

Fall 2012



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Richland Soil and Water
Conservation District

Eastover student represents Richland County at statewide workshop



For sixteen year old Jamie Lanham, farming isn't just a job—it's his love and his future. Son of Jackie and Chris Lanham of Eastover, SC, Jamie spends his school vacations harvesting wheat, planting soybeans, and setting up deer stands. "I love it to death and wouldn't trade it for anything," he says.

Jamie is a sophomore at Hammond School in Columbia, where he is a member of the baseball, football, and sporting clays teams. He looks forward to pursuing agricultural and business studies after graduation, and then, he plans to return to the farm to carry on the agricultural legacy of his family. "I hope to make a successful career out of farming like my father, grandfather, and great-grandfather," he says, noting that

while agriculture is changing rapidly, education will equip him with the know-how and technology to adapt and thrive in the new order.

Jamie represented Richland County at the 2013 South Carolina Conservation Districts Youth Workshop, an annual week-long summer conservation camp held at Lander University. During the week, 30 conservation-minded campers sponsored by Conservation Districts across the state gathered to learn about agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and outdoor recreation while connecting with natural resource professionals and youth with similar interests.

For Jamie, one of the best parts of camp was developing friendships with like-minded peers. "When my bunk partner showed up with camo sheets and a coonskin cap, I looked at my dad [who was dropping me off] and said 'I can fit in here.'"

The South Carolina Conservation Districts Youth Workshop is a cooperative project of the 46 Conservation Districts of SC, the SC Association of Conservation Districts, Lander University, the SC Conservation Districts Foundation, and the SC Department of Natural Resources. Since its inception in 1967, over \$80,000 in college scholarships have been awarded during camp week.

The 2013 Youth Workshop will be held June 24-28. Interested students in grades 9 through 12 should contact their local Conservation District for sponsorship.

Contact Us

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Arbor Day Photo Contest

Submit your photos of Richland County's **trees, forests, and forest products** for the Arbor Day Photo Contest! Twelve winning photographs will be featured in a 2013 Richland County Conservation Calendar, and winning photographers in each division will receive a copy of the calendar and a one-year subscription to *SC Wildlife Magazine*.

Photos must have been taken in Richland County. Each photographer may enter up to three photographs. Photos featuring recognizable individuals will not be accepted. Photos must be submitted as .jpg attachments via e-mail to RichlandSWCD@gmail.com. Image file sizes should be between 1 MB and 10 MB. All photos submitted become the property of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District, which reserves the right to use the images in its print and electronic publications for conservation promotion purposes. Submissions are due by October 26, 2012.

In the body of the submission e-mail, please include:

1. Photographer's name
2. Street address, city, state, zip, and phone number
3. Division: **adult** (ages 19 and up) or **youth** (ages 18 and under)
4. If youth, photographer's age, grade level, and school
5. Photo title and brief description (e.g., "dogwood in bloom")
6. Location where the photo was taken (must be in Richland County)



Winning photographs will be featured in the 2013 Richland County Conservation Calendar! Prizes include subscriptions to SC Wildlife Magazine.

Around Town



The RSWCD's Vermicomposting Traveling Trunk contains everything a class needs to begin worm composting. Teachers may borrow the Traveling Trunk for two weeks at a time by contacting Education Coordinator Chanda Cooper at cooperc@rcgov.us or (803) 576-2084.

The RSWCD offered a vermicomposting program for the public at the Blythewood branch of the Richland County Public Library on June 26, 2012.



In June, the RSWCD presented a soil quality and composting program for teachers at the SC School Garden Workshop and gave a school garden presentation to teachers and school food service personnel at the SC Farm to School Action Institute.

SC's Farm to School program is a project of the SC Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Clemson University.



Campers attending Clemson Extension's "4-H₂O Exploring the Congaree Watershed" week-long day camp at Harbison State Forest in June learned about water, forestry, and biology from natural resource professionals. The RSWCD presented a camp session about historical and modern uses of local trees. After learning to identify several species, students used raffia—palm leaves—to make rope and cordage using traditional techniques.

Organic Richland News



local markets and farm conservation practices.

To promote local foods, Organic Richland partnered with Sustainable Midlands to sponsor a “Faces of Local Food” exhibit at the recent Palmetto Tasty Tomato Festival, which attracted over 3,000 attendees. The educational exhibit will make appearances at several other events this fall.

Organic Richland is a cooperative project between the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Organic Richland promotes local food production,

A web-based guide to local food is also being developed through Organic Richland in cooperation with Clemson University.

Training and support for farmers who are interested in growing food

sustainably and transitioning to organic farming are also offered through Organic Richland. The latest training opportunity was an Integrated Pest Management workshop on September 13, 2012. Workshop participants learned about safe and effective ways to handle weeds, insect pests, and plant diseases in crops. This workshop was presented in cooperation with the Calhoun and Orangeburg Conservation Districts. Information from the workshop is available at www.rcgov.us/rswcd.



Around Town



In this photo, RSWCD volunteer Rebekah Chapman guides children through a series of Mystery Boxes at the third annual Summer Celebration of Water (SCOW), held on August 25, 2012 at Riverfront Park. The SCOW is a free family festival co-hosted by Richland and Lexington Counties and the City of Columbia. Attractions included educational exhibits, games, food, music, and watersports to raise awareness of the importance of water resources.



This summer, the RSWCD co-sponsored six days of nature-based inquiry training for 30 elementary school teachers at six schools. Now, those teachers are working to develop or enhance outdoor learning spaces at their schools!

This ongoing professional development opportunity is a partnership project with the University of South Carolina, Richland County School District One, and the Commission on Higher Education.



Approximately 1,500 children enjoyed the RSWCD’s interactive exhibits about conservation and agriculture at Richland 101 for Kids, an annual Richland County youth festival.

Interested in volunteering with the RSWCD’s educational programs and events? Contact Chanda Cooper at cooperc@rcgov.us for details!



Find us on Facebook!

E-mail: soilandwater@rcgov.us
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Richland Soil and Water
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Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. The monetary support given by Affiliates helps carry out our conservation and stewardship programs within the County. Please support our efforts by becoming an Affiliate Member today! Contributions are tax deductible.

- \$25—Affiliate Member
- \$50—Silver Affiliate Member
- \$100—Gold Affiliate Member
- \$250—Platinum Affiliate Member
- Other: _____

Make checks payable to Richland Conservation District.



Sandhill Farmers Market

Membership Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

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E-mail address: _____

I prefer to receive RSWCD Newsletters via (check one):

US Mail E-mail

Please return this form and a check made payable to Richland Conservation District to the address below:

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street
Rm. 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204

Thank you for your support!