Cover: This edition's front cover picture is from Lake Conestee Nature Park following a large rainstorm and was submitted by Dr. Dave Hargett, Executive Director of Conestee Foundation.

**GREENVILLE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
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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 • Ed Nabers

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

Friend – \$500

Strange Brothers Grading Co., Inc.

Supporting – \$300

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

Ed & Judy Nabers

Pecan Dale Farmstead

Associate – \$100

Hayes Food Products

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Laurens Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Dr. Walter McPhail

Lynne Newton

Fred & Kay Payne

SynTerra

Paul Wickensimer

J. Randall & Pat Wynn

Regular – \$35

North Greenville University

Melvin Pace, Pace Building Company

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