



South Carolina Conservation Districts 2021 Annual Report



Overview

The South Carolina Conservation Districts 2021 Annual Report is a comprehensive set of accomplishments by South Carolina's 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts), the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources – Conservation Districts (SCDNR-CD), and the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD). This report highlights conservation implementation, economic impact, education, outreach, and dedicated service to the citizens and natural resources of South Carolina.

Each local Soil and Water Conservation District within South Carolina is charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water within their respective counties that are governed by a board of commissioners. Each local district is the front-line advocate for locally led conservation within every county in South Carolina.

SCDNR-CD supports districts, promotes conservation partnerships, serves by providing conservation education and technical assistance, and advocates for new and emerging conservation practices. The SCACD represents districts as their voice on natural resource issues, provides useful information to districts, and offers needed services to districts.

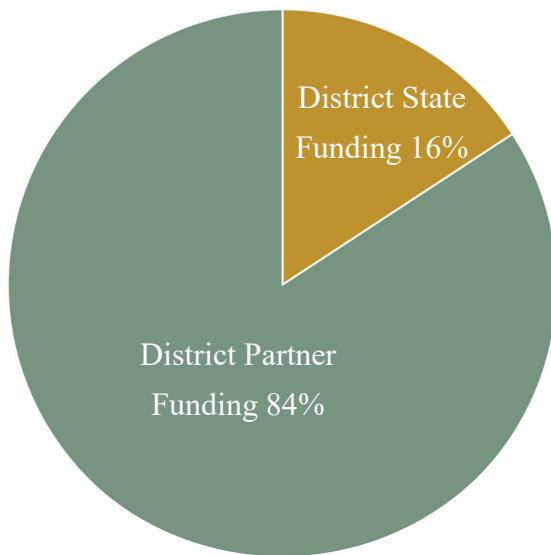
Since 1937, Conservation Districts in South Carolina have worked to promote and establish the wise use of soil and water resources on the land. Together, South Carolina's local 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, SCDNR-CD, and SCACD make significant contributions and impacts and serve as champions for conservation!

Contents

Overview.....	1	Chesterfield.....	19	Lexington.....	38
Statewide Reports		Clarendon.....	20	Marion.....	39
Conservation District Impact...2		Colleton.....	21	Marlboro.....	40
SCDNR-CD.....	3	Darlington.....	22	McCormick.....	41
SCACD.....	5	Dillon.....	23	Newberry.....	42
SC Envirothon.....	6	Dorchester.....	24	Oconee.....	43
District Reports		Edgefield.....	25	Orangeburg.....	44
Abbeville.....	7	Fairfield.....	26	Pickens.....	45
Aiken.....	8	Florence.....	27	Richland.....	46
Allendale.....	9	Georgetown.....	28	Saluda.....	47
Anderson.....	10	Greenville.....	29	Spartanburg.....	48
Bamberg.....	11	Greenwood.....	30	Sumter.....	49
Barnwell.....	12	Hampton.....	31	Union.....	50
Beaufort.....	13	Horry.....	32	Williamsburg.....	51
Berkeley.....	14	Jasper.....	33	York.....	52
Calhoun.....	15	Kershaw.....	34	Reference Material	
Charleston.....	16	Lancaster.....	35	Contacts and acronyms.....	53
Cherokee.....	17	Laurens.....	36		
Chester.....	18	Lee.....	37		

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2021 Impact

State FY22 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$5 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with NRCS Farm Bill Programs which brought over **\$72 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY21.

Over 30,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 20,000 adults were educated on varying conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

Over 4,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions took **3rd place** overall at the 2021 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Districts

SCDNR-CD Strategic Plan Completed

We are excited to share and implement our strategic plan (see next page), which was developed with invaluable input from numerous district representatives. A common theme in this plan is to better tell the story of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina while increasing effectiveness and conservation partnerships statewide. The plan includes our mission, vision, values, long term objectives and key results (3 years), and short term objectives and key results (determined annually). This is an action filled plan that will NOT sit on a shelf!

SC Local Work Group Initiative

SCDNR-CD staff helped launch and coordinate the SC Local Work Group Initiative with the goal of increasing consistency and effectiveness of the Local Work Group process in South Carolina. LWG is intended to collect natural resource concerns at a local level from all stakeholders. The initiative has created guidelines for districts to follow to increase consistency. SCDNR-CD staff will collect each district's 2022 LWG Report to create a Statewide LWG Results Report that will include resource concerns for each district.

SC Wildlife - Conservation Corner

South Carolina Conservation Districts were featured in every article of the SC Wildlife magazine through the "Conservation Corner" column that is organized by SCDNR-CD staff. So far, this column has covered history, structure, opportunities, events, and general information about the South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts. The column will continue in 2022.

2021 Supported Programs

- South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts
- SC Envirothon
- SCCDEA - District Employees Training Workshop
- Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund
- Palmetto Leadership for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
- Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

Other Notable Accomplishments

Received a Governor's Proclamation recognizing Soil and Water Stewardship Week by the Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina

Developed a new Memorandum of Agreement between local districts, SCDNR, and SCNRCS that defines locally led conservation in SC

Increased support for statewide Watershed Districts through identifying support needs and increasing collaboration with state and federal partners

Tyler Brown, Program Manager, serves as the Secretary for the NASCA Executive Committee

Brooke Myres, Program Development Manager, serves as the Southeast Representative on the NCF-Envirothon Operating Committee



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Districts

Strategic Plan 08/22-07/25

Mission

Our mission is to promote, enhance, and protect the wise use of soil and water for increased quality of life and the legacy of our land for the benefit of all South Carolinians.

Vision

Our vision is to be the foremost leader in locally led conservation in South Carolina through Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Watershed Districts (WSDs).

Values

We support Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts.

We promote conservation partnerships.

We serve by providing conservation education and technical assistance.

We advocate for new and emerging conservation practices.

Long term objectives and key results

Empower SWCDs and WSDs to be the foremost leaders in South Carolina conservation

- Provide resources and training
- Endorse significance and value of SWCDs and WSDs
- Increase SCDNR-Conservation Districts staff

Establish brand recognition throughout South Carolina

- Improve visibility through outreach and communication
- Provide tools to increase brand consistency statewide with SWCDs and WSDs
- Promote the “conversation on locally led conservation”

Increase conservation advocacy

- Review SWCD and WSD laws
- Develop legislative understanding and involvement throughout districts
- Address conservation resource concerns

Broaden conservation collaboration in South Carolina

- Enhance networking between the conservation partnership
- Define and connect SWCDs and WSDs to available resources
- Diversify conservation relationships

South Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

SCACD Contribution Agreements

25 districts provide Conservation Technical Assistance to landowners in South Carolina through SCACD Contribution Agreements. Agreements are funded by a Contribution Agreement with NRCS to coordinate technical and administrative assistance on NRCS contracts. \$265,000 has been allocated for federal fiscal year 2021-2022. This program has made significant strides in tackling the huge EQIP and CSP workload in South Carolina. SCACD is grateful to our partners for their cooperation and support.

SCACD Legislative Activities

President Jeff Wilson appointed Vice President Ben Setzler to chair the SCACD Legislative Committee. A diverse group of district commissioners from around the state was selected to advise the SCACD Executive Committee on legislation that might affect conservation districts and their constituents. During 2021, this group held several calls and virtual meetings to discuss proposed legislation and advise the SCACD on any actions needed. There is an increased emphasis by SCACD on legislative monitoring and communications with conservation district commissioners.

NACD Activities

NACD Board member Kenny Mullis was elected Vice-Chairman of the Southeast NACD Board. Kenny participated in the Annual NACD Meeting and the monthly virtual meetings of the regional board. He represented South Carolina at the NACD Summer Board Meeting and the Southeast Region Meeting.

2021 Programs Sponsored

- Palmetto Leadership for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
- SC Envirothon
- SCCDEA - District Employees Training Workshop
- South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Midlands Local Food Collaborative
- Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund

Other Notable Accomplishments

Participated in the Southeast NACD Meeting where former SCACD President, Sterling Sadler, was inducted into the Southeast NACD Hall of Fame

Held four Executive Committee Meetings

Convened a one-day Annual Conference and Policy Committees Meeting in place of Annual SC Conservation Partnership Conference

Signed a new Contribution Agreement with NRCS

Worked with our NRCS and SCDNR-CD partners on an updated Memorandum of Agreement regarding our partnership

Planned the 2022 SC Conservation Partnership Conference to be held February 2022 in Charleston, SC



SC Envirothon

SC Envirothon takes 3rd Place Overall!



SC Envirothon's state champion team from Spartanburg High School took 3rd place overall at the international NCF-Envirothon Competition out of 41 teams from the United States, Canada, and China! The team also placed 1st in the Soils Station test. The competition had a current environmental theme of "Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions". This is a very pertinent environmental topic to teach the future leaders of our state.

This SC Envirothon team was composed of all seniors who went on to attend impressive universities/colleges. Team Captain, Jacob Price, was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar for South Carolina. We could not be more proud of this SC Envirothon Team!

SC Envirothon Training Trunks

This year, the SC Envirothon Training Trunk Program was launched! Trunks are available for coaches to checkout from their local district. Trunks are filled with professional environmental tools such as clinometers, DBH tapes, Munsell Soil Color books, field guides, etc. This resource allows coaches to better train their students and even the playing field among teams.



Support SC Envirothon

SC Envirothon is a hands-on, environmental competition made possible only by the generous contributions of time and money from SCDNR-CD, Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, and various other businesses, individuals, agencies and groups. Please consider supporting this worthy cause!

For more information about SC Envirothon program or becoming a sponsor, reach out to Brooke Myres (myresb@dnr.sc.gov) or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon.



2022 SC Envirothon

- 2022 SC Envirothon Coaches Training (FREE!) - February 5, 2022 at Clemson Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC
- Competition registration deadline April 1, 2022
- 2022 SC Envirothon Competition - April 29, 2022 at Clemson Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC with Current Environmental Topic: "Waste to Resources"

Abbeville

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Abbeville Soil and Water Conservation District is very proud of how our rental equipment has helped so many people in our community, as well as the surrounding communities. In total they were rented out 79 times for this year, which is more than in the past.

Our equipment includes two no-till drills (Great Plains and Truax), a seeder (Brillion), and a lime spreader. Using our rental equipment provides planting small and large areas with accurate seed placement, low soil disturbance, maximizing moisture retention, and enriching the soil along with fast, reliable, immediate cost savings.



Abbeville Soil and Water Conservation District's Lime Spreader that is rented often



Chairman Fred Raines presenting Calhoun Falls Charter School Ag teacher, Nancy McCannon with a certificate recognizing her top FFA soils student, Keegan Curry.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Tyler Brown presenting Stan Keaton with the honor of Commissioner Emeritus for his many years of service to the conservation district.



Chairman Fred Raines presenting Commissioner Eric McCall as the Abbeville Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Agriculture equipment rented 79 times
- \$1,000 Conservation H. O. Mullinax Scholarship awarded to a student attending Clemson University
- \$1,127 awarded to students participants of our Youth Photo Contest and Bulletin Board Contest
- 42 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to apply conservation practices to 4,521 acres

2022 District Plans

- Sponsor a district photo contest for our youth
- Continue to financially promote conservation programs for our youth
- Attain 30 new affiliate memberships
- Partner with Dixie High School in recycling plastic bale wraps with a Plastic Bale Processor

Aiken

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Our outreach effort was our biggest achievement of 2021. In February, we planted oak trees donated from Stockhaven Nursery, owner Vince Furtick (former commissioner), at 5 different elementary schools with the help of several Commissioners. We also participated in North Augusta's Earth Day. We increased our annual scholarship award from \$1,000 to \$2,500 awarded to a deserving senior in Aiken County. We also participated in the NACD Poster Contest with 123 entries with cash prizes given to the winners in each age category. We also had a booth at SEED Day at USCA where over 2,500 students from Aiken County attended. We also hosted the Edisto/Savannah Area Meeting at the Historic Train Museum where we enjoyed a trolley tour of the historic areas in Aiken, were welcomed by Mayor Rick Osbon, and heard from our SCACD President, Jeff Wilson. Finally, we completed our 3rd year of our Mobile Irrigation Pilot Program to bring water savings to South Carolina.



5k students from Mead Hall Episcopal School learned about the benefit of planting trees



2021 Thomas W. McElmurray Scholarship Winner, Dawson Holsomback

Other Notable Accomplishments



Poster contest entries and award winners with their teacher



October SEED Day at USCA. We planted microgreens with the Aiken County students. There were more than 2,500 in attendance.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 827 acres planted through no-till drill rentals
- Assisted with implementation of over \$2 million for conservation practices in Aiken County
- Taught over 100 students about conservation through planting trees and Green Step School projects
- Over 3,000 students were reached via booths at local events

2022 District Plans

- Participate in SC Envirothon
- District booth at City of Aiken Earth Day and SEED Day at USCA
- Host 2 workshops for Mobile Irrigation Pilot Program and our Annual Agriculture Awareness Day
- Participate in NACD Poster Contest

Allendale

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

In January 2021, Allendale Soil and Water Conservation District entered into an agreement with USDA for Seasonal High Tunnel Technical Assistance for 3 years. This includes installation of high tunnels throughout South Carolina.

During 2021, 21 high tunnels were installed in several counties in South Carolina from Beaufort to Greenville. This program helps many farmers and landowners to grow vegetables year round by planting directly into the soil inside of the high tunnel. Some growers are able to harvest three crops of peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, and other vegetables in one year.

We look forward to continuing with the High Tunnel Technical Assistance program in 2022!



Seasonal high tunnel installation in progress in Colleton County, SC



Completed seasonal high tunnel in Colleton County, SC

Other Notable Accomplishments



Allendale SWCD partners with Allendale County Clemson Extension Service in monthly "Lunch and Learn" programs in the ag building auditorium.



Lunch and Learn resumed in November, 2021 after a long absence due to COVID-19.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$450,000 for conservation practices in Allendale County
- Conservation practices under EQIP include cover crop, longleaf pine planting and management, nutrient management, residue management, forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, and installation of seasonal high tunnels
- 7,240 acres in Allendale County were enrolled in conservation programs

2022 District Plans

- Continue with seasonal high tunnel installations
- Sponsor "Lunch and Learn" programs with Allendale County Clemson Extension Service
- Attain 5 affiliate memberships
- Celebrate America Recycles Day in November

Anderson

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Anderson District launched their very first Seed Library in the fall of 2020 and it has been a huge success! The Seed Library is an educational project that provides the public an opportunity to learn about the importance of growing their own food, eating healthy, environmental stewardship, promoting green space and plant diversity, while encouraging families to get outdoors.

We partnered with the Anderson County Library System to establish a “seed sharing” library at the Anderson Library Main Branch with 40 seed types available to the public including vegetables, herbs, and native plant species - all suited to grow in our area! To date, over 8,149 seed packets have been checked out! An additional 244 seed packets have been checked out via Pop-up Seed Libraries through a partnership with the smaller library branches in the county.



Spring Seed Library at the Anderson County Library - Main Branch



Pop-up Seed Library at the Powdersville Library

Other Notable Accomplishments



Hosted our 3rd Annual Barrels & Beer Event. Another huge success educating the community!



The Anderson District has adopted a section of road near Lake Hartwell and holds quarterly litter pick-up events.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,427 acres of grassland protected through conservation programs in Anderson County
- 53 bags of trash collected to protect Lake Hartwell
- 45 landowners educated about water quality and conservation
- 35 new landowners contracted to put conservation on the ground

2022 District Plans

- Secure a full-time Education & Outreach Coordinator
- Hold 6 workshops on various conservation topics
- Attain 2 corporate sponsors and 2 grants
- Attend 2022 SCACD Conservation Partnership Conference

Bamberg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

In the fall of 2021, Commissioner Johney L. Haralson received the Forestry Association of South Carolina's Charles H. Flory Distinguished Service Award at the associations annual meeting in Greenville, SC. This award is to recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to tree farming, conservation, and forestry education.



Other Notable Accomplishments



We help supply/order wildflower and pollinator blends to anyone needing them for pleasure or completing contracts for NRCS.



To help with erosion control, BSWCD has supplied/sold geotextile fabric to more than 30 customers in 2021.

Conservation by the Numbers

- We could not do any of our work without the help of our affiliate members. As of 2021, we had 28 affiliate members and are grateful for each of them.

2022 District Plans

- Actively engage in
 - policy conversations
 - on-the ground projects
 - educational publications
 - professional development opportunities
- Build effective partnerships that support and inform conservation

Barnwell

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Susan Birt was elected to office in the November 2020 General Election. The new term began February 1, 2021 and will expire January 31, 2025.

Birt took the oath of office as a Commissioner of the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District on April 1, 2021 at the USDA Service Center.

Sonja Hiers, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, swore in Birt to serve a four year term as non-salaried District Commissioner. She will serve as a volunteer to help protect and preserve natural resources in Barnwell County.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Tammy Mathias was hired under the NACD TA grant. She provided administrative and technical assistance to conservation program contract participants. She and her husband, Tripp, live on the family farm in Ulmer. Living and working with Tripp on the farm has shown her the importance of good conservation practices and being a good steward of the land.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$1.9 million for conservation practices in Barnwell County
- 10,268 acres in Barnwell County were enrolled in conservation programs

2022 District Plans

- Attain 50+ affiliate memberships
- Get back into schools for Conservation Education
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest

Beaufort

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District resumed education outreach in the spring of 2021. We presented several virtual programs with Zoom and in-person Soil Tunnels. We participated in the Parris Island Earth Day, Broad Creek Clean Water Festival, and Port Royal Sound Virtual STEAM Festival.

We had Friday Adventure Days with small groups during the summer at Crystal Lake Park. Students hiked around the lake, studied water quality, and learned about fish and snakes. One Friday, students enjoyed a presentation from Lowcountry Raptors and were able to see two owls cough up owl pellets! Another Friday was a trip to Hunting Island State Park sponsored by the Friends of Hunting Island People's Park Project. Students and their families participated in interpretive hikes, programs, and received a bag with age appropriate books and resources.



A Hilton Head first grader learns how to handle a worm. Students also crawled through a simulated soil tunnel and colored and labeled a soil profile.

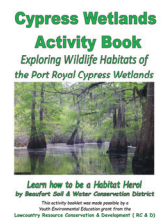


Educator Debby Way leads a bird watching hike. Students used binoculars that were purchased with a Lowcountry RC & D Youth Grant.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Beaufort Conservation District hosted the 2021 Annual Training Conference for the SC Conservation District Employee Association in September.



The district updated the Cypress Wetlands Activity Book and developed a partnership with the Port Royal Friends of Cypress Wetlands.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$61,000 for conservation practices in Beaufort County
- 440 acres in Beaufort County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Provided Environmental Education programs to over 2,000 students and adults, including 3 community festivals

2022 District Plans

- Have an in-person Earth Day in Port Royal
- Sponsor at least 1 SC Envirothon High School Team for state competition
- Work with City of Beaufort and Southside Park Committee along with Together for Beaufort County partners to help install gardens

Berkeley

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District financed and designed a website for kayaking trails, walking trails, bicycling trails, camping sites, fishing sites, hunting sites, and wildlife viewing sites!

<https://www.berkeleyoutdoorlife.com/>

Conservation by the Numbers

- 92 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 15 landowners educated about urban conservation strategies
- Approximately 10,000 people saw the NRCS Earth Team exhibit for conservation efforts
- 50 participants in EQIP and CSP Forestry Zoom Workshop

Other Notable Accomplishments



The Berkeley Earth Team exhibit at the Coastal Carolina Fair in the Education Division of the Horticulture Section won First Place!



The Berkeley Earth Team adopted the Bushy Park Boat Landing through which volunteers clean it monthly.

2022 District Plans

- Promote Berkeley Outdoor Life Program
- Follow up on Palmetto Trail Remediation Project
- Continue to provide local conservation education through: Wump World, The Berkeley Earth Team, Berkeleybees, Kids who Care/Naturescope, and scholarship opportunities

Calhoun

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Achievements of 2021! During all the uncertainty that our nation has been facing, the Calhoun County Soil and Water Conservation District has been doing their best to take care of our local citizens. Many of our education outreach programs and our Annual Affiliate Member Drive and Banquet have taken on a new face. Continuing education outreach programs include local students, garden clubs, the "Children's Garden", and the Armadillo Exordium. Most of the local student programs have become virtual with a few exceptions. We have met virtually with our resident garden clubs to discuss pollinators and conservation practices. The "Children's Garden" located in the heart of Calhoun County received a makeover including: weeding, mulch, repairs of raised beds and variety planting of diverse native species. The Calhoun County Conservation District launched a series of armadillo workshops to address the rising concerns surrounding armadillos. We started an in-house rental and purchase of armadillo traps.



Calhoun County Commissioners: Ronnie Bozard, Bates Houck, and Chairman Fred Gantt delivering meals for the 2021 Drive-through Affiliate Member Banquet.



Calhoun County Commissioners, district employee, and volunteers wrapping up the 2021 drive-through banquet for the evening.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Youth education programs featuring "Tracks" led by district employee, Maria Helms and an "Earth worm" program



One of the occupied armadillo traps rented out to Calhoun County landowners by the district

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 300 affiliate members of the Calhoun Soil and Water Conservation District
- Assisted with implementation of over \$1.9 million for conservation practices in Calhoun County

2022 District Plans

- Increase conservation awareness within Calhoun County through education outreach
- Develop new programs based on the local needs
- Encourage new partnerships to increase funding

Charleston

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District's Biggest Achievement of 2021 was The Bee Hive Project. We invited Jim Strohm, President of the Charleston Community Bee Garden to come speak to our district. We were so impressed with his information, we sponsored 3 students (one at Trident Tech, one at Ft. Dorchester HS, and one at College of Charleston) to attend their summer camp at Trident Technical College in June at the Thornley Campus on Rivers Avenue. Bee Camp connects bees and their keepers with communities and classrooms in order to build the next generation of environmental stewards. Several campers were awarded scholarships based on academic recommendations from their respective schools. The scholarship awards were full payment for the complete week of the Junior Beekeeper Camp. We enjoyed being a part of this project and we look forward to continuing this support in 2022.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Our District sponsored two SC Envirothon teams from Charleston Charter School for Math and Science School to participate in the 2021 SC Envirothon Competition.

Eve Kendrick, teacher, was very pleased with her students' knowledge from participating in the contest.

We were so proud to support this school!



Conservation by the Numbers

- 86 Affiliate Members supported district outreach
- Sponsored 9 high school students to participate in SC Envirothon and 2 students in Camp Wildwood
- Promoted Charleston SWCD Poster-Essay Contest to 6 schools in Charleston County that resulted in ~180 student participants

2022 District Plans

- Promote district conservation education outreach to schools and communities in Charleston County
- Sponsor Keep Charleston Beautiful with pet cleanup sites
- Sponsor a school Tree Planting Arbor Day Event

Cherokee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Cherokee SWCD awarded prizes to 15 Cherokee County students this year through its Annual Essay, Photo, and Poster Contests. The winners and their families were invited to a drive-up recognition and picnic at the district office. A special thanks to Paula Parker (Blacksburg Primary) who has been successfully promoting the poster contest for ten years, Michael Price (Ewing Middle School) who has participated in the essay contest for years and had the only entries from all middle and high schools this year, and Olivia Bradley with the most poster entries (25 - Luther Vaughan and 15 - Mary Bramlett). Thank you for going the extra mile! The district received 80 entries from 9 schools for the two contests.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The Conservation District and the Watershed District continue to have a strong partnership. Both districts participated in a joint meeting in November to share accomplishments and make plans for the upcoming year, assisted by input from SCDNR and NRCS staff. The board members are pictured below at this planning session.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Awarded a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior
- Affiliate Membership Program received donations from 57 individuals and small businesses totaling over \$5,000
- Over 400 acres was planted through the Local Land Management Program

2022 District Plans

- Complete new website to make programs more accessible (Soil & Water Conservation District and Watershed District received county funding for project)
- Increase virtual presentations
- Increase Affiliate Membership by 5%

Chester

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Chester SWCD sponsored three conservation contests for students living or attending school in Chester County. The first contest was the Essay Contest for 6th-8th graders which was judged by three local volunteers and former teachers. Next was the Digital Photography Contest for students in grades 5-12. The third conservation contest was the Poster Contest for K5-5th graders. All three contests incorporated the 2021 Stewardship Theme of "Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities".

The top three entries in each of the contests were presented certificates and a monetary award.

Our district was so pleased to once again be allowed to deliver the awards to the schools in person and interact with the students, teachers, and administrators of each school in our district as well as the home school participants.



Poster Contest 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from Chester Park School of the Arts along with their teachers and principal.



Lewisville Middle School students that placed in the Conservation Essay Contest after the award presentation at their school.

Other Notable Accomplishments



A major maintenance project was completed at Rocky Creek Watershed Dam #6 (D0213). The work included clearing, grubbing, filling, and seeding.



The Arbor Day Project was a huge success. 46 apple trees and 30 shrubs/pollinators were given away to be planted in Chester County soil.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Chairman Allen L. Beer is the longest serving active commissioner in South Carolina: 1973-present
- 2021 Vice Chair Jeff Wilson served as SCACD President
- 336 Chester County acres were planted utilizing district no-till seed drills
- Outreach: 2 scholarships awarded, 70 conservation contest entries, 2 Camp Woodie campers supported with partial tuition

2022 District Plans

- Reinstate Conservation Bulletin Board Contest and increase participation in contests and outreach
- Commissioners and staff attend SC Conservation Partnership Conference and other trainings
- Host Affiliate & Awards Banquet in March
- Work with Rocky Creek and Tinkers Creek Watershed Directors to maintain watershed dams

Chesterfield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with the Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership to assist local Red Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW) to expand onto private properties for the first time. After assisting three landowners to improve RCW habitat and enter the SCDNR Safe Harbor Program, twelve artificial nest cavities were installed to allow nearby RCW colonies room to expand outside public lands in Chesterfield County. Trail cameras revealed consistent RCW activity at eight sites this spring where birds created pitch wells and used the cavities for roost sites. In June, one pair was observed feeding a brood of chicks in one cavity. Ongoing habitat maintenance and additional areas of improvement will hopefully increase nest sites next spring. For RCW to reach full recovery numbers and be removed from the Endangered Species List, private landowner participation in habitat restoration is critical. The Chesterfield SWCD continues to work with other landowners to educate and encourage them to manage suitable properties to benefit this key species.



A pair of Red Cockaded Woodpeckers create pitch wells around an artificial nest cavity creating sap flow that will protect the nest from predators.



Local scouts and 4H members participate in restoring native vegetation on property where they previously witnessed the installation of RCW nest cavities.

Other Notable Accomplishments



The Chesterfield SWCD continues to educate and work with landowners about the benefits and techniques of implementing prescribed fire.



The SWCD received \$300,000 in grant funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assist landowners create and maintain longleaf pine habitat.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 109 landowners assisted with active EQIP and CSP contracts to protect 14,121 acres in Chesterfield County
- 31 landowners funded with new NFWF agreements to improve 916 acres
- 103 landowners assisted with new EQIP and CSP applications

2022 District Plans

- Apply for tenth National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant
- Assist landowners to establish and maintain at least 2,500 acres of longleaf habitat
- Assist 10 landowners in becoming certified prescribed fire managers

Clarendon

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

One of the Biggest Achievements of 2021 was the opportunity to recognize several individuals who dedicated their time and great amounts of effort to the Pocatigo River & Swamp Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project throughout the years. One of the ways that Clarendon Soil & Water District recognized these individuals was by placing a granite bench in the picnic area of the Pocatigo Park. The granite bench was made in Mount Airy, N.C. with the following names: W.D. Harrington, Vicky Howell, Roy Todd, Billy Jackson, and E.B. Gene Mcleod.



Other Notable Accomplishments



District purchased a 10 ft Great Plains No-Till Drill for our Clarendon County residents to utilize. District also has a fairly new 7 ft No-Till drill available.



District donated different types of vegetables to three county schools from K-5 through 5th grade.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$600,000 towards conservation stewardship on 7,436 acres in Clarendon County
- District Manager, Samantha Coffey, NRCS District Conservationist Litza Ramos-Lopez, and other state NRCS Leaders toured several Hoophouses in Clarendon County as a part of the United Farmers.

2022 District Plans

- Improve outreach resources with local schools
- Put together a SC Envirothon Team
- Build a volunteer group for the Beach/River Sweep
- Host Affiliate/Farm City Banquets

Colleton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The Colleton County Rice Festival in Walterboro, South Carolina was founded in 1976. The Festival celebrates the rich heritage of rice in the community and the beauty of the Lowcountry. The Rice Festival is an annual event featuring arts and crafts, fireworks, concessions, educational booths, music, rice cooking contest, parade, and many more family activities.

In 2021, the Colleton SWCD participated in the Rice Festival. Our booth was dedicated to protecting the pollinators - specifically the Honeybee. Children and adults were drawn to the Honeybee Hive display. They were interested in learning more about the important role of honeybees and other pollinators. Honey sticks were offered to those who wanted a taste of honey. Educational materials were also handed out to all age groups.

Other Notable Accomplishment

In South Carolina over 4,500 youth are reached through 4-H programs. A series of 6 lessons are provided by the agents to youth of various ages. These lessons focus on the importance of water, fruits, and vegetables; the importance of whole grains, eating breakfast, reducing fat in our diet; and reading labels. The district made a donation to Clemson Extension to support the 4-H Club Programs in our County.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with 53 new conservation program contracts for farmers/landowners in Colleton County
- 3,473 acres in Colleton County are enrolled in conservation programs

2022 District Plans

- Attain new Affiliate Members
- Participate in the Annual Rice Festival
- Encourage participation in the poster and essay contests
- Celebrate Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Darlington

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The Darlington Soil and Water Conservation District has been recognizing outstanding conservation farmers since 1969 with its annual "Conservation Farmer of the Year" Award. The award recognizes a farmer's outstanding application and use of conservation best management practices promoted by the district's programs and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These farmers often go above and beyond this criteria and serve as dynamic advocates for sound conservation practices benefiting soil, water, the economy, quality of life and the future. The 2020-2021 award was given to Windham Family Farms.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district purchased a pallet of canned goods to donate to The Lord Cares. The Lord Cares is a local ministry that provides food and assistance to those who need it in Darlington County. By donating food we're feeding people, supporting local communities, and saving all the resources that went into producing that food from going to waste. Also, buying locally from McCall Farms the food doesn't create a large carbon footprint through long truck trips. This cuts down on fuel consumption and air pollution.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted in installation of gardens in Darlington County schools and libraries
- Litter events occurred through the new Litter Pickup Program established with partnership between the district and Darlington High School
- \$1,450 went towards Darlington District projects

2022 District Plans

- Install more school gardens
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest
- Host 2 youth or landowner workshops on pertinent conservation topics
- Attain 25 affiliate memberships
- Increase outreach and education

Dillon

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Dillon Soil and Water Conservation District has several pieces of equipment for rent. One example is the John Deere 1590 No Till Grain Drill. The equipment rental programs help put conservation on the ground in Dillon County.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The Dillon Soil and Water Conservation District provides rain gauges to producers.



Donated funds to the Governors School of Agriculture and boxes of conservation coloring books to elementary schools

Board members work with producers to make them aware of available programs and funding to help them be better conservationists

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$1.4 million for conservation practices in Dillon County

2022 District Plans

- Order and distribute seed packets to students and citizens of Dillon County
- Host an Annual Local Work Group Meeting
- Nominate a Conservation Farmer of the Year

Dorchester

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Each year the Dorchester Soil & Water Conservation District awards college scholarships to deserving Dorchester County students who plan to major in an agricultural or environmental related field. The scholarship values range from \$500-\$1000. The winning selection is based on the criteria of the mission and goals of the district.

Dorchester SWCD 2021 Scholarship Winners: Faith Hughes, Cassidy Gruber, Madelyn Infinger, and Sydney Lyons. Each winner received a \$1,000 scholarship to help aid them in their educational endeavors. It is certain that these students have a great future ahead of them and we are excited to see the impact that these future leaders in agriculture and conservation will bestow upon us. Congratulations!

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district held a poster contest during the Spring of 2021. The theme of the poster contest was “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities”.

Congratulations to Miss Aahana Gaur of Fort Dorchester Elementary School for her 1st-place entry! Miss Gaur was presented her certificate, educational prize pack, and a McDonalds gift card by Commissioner Patricia Clark.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 150 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 2,350 acres of conservation planned
- 2,065 acres of conservation applied
- 900 students reached through educational outreach programs
- 38 Affiliate Members of the district

2022 District Plans

- Attain 10 new affiliate members
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest
- Host a workshop for local landowners

Edgefield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



This year the Edgefield SWCD (ESWCD) was excited to continue the Annual Bob Bowie Scholarship. This program is in memory of one of our beloved affiliate commissioners, Bob Bowie. Bob was a long serving member of the ESWCD as well as retired District Conservationist from the SCNRCS. Bob devoted his life to conservation and this scholarship is to continue his legacy of “in the name of conservation” by providing funds to a student pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field of study. This year’s scholarship was awarded to Bryson Thompson, an Edgefield resident pursuing his degree in Forestry at Clemson University.

Other Notable Accomplishment

ESWCD was very excited to have record participation numbers in the 2021 Coloring Contest. This program promotes agriculture in the classroom as well as gives back to educators. We decided to provide gift baskets to all the participating classes rather than just the winners because during these difficult times, ESWCD wanted to ensure our educators who work with us to support agriculture education were shown appreciation.

Conservation by the Numbers

- District Affiliate Drive was one of our most successful to date with ESWCD having over 35 Affiliate Members
- Education outreach to more than 400 students
- Served 100 landowners with conservation technical assistance

2022 District Plans

- Offer Bob Bowie Scholarship
- Increase landowner workshops

Fairfield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District takes pride in working with the youth of our county through several outreach activities. One we are most proud of is having four students attend Camp WildWood this year. This camp teaches all about our natural resources while having recreational activities in nature for students to enjoy as well.

We also hosted our Annual Photo Contest. Photos submitted to this contest must involve farm life, flowers and trees, animals (no zoo animals), and/or landscapes. This contest is always a big hit with students in grades 9-12 of Fairfield County. This contest helps the students to explore and learn more about our natural resources.

Another outreach activity of the district involved celebrating Arbor Day. A Wildlife Class from a local school celebrated with the district by planting a tree on their school grounds.

Lastly, we awarded scholarships to two graduating seniors who will major in a field related to agriculture!



Other Notable Accomplishments

Fairfield SWCD signed the Memorandum of Understanding between USDA-NRCS, SCDNR, and Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 165 acres planted using the district's Tye no-till drill
- Assisted with implementation of over \$390,000 for conservation practices in Fairfield County
- 3,436 acres in Fairfield County were enrolled in conservation programs

2022 District Plans

- Continue to work with our youth by awarding annual scholarships, sponsoring attendees to Camp WildWood, and hosting our Annual Photo Contest
- Work with local government on environmental and conservation related issues
- Support SC Envirothon

Florence

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Florence Conservation District Commissioner Sterling Sadler was inducted into the Southeast Region Hall of Fame for 2021 at the Southeast meeting which was held in Gulf Shores, Alabama in August. Nine states and two territories comprise the Southeast Region. Each recognized leaders from their states and territories.

Sadler received the honor in recognition of her almost fifty years of service to Conservation Districts locally, statewide, and nationally. She works through the Florence Conservation District to immerse children and adults in the natural resources through conservation education to build their understanding of the value of our natural resources and the importance of assuring those resources will be here for generations to come. Her two terms of president of the SCACD was marked by a strengthening of the partnership between Conservation Districts and SCDNR and her service continued with service at the national level as the SC National Director for SCACD.

Under Sterling's leadership the Florence Conservation District partnered with Florence County to build the Environmental Discovery Center at Lynches River County Park. The Center offers conservation education experiences to young and old alike in the heart of Florence County. Each year several thousand people experience nature from the ground to the tops of the trees on tree top canopy walks. Schools utilize the resource by bringing classes to the Center. The staff also provides in class programming.

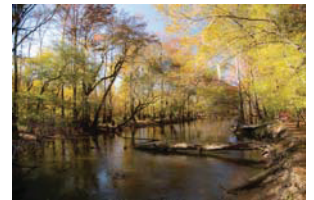
Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of over \$1.5 million for conservation practices in Florence County
- 15,205 acres are enrolled in conservation programs in Florence County

Other Notable Accomplishments



Young pines and hay land production in Florence County. Photo by Joey Frazier, SC Wildlife Magazine.



Working to stop harmful runoff into important water bodies in the district such as Lynches River. Photo by Joey Frazier, SC Wildlife Magazine.

2022 District Plans

- Coordinate a program to bring awareness of stopping litter on the roads in the Florence Conservation District
- Work with Florence School Districts to provide information and instruction on conservation practices needed for successful food gardens
- Provide locally led conservation measures for landowners and land uses in Florence County

Georgetown

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The Georgetown Conservation District sponsored the Carver's Bay FFA. The group just began a few years ago and under the leadership of Grant Hall has become very active. The District donated funds vital to allow the team to function and provide them educational opportunities. It permitted them to travel and compete. The group has 48 members and 3 students graduated with FFA Degrees this year. They were awarded with a gold star rating in August.

The Carver's Bay FFA attended the Leadership Camp in June, and competed in the Career Safe OSHA General Industry Course. They assisted with Ronald McDonald House Charities and participated in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Members participated in a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in the tractor event in October where a member placed 4th. These events and more are giving the students valuable life skills and lessons and the Georgetown Conservation District is proud to be a part of their journey!

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district offers scholarships to qualified students each year who attend the Horry Georgetown Technical College. The students must be studying in the field of conservation and are judged by their grades, community involvement, an essay submitted, and their grade point average. In 2021, the winners were Heather Elaine Newman and Macie Elliott. Both students are studying Wildlife Management.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 130 landowners served with conservation technical assistance
- 65 students received conservation Earth Day booklets
- 599 acres of property protected through the district's 3 conservation easements
- 191 acres planted using the district's no-till drill

2022 District Plans

- Send 2 students to Camp Wildwood and to the American Fisheries Society Meeting
- Continue contribution agreement with NRCS
- Conduct Poster, Essay and Photo Contests
- Present scholarships to 2 HGTC students

Greenville

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Greenville County SWCD successfully navigated the waters of COVID-19 by expanding digital outreach programs and reaching new audiences.

In partnership with the Greenville Library System, our online Seed Library workshops covered a range of topics from the water cycle to soil health and even included a Paint Your Watershed event that has been repeated by popular demand. We reached 4,054 citizens with this program.

We also hosted pop-up seed library events at each of Greenville's library branches reaching 2,010 people and providing free seeds as well as education on proper use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

Our websites were revamped and were viewed by 84,721 visitors.

"There is no Poop Fairy" on Social Media



Social media campaigns were seen by over 250,000 people in 2021. The "There is No Poop Fairy" campaign was a standout.



Educational storm drain murals created by artists reached an estimated 53,700 people at 6 locations around the county.

Other Notable Accomplishments



26 campers ages 6-12 learned about the environment at Wet & Wild Camp this summer. 2021 marked the 6th annual camp.



Created a special interest newsletter aimed toward farmers, local producers and food lovers.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 2,195,923 reached by conservation and stormwater programs
- 12,616 students learned about stormwater, pollutants, and soil health
- 680 landowners were served with technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- Each single dollar allocated to the district by SCDNR brought \$39.60 of benefit into Greenville County

2022 District Plans

Continue successful programming and increase outreach and education impact in South Carolina with areas the following areas of focus:

- stormwater education
- farmer/landowner outreach and programming
- facilitating conservation practices in the county

Greenwood

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



On June 29, 2021, the district hosted a field day entitled "Where are You Headed with Your Forage Program?" There were four guest speakers that taught on topics including soil testing, forage programs, sprayer calibration, and hog trapping programs. It was a very informative field day in a beautiful setting that afternoon. It gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and learn from very knowledgeable speakers. The program will help producers use quality and effective practices to improve their own forage program.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The District has been able to successfully implement a hog trapping program in our county. Feral hogs are a major and costly problem for producers in our area. We have been able to work with producers to help trap hogs and teach them how to use effective trapping practices. Greenwood County Council has been very supportive in our efforts to establish some control over our feral hog situation.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Our hog trapping program has trapped over 200 hogs in 2021 with over 1,600 feral hogs total with 60-70% sows helping reduce reproduction
- 27 new conservation program contracts covering 4,373 acres of land in our county that will help promote good conservation practices by our landowners

2022 District Plans

- Host another field day
- Get more involved with local schools and their Ag programs to help educate on the importance of good conservation practices

Hampton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Hampton SWCD is one of two counties in South Carolina participating in a three-year Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program funded by the 2018 Farm Bill. The purpose of this program is to address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems, and human and animal health. Feral hogs prefer row crops like corn and peanuts, as well as natural forages like nut sedge, grubs, and acorns. They are well-known for causing agricultural damage, but they can also cause timber damage by killing young trees and rubbing off the bark of mature trees.

Over 600 hogs were captured with the help of four APHIS technicians and one biologist during 2021. They have worked on over 35 properties in the county, with access to over 32,000 acres, while managing up to 12 traps at any given time. The conservation district staff is the local contact for assisting the technicians with the purchase of equipment and supplies, as well as coordinating landowners who want this trapping assistance on their property.



Tree damage caused by feral swine rubbing the bark off the tree



Feral swine damage to sod field

Other Notable Accomplishments



The district received 89 posters for the 2021 Poster Contest for grade levels kindergarten through 6th grades.



Earth Day was celebrated by planting a tree and teaching recycling to Girl Scouts. For their efforts, the scouts received a tree promise badge.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 141 students were educated on the benefits of recycling
- Supplies were provided for multiple litter pickups, resulting in over 430 bags of litter being removed from roadways by approximately 200 volunteers
- Technical assistance was provided to 170 landowners to help with conservation efforts on their property

2022 District Plans

- Sponsor the first ever SC Envirothon team for the Hampton SWCD
- Continue to be the local sponsor for the Conservation Poster Contest
- Host *Litter Trashes Everyone* Puppet Show for elementary school students
- Celebrate *America Recycles Day* in November

Horry

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Horry Soil and Water Conservation District goal for 2021 was to help landowners put conservation on the ground by partnering with United States Department of Agriculture, National Association of Conservation Districts, Environmental Protection Agency 319 Water Quality Grants, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Horry County Storm Water Department to help people and to improve the natural resources. Two conservation practices that landowners are choosing to use were actually used in 1950's and 1960's, cover crop and subsurface drain tile. These practices help improve soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat in our county. We have helped 76 people install 11,973 acres with conservation practices using cost-share from conservation programs. Also, with the use of USDA funding under EWP and Horry County Stormwater, repairs were made on four of the county's watersheds from flood damage from Hurricane Florence.



District staff surveyed, designed, and laid out about 13,000 feet of field tile to improve the water quality impacting 300 acres of cropland.



Photo above shows a conservation mix of cover crop planted to protect the soil.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Septic systems which leak sewage into ditches and streams is a significant source of coliform bacteria. Pictured above is a failing system.



Pictured above is an "after" photo of a repaired septic system. This allows the soil to filter out the bacteria.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Over 5,000 students learn about storm water and conservation through HSWCD essay contest
- Completed 319 grant in Mitchell Swamp out of Loris Watershed that improved and repaired 203 septic systems totaling \$984,502
- Used 319 grant in Kingston Lake Watershed to improve and repair 109 septic systems totaling \$719,699

2022 District Plans

- Secure a NACD grant for technical assistance
- Have two teams for the SC Envirothon Competition
- Attend Swampfest
- Host Watershed Directors and Stormwater annual meeting and workshop for Baby Animal Day at Playcard

Jasper

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District connected and provided sizable landowners with contacts for supplies, information, and technical assistance for planting, growing, and harvesting loblolly pines. This project will cover hundreds of acres of land in Jasper County. The style of planting used will be what is called "machine planting". This particular form of planting requires the machine to be tested and adjusted to the specific soil type. This is critical to the planting process, as each site is unique. The Jasper Conservation District ensured that all parties involved are equipped with any and all knowledge needed to complete this project as sustainable and successfully as possible. This project is not just important to our conservation district, but to our community as a whole. Timber production is economically essential to the residents of Jasper County. Not to mention the invaluable resources it adds to natural ecosystems and wildlife. The Jasper Conservation District will help oversee the project through its completion with harvest in approximately 12 years.



A machine planter, planting the newest loblolly pine stand in Jasper County.



A loblolly pine seedling planted by means of "machine planting".

Other Notable Accomplishments

Table 1. Age and gender breakdown of feral swine removed per each Jasper county property that is signed up for the Farm Bill program.

Property	Breeding Male	Breeding Female	Non-Breeding Male	Non-Breeding Female	FY20 Total	FY21 Total per Property
Neiderhelt	1	2	5	8	16	20
Craft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moore - Whitlock	4	5	4	5	18	24
Overton	2	0	0	2	4	4
Scott - Criswell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Younger - Barnes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moore - Black Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY20 Total per age group	7	7	14	15	43	47

We partnered with Hampton County for the Feral Hog Farm Bill Pilot Program. In 2021, 246 hogs were removed.



Litter control efforts included collecting 64,000 lbs of litter, engaging 500+ volunteers, adoption of 12 highways, and LE citing \$10,000 in litter fines.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 35 landowners served with conservation technical assistance
- 12 trees planted for Arbor Day with local schools
- 375 students reached with presentations on litter, recycling, container gardening, and local wildlife habitat
- 46 landowners attended seminars about forest management to enhance timber production as well as ecological, economical, and recreational forest resources

2022 District Plans

- Expand conservation education outreach by hosting 4 youth and landowner workshops and utilizing the Blue Heron Nature Center
- Apply for 2 grants to fund outreach and education
- Develop and implement a "Resource for Landowners" speaker series to educate on resource topics for rural communities

Kershaw

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Continuous Learning Center (CLC) and Wateree Elementary School (WES) were recipients of the Kershaw Conservation District's Education Mini-Grant program. Each school received up to \$1,000 that supported conservation-related student projects. These grants were competitive in nature and made available to all Kershaw County Schools.

In CLC's "We G.R.O.W" (Goal-Oriented, Respectful, Optimistic, and Wise) Program, students constructed picnic tables and built vegetable gardens. The outdoor classroom project reflected the school's mission where students will "plant the seeds" (set goals), "nurture the seeds" (be respectful), and "watch them grow" (remain optimistic and make wise decisions to enhance growth). The Woman's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church of Camden provided supplemental resources for the project.

Students at Wateree Elementary School's West Wateree Early Learning Academy worked with teachers and a master gardener to plant a garden using natural materials. After the food was harvested in the "We're Growing Healthy... Students and Plants" Project, a local chef prepared the produce so the students could taste what they grew.

These mini-grant opportunities played a very significant role in keeping conservation on the ground during the onset of the pandemic. Not only did it give the schools the freedom to choose their conservation practices, but did so in such a way that supported new guidelines in the School District with regards to limited outside contact.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 125 landowners served with technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 150 students educated about storm water and watersheds
- 200 students taught about Healthy Forests
- 150 students educated about water conservation and pollution

Other Notable Accomplishments



Earth Day Fare at a local elementary school where students demonstrated storm water run off.



The City of Camden Landscapers partnered with the Conservation District in planting trees at a new environmental park.

2022 District Plans

- Coordinate an "Adopt a Highway" service project
- Host 2 PLT Workshops for teachers
- Sponsor an SC Envirothon team
- Coordinate a Stewardship Week Campaign
- Provide a Seed Library to residents

Lancaster

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The Lancaster SWCD is a sponsor on the five PL-566 Flood Control Lakes in Lancaster County. The Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Districts oversee the maintenance work for the sites. All three boards have one full time employee who works for the boards.

The Cane Creek Watershed Board and staff worked to complete their biggest project to repair the plunge basins at three of their sites: Site 18A Gills Creek, Site 16 Ghent Reservoir, and Site 7 Campbell Lake. Over the years, heavy rain storms caused the plunge basins to erode. These projects cost \$46,000 to complete. NRCS staff assisted with the engineering designs and overseeing the contractor during the construction of the projects. The partnership with NRCS saved the boards over \$60,000 on the construction designs for the projects.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lancaster County Farm Bureau started a partnership to sponsor each of the 13 public elementary schools in Lancaster County with the Book of the Month program.

The Book of the Month program is a literacy outreach initiative for anyone looking for a valid ag-related resource to utilize in a classroom.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 4,010 acres in Lancaster county were enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of over \$550,000 for conservation practices in Lancaster County
- 25 landowners assisted with conservation technical assistance

2022 District Plans

- Outreach - host conservation contests, an Arbor Day event, and continue Sowing Seeds Program
- Distribute \$2,000 worth of scholarships/grants
- Present the Conservationist of the Year Award
- Update the Long-Range Plan for 2022-2027
- Continue supporting the Watershed Boards

Laurens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Team Ecology is a week long program for all the public school 3rd graders of Laurens County. Students typically visit the Adair Outdoor Education Center and rotate through nine teaching stations, staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The children learn about watersheds, landfills, composting, soils, air quality, recycling, and native wildlife. We also include an ecofriendly art project and nature hike. Even though we live in a rural area, many of these students have never spent time in a forest.

In 2020, we had to cancel Team Ecology due to COVID, so in 2021, we were determined to get as much knowledge to the schools as possible. Our District Coordinator, Director at the Adair Center, and a handful of dedicated people put together a virtual program. The local Sheriff's office helped us deliver supply packets to over 60 classrooms, including the ones that missed Team Ecology in 2020. Teachers and students responded extremely well and we now have the virtual version to fall back on in the future. Plans for this year's in person program are now underway and we truly hope to have the kids back in nature.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,222 acres in Laurens County were enrolled in conservation programs
- 2,465 acres were treated with conservation practices
- 1,184 students were taught about protecting our natural resources

Other Notable Accomplishments



With the help of the Laurens County Master Gardeners and FFA Groups from both of our high schools, we installed an educational pollinator garden.



Our annual photo contest received a record number of entries and the winners will be honored at the Awards Banquet in March.

2022 District Plans

- Partner with the new Keep Laurens County Beautiful Program
- Sponsor Youth Livestock Shows
- Visit classrooms with our animal ambassador, Andy the opossum

Lee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Even amidst the 2021 pandemic and office closures to the public, we not only maintained but increased our outreach efforts to provide outstanding assistance to the producers in Lee County. As the first line of contact with the public, the Conservation District worked to ensure assistance was provided to meet all requests for conservation assistance. We also reached out to producers to encourage their participation in USDA cost/share programs to further our conservation footprint in the county.

We are pleased to announce, in September of 2021, Mr. Robert A. Boyce was re-appointed as a commissioner for the Lee County Soil & Water Conservation District. Mr. Boyce has been serving as commissioner for the District since 1987. He served as Vice-Chairman for three years and is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer. He has held this position since 2002. Mr. Boyce brings a wealth of farming knowledge to our conservation board.



Other Notable Accomplishments



Longleaf seedling establishment was a primary practice encouraged by the district to reduce soil erosion and re-establish a native ecosystem.



Multiple species cover crops were another primary focus of our conservation work in 2021, benefiting soil health and water quality.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Over 38,000 acres in Lee County were enrolled in conservation program
- 45 conservation plans were written for landowners in Lee County to alleviate soil erosion, improve wildlife habitat, improve irrigation efficiency, and improve livestock practices

2022 District Plans

- Strive to expand the acreage currently covered with our many conservation efforts
- Concentrate on increasing pollinator habitat
- Encourage producers to employ conservation practices such as cover crops, nutrient management, and pest management to improve soil health

Lexington

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District has championed the Observation Bee Hive and the pollinator program to teach the importance of all pollinators. A vast majority of our food is dependent on pollinators. Honey Bees are a type of pollinator that can be managed and can be used to educate individuals by being able to see their life cycle. Our food depends on them.

This year observation bee hives were located at Clinton Sease Farm, where they host tours and public events and at Dutch Fork Elementary School. These hives open to where you can see the inner workings of a bee hive. Students and adults can see the Queen, workers, drones, all the brood stages, pollen stores and the honey stores. They learn that each worker age has a specific task in the hive and see how they react to each other in the hive. Not only does it tell the story of a bee hive but it can be related to the student in a classroom or on a team that is working together to get a job accomplished.



Dutch Fork Elementary School
Observation Bee Hive



Leaphart Elementary School Bee
Hive Demonstration

Other Notable Accomplishments



Rainbarrels for Schools help our students to understand water runoff and water storage to be used for watering landscape plants or gardens.



A Nuttall Oak tree was planted at Pleasant Hill Elementary School honoring their Merit Award for Championship of the Environment for Arbor Day.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Over 6,500 individuals were provided information on pollinators and their worth to our lives
- Nearly 500 individuals received conservation programs and event information through our Facebook page
- 63 Affiliate Members partnered with the district to promote conservation through our Scholarship and Educational Contest

2022 District Plans

- Continue to partner with Farm Bureau to provide Ag in the Classroom materials to elementary schools
- Provide competitive Mini-Grants for Conservation to schools and non-profit organizations
- Work with Town of Lexington to install a Pollinator Garden in a local park

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Other Notable Accomplishment

Welcome To:
Fletcher M. Johnson Sr.
Environmental Trail



sponsored by:

WITH THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION FROM
 KELCO WILFONG & COMPANY
 10101 E. LINDSEY, SUITE 100
 THE CITY OF MADISON
 MADISON, WISCONSIN

In partnership with:

PLANT & ANIMAL
 RESOURCES OF MADISON, WISCONSIN
 MADISON SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION NATURE

- 1,968 acres planted with the no-till drills rented out to landowners by the district
- \$1,000 awarded with the James F. Huggins, Sr. Scholarships
- Over 2,000 Conservation Booklets distributed to 1st – 5th grade students
- 1,200 litanies, bookmarks, and activity placemats distributed for Stewardship Week

- Host workshops/field days for landowners on conservation topics as needed
- Attain 10 additional affiliate memberships
- Participate in NACD Poster Contest
- Participate in SC Envirothon program

Marlboro

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



We have made a concerted effort to encourage producers in Marlboro County to increase the use of cover crops and other conservation practices on their farms by being a good steward of the environment and aiming to produce high yields. Cover crops help row crops access additional nutrients in the the soil profile. We don't believe cover crops are a complete substitute for traditional fertilizer programs, but that they are a great compliment and can serve to enhance the nutrient bank available to your crops. Adding multi-species cover crops to your farm can improve soil quality and yields. Remember, if you take care of the land, the land will take care of you.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Frankie Hinson was awarded Commissioner Emeritus after retiring as a commissioner of 42 years (1979-2021). "It has been a great adventure. I believe that through conservation, rotation, and cover crops, I have made my farm better than it was 40 years ago. I have enjoyed my involvement with conservation and will continue to help MSWCD in promoting conservation in Marlboro County." -Frankie Hinson



Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,452 acres in Marlboro County are enrolled in conservation programs
- Applications for an additional 1,946 acres to be enrolled in conservation programs were submitted in 2021

2022 District Plans

- Attain additional Affiliate Memberships
- Increase conservation outreach efforts
- Continue to promote rental of the cover crop seeder

McCormick

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The McCormick Soil and Water Conservation District Board announced creation of the Bob Edmonds Conservation Scholarship to provide \$4,000 annually to be awarded to four outstanding high school students enrolled in the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. The school offers a rigorous agricultural education program that will challenge motivated high school students to develop their interest in agriculture and natural resources by providing classes and hands-on learning opportunities in agribusiness. The scholarship's name honors Edmonds for his considerable service on the conservation board since 1980.

"Becoming the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture is the pinnacle of several years of work to re-brand our school. The legacy of Dr. John de la Howe will live on in the lives of our current and future students due this historical legislation," said John de la Howe President, Timothy Keown.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Bob Edmonds finally adorns a FFA Jacket! 13 year old Bob was inducted into McCormick High School FFA Chapter on September 15, 1945. Just past the Great Depression, his parents could not afford a FFA Jacket. During a John de la Howe FFA Chapter meeting - Edmonds was gifted with a beautiful special order FFA Jacket. After 75 years and in his nineties, he proudly wears the coveted blue jacket.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Committed \$4,000 worth of scholarships annually to John de la Howe Governor's School for Agriculture
- Gained 1 new Associate Commissioner
- 2,334 acres in McCormick County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of over \$850,000 for conservation practices in McCormick County

2022 District Plans

- Plan to host youth conservation essay and photography contest
- Sponsor an SC Envirothon Team for 2022 Competition
- Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration
- Continue to promote healthy soils to support healthy environments and in turn support healthy life

Newberry

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Camp Conservation is an annual week long day camp for children ages 6-14. 48 participants from Newberry County were in attendance. Themed days included water fun, fishing, trash and recycling, soil, and animals. Local businesses and families donated snacks, supplies, and activities.

SCDNR, Palmetto Pride, Columbia Marionette Theater, Jeff Fellers from Clemson Extension, Army National Guard, Newberry Rec Van, Newberry Sheriff's Department, and others donated time to teach programs related to conservation, nature, and the environment. Volunteers monitored safety and helped coordinate activities.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 84 applications from Newberry landowners were received for conservation technical assistance
- 76 students were impacted through district programs
- 145 soil samples were collected through district soil sample program
- Feral Swine Project removed 172 feral hogs from 8,021 acres in Newberry County

Other Notable Accomplishments



Seed Library started in September 2022 to distribute vegetables, flowers, and herb seeds to citizens interested in learning about gardening



Hosted a free, outdoor viewing of a family film related to agriculture to promote community and nature through Moovie Night on the Farm

2022 District Plans

- Establish a Volunteer Network
- Sponsor 2 SC Envirothon Teams
- Apply for 3 Grants to fund outreach
- Host Rain Barrel Workshops
- Create Quarterly Garden Series Contest

Oconee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

OSWCD continued to put conservation on the ground through its conservation easement program. In 2021, we were able to finally close on the Moore property, protecting 56.62 acres of farmland working with local, state, and national partners. Another 40.09 acres (Crawford Mill property) will be added in early January 2022.

Additionally, more applications continue to come in for the conservation easement program. To date, two more landowners have signed their intent to place an easement on their property, which will protect another +/- 173 acres once complete. Two other landowners have inquired about the process and may elect to pursue an easement in 2022.



Lower Waterfall (historic grist mill site on right side)

Waterway soon to be protected in a 40.09 acre conservation easement on the Crawford Mill property.

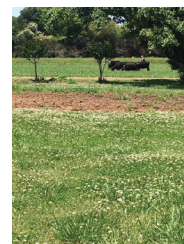


A field now protected in a 56.62 acre conservation easement on the Moore property.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Now offering 2 no-till drills in 2 sizes. Total 2021 rentals show 977 acres were planted, leading to increased soil quality protection.



Provided NRCS assistance with CSP through a NACD TA Grant. Attained highest number of conservation program dollars and contracts this year.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 56.62 acres of farmland placed into a conservation easement with additional 40.09 acres scheduled to close January 2022
- Assisted with implementation of over \$245,000 for conservation practices in Oconee County and provided technical assistance to over 40 farmers/producers
- More than 20 children reached through participating in SC Sheep and Goat Association/SC Forage & Grazing Land Coalition

2022 District Plans

- Increase outreach by partnering with local FFA
- Partner with a minimum of 2 landowners to place conservation easements on their property
- Continue NRCS assistance with NACD TA Grant
- Continue to promote rental of no-till drill
- Increase number of affiliate memberships

Orangeburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District resumed its Annual SC Arbor Day Celebration in 2021 by planting 6 Eastern Redbud (Judas) Tree seedlings on four school campuses. The schools receiving the trees this year were: Bethune-Bowman Elementary, Middle, and High Schools (located on one campus), Holly Hill Academy, Holly Hill Elementary and Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School.

Arbor Day is the only holiday that celebrates the future. Planting Eastern Redbud Trees helps the environment in two ways. First, the leaves remove carbon dioxide from the air as food is produced for the tree. The carbon becomes part of the tree and oxygen is then released. Therefore, trees help reduce greenhouse gases which cause Climate Change. Second, these trees bloom in late winter or early spring providing pollen and nectar to the early stirring pollinators.



Students at Holly Hill Academy gather to witness the Eastern Redbud seedling planted at their school on December 6, 2021 during the Arbor Day Celebration.



Sandy Ott and her third graders assisted in planting the trees at Bethune-Bowman Elementary School.

Other Notable Accomplishments



The Tabletop Rainfall Simulator allows SCSU Botany Students to observe the differences in rainfall absorption between the two field samples.



Students from Orangeburg Preparatory School who gathered used jeans for teens in S.C. Unwearable jeans were donated for making insulation.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 848 acres in Orangeburg County were put into conservation easements
- 635 acres in Orangeburg County were enrolled in conservation programs for forestry and wildlife conservation

2022 District Plans

- Partner with SCSU to host a "Trees Calming" Climate Change Event and with Clemson Extension to host a 4-H2O Camp
- Work with our SC Envirothon Teams at Orangeburg Preparatory School to use the new SC Envirothon Training Trunk
- Participate in Read Across America Day

Pickens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Chairman Roddey Gettys, III of the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board, along with Jean Toole - President of the Sarlin Library Friends, cut the ribbon for the opening of the Seed Library on Saturday, March 20, 2021! The Seed Library was created in partnership with the Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide education on growing food and flowers, promote nutrition, and to promote sustainable gardening practices. Library patrons can visit the Seed Library at the Sarlin Library in Liberty, SC and take home up to ten packets of seeds. They can choose from multiple varieties of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds including heirloom varieties. Seed packets come with planting instructions for when to plant, spacing, light requirements, and more. The seeds are kept in a vintage library card catalog. Anyone with a library card will have access to free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.



Seeds for the Seed Library are kept in a vintage library card catalog.



Chairman Roddey Gettys, III of the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board and Jean Toole - President of the Sarlin Library Friends

Other Notable Accomplishments



Kirby Player was given the Oath of Office. Pictured left to right: Amy Wilson, Kirby Player, Roddey Gettys, III and Dale Mayson



Chuck Owens was given the Oath of Office. Pictured left to right: Kirby Player, Chuck Owens, Amy Wilson and Roddey Gettys, III

Conservation by the Numbers

- 7 new landowners contracted to put conservation on the ground
- 450 people have used the Seed Library
- 1,800 seed packets have been given out from the Seed Library with flowers, herbs, squash, tomatoes, and watermelons being the most popular

2022 District Plans

- Attend the 2022 SC Conservation Partnership Conference
- Promote 2022 Seed Library
- Partner with Pickens County, SC Forestry Commission (Western Unit), Pickens County Health Department, Pickens County DSS and AnMed Health Cannon Hospital to create a collaborative walking trail on the Marion C. Owens Governmental Complex

Richland

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The Richland County Seed Sanctuary grew by leaps and bounds in 2021. Designed to provide free vegetable, herb, and wildflower seeds to the community to promote home gardening and pollinator conservation, the Seed Sanctuary is one of RSWCD's most visible and popular programs. RSWCD's e-newsletter subscriptions have more than doubled and approximately 30 community volunteers have connected with RSWCD as a direct result of public interest in the Seed Sanctuary.

Since the program launch in spring of 2020, RSWCD has provided some 13,000 packets of seed to nearly 3,000 people. In late 2021, RSWCD received a \$5,000 Dominion Energy Environmental Education and Stewardship Grant to expand the program with a new physical location at Richland Library Eastover and a traveling "Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary" to provide temporary seed distribution events at community festivals, farmers markets, schools, and churches.



Community Outreach Coordinator Mary Hannah Lindsay prepares to mail hundreds of seed packets to local residents through the Richland County Seed Sanctuary

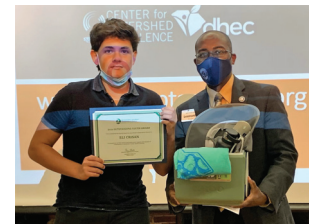


A variety of vegetable, herb, and wildflower seeds--including the black-eyed Susan, pictured here--are available through the Richland County Seed Sanctuary

Other Notable Accomplishments



Commissioners adopted an Advocacy Plan which has resulted in stronger relationships with County Council and Administration.



RSWCD issued Outstanding Youth Awards to Eli Crisan (pictured here) and Ian Saracila in recognition of their volunteer work with SC Adopt-a-Stream.

Conservation by the Numbers

- \$4,500 was awarded to support environmental education
- 550 participants in conservation events and workshops
- Youth conservation programs delivered to 346 students
- 61 attendees at 4 Midlands Local Food Collaborative events
- 12 conservation projects mentored at 3 Green Steps Schools

2022 District Plans

- Launch a Seed Sanctuary at Richland Library Eastover and make appearances at community events with new Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary
- Publish a K-8 soil science educators' guide and host an associated educator workshop
- Classroom conservation programs along with co-hosting or sponsoring several professional development events for environmental educators

Saluda

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



The Saluda Soil & Water Conservation District named Mrs. Barbara Oxner the 2021 Conservation Farmer of the Year. Mrs. Oxner works diligently to conserve our natural resources by implementing many conservation practices throughout her farm. She has improved the air and water quality and has reduced soil erosion around her farm and poultry houses.

The District was unable to host the Annual Banquet last year but plans to recognize Mrs. Oxner at their Annual Banquet this spring.

Congratulations to Mrs. Barbara Oxner on her outstanding achievement!

Other Notable Accomplishment

Saluda Soil & Water Conservation District was awarded a 2021 NACD Technical Assistance Grant. This funding helped the district provide conservation planning and technical assistance to NRCS with high-priority workloads. During this quarter, the District and NRCS staff concentrated on new applications for eligibility and conservation planning.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Distributed Soil Stewardship materials to 259 Saluda County 4th grade students

2022 District Plans

- Sponsor a scholarship, contests at our schools, a team for the Woodlands Clinic, a student for the S.C. School of Agriculture at Clemson University, and support Saluda 4-H and FFA
- Host a Pesticide Safety and Storage Meeting and a dedication ceremony to former commissioners
- Recognize the Districts 2020 & 2021 Farmer's of the Year at the Annual Banquet

Spartanburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

Spartanburg County students provided the artwork for a 2022 calendar. There is no better way to educate adults than to get their children involved. The Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District garnered the interest of students throughout the county as they participated in the NACD Poster Contest. The students put a lot of effort into their research and artwork to get the message of Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities into their pieces. The district wanted to bring attention to this concept by sharing their hard work. The winning submissions were made into a 2022 calendar which was a Christmas gift to our Affiliate Members. We know this venture raised awareness among the students who participated, some of their teachers and parents, and hope that the calendars will keep conservation and the Spartanburg Conservation District in the forefront of minds all year long! We would like to thank the organizers who made jumping into the project easy with rewarding results!



Our printed calendar! A great Thank You gift to our Affiliate Members!



Over-All 1st Place winner, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place for 4th & 5th Graders.

Other Notable Accomplishments



508 acres were tilled using the district's two no-till drills for more healthy soil in our county.



Around 50 people tuned in each week to view our online Into the Garden series demonstrating no-till techniques.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 873 acres in Spartanburg County were enrolled in conservation programs
- 40 Spartanburg County residents rented our No-Till Drills with a total of 508 acres tilled
- 1 internationally ranked SC Envirothon team, 3rd Place! 1st and 2nd Place in South Carolina.

2022 District Plans

- Host a SC Envirothon Training Trunk and support at least 2 SC Envirothon Teams
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest
- Continue the Into the Garden video series
- Begin the Around the Edges video series bringing wildlife to our yard edges

Sumter

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes the devastating impact of feral hogs in the county. The district has been working closely with APHIS, attending meetings and gathering information and education on feral hogs. The district purchased two “Pig Brig” traps that are available to producers free of charge in exchange for completing a data report. The Sumter SWCD efforts were featured in the Sumter Item and in a piece on WACH Fox.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The Sumter Soil & Water Conservation District launched a fellowship program. Two recipients were chosen from several applicants. The fellowship program provides the recipient with a \$2,000 award and invaluable experience. Fellows are required to be pursuing degrees in Environmental Science or Natural Resources.

Fellows assist with semi-annual and annual inspections of Conservation Easements, litter clean-up, and managing and maintaining environmental practices in Sumter County.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Approximately 2,140 acres of farmland protected through the Conservation District’s Easement program
- 115 landowners/producers served with conservation technical and administrative assistance
- 2 students sponsored to attend 4H camp
- News and media outlets featured district’s educational and physical approach to addressing feral hogs in the county

2022 District Plans

- Host an Environmental Teacher Workshop in the summer of 2022
- Find and sponsor an SC Envirothon Team and local attendees to Camp Bob Cooper
- Select recipients for SWCD Fellowship Program
- Participate in NACD Poster Contest

Union

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

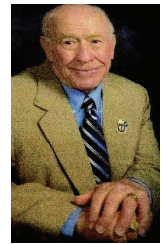
The Union Soil and Water Conservation District purchased a new Haybuster 107 C no-till drill for county wide use. In 2021, a total of 787 acres were seeded with the old drill. The district decided that since the old drill needed so many repairs that the best thing they could do would be to invest in a new one to serve the county.

Providing this service would not be possible without the support and dedicated hard work of the Soil and Water Conservation District volunteers who help store and maintain the drill. Volunteers spent many hours working to keep the drill in shape for the next scheduled person. We are so grateful for their dedication to this service.



Other Notable Accomplishments

Stonie Keith served 34 years on the Union Conservation District Board



Mike Scales served 4 years on the Union Conservation District Board and 7 years on the Brown's Creek Watershed Board



As we commemorate their passing, we appreciate their dedicated service and many accomplishments. They will be greatly missed.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,700 acres in Union County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Browns Creek Watershed Dam was mowed, sprayed, and divers assessed the structure

2022 District Plans

- Obtain 10 new affiliate memberships
- Rent No-till Drill to seed 1,000 acres
- Host a Conservation Poster Contest for 3rd graders

Williamsburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021



In an effort to boost the use of cover crops in the county, the Williamsburg SWCD Board offered some assistance to landowners interested in transitioning to cover crops through our Cover Crop Program. Lawrimore Farms is in their second year of participating in the program. They wanted to use this project as a study for grazing livestock to show the effects the livestock would have on the growth pattern compared to non-grazed cover crop. The cover crop project consisted of 71 acres with a 3 way mix of rye, oats, and crimson clover planted. The mix was lightly grazed. At the time to burn down for planting, the mix had grown to be 6 feet tall in some areas. Because of the height of the rye, it was decided to cut and bale the cover crop to a level of 12 inches, then drill crop into that residue after burn down. This produced good weed suppression and kept the ground moist which enabled the cash crop to thrive.

Other Notable Accomplishment

The district holds an Annual Essay Contest for all students in the 4th through 8th grades in the county. The purpose of the contest is to help youth learn about our natural resources and ways they can help protect them. The district uses the soil stewardship week theme for the contest topic. First and second place are awarded in each grade and a county winner is chosen from the winners.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 200 landowners served with conservation technical assistance
- 71 acres of cropland converted to cover crops
- 40 students received Earth Day booklets
- 50 students entered the conservation essay contest

2022 District Plans

- Have several teachers enter the Teacher Class Award Contest
- Find a recipient for the District's Senior Award
- Conduct Photo/Poster/Essay Contests
- Obtain 25 Affiliate Memberships
- Apply for NACD TA Grant to assist NRCS

York

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2021

The YSWCD attended Ebenezer Park's Grand Re-opening! York County's Ebenezer Park is a 26 acre park located north of Rock Hill on the shores of Lake Wylie's 13,443 acre lake that borders both North and South Carolina. YSWCD promoted clean water and responsible recreation use!

We attended the 2021 Catawba Riversweep at Buster Boyd Bridge. A total of 21 pounds of trash in the woods and along the shoreline. As always there was a ton of fishing line, hooks, and trash from food and drinks. We are looking forward to helping the Catawba Riverkeepers in the future!

Nearly 1,700 volunteers participated in Riversweep 2021 across 55 different sites! In total 53,585 pounds of trash were collected.



Our table at Ebenezer Park for the Grand Re-opening!



2021 Catawba Riversweep to promote clean and healthy waters.

Other Notable Accomplishments



YSWCD used an Enviroscape to teach students age 5-10 about clean water at Curtin Farms in Clover, SC at their "Down on the Farm" Summer Camp.



We held Garden Series Lessons for multiple 1st grade classes at a local elementary school. The students planted, harvested, and ate the plants that they grew.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,141 acres in York County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) builds on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns

2022 District Plans

- Increase affiliate memberships with local businesses and farmers
- Start a local seed library
- Introduce new tabletop storm drain model
- Kick off storm drain stenciling

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Contacts & Acronyms

Contacts

Tyler Brown, SCDNR-CD Program Manager,
brownty@dnr.sc.gov

Brooke Myres, SCDNR-CD Program Development
Manager and SC Envirothon Coordinator,
myresb@dnr.sc.gov

Chris Workman, SCDNR-CD Watershed Districts
Manager, workmanc@dnr.sc.gov

Deanne Myrick, SCDNR-CD Administrative and
Education Assistant, myrickd@dnr.sc.gov

Tina Blum, SCACD Executive Director,
2scacd@gmail.com

Local SWCD contact information can be found here:
<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation>

*All reports were collected from individual districts and
SCACD representatives then edited and compiled by
SCDNR-CD staff to ensure consistency.

**Cover photo taken by Taylor Main, SCDNR

Acronyms

APHIS - Animal and Plant Inspection Service

CSP - Conservation Stewardship Program

DC – District Conservationist

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program

EWP – Emergency Watershed Program

FFA - Future Farmers of America

FY - Fiscal Year (federal 10/01/20-09/31/2021; state
07/01/21-06/30/22)

LWG - Local Work Group

MOA – Memorandum of Agreement

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts

NASCA – National Association of State Conservation Agencies

NCF - National Conservation Foundation

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

PLT - Project Learning Tree

SCACD - South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts

SCCDEA - South Carolina Conservation Districts Employees
Association

SCDNR-CD - South Carolina Department of Natural Resources -
Conservation Districts

SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District

TA - Technical Assistance

USDA – United States of Department of Agriculture

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