



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

"promoting natural resources conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education, sound technical information, and direct personal assistance."

DISTRICT NEWS

Our Commissioners



The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners proudly serves Georgetown County by promoting conservation awareness. We endeavor to stay informed with new ideas in conservation and implement them whenever possible. We strive to protect the water, air and land and keep them clean and safe. We continue to address many issues related to the natural resources and conservation in Georgetown County. We thank our affiliate members and partners who help us in that battle. In 2014 we sponsored many programs, projects, and workshops for the landowners and students of Georgetown County. We appreciate everyone who has assisted us in our efforts. Working together, we can make a difference.

Pictured left to right: Wayne Avant, Chairman Mickey Lankford, Mark Johnson, Peggy Williams, Nathaniel Ruth, Kenny Williams and Truitt Owens. Not pictured: Elery Little

Affiliate Banquet

The Conservation District held an Affiliate Banquet on February 4, 2014 to show appreciation to our affiliate members for their support of the District which is vital to the programs and contests we conduct. Guests were served a meal of BBQ chicken prepared by Commissioner Wayne Avant and side dishes provided by the commissioners and staff. A power point show highlighted the District's accomplishments and programs. A drawing for door prizes was held. During the banquet, scholarship winners and were recognized for their excellent work. An award was given for Educator of the Year to Horry Georgetown Technical College. The Conservation Farmer of the Year Award went to Bobby McDaniel, Sr. and the Conservation Wildlife Award was presented to Mike Johnson. Students Mason Owens, who attended the SC Commissioners School for Agriculture, and Caleb Justice, AJ Poston and Matthew Justice, who attended the SCACD Youth Workshop, were also recognized.



AMI Kids Garden



In 2014 the District continued its sponsorship of a garden on the school grounds at the AMI School. The District provided gardening equipment and plants to help the students plant their own garden. The boys helped to prepare the garden area and plant it. Plants included collards, cabbage, broccoli, tomato and zucchini. They prepared beds to plant in because of the sandy conditions in the area.



Electric wire had to be installed to keep out the deer and other animals. The students were excited to harvest their crops.

Meetings

The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call the District office at 843-564-7808 ext. 3. You can access District information on the internet at www.gswcd.com.

Small Ruminant Management Workshop

On November 7, 2014 Clemson Extension held a small ruminant management workshop at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence. Topics covered facilities, common health problems, supplemental feeding, nutritional requirements, forage and business basics and more. The Georgetown Conservation District sponsored local residents Tom Tanner and Leslie Dean to attend.



No-Till Grain Drills



The District has two no-till grain drills for rent. Along with the UFT Grain Drill, that is used for planting pastures, the District has a Great Plains 10' Grain Drill that can be rented for planting cropland. Both drills are located at the Munnerlyn Farm in the Rose Hill Section of Georgetown County. The drills received some needed repairs this year to keep them running. We appreciate the help of Joey McCants, Teddy Bishop and Eddie Munnerlyn for their assistance with the drills. Rental fees are \$7.00 per acre for the UFT Drill and \$9.00 per acre for the John Deere Drill. Call the District Office at 546-7808 ext. 3 for more information. During 2014 the drills planted over 340 acres for local farmers.

Pee Dee Area Meeting

The 2014 Pee Dee Area Meeting was hosted by the Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District in October at Silver Lakes Plantation. Silver Lakes is a private reserve with wild game, fowl, and fish all nestled within their natural habitat. They encourage others to become interested in conserving nature and protecting wildlife. A tour was given of the plantation and the African Trophy Room with 30 unique exotic animals on display. Guests then met to discuss pertinent conservation district business and were given a BBQ dinner.



EDUCATION

Essay Contest



The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District held the annual Essay Contest in 2014. The contest was open to all students in the sixth grade. The topic of the contest was "Dig Deeper – Mysteries in the Soil". The students' essays investigated what is in our soil and the benefits we get from the soil. They researched what it tells us about the past and the soil's importance in our daily lives. Soil is called the "skin of the earth" and like our own skin, we can't live without soil.



The winners of this year's competition receiving a certificate and cash prize were (left to right): Lane Phillips, the winner at Rosemary Middle School, Ms. Cindy Ciuba – the Teacher who submitted the Most Essays, Tan'Asia Johnson - second place, Evan Grove the winner at Waccamaw Intermediate School and Conservation District Commissioner Mickey Lankford.

Poster Contest

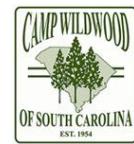
In the Poster Contest : Ms. Dianne Lykins third grade class at Pawleys Island Christian Elementary and Mrs. Miller's third grade class at Pleasant Hill Elementary both won first place in the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District's Poster Contest. The topic of the contest was "Dig Deeper- Mysteries in the Soil" which helped the students to understand the importance of soil in our daily lives and the many ways it affects us.

The classes received a pizza party as their prize.



Camp Wildwood

[Camp Wildwood](#) is a high energy hands on, outdoor environmental camp for 10th through 12th grade students. It is held in June at Kings Mountain State Park. At Camp Wildwood, students acquire the knowledge and appreciation needed to protect and wisely use our natural resources.



Camp Wildwood helps young adults grow by providing a supervised, positive environment that has safety as a primary commitment. Wildwood encourages self-reliance, self-discipline and independence in an outdoor setting. Self-confidence is built through cooperative relationships with adults and peers. It is also a place to learn about the diversity of our natural resources and the variety of career choices within the environmental field.

Daily activities include instruction in fisheries, forestry, firearm safety, orienteering, first aid, soils and wildlife. The hands on classes are conducted outdoors by professional resource staff members. Afternoon activities include sports such as softball, swimming and volleyball. Dances, campfires and skit night are some of the most popular evening activities.

If you know someone that would benefit and enjoy Wildwood, please contact the District at 546-7808 ext. 3 or the Camp Coordinator Dan DuPre at (803) 609-1072 or email dupred@dnr.sc.gov.

Firefly Project



The Clemson Vanishing Firefly Project is conducted by volunteers who are elementary students to seniors that agree to take a minute each night from May 31 to August 31 between the hours of 8 and 10 pm to count the fireflies they see. The observers then report their findings either on a mobile app or with an online form. Fireflies are reliable indicators of environmental health because their population density is correlated to the availability of healthy habitats. They are threatened by many factors including pesticides and chemicals, pollution, habitat changes, forest management, drought and bright light from cities and homes. If you would like to become a citizen scientist and help with the counts, visit http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/baruch/firefly_project/ for information on the project.



Parkersville Park



As part of the 319 Grant, pollinator seed was planted around the retention pond at Parkersville Park. Local boy scouts assisted with the planting. The plants roots will fix in the soil and fight erosion naturally around the pond. The plants will be beneficial for animal and insect pollinators which are essential to pollination in over 75% of the world's flowers and crops.



Scholarship



Matthew Strever was the recipient of a scholarship from the Conservation District in 2014. He is studying Forestry with an emphasis in Wildlife Management at Horry Georgetown Technical College. Matthew is an avid outdoorsman who has worked diligently to maintain a high grade point average and to apply himself to becoming a leader in the conservation field. At left, Chairman Mickey Lankford presented Matthew with his scholarship.

Arbor Day

On Arbor Day, December 5, 2014, the District donated a tree to a local school in observance. A magnolia tree was given to Waccamaw Middle School. The class of Ms. Altman planted the tree on the school grounds to beautify their campus. Celebrated since 1872, Arbor Day is an excellent opportunity to take stock of the trees on your property and plan for the future.



FFA Competition

In February, the District helped sponsor the FFA Wildlife Career Development Competition which hosted over 200 students from around the state. The competition is among the most scientifically challenging of all the events conducted by the SC FFA Organization. Preparation requires considerable study and practice in the classroom and outdoor settings. The event was conducted by faculty of the Forestry Management Technology Program of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. FFA teams from 30 high schools in South Carolina competed for the title of State Champion. Students earned the opportunity to demonstrate their technical and management skills as related to wildlife, habitat and harvesting regulations. Their knowledge was tested through a written exam, plant, animal and equipment identification stations, and a team activity related to wildlife.



CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP offers cost share for implementing conservation practices which help with water quality, soil health, water conservation, and livestock management. Practices include, but are not limited to: conservation tillage, nutrient management, cover crops, livestock water, fencing and pasture management. Assistance is also available to specialty crop producers including vegetables.

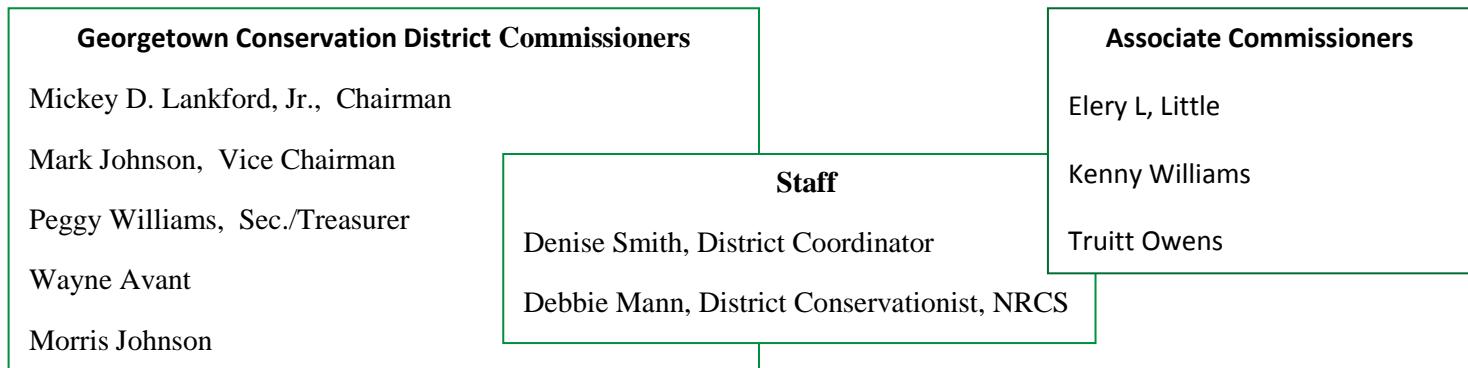
In 2014 funding was approved for 10 new contracts covering 2,284 acres.

Wetland Reserve Program – The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands.

Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP offers incentives based on current conservation activities and accomplishments and also requires producers to enhance their operations with additional conservation practices to improve and protect natural resources, predominately soil and water quality, and forest wildlife habitat benefits for cropland, pasture, and forestland. Currently Georgetown has 26 active contracts covering 32,434 acres.

District Grants – The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District continued with the administration of 2 grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They were for the treatment of Beach Vitex and Water Hyacinth.

Pawleys Creek 319 Water Quality Project – The Conservation District and NRCS partnered with Georgetown County Storm Water and the Parks and Recreation Division to add water quality practices to the new parks being constructed in the Pawleys Creek watershed. Pervious concrete was installed in place of asphalt on a walking path and also in portions of the parking areas in 3 parks – Retreat, Stables and Waccamaw Regional. Pervious concrete allows water to filter through it into the ground during storm events instead of directly running off as it does with asphalt and other impervious surfaces. It is another way to protect wetlands through improved water quality.



Our Year in Pictures



Our 2014 Affiliate Members

The Georgetown Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize our Affiliate Members who are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given by the Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote conservation stewardship within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping the landowners and educating the students of Georgetown County. **Thank you Affiliates.**

Regular Membership

Austin Beard
Kyle & Jodi Daniel
Truitt Owens
Harry J. Butler Jr.
Gray Lady at Pawley's Island
Ron Charlton
Chicora Wood Plantation
Tony R. Baxley
Samuel O. Cribb
Capps Farm
Black River Plantation LP
Wardie & Sybil Collins
Rubeth Earl & Patsy R. Williams
Bob P. Cribb
Lonnie & Debra Creel

Supporting Membership

J. R. Beahrs
W. Sherwyn Jacobs, ATTY.
The Oaks Plantation
H. E. Hemingway
Samuel Squires
Steve Squires
Fred R. & Janice Powell
Legrand Owens

Supporting Membership

Owens Farms
Charles C. King
Annandale Plantation
Bunny & Bob Hughes

Sustaining Membership

Mossdale Plantation
Bob Roberts
Dr. & Mrs Wallace Vaught – Hobonny Fields Farm
The Belle W. Baruch Foundation
Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp
Santee Cooper
Charles Ingram Lumber Co., Inc.
Town of Pawleys Island
Clermont Plantation
Low Country Forest Products
Robert L. Lumpkin, Jr., P.C.

Endowing Membership

Bordeaux-Clark Group Inc.
Mt. Pleasant Plantation
Weehaw Plantation

1837 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

