



## Conservation Connection Newsletter

Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

October 2014

# 2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year

By: Ann Christie, USDA-NRCS



Pictured left to right: Bill Ardrey, Chairman of the Lancaster SWCD and Tim Phillips

Tim Phillips is a small, part-time beef cattle farmer who has planted trees to create a wide streamside forest buffer and fenced cows out of his riparian zone. He installed watering facilities in fields on both sides of the stream, which bisects the farm, and a rock stream crossing to access both sides of the farm across the stream, using geotextile fabric and rock. He put up cross fence to improve his rotational grazing system and has documented good nutrient management and environmentally – responsible weed control.

control. He filled in and planted eroding areas at an old pond site and along his streambank. He used the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program to reimburse him for part of the cost of these practices. The funds were awarded based on the environmental benefits provided by these practices. His farm is 75 acres total, and there are 36 acres of pasture under the EQIP contract.

Practices completed on contract –

- streamside forest buffer (site prep, tree planting) on perennial stream,
- two livestock water facilities (underground pipeline, water tank and heavy use area under water tank),
- stream crossing of fabric and rock (heavy use area),
- proper application of nutrients (nutrient management on pasture),
- environmentally-responsible use of herbicides (herbaceous weed control),
- fencing out stream and streamside forest buffer,
- cross fencing for rotational grazing,
- stabilizing small gullies and old pond site with critical area seeding of grass.

Many farmers in the county have completed similar practices. Tim's distinguishing factors were that he is a small, part-time farmer who had more resource issues to address, such as the stream dividing his farm and eroding areas, and addressed them well at considerable cost, to him, in time and money. He and his family provided all the labor to plant the trees, erect the fences and install the pipeline and water tank and heavy use area – and it was hot the summer they put in the livestock water!

Congratulations to Tim Phillips and his family.

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### Hunters Education Classes:

**Check out our website to find out how to register to attend one of our upcoming classes.**



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 Highway 521 Bypass South in Lancaster, SC. You are welcome to join us for these meetings!





Office Location Is:  
1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South  
Lancaster, SC 29720

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 2274  
Lancaster, SC 29721

Telephone: (803) 286-4455  
NEW Ext. 100

Fax: 1-855-589-9004

Email:  
amanda.roberts@sc.nacdnet.net

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.*

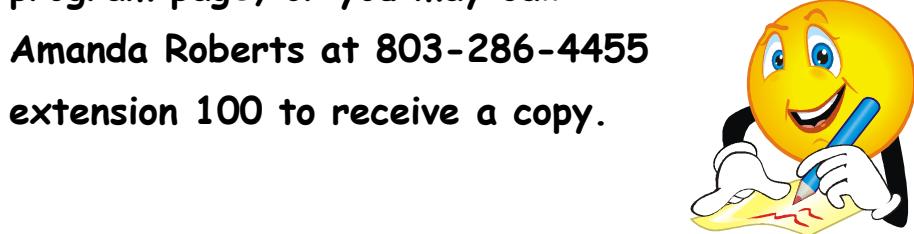
*All programs and services of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap or marital status.*

# Education Program Conservation Contests

As everyone is getting in the routine of going back to school, we would like to tell you about some of our conservation contests for the students in Lancaster County.

Currently, we have a conservation poster contest, photo contest, essay contest and bulletin board contest available for all students that attend school or who live in Lancaster County.

Entry forms and guidelines may be found online at [www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com) - education program page, or you may call Amanda Roberts at 803-286-4455 extension 100 to receive a copy.



This year's theme is



# 2015 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship



## Are you a Senior in Lancaster County?

If so, we hope you will apply for the 2015 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship is presented to a high school senior residing in Lancaster County who will be attending a fully accredited college, university or technical college. The Conservation District will rank all applications with a points system. The Conservation District prefers that the recipient is majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field such as: agricultural education, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agronomy, biology, forestry, horticulture, soils, or wildlife management, but it is not a requirement.

The deadline to apply is **April 2, 2015 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 100 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.

## Upcoming Events

**October 6, 2014 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.

**October 7, 2014 at 9:00am**- Watershed site showing for the Rodent Control Contract.

**October 21, 2014 at 2:00pm**- Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Board meeting. It will be held in our office at 1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster.

**November 3, 2014 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 15, 2014 from 9:00am to 5:00pm**- Hunters Education Class at the Kershaw Recreation Center/ Stevens Park in the Bowling Alley's Meeting.

**November 24, 2014 at 11:00am**- The deadline for Poster and Photo Contest entries.

**November 27, 2014**- Office closed for Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

**December 1, 2014 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 13, 2014 from 9:00am to 5:00pm**- Hunters Education Class at the Native American Studies Center in Lancaster.

**December 25, 2014**- Office closed for Christmas Day Holiday.

**January 1, 2015**- Office closed for New Year's Day Holiday.

## 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





# Watershed Boards' Report

The Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Boards' and staff have been working with contractors to complete work on:

- ⇒ Rodent Control: 2014 Ghent Reservoir and Gills Creek, 2015 Little Lynches and Campbell Lake
- ⇒ Spraying Woody Vegetation: Ghent Reservoir and Little Lynches
- ⇒ Annual Maintenance: mowing and fertilizing all watershed dams/spillways
- ⇒ Repairing a small eroded area on Gills Creek and a small depression on Ghent Reservoir



*Mowing*



*Spraying*



## What Is A Watershed Director?

Watershed directors are a dedicated group of volunteers who oversee 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 and 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 100.

## Current Watershed Directors:

### Little Lynches Board:

Leonard Sims- Chair

Elizabeth Hunter- Secretary/Treasurer

Roy Croxton

Carl Cicotello

Ashli Young

### Cane Creek Board:

Donnie Little- Chair

Tony Sistare-Secretary/Treasurer

Willis Ballard

Alan Weaver

# No-Fee Services for Landowners and Farmers

*By: Ann Christie, USDA-NRCS*

Many landowners and farmers may not know of the valuable services available without fees. The Conservation Partnership provides services for free in counties in South Carolina – the local Conservation District, US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and SC Department of Natural Resources.

Conservation Districts provide educational programs for schools and community groups. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District has a variety of programs, and sponsors contests in schools to promote conservation, or wise use, of our natural resources. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District also offers two scholarships for college students. The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District provides an aerator for rent to landowners who want to aerate pastures or other lands. Amanda Roberts, District Manager for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District, is certified to oversee hunters education tests.

The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) visits farms and properties and provides recommendations for landowners and farmers to improve their property and farming operations. Soils information is available to people who want to buy property or homes that can show how suitable soil is for a particular use. USDA-NRCS has a cost-sharing program to improve the environment on privately-owned agricultural lands.

The SC Department of Natural Resources provides boaters education and hunters education courses, as well as school programs. Once a year, there is a Fishing Rodeo for children in most counties. The Conservation Law Enforcement Division (game wardens) assists landowners and hunters in preventing trespassing and to hunt legally. Game and fisheries biologists provide advice on managing land for wildlife and ponds for fish.

The Clemson Extension Service provides assistance to farmers on grazing and livestock management, pond weed control, wildlife management, and pesticides for home and garden and agricultural use. There is a fee for soil testing. The Home and Garden Information Center has large amounts of information for homeowners.

The SC Forestry Commission (SCFC) evaluates woodland and provides maps and recommendations for timber and wildlife management. The SCFC has a cost-sharing program for tree planting and Southern Pine Beetle control. The agency has small seedlings of many types of trees and shrubs and wildlife plants for sale. SCFC provides wildfire control, and information on tree identification, timber values and tax tips for forest landowners.

Contacts for Lancaster County:

- ⇒ Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District – Amanda Roberts, 803-286-4455 ext 3, [amanda.roberts@sc.nacdnet.net](mailto:amanda.roberts@sc.nacdnet.net), website [www.lancasterswcd.com](http://www.lancasterswcd.com).
- ⇒ US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ann Christie, 803-286-4455 ext 3, [ann.christie@sc.usda.gov](mailto:ann.christie@sc.usda.gov), website [www.nrcc.usda.gov](http://www.nrcc.usda.gov).
- ⇒ SC Department of Natural Resources – no local office. Contact through the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District or USDA-NRCS at 803-286-4455, ext 3. Operation Game Thief number to report fish and wildlife law violations or contact a game warden – 800-922-5431.
- ⇒ Clemson Extension Service – Brian Beer, lead agent, 803-283-3302, ext 0 (office hours vary), [bbeer@clemson.edu](mailto:bbeer@clemson.edu), website [www.clemson.edu/extension](http://www.clemson.edu/extension).
- ⇒ SC Forestry Commission – Blake Morris, 843-498-6918 (leave a message) in Patrick, SC, website [www.state.sc.us/forestry](http://www.state.sc.us/forestry).

## 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  
PO Box 2274  
Lancaster, SC 29721

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 and  
acting Secretary/ Treasurer

Joe Ghent, Commissioner

Gary Moore, Commissioner

Nancy Fleming, Commissioner

#### **District Chaplain:**

Vacant

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

Amanda Roberts, District Manager

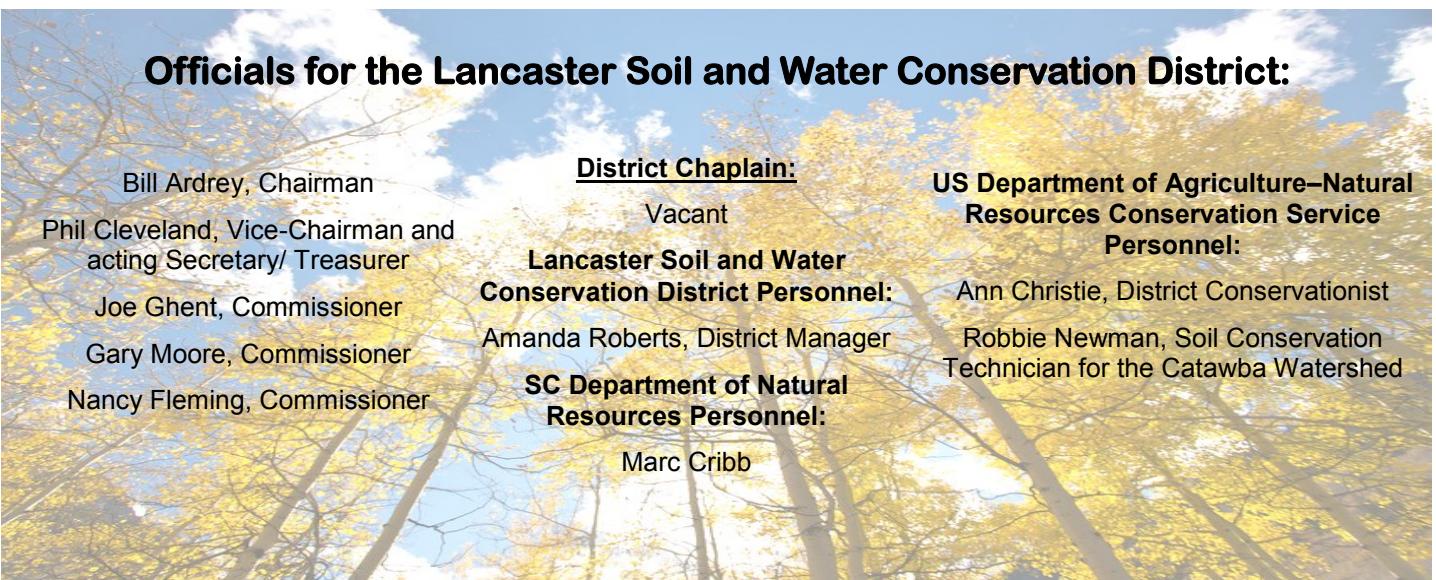
#### **SC Department of Natural Resources Personnel:**

Marc Cribb

#### **US Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service Personnel:**

Ann Christie, District Conservationist

Robbie Newman, Soil Conservation  
Technician for the Catawba Watershed



# 2014-2015 Newsletter Sponsors

Bill Ardrey

Forestry, Inc.

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