



The Conservation Corner

Newsletter of the Charleston, S. C. Soil and Water Conservation District
Summer 2013—Special Edition

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM DUEY WILKES 1927-2013



William D. Wilkes (Bill), long time Associate Commissioner with the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2013. Mr. Wilkes was a graduate of Porter Military Academy and a 1949 graduate of The Citadel. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, then started his 37 year career with Koppers Company. At his retirement he was General Manager of International Operations for Forest Products. After retirement, Mr. Wilkes returned home to Charleston to pursue the next phase of his life as an active volunteer with the Charleston Conservation District. His passion for conservation quickly got him appointed as an Associate Commissioner on the Charleston District Board. As an Earth Team Volunteer enthusiast (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service), Mr. Wilkes coordinated the Adopt-A-Dune and Build-A-Dune Restoration Projects which addressed barrier island erosion following damage done by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Working with local and county groups and leaders for over 15 years, he inspired hundreds of other volunteers to join the Earth Team Family to help rebuild the dunes that protect the fragile barrier islands of Coastal South Carolina, including Sullivan's Island. These projects literally saved Sullivan's Island, because of the millions of dollars that the barrier island generates in tourism dollars. In August of 2006, two television stations and three local newspapers came to cover the event. Again In 2007 Mr. Wilkes was honored with a national award for his volunteer service as "Earth Team Volunteer of the Year" by NRCS. He devoted 17 + years to conservation work.

Along with his passion for the Dunes, Bill Wilkes was also active in the District education outreach programs. During the years he coordinated many Earth Day events along with other conservation programs. Bill Wilkes was a true leader and conservationist whose spirit, enthusiasm, energy and commitment made a difference in his later years also!

He will be remembered as Outstanding Conservationist to all who knew and loved him. His legacy continues on.





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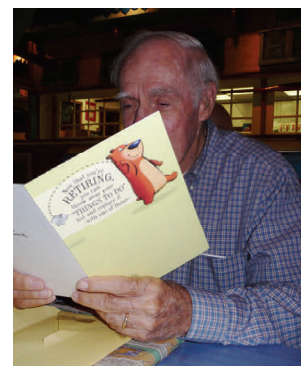
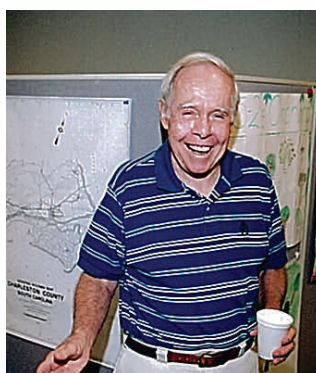




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A memorial has been set up in honor of William D. Wilkes with the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District. If you wish to honor his memory (as requested in his obituary) you may send your contributions to the address below:

William D. Wilkes Memorial
c/o Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District
2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8
N. Charleston, SC 29406

