



# MONTHLY REPORT

September 2024

## SOIL & WATER



### REDESIGNED STORM DRAIN MARKERS TO RAISE AWARENESS

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer and District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw redesigned the district's storm drain curb



markers, creating a fun and eye-catching marker to help raise awareness about runoff pollutants. Talks are in progress with several pilot neighborhoods to get them in place. Spanish ver-

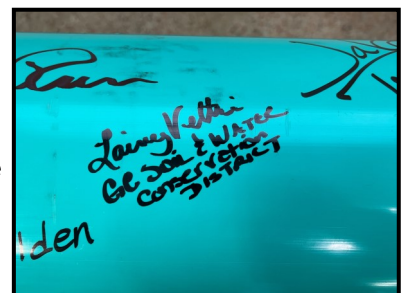
biage also appears on the markers.



### INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY



MetroConnects announced the start of infrastructure improvements within the Dunean Mill Village as part of its Clean Water Forward initiative. Soil and Water attended the ribbon cutting ceremony kicking off the \$12 million project that will improve water quality in local rivers and streams and help protect public health. Members of the



public and partner organizations were invited to sign a pipe section as a gesture of support for the project.

## NATURE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT SOIL HEALTH

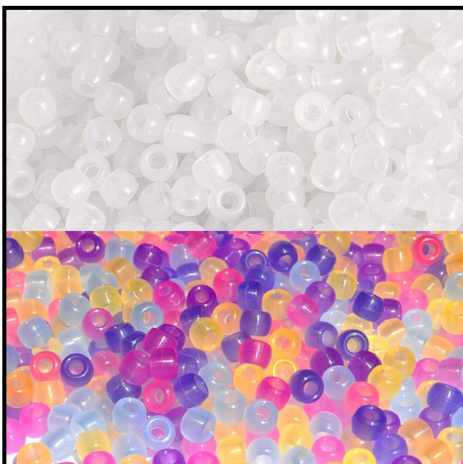


Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer returned to Roots and Wings Nature School to teach a new group of 2nd grade students about soil ecosystems and soil science techniques. The students enjoyed hand

texturing soil samples and comparing across the class. Students were also able to use a modified Munsell color chart to match soil colors to various sites around their school yard. Using analogies, Abbi discussed the three sizes of soil particles with students and debunked some myths about the clay soils that Upstate South Carolina is known for!



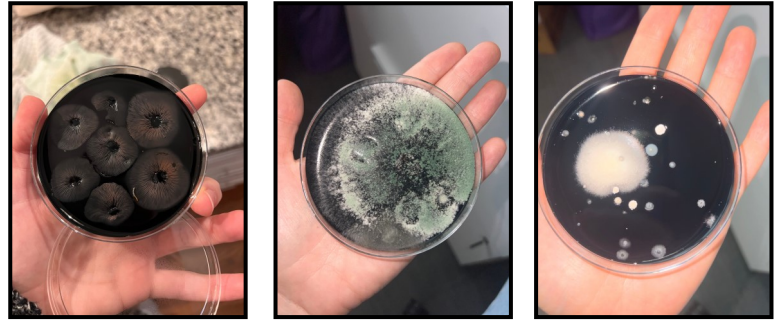
## PROGRAM AT SLATER ELEMENTARY UTILIZES UV-REACTIVE BEADS



Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer headed to the northern part of Greenville County to facilitate a program for 25 students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade at Slater-Marietta Elementary. The after-school staff had heard about the district's programs and reached out to request a program. Students loved participating in an activity that demonstrated the way water travels through the natural environment! Before leaving, Abbi told the students how, on the next sunny day, to activate the UV-reactive beads they used to create a craft during the program.

## WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON FUNGI-FILLED SOIL AND MOLD

As an extension of the Seed Library which the Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District runs in partnership with the Greenville Library System, staff taught a focused workshop on fungi as it relates to healthy soils. Participants at the Berea Branch enjoyed learning about the life cycles of fungi, how fungi is being used in up-and-coming technologies, and viewed a Slake Test using fungi-filled healthy soil. Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer grew petri dishes in the week leading up to the workshop to show off spores, mycelium, and mold as an extra treat!



## CLEMSON STUDENTS RECEIVE PROJECT WET CERTIFICATION



As part of her duties as South Carolina Project WET State Coordinator, Abbi headed to Clemson University to help facilitate Project WET Educator training for pre-service educators in CU's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences. In partnership with Dr. Thea Hagan and District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw, 22 students received Project WET Educator certification over the course of two weeks. This training was made possible due to the yearly course offered by Dr. Hagan in which students can obtain multiple environmental education certifications throughout the semester.

## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STORMWATER RUNOFF AND MITIGATION

Staff helped facilitate a stormwater-focused field trip at Roper Mountain Science Center for fifth graders as part of a new partnership initiative with RMSC. Using envirosapes, students explored the ways various pollutants manifest in our landscape and how they travel during rainfall events. Additionally, students utilized augmented reality to create flood-resistant landscapes using topographic sand tables. After both activities, students were able to return to the envirosapes to experiment with mitigation tactics like installing wetlands, fences and grass strips.





## ADS AND SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS HIGHLIGHT TEAM'S EFFORTS

District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw bolstered the team's efforts with the creation of yard waste management, stormwater and soil health awareness campaigns. Haley designed a half-page ad about yard waste management for the Greenville Journal and followed up with a social media series on the same subject. She also designed a graphic for upcoming soil health workshops and a graphic to publicize a Project WET workshop she and Abbi facilitated at Clemson University.

**Don't blow it!**  
**Yard Waste Management**

**Mulch it!**  
 Using your yard waste as mulch is not only great for the environment but great for your wallet!

**Compost it!**  
 Mixing your yard waste with compostable kitchen scraps makes a great all natural fertilizer for your lawn and garden.

**Leave it!**  
 Leaves, branches, and lawn clippings all make great habitat for native beneficial insects, and it can even provide a space for salamanders to lay their eggs.

GREENVILLE COUNTY  
**SOIL & WATER**  
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

@gcsolandwater

www.GreenvilleSoilandWater.com



**YOUR SOIL IS ALIVE, AND IT MATTERS!**

**Kirsten Robertson** has been farming near Pelzer for 34 years. She is a Master Gardener, Adjunct instructor at Greenville Tech Sustainable Ag Program teaching Soils, and is the Manager of the Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District. Her passion is to bring the message of soil health to people through riveting demos, eye-opening concepts, and tons of enthusiasm and humor. Come see what she has to say! It'll be fun!

**Kirsten Robertson**  
 District Manager & Engineer  
 kirobertson@greenvillecounty.org  
 (864) 467-4996

GREENVILLE COUNTY  
**SOIL & WATER**  
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GREENVILLESOILANDWATER.COM @GCSOILANDWATER

## NEW AND BEGINNING FARMERS LEARN ABOUT WEED CONTROL

*Working With Nature to Control Weeds!*

District Manager Kirsten Robertson shared her knowledge and expertise about soil health with 55 members of the class of '24 Clemson Extension New and Beginning Farmers. Most new and beginning farmers aren't aware that weeds can be controlled by improving the microbes in soil, Robertson pointed out. To ensure these farmers were equipped with that knowledge, Robertson focused her talk on weed control and ways to avoid the endless cycle of spraying weeds. She also talked about the benefits of weeds including being soil health indicators and pollinator attractors.



## >>> STORMWATER

- **Responded to citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- **GCSWCD websites reached 2,979 page views this month.**
- Soil and Water staff continues to support the Reedy River Water Quality Group by serving on the Public Outreach Committee. **RRWQG websites CleanReedy.org and ReedyReportCard.org, maintained by Soil and Water staff**, experienced increased traffic in anticipation of Hurricane Helene in the month of September in addition to the social media presence.
- **Partnered with Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association** to provide seeds for its "Plant a Seed" program at farmers markets throughout the county

## >>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **26 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes
- **Flood control dams -**
  - ◇ Lowered level in one flood-control dam in anticipation of Hurricane Helen.
  - ◇ Contractor is currently mowing dams.

## >>> AGRICULTURE / FOOD SECURITY

- Continued **Seed Library** partnership with the Greenville Library, providing free vegetable seeds to Greenville residents as a vector to give information about insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers
- Helped **Soil Health Institute recruit farmers** in Greenville County for their Climate-Smart program
- Made **no-till drill and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers

## >>> INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

- **Litter Ends Here** – Supporting social media engagement, participation on the board for the July Executive Committee meeting
- **Keep Greenville County Beautiful** – Participated on the board and working closely with new leadership
- **Continued support of the Reedy River Water Quality Group**



## >>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	11	2,144	+12	224
Instagram	8	1,134	+10	1,326
LinkedIn	7	172	+1	1,301
RRWQG				
Facebook	5	592	5	7,007
Instagram	8	147	+6	740
GCSWCD Website	Total views			
	1,149			

## >>> DISTRICT

- Three commissioners attended the SC Association of Conservation Districts mid-year meeting in Columbia. **Chairman Mike Stewart** accepted the role of SCACD's awards chairman and planned to work on streamlining the award nomination process.

