

ANNUAL REPORT

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Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District
301 University Ridge, Suite 4800
Greenville, SC 29601
864-467-2755
www.greenvillesoilandwater.com





Our Mission

Our mission is to protect natural resources through education, programs, and cooperative efforts with partner organizations to achieve common goals for the benefit of all citizens of Greenville County with efforts in promoting:

Urban and Land Use Planning | Conservation Awareness | Sustainable Agriculture

District Commissioners

Dr. Rob Hanley
Chairman



Claire Bradbery
Vice-Chairman



Danny Howard
Secretary/Treasurer



Sean Dogan
Commissioner



Ed Nabers
Commissioner



A Message from the Chairman

What a weather year! A cold wet winter was followed by a hot and dry summer (incipient drought) and then the October storms. Wet to dry to wet, and certainly not predictable.

You may have read about numerous dam failures caused by the record setting rains that fell from Columbia to the coast. Did you know that the Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District manages nine watershed dams in Greenville County? These dams were constructed between 1961 and 1985 to protect soil and water resources in the Huff Creek, South Tyger River and Rabon Creek watersheds (the District maintains the South Tyger and one of the Rabon Creek dams through cooperative arrangements with the South Tyger Watershed District and Rabon Creek Watershed District, respectively). Greenville County provides financial support to the District to allow for regular dam inspection and maintenance. For over fifty years, these watershed dams have provided flood protection and captured sediment running off of the surrounding areas to protect water quality. We take seriously our responsibility for maintaining these dams so they will continue to serve and conserve. The locations of these dams can be seen on Greenville County's GIS website.

Our education programs have gained national recognition! The District has received several licensing requests from across the nation to use our "There Is No Poop Fairy" campaign. Additionally, the Greenville District education staff now serve as SC State Project WET Coordinators. Greenville County is fortunate to have staff that take a proactive and engaging approach to soil and water education.

The District was also showcased at the annual Southeastern National Association of Conservation Districts meeting. We presented a video of a project undertaken at Long Branch Baptist Church that involved restoring a small stream from an urban ditch to an attractive water feature, planting numerous trees in an area once populated by blighted, rundown, substandard houses, and installing a playground for the neighborhood to enjoy. By partnering with Long Branch Baptist Church, the Foothills Resource Conservation and Development Council, the US Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trees Greenville, Keep Greenville County Beautiful and the South Carolina Forestry Commission, an area that once harbored crack houses now is an urban park and safe playground for neighborhood children.

As always, you are welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of the month when the commission meets. Of course, you can keep up to date with District activities by visiting our internet site, www.yuckyducky.com, or following us on Facebook.

Yours in conservation,

Rob Hanley
Chair

From Our District Manager

Commissioners and Staff

The District had big changes again this year. Hard-working commissioner Darrell Harrison retired from his appointed position with the District, and an enthusiastic Sean Dogan joined us in that position. We wish Darrell the best and thank him for his nine years of service as we welcome Sean aboard.

We also have a shiny new Associate Commissioner, Ashley Clark. Ashley has a family history in farming, a husband who used to farm, and an active interest in the environment. We are so pleased to have her aboard!

Our Community Relations Coordinator (CRC), Kristen Henry, resigned to start her own business, and Maddi Phillips, our intrepid intern at the time, applied for Kristen's position. It was a great match, and we are happy to have Maddi as our new CRC. She and Lynn Pilewski continue to amaze us with their boundless energy and innovative ideas.

Our intern program took off this year. In addition to our fantastic college intern, Ben Lam, the education staff started a high school intern program this summer. Three highly motivated teens joined our team and helped with booths, programs, public service announcements, and our new week-long summer camp. They were truly an asset to the District and we thank them for their service.

Grants

The Greenville County SWCD participated in several grant efforts again this year.

- We completed a three year EPA 319 grant to repair/replace septic tanks in the Middle Saluda Watershed in northern Greenville County. Leaking septic tanks paired with stormwater runoff can cause bacterial pollution in our rivers and streams. The grants are meant to eliminate these sources of pollution.
- We started an EPA 319 grant in the Huff Creek watershed which is part of the Reedy River watershed. The District is administering the grant on behalf of the newly formed Reedy River Water Quality Group. This grant will also repair/replace septic tanks within the watershed.
- We supported a three year Conservation Innovation grant at Pecan Dale Farmstead through NRCS for drought resistance planning for goat and sheep farmers.

Technical Assistance

- The District Engineer met one-on-one with 85 residents to give technical advice on erosion, drainage, sinkholes, and streambank stabilization.
- We maintained 9 dams in the County to help alleviate flooding in the Huff Creek, South Tyger River and Rabon Creek watersheds. We passed DHEC dam inspections on the higher hazard dams, and completed Emergency Action Plans for those dams. DHEC requested extensive monitoring due to a perceived dam leak at the plunge pool for one of the dams. District staff implemented innovative dye tracing to prove that the 'leak' was water short circuiting within the pool, and was not due to a leak. This saved hundreds of thousands of dollars over the continued life of the dam.
- We partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help multiple farmers with conservation practices in the county through cost-share grants.
- Kirsten Robertson served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the new sustainable agriculture program at Greenville Technical College. The new program will start out as a certificate program, and the mission for the program is to prepare students for positions in agribusiness. Students will learn to successfully work for, manage, or operate an agricultural business. The program is designed to strengthen our local food system and economy by providing knowledgeable and skilled employees.

District programs are alive and well! It gets more exciting every year. Give us a call to see if we can help you with your conservation needs.



Education Report

In Greenville County and Beyond...

- Education total reach for the year was 8,106,801 citizens.
- Over 42,000 members of the public stopped by educational booths at Duck Derby, iMAGINE Upstate, Southern Home and Garden Show, Earth Day Fairs at Michelin (x2) and Sealed Air, Yappy Hour, Get Out Greenville, and Park Hop. General Yucky Ducky made an appearance at most events.
- Education Staff made twelve appearances on our local television show, Your Carolina, teaching about conservation issues, stormwater pollutants and our campaigns.
- A new High School internship program was conceived and implemented. Our inaugural group consisted of three rising seniors from three different schools. Projects completed were three PSAs and a Yucky Ducky jingle. Interns also completed a project for our UAF campaign to distribute over 350 gift bags to local car shows with educational information and worked on a Boy Scout/Girl Scout program.

School Programs

- With GCSWCD assistance, Slater-Marietta Elementary School continued Trout in the Classroom project and trout release.
- Five mini-grants were awarded this spring, supporting vermiculture, pollinator, recycling and water conservation projects.
- Our annual essay contest had 127 entries from 6 schools. Nine winners were chosen from grades 6 through 8.
- Education Staff made classroom presentations at 11 schools, teaching 500+ children about pollution prevention. Students were taught about how they contribute to keeping our water clean with the "Connecting the Drops" program at Party for the Planet at the Greenville Zoo and at Duke World of Energy.
- New programs were developed this year including the Yucky Ducky Arcade, which features Stormwater PLINKO, Defend Your Drain table hockey and Toss Your Trash corn hole. These games engage all ages and promote stormwater pollution prevention in an easily understandable way.

In the Community

- 4 Pet waste stations were delivered to local community parks.
- 34 Scoop the Poop signs were provided to various entities.
- Our County Vehicle was wrapped with promotional messaging this year featuring the Poop Fairy and Yucky Duck campaigns. This impacted approximately 248,750 citizens. More importantly, this was a conversation starter everywhere we went. We were able to have in depth one-on-one conversations about our campaigns.
- We partnered with Greenville Evening Rotary on the Duck Derby event, reaching over 7,000 people with our messaging on stormwater pollutants.
- Our largest event this year was the iMAGINE Upstate festival for STEM/STEAM education promotion. Attendance was over 17,000 in one day.
- 1750 pet waste bag dispensers were distributed throughout Greenville County to dog owners.
- Presentations were made at 7 HOAs and community groups educating on stormwater pollutants, reaching 220 participants.
- Participation at GC Animal Care's "Tails and Trails" event reached an additional 200 pet owners with our "There is no Poop Fairy" message. The fairy himself even attended and posed for photos!



Education Programs for County Residents

EDUCATION CONTESTS FOR GREENVILLE COUNTY STUDENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Open to students K-12

Begin September 1, Entry Deadline November 13, 2015

The photography contest has four categories:

We All Need Trees - Anything tree related. Leaves, branches, fruit, a single tree or a forest

Agriculture and Farming - Photos of farm animals, crops in the field or on the table, people working in farm fields, farm equipment, old barns and buildings

Focus on Water - Anything water related including local rivers, lakes, streams and the animals that inhabit them

We Live on the Land - This can include landscapes, scenery, soil or animals that live on the land

\$50 prize for each category winner, \$100 Best in Show.

For more information, visit www.yuckyducky.com/2015-photography-contest

ESSAY CONTEST

Open to students 5th-8th Grades

Entry Deadline March 23, 2016

The 2016 essay contest theme: **We All Need Trees**

Three \$50 prizes for each grade with a special gift for teachers of winners.

For more information, visit www.yuckyducky.com/2016-essay-contest/

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

All education programs are adjusted for the appropriate age group and are great for students, camps, homeowner associations or other interested groups.

STORMWATER

Covers the whole water cycle, definition of stormwater, and what can pollute our waterways. Participants learn what they can do to keep our rivers, lakes and streams clean for future generations!

GENERAL YUCKY DUCKY VISIT

In addition to the learning about stormwater (see program above), participants will enjoy an entertaining visit with the GCSWCD Stormwater Mascot, General Yucky Ducky. The General leads the Ducky Army to fight pollution in Greenville County. General Yucky Ducky is a 7' tall devil duck and is always a hit!

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE LAND

How did that apple get into your lunch box? Where does our food come from? Participants learn food facts, what crops are grown in SC, agriculture basics, and how familiar food items are created. They'll learn what foods come from animals or from plants and what sustainability means to our food supply.

LET'S GET WET!

(No participants will actually get wet!) Using activities from the award winning ProjectWET curriculum, students will learn about all things water through activity based interdisciplinary and interactive activities - from watersheds and water quality to human use and conservation.

LET'S GO WILD!

Participants learn about wildlife with Project WILD activities. Project WILD is one of the most widely-used conservation and environmental education programs. Actual fur pelts and skulls and scat replicas facilitate questions and answers. Participants learn about local animals with the help of educational puppets.

Community Corner

Article by Maddi Phillips, GCSWCD Community Relations Coordinator
(with help from Lucy)

It's hard to believe it's already time for the second annual report of my Soil and Water career. From my humble roots as Community Outreach Intern to my bona fide job as Community Relations Coordinator, I've been fortunate to immerse myself in the Greenville conservation scene and work with countless amazing people and organizations to protect the waters of Greenville and beyond.

To me, the best part of outreaching is face-to-face engagements made with my community. Using a combination of relevant and relatable information, interactive exhibits, and a snazzy booth full of prizes, we have been able to reach an estimated 8,106, 801 Greenvillians to teach about:

Pet Waste. My favorite events are those with cute, cuddly puppies to play with (and, of course, their owners to talk to). This year we taught people to "grab it, bag it, toss it" at Rec's Waggin' at the Waterpark, Animal Care's Tails and Trails 5K, and NOMA Square's Yappy Hour. We also debuted the live action (Not A) Poop Fairy, heroically portrayed by our ever-supportive commissioner, Danny Howard. Think 27 yards of pink glitter tulle.

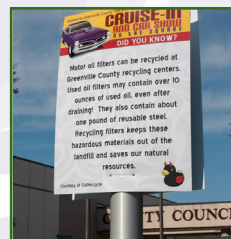
Automotive Fluids. You say automotive fluid pollution education, and GCSWCD says Cruise-In and Car Show on the Square. 2014 brought downtown's biggest car show featuring dozens of cruisers, hot rods, and everything in between. Because our motto is "go big or go home," we also featured a concert by Benton Blount, a Public Works touch-a-truck, and some killer BBQ by the Chopping Block.

Yard Waste. Spring and fall found us at the Southern Home and Garden Show where we reminded our audience "Don't Blow It – Rake and Recycle" for healthy water. The astonishment on some people's faces when they learned grass, leaves, and branches can wreak havoc on our rivers!

General Stormwater. This year GCSWCD created the Yucky Ducky arcade featuring Stormwater PLINKO, Defend Your Drain table hockey, and Toss Your Trash cornhole. We hauled those babies to a plethora of community festivals including iMAGINE Upstate, Duck Derby, Park Hop, Get Out Greenville, Friends of Lake Robinson Day, several Earth Day events, and others. We also made lots of friends presenting to Home Owners and Neighborhood Association meetings, Clemson University education students, and tons of school groups.

We also go hands-on, hosting two do-it-yourself tumbling composter workshops, organizing a county-wide Geocache, and spearheading a CITO trash clean up. Shout out to Legolas181 and cpatiger who wore their hard-earned t-shirts all the way to Washington for the annual Geocache Block Party!

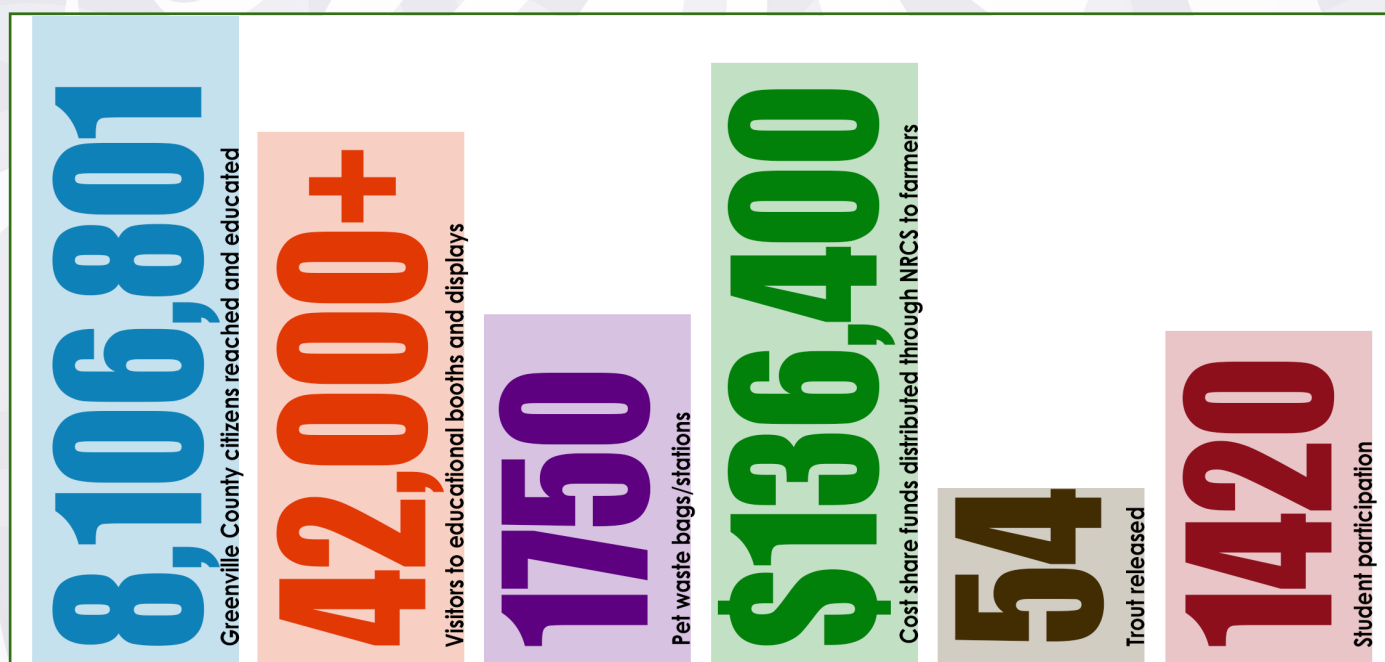
Whether one-on-one or in a group, GCSWCD loves **partnerships**. This year we hosted the first Greenville County Conservation Coalition (GC3) meeting to bring together Greenville's conservation groups under one roof to meet, discuss ideas, and share resources. We are also members of the newly formed Reedy River Water Quality Group (RRWQG), which brings together local community, university, and government organizations to tackle the problem of a polluted Reedy River. Read more about this group at www.cleanreedy.org.



When we're not out and about Greenville, Soil and Water is working behind the scenes... and the camera. This year we hosted **Conservation Conversations**, a monthly TV spot on Your Carolina with Jack and Megan. Each month we dove into different topics ranging from a local food taste test, a climate change – shark attack increase analysis, talking (and tossing) trash and litter, and more. What's cooler than that was getting Jack Roper to hold a real live snake! We've also graced the radio airwaves of Chuck-FM, X98.5, Conservative Talk Radio, and EARTH-FM with a hilarity of PSAs.

The education team experience is not complete without our amazing interns. Our "college" intern, Clemson graduate Ben Lam, has taken Soil and Water into the digital age by creating a nationally viewed documentary featuring a stream bank restoration and green space project partnership between Longbranch Baptist Church and the District. He has also taken our Instagram and Facebook game to the next level with his remarkable photography. This summer we offered our first high school internship program with much success. Linda Cortez, senior at Wade Hampton, spent much of her internship creating a stormwater jingle and laying the groundwork for a calendar based on this year's photography contest winners. Hans Robertson, senior at Southside, created and housed 300 automotive-themed goody bags filled with leftovers from the Cruise-In. He also created a template of a Yucky Ducky trading card game. Will Taylor, senior at Riverside, put his Boy Scout skills to use by compiling a catalog of Boy and Girl Scout programs. These four superstars combined forces to write and record a slew of fantastic PSAs.

By the Numbers



Looking Ahead

A year seems short when you have so many activities to pack in, these being only a portion of the 2014/15 workload. 2015/16 brings lots to look forward to including Greenville's own Envirothon team, a lesson on composting with worms, and the campaign for our new pollutant, trash and litter. In the mean time, keep an eye out for Soil and Water cruising town in the Duck Truck (you'll know it when you see it). Keep up with us in our quarterly newsletters, our Facebook page, and our website at YuckyDucky.com.

Affiliate Membership

Since 1971, citizens, businesses and educational institutions in Greenville County have donated tax deductible gifts to the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District. The District uses affiliate member funds to provide a wide variety of environmental education programs, demonstration projects and outdoor learning opportunities.

District education programs reach students of all ages, classroom teachers, informal educators, pet owners, homeowners, farmers, contractors, members of the public and elected officials.

We need your help to continue these important programs!

- Awards for Greenville County students for photographs, science projects, and essays written on natural resource conservation topics
- Sponsorship of high school students to attend Envirothon and Governors' Institute for Natural Resource Education
- Workshops for educators in Project WILD, Project WET and Project FLP (Food, Land, People)
- Classroom programs for Greenville County schools, reaching hundreds of students each year
- Interactive exhibit displays at area events, fairs, and Earth Day celebrations
- Funding for Outdoor Learning Centers, community rain garden projects, and interactive learning activities
- Funding for mini-grants to schools and organizations for conservation education

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Affiliate Members

Partners

South Carolina DNR

Leaders

Clemson University

ReWa - Renewable Water Resources

Conservationist

Strange Brothers Grading Company, Inc.

Educators

Darrell & Georgia Harrison

Patrons

AgSouth Farm Credit

Ashmore Bros. Inc.

Caliber Engineering Consultants, LLC

Hyatt Regency Greenville

Kilwins

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Mountain View Farm

Ed & Judy Nabers

Nature Walk Photography

Padula's Plants and Gardens

Pecan Dale Farmstead

Supporters

Bob & Claire Bradbery

Arbor Engineering, Inc.

Dr. David L. Hargett

Howard Farms

Butch & Diane Kirven

Green Lakes Properties

Dr. Walter McPhail

Poopprints of the Upstate

Rogers & Callcott Environmental

Sprague & Sprague Consulting Engineers

Paul Wickensimer

Mini Grants for School Projects

The Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to offer 5 Mini-Grants in the amount of \$250 each for spring 2016. These grants are for conservation-related projects or education events/programs. A grant application is available at www.yuckyducky.com/2016-mini-grants-for-schools/ and must be returned by January 15, 2016 for consideration. We hope we'll be able to fund some great conservation programs!



Students from Slater Marietta Elementary participating in a mini-grant funded trout release as a culmination of their annual Trout in the Classroom program.

And Sponsors For Their Generous Support

Contributors

Cely Construction
Dennis and Judy DeFrancisco
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Earle
William N. Gressette, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hanley
Dr. David L. Hargett
Danny & Nan Howard
Ted V. Howie
Grady & Mary Rose Jones
North Greenville University
Pace Building Company
Fred & Kay Payne
Gary & Fran Richardson
J. Randall & Pat Wynn
Universal Cafe/Palms Art Gallery

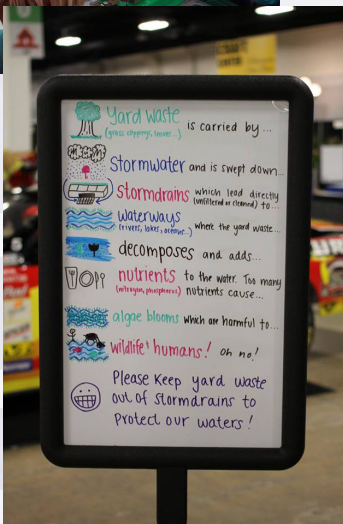
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Hyatt Regency Greenville
Keep Greenville County Beautiful
Kilwins Greenville
Michelin North America
Padulas Plants and Nursery
Petco
WSPA
Upcountry History Museum
Upstate Forever/B-Cycle
Vom Fass

Caught in the Act!

Caught in the Act! - Around the District



visit us at
www.YuckyDucky.com

From the District Conservationist/NRCS



Did you know that a teaspoon or two of healthy soil can have more living organisms than there are people in the world? So how does a home gardener, a row crop farmer or a beef cattle farmer have healthy soil?

To be a healthy soil it must be a living soil. The roots of living plants feed soil organisms which builds porous soil structure through root and earthworm channels.

From home gardeners to row crop farmers, planting a cover crop provides a living plant during the off season, be it spring, summer, winter or fall. Cover crops also help build organic matter, which buffers the soil against big changes in moisture and temperature. A one percent increase in organic matter can add approximately one inch or 20,000-25,000 gallons of water per acre to the soil profile.

Adjusting the grazing height in pastures helps improve soil health. Overgrazing reduces root mass and can lead to erosion issues. Rotating your animals through pastures is one way to keep taller grass in your pastures while keeping the same number of animals.

NRCS Cost Share Funding for Farmers

Do you grow vegetables or fruits on your farm? Would you like to improve your soil?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers cost share funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist farmers in establishing pollinator habitat and many other practices on their farms.



To participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint farm operation that meets EQIP eligibility criteria.

Applicants may call the Greenville NRCS office at 467-2755 ext 108 for more information. The application cutoff for 2016 funding is November 20th.

DNR Programs

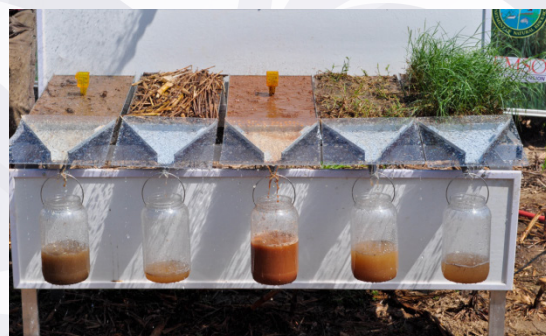
Rainfall Simulator

Indian Creek/Delta project and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

SCDNR staff has been working tirelessly this summer with multiple projects in conjunction with NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a variety of other groups and organizations. We also have a new addition to our Greenville office, Drew Williams. Drew is a recent graduate of Clemson and has proven himself to be a valuable asset here in the upstate even during his short time with us. Aside from our 'typical' duties assisting NRCS with a variety of programs we are also working on several exciting new projects. Perhaps the best known of these projects is the rainfall simulator.



The rainfall simulator, as its name suggests, simulates rainfall on a variety of cover situations. From a textbook and general knowledge standpoint, we all know what to expect from a rain event on various cover types. However, when you see it in action and can view the infiltration and runoff, it becomes evident that we may have to rethink our strategies in regards to what we have long held as being "good groundcover".



Soil health demonstrations are also a major component of the rainfall simulator and illustrate the importance of increasing organic matter. Through slake testing we are able to view firsthand the stability of soil structure. It becomes evident very quickly how even slight increases in organic matter plays an important role in holding our soil in place and its ability to retain moisture (which is very relevant here in the south with our soil types and frequent drought conditions).

Through the use of this equipment and subsequent workshops that we will be undertaking, we hope to help change views on the importance of soil health and how it can be utilized on individual farms throughout the state. SCDNR staff will be hosting a total of 6

workshops over the course of the next 2 years throughout the state. SCDNR staff will be attending the National Grasslands Coalition meeting in Grapevine, Texas this December and presenting information regarding the rainfall simulator and how it is being utilized here in South Carolina.

Recent and Upcoming Events

HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP

**TUESDAY, SEPT 22
9:30AM**

LOCATION: SAM HOWARD'S FARM
From HWY25 South turn right onto SC HWY8 toward Patey. You will go approximately 2 miles and Sam's farm will be located on the left (just down the road from Washington Baptist Church).
From Patey on HWY15 Sam's farm is located approximately 3 miles past Bargain Foods on the right.
Look for the Green in SC sign. The turn in for the farm is just beside the Leyland cypress trees.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
TUESDAY WILL BE A HANDS ON WORKING PROJECT TO SET UP A HIGH TUNNEL. BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH.
WEDNESDAY WILL FEATURE SPEAKER ANDY ROLLINS AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. WE WILL ALSO COMPLETE ANY WORK NOT DONE THE PREVIOUS DAY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.
SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 PARTICIPANTS.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 15 VIA EMAIL TO CHRIS.WORKMAN@DNR.SC.GOV

Pasture Field Day
September 29th, 9am-2pm
Trinity UMC, 90 Boney Rd.
Blythewood, SC 29016

We will carpool to pastures at Camp Discovery for hands-on learning.
*Rain Date: October 13th, 2015

This workshop is FREE and lunch will be provided, but registration is required.
RSVP to Charlie Fisher at cfisher@dnr.gov or (803) 576-2080.

[Flyer \(.pdf\)](#)

Sessions will include soil health and pasture management, a rainfall simulator demonstration by the SC Department of Natural Resources, rotational grazing and temporary fencing techniques, weed identification and control, technical and financial assistance for pasture management, and an introduction to the Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed 319 Program. Presenters include NRCS State Agronomist Gordon Mikell, SC Forage Specialist Dr. John Andrae, Clemson Livestock/Forages Agent Travis Mitchell, and NRCS Grazing Lands Specialist Jill Epley. Pesticide applicators may receive one Continuing Certification Hour. Lunch will be sponsored by members of the SC Grazing Lands Coalition.

This workshop is sponsored by the Richland and Kershaw Soil and Water Conservation Districts with support from the organizations shown below. Some funding for this event is provided by the US EPA under a Section 319 Grant through the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC).

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA
Clemson University

Share Tweet Forward

Registration Information

Join us for the
**6th National Conference
on
Grazing Lands**

December 13-16, 2015
Hyatt Regency DFW
2334 North International Pkwy
DFW Airport, Texas

The 6th NGL Conference will provide:

- A forum for discussion and exchange of information and technology
- An opportunity to identify research and program needs
- A chance to see new products and services

Come learn how sound scientific technical assistance can help you improve your management systems and how you can increase public awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of grazing.

Sponsored by the
NATIONAL GRAZING LANDS COALITION (NGLC)

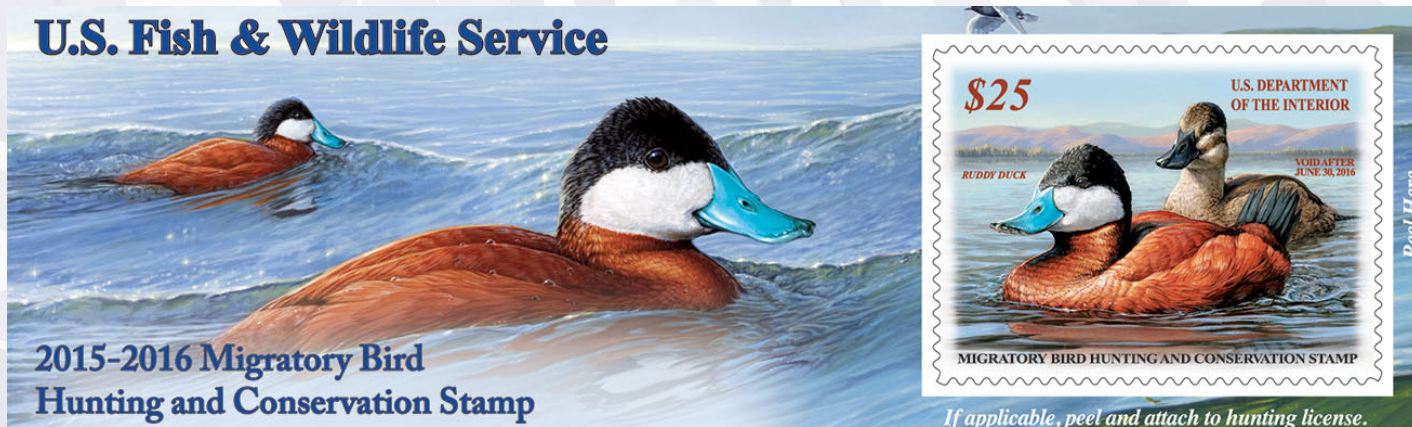
DEEP IN THE HEART
6th NGLC
TEXAS
OF GRAZING LANDS
2015

Duck Stamps for Conservation

Article by Ben Lam, GCSWCD Summer Intern, who also works with DNR on projects relating to his degree in fisheries and wildlife.

When we think conservation, how many of us think about stamps? One of the most successful conservation programs ever created are Duck Stamps through the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act. This legislation was in response to the decreasing populations of wildlife due to poor hunting practices and habitat destruction.

Since 1934, the \$800 million raised has aided in acquiring and protecting over 6.5 million acres of wetland habitat through the National Wildlife Refuge System. Each duck stamp currently costs \$25 with 98% of the sale going directly to wetland conservation. Ducks are not the only wildlife that benefit from protected wetland habitats. More than 2170 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and countless invertebrates and plants utilize the protected land in these national wildlife refuges, including 280 endangered species.



These stamps aren't postage stamps, though. If you are 16 years or older and hunt waterfowl, you are required to have an up to date duck stamp in addition to your hunting license. If you visit national wildlife refuges that require an entrance fee, these stamps can be used as an entrance pass. If you like collecting art, these stamps are great collectibles. Each year, there is a nationwide art competition that is open to the public to choose a design for the stamp.

Inspired by the federal duck stamp, there are also federal junior duck stamps. These junior duck stamps are only \$5 and 100% of the sale goes towards aiding in environmental education activities for children. Teaching children about our environment at an early age is crucial to conserving our natural resources because when children gain an appreciation for nature early on in their lives, they will be more conservation minded while making decisions in the future.

You may also be required to have state level migratory waterfowl stamps in addition to your federal duck stamp if you are hunting waterfowl. These state level stamps raise money for wetland conservation projects that stay within that state.

You can purchase these stamps at various locations, including places that sell hunting and fishing licenses. (See the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's website for more details and purchasing locations.) It doesn't take long to purchase a stamp, so please consider aiding in this conservation effort.

Imagine if everyone contributed to conservation, whether by directly working with our natural resources or indirectly by supporting conservation efforts. Together, we can conserve our natural resources for future generations of earth's inhabitants, both humans and wildlife.

Meet Our Staff

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

From left: **Lynne Newton**, District Conservationist, **Collin Buckner**, Soil Conservationist
Drew Williams, DNR Program Coordinator, **Chris Workman**, DNR Program Coordinator



Soil and Water Conservation District Staff

From left: **Kirsten Robertson**, District Manager, **Maddi Phillips**, Community Relations Coordinator,
Ben Lam, Conservation Assistant, **Lynn Pilewski**, Education Program Coordinator
 (Not Pictured) **Linda Creel**, Administrative Support



Staff Directory

Kirsten Robertson
 Linda Creel
 Lynn Pilewski
 Maddi Phillips
 Lynne Newton
 Collin Buckner
 Drew Williams

District Manager
 Administrative Support
 Education Program Coordinator
 Community Relations Coordinator
 NRCS District Conservationist
 NRCS Soil Conservationist
 DNR Program Coordinator

Extension 110
 Extension 111
 Extension 103
 Extension 107
 Extension 108
 Extension 102
 Extension 109

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District

301 University Ridge, Suite 4800

Greenville, SC 29601

864-467-2755

www.greenvillesoilandwater.com

GCSWCD Interns Are Going Places!

Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District interns have some amazing success stories to share!

Maddi Phillips Promoted to Community Relations Coordinator

Maddi Phillips, our summer 2014 intern, joined the GCSWCD Education Staff this year as our Community Outreach Coordinator. Maddi was the perfect fit when this position became available early this year. We didn't want to let her go and, it turns out, we didn't have to. She has been leading our community outreach and our internship program since February and is doing a wonderful job!

Alec Courtwright Snags Coveted NASA/NOAA Internship

Alec Courtwright, a summer 2014 intern, will participate this fall in NASA's DEVELOP program, DEVELOP is a training and development program sponsored by NASA's Earth Science Applied Sciences Program. Headquartered at NASA Langley Research Center, DEVELOP has teams at twelve locations around the country, one in Nepal and one in Mexico. Participants work with advisers and mentors to learn about the application of NASA Earth Science and remote sensing during three 10-week terms each year.

DEVELOP is based in the Earth Science Mission, which has the goal to "Develop a scientific understanding of Earth's system and its response to natural or human-induced changes, and to improve prediction of climate, weather, and natural hazards." With a unique focus on community concerns, DEVELOP offers participants the chance to work with remote sensing to research real-world problems.

Alec will work in Asheville, NC on a project entitled Missouri River Climate: Utilizing NASA Earth Observations and NOAA Climate Data Records to model runoff in the Upper Missouri River Basin.

Hans Robertson Earns Full College Scholarship

Hans, a 2015 high school intern, participated in the Youth Summit 2015 sponsored by the Upcountry History Museum and Furman University. This program was designed for participants to connect with likeminded students from across the Upstate to examine and discuss today's environmental issues through sustainability workshops, fieldtrips, and presentations from leading environmentalists. The Summit concluded with the creation of a water conservation project in which students tackled contemporary Upstate South Carolina water conservation issues. Han's project, a water tank to maximize sustainability, earned him a full scholarship to his choice of three universities. Congratulations to Hans for this amazing achievement!

Ben Lam's Project Screened for National Webinar

Ben, our 2015 summer intern, spearheaded a video project outlining the District's contribution and collaboration with several other local organizations to clean up and conserve green space in an area that used to be over-run with drug activity. His documentary, From Crack Houses to Community, was screened as a part of a webinar on urban conservation for the National Association of Conservation Districts. His film will also be presented at the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference in 2016.

Jordan Keesee Presents Paper at National Conference

Jordan was our spring intern in 2014. During Jordan's senior year at Furman, he completed his senior thesis on Gauging the Feasibility of an Agricultural Greenbelt in Greenville County. Jordan was selected to present his results at the Association of American Geographers conference in Chicago last April. He is currently at Wake Forest Business School getting his masters in business management.

Benton Blount Performs in America's Got Talent Finals

OK, so Benton Blount wasn't actually a GCSWCD intern, but he did perform at our Cruise In and Car Show on the Square last year and we couldn't be happier for him!



GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
301 University Ridge, Suite 4800
Greenville, SC 29601

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PLEASE DELIVER TO:

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Save the date for these District events that will be happening over the next several months!
Stay tuned for more information!

Annual Photography Contest
County Wide Yard Sale
73rd Annual Essay Contest
Spring Southern Home and Garden Show
iMAGINE Upstate
Party for the Planet
Duck Derby
GCSWCD Giddy-Up Gala
Wet & Wild Water Camp

Entries Due Nov 13
Spring 2016
Entries Due March 2016
March 2016
April 2
April 16
May 7
May 19
June 20-24