



# MONTHLY REPORT

March 2026

SOIL  
&  
WATER



## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CONSERVATION DURING LIBRARY PROGRAM

Participants attending an Augusta Road Library program learned what they can do to promote conservation and how to make a difference. District Programs Coordinator Olivia Reed presented "Conservation Basics," covering the history of conservation districts and district programs. She talked about storm drain marking, the Poop Fairy campaign, soil health, native plants, the district's conservation certificate program, and much more.

At the end, participants interested in the district's conservation certificate program received credit for a course completion.



The history of conservation districts is rooted in the Dust Bowl ecological disaster that occurred in the 1930s.

## GET CONSERVATION TIPS

Check out this month's Conservation Corner on page 2 for ideas on how you can promote conservation and make a difference in your community.

## SEED STARTING PROGRAM INTRODUCED IN FOUNTAIN INN



Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell partnered with Library Adult Events Coordinator Nathaniel Lord to host a Seed Starting program at the Fountain Inn Library branch. Participants learned the benefits and nuances of starting seeds indoors and outdoors, seed growing needs, troubleshooting tips, and understanding the garden jargon of seed packets. Participants became familiar with the Seed Library as a helpful resource for beginning gardeners, and went home with a planted seed, starter pod and Seed Library Growing Guide.

## EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF RAIN BARRELS

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell partnered with Conestee Nature Preserve to host a rain barrel workshop. Participants were introduced to Greenville County Soil and Water and the benefits of rain barrels for garden water storage and runoff reduction, and used installation kits to take home a rain-ready barrel.



### BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN BARREL

Get your guide to building your own rain barrel at [www.greenvillesoilandwater.com/build-your-own-rain-barrel/](http://www.greenvillesoilandwater.com/build-your-own-rain-barrel/).

## 5 IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING EARTH MONTH



April is Earth Month and a great reminder that small, consistent steps at home can make a big difference in conserving our natural resources.

Here are five easy ideas to incorporate this month:

1. **Be water wise** | Save gallons by being proactive and wise. Fix dripping faucets or running toilets; apply two to three inches of mulch around plants to reduce temperatures and conserve moisture; and leave grass taller, which encourages a deeper, more drought-tolerant root system.
2. **Leave the leaves** | Give your garden beds a boost with natural waste. Instead of bagging up old leaves, rake them into flower beds to serve as a natural mulch and provide a home for beneficial insects.
3. **Embrace native planting** | Enhance the local biodiversity by adding native plants to your yard or balcony. Natives require less water, fertilizers and pesticides, making them low-maintenance.
4. **Make the switch** | Commit to switching to reusable products like canvas bags, reusable silicone bags or cloth rags instead of paper towels.
5. **Reduce your carbon footprint** | Go meatless one day a week. Meat production requires massive amounts of water and land. Another way to reduce your carbon footprint is biking or walking to nearby destinations instead of using the car.

Earth Day is April 22. Make every day Earth Day by turning off lights when leaving a room, repairing broken items rather than replacing them, and spending time in nature to deepen your appreciation for it! Happy Spring!





## MONITORING THE HEALTH OF THE REEDY RIVER

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell joined SC Adopt a Stream Coordinator Jaclin Durant to sample a former Friends of the Reedy River site at Cedar Falls Park in the lower end of Greenville County.

The team conducted freshwater and macroinvertebrate monitoring, and discovered a variety of aquatic insect larvae. Sensitive macroinvertebrates were found, indicating that waterway conditions are healthy for those with external breathing parts.

Pollutants including pesticides, fertilizer, herbicides, and automotive fluids enter waterways through storm drains and stormwater runoff, impacting aquatic life. Adopt a Stream volunteer monitoring is available to all who are interested in contributing to clean waterways and watershed protection.



## LEARNING ABOUT THE WEATHER AND SEASONS CAN BE FUN

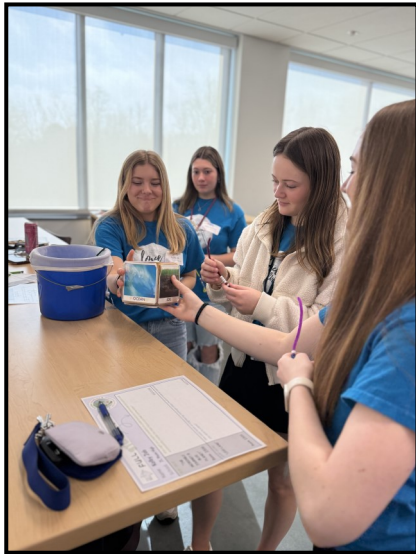
Pre-K youth enjoyed a fun way to learn about the seasons, weather, water and thunderstorms thanks to the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell. Juell engaged the groups in using their bodies to create thunderstorm sounds and finished with a rain stick craft and dance. As part of the Sprouting Meteorologists program, they also learned about many types of boots farmers wear from season to season, that water is found in their bodies and in nature, and the significance of water and rain for the food we eat.



Participants created their own rain sticks

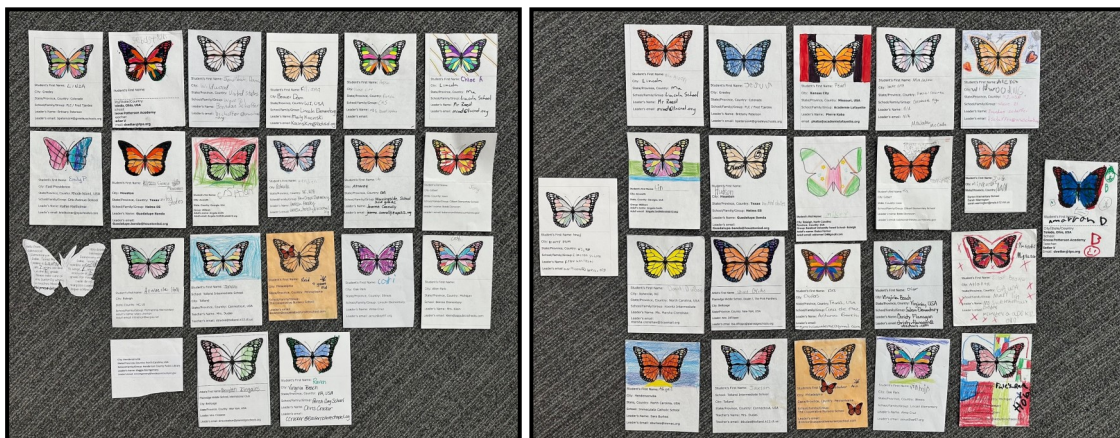
**FUTURE SCIENCE TEACHERS FIND WAYS TO MAKE LEARNING FUN**

Junior and senior high students received Project WET water education during the Greenville County Schools STEAM Teacher Academy event. The district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator and SC Project WET Coordinator, Kendall Juell, led the students through the curriculum. Students rotated through their top choice stations to discover a variety of ways to make science fun as future teachers. Juell presented the activity Blue Planet to estimate the percentage of water on Earth, and guided students through the Incredible Journey water cycle and bracelet activity.



**MONARCH BUTTERFLIES COME HOME AFTER ROUNDTRIP TO MEXICO**

Slater Hall Community Center and Brutontown Center afterschool groups finally got to see how far a kaleidoscope of "ambassador butterflies" traveled after they were first mailed to Mexico in October as part of a Monarch butterfly migration program introduced to them by the district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator, Kendall Juell. Juell then led the group through a new interactive pollution parachute program in which students defined a watershed, identified pollution sources, and formed teams of pollution and cleanup crews to simulate how stormwater runoff impacts a landscape and its wildlife.



## WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT? IT'S BEES, OF COURSE!



Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell led youth programs at various library locations highlighting the benefits of pollinating native bees to humans and the environment. Participants learned about the characteristics of insects, how to tell the difference between bees and flies, the impacts of stormwater pollution to beneficial insects, and the significance of native pollinators in food production.

Youth also created their own paper bee collection using their favorite bee cutouts, designed a new bee species, and got an up-close look at the mouth of a bumblebee and the hairs on a carpenter bee. Participants went home with bee coloring sheets and a magnifying glass.

### DID YOU KNOW?



Do you know the difference between a bumblebee and a carpenter bee? Bumblebees are fuzzy all over and the carpenter bee's distinguishing feature is a shiny, largely hairless belly. But they do have hair, primarily located on the thorax, designed to collect and transport pollen. Female carpenter bees also have thick hair tufts on their legs to gather pollen.

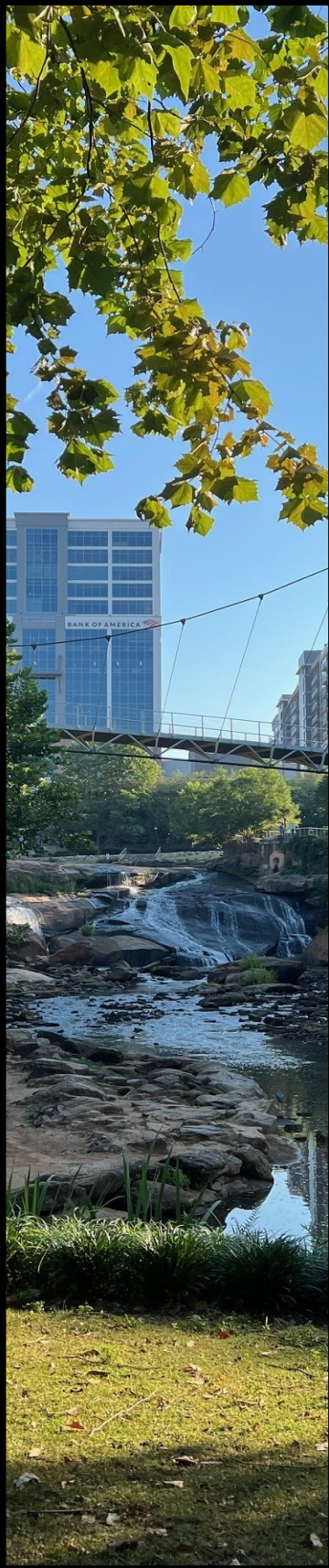


## CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE



District Chairman Mike Stewart traveled to Columbia to take part in Conservation Districts Day at the Statehouse on March 3.





## >>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **citizen questions** about stormwater issues, stormwater harvesting, rain barrels and soil testing
- GCSWCD websites had **1,934 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.**

## >>> ENGINEERING

- Responded to **9 citizen requests** for sink holes, drainage and flooding issues.

## >>> 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, a roller crimper and soil penetrometer available** to county farmers

## >>> INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

- **Litter Ends Here** - Supporting social media engagement, participation on the board
- **Keep Greenville County Beautiful** - Participate on the board and work closely with leadership



LITTER ENDS HERE

**Report litter** by downloading the Litter Tracker app at [greenvillecounty.org/LitterPrevention](http://greenvillecounty.org/LitterPrevention)

## >>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	6	2,169	+3	2294
Instagram	6	1,463	+15	2319
RRWQG				
Facebook	4	591	+1	392
Instagram	4	199	0	447
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	1934			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	656			

### ONE OF MARCH'S FACEBOOK POSTS

