

Conservation conversation

Protect Our Pollinators!

Birds, bees and bats work hard to keep food on your table and flowers all around. Learn how you can do your part to keep them healthy and happy.

Page 10

Science Fair Winners

Page 4

Essay Contest Winners

Page 5



Conservation District Awards

Pages 8 & 9

Meet Our New Education Staff

Page 3

General Yucky Ducky - Out and About!

Page 11



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



Commission Vacancy

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District will have a commission vacancy after October 28, 2014. The Commissioner position is an appointed, volunteer position, and is a member of the governing body of a Conservation District. If you are interested in serving on the commission, please submit a letter of interest and qualifications to:

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Attn: Commission Appointment
 301 University Ridge, Suite 4800
 Greenville, SC 29601

Meet Our New Education Staff

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome two new members to our education staff. Lynn Pilewski is our new Education Program Coordinator and Kristen Henry is our Community Relations Coordinator.

Lynn has 14 years' experience in design, marketing and branding and most recently owned and operated design firm 1 Stop Sites.

Kristen is a former Main Street SC Manager/Director and has worked with United Way, Goodwill Industries and Tri-County Technical College in the areas of community, program and workforce development.

Lynn and Kristen both recently attended a residential rain garden certification course. They are happy to answer any questions you might have!



District Staff

Kirsten Robertson	District Manager	Extension 110
Linda Creel	Administrative Support	Extension 111
Lynn Pilewski	Education Program Coordinator	Extension 103
Kristen Henry	Community Relations Coordinator	Extension 117
Lynne Newton	NRCS District Conservationist	Extension 108
Collin Buckner	NRCS Soil Conservationist	Extension 115
Chris Workman	DNR Program Manager	Extension 109

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District
 301 University Ridge, Suite 4800
 Greenville, SC 29601
 864-467-2755
www.greenvillesoilandwater.com

Science Fair Award Winners

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored special prizes at the Roper Mountain Science Fair on March 24 for projects relating to soil and water conservation.

This year, five winners were selected from the environmental category. Winners were:



Thomas Druckenmiller
"Feces Fuel"



Emma Fletcher /Maggie Barr
"Which Fertilizer Causes the Least Amount of Damage to Groundwater?"



Gracie Malcomb
"Water Purification Methods"



Gracie Scherle
"Mud - The Fuel of the Future"



Kathryn Wells
"How Clean is the Reedy River?"



2014 Essay Contest

Each year since 1943, Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District has sponsored an essay contest for 5th through 8th graders with a conservation theme. The theme for 2014 was "Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil." We had almost 300 entries and selected the top three from each grade.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Winner	School	Teacher
5th Grade Winners		
Cecelia Day	Mauldin Elementary	Page Gambel
David Igwe	Mitchell Road Elementary	Mindy Lyons
Christine Wu	Mauldin Elementary	Page Gambel

6th Grade Winners

Charles Burger	Mauldin Middle	Debbi Long
Shane Farral	Mauldin Middle	Debbi Long
Justin Westervelt	Mauldin Middle	Debbi Long

7th Grade Winners

Tabitha Chen	Riverside Middle	Pam Varner
River Sneed	Hillcrest Middle	Sara Austin
Chandler Verdin	Hillcrest Middle	Sara Austin

8th Grade Winners

Annalise Bennett	Sterling School	John Burdick
Brady Bizzell	Sterling School	John Burdick
Grace Mills	Sterling School	John Burdick



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
- Educational 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

Affiliate members are invited to an awards and appreciation banquet in their honor each May.



Affiliate Memberships

Affiliate Memberships

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Affiliate Members For Their Support

Friend

Strange Brothers Grading Company, Inc.
Darrell & Georgia Harrison

Sustaining

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

Associate

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

Contributing

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

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Earle
Jim & Beverly Fogle
David & April Gibble, 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

Regular

North Greenville University
Melvin Pace, Pace Building Company

Banquet Sponsors

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

A Special Thank You to NRCS for allowing us to show their AGRI+CULTURE Movie Presentation

Teacher of the Year

Jason Schmidt, Greenville Tech Charter School



Mr. Schmidt knows that slowing rainwater runoff allows sediments to settle and that planting native plants in that area allows the water to be filtered and cleaned. He decided to try to slow the rainwater in the roadside ditch in front of his house to help clean the water going into nearby Richland Creek. Richland Creek eventually feeds the Reedy River.

He researched rain gardens (bio swales), performed soil jar tests, and completed percolation tests to determine his soil types. He calculated the drainage area that feeds the ditch and he documented all of this for his classes. He then called the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District for advice on the next steps.

After the District met with Mr. Schmidt, he devised a level indicator to determine the slope of the ditch and moved forward on his design. He plans to make this a multiple year project, and share the information with his students. This project has spurred interest in stormwater pollution in some of his students. These students want to do their own projects now! THAT'S what good teaching is all about.

Conservationist of the Year

Dr. Dave Hargett, Conestee Foundation



Dave Hargett is the principal founder of Lake Conestee Nature Park. At least, that's his current job. He is also the founder of HRI Environmental Consultants and serves on the governing board of the National Wildlife Federation, but Lake Conestee Nature Park is very special to his heart. He saw the value of this area when it was a toxic waste site, so he organized the right people, and made the case for what we see today. Dave is currently the executive director of the Conestee Foundation, the nonprofit organization that owns and manages Lake Conestee Nature Park.

The lake originally stretched 130 acres above the dam, but construction upstream caused the lake to fill in with silt, while upstream textile mills filled

the lake with toxic sediments. Now, the area has been transformed into a natural preserve filled with more than 12 miles of trails popular with school groups and bird watchers. The site is recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is always busy with activities. The Greenville Bird Club has members there most days. It's listed as a global "IBA" (Important Bird Area) by the National Audubon Society. This is no small thing. Other groups are always there, too. This includes the Greenville County Rec department using Conestee for several trail running events.

If you haven't been to Lake Conestee Park yet, you owe it to yourself to check it out. And when you next see Dave Hargett, thank him for his foresight and hard work to make all of this happen.

Cooperator of the Year

Tankersley Brothers

For eight generations, The Tankersley family has lived in the upstate of South Carolina. A few years ago, Shay and Brett had the opportunity to purchase an established farming operation, Haygood Farms. The farm had a long standing, excellent reputation for high quality produce. The two brothers, whose maternal family has been farming both in Illinois and Florida for over 150 years, accepted the opportunity and began farming in the upstate.

Shay and Brett, along with family friend Rocky Burdett, farm approximately 300 acres of vegetables, sweet corn, field corn and soybeans. They have utilized the Conservation Stewardship Program on their timberland and vegetable fields and participated in the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to stabilize and improve trout habitat on the Middle Saluda River. In addition to farming, they also own Tankersley Brothers construction company and installed the cross vanes for the Partners for Trout habitat improvement project on the South Saluda.



Lifetime Conservationist

John W. Parris

John W. Parris belongs on the list of top conservationists in South Carolina history. John served as executive director of the SC Land Resources Commission from 1972-94 and employed a nationally recognized professional staff.

He stressed programs for youth and organized the SC Conservation Workshop for Youth, now known as the State Conservation Institute for Youth. He led in establishing the SC Conservation Districts Foundation that continues to offer college scholarships to outstanding students and serves as the primary sponsor of the SC Envirothon. He was responsible for the transfer of the state-owned Roper Mountain property to the Greenville County School District for development of the nationally recognized Roper Mountain Environmental Science Center. He also led in securing approval by the SC Commission of Higher Education for the establishment of a Landscape Architecture major at Clemson University.

John Parris' achievements go on and on. He was the first South Carolinian named to the National Conservation Hall of Fame and recipient of the National Professional Conservationist Award. He brought the state's urban and public-owned lands into the world of conservation while promoting the expansion of modern land management technology on rural lands such as conservation tillage and drip irrigation. For that alone, he deserves a place at the top of any list of great South Carolina conservationists.



Native Plants Can Help Create a Pollinator Friendly Landscape

Thanks to native plants, we often enjoy aesthetic benefits offered in our communities by these grasses, shrubs, trees and their flowers. Not only do they add charm and character to land, they also provide important habitat to wildlife like pollinators and insects.

Pollinators are responsible for pollinating more than 80 percent of the world's flowers, globally. Without the hard work of pollinators, our plants would become scrawny and charming landscapes would become an eyesore. That's why it's important to keep bees, butterflies, bats, beetles, moths, birds and other critters around so they can continue providing food, beverages, medicine and fiber – all goods essential to our quality of life.

By providing pollinator's key food sources like plants producing abundant nectar and pollen, we are also keeping ourselves healthy, since about 1/3 of all the food we eat depends on their pollination. There are many native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that are great food sources and provide habitat for pollinators, including red bud in the spring, butterfly milkweed in the summer, and yellow showy goldenrods in the fall.

Bees are the most important pollinators responsible for healthy American crops and help produce billions in revenue annually. Bees and other critters visit flowers, seeking nectar for energy and pollen for protein. By chance, they may brush against the flowers' reproductive parts, dropping pollen collected from other plants, which, through the phenomenon of plant reproduction, produces our favorite fruits and seeds.

Although pollinators are critically important to our nation's food supply, they are in trouble, but conservation can help. Taking the right steps to create pollinator habitat and healthy forage can help reverse their decline. Do your part to help pollinators by:

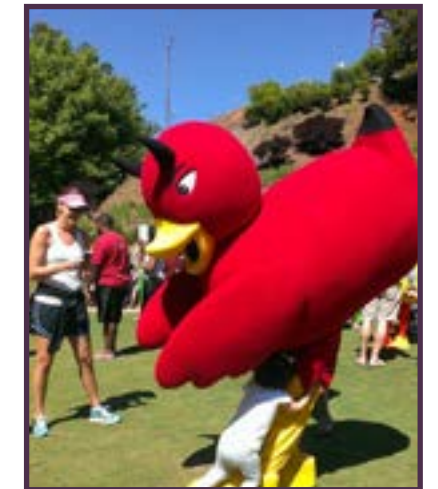
1. Using pollinator-friendly plants in your landscape like native shrubs, wildflowers, and trees such as cherry, willow, maple, and poplar, which provide pollen or nectar early in the spring when food is scarce.
2. Planting a diverse mixture of flowers for spring, summer and fall. Diverse flower colors, shapes, and scents attract a variety of fluttering and crawling pollinator friends. If you have limited space, you can plant flowers in containers on a patio, balcony, and even window boxes.
3. Finding non-chemical solutions to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides in your landscape. Incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control and, if you do use pesticides, use them sparingly and responsibly.
4. Accepting some plant damage on plants meant to provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.
5. Providing clean water for pollinators with a shallow dish, bowl, or birdbath with half-submerged stones for perches.
6. Leaving dead tree trunks, also called "snags," in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.
7. Supporting land conservation in your community by helping to create and maintain community gardens and green spaces to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.

Farmers and ranchers are also doing their part to help pollinators. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service works with private landowners in South Carolina to create and improve pollinator habitat, offering more than two dozen conservation practices, or activities, that help pollinators. Fields and forests with wildflowers and other plants are a fortress to pollinators and a great food source. NRCS also provides guidance on ways you can establish and maintain native plants on your land.

Learn more about pollinators by visiting nrcs.usda.gov/pollinators.

General Yucky Ducky takes Greenville by Storm!

General Yucky Ducky is the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District mascot for storm water pollution prevention in Greenville County and is the leader of the Ducky Army. Yucky and his companions Hot Rod, Botany, 'Cide, and Scrappy wreak havoc on Greenville by polluting bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, and even the ocean. Look out for these "devils in disguise" - they love to get dirty! General Yucky Ducky isn't a bad duck though, he just has bad habits. Visit yuckyducky.com to learn more about General Yucky Ducky and his army, stormwater pollution, and how we can keep Greenville's water safe and clean!



www.YuckyDucky.com



**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

Southern Home and Garden Show
Cruise-In at the Square

Sept 19-21
October 18

2015

Earth Day
Reedy River Duck Derby
GCSWCD Spring Gala Luau

April 22
May 2
May 14