



SUMMER 2012

NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use and care of natural resources for the benefit of the citizens of Chester County.

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Seated, Left to Right:

Rodger McDaniel

Jeff Wilson, Vice Chairman

Margaret S. Hausman, Secretary-Treasurer

Standing, Left to Right: Mac Turner

Allen L. Beer, Chairman

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District programs are administered by a board of commissioners consisting of three members elected in the general election and two members appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The Chester District is assigned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the USDA-Natural Resources. The District is assisted by a District Coordinator and technical staff assigned to the Chester District by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and

the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The boundaries of the Chester Conservation District and Chester County are the same.

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District meets at 9:30 A.M. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the USDA Building at 744 Wilson Street in Chester, South Carolina. All programs and services of the District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap, or marital status.



Pictured above are (left to right):
Scott Glenn NRCS Engineer
Carol Shockley, District Coordinator
Bruce Andrews, NRCS-District Conservationist
Not pictured: Jackie Heuermann, Soil Conservation Technician



**Ann S. McNerney,
2012 Robbie Banks
Conservationist
Of the Year**



**Victoria Scarlet
Roof, 2011 South
Carolina
Conservation
Districts Youth
Workshop
Participant**



**Lucille Worthy-
Allen, 2012
Teacher of the
Year**

WATERSHED DIRECTORS



Responsibilities of the watershed directors include overseeing maintenance and repairs to the dams and drainage canals, addressing soil and water issues in the watershed and preventing structures from being located in the flood pool. The purpose of watershed districts is to promote concentrated efforts within the watershed to establish conservation practices including stabilization of critically eroding areas, drainage measures and flood control. Chester County has two

Watershed Districts: Rocky Creek and Tinker's Creek. Shown above are seven of the Chester County Watershed Directors. They are seated, left to right: Keith McDonald, Henry F. Allen, Henry T. Westbrook. Standing, left to right, are David Wilson, Claudia Dean, William F. Wishert, and Walker A. Revels. Not pictured are: Jerry L. Mozingo, Sr., Mike W. Allen, and Oscar L. Peay.

STEWARDSHIP WEEK—2012



District Chairman Allen L. Beer is shown on the left with Chester County Supervisor R. Carlisle Roddey on the right as he signs the Stewardship Week 2012 Proclamation. This year's motto was "SOIL TO SPOON". The Proclamation reads: *Whereas* fertile soil and clean water provide us with our daily sustenance, and *Whereas* effective conservation practices have helped provide us a rich standard of living, and *Whereas* our security depends upon healthy soil and clean water, and *Whereas* stewardship calls for each person to help conserve these precious resources, *Therefore, I do hereby proclaim April 29 to May 6, 2012, Soil and Water Stewardship Week.*

2012 AWARDS BANQUET

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District held its 2012 Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the Edgemoor ARP Church Social Hall. Chairman Allen L. Beer presided with the Rev. Dr. Dwight Pearson giving the invocation. Sixty-five members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Liz Anderson,

administrator of the Chester County Historical Society and Museums, who presented the history of agriculture of Chester County through the pictures of Henry O. Nichols, Chester County photographer from 1918 until 1990. The 2012 Robbie Banks Conservationist of the Year Award was presented to Mrs. Ann S. McNerney by Mr. Allen Beer. Mrs. Lucille-Worthy Allen was presented the 2012

Conservation Teacher of the Year by Mr. Jeff Wilson. Many guests were recognized by Chairman Beer, including those NRCS personnel who assist the District, watershed board directors, affiliate members, the contest judges, and the 2011 State Poster Contest winner, Angilea Deann Foster.

2012 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

CORPORATE	SUSTAINING	SUPPORTING
AME, INC.	ROBERT K. WYLIE	NORMA J. ALT
CHESTER HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION	YORK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	CAROLINA EASTERN, INC.
OMNOVA SOLUTIONS, INC.	SUSTAINING	CITY TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
SPRATT SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION	NANCY C. ANDERSON	DEAN EXCAVATING & GRADING, INC.
PATRON	CARTER'S LANDSCAPE & DESIGN	EZELL HARDWARE
AMERICAN FOREST MANAGEMENT, INC.	CHESTER METROPOLITAN DISTRICT	DR. ROBERT E. SHANNON, JR.
BARRON FUNERAL HOME	B. C. DENTON TREE FARM	OUR CONSERVATION FRIENDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO US AND HELP US CONTINUE THE IMPORTANT TASK OF PRESERVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRON- MENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
CHESTER COUNTY NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY	FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	WE THANK YOU WHO HAVE GENER- OUSLY DONATED IN THE PAST AND HOPE YOUR WILL ENCOURAGE OTH- ERS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CAR- ING FOR CHESTER COUNTY AND OUR NATURAL RESOURCES OF SOIL, AIR, WATER, PLANTS, AND ANIMALS.
DUKE ENERGY	HIPP LAND SURVEYING, INC.	
HAMILTON, DELLENERY, & GRIER, P.A.	ANN S. MCNERNEY	
ROBERT L. HOLCOMBE, JR.	MURPHY BROTHERS, INC.	
RANDY HOPE	DR. JOHN D. SHERER	
JOHN W. PARRIS	JACK AND ANN SZOKE	
R. H. STEPHENSON		
SAM AND BEVERLY STONE		

2012 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a poster contest this year for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12. The theme for this year was "Soil to Spoon."

These winners received a certificate and a monetary prize. The teacher of the first place winner also received a monetary gift to be used for class-

room supplies. The first place winner's entry will be on display at the USDA building at 744 Wilson Street. It will also be entered in the state contest. If the entry wins on the state level, it will go on to the national level.

Pictured to the right is the first place winner, Jacob Seth Jones, grade 11, Great Falls High, and his teacher, Amelia P. Ellison.



Shown on the left is the second place winner Katie L. Meranto, first grade, Chester ATL. On the right is the third place winner, Kathryn Elise Glenn, fourth grader at the Glenn School.



NO-TILL FARMING



Conservation tillage, also known as no-till farming, is a way of growing crops from year-to-year without disturbing the soil through conventional tillage.

Conventional tilling agitates the soil in various ways, usually with tractor-drawn implements. This can lead to unfavorable effects, like soil compaction, loss of organic matter, degradation of soil aggregates, death or disruption of soil microbes, arthropods, and earthworms, and soil erosion where topsoil is blown or washed away.

In no-till farming, the soil is left intact and crop residue is left on the field, thus avoiding those unfavorable effects. Advantages of conservation tillage as listed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources are:

REDUCED LABOR AND FUEL NEEDS

TIME SAVINGS

EASIER PLANTING

MORE SOIL MOISTURE

BETTER SOIL TILTH

LESS EROSION

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District invites everyone to participate in the effort to conserve natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss here in Chester County by renting the no-till drill for planting needs. The District has two no-till drills available to rent for \$9 per acre. Last year our drills were used for no-till farming on over 500 acres in Chester County.

**The Chester
Soil and Water
Conservation
District sells
Rain Barrels
for \$70 and
Composters
for \$90 each.**

ARBOR DAY PROJECT

Arbor Day began in the state of Nebraska in 1872 as the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska journalist and politician. The movement has grown over the past 140 years throughout the United States and the world. In South Carolina, Arbor Day is celebrated the first Friday in December of each year. December is a good time to take stock of the trees on your prop-

erty by inspecting them and taking note of any broken branches or evidence of disease or insect infestation.

In 2011 in observance of Arbor Day, for the first time the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District gave away 50 free trees to Chester County citizens. The trees were available the week of December 5-9, 2011, at J. B. Greenhouses

and Nursery, 2082 Great Falls Road. The free trees were Saw Tooth Oak and Live Oak and were distributed one per Chester County household on a first come, first serve basis.

Because of the success of this project, the District plans to continue the free tree giveaway in the future.



**New No-Till
Drill**

ALLEN L. BEER SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District and its Board of Commissioners sponsor the Allen L. Beer Scholarship for a Chester County high school senior who plans to enter college majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field. This year the board awarded the scholarship to Hunter Troy Lalli, a senior at Lewisville High School. Lalli plans to enter Clemson University in the fall as an environmental natural resources management major. The \$500 scholarship was presented to Lalli by Beer at the Lewisville High School Awards Program on Tuesday, May 29, 2012.



BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST WINNERS



Over 600 students from the Academy for Teaching and Learning, Chester Park School of Inquiry, and Lewisville Elementary School participated in this year's contest. Pictured below are the students of Lucille Worthy-Allen, third grade teacher at Chester Park School of Inquiry and the first place winner at that school.



Each year the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a bulletin board contest for the students in Chester County who are enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. The theme for the 2011 contest was **SOIL TO SPOON**. Pictured above are the students of Melinda Abercrombie, kindergarten teacher at the Chester Academy for Teaching and Learning, who won First Place at their school.



Students' entries were judged on the conservation message, visual effectiveness, imagination, creativity, and clarity. Each winning classroom received a certificate and a monetary prize. The students of Marilyn Pressley, art teacher at Lewisville Elementary School, are pictured above and were the First Place winner at their school.

2011-2012 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS IN CHESTER

Conservation plans were developed on 1247 acres.

Five Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts were approved for \$41,641.

Conservation practices were completed on 671 acres of grazing land and 618 acres of forest land.

Two Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts were approved for \$3,400.

Conservation practices that were certified for landowners included:

Water Troughs—3

Fence—5968 feet

Wells—1

Pasture Planting—344 acres

Firebreaks—3500 feet

Tree Planting—26 acres

Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.—35 acres

Thinning for Wildlife—1082 acres

Pipeline for Water Troughs—1700 feet

2012 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



Sixth grade winners are (L-R) Alyssa Boulware, first place; Kenneth Caldwell, second place; Rebecca Gregory, third place. All are from Chester Middle School.



Amari Callista Merchant, second place winner, eighth grade, Lewisville Middle School



Gracyn Jean Stephens, Second Place
Taylor Gabrielle Keziah, third place
Both are Chester Middle School seventh graders.

usda**Chester Soil & Water Conservation****District****744B Wilson Street****Chester, South Carolina 29706****Phone: 803.581.1908x101****Fax: 803.581.0852****Email: Carol.Shockley@sc.nacdnet.net****We're on the Web:****http://****chesterswcd.yolasite****.com****CHECK US OUT!!!!!!**

Chester County was well represented at the 2012 meeting of the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts in February of this year. Allen L. Beer, our chairman, was presented the 2011 Outstanding Conservation District Commissioner Award by Marc Cribb, Program Manager with the Department of Natural Resources. Allen has served on the board of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District continuously for nearly 40 years.



During the general session, Jeff Wilson, our vice chairman, and his son, JEB Wilson, gave a Power Point presentation showing the agriculture diversification and production of Cotton Hills Farm in Lowrys. The presentation was a personal perspective from a fourth generation South Carolina farm family that produces cotton, corn, wheat, hay, peaches, pumpkins, and timber. The District is very proud of these two board members.

2012 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS



The 2012 Photography Contest was very popular this year with over 160 photos entered for judging. All winners received an award certificate, a monetary gift and a gift subscription to South Carolina Wildlife magazine. The winning photos were displayed at the Chester Arts Council office. Winners from the high school division all attended Chester High School and are shown above, left to right: Scott Lindsey, grade 12, first place; Emily McNerney, grade 11, second place, and Connor Tamplinsion, grade 11, third place.

The Photography Contest was for students in grades six through 12. Categories were Trees, Plants, Native Wildlife, Landscapes or Rural Life. Pictured below, left to right are: Hannah K. Wade, grade 6 at Chester ATL, first place winner in the grades six through eight division, and Breanna Ramsey, grade 8 at Chester ATL, second place winner .



The photographs were judged on category understanding, imagination, creativity, and originality and had to be taken between February 15 and April 1 of this year. Shown above is Lindsey Burton, grade 8, Lewisville Middle School, third place winner in the grades six through eight division. The district congratulates all the winners