



# GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**“Promoting natural resources conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education, sound technical information, and direct personal assistance.”**

## DISTRICT NEWS

Our mission statement: “To promote natural resources conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education, sound technical information and direct personal assistance.” is our goal each year. Within the 1,035 square miles or 520,000 acres, Georgetown County has a wealth of natural resources. It is a diverse landscape of beaches, marshes, forested wetlands, upland forestland and farmland, consisting of 29 different soil types. There are five rivers: The Great Pee Dee, Waccamaw, Black, Sampit, and the North Santee River. The vast array of natural resources and ecosystems contribute to the beauty of Georgetown County, and the need to protect them is great. The value of our wetlands became apparent with Hurricane Florence, and the threat of a major flood in Georgetown. The wetlands functioned as intended and absorbed much the water as the rivers rose. While some areas did experience flooding, the city and most outlying areas of Georgetown did not flood as was predicted. The excessive rainfall also affected our farming community, damaging crops and leaving crops unharvested in some fields. Education is an essential part of protecting our natural resources. Each year we work with the school district to sponsor students attending educational camps and Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs. The Georgetown County School District has increased its commitment to the importance of agriculture with 2 FFA Programs; one at Carver’s Bay and one at Georgetown High School. Each year the District also supports Horry-Georgetown Technical College’s very active Forestry and Wildlife Programs with student scholarships. For our landowners, we provide information through workshops and technical resources. Our farmers have access to 2 No-Till Drills for planting pastures and crop fields. In December 2018 a new Farm Bill was signed, The Agricultural Act of 2018. We will continue to work with our partners and support our landowners and educators, recognizing the importance of our mission statement and all it encompasses.

### No-Till Grain Drills

The District has two no-till grain drills for rent. There is a UFT 6’ Grain Drill, that is used for planting pastures, and the District has a Great Plains 10’ Grain Drill that can be rented for planting cropland. The drills are located at the farm of Bobby McDaniel. They received some needed repairs this year to keep them running. Thanks to Bobby McDaniel for all of his help and assistance maintaining the drills. Rental fees are \$7.00 per acre for the UFT Drill and \$9.00 per acre for the Great Plains Drill. Call the District Office at 546-7808 ext. 3 for more information.



### Meetings

The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call the District office at 843- 564-7808 ext. 3. You can access District information on the internet at [www.gswcd.com](http://www.gswcd.com).

## Cover Crop Workshop

On February 8, 2018 the Georgetown Conservation District co-hosted a cover crop workshop. The workshop helped demonstrate the benefits of using cover crops and how they protect and improve the soil. The workshop featured speakers Buzz Kloodt, Carl Coleman, Rupert Burrows and Jeff Lucas who addressed weed control, herbicide management, farming with cover crops and making cover crops pay. A demonstration of DNR's rainfall simulator displayed the amount of water that is retained by cover crops. Participants gained knowledge which will help lower pesticide and fertilizer use while improving the soil organic matter and causing less water runoff and higher yields.



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# EDUCATION

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## Scholarship

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District works to promote conservation in Georgetown County. One of the best ways to do that is to encourage conservation education. Students who are learning good conservation practices will take them out and use them in their career choices. Each year the Commissioners of the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District seek to award scholarships to students who are studying in the fields of conservation and natural resources. The applicants are judged on their grades, community involvement, an essay, and career goals. The student chosen in 2018 to receive a scholarship was Nicole Lawson. She is majoring in Forestry and Wildlife Management at Horry Georgetown Technical College and has been on the President's List. Nicole has studied wildlife management, dendrology, vertebrate natural history, wetlands ecology, aerial mapping, forest protection, and silviculture. She stays busy working in the community by volunteering at Huntington Beach State Park, the Carolina Forest Beautification Committee and she is employed by the Horry Conservation District. We proudly recognize her hard work and commitment. Pictured are Nicole Lawson and her instructor Deanna Ruth.



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## Photography Contest

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual Photography Contest for all seventh-grade students in the county. Students may enter once in any of the four categories Trees and Plants, Rural Life, Native Wildlife and Landscapes. The contest encourages students to get out in nature where they can see the beauty surrounding us and capture it on film. Calvin Lee was chosen as the winner for 2018. He received a certificate and cash award for his winning photo "Low Country Community". Calvin is a student at the Georgetown Middle School.



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## Essay Contest



The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual essay contest for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Georgetown County. The purpose of the contest is to help youth learn about our natural resources and ways they can help protect them. The 2018 topic of the contest was “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”. Water is one of our most precious resources and watersheds supply water for drinking, recreation, irrigation, manufacturing, and wildlife habitat. It is essential that each of us adopts good water conservation habits so that we can keep our water resources safe and productive now and for future generations. Eighty essays were submitted as part of the contest. The winners were: from Carvers Bay Middle School – 1<sup>st</sup> Place -Morgan Holmes and 2<sup>nd</sup> – Arianna Dennis, from the Georgetown School of the Arts and Sciences – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Annika Villafranca and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Logan Swails, from the Georgetown Middle School – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Khalil Johnson and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kiley Lambert, from Waccamaw Intermediate School – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Konstantina Sitas and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Elijah Cox. Their teacher at Waccamaw Intermediate School, Mrs. Frechette was the teacher who submitted the most essay in the contest and she also received an award. The students’ essays explored many good ways to protect and preserve our watersheds.

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## Poster Contest

Ms. Williams’ third grade class at Pleasant Hill Elementary School won first place in the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District’s Poster Contest. The contest was open to all third-grade classes in the county and the topic of the contest was “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home”. Their poster was creative and displayed many ways our watershed supports our daily lives. The class received a pizza party as their prize.



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## Camp Wildwood

Imagine a place where the energy is contagious, the environment is the beautiful outdoors and the lessons learned are about the impact on the natural environment. There is such a place – Camp Wildwood. It is held at Kings Mountain State Park in June. The Georgetown Conservation District offers to sponsor two students to attend the camp each year. If you would like to attend, contact the district at 546-7808 ext. 3 for information or go to [www.campwildwoodsc.com](http://www.campwildwoodsc.com) Camp Wildwood encourages self-reliance, self-discipline and independence in an outdoor setting. It is a place to learn about the diversity of our natural resources and the variety of career choices within the environmental field. 10 – 12 graders may apply.





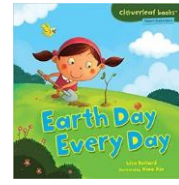
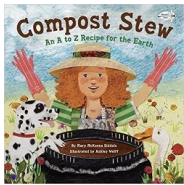
## Wildlife Career Development Event

In February, the District helped to sponsor the Future Farmers of America, Wildlife Career Development Competition which hosted over 200 students from around the state. The competition is among the most scientifically challenging of all the events conducted by the SC FFA Organization. Preparation requires considerable study and practice in the classroom and outdoor settings. The event was conducted by faculty of the Forestry Management Technology Program of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. FFA teams from high schools across South Carolina competed for the title of State Champion. The competition included both hands-on practical exam questions about animal skins, skulls, management tools and a written exam. Natural resource professionals were in attendance to talk to students about careers. Professor James Westerhold, who teaches wildlife management at HGTC, said, "This is a great opportunity for young people to share their career goals or explore job options in natural resource management."



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## Earth Day



In observance of Earth Day, April 22, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District donated three books to the Maryville Elementary School Library from the new "green" book series. *Compost Stew* gives information on how to start a compost pile and what to put in it. It provides answers for kids and families looking for simple, child-friendly ways to help the planet. In *I Can Save The Earth* kids can follow Max the Little Green Monster's journey to environmental awareness and learn tips on how they can become little green monsters themselves. *Earth Day Every Day* discusses how children can help the planet by planting trees, starting an environmental club and learning to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

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## Litter Busters Hotline

PalmettoPride sponsors a statewide Litter Busters Hotline so you can report litterbugs. The program, made possible thanks to the cooperation of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, works like this:

You spot someone tossing litter from an automobile. You immediately call...

**877-7LITTER (754-8837)** ...and report the location, time and the litterbug's license number. An answering service will take the Hotline calls in an effort to make sure that the lines are always open. You can also report a violation from the website by filling in a form at <http://palmettopride.org/enforcement/report-a-litterbug/>. The litterbug will receive a letter from SCDMV informing him or her that they can't get away with littering in South Carolina. The letter will explain that if a law enforcement officer had witnessed the littering, it could have resulted in a serious fine or even jail time.



Litter Busters

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## Commissioners School for Ag

In the summer of 2018, the Georgetown Conservation District sponsored Daveon Holmes to attend the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture. The program makes these talented young adults aware of their opportunities in the agriculture field. Daveon plans to attend the University of Mt. Olive in North Carolina to pursue a degree in agriculture. The Commissioners School for Ag is an academic summer program coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture & Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences. It is a week-long program held on Clemson University's campus. Participants are students entering their junior and senior years of high school. These students are interested in pursuing careers related to agriculture and natural resources. Their week is busy with hands-on scientific exploration, workshops related to academic integrity, teamwork, personal growth, leadership and exciting field and lab-based experiences.



## 4H Camp



4H sponsors summer camps for 7-14 year old kids. It offers traditional camp activities with plenty of fun, friends and adventure. The activities include swimming and canoeing, high adventure elements and a climbing tower, nature hikes and team sports, archery and riflery, nightly skits and games, dance and talent show and 4H animals. It is held at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton and

Camp Long in Aiken. The District will sponsor interested students to attend. In 2018, the Georgetown SWCD helped to sponsor three 4H students to attend, brothers Luke, Layton and Landon McGrew.

## Carvers Bay FFA



The Georgetown County Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to sponsor the Carvers Bay FFA. The organization gives many high school students the opportunity to explore agriculture at its finest!

Donated monies went towards helping students get their own FFA jackets, and paying for state convention and state camp. "Our students take great pride in wearing these blue jackets and maintaining the gold standards that come with them" said Rose Jordan, Carvers Bay FFA Teacher. "Students actively participated

in our state convention by attending and voting in business sessions, competing in the state Employment Skills competition (top 10), and being "TAGged" where two students were selected from our chapter to be "tagged" to teach aged one day! At camp, students had a grand time paintballing through the woods, competing in camp activities on the beach shore, kayaking/canoeing and much more! During camp Carvers Bay earned several awards including an MVP award. Carvers Bay is extremely grateful for your dedicated support! Great things are happening at the Bay FFA!"

The Carvers Bay FFA has really boomed in the past few years. Since 2016, Mrs. Rose Jordan has strongly led the Bays' agriculture program. Many believe that Ag science is a class that is spent just working outside. There is much more to Ag than getting a little dirt on your hands. Agriculture science promotes premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. FFA Secretary Raven Doiley states, "Ag has opened new doors for me and allowed me to have more opportunities. "Ag students are driven to live by the FFA motto: "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." When taking Ag, one can learn how to age deer antlers, tool identification, and how to plant a healthy garden among, many other things. FFA Vice President Justin Williams said, "Ag has helped me learn to appreciate the simple things that we don't normally think of. Such as food, clothing, and shelter."



FFA helps our youth by providing a path to achievement in leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education. The enthusiasm of students engaged in the class has helped to spur major growth in the past few years. When asked about FFA, former Skills USA Advisor, Mr. Terry Cox stated, "I have seen it grow from just a few students to 30 or more. When I first came here FFA didn't compete in competitions, nor did FFA go to conventions. But in the past few years, they have joined in everything that they possibly can." FFA consists of community service, service learning, and hands on activities. For example, FFA lends a helping hand in LLS Pennies for patients (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society). FFA raises money and gives it to the health organization, and participates in other fund raisers,

such as clothes and food drives for hurricane victims. Some FFA activities consist of Healthy Life Styles Week, Agriscience Fair, and FFA Camp. Future Farmers of America is grounded in the belief of making a positive difference and influence on the future by preparing the students of today. FFA President Daveon Holmes said, "FFA has taught me to be a dependable person. In FFA we are like family. We rely on each other. We are one big team. FFA should stand for Future Family of America because when we wear our official dress, we are representing our family."



# CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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**Conservation Technical Assistance** CTA - Although the CTA program does not include financial or cost-share assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program** - EQIP offers cost share for implementing conservation practices which help with water quality, soil health, water conservation, and livestock management. Practices include, but are not limited to: conservation tillage, nutrient management, cover crops, conservation tillage, nutrient management, livestock water, fencing and pasture management. Assistance is also available to specialty crop producers including vegetables. In 2018 there were 20 new EQIP contracts.

## **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - ACEP**

### **Wetland Reserve Easement**

The Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private land in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect and enhance wetlands. In 2018, 90 acres of wetlands were approved for the program.

**Conservation Stewardship Program** - CSP offers incentives based on current conservation activities and accomplishments and requires producers to enhance their operations with additional conservation practices to improve and protect natural resources, predominately soil and water quality, and forest wildlife habitat benefits for cropland, pasture, and forestland. In 2018 there were 13 new CSP contracts.

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### **Georgetown Conservation District Commissioner**

Mark Johnson, Chairman

Peggy Williams, Vice-Chairman

Morris Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Jack Whetstone

Marty Avant

### **Associate Commissioners**

Elery L, Little

Kenny Williams

Truitt Owens

### **Staff**

Denise Smith, District Coordinator

Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, NRCS



## Our Year in Pictures



## ***Our 2018 Affiliate Members***

The Georgetown Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize our Affiliate Members who are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given by the Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote conservation stewardship within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping the landowners and educating the students of Georgetown County.

### **Thank You Affiliates!!**

#### **Regular Membership**

J. Floyd & Joyce Tyler  
Kyle & Jodi Daniel  
Lonnie & Debra Creel  
Samuel O. Cribb  
Capps Farm  
Ron Charlton  
W. Sherwyn Jacobs  
Chicora Wood Plantation  
Wardie & Sybil Collins  
Bob P. Cribb  
Harry Butler  
Rubeth Earl & Patsy R. Williams

#### **Sustaining Membership**

Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Vaught – Hobonny Fields Farm  
China Grove Plantation  
The Belle W. Baruch Foundation  
Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp  
Lumpkin and Postal, P.C.  
Prevatte & Associates, Forest & Land Consultants  
Santee Cooper  
S2 Farms, LLC

#### **Supporting Membership**

Fred R. & Janice Powell  
H. E. Hemingway  
Charles C. King  
John R. Beahrs  
Gray Lady at Pawleys Island  
Martin Owens  
Legrand Owens  
Tony R. Baxley  
Black River Plantation LP  
Meher Spiritual Center

#### **Endowing Membership**

Mt. Pleasant Plantation  
Bob & Mary Roberts  
Charles Ingram Lumber Co., Inc.  
Bordeaux-Clark Group

1837 North Fraser Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440

