

# LCSWCD

Laurens County Soil & Water Conservation District

## Annual Report 2014



*Dragonfly* by Emma Caldwell  
2nd Place Youth 2014 Photo Contest Winner



*Soaking Up Some Sun* by Wendy Willingham  
2nd Place Adult 2014 Photo Contest Winner

Did you know.....

If all the world’s water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available to us would be only one tablespoon.

By 2025, fifty-two countries with two-thirds of the world’s population will likely have water shortages.

Drought conditions exist across the United States from New York to California, Impacting the regulation of water usage.

On average, 50-70% of home water is used outdoors for watering lawns and gardens.

If each of America’s 91 million gardening households planted one shade tree, these trees would absorb 2.25 million tons of CO2 annually.

Thought for today:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” *Margaret Mead*

**Celebrate Earth Day:  
April 22, 2015**

**Featured Commissioner: Michael Seymour**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Representative Michael A. Pitts (District 14 - Laurens & Greenwood Counties) on receiving the South Carolina Conservation District Association’s Legislator of the Year Award. Mike has been a solid partner for Conservation Districts his entire career. After serving as a member of County Council, Mike was elected to the South Carolina House in 2002. The Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District voted to nominate Mike for the award last fall. He beat out a very distinguished group of nominees to capture this honor. He was presented this distinguished award at Seawell’s in Columbia on Tuesday, February 24, at the annual SCACD Legislative Dinner with over 200 Commissioners, DNR/NRCS personnel and other state legislators in attendance. In addition to helping us secure our funding every year, he regularly supports DNR and USDA-NRCS initiatives in Laurens and Greenwood Counties. Not only did he support more than a dozen issues related to Conservation, he sponsored four conservation-related bills that we pointed out in our nomination of Mike for this state-wide recognition. We thank Mike for all the help he has given us as a District and a State.



**Our Mission**

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

**Our Objectives**

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

### LCSWCD Grows with Education Opportunities

LCSWCD is 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 and staff take an active role in supporting conservation education to school students and organizations such as the FFA.

#### Arbor Day



#### Soil Judging Contest



#### Woodland Clinic



#### TEAM Ecology-Enviroscape



#### TEAM Ecology-Soils



#### Poster Contest



Debbie Gibbs:  
*Lake Rabon Sunset*



Sid Osofsky  
*Tumbling Shoals*



Bluejay Adametz  
*Precision Woodwork*



Sydney Halbert  
*Autumn Farm Pond*



Anna Lusby  
*Reflection*



Cayla Crowder:  
*Quiet Waters*



Gene Ott: *Honeybee on Winged Sumac*



Rachel Lloyd: *Royal Walnut Moth on Purple Heart*



Luke Rankin:  
*Friendly Frog*



Elliott Davis:  
*Honey Bee and Sedum*

### 2014 Photo Contest Winners

Contest Sponsor:



## EPA applauds South Carolina efforts in improving water quality in the Enoree River Watershed

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commends the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), farmers, and landowners for improving water quality in the Enoree River watershed. Two out of six places in the river and its tributaries are now meeting the state's bacteria water quality standard for the first time since the late '90s.

Upon project completion, SCDHEC tested the water quality of six testing stations on the Enoree River and its tributaries for the state's 2014 CWA Water Quality Assessment. SCDHEC found that all stations show improvement for fecal coliform bacteria. Two of the testing stations now meet water quality standards and are classified as fully supporting (not impaired) for recreational uses. SCDHEC data also showed reductions in bacteria violations at four other stations in the Lower Enoree River watershed.

"EPA Applauds SCDHEC, farmers and landowners for improving water quality in the Enoree River watershed and providing additional recreational opportunities in the area," said EPA Regional Water Division Director Jim Giattina. "EPA's funding of this type of work helps us to accomplish our goal of making a visible difference in the health and the environment of communities in the southeast."

Local partners began a project to restore the lower Enoree River in 2006. The project area includes portions of Laurens, Spartanburg, and Union counties and covers approximately 195,417 acres. EPA provided \$255,953 in grant funds through a partnership with SCDHEC for this project. Many partners provided technical support and other in-kind services (worth \$85,682), including Clemson University Extension (project management); U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS); the Spartanburg, Laurens and Union soil and water conservation districts; and the Spartanburg, Laurens and Union Cattlemen's Associations. Landowners also contributed \$104,939 in cash and in-kind services to install Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Project partners focused on recruiting livestock farmers to develop farm plans and implement BMPs to reduce fecal coliform bacteria loading from animal waste. In addition, nine failing septic systems were repaired.

Through local community organizations, including nonprofit organizations, churches, the Enoree River Educational Board and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension, shared information with homeowners about septic system maintenance needs and cost-share opportunities for septic system repairs. Extension agents also reviewed existing aerial photographs and maps of septic system pump-out occurrences, and worked with septic pumping contractors to identify possible failing septic systems and high-risk communities.

Fecal coliform bacteria have been used as an indicator of the possible presence of pathogens in surface waters and the risk of disease. Contact with contaminated water can lead to ear or skin infections, and inhaling contaminated water can cause respiratory diseases. The pathogens responsible for these diseases can be bacteria, viruses, protozoans, fungi, or parasites that live in the gastrointestinal tract and are shed in the feces of warm-blooded animals. More information on fecal bacteria: <http://water.epa.gov/type/rs/monitoring/vms511.cfm>

States report that nonpoint source pollution (NPS) is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems in the United States. Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, NPS pollution comes from many diffuse sources and is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. Under Clean Water Act Section 319(h), EPA awards grants for implementation of state NPS pollution management programs. More information on NPS pollution: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>

More information on the South Carolina's Enoree River watershed project: [http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/sc\\_enoree.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/sc_enoree.cfm)

## Affiliate Members Support the Work of Laurens County Conservation District

### Affiliate Members

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Randy Garrett<br>Laurens Electric Coop.        | Davis Gibbs<br>Gibbs Farm                      |
| Richard & Judy Coda                            | Billy R. Walker<br>Hodges Log & Lumber         |
| Jacob W. Black, Jr.                            | Jimmy Martin                                   |
| Rep. Mark Willis                               | Martin Brothers<br>Construction                |
| Samuel H. Fleming<br>Fleming Tree Farm         | King Dixon II                                  |
| Paul & Emily O'Dell<br>O'Dell Farm             | Glenn Blocker                                  |
| Ted Nash<br>Laurens County<br>Council          | Laurens County<br>Chamber of Commerce          |
| Don & Patsy Jackson                            | James Potts, Jr.<br>Potts Forestry             |
| Diane B. Anderson<br>Laurens County<br>Council | Jim Meeks<br>Bull Hill Ranch                   |
| Michael & Dianne<br>Sutton                     | Ed & Loren Taylor                              |
| Reverend William<br>Blakely                    | Jim & Susan Curry<br>Piedmont Pulp, Inc.       |
| John D. McClintock                             | Laurens County Water &<br>Sewer Commission     |
| Neil & Anna Crisp<br>Plumfield Farm            | J. E. Chandler, Jr.<br>Kennedy Mortuary        |
| Nelson & Mary Crisp<br>Plumfield Farm          | Connie Daniels                                 |
| Debo & Connie Jacks<br>Indian Springs Ranch    | Senator Danny Verdin                           |
| Joe Ben Hunter, III<br>H & H Grading           | Rep. Michael Pitts                             |
| Bonnie Hadden                                  | Hal and Marie Milam                            |
| Preston Culbertson<br>AgSouth Farm Credit      | Dr. & Mrs. M. Hampton<br>Hunter, III           |
|  | Ray Stoddard                                   |
|  | Leland C. Epting, Jr.<br>Epting Turf & Tractor |

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

Please consider assisting with this mission by making a **tax-deductible** donation in one of the following categories:

|                               |           |               |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Friend of Conservation</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>50.00</b>  |
| <b>Conservation Sponsor</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>100.00</b> |
| <b>Steward of the Land</b>    | <b>\$</b> | <b>150.00</b> |
| <b>Conservation Colleague</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>250.00</b> |
| <b>Conservation Partner</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>500.00</b> |

How would you like your membership 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 Welcomes New District Commissioner

Sarah Daniels has been a resident of Laurens County since 2006. Originally from rural Iowa, she moved to South Carolina in 2001 to begin work with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control as an environmental regulator. After many years working with that agency, she moved to the private sector in 2013. She is currently employed by Waste Management Sustainability Services, managing hazardous waste at a national retail chain's return center.



Sarah's interest in nature began early on the farm where she grew up. This led to 4-H, where her animal projects garnered many county and state level awards. FFA activities followed later, as did college events and activities centered on agriculture and the environment. She earned an undergraduate degree in zoology, along with a Masters degree in Public Health. Her involvement in our natural resources continued when she moved to South Carolina and became active in community clean up events and recycling efforts in this area.

In addition to work and community activities, Sarah has been part of a licensed foster/resource family in Laurens County, served as the president of a local Keep America Beautiful affiliate, and has been to many school and community groups to teach others about protecting our natural resources. Current activities are more centered around church and family and her three children, Isaac (age 8), Joyce (age 4), and Josiah (age 2).

She is looking forward to her term on the Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District board, and thanks you in advance for your support of this group's mission.



**104 Ashley Lane**  
**Laurens, SC 29360**  
**(864) 984-6921**  
**(864) 984- 6921 ext. 3**

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### **Commissioners:**

*Calvin Robertson, Chairman   Michael Seymour, Vice Chairman   David Coggins, Secretary/Treasurer   Jay Wham   Sarah Daniels*

### *Associate Commissioners:*

*Don Jackson   Mickey Sutton   Davis Gibbs   Rev. Bill Blakely*

### *Staff:*

*Connie Daniels, District Coordinator, LCWSCD   Lisa Good, NRCS District Conservationist*