



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**"promoting natural resources conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education,
sound technical information, and direct personal assistance."**

DISTRICT NEWS

Our Commissioners



The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners proudly serves Georgetown County by promoting conservation awareness. We endeavor to stay informed with new ideas in conservation and implement them whenever possible. We strive to protect the water, air and land and keep them clean and safe. We thank our affiliate members and partners who help us in that battle. In 2012 we sponsored many programs, projects and workshops for the landowners and students of Georgetown County. We appreciate everyone who has assisted us in our efforts. Working together, we can make a difference. *Pictured left to right: Wayne Avant, Chairman Mickey Lankford, Mark Johnson, Peggy Williams, Nathaniel Ruth, Kenny Williams and Truitt Owens. Not pictured: Elery Little*

No-Till Grain Drills

The District has two no-till grain drills for rent. Along with the UFT Grain Drill, that is used for planting pastures, the District has a Great Plains 10' Grain Drill that can be rented for planting cropland. Both drills are located at the Munnerlyn Farm in the Rose Hill Section of Georgetown County. Rental Fees are \$7.00 per acre for the UFT Drill and \$9.00 per acre for the John Deere Drill. Call the District Office at 546-7808 ext. 3 for more information.



Pee Dee Area Meeting

The 2012 Pee Dee Area Meeting was hosted by the Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District on Tuesday October 16. Tours were given of McLeod Farms Peach Shed and Latham's Nursery in McBee. Georgetown Commissioner Wayne Avant attended the business meeting and tour.

Community Garden

The District assisted with the Eddie B. Ellis Community Garden by donating funds to purchase seed and supplies. The garden provides vegetables for many families in the neighborhood. This is the second year the families in the community have planted the garden. They work the garden and share the produce with those in the neighborhood.

Meetings

The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call the District office at 843-564-7808 ext. 3. You can access District Information on the internet at www.gswcd.com.

GrowFood Carolina

In Feb, 2011 District and NRCS employees attended an informational tour of GrowFood Carolina's warehouse and distribution center located in Mt. Pleasant. They are trying to get the word out to local farmers and producers about their local food hub which will serve to help link local farmers to local and regional markets by providing adequate infrastructure and coordination so that fresh produce can move seamlessly from local farmers' land to consumers' hands.



GrowFood Carolina provides marketing, warehousing, and distribution functions for local farmers, in addition to liability insurance, regulatory compliance and sales coordination. When you buy produce with the **GrowFood Carolina** label on it, you know that you are getting a product that was hand-picked by a local farmer within days of your purchase.

What is a local food hub?

The current working definition by the USDA is: A centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products. Located at 990 Morrison

Drive, the warehouse is in close proximity to urban and suburban restaurants and grocery stores. The building has 6,500 square feet of warehouse space and 4,100 square feet of office space. For questions or more information about GrowFood Carolina, please contact Sara Clow, GrowFood Carolina General Manager, at sarac@growfoodcarolina.com or visit their website at www.growfoodcarolina.com.

Water Footprint

You may have some understanding about your carbon footprint, but how much do you know about your water footprint? People use lots of water for drinking, cooking and washing, but even more for producing things such as food, paper, cotton clothes, etc. The water footprint is an indicator of water use that looks at both direct and indirect water use of a consumer or producer. The water footprint of an individual, community or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual or community or produced by the business.

For example, 11 gallons of water are needed to irrigate and wash the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice. Thirty-seven gallons of water are used to grow, produce, package, and ship the beans in that morning cup of coffee. Two hundred and sixty-four gallons of water are required to produce one quart of milk, and 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce two pounds of beef. You can go to www.waterfootprint.com and click on the water footprint calculator or on Your Water Footprint to access your own unique water footprint. The average person uses 1,056 Gallons of water each day.



"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." -Benjamin Franklin

Heirs Property Workshop

On Saturday December 8 an informative workshop was given on preserving heirs' property and discovering how the NRCS programs can benefit landowners. Held at Hopewell AME Church the workshop was co sponsored by the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation and NRCS. The Center for Heirs' Property is an organization based out of Charleston which covers a six county area including Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Georgetown. The non-profit organization provides education and direct legal services to heir's property owners. They help people who want to keep a family land and get a clear title to their property. For more information visit the Heirs website at www.heirsproperty.org



EDUCATION

Essay Contest

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District held the annual Essay Contest in 2012. The contest is open to all 6th grade students in the county. The topic of the contest was *Soil to Spoon*. The students' essays researched how food makes the journey from the soil to our spoons. They gained valuable knowledge about how food is grown, harvested and processed from the soil and how important it is to protect and conserve our soil. The winners of the competition receiving an award and cash prize were:

From Waccamaw Intermediate School – 1st Place - Grace Skillman.

From Lowcountry Prep School – 1st Place – Luke Gordon and 2nd Place Madeline Francke.

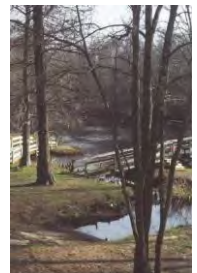
The teacher who submitted the most essays was Mrs. Lewis at Lowcountry Prep School.

Congratulations to our winners!



Photography Contest

The Georgetown Conservation District's annual Photography Contest produced some great pictures. The contest is open to all seventh grade students in the county and photos could be entered in four different categories, Trees and Plants, Native Wildlife, Rural Life, and Landscapes. The 2012 winners were Montrel Cole, Darian Martin, and Tyson Cribb, all students at Carvers Bay Middle School. Darian Martin also received Honorable Mention.



Earth Day



April 22, 2012 was Earth Day. In observance of day, the District gave conservation comic books to all fourth grade students in the county. *The Hidden Treasure* helps children understand the real worth of our valuable forest resources, so their treasure can be fully revealed. *The Hidden Treasure* provides an engaging and educational story for children in late elementary to middle school to help them understand that forest renewal improves the health of forests and provides biomass for many productive uses and how wood biomass will play an important role in our nation's future, including energy security through the production of biofuels, biochemicals, and other sources of energy.

Arbor Day

In South Carolina, Arbor Day is celebrated on the first Friday in December. The Georgetown SWCD observed it by providing 500 pecan trees to fourth grade students across the county. Each student got a seedling to take home, plant, and watch grow. Trees give us countless benefits like homes for people and animals, protection from the wind and erosion, paper products, oxygen and of course nuts and fruits.



Career Day at Andrews Elementary

On March 30th, 2012 Andrews Elementary held a career day. Professionals from many organizations attended and presented career information. Jolie Brown with the Georgetown NRCS attended and offered the students information about careers in the field of conservation and the importance of agriculture and protecting our farmland. The students were very interested and will someday help protect the land in their careers.

SC Commissioners School for Agriculture



James Williams was sponsored by the Georgetown Conservation District to attend the South Carolina Commissioners School for Agriculture. The workshop for high school juniors and seniors was held July 14 – 20 at Clemson. Thirty five students attended. The week long workshop exposes the participants to a variety of academic opportunities and multiple career choices in the agricultural field available to them. Some of the activities included visiting a local peach farm, touring Death Valley to learn about turf-grass management, taking part in a stream assessment at Wildcat Creek and presentations on being a Game Warden and Veterinarian. James is pictures here with Hugh Weathers, the South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture.

POND SCHOOL



A workshop was held to help individuals learn the basics of pond and lake management. The one day course covered the most critical topics related to pond management such as construction/permitting, basic limnology, fish ecology and stocking, weed control and shoreline management, and nuisance animal control. There also was a weed identification lab and field tour where participants were shown how to asses certain water conditions and fish population balance. The workshop was held on November 27, 2012. Ryan Houseman and Maxie Antonov were sponsored by the District to attend. Debbie Mann of the Georgetown NRCS provided information on conservation programs.

Goat Management Seminar

Clemson University Cooperative Extension and NRCS conducted a daylong seminar with Lee Van Vlakte, the Area Livestock Specialist. Held on November 2, 2012 the program covered several important aspects to goat owners and producers in the Pee Dee Region. The topics were forage varieties, forage establishment, goat reproductive cycle, signs of labor and kidding, castration, hoof issues and trimming, injections and internal parasites and using FAMACHA. Local goat owners Tom Tanner, Clarence Kinloch, Matthew Powell and Dewey Lambert were sponsored by the district to attend the meetings.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP offers cost share for implementing conservation practices which help with water quality, soil health, water conservation, and livestock management. Practices include, but are not limited to: conservation tillage, nutrient management, livestock water, fencing and pasture management. Assistance is also available to specialty crop producers including vegetables. In 2012 conservation practices were applied to 2,930 acres.

Wetland Reserve Program – In 2012, 2000 acres of one of the largest remaining Carolina Bays was protected through a permanent easement. Carvers Bay is prime wildlife habitat and home to many species and it is an important habitat for black bears. Carolina Bays are unique elliptical depressions and they are especially rich in biodiversity, including some rare and/or endangered species.

Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP offers incentives based on current conservation activities and accomplishments and also requires producers to enhance their operations with additional conservation practices to improve and protect natural resources, predominately soil and water quality, and forest wildlife habitat benefits. Currently Georgetown has 26 active contracts covering 29,210 acres.

District Grants – The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District continued with the administration of 2 grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They were for the treatment of Beach Vitex and Water Hyacinth.

Beach Vitex, called the “Kudzu of the Coast” thrives in the sand dune area of the beach where it impacts native species as well as sea turtle nesting sites. Approximately 170 sites were treated, with one final review and spot treatment to be completed in the spring of 2013.

Water Hyacinth is free floating fresh water invasive that forms dense colonies and encroaches and crowds native plant species as well as affecting wildlife habitat. Approximately 45 acres were treated in 2012 with some funding remaining for a 2013 treatment.

Pawleys Creek 319 Water Quality Project – The Conservation District and NRCS partnered with Georgetown County Storm Water and the Parks and Recreation Division to add water quality practices to the new parks being constructed in the Pawleys Creek watershed. Pervious concrete was installed in place of asphalt on a walking path and also in portions of the parking areas in 3 parks – Retreat, Stables and Waccamaw Regional. Pervious concrete allows water to filter through it into the ground during storm events instead of directly running off as it does with asphalt and other impervious surfaces. It is another way to protect wetlands though improved water quality.



Wetland Reserve Program



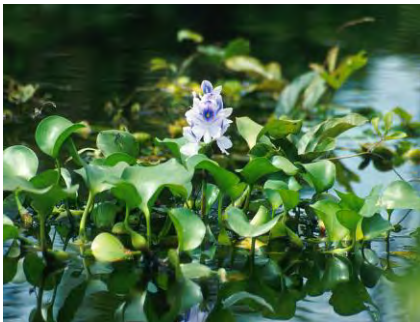
Cover Crop



Beach Vitex



Conservation Tillage



Water Hyacinth



Livestock Heavy Use Area



Pervious Walking Path



Pervious Parking Spaces

Georgetown Conservation District Commissioners

Mickey D. Lankford, Jr., Chairman
Mark Johnson, Vice Chairman
Peggy Williams, Sec./Treasurer
Wayne Avant
Nathaniel Ruth

Associate Commissioners

Elery L. Little
Kenny Williams
Truitt Owens

Staff

Denise Smith, District Coordinator
Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, NRCS

Our 2012 Affiliate Members

The Georgetown Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize our Affiliate Members who are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given by the Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote conservation stewardship within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping the landowners and educating the students of Georgetown County. Thank you Affiliates.

Regular Membership

Capps Farm
Rubeth Earl & Patsy Williams
Kyle Daniel
Lonnie & Debra Creel
H. E. Hemingway
Ron Charlton
Bob Roberts
Harry J. Butler Jr.
Wardie Collins
Samuel O. Cribb
James O. Creel
W. Sherwyn Jacobs, Attorney At Law
Floyd & Joyce Tyler
Post Foot Properties LLC, DBA Black River Plantation LP
Truitt Owens
Gray Land at Pawley's Island
Elizabeth Y. Dize
Mary & Walter Perrin
Pat V. Schooler
Samuel Squires
Steve Squires
Bob Cribb
James Archambeault
C.C. Grimes, III
Fred R. Powell
Robert H. Kennedy Jr.

Supporting Membership

The Oaks Gun Club (Herbert J. Butler)
Legrand Owens
Martin Owens
Mr. & Mrs. Mark W. Buyck
F. Preston Wilson

Sustaining Membership

Mossdale Plantation
Low Country Forest Products
Charles Ingram Lumber Co.
Annandale Plantation
Clermont Plantation
Belle W. Baruch Foundation
Prevatte & Associates, Inc.
Santee Cooper
John Beahrs
Dr. & Mrs Wallace Vaught
Town of Pawleys Island
E. W & Faye Hickson
Robert L. Lumpkin, Jr., P.C.

Endowing Membership

Anna Kate Hipp
Bordeaux-Clark Group Inc.
Weehaw Plantation



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