



# MONTHLY REPORT

November 2024

SOIL  
&  
WATER



## STAFF HOSTS COMMISSIONERS FOR A TOUR OF AREA DAMS

Commissioners from the Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District accompanied staff members for a tour of the Huff Watershed's five dams. The commissioners are charged with maintaining the dams, which includes ensuring the dams are mowed and free of debris. District Manager Kirsten Robertson led the tour on a beautiful November afternoon. It was the first time some of the commissioners had a chance to examine the dams.



## DISTRICT MANAGER TO TAKE POSITION ON ADVISORY BOARD

Agribusiness

CLEMSON  
EXTENSION



In November, Clemson Extension's New and Beginning Farmer Program recognized Kirsten Robertson's involvement in the program by inviting her to be on the Advisory Board. Kirsten gives multiple presentations and workshops a year to ensure that new farmers start off with the right knowledge about soil health in their toolbox. She is excited to now be a part of the Board.



**SOIL IMPLOSION AND SILLY STRING DEMO CAPTIVATES AUDIENCE**

Members of a local HOA group as well as residents of their community gathered for a soil health program administered by District Manager Kirsten Robertson. Using props designed to depict soil particles, Kirsten showed the group how over-tilling the land during farming practices can negatively affect healthy soil. Approximately 15 people attended with many expressing interest in learning more as Kirsten fielded multiple questions following the presentation.



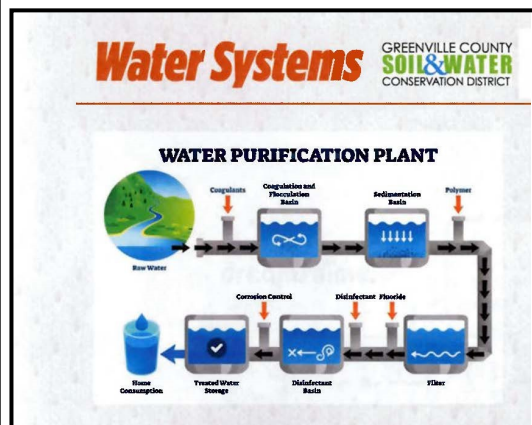
**STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CONSERVATION DURING STEM EVENT**

PRESENTING SPONSOR

**GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS**  
**SCHOOL DAY!**

Combining Hockey with Education  
and Character Development for  
Upstate Region Students

The district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator (SPC) collaborated with Greenville Water to participate in the Swamp Rabbit hockey team's STEM game, an event that combined hockey with education. During the event, hundreds of students from K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade visited booths, giving our SPC an opportunity to speak with more than 100 students about a career in public service.





### KIDS LEARN ABOUT GRADING EGGS DURING AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Our District Manager (DM) and District Programs Coordinator taught approximately 80 students from Berea Middle School about sourcing and grading eggs while volunteering with Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom. The students learned how to use bright flashlights to determine an egg's grading by examining the egg's air cell, explaining to them the smaller the air cell the higher the grade.



### DISTRICT HELPS SCHOOL WIN PLANT RESTORATION GRANT

The SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities was awarded a Champions of the Environment grant, applied for in late summer by the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator. The \$2,500 grant was awarded by the SC Department of Environmental Services and will be administered under the school's Native Plant Restoration and Embankment Stabilization Initiative.

**Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Champions of the Environment!**

<p><b>\$2,500 Grant Winners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charleston Collegiate School</li> <li>Clay Hill Elementary School</li> <li>Fennell Elementary Magnet School</li> <li>Guinyard Butler Middle School</li> <li>PACE Academy</li> <li>Pendleton High School</li> <li>SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities</li> <li>The Montessori School of Columbia</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$1,500 Grant Winners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Jackson Academy</li> <li>C.E. Williams North Middle School</li> <li>Doby's Mill Elementary School</li> <li>Riverwalk Academy</li> </ul>
	<p><b>\$1,265 Grant Winner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newberry High School</li> </ul>

### FFA STUDENTS HEAR ABOUT DISTRICT'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION



District Manager Kirsten Robertson and District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw attended an FFA chartering ceremony to officially launch a new FFA program at Lakeside Middle School. This momentous event, attended by federal, state and local government representatives, occurred due to the efforts of the district's Teacher of the Year last year, Katie Martin. Congrats Katie!



## >>> 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 ReedyReport-Card.org, are maintained by Soil and Water staff.**
- Distributed **3 pet waste stations** and **1 Poop Fairy sign**
- Designed monthly ad for Greenville Journal.

## >>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **24 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes
- **Flood control dams** -Completed mowing of dams.
- NRCS engineering contractors have begun to perform **dam assessments** on all nine of our Public Law 566 flood control dams built in our county.
- **Continued support of the Reedy River Water Quality Group**

## >>> AGRICULTURE / FOOD SECURITY

- Manager/Engineer Kirsten Robertson was invited to join the **advisory board for the Clemson Extension New and Beginning Farmers Program**
- 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
- Made **no-fill drill and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers



**WHAT IS STORMWATER?**

Stormwater is water which is generated by rain or snow and flows over a watershed. A **watershed** is an area of land between ridges that water travels across before flowing into a larger body of water.

Stormwater never travels alone! Common pollutants that wash into stormwater include:

- Pet Waste
- Fertilizer
- Litter
- Insecticide
- Herbicide
- Used Auto Fluids

Follow us to learn how **YOU** can keep our watershed clean!

@gcsolandwater f  
www.GreenvilleSoilandWater.com

GREENVILLE COUNTY  
**SOIL & WATER**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## >>> 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

## >>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	16	2,151	+7	2,416
Instagram	20	1,351	+17	2,333
RRWQG				
Facebook	3	594	+2	474
Instagram	5	154	+7	206
GCSWCD Website	Total views			
	244			

## >>> DISTRICT

- Several members of the board accompanied staff for a tour of Huff's five dams.