

Chesterfield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Patricia and M. B. Godbold were honored as Conservationists of the Year by the Chesterfield SWCD. The family has been cooperating with CSWCD since 2015, when they expressed the idea of using their forestland to produce habitat for honeybees raised by their daughter, Layne Rogerson. Old stands of longleaf were thinned and had fire introduced along with native understory plantings. Artificial nest cavities were installed for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers with a successful hatch of two chicks this year. Off site pines have been removed and replaced with longleaf seedlings using selective herbicides to protect native wiregrass. Riparian buffers are protected and managed for cavity dwelling species, amphibians, and a lone pitcher plant that has emerged in the wetland.

The Godbolds have allowed the property to be used as an educational center for others to learn about a variety of topics, holding events for students, NRCS employees, and landowner groups who wish to expand their forestland uses to include priorities other than timber production.



Chesterfield SWCD Chairman Roger Smith (right) presents the Conservationist of the Year award to Pat and M.B. Godbold and family members.



Layne Rogerson discusses honeybee life cycle with students and 4H members at a field day where native seeds were planted.

Other Notable Accomplishments



CSWCD welcomed Tony Graham. Increase in state appropriated funds allowed the CSWCD to increase landowner assistance and education.



Seed collected by CSWCD and NRCS staff was provided to landowners wishing to restore native understory vegetation for habitat improvement.

Conservation by the Numbers

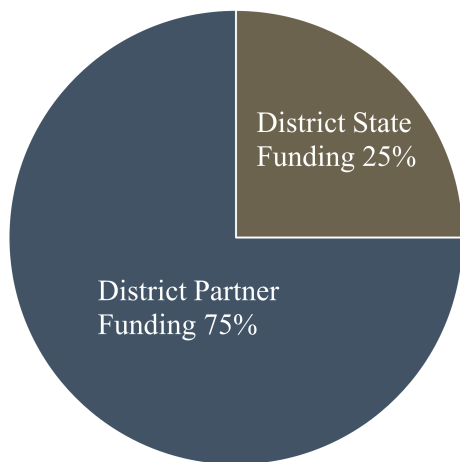
- 127 landowners assisted with active EQIP and CSP contracts to protect 20,281 acres in Chesterfield County
- 29 landowners funded with new NFWF agreements to improve 864 acres of longleaf habitat
- 83 landowners assisted with new EQIP and CSP applications
- 12,666 acres enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Apply for 11th National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant
- Financially assist landowners to establish and manage at least 2,000 new acres of longleaf habitat and 25 acres of native understory vegetation
- Use additional state appropriated funds to host two landowner training events, upgrade district equipment for use by farmers, and increase part time staff hours

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

State FY23 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY22.

More than 72,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 1.3 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 44,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.