

2014 Annual Report

Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District

2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year

Each year, the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District awards a farmer or landowner for outstanding conservation efforts. On February 26, 2015, the District recognized a farmer for conserving soil and reducing runoff by strip-till planting all row crops.

Nutrient and pest management practices are utilized on his farm including variable rate application of fertilizer and lime. He also plants winter cover crops to improve soil quality. All of these practices have crop production and environmental benefits.

For his dedication to farming and natural resource conservation, Commissioner Mike Sullivan presented a plaque to Robbie Wood as the District's 2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year for Barnwell County.

The Barnwell District hosted a luncheon at the Edisto Research & Education Center to make the presentation.



Commissioner Mike Sullivan (left)
and Robbie Wood (right)

Tommy Smoak Retires after 36 years of Service



On January 30, 2015, Tommy Smoak was honored for his 36 years of service. An informal retirement celebration was held at the Edisto Research and Education Center in Blackville.

Smoak served as a Soil Conservation Technician with the USDA since 1978. Throughout the years, Tommy has been recognized for his outstanding performance and assistance in conservation planning and application while working in Barnwell and Bamberg Counties.

The Barnwell District Board created a resolution of Tommy's 36 year tenure. Dr. James Riley Hill presented Tommy with a signed and framed copy of the Resolution as a token of their appreciation for his hard work and dedication.



*Picture on the top: Dr. Hill (left) and Tommy Smoak (right)
Picture on the bottom (left to right) Wilfred Pace, Debra Smoak & Tommy Smoak*

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Thank you
for your
many years
of service!

Barnwell Conservation District receives Grant from Lowcountry RC&D



Pam Nobles and Linda Pickering receiving grant from RC&D representative.

The Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District was a 2014 Lowcountry Resource Conservation & Development Youth Environmental Education Grant recipient. The Barnwell Conservation District received a check for \$1000 to purchase visual aids and other materials to enhance their conservation awareness programs.

The Conservation District continues to provide and promote conservation programs to local schools and organizations. The grant funds will help provide materials and resources to enhance our environmental conservation programs.

Lowcountry RC&D continues to support the Barnwell Conservation District's educational programs. Without the assistance of grants like this, the District would not be able to purchase visual aids to enrich these programs.

Welcome to our New Associate Commissioners

The Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes two Associate Commissioners to their Conservation District Board. Stephen Burdette of Blackville was appointed by the District Board on May 20, 2014. Stephen works with American Forest Management as a Consultant Forester. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Engineering. Susan Birt of Williston was appointed by the District Board on August 26, 2014. She works in the chemical lab at Eli Lily in Augusta and is an Environmental Team Leader. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science.

The Barnwell Board of Commissioners and staff, along with our Natural Resources Conservation Service partners, welcome these members and look forward to working with them.



Educational Programs



Each year, the Barnwell Conservation District presents free educational programs to Barnwell County schools, clubs, and other organizations. In 2014, 35 programs were presented and reached around 1,125 students. This year some of the new presentations included: The Giving Tree, Soaring with Eagles and Going Buggy with Spiders and Insects. Commissioner Brenda Nettles is shown in the top picture to the left dressed as the "Shady Lady" presenting The Giving Tree to students at Barnwell Primary School. The kids loved it. Linda Pickering is presenting a litter program to the BPS Talented and Gifted class.

2014 Poster Contest Winners



Mr. Thompson's 4th Grade Class and Ms. Morehead's 1st Grade Class at Jefferson Davis Academy won the District's 2014 Poster Contest titled Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil. The contest was offered to grades K-4 in all county schools. The Barnwell District presented each class with a check for \$30.

Education



Commissioner Brenda Nettles presented a program about composting and recycling to Barnwell Primary School TAG class.



Soaring with Eagles program presented to Guinyard-Butler Middle School students.

Barnwell Primary School Montessori class learning about what goes on "Underground".



Kindergarten students at Barnwell Primary School learning about recycling.



Ms. Collins K5 class at Barnwell Primary School enjoyed learning about recycling.



Commissioner T.O. Sanders assisting the students at Barnwell Elementary School learn about the tracks of different forms of wildlife.



Associate Commissioner Susan Birt assisting with presentation at Barnwell Elementary School.



Garden Clubs



Commissioner Dr. James Riley Hill presented a program titled **Tree Treasures** to the Blackville Garden Club.



Commissioner Dr. Mike Sullivan presented a program titled **Butterflies: Wings of Beauty** to the Palmetto Garden Club.

Conservation Practices

Shown below are some of the conservation practices being utilized by farmers and landowners in Barnwell County. Conservation practices protect the environment by enhancing our natural resources including soil, water, air, plants and animals. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service assists with the planning and application of these practices and offers financial assistance through conservation programs.

In partnership between NRCS and the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District, the District provides administrative support to complete conservation program contracts. During the past 5 years, these conservation programs have helped farmers and landowners install practices on 41,997 acres in Barnwell County. The contracts obligated \$4,915,107.00 to partially cover the cost of these practices.



Cover crop residue can suppress weed germination and growth while maintaining soil moisture during periods of drought. Cover crops also reduce soil erosion & water runoff while improving soil quality.



Cross fencing allows livestock grazing to be rotated between different sections of pasture. This controlled grazing system improves the health of the forage producing pasture while increasing the percentage of forage that is actually consumed by the livestock.



The installation of **firebreaks**, which typically requires land clearing and grading, protects woodland from wildfire. It also allows for the management of a prescribed burn.



Strip-till planting row crops, such as peanuts planted into corn residue, saves time, labor, and energy. Like cover crops, this also reduces soil erosion and water runoff while improving soil quality.



Watering tanks provide clean drinking water for livestock and are a critical part of a well-managed grazing system. The **crushed limestone pad** eliminates mud and standing water.



Longleaf pines planted on chemically treated clear cut forest land provide timber production. Also, longleaf pine forests represent some of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems.



Old center pivot and traveling gun irrigation systems are being replaced by new low pressure center pivot systems with **mid elevation spray application (MESA)**, commonly known as drop nozzles. These new systems have much better water application efficiency. This conserves water and energy.

The District assisted NRCS with 163 USDA Farm Bill Program contracts that provide financial assistance for farmers and landowners to complete conservation practices.

Listed are some of the 2014 conservation accomplishments in Barnwell County as reported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The District appreciates the conservation efforts of the County's farmers and landowners.

2014 CONSERVATION MEASURES

Conservation Planning Completed.....	5,314 acres
Conservation Practice Application Completed.....	18,969 acres
Cropland Practices that Improved Water Quality.....	6,016 acres
Cropland Practices that Improved Soil Quality.....	4,879 acres
Irrigation Efficiency Improved on Cropland.....	456 acres
Grazing Land with Conservation Applied.....	410 acres
Land Treated for Fish & Wildlife Habitat.....	1,074 acres

2014 Affiliate Memberships

Supporting (\$25+)

Palmetto Garden Club

BRONZE (\$50)

Paul A. Owens

Claudia & Rodney Peebles

Thomas Properties

Dr. M.O. Khan

First Citizens Bank

Jack H. Keel Insurance Agency, Inc.

William F. Still

Browning Farms, Inc.

Barnwell County Farm Bureau

Cherokee Garden Club

Doc's Tree Farm

Henry W. Gibson, MD

American Forest Management, Inc.

SILVER (\$75)

Berley's Pharmacy, Inc.

GOLD (\$100)

Pickens Williams, Jr.

Walker Nix Farm

Anderson Oil Co. Inc.

Stephan Wiles

Sandlapper League

Reid Boylston, III

Joe & Brenda Nettles

National Beverage Screen Printers, Inc.

Palmetto Irrigation, Inc.

Rob Bates Farms, LLC

Edisto Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Thomas O. Sanders, III

Senator Brad Hutto

Chappell Farms, Inc.

Phil Sandifer & Sons Farms LLC

SC Electric & Gas

Wildwood Garden Club

Blanchard Equipment Co., Inc.

J&K Farms, Inc.

ARCHROMA U.S., Inc.

Mike & Wynnell Sullivan

C&C Farm of Blackville

PLATINUM (\$200+)

Hartzog Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Don & Libby Still

CFP Enterprises LLC

Energy Solutions

Citizens Choice Agency of SC

“Thank you
affiliates for
making our
programs
possible.”

Board of Commissioners, Staff, & Partners

James Riley Hill-Chairman

Susan Birt-Associate Commissioner

Mike Lott-NRCS Resource Conservationist

Thomas O. Sanders, III-Vice Chairman

Don B. Still-Associate Commissioner

Wilfred Pace-NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist

Rebecca H. Davis-Treasurer

Stephen Burdette-Associate Commissioner

Rev. Fred B. Orr-Chaplain

Brenda H. Nettles-Commissioner

Pam Nobles-Administrative Assistant

Michael J. Sullivan-Commissioner

Linda Pickering-Education Coordinator

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barnwell](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/districtsdnr/barnwell)

Conserving natural resources for a better today and
a better tomorrow.



Address:

2015 Affiliate Membership Form

If you are not already an affiliate member, please complete this form and become a member. We could use your support to continue the work that we do. Please share this form with others who may be interested in conservation.

The Commissioners of the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District are committed to helping educate Barnwell County's children and landowners about our natural resources. It is our goal that land-users and students understand the interrelationships of man, soil, water, air, plants and wildlife. The Barnwell District is a non-profit organization that depends on financial support from Affiliate Members. Through your donation, the District is better able to promote conservation in all schools in the county and sponsor the various programs available to encourage conservation stewardship within Barnwell County. Your contribution also helps the District provide administrative support for the NRCS conservation programs that assist farmers and landowners.

Supporting (\$25)

NAME

Bronze(\$50)

ADDRESS

Silver (\$75)

Gold (\$100)

PHONE/FAX

Platinum (\$200 or more)

Platinum Plus(\$500 or more)
