



MONTHLY REPORT

July 2026

SOIL
&
WATER



DIVING INTO THE WORLD OF GARDEN INSECTS

Students attending the Sustaining Way Fellows program participated in an entomology and pinning activity presented by Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell. Juell covered the significance of insects to our food systems, identifying common and unique critters, varying threats to insects including pesticide usage, and how to help promote insect security and diversity by encouraging a messy garden that mimics nature and supports natural pest control species.



Students received an insect pinning box and magnifying cube, practiced their pinning skills with paper butterflies, and chose their favorite preserved butterfly specimen to take home.

Did you know?

Insects provide vital crop pollination, act as a high-efficiency protein source and recycle organic waste into natural fertilizers.

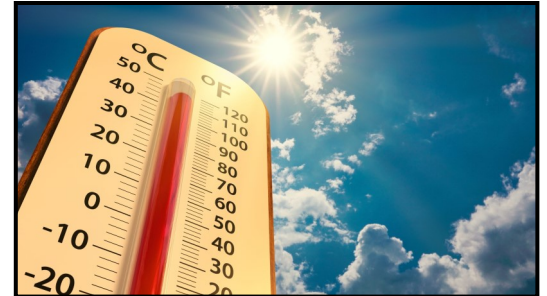
- **Bees and butterflies** help grow a large share of the fruits, nuts and veggies we eat.
- **Ladybugs and ground beetles** eat harmful pests.
- **Crickets** convert feed into body mass faster than cattle or pigs.
- **Black soldier fly larvae** eat food scraps and agricultural waste, turning trash into fertilizer.



WATER CONSERVATION IN THE AUGUST HEAT



As summer temperatures continue to soar and the lack of rainfall prolongs drought conditions, the need to manage daily household water usage is critical to preserve ecosystems and ensure community resilience.



Consider these practices:

- **Irrigate before 10** a.m. to prevent immediate evaporation from midday sun and wind.
- **Raise your mower blades** since taller blades provide shade for the soil and reduces water evaporation.



- Spread a three-inch layer of **organic mulch** around trees and garden beds to create a blanket that locks in soil moisture and suppresses thirsty weeds.
- Switch to **drip irrigation** to reduce the waste standard sprinklers can create.



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT BACKYARD POLLINATORS



Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell teamed up with Greenville Library's Adult Events and Outreach Coordinator Nathaniel Lord to host a night of pollinator curiosity at the Berea Library. The team shared fascinating facts and photos of common garden visitors, resources for protecting pollinators, and a visual display of preserved insects.

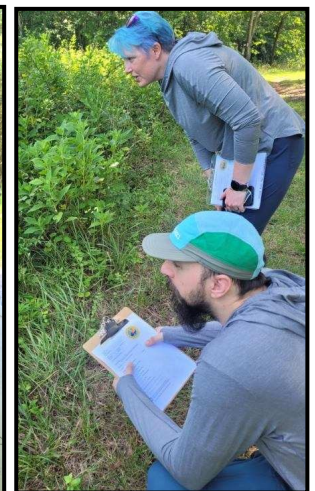
GROUP LEARNS MORE ABOUT POLLINATOR CENSUS COUNTS

Conestee Nature Preserve hosted an event that focused community science data and its impact on pesticide use, land use and policy change. The district's Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell partnered with SC Adopt-A-Stream and Master Naturalists to present pollinator natural history and teach on pollinator identification and monitoring.

Participants learned how to conduct counts for the Great Sunflower Project and the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, which will take place Aug. 21-22. Drop in at Conestee Meadow on the 22nd to join. They also observed the nest of an organ pipe mud dauber wasp colony, learned how to use iNaturalist and learned about supporting pollinators at home.

Why the count matters:

- Helps researchers track pollinator health and population trends.
- Compels the creation of new native pollinator gardens.
- Increases community awareness and appreciation for organisms that sustain over 85% of the world's flowering plants.



OUTREACH TEAM TEACHES ON SOIL HEALTH AND STORMWATER

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell and District Programs Coordinator Olivia Reed used the watershed model and soil samples to teach students attending Conestee's Conservation Camp about stormwater runoff. Campers rotated between engaging activities to learn about soil health, underground critters, and how the topography of their local landscape impacts stormwater pollution.



WATERSHED HEALTH DEPENDS ON LITTER CONTROL

The outreach team in partnership with Litter Ends Here attended RMSC's STEM Days of Summer program with a pop-up educational display.

The team taught about the impact of litter in our county streams, demonstrated the movement of rainfall and pollution through the watershed model, and tied soil health to watershed health with a soil layers display and coloring page activity.





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SOIL SHAKES DEMONSTRATE INFLUENCE OF WATER INFILTRATION

Stormwater Programs Coordinator Kendall Juell co-facilitated a Project Learning Tree workshop at the Joe Adair Nature Center in Laurens.

During an activity—"Soil Builders"—members of the public and conservation district employees sampled a variety of soils to examine the makeup of minerals and organic matter and explore how soil structure and type can influence water infiltration.

The group placed their samples in a jar with water to create soil shakes, which settle into observable layers by the end of the day.



MAKING THE LINK BETWEEN FORESTS AND CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Stormwater Programs Coordinator and SC Project WET Coordinator Kendall Juell teamed up with SC Project WILD and SC PLT to host a Facilitator Refresher at Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve in St. Matthews. The group toured the grounds, explored online resources, and broke the ice with a PLT "Forests to Faucets" mapping activity highlighting the connection



between forest management and clean drinking water. Juell led participants through Project WET updates and the activity "In the Zone" from the new *Water in Earth Systems* guide.





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>>> SOCIAL MEDIA

Stormwater	Total posts	Followers	Follower growth	Impressions
Facebook	6	2,181	+6	2746
Instagram	6	1,470	-2	4073
RRWQG				
Facebook	1	596	0	151
Instagram	1	204	0	149
GCSWCD Websites	Total views			
	691			
RRWQG Website	Total views			
	386			

>>> STORMWATER

- Responded to **9 citizen questions** about stormwater, erosion and flooding issues
- GCSWCD websites had **691 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.**

>>> 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

