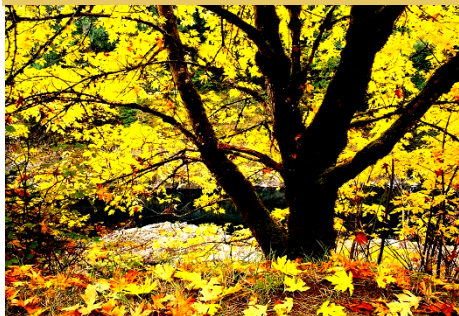


FALL, 2015



<u>In This Issue:</u>	<u>Page</u>
Order of Palmetto winner	1
What's New at YSWCD?	2
School Programs	3
Soil Health	4
Become an Affiliate	5
Camp Wildwood	6

Office Location

1460 E. Alexander Love Hwy
York, SC 29745
803-684-3137 x 101

District Coordinator

Barbara O'Connell
barbara.oconnell@sc.nacdnet.net

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



YORK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

* "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.

FALL 2015

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 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.

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
1460 East Alexander Love Highway
York, SC 29745**