



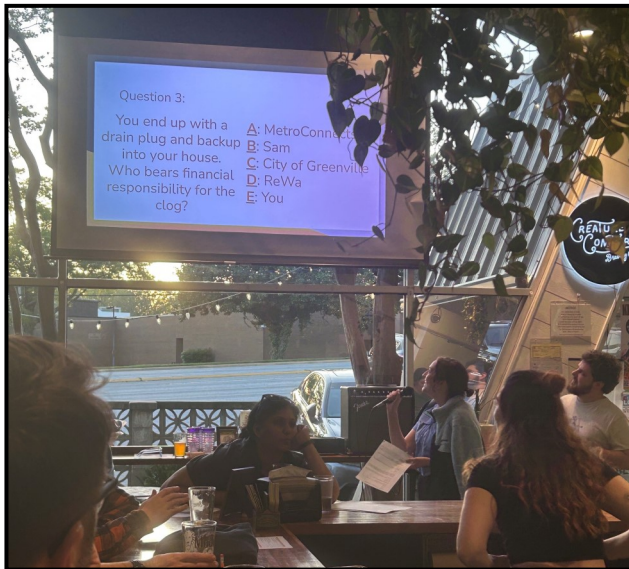
MONTHLY REPORT

April 2025

**SOIL
&
WATER**



TRIVIA NIGHT EVENT TEACHES ABOUT FOOD AND WATER WASTE



Haley Mumaw, District Programs Coordinator, represented the district and Reedy River Water Quality Group at a trivia night event, sponsored in partnership with Loaves & Fishes.

Participants answered trivia questions related to food and water waste while enjoying eats and fellowship. Mumaw facilitated the questions.

The winning team won a gift basket filled with swag from organizations with which the district partners.

FESTIVAL INCLUDES DEMONSTRATION ON STORMWATER RUNOFF

The team took advantage of the opportunity to speak to young and old alike about stormwater runoff at the iMAGINE STEAM Festival in downtown Greenville. In partnership with Greenville Water Collective, district staff talked with festivalgoers about how stormwater travels in a watershed. To reinforce their talking points, they used a scale 3D model of Greenville County to illustrate how stormwater travels across the landscape, picking up pollutants along the way.





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YOUNG GARDENERS LEARN ALL ABOUT NATIVE POLLINATORS

Elementary-aged AJ Whittenburg Garden Club members learned all about native pollinators during a presentation by District Programs Coordinator, Haley Mumaw.

Students participated in a geometry infused lesson to understand why bees construct their hives in the shape of a hexagon. By folding strips of paper of the same length, students could visualize how a bee could make a hive out of triangles, squares and hexagons with the same amount of resources, and they discussed why a hexagon is the optimal shape. They learned the importance of pollinators to help plants grow, why native pollinators are especially important to local ecosystems, and why applying insecticide and pesticide can be harmful to native pollinators.



DISTRICT SUPPORTS ENVIROTHON TEAMS AT STATE COMPETITION



Three Greenville County teams competed in the Envirothon competition held April 25 in Columbia. Spartanburg High School won overall and will represent South Carolina at the NCF-Envirothon this summer in Alberta, Canada. Greenville County's J.L. Mann took third place in the Soils station. District Programs Coordinator, Haley Mumaw and District Manager Kirsten Robertson assisted at the competition to support the Greenville teams.





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GAME AND SIMULATOR HELP KIDS BETTER UNDERSTAND RAINFALL RUNOFF

District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw participated in Roper Mountain Science Center (RMSC)'s Earth Day event by inviting kids and adults to play the Defend Your Drain game, which illustrates how litter and pollution can enter local waterways via storm drains.

Also at the event, RMSC staff displayed the rainfall simulator—a device sponsored by GCSWCD—to depict how rainwater runoff behaves on outdoor surfaces with differing permeability.



PARTNER SAVE OUR SALUDA WINS 3RD GRANT TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

A \$300,000 grant will enable Save Our Saluda (SOS) and partners like Greenville Soil & Water Conservation District to work with local landowners and farmers within the Upper Saluda Watershed to focus on improving water quality. This is SOS's third 319 grant.



The district has helped recruit landowners and farmers for participation; helped fund the 319 programs through soil health and streambank stabilization workshops; provided technical assistance for project design work; and permits projects with USDA-NRCS EQIP funding.

The Upper Saluda Watershed drains thousands of acres with headwaters from the Blue Ridge Mountains flowing into Saluda

Lake. Saluda Lake and its contributing rivers are vital water resources for local communities that provide drinking water, support business and industry, offer recreational opportunities, and sustain a rich diversity of aquatic life. The grant, awarded by the SC Department of Environmental Services, allows SOS and its partners to support soil conservation projects to help reduce sediment runoff to surface waters and improve water quality.

DISTRICT OVERSEES GATE CYCLING AT SIX OF THE COUNTY'S DAMS

The district oversaw the gate cycling of six of the nine PL566 dams in Greenville County. The other three are set for May. Cycling the gates on the dams every two years is a best management practice, and a requirement of the SC Department of Environmental Services. This entails carefully opening the gate on the primary spillway a small amount to ensure that the mechanism still works. Opening the gates too far can lead to a log becoming stuck in the opening and the lake inadvertently emptying. The district takes great care to ensure that the dams and lakes stay functioning as they should.





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DISTRICT RECOGNIZED WITH PROCLAMATIONS

The governor's office, County Council and City Council each presented the district with proclamations recognizing its Outstanding District of the Year award. The event also coincided with Stewardship Week. Several commissioners attended the ceremony as well as district staff, members of the community, SCDNR and NRCS.

