



Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Arbor Day Photo Contest**
Deadline: October 26, 2012. For details, visit www.rcgov.us/rswcd.
- ▶ **Arbor Day Writing, Video, and Bulletin Board/Mural Contest**
Deadline: December 14, 2012. For details, visit www.rcgov.us/rswcd.
- ▶ **Arbor Day Celebration:** Free fun for the whole family! Saturday, December 8, 2012; 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Harbison State Forest, 5600 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29210.



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District

2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
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(803) 576-2080 - Fax (803) 576-2088
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Teachers' Corner

Resources

The RSWCD is here to help your school, class, or group gain awareness, knowledge, and respect for the environment. These are some of the services we provide, for free, to educators and students in Richland County.

- Classroom presentations and activities on topics related to natural resources, conservation, and agriculture
- Consultations for school gardens, outdoor classrooms, and nature trails
- Green Steps School mentoring for soil, water, and habitat projects
- Funding and support for environmental projects



The RSWCD bade farewell to Tim Nafziger, Jr., in August. Tim had been with the RSWCD since September, 2011, as the Outdoor Educator at the Conservation Station at the Clemson Sandhill REC in Northeast Columbia.

Programming at the Conservation Station will not be funded in the 2012-2013 school year; however, teachers may still take classes on self-guided field studies at the Conservation Station. To schedule a visit, contact Tish Baskett at the Sandhill REC at (803) 788-5700.

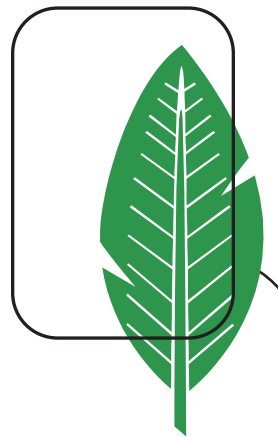
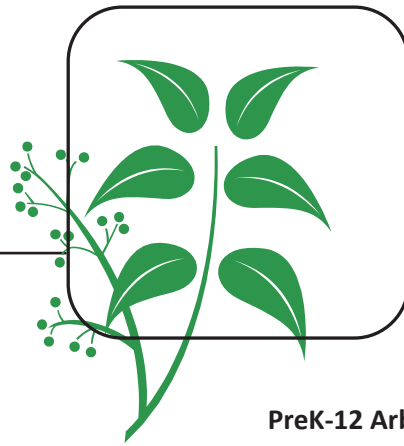
Environmental Education Grants

EEASC Grants: Environmental Education Association of South Carolina grants of up to \$300 are available to formal and informal educators to further environmental education and environmental literacy. An active EEASC membership (\$20.00 for individuals) is required to request a grant. Application available at www.rcgov.us/rswcd.

Champions of the Environment Grant: Up to eight applicants will receive a \$2,000 grant to implement environmental projects. A limited number of Merit and Seedling grants will also be available for runner-up projects. Proposals are due October 15, 2012. Details and application available at www.scdhec.gov.

SEEA Grants: The Southeast Environmental Education Alliance is partnering with professional environmental education associations across the southeast to provide grants of up to \$5,000 in support of programs and projects that support and advance environmental education and environmental literacy in the region. Proposals are due November 1, 2012. Details and application available at <http://southeastee.org/>.





PreK-12 Arbor Day Contests

In SC, Arbor Day will be officially observed on December 7, 2012. To celebrate, we are seeking submissions from Richland County students demonstrating why Arbor Day, trees, forests, and/or forest products are important. All submissions are due by December 14, 2012. Winners will be announced on January 15, 2013. Each entry must include a completed entry form, available at www.rcgov.us/rswcd.

- **Writing:** Tell us why Arbor Day, trees, forests, and/or forest products are important. Essays, stories, poems, songs, letters, riddles, and other written forms are all acceptable. Winners will receive \$25 cash prizes. Entries may be individual or group projects, but only one cash prize will be awarded per winning entry.
- **Video:** Show us, in five minutes or less, why Arbor Day, trees, forests, and/or forest products are important. Winners will receive \$25 cash prizes. Videos may be individual or group projects, but only one cash prize will be awarded per winning entry.
- **Bulletin Board or Mural:** Show us, via bulletin board or mural, why Arbor Day, trees, forests, and/or forest products are important. Entries should be at least 3'x3'. Winners will receive \$25 cash prizes. Entries may be individual or group projects, but only one cash prize will be awarded per winning entry.

Funding for these Arbor Day programs is provided, in part, by the Richland County Conservation Commission.



SC Envirothon for High School Students



Once each year, teams of SC high school students gather at the Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center in northeast Columbia to compete for scholarships and vie for the opportunity to represent the Palmetto State at the North American Canon Envirothon competition.



Envirothon teams are tested on their knowledge of five areas of environmental science (wildlife, forestry, soil science, aquatics, and a current topic) and their performance on an oral presentation.

Teams consist of 3-5 students plus an alternate (optional) in grades 9-12. Each team must have the support of a team coach. Richland County teams and coaches may receive support and sponsorship through the RSWCD. If you are a high school faculty member interested in coaching an Envirothon team, contact Chanda Cooper at coopercc@rcgov.us or (803) 576-2084.