



MONTHLY REPORT

February 2025

SOIL & WATER



STUDENTS HEAR ABOUT CAREERS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer headed to J.L. Mann High School's Biology 2 class to teach about stormwater pollution and environmental careers. Students learned about six stormwater pollutants and the effects each has on the environment.



Later, the students worked together to solve a water contamination mystery activity from Project WET (Water Education Today). Each group had to work together to triangulate the source of groundwater pollution and discuss the potential challenges with remediation. This activity gave students a glimpse into one of many water-related careers they can pursue in their near futures.

SOIL HEALTH CURRICULUM INCLUDES TEST KITS AND EXPERIMENTS



Greenville unveiled their new soil health curriculum at the National Association of Conservation Districts conference. It includes a testing kit and experiments for folks to test their own soil to see how healthy their soil is.



VOLUNTEERS HELP PACK SEEDS FOR COUNTY'S SEED LIBRARY

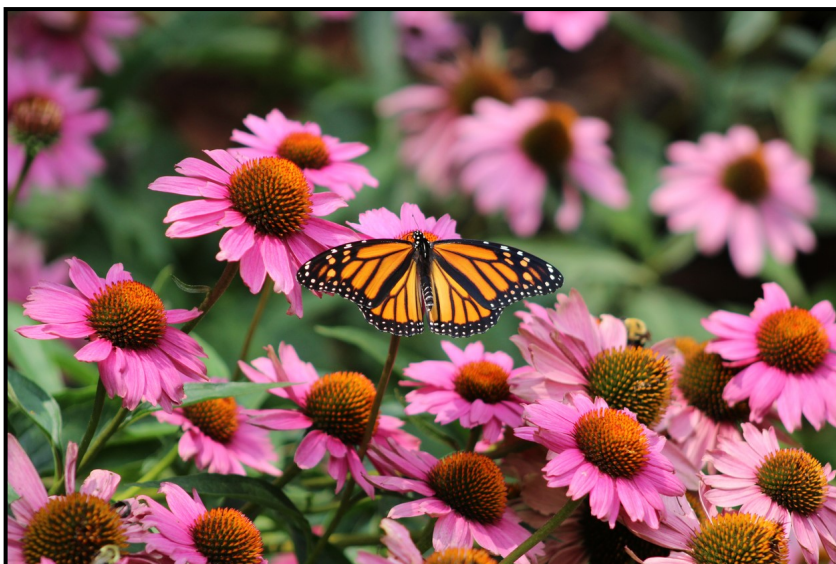
In collaboration with the Western Section of the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina, Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer and staff from Conestee Nature Preserve organized a volunteer seed packing event that yielded over 800 packets of seeds in just two hours.

Participants enjoyed networking with fellow environmental educators all while packing seeds for the Berea Seed Library's fast-approaching spring seed restock.



STORMWATER AND NATIVE PLANTS DISCUSSED AT LOCAL GARDEN CLUB

Haley Mumaw, District Programs Coordinator, spoke to the Mauldin Garden Club about Stormwater Basics and South Carolina Native Plants. This presentation included foundational watershed information, stormwater pollutants, steps citizens can take to mitigate stormwater pollution, and GCSWCD programs which help address these common pollutants and conservation concerns.



Monarch butterfly and purple coneflower

The club members were also provided with a list of South Carolina native plants (curated by Kirsten Robertson) for their consideration while planning the native plant garden at the Mauldin Cultural Center.



TEAM PRESENTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND RETURNS WITH AWARDS

Members of the team traveled to the National Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in Salt Lake City, where they received accolades as well as presented on conservation education. At the conference, District Manager Kirsten Robertson received the 2024 Hugh Hammond Bennett Southeast Regional Producer Award, which recognizes producers and conservation planners for extraordinary achievements and contributions to the soil and water conservation movement in the United States.

Also, the late Lynn Pilewski, our former District Programs Coordinator, was honored posthumously as National Conservation District Employee of the Year and our Chairman Mike Stewart attended as our co-SC representative to NACD.

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Abbi Greer attended the conference as a presenter, speaking on "What Your Seed Library Can Do for You." Attendees learned about how to stack messages, create engaging workshop topics, and form innovative partnerships in order to expand their organization's reach beyond programs such as the seed library.



Greer



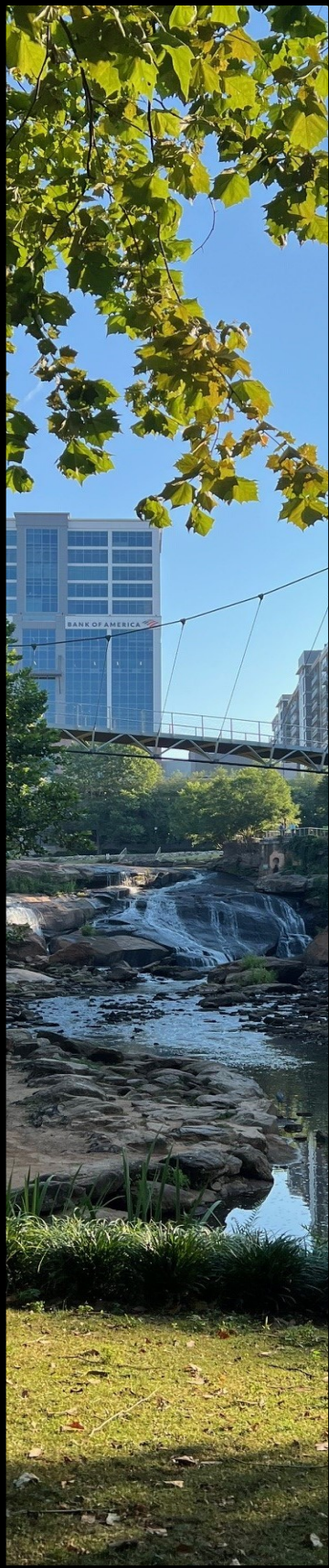
Pilewski



Greer, Stewart and Robertson



Robertson wins national award for her commitment to conservation and soil health.



>>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- **GCSWCD websites reached 3,738 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, are maintained by Soil and Water staff.**
- Distributed **1 pet waste station**

>>> ENGINEERING

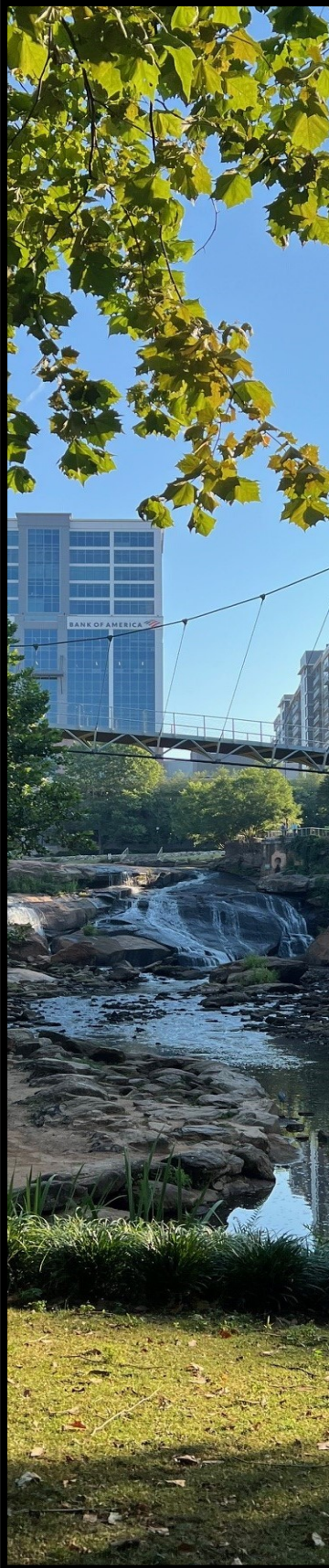
- Responded to **29 citizen requests** for drainage, flooding, erosion and sink-holes technical advice
- **Flood control dams – completed dam inspections**
- **Eight applications for streambank stabilization have been received** for use of state and federal funds through a grant with Natural Resources Conservation Service.

>>> 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
- Made **no-till drill and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers
- District manager participated in the **Clemson Extension, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and SC New and Beginning Farmer Advisory Boards** meetings

>>> 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



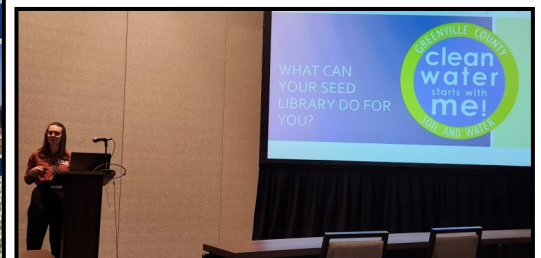
>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	4	2,140	+1	2,136
Instagram	4	1,372	+12	1,671
RRWQG				
Facebook	8	595	+2	648
Instagram	4	175	+15	836
GCSWCD Website	Total views			
	521			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	276			

>>> DISTRICT

- Several members of the board continue to meet monthly regarding the Huff watershed. Chairman Stewart also attended the NACD conference.

NACD NATIONAL CONFERENCE SNAPSHOTS



Commissioner Chair Mike Stewart, district staff and members of the SC Association of Conservation Districts attended the NACD national conference in Salt Lake City. Robertson shared information on soil health and Greer presented on the district's seed library.