

LCSWCD

Laurens County Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2012



Glory Days Gone By Sid Osofsky
3rd Place Adult 2012 Photo Contest Winner

Our Commissioners



Calvin Robertson, David Coggins, Jay Wham, Michael Seymour, and Pat Garrett

Commissioner’s Comments — Featured Commissioner: Pat Garrett

Even though we are experiencing a final blast of cooler weather, spring has made her presence known. Trees are budding, flowers are coming up, and seeds are sprouting! 2013 promises to be an even more productive year as your Commissioners, and Associate Commissioners work with individuals and supporting agencies to promote environmental education and programs that protect Laurens County’s natural resources.

In living out our commitment to environmental education, LCSWCD sponsored 2012 local youth attendance at the S.C. Commissioners School for Agriculture, S.C. Conservation Districts Youth Workshop, and the Envirothon Science Competition. Elementary schools participated in the “Where Does Your Water Shed?” bulletin board contest. The annual photo contest (open to all Laurens County youth and adult residents) was an outstanding success. Please check our website for 2013 Photo Contest information May 1st - September 30, 2013.

In addition, LCSWCD Commissioners planted ten sunset red maples on the campus of Eastside Elementary School in Clinton. The trees were part of a grant written by the district. Additional grants were written and received for the Joe R. Adair Outdoor Education Center wet lab project, as well as for the purchase of an Enviroscape® Model. The model is used to help students visualize and understand the need for and value of watersheds, environmental damage caused by water pollution, and effective ways to control and eliminate pollution.

On behalf of the LCSWCD Commissioners, we thank all affiliate members, partners, volunteers, and supporting agencies for their continued support as we work to ensure soil and water conservation.

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote stewardship of our natural resources among all people.

Our Objectives

- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation
- ◆ Natural Resources Protection
- ◆ Water Quality/Quantity
- ◆ Soil Quality
- ◆ Forge partnerships among Agencies, Institutions, and Businesses

LCSWCD Leads with Education Opportunities

LCSWCD in actively involved in conservation education practices throughout the year. Holding true to our mission of promoting stewardship of natural resources, we work to educate youth and adults about the value and importance of conserving our natural resources. District Commissioners, Associate Commissioners, and staff take an active role in educational events. For information about contests and events, please visit our website at www.laurensconservation.com.

Arbor Day



Bulletin Board Contest



Woodland Clinic



Palmetto Pride Tree Grant Eastside Elementary



Envirothon



S.C. Conservation Districts Youth Workshop



S.C. Commissioners School for Agriculture



Photo Contest Winners



1st place Youth-Water
Raindrops and Sunshine
by Sydney Halbert



2nd place Youth-Farm
There's No Place Like Home
by Susanna Rankin



1st Place Adult-Water
Fighting Gravity
by Dillard Stephens



1st place Adult-Farm
Left Behind
by John Burnette



2nd place Adult-Farm
After the Fire
by Kathi Holdway



Celebrate
Earth Day: April 22
World Environment Day: June 5
World Soil Day: December 5



2nd place Youth-Water
Raindrops Falling in the Garden
by Keaton Steele

What's Your Carbon Footprint?

A carbon footprint describes the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by a specific activity. The collective humanity carbon footprint has increased 11-fold since 1961 and currently accounts for 54 percent of the overall Ecological Footprint. The higher your carbon footprint, the greater the damage to our environment. Negative effects of this problem include more occurrences of extreme weather, increased flooding of coastal zones, and species extinction resulting from disappearing or damaged habitats. Climate change has the potential to create greater political instability in already vulnerable regions. The *good news* is that each of us can begin to help solve the problem by reducing our carbon footprint. Try these 40 ways to reduce your carbon footprint:

- ◆ Replace the light bulbs in your home with long life CFL (compact fluorescent) bulbs. They last 15 times longer than regular bulbs and use 80% less electricity than regular bulbs.
- ◆ Use rechargeable batteries. They reduce your carbon footprint up to 1,000 pounds over the life of the batteries.
- ◆ Buy locally produced goods and services to reduce fossil fuel transportation demands.
- ◆ Recycle plastic, glass, paper, and cardboard.
- ◆ For your next vehicle purchase, buy an electric, hybrid or fuel-efficient car instead of a gas guzzler.
- ◆ Compost.
- ◆ Filter your own water, rather than buying bottled water. Most tap water is safe to drink.
- ◆ Clean the lint filter in your dryer to reduce energy use and save on your electric bill.
- ◆ When you mow the lawn, leave clippings. They decompose and fertilize the grass.
- ◆ Buy an electric mower. Electric mowers are more efficient than fuel mowers.
- ◆ Bring your own mug for coffee. Eliminate paper cup use and save trees.
- ◆ When possible, hang your washing on the clothesline rather than using the dryer.
- ◆ Only use your dryer, dishwasher, and washing machine when you have a full load.
- ◆ Plant a tree. Trees take in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen, provide house shade, and reduce AC costs.
- ◆ Buy in season produce. Out of season produce costs more to refrigerate, and ship.
- ◆ Avoid using black plastic garbage bags. Black bags can not be recycled because of the pigment used in manufacturing them. Use white, or even better, don't use any at all.
- ◆ When replacing household appliances choose Energy Star energy efficient models.
- ◆ When repainting, buy only the amount of paint needed.
- ◆ Reduce excess baggage and pack lighter when travelling to reduce luggage weight and fuel consumption.
- ◆ When possible walk, cycle, or use public transport rather than driving.
- ◆ Read the newspaper online. You will save paper, trees, and carbon.
- ◆ Eat one less serving of meat a week. Use a cheese free alternative each week. Cheese is an animal product and has the same carbon cost as meat production.
- ◆ Invest in a power strip. Switch off household electronic goods and appliances when not in use.
- ◆ Use both sides of the paper page to print or copy.
- ◆ Replace exterior lights around your home and garden with solar-powered ones.
- ◆ Use reusable bags for grocery shopping.
- ◆ Rake leaves instead of using a leaf blower.
- ◆ Plant an organic garden and grow your own vegetables, even in small garden spaces and window-boxes.
- ◆ Use a laptop rather than a desktop. Laptops use up to 80% less energy. Power down units when not in use.
- ◆ Use a microwave to heat and cook food rather than a regular oven.
- ◆ Buy secondhand household items and save the carbon cost of the production of new goods.
- ◆ Adjust central heating thermostats down 1 degree C or 2 degrees F in winter; turn them up in summer.
- ◆ Lower your water heater temperature. A 10-degree reduction in water can save you an estimated 3 to 5% in energy costs.
- ◆ Insulate your water heater or water tank with an insulation blanket to save on heat loss.
- ◆ Upgrade the insulation in your home.
- ◆ Eliminate drafts by properly sealing all doors and windows. Use weather stripping, caulking on your windows, or a home-made draft eliminator for your external doors.
- ◆ During winter, open curtains during the day and close them at dusk to capture passive solar heating. During summer, close curtains during the heat of the day. Besides carbon, you'll save 25%-75% on your heating and cooling bills.
- ◆ Run ceiling fans instead of air conditioning. Avoid using air conditioning in your home and car when possible.
- ◆ Use cold water to wash and rinse clothes.
- ◆ Keep your car's tires inflated to specification to ensure that your car is more efficient.

Source material from the Global FootprintNetwork and Green Wiki

Affiliate Members Support the Work of Laurens County Conservation District

- Reverend Bill Blakely**
- Jacob Black, Jr.**
- Julie O. Childers, D.M.D.**
- Dick & Judy Coda**
- Neil and Ann Crisp, Plumfield Farms**
- Nelson and Beth Crisp, Plumfield Farms**
- Connie Daniels**
- A.K. King Dixon, II**
- Leland Epting, Jr.,**
 Epting Turf & Tractor, Inc.
- Sam Fleming, Fleming Tree Farms**
- Davis & Kathy Gibbs**
- Shirley K. Glancey**
- Kyle Harper, Stoneworkz**
- Joe Ben Hunter, III., H&H Grading, Inc.**
- Don & Patsy Jackson**
- Kennedy Mortuary, Inc.**
- Laurens City Commission of Public Works**
- Laurens County Chamber of Commerce**
- Laurens Co. Water & Sewer Commission**
- Laurens Electric Cooperative**
- John Marion McClintock**
- Edward McDaniel**
- Hal & Marie Milam**
- Jimmy Martin,**
 Martin Brothers Construction
- Ted G. Nash**
- Paul & Emily O'Dell**
- Jim Potts, Potts Forestry & Real Estate**
- Jake Rasor, Jr.**
- Ray D. Stoddard**
- Ed & Loren Taylor**
- Don Willis, Willis Dairy**

Affiliate Members are a vital partner in our quest to educate Laurens County youth about the importance and necessity of preserving our natural resources.

Please assist with our mission by making a **tax deductible** donation in one of the following categories:

Friend of Conservation	\$	25.00
Conservation Sponsor	\$	50.00
Steward of the Land	\$	150.00
Conservation Colleague	\$	250.00
Conservation Partner	\$	500.00

How would you prefer your membership to be listed?

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Date: _____

Address:

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

Please return this form with your check made payable to:

**Laurens County Soil & Water
Conservation District
104 Ashley Lane
Laurens, SC 29360**

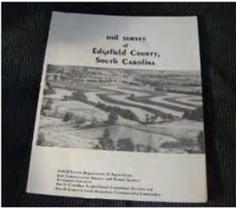
**Thank you for your continued support
of natural resources conservation !**

LCSWCD Receives Grant Funds

The Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District received two grants during 2012. Ten Sunset Red Maples now grace the campus of Eastside Elementary, as a result of a grant awarded to the district through Palmetto Pride. The second grant, from the S.C. Soil and Water Conservation Society, is a matching grant that, along with funds from an anonymous source, has been used to purchase an Enviroscape ®Model to teach students about the harmful effects of environmental pollution.



Soil Survey – Now There Is Another Way to Access the Data by Emory Holsonback, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS



At one time, soil survey information was only available in a hard-copy format. Although the soil maps and associated data are bound into soil survey books and free to the public, they are often cumbersome. In 2005, the Web Soil Survey was released, allowing users to easily search for and print soil survey maps and ratings for a particular area of interest. Information can be accessed by anyone with a computer and an internet connection. The Web Soil Survey is the home for the official soil survey information and is used by more than half a million people every day.

Now there is a SoilWeb application that can be used on multiple types of devices, including desktop computers, smartphones, and tablets. A collaborative project between USDA-NRCS and the Soil Resource Lab at the University of California, Davis, SoilWeb is an online soil survey browser and available at <http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb/>. Once on the website, there are five ways to access the soils information. SoilWeb interacts with Google maps to view detailed information about soil map units and their components. SoilWeb Earth interacts with Google Earth to view the soil survey in a 3-D format. The Text Interface is a way to view the data in a text format. The iPhone and Android app version uses the smartphone's GPS to give soil information for your current location. Each of these five choices has a unique way to view the soils information. All three versions of the soil survey (hard-copy, Web Soil Survey, and SoilWeb) have their rightful place. As technology changes, so do the ways in which we can view and use the soils information for various planning purposes.



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Associate Commissioners:

Rev. Bill Blakely Connie Daniels Mickey Sutton Davis Gibbs

Staff:

LCWSCD Marie Milam, District Coordinator, LCSWCD Lisa Good, NRCS