



# MONTHLY REPORT

July 2025

## SOIL & WATER



### DISTRICT TEAM GETS THE BUGS OUT AT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Sustaining Way Steward Fellows at Annie's House learned about the connections between insects and healthy soil during a presentation by GCSWCD educators Haley Mumaw and Kendall Juell. During the program, students also

pinned paper insects and observed bugs in the garden as young entomologists. And at the program's end, students were given an insect pinning kit to take home.



### DM GETS IN THE WEEDS WITH NEW AND BEGINNING FARMERS

District Manager Kirsten Robertson spoke to the Clemson SC New and Beginning Farmer class about weed management. She covered weeds as friends, weeds as indicator plants, and how to minimize weeds using soil health principles.



“ I wanted to follow-up after Friday's session to thank you for a marvelous presentation which was a highlight for me and many other participants. To present land management concepts which don't include the use of herbicides, pesticides and tillage but instead embrace a holistic and earth conscious viewpoint, really has made this program worthwhile. - Mark Thompson ”

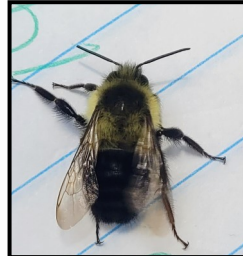


## BUMBLE BEES CREATE QUITE A BUZZ AT TRAINING SESSION



Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell attended Xerces Society Bumble Bee Atlas training at ReWa and Conestee Nature Preserve. The training covered the process of surveying bumble bees for conservation, the significance of native flowers and the link between pesticide use and declining bee populations.

Participants also gained hands-on sampling experience and knowledge of bumble bees as keystone pollinators.



## WHAT'S IN THE REEDY RIVER? SERIES FOCUSES ON WATERWAY'S HEALTH

By the Banks, a new series created by Friends of the Reedy River, will allow attendees to ask questions about the Reedy in an informal atmosphere.

Recently, Commissioner Rob Hanley fielded questions after sharing about forever chemicals (PFAS) in or not in the water. Fellow Commissioner Mike Stewart also attended not only as a district rep but to learn more about the health of the Reedy River.



Commissioner Hanley presents while fellow Commissioner Mike Stewart listens intently.

## “ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN” MARKERS SERVE AS REMINDERS

To raise awareness about stormwater runoff, the district is partnering with the City of Simpsonville to mark storm drains in local neighborhoods. The signs serve to educate the public about the fact that anything dumped in a storm drain is not treated and flows directly into



the nearest creek or river. “Only Rain Down the Drain” is the verbiage the district uses to reinforce its messaging. Supplies are available to anyone interested in marking their own storm drains. Contact us to learn more at [greenvillesoilandwater.com](http://greenvillesoilandwater.com).



## IT'S A DIRTY JOB BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO DO IT TO SAVE THE PLANET



Healthy soil is crucial for clean water and optimal food production. It filters water, stores carbon and provides a foundation for plant and animal life. To improve soil health on your land, consider these practices:

**Minimize Disturbance** - Tilling the soil interferes with the production of organic matter, increases risk of erosion and disrupts its structure. Using chemical fertilizers and pesticides

can harm soil health as well. No-till farming minimizes those impacts.

**Maximize Soil Cover** - Plant cover crops when the main crop is at rest and apply mulch to help conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature and suppress weeds.

**Increase Biodiversity** - Crop rotation, using a mix of crop species and integrating livestock improves biodiversity.

**Maximize Living Roots** - Keep living roots in the soil as long as possible, which provides food for microorganisms living in the soil.

**Add Compost** - Improve soil structure and fertility by adding compost to the soil.

**Soil Testing** - Occasionally have soil tested to determine nutrient levels and pH.



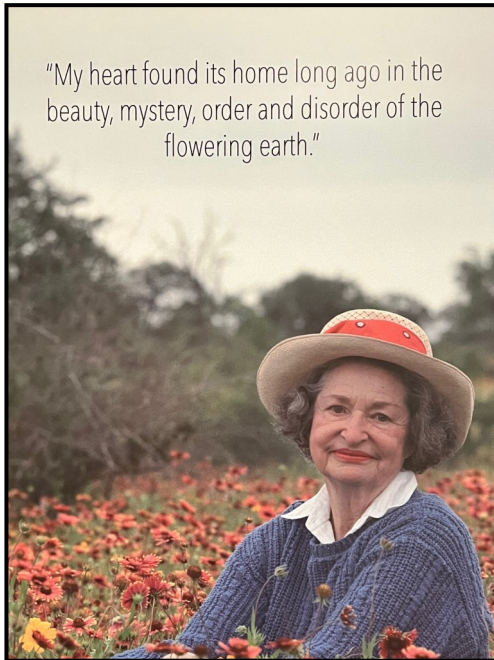


## LOCAL EXHIBIT UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION

The team was inspired and reminded about how important their conservation efforts are while visiting the “Beautification: The Environmental Legacy of Lady Bird Johnson” exhibit at Greenville’s Upcountry History Museum.

First Lady Lady Bird Johnson used her platform to advocate for environmental conservation and beautification initiatives. The exhibit is worth seeing as it highlights her efforts to improve the nation's highways, protect natural landmarks, and promote environmental awareness, showcasing her lasting impact on the country's landscape and conservation efforts.

“My heart found its home long ago in the beauty, mystery, order and disorder of the flowering earth.”



Plan your visit to view Lady Bird Johnson's exhibit at [www.upcountryhistory.org](http://www.upcountryhistory.org).

“The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become.”

The exhibit included clothing worn by Lady Bird Johnson, letters she wrote, and these placards and quotes by the First Lady.

## PARTNERING WITH NATURE TO TRANSFORM LANDSCAPES IS WISE



Approximately 80 people are a little wiser about farming and gardening thanks to District Manager Kirsten Robertson. Robertson shared her inspiring farming journey at GE's Lunch & Learn series.

Robertson talked about soil health, native flowers and native fruits and how they all played a part in the transformation of her farm. In her presentation, “Smarter, Not Harder: The Science of Partnering with Nature to Transform Your Land,” Robertson offered tips to inspire attendees to begin their own journeys.



View of wildflowers and barn at Robertson's farm



### CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATION TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS

Three district members—District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw and commissioners Jim Blackwell and Margaret Harrison—received SC DNR training certificates, presented by Katherine “Katie” Hoffman, West Piedmont District Coordinator with SC DNR. The training program features several modules designed to cover conservation districts education for commissioners and employees. Once completed, the district will be a designated SC conservation district.



Commissioner Margaret Harrison (left), District Programs Coordinator Haley Mumaw (below left) and Commissioner Jim Blackwell (below right) received certificates for completing SC Department of Natural Resources' Conservation District Education Training. Presenter was Katie Hoffman, West Piedmont District Coordinator.



### HELP KEEP GREENVILLE COUNTY LITTER-FREE: VOLUNTEER OR REPORT

The district partners with Greenville County's Litter Ends Here and Keep Greenville County Beautiful to help spread the message about litter-free communities.

If you see litter in your community, let Greenville County's Litter Ends Here team know. You can also volunteer during clean up events. [Report litter here!](#)

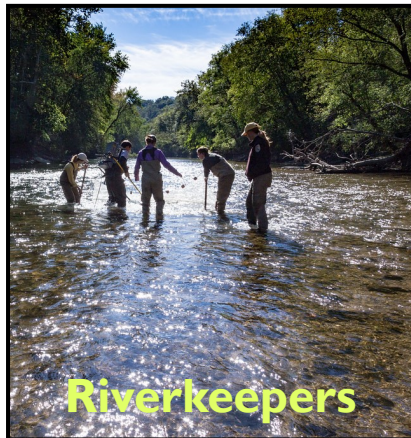


## EXPLORING CAREERS IN AG & CONSERVATION

Commissioner Jim Blackwell attended the SC Commissioner School of Agriculture's Conservation Day to encourage students to consider careers in agriculture and natural resources.

The SCCSA aims to inform, inspire and challenge high school students to consider careers in agriculture, natural resources and life sciences, while also developing leadership skills.

The weeklong program focuses on hands-on activities, field studies and lab exercises. It connects students with faculty, advisors, and industry leaders to explore the vast opportunities within these fields.



## OUR "THERE IS NO POOP FAIRY" CAMPAIGN STILL GOING STRONG

"There Is No Poop Fairy" yard signs are available for free to Greenville County residents. These are great for communities and individual homes. Available in two sizes 12" and 23". Signs must be displayed on private property. For more information, contact us [hnumaw@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:hnumaw@greenvillecounty.org).

