

THE DISTRICT QUARTERLY

Oconee County Soil and Water Conservation District 2013/2014 Annual Report



Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District
301 West South Broad Street
Walhalla SC 29691

Commissioners:

Rex Ramsay– Chair Lee Keese– Vice Chair
Bob Winchester-Secretary/Treasurer
L J Jones Carol Hendrix
Eddie Martin-District Manager
NRCS Heather Ramsay Jason McCay FSA Ann Herron

Covering the years accomplishments for 2013/2014

Working to support local farming and production and to develop educational opportunities for the public from school age to adulthood.

Opening avenues for small scale production, local production organizations, full time farmers and forming partnerships to promote local agriculture and provide options for growth potential for Oconee County Agriculture.

Check out the 2014 Celebration of Agriculture
Announcement of page 2!



2013 Celebration of Agriculture Awardees:

Joe Davis: Cattleman of the Year

Billy Carson: Junior Bee Keeper

William Butts: Senior Bee Keeper

Pat Williams: Horizon Farmer

Sam Anderson: Heritage Farmer

**Dorothy Lee: Grobusky Conservation
Service Award**

Chris Wood: Columbia Grower of the Year

**Robert King: Fieldale Farms Grower of the
Year**

2014 Affiliate Members

These are our supporters who have signed up since the spring 2014 newsletter. If you are not on this list and wish to support us in our conservation endeavors please see our affiliate member sheet on page 5 of this publication. We appreciate each and every one who has signed on so far and welcome those who now consider doing so.

Many Thanks!!!

Ben Ables, John Bowen, Marie Chatlos, John Clark, Kathy Crain, Edna Harris, Larry Hendrix, Davenport Funeral Home, Martin Kazanjian, Laws Logging, Jack Lombard, Ernie Lombard, Mark Lyles, Pete Miley, Frank Myers, William Nettles, David Pepper, William Porter, Jerry Powell, Pete Powell, Wayne Ramey, Tim Tannery, Julian and Ann Yelton

2014 Celebration Of Agriculture

The 2014 Celebration Of Agriculture Banquet will be held November 13th 2014 at the South Union Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a night of celebration as we recognize the hard working farm families of our community.

This year will feature the contribution of the mule as our theme. Please return the below form with your check to secure your seat at our agriculture celebration to honor you, the Oconee County Farmer.

Tickets for the 2014 Celebration of Agriculture are \$12.00 per person the day of the event. Pre orders will get a discount price of \$10.00 each if received by November 1st. We can mail your tickets or hold them at the door for your arrival. Please RSVP so we can make an accurate head count for the meal.

Name _____

Number Attending ____ X \$10 (Discount Price) = \$ _____
Total enclosed

Send to:

Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District
301 West South Broad Street
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Annual Awards Banquet

The District's Awards Banquet celebrates the participation of area schools in our yearly contests. We have essay and art contests for our local students with the subject matter being conservation interests. This last banquet served almost 180 participants at South Cove Park in Seneca beside Lake Keowee.

Below with OSWCD Board Chari Rex Ramsay are left to right: Jaden Taylor, Ethan Surratt, Layla DeCosta, Nate Durham, Roman Holder, Bennett Bost and Natalie Odum



Community Outreach and Support

The Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District stepped up its effort to help land owners with conservation and erosion issues in 2013/2014, going out on eight local calls about conservation concerns. The District offered technical advise on these issues and discussed possible plans that could garner funding for the landowners to help offset the cost or repairing or reconciling the issues at hand.



George C. Grobusky Scholarship Winners

Two winners presented scholarships for continued education in natural resource fields

Each year the District offers scholarships in honor of longtime District Chairman George Grobusky. The Grobusky Natural Resource Scholarship goes to Oconee High School seniors who show great scholastic aptitude and are furthering their education in the natural resource field. This years awardees were Jairo Gomez and Samantha Sanders from Seneca High School. It is a true privilege to present awards for continued education in the name of a man who was a leader in conservation.

Coming in October 2014

OSWCD will partner with other upstate conservation districts to promote conservation through Clemson Solid Green Day Wednesday October 29 at the South Carolina Botanical Gardens. We will have a rain barrel and compost bin in our office for inspection starting Monday August 15th. Drop by and see what this offer is all about.

Please see attached flyer or go to

<http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/stormwaterpartners>

Easement Program

The Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District Easement program protected another 467 acres of prime farmland with support from the South Carolina Conservation Bank and the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. These acres will now be kept as farmland into perpetuity through this program. We also have another 533 acres pending for funding and can hopefully bring to closing this year. This will bring our easement protection acreage to two thousand six hundred twenty six acres protected in Oconee County by the Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District.



2013 Essay Winners with District Chair Rex Ramsay

Affiliate Member Request

In an effort to save paper and postage we started sending out requests for affiliate memberships with our newsletters via email. This seemed to backfire because our affiliate memberships went down, possibly due to the fact that folks did not actually get a physical newsletter in hand to remind them of our need for support. We have decided to return to full mail and encourage each of you to send in the below form with your chosen donation level to help support the activities of the programs provided by your district. Please consider giving a tax deductible gift to help us keep the awards and education programs going to further the mission of natural resource protection offered by the Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District.



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2014/2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Your support is very much needed and appreciated. Our education programs as well as our service and support depend on your generosity. Please fill out this form and return it with your tax deductible contribution. Thank you for your continued support.

Please Circle One

Land Conservationist.....\$25.00
any amount

Soil & Water Protector.....\$50.00

Grobusky Scholarship...

Steward of the Land.....\$100.00

Corporate Conservationist...\$250.00

Oconee Preservationist.....\$500.00+

Name_____

Company_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Email Address_____

Phone_____

ANDERSON & PICKENS COUNTIES
**stormwater
PARTNERS**

Bin and Barrel Sale
Order today! Prepay by credit card!



Ivy 50 gallon
rain barrel

\$65.00

- Bug-proof screen keeps out mosquitoes and other pests.
- USA! USA! Made in America.
- Child-proof locking lid.

65 gallon
compost bin
\$65.00

- 5-panels only - easy to assemble
- Complete set of composting instructions
- 4 removable access doors



For more information and to pre-purchase go to
RainBarrelProgram.org/stormwaterpartners

Clemson Solid Green Day
Pick up: Wednesday, October 29, 2014
Between 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Deadline to order is Oct. 23rd

SC Botanical Garden
150 Discovery Lane, Clemson, SC 29631



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**Rain Barrel & Compost Bin
Features**

Ivy Features:

- Ivy 42.5"H x 22.5"D x 18"L
- Two built in overflow ports. Primary overflow directs water away from foundation. (Use overflow hose to easily link additional barrels!)
- Spigot outlets easily connect to standard garden hose.
- Ivy 100% recycled
- Barrels nest inside one another for easy storage and transportation. 2 easily fit in the backseat of a 4 door sedan!
- Easily attaches to your home's downspout.

Compost Bin Features:

- Compost Bin 26"x26"x30 3/4"H
- Packaged dim. 31"L x 26"W x 5"H
- Lid snaps closed

Thanks to our partners:



CLEMSON
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION