

FALL, 2015



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**Commissioners**

Bennie Copeland, Chairperson  
Beth White, Vice Chair  
C. W. Senn, Jr., Treasurer  
Mark Wyndham  
Peggy Palmer

**Commissioner Emeritus**

Evelyn Edmunds

**Associate Commissioners**

Liz Christenberry  
Martha Dial  
Jesse Miskelly  
Lee Petitgout  
Duane Christopher

**USDA/NRCS Personnel**

David Findley  
Acting District Conservationist



**[Http ://yorkconservationdistrict.org](http://yorkconservationdistrict.org)**

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“There is something of the marvelous in all  
things nature.”

.... Aristotle

**Evelyn Edmunds awarded  
Order of the Palmetto**

Governor Nikki Haley has awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor, to Evelyn Edmunds for her life-time of work promoting agriculture careers for women and youth. Evelyn was a commissioner with the Conservation District for 19 years and has served on the board of directors with the Cattleman's Association , York County Farm Bureau, SC Angus Association and several other local community organizations. She still actively runs her farm in Clover. Senator Harvey Peeler, pictured here, presented the award on behalf of the Governor. The Conservation District congratulates Evelyn for this much deserved recognition.



**FALL 2015**

## **What's New at York Soil & Water Conservation District?**

### **Volunteer Workshops Planned**

Volunteers—from garden clubs, women’s clubs, retired teachers and avid gardeners of all kinds— can assist the Conservation District in helping schools start and maintain garden programs for their students. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!** To find out how you can share a little of your time with these young gardeners, please come to one of our Volunteer Workshops to be held at the USDA Service Center, 1460 E. Alexander Love Hwy in York on:

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016—10:00 a.m. OR**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016—2:00 p.m.**

**To find out more, or register for a workshop, call  
Barbara O’Connell, 803-684-3137 x101 or email  
barbara.oconnell@sc.nacdnet.net .**

### **Legislative Dinner Held**



York County Farm Bureau and York Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Partners in Conservation & Agriculture Legislative & Awards Dinner on October 20 with a meal catered by Jackson’s Kitchen of Clover. Issues important to the

agriculture community were discussed and awards were presented. The Champion of Conservation Award was presented to a family farm that has been in operation for four generations and is a model of strong conservation ethics and practices—Blue Lake Farm owned by the Thomson family of Sharon. Conservation Teacher of the Year was awarded to Alice Hildebrand of York Road Elementary School in Rock Hill.



Ben & Aerin Thomson (left) accept the Champion of Conservation award from Commissioners C.W. Senn, Bennie Copeland, Mark Wyndham, Beth White and Peggy Palmer.

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# **YORK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

### **MORE SCHOOL GARDENS BEING PLANNED**

The Conservation District's school garden program is in its 5th year and has helped start a raised bed vegetable garden with 74 classrooms of first graders at 20 elementary schools in York County. Ensuring that these schools can keep their garden program going is a major mission of the District . . . and we appreciate the many volunteers who help with this program.



First graders learn about what plants need to grow during September's lesson.

The 8-lesson garden series is in progress for first graders at St. Anne School, Northside Elementary and Richmond Drive Elementary in Rock Hill and Hunter Street Elementary in York.



A student learns about germination by planting grass seeds.

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT STUDENT CONTESTS: WINNERS ANNOUNCED**



Ryan Sconzo, a 2nd grader at Kinard Elementary School in Clover, won first place in the Conservation District's annual poster contest. The theme this year was "Local Heroes: Your Hard-working Pollinators".

We love our Scarecrow Contest! Pictured are winning entries from Jr. Lewis, Destiny Hill and Kymani Baccus-Frazier - all 6th graders at Saluda Trail Middle School—and Ethan Harris, a first grader at Hickory Grove/Sharon Elementary School.



# YORK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## SOIL HEALTH



**Take this quiz to test your knowledge of soil:**

True or false:

1. Soil is alive.
2. There is a difference between soil and dirt.
3. Soil must contain 17 essential nutrients to grow healthy plants.
4. Nutrient runoff from unhealthy soil can have a negative impact on water quality.
5. Soils need both air space and water to support a plant's root system.
6. Healthy soil has the ability to lessen the impact of drought.

All these are TRUE! Soil is the basis of all life—but dirt is what we find under our fingernails and on our shoes. There is a biological “world” beneath our feet—90% of the world’s organisms live under ground.

Healthy soil contains a strong and diverse microbial community—there are more micro-organisms (bacteria and fungi) in a handful of soil than there are humans on Earth! Healthy soil has enough pore space to allow water to infiltrate and has a sufficient water holding capacity to help crops survive during dry seasons. Unhealthy soils with poor water-holding capacity allow water to simply run off, taking with it excess nutrients which affect water quality in our rivers and lakes. Healthy soil also serves as a water treatment plant—rainwater is cleaned of pollutants by the chemical and physical properties of soil as surface water infiltrates and travels down into the deep aquifers.



# FALL 2015 York Soil & Water Conservation District

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 AFFILIATES

### **STEWARD OF THE LAND**

SC Department of Natural Resources  
York County Council

Harper Farms/Dickie & Craig Harper

### **GUARDIAN**

Farmer's Service Center/ Lewis Hicks  
Nancy Cornwell-Daves

York County Farm Bureau

Senn Cattle Farm / C.W. Senn, Jr.

Edward Jones Investments/Jon Brownfield  
Blackwell Farms/Paul Blackwell  
Robert W. Winkler

Elliott S. Close

Boney & Farmers Mutual Insurance/Will Mitchell

### **CONSERVATIONIST**

Ketchen Place Farm/ Peggy Palmer  
Tumble T Bar T /Ted Bartee

Carolina Fresh Farms/ David Rector  
Covington Dairy/William Covington

JWEdmunds & Son/J.Wesley Edmunds Jr.  
Mauney Farms/Roger Mauney

Woman's Club of Rock Hill

Clint & Carolyn Boyd

Black's Peaches/ Arthur Black

Duke Energy/ Rick Jiran

Dunlap-Johnson Chevrolet/Joe Johnson  
LaKeisha Barber

Comporium

Erwin Farm/David Anderson  
York County Woman's Club

Elrod Pope Law Firm/Tommy Pope  
Curtin Farms LLC/Hugh Curtin

Mellon Insurance Solutions/Steve Mellon  
APEX/James Patterson

### **PROTECTOR**

Dick Smith

Brian Connolly

Circle E Farm/ Evelyn Edmunds  
Bush-N-Vine

NSC USA, Inc.

Bennie Copeland  
Mark Wyndham

McCarter Cattle Farm/Lisa McCarter

Thanks to all the conservation supporters  
who have become affiliates for 2015!

Fall is the time to prepare for all the  
education, outreach and school contests  
planned for the new school year. The  
Conservation District has added more  
topics for classroom activities that  
promote good stewardship of our natural  
resources. Please show your support for  
the many educational programs in the  
District by becoming an affiliate, or  
renewing your affiliate membership for  
2016 today !! Help us make a difference  
in conservation education — we can't do  
it without YOU! Please clip the form  
below and send it along with your tax  
deductible gift to:

**York Soil & Water Conservation District**

**1460 E Alexander Love Hwy**

**York, SC 29745**

### **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check category:

Protector (\$50-\$99)

Conservationist (\$100- \$249)

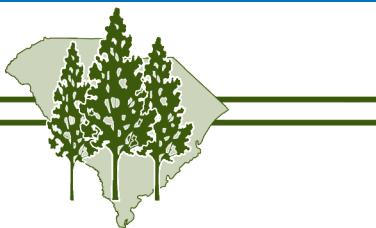
Guardian (\$250- \$999)

Steward of the Land (\$1000 +)



# **YORK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **FALL 2015**



### **CAMP WILDWOOD**

**June 19—25, 2016**

Camp Wildwood, operated by S. C. Department of Natural Resources, is a fun-filled week during which students can experience many aspects of their natural environment—hunting, fishing, forestry, wildlife, water sports—and learn about the many career choices in environmental fields. It is a place to discover that we are part of nature and everything we do in some way affects the natural balance. The date for this year's camp is June 19—25 and the application process is now open. Campers must be rising 10th, 11th or 12th graders by the end of this current school year. The camp is located in Kings Mountain State Park right here in York County and costs \$200 to attend. The York Conservation District will offer a scholarship for at least one student from York County to attend—all a student must do is write a request for sponsorship and mail or email it to the Conservation District. Go to [www.campwildwoodsc.com](http://www.campwildwoodsc.com) for a registration form and to learn more about this popular camp experience.



*If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact our office at 803-684-3137 or email [barbara.oconnell@sc.nacdnet.net](mailto:barbara.oconnell@sc.nacdnet.net).*

*If you get this newsletter via US Postal Service and would rather receive it by email and in color, please contact us with email address.*

*All programs and services of the York Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS, and the SC DNR, Division of Land, Water and Conservation are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.*

**York Soil and Water Conservation District  
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