



Conservation Connection Newsletter

Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

January 2014

2013 Arbor Day Celebrations



Pictured left to right: Larry Hon-
eycutt, Lancaster County Council;
Michelle Crosby, Principal; Bill
Ardrey, Lancaster SWCD Chair-
man; Ginger Sowell, PTO Board
Member; Kim Threatt, Science Lab
Teacher

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District hosted two Arbor Day Celebrations this year. They held a morning and afternoon program.

On Friday, December 6, 2013 at 9:00 am at McDonald Green Elementary School, the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District presented a weeping willow tree to the school, which was planted on the school grounds.

Kim Threatt, Teacher at McDonald Green Elementary School said, "We strive to teach cross-curriculum learning, incorporating the same content in

Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. We have learned about Julius Morton, the Nebraska journalist, who started the campaign to plant trees and to protect and value the environment. Many of our classes will write about Morton, Arbor Day and the importance of our trees as one of our natural resources. The students will research Morton in the Computer Lab, they will measure trees in Math, and make paper in Science."

"Currently we are recycling, are a certified wildlife habitat school, are beginning a composting program, and are raising our own chickens. We would love to join together with the Conservation District to become better stewards of our Earth and to be involved with like organizations in the community. An Arbor Day tree planting celebration at our school would be an awesome experience and a great opportunity for our students," Threatt said.



Feride Ertural reading the poem
"The Heart of the Tree" by Henry
Bunner

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New Mailing Address



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!

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

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2274
Lancaster, SC 29721

Telephone: (803) 286-4455
Ext. 101

Fax: 1-855-589-9004

Email:
amanda.roberts@sc.usda.gov

Website:
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.

On Friday, December 6, 2013 at 1:00 pm at Heath Springs Elementary School, the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District presented a red maple tree to the school, which was planted on the school grounds in memory of Brenda Hunter, the mother of Luke Hunter, a student at Heath Springs Elementary School.

Brenda Hunter's Family



Trudie Mason, Teacher at Heath Springs Elementary School, said “Planting a tree with our students will enhance the strong emphasis on Science and the already student-built court yard and the new greenhouse that we have received. The theme of this year is Full “Steam” ahead. Steam stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math. Through our arts clubs that meet every other Friday afternoon, landscaping is one club that the students are able to join. The students are recycling and doing other things to protect the environment. Being able to plant a tree would give ownership to the students and the importance of planting a tree would reinforce why we should plant and conserve our land. Students would be able to help with the up keep and care of the tree as well as telling others the importance of trees and the things that must be done to help the tree to grow.”



The Four Years Old Class Present The Movement “A Seed To Plant.”

“The hope and dream of Heath Springs Elementary School is to be able to landscape the entire school yard and teach the students the responsibility of how things grow and how to care for things. By teaching the children at this level and instilling in them the beauty and responsibility of caring for the environment as they get older and mature, it will be passed on to others,” Mason said.

“We celebrate Arbor Day to recognize the importance of trees to our community and our nation. They give us so much in beauty, comfort and useful products,” said Bill Ardrey, Commissioner of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District.

Arbor Day is a national holiday that began in 1872 by Julius Sterling Morton. National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, and each state chooses its own day to celebrate Arbor Day. In South Carolina, it is the first Friday in December. All around the county and state, individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees on Arbor Day.

The Conservation District would like to thank the special guests who attended this year's programs. Also a thank you goes to Keith Grey, an Affiliate Member, who donated four trees to each school which will be planted on the school grounds to celebrate the importance of trees.



“Planting The Tree”

Pictured left to right: Sheri Watson, Principal; Trudie Mason, Teacher; Bill Ardrey, Lancaster SWCD Chairman; Bob Bundy, Lancaster County Council.

Education and Outreach Programs

Amanda Roberts has been busy with classroom presentations.

EnviroScape Presentation



- 75- 5th grade students at McDonald Green Elementary School
- 80- 5th grade students at Heath Springs Elementary School

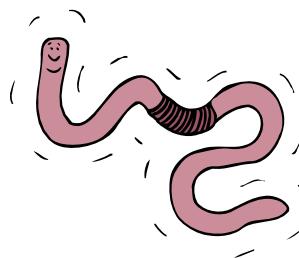


Soil Presentation

- 70- 3rd grade students at Heath Springs Elementary School
- 80- 7th grade students at AR Rucker Middle School

Wonderful World

Of Worms Program



- 75- 4th grade students at Erwin Elementary School
- 80- Kindergarten students at Heath Springs Elementary School

Habitats and Adaptions Program

- 70- 3rd grade students at Heath Springs Elementary School.

Have You Ever Noticed This Sign?



The Lancaster SWCD worked with the Lancaster County South Carolina Department of Transportation Office to put up four new "Soil And Water Conservation District" signs at the county lines. Four new signs were placed at

- Lancaster/York County Line on Hwy 5
- Lancaster/ Kershaw County Line on Hwy 157
- Lancaster/ Kershaw County Line on Hwy 341
- Lancaster/ Chesterfield County Line on Hwy 265

2014 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship



Are you a Senior in Lancaster County?
If so, we hope you will apply for the 2014
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 4, 2014 at 3:00 pm.

Those interested in applying for this scholarship must fill out an application, which can be found on the website at 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.

Hunters Education Classes

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District and the SC Department of Natural Resources partnered with the Town of Kershaw to sponsor two hunters education classes. A total of 80 people attended the classes.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to sponsor instructor-led classes in Lancaster County throughout the year, but there may not be a class held each month.

If you or someone you know needs to take the hunters education class, you may go to www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html for more information on the four options for completing the course.



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.

Upcoming Events

January 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.

January 7, 2014 from 9:00am to 3:00pm- The Cane Creek and Little Lynches Water-shed Board Of Directors meeting and tour of dams. At 9:00 am the meeting will start at the office at 1771 Hwy. 521 Bypass South, Lancaster.

January 20, 2014- Office Closed for the Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 25, 2014 from 9am to 5pm- Hunters Education Class In Indian Land.

February 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.

February 17, 2014- Office Closed for Washington's Birthday Holiday

February 25-26, 2014- SC Association of Conservation Districts Annual Partnership Conference in Columbia, SC.

March 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.



Free

Hunters Education Classes

THE LANCASTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PARTNERING WITH THE TOWN OF KERSHAW AND THE INDIAN LAND MASONIC LODGE #414 TO OFFER TWO HUNTERS EDUCATION CLASSES.

ANYONE BORN AFTER JUNE 30, 1979 IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS BEFORE HE OR SHE CAN RECEIVE THEIR HUNTING LICENSES. IF YOU PLAN TO HUNT OUT OF STATE, SOME STATES REQUIRE YOU TO TAKE THIS COURSE BEFORE YOU CAN PURCHASE THEIR HUNTING LICENSE.

CLASSES ARE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE

FOR AGES 12 AND UP

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

Date Of Class: Saturday, January 25, 2014

Time: 9 am – 5 pm

Place: Indian Land Masonic Lodge #414
9189 Charlotte Hwy.
Indian Land, SC 29707

You may register online at <http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/40171>

Date Of Class: Saturday, April 5, 2014

Time: 9 am – 5 pm

Place: Kershaw Country Club, Second Floor of the Building at The Kershaw Golf Course
301 Clubhouse Drive Kershaw, SC 29067

You may register online at <http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/39805>

If you have any questions about the classes, you may call the office at 803-286-4455, extension 3.

A Different Kind Of “Healthcare” Taking Root In South Carolina

By: Pam Thomas, State Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

There's a potentially game-changing movement coming from America's heartland. It has broad implications regarding the vitality of our farms, the health of our planet and our ability to feed more than 9 billion people who will be coming to dinner by the year 2050.

This movement continues to grow thanks to a different kind of healthcare—the health and care of our precious soil.

Previously, we looked at soil in terms of its “quality.” But as one farmer observed recently, “Anything can have quality, but only *living* things can have health.”

So while it might seem like a trivial, word-choice decision important only to copy writers in the marketing department, focusing on “soil health” verses “soil quality” reflects a fundamental shift in the way we now care for our nation’s soil.

Talk to any farmer working to improve the health of the soil and he or she will likely tell you that the “ah-ha” moment came upon the realization that soil isn’t just an inert growing medium. In fact, the soil is alive and teeming with trillions of microorganisms and fungi that are the foundation of an elegant, symbiotic ecosystem.

This new reality has quietly spawned an agricultural revolution. Increasingly, more and more producers in South Carolina and throughout the nation are harvesting a wide range of production, environmental, sustainability and business benefits—on and off the farm—by improving soil health.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service recently launched a new education and awareness campaign titled “Unlock the Secrets in the Soil” to help more farmers discover the basics and benefits of soil health—and to encourage the adoption of soil health-improving practices such as diverse cover crops, no-till, and crop rotations.

We realize the journey to improving soil health has its challenges. Every farm is different and has its own set of unique resource issues. Fortunately, our nation’s farmers are innovative, courageous and tenacious. NRCS is committed to assist these soil health pioneers—and to help make their farms more productive, resilient, and profitable along the way.

As we face mounting production, climate, and sustainability challenges, we believe there is no better time to make a long-term commitment to improve the health of our *living* and *life-giving* soil.

The promise of our future depends on it.

For more information on soil health visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

WORLD SOIL DAY DECEMBER 5, 2013
A DAY DEDICATED TO HEALTHY
AND PRODUCTIVE SOILS



Applications For Conservation Stewardship Program Due January 17



Natural Resources Conservation Service
South Carolina

Columbia, SC, December 4, 2013 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is opening the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new enrollments for federal fiscal year 2014. Now through January 17, 2014, producers interested in participating can submit applications to NRCS.

"Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are going the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources," NRCS State Conservationist Ann English said. "Through their conservation actions, they are ensuring that their operations are more productive and sustainable over the long run."

The CSP is an important Farm Bill conservation program that helps established conservation stewards with taking their level of natural resource management to the next level to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as healthier soils and better wildlife habitat.

English said today's announcement is another example of USDA's comprehensive focus on promoting environmental conservation and strengthening the rural economy, and it is a reminder that a new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill is pivotal to continue these efforts. CSP is now in its fifth year and so far, NRCS has partnered with producers to enroll more than 59 million acres across the nation.

The program emphasizes conservation performance — producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy.

Some popular enhancements used by farmers and ranchers include:

- Using new nozzles that reduce the drift of pesticides, lowering input costs and making sure pesticides are used where they are most needed;
- Modifying water facilities to prevent bats and bird species from being trapped;
- Burning patches of land, mimicking prairie fires to enhance wildlife habitat; and
- Rotating feeding areas and monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management.

Eligible landowners and operators in all states and territories can enroll in CSP through January 17th to be eligible during the 2014 federal fiscal year. While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, stewardship threshold requirements and payment types.

Learn more about CSP by visiting the NRCS website or a local NRCS field office.

For more information about CSP or other technical and financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov.

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

Newsletter Sponsors For 2013-2014

Bill Ardrey Forestry, Inc.

221 Clearwater Drive
PO Box 1013
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Phone:
(803) 283-2303



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PO Drawer 1239

Lancaster, SC 29721

Phone: (803)286-5555

Fax: (803)286-5051

Website: lci-lineberger.com

**Our mailing address has changed.
It is now...
PO Box 2274
Lancaster, SC 29721**

In our next Conservation Connection Newsletter, we will feature our 2013 Conservation Poster Contest Winners.

