



2012-13

Marion Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report



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Marion Soil & Water Conservation District



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Phone: (843) 423-1742, Ext. 101, Fax: (843) 423-0337

OUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



From left to right: Commissioner- Bruce Baker, Commissioner- Aubrey White, Commissioner-Jimmy Taylor, Chairman-Johnny Wiggins, and Vice-Chairman-Jim Huggins.



Commissioner
Emeritus,
C.P. Mincey



Associate
Commissioner
C.E. Roark



Associate
Commissioner
David Owens



Associate
Commissioner
Joe McIntyre



ASSISTED BY:

USDA-Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Daniel Cabaniss -
District
Conservationist

Bradley Poston -
Soil Conservation
Technician

Soil & Water
Conservation
District Clerk
Lisa M. Foxworth

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts Role

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are legal subdivisions of the state government responsible for the conservation work within its boundaries. The districts are governed by a local board of five commissioners serving four year terms. Three commissioners are elected in the general election and two are appointed by SC Natural Resources Board. These dedicated men and women serve the natural resources interests of this state without pay. The main objective of the board of commissioners is to promote conservation of our natural and human resources. To accomplish this task, they enlist the technical assistance of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the SC Department of Natural Resources-Division of Land, Water and Conservation. Other federal, state, and local units of government are sometimes called upon by the District for assistance in conservation. Other federal, state, and local units of government are called upon by the District for assistance in special resources management concerns. The Board of Commissioners meets at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday at the Marion USDA Service Center, 119 Palmetto Pointe Rd., Suite A, Marion. The meetings are open to the public. The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District is one of the forty-six conservation Districts in South Carolina which promotes and provides technical assistance for the conservation of our natural resources.

The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

2012 Annual Banquet

The Soil & Water Conservation District holds its Annual Banquet each year in November. The evening starts with a buffet for guests, followed by a presentation of awards. A Power Point Presentation of the Conservation Districts past 60 years was viewed, with a display of photos. Program accomplishments, availability and monetary distribution throughout the county were also shared. Door prizes were given at the close of the event.



Conservation Farmer of the Year!



Pictured left to right; Steve Baxley, Neal Baxley, Gene Robert Baxley, and Commissioner-Aubrey White.



CONGRATULATIONS!



The Baxley's have farmed in Marion County for many generations. Baxley Farms has implemented several conservation practices over the past few years. Irrigation Conversion, Center Pivot, Micro-Irrigation, Irrigation Pipeline, Water Management, Bio-Diesel, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Soil Management, Water Control Structures, Critical Area Planting, Waste Utilization, Waste Storage, Fencing, Heavy Use Area, Watering Facility, Water Well and Pasture/Hay Planting. They also plant, corn, cotton, flax, peanuts, sorghum, soybeans, tobacco and wheat.

Legislative Appreciation Reception and Dinner

Each year the Conservation District's come together with their Legislatures to discuss the progress of Conservation Districts. The District's also have the dinner to show appreciation for the Legislatures in all their efforts to help conservation across the land. There are several awards given for outstanding legislative performance. The Legislature dinner is held every year at Seawells Restaurant in Columbia, SC.

Pictured left to right: Vice Chairman-Jim Huggins, House of Representatives-Wayne George, Chairman-Johnny Wiggins, Senator-Kent Williams, and Commissioner -Aubrey White.



Conservation Education Outreach

Arbor Day Celebration



Pictured above is Mrs. McKenzie's kindergarten class at Mullins Primary School receiving trees on Arbor Day.

Arbor Day is set aside throughout the world to raise awareness of trees and the important roles that they play in our environment. The day is celebrated on different dates around the world, depending on local seasons and temperatures. **In South Carolina, Arbor Day is celebrated the first Friday in December.** One of the features of Arbor Day is planting trees, which is best done at certain times of the year. Arbor Day was first celebrated in Nebraska in 1872, and through the years spread throughout the world. Now so many take part in tree planting events and other celebrations of trees, and the role that they play in our environment. **The Marion Conservation District helps raise awareness of trees by donating 600-800 trees to Marion County students each year.**

Affiliate Members

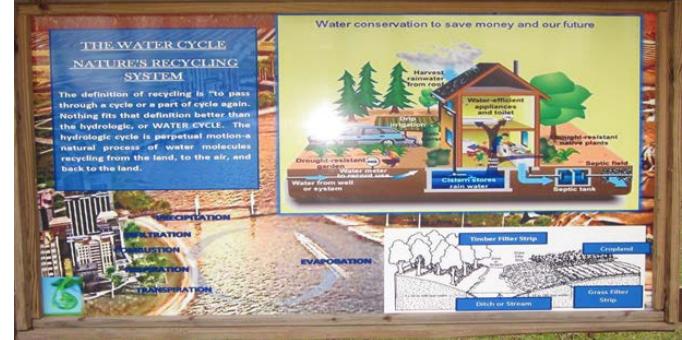
C. E. Roark	James F. Huggins
Thomas Supply	James Carson Benton, Jr.
Howard B. Smith Agency	Swamp Fox Timber
Joe McIntyre	Smith Rogers Oil
Connie Gibson	Ella Moore
Howard B. Smith Agency	Gore's Tire
Jordan Scrap Metal	First Citizens
Nichols Farm Supply	Marion County Farm Bureau
Battle L.P. Gas Company	Carolina Eastern
James G. Wiggins	Marion Animal Hospital
Harpers Electric	Baxley Hardware
Mullins Hardware	Poston Farms

New Environmental Trail Signs

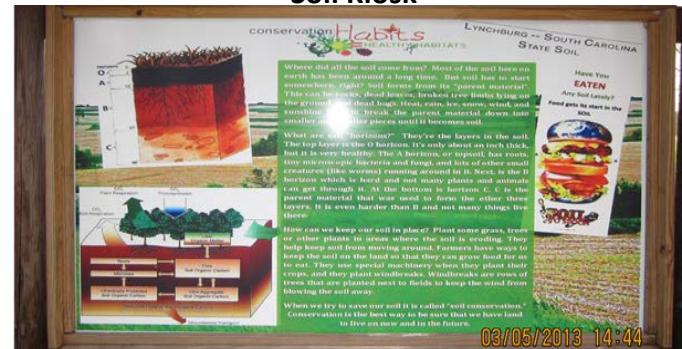
The Fletcher M. Johnson, Sr. Environmental Trail needed some upgrades. The entrance sign, along with the kiosk trail signs were replaced with aluminum signs for longer sustainability. The trail is open to anyone who wishes to use it. If you would like soil, water or tree conservation materials, please call the District office.



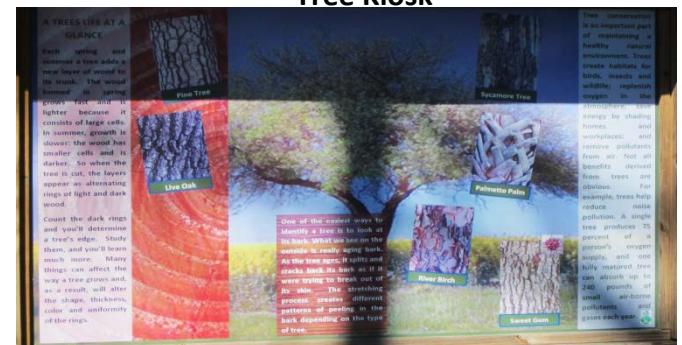
Water Kiosk



Soil Kiosk



Tree Kiosk





Continued: Conservation Education Outreach

Soil Stewardship Week



Soil Stewardship Materials – the District distributes approximately 1,200 inserts to churches, 500 placemats to local restaurants, and 500 bookmarks to local libraries annually. Stewardship week is always the last Sunday in April - the first Sunday in May.

Conservation Booklets

YOUR HOMETOWN CLEAN WATER TOUR

This booklet is distributed to 2nd and 3rd grade students. This Colorful drawing and cartoon characters make this a hit as you learn about the importance of keeping our hometown water clean and clear. This book features characters like Major Mulcher and No-till Bill and includes a ten question water quiz.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE

This 32 page booklet is distributed to 4th and 5th grade students throughout the county, and is full of fun facts about farmers and ranchers. It explains where food comes from, how it is produced, and the benefits of conservation.

2012 Essay Competition

Mullins McCormick School



Johnakin Middle School



Mullins-Marion Christian School



Marion Intermediate



Pee Dee Academy



The Essay competition topic for 2012 was Soil to Spoon! We had 32 students participate from (5) different schools.

Continued: Conservation Education Outreach

SC Conservation Districts Youth Workshop

The SC Conservation Districts Youth Workshop will be held at Lander University June 24 - 28, 2013. This week-long event is held each year for 9th - 12th grade students. Students who will graduate in May 2013 are eligible to attend. This event is a tradition of environmental success that began with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts so that children may learn about our natural resources. The workshop is being sponsored by the South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation. The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District will sponsor (2) local students to attend the workshop for \$275 for each participant.

Conservation Programs and Accomplishments

2012 EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program:

Practices	Acres	Cost-Share:
Cropland:	372.3	\$72,740.00
	925.0	\$242,092.05
Pasture:		
Forestland:	545.0	\$37,823.35
TOTAL:	1,842.3	\$352,655.40



OVERVIEW: The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements.

ELIGIBILITY: Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of no-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands. Persons interested in entering into a cost-share agreement with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for EQIP assistance may file an application at any time. Applicants must: Be an agricultural producer; be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Farm Bill; and develop and EQIP plan of operations including: the participant's specific conservation and environmental objectives to be achieved; One or more conservation practices in the conservation management system to be implemented to achieve the conservation and environmental objectives; and the schedule for implementing the conservation practices. If an EQIP contract includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility, the participant must implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP). If an EQIP plan of operations addresses non-industrial private forestland, the participant must implement a forest management plan.

HOW EQIP WORKS: NRCS works with the participant to develop the EQIP plan of operations. This plan becomes the basis of the EQIP plan of operations. This plan becomes the basis of the EQIP contract between NRCS and the participant. NRCS provides conservation practice payments to landowners under these contracts that can be up to 10 years in duration. The EQIP objective to optimize environmental benefits is achieved through a process that begins with National priorities that address: Impaired water quality; conservation of ground and surface water resources; improvement of air quality; reduction of soil erosion and sedimentation; and improvement or creation of wildlife habitat for at-risk species.