



# Conservation Connection Newsletter

Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District  
October 2012



## 2012 Conservation Farmer of the Year Mr. Jack McCauley



*Pictured left to right: Bill Ardrey, Chairman of the Lancaster SWCD, Jack and Jean McCauley*

Jack McCauley has been selected as the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Farmer of the Year for 2012 for Lancaster County.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District presents the Conservation Farmer of the Year award annually

to recognize a farmer in Lancaster County who is protecting natural resources to an unusually high degree or in an innovative way.

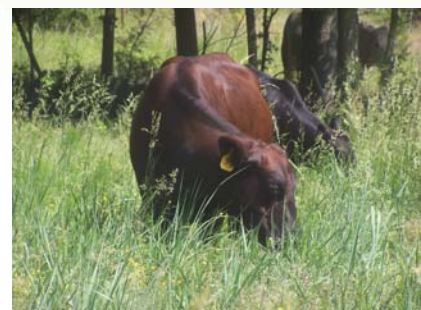
Jack McCauley grew up in Chapel Hill, NC and began farming when he retired in 1986 from Exxon. Mr. McCauley was a supply coordinator for Exxon for the Gulf/East Coast for liquid products from the refinery to 66 terminals. He was educated at Brevard Junior College and graduated with a BS in accounting from USC. He grew up on a small farm and always wanted to farm on his own. He began buying land in Lancaster County because it was close to Charlotte. He lived in Charlotte for 21 years while working for Exxon, as well as in Memphis, TN and Houston, TX. Mr. McCauley is married to Jean and has five children, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Mr. McCauley is a veteran beef cattle farmer of moderate size who works alone except for occasional help from family members. He installed watering facilities (pipeline, water tank with heavy use area pad) for his beef cows and limited the cows' access to streams and ponds, thereby creating filter strips and streamside forest buffers. Mr. McCauley designed his fence system to cross over the water tanks so that one tank could provide water to more than one pasture.

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1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South  
Lancaster, SC 29720

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**Ext. 101**

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**Email:**  
[amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov](mailto:amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov)  
or  
[admin@lancasterswcd.com](mailto:admin@lancasterswcd.com)

**Website:**  
[www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com)



***The mission of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District is to enhance awareness of natural resources by educating school children, citizens, and community leaders about conservation and environmental issues.***

***All programs and services of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap or marital status.***

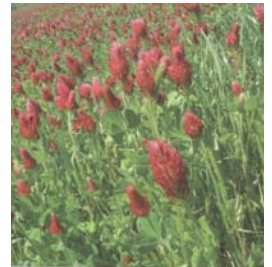


His water facilities consist of drinking ramps in ponds and the county's only three gravity-fed water tanks sourced from the ponds above. When he placed the fences to keep his cattle out of his small ponds, he moved them away from the ponds' edges so as to create a filtering strip to absorb runoff from the surrounding pastures and keep the water in his ponds cleaner.

Fencing out the streamside areas not only excluded his cattle from the streams, but the buffers created wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors. The streamside trees and shrubs filter runoff from the uphill pastures, cleaning the water as it leaves the pastures and helping to remove pollutants before they reach the surface water.

Mr. McCauley cross-fenced his pastures to intensify his rotational grazing program. Rotational grazing means moving the cows from one pasture to another when the grass is grazed down to the correct height. Cows are always eating new, fresh grass, so they gain weight faster and stay healthy. The grass has a rest period from grazing and hoof traffic. The healthier grass absorbs more nutrients and other pollutants so they don't run off into streams and ponds on the farm.

Mr. McCauley has planted and successfully managed a small field of switchgrass for grazing, which is one of the native warm-season prairie grasses – very expensive and hard to establish. He is one of the very few beef cattle farmers in the county successfully managing clover long term in grazed pastures.



Mr. McCauley has participated in federal Farm Bill programs and successfully completed two Environmental Quality Incentive Program contracts covering all his owned land. He has also had a Conservation Security Program contract. This program was designed for the best managers to be compensated for the environmental improvements made on the farm and in that area of the county. Mr. McCauley also participated in Emergency Conservation Program during the 2001-2002 drought, which allowed him to deepen his three ponds for additional water storage for his cows.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District presents each Conservation Farmer of the Year with a plaque for his or her achievements and publicizes his or her accomplishments to encourage other landowners and landusers to work toward conserving our natural resources. To contact the District about its programs, call Amanda Roberts, District Manager, at 803-286-4455, extension 3.

## Events That Where Held This Summer

### Natural Resources Camp



The Lancaster Conservation District partnered with SCDNR and Lancaster County 4-H to host a Natural Resources day camp in Van Wyck, SC. 13 students attended the camp . Topics included: Beekeeping, forestry, animal id with skins, hunting safety, archery, soils, and much more.



### Camp Wildwood

The Lancaster Conservation District sponsored Hunter McCowan from Buford High School and Madison Garris from Indian Land High School to attend Camp Wildwood.

# Workshops



The Lancaster Conservation District partnered with the Lancaster Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Lancaster USDA-NRCS office and Clemson Extension Natural Resources/ Ag Agent Corey Heaton to hold a Feral Hog and Coyote Workshop. Thirty-five people attended.

The Lancaster Conservation District partnered with the Lancaster Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Lancaster USDA-NRCS office and Clemson Extension Natural Resources/ Ag Agent Corey Heaton to hold a Pond Management Workshop. Twenty-five people attended.

## Hunter's Education Classes



The Lancaster Conservation District and SCDNR sponsored two Hunter's Education Classes. The July class was held in Van Wyck, SC, and the August Class was held at USC-Lancaster. A total of 100 people attended these classes. Other sponsors of the classes were Hickory Hills Smoked Products and Big Game Processing who brought samples for the student to taste and Pizza Hut provided lunch for the students.

## 2012 Local Work Group Meeting

The Catawba Watershed held our local work group meeting in Lancaster on September 13. Twenty-one people attended the meeting.



**Conservation Program Protects Soil, Water, Wildlife  
Landowners Encouraged to Apply by October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for  
Prioritized Funding**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist for South Carolina, Ann English, announced that the first sign up deadline for priority assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

There will be a second deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Lancaster District Conservationist Ann Christie says "Landowners and farmers interested in the program should contact me immediately. The land has to be eligible and the person has to be eligible to qualify for funding. If you wait until the last minute to apply, it could delay your eligibility."

"Farmers and landowners with annual row crop land, pasture, hay, or woodlands and wildlife can qualify. First, I visit the tract and we draw up a 'conservation plan' of all conservation work you want to do on the land. Then we decide if a financial contract is the best way to get some of the work accomplished. If it is, then we decide what conservation practices should be on an application for funds and the timeline to get the practices installed."

"These are multi-year contracts," said Christie. "You have a couple of years to get the work done, but you must stay on schedule and install the conservation practices to NRCS standards and specifications."

Christie says livestock farmers have used the financial contracts to pay part of the costs of cross fences, rotational grazing, pest control, and water pipelines and tanks to provide clean drinking water for animals. Timber farmers and wildlife enthusiasts have completed firebreaks and controlled burning, wildlife food plot plantings of permanent vegetation, and longleaf tree planting in the south-eastern part of Lancaster County.

"It's a contact with the federal government," she says. You don't want to enter into this contract without taking plenty of time to make sure it's the best thing for you."

"This is not an entitlement program – you have to qualify," she repeated. "There is a good bit of paperwork in order to qualify, and the farmer and I have to do a lot of planning. People interested should call now and not wait until the deadline."

NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help eligible South Carolina landowners address natural resource concerns, promote environmental quality, and protect wildlife through the EQIP program. This program helps farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil erosion and productivity, grazing management, water quality, animal waste, and forestry concerns. EQIP also assists eligible small-scale farmers who have historically not participated in or ranked high enough to be funded in previous program sign ups.

There is a continuous signup for this program; however, to increase your chances of funding, apply by the two deadlines. Producers interested in applying should visit their local USDA office as soon as possible to prepare their applications.

Visit [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information, including eligibility requirements. USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

The Lancaster NRCS office phone number is 803-286-4455, extension 3. Call the office before coming by, as the staff is in the field much of the time.

**What Is A Conservation  
District?**

Conservation Districts are subdivisions of state government that work to address natural resource concerns. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Lancaster County.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District consists of a board of five commissioners—three elected in the general election and two appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. These commissioners volunteer their time, talents and services to help improve natural resource awareness.

For over sixty years, the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District has been here to serve YOU! Our conservation district is working for you and your community to promote wise use of our natural resources.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District was originally organized as a part of the Catawba Soil and Water Conservation District, which included Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster and York Counties. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation became a single district on July 7, 1950.

## 2012 Arbor Day Contest



The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District would like to invite all Lancaster County Schools to participate in the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District Arbor Day Celebration. Grades K-12 throughout Lancaster County are encouraged to enter.

Every year the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District chooses a school in Lancaster County to participate in our Arbor Day Celebration. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District will provide a tree or trees for the students to plant on the school grounds. The Arbor Day celebration will be held **Friday, December 7, 2012.**

We ask that a representative from the school write a short paper telling us why you want us to hold the Arbor Day Celebration at your school. **Please submit your entries by 3:00 PM on September 28, 2012.** Mail the short paper to 1771-D Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster, SC 29720 or email the short paper in a word file to [amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov](mailto:amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov).



## 2012 Conservation Contests

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District recently announced the theme for the conservation poster contest which: “Where Does Your Water Shed?” The conservation poster contest is for kindergarten to 12th grade students. The poster contest will be judged on conservation message, visual effectiveness, imagination, creativity and clarity.



The middle and high school students will also be offered a conservation photo contest. The photo contest will be judged on categories of understanding, imagination, creativity and originality.

The deadline for these contests is Tuesday, November 20, 2012.

For more information, guidelines and entry forms, call the office at 803-286-4455 extension 101 or go to our website at [www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com).

## 2013 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship



**Are you a rising senior in Lancaster County?  
Are you planning to attend college and major in a natural resource field?  
If so, we hope you will apply for the 2013 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship.**

The \$500 scholarship is presented to a high school senior residing in Lancaster County who will be attending a college, university or technical college and majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field such as: agricultural education, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agronomy, biology, forestry, horticulture, soils, or wildlife management. The deadline to apply is **April 13, 2013 at 3:00pm.**

Those interested in applying for this scholarship must fill out an application, which can be found on the website at [www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com) (click the education program link) or you may call the office at 803-286-4455 extension 101 for a copy.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District established this scholarship in recognition of Glenn Alexander's 57 years of service with the Conservation District, and his dedication to our County.

## Watershed Boards



Watershed directors are a dedicated group of volunteers who oversees the five large flood-control lakes in the county. These flood control lakes protect Lancaster County citizens from flooding. Four flood control lakes protect the City of Lancaster and one protects the Town of Kershaw. The Cane Creek Watershed Board of Directors oversees the four lakes which protect Lancaster and the Little Lynches Watershed Board of Directors oversees the one which protects Kershaw.

The Directors serve without pay to inspect the lakes' dams and ensure maintenance work is done to keep the dams in good shape. The Directors are elected officials, and their names appear on the ballot in the General Election. The position is non-partisan, meaning candidates do not run as a member of a political party- they serve because they are concerned about their communities and fellow citizens.

There are five directors on each watershed board. Directors must live in the watershed district they serve. For more information, call the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District office at 803-286-4455 extension 3.

### **Cane Creek Board:**

Eric Sherman-*Chairman*  
Tony Sistare- *Secretary /Treasurer*  
Willis Ballard  
Leonard Robinson  
Bernadine King



### **Little Lynches Board:**

Leonard Sims-*Chairman*  
Elizabeth Hunter-*Secretary /Treasurer*  
Roy Croxton  
Carl Cicotello  
Ashli Young

## Notice of Vacancy

### Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner

A vacancy to fill an unexpired elected term ending on January 31, 2015 for a Conservation District Commissioner exists on the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Interested persons may obtain the necessary information and application from the Lancaster SWCD District office which is located at 1771-D Hwy 521 Bypass South, Lancaster, SC 29720, by phone at 803-286-4455 extension 3 or on the website at [www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com).

Deadline for submitting the application along with a resume is 11:00 am on October 1, 2012. You may drop them off at the office on 1771 Hwy 521 Bypass South Lancaster or mail them to Lancaster SWCD 1771-D Hwy 521 Bypass South, Lancaster SC 29720 or by email to [amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov](mailto:amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov).

#### **An overview of and opportunities associated with a District Commissioner position are:**

A district commissioner is an appointed or nonpartisan elected member of the governing body of a Conservation District. In taking the Oath of Office, a commissioner commits to exercising the rights and responsibilities of duties as spelled out in the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, 48-9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. This law charges Conservation Districts Commissioners with the responsibility of providing first-line leadership in developing and implementing plans to meet conservation needs.

#### **Duties of a Conservation District Commissioner are not limited to:**

- Be familiar with the state law.
- Identify conservation needs and assist with the planning to address these needs.
- Work with agencies and other groups to meet conservation needs.
- Determine funding needs and find sources of funds to meet the conservation needs.
- Keep the public informed of conservation programs.
- Stay abreast of conservation issues and promote natural resource management.
- Evaluate Natural Resource Management Programs.
- Work with other Conservation Districts, the SC Department of Natural Resources and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and others to develop programs that are suitable for conservation districts.
- Provide direction to volunteers and other paid staff.

#### **Time Required:**

- Attend 12 regularly scheduled district board meetings per year plus, additional events of the conservation district, SC Association of Conservation Districts, State and Federal conservation agencies. The Lancaster SWCD meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

#### **Salary:**

- This is a voluntary position without pay.

#### **Upcoming**

#### **Events**

**October 1, 2012 by 11:00am-**  
Applications and resumes are due for the vacant Commissioner's position.

**October 1, 2012 at 7:00pm-**  
The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation Board of Commissioners' monthly board meeting. It will be held in our office at 1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster.

**November 5, 2012 at 7:00pm-**  
The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation Board of Commissioners' monthly board meeting. It will be held in our office at 1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster.

**November 20, 2012-**  
Conservation Poster and Photo entries are due today.

**November 22, 2012-** Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday

**December 3, 2012 at 7:00pm-**  
The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation Board of Commissioners' monthly board meeting. It will be held in our office at 1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster.

**December 24-25, 2012-**  
Office Closed for Christmas Day Holiday

## Affiliate Membership

YOU can be instrumental in helping conserve Lancaster County's natural resources. Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team! Without monetary support given by Affiliate Members, we would not be able to carry out the many programs needed to promote conservation within the county.

Monies collected through the Affiliate Membership Program will be used to advance our educational programs.

Please fill out the donation form and mail to:  
Lancaster Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
1771-D Hwy. 521 Bypass South  
Lancaster, SC 29720

All contributions are tax deductible.  
We look forward to working with you to make Lancaster County a better place to live.

- Land Conservationist - \$30.00 donation
- Soil & Water Protector-\$50.00 donation
- Steward of the Land- \$100.00 donation
- Corporate Member- \$250.00 donation
- Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship- \$75.00 donation

How do you want your membership listed?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to Lancaster Conservation District or LSWCD**

## Officials for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District:

Bill Ardrey, Chairman

Phil Cleveland, Vice-Chairman

Vacant, Secretary/ Treasurer

Joe Ghent, Commissioner

Gary Moore, Commissioner

**Associate Commissioners:**

Nancy Fleming

Joyce Heath

**District Chaplain:**

Rev. R.A. Morrison

**Lancaster Soil and Water  
Conservation District Personnel:**

Amanda Roberts, District Manager

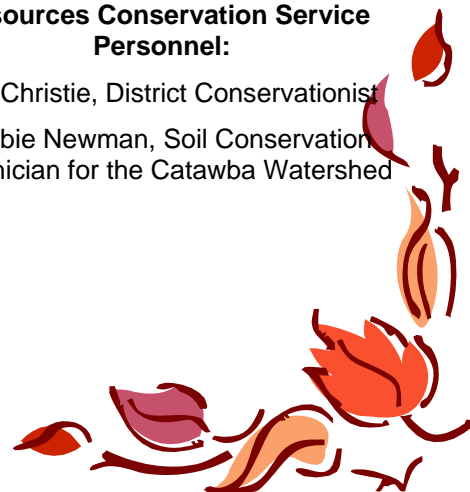
**SC Department of Natural  
Resources Personnel:**

Marc Cribb

**US Department of Agriculture-Natural  
Resources Conservation Service  
Personnel:**

Ann Christie, District Conservationist

Robbie Newman, Soil Conservation  
Technician for the Catawba Watershed



**Newsletter Sponsors For 2012-2013**

**Bill Ardrey**  
**Forestry, Inc.**

**221 Clearwater Drive**  
**PO Box 1013**  
**Lancaster, SC 29721**

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803-285-1535

**RANDY EDWARDS**  
Owner

**793 Lancaster Bypass East**  
**Lancaster, SC 29720**

Commissioners of  
the Lancaster Soil  
and Water  
Conservation District  
meet on the first  
Monday of every  
month at 7:00 p.m.  
Meetings are held at  
the district office at  
1771 Hwy. 521  
Bypass South in  
Lancaster, SC.

You are welcome to  
join us for these  
meetings!

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