



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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

EDUCATION

Carvers Bay FFA

The Georgetown Conservation District sponsored the Carver’s Bay FFA. The group just began a few years ago and under the leadership of Grant Hall became very active. The District donated funds vital to allow the team to function and provide them educational opportunities. It permitted them to travel and compete. The group has 48 members and 3 students graduated with FFA degrees this year. They were awarded a gold star rating in August. The Carver’s Bay FFA attended the Leadership Camp in June and competed in the Career Safe OSHA General Industry Course. They assisted with Ronald McDonald House charities and participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Members participated in a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, and the tractor event in October where a member placed 4th. These events and more are giving the students valuable life skills and lessons and the Georgetown Conservation District is proud to be a part of their journey.



Essay Contest

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual essay contest for all 6th 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. In 2021 the topic of the contest was “Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities”. The students explored many ways in their essays that the forests are affected by human actions and they learned about the many valuable resources that we get from the forests. They researched how the forests are important to humans, animals and plant life.

The winners were: from Waccamaw Intermediate School – 1st Place – Lily Keith and 2nd Place – Ryleigh Fulton and from the Georgetown School of Arts and Sciences – 1st Place – Nathan Hopkins and 2nd Place Hannah Geathers. Mrs. Frechette at Waccamaw Intermediate School was the teacher who submitted the most essays in the contest and she also received an award.



Ryleigh Fulton & Lily Keith

Poster Contest

Each year the District sponsors a Poster Contest for third grade classes. The posters are a class project, and the winning class receives their choice of a pizza or ice cream party. The contest was open to all third-grade classes in the county and the topic of the contest was “Healthy Forests – Healthy Communities”.

In 2021 two classes were chosen as winners. Mrs. William’s and Mrs. Miller’s third grade classes at Pleasant Hill Elementary School were both awarded with a pizza party for their efforts. Their posters were original and creative.



Mrs. Miller



Mrs. Williams

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 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.



Earth Day



Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to show our support for the environmental protection of the land. It began in 1970 by Senator Nelson as a day of awareness for the environment. It became very popular and has been celebrated every year since. The Georgetown SWCD participated in Earth Day by providing Earth Day booklets to students at McDonald Elementary School. The booklets teach about the importance of protecting and preserving our land. They provided many fun activities for the students while teaching them ways to help.

DISTRICT NEWS

No-Till Grain Drill

The District has a no-till grain drill for rent. It is a Great Plains 10' Grain Drill that can be rented for planting cropland. It is located at the farm of Bobby McDaniel. The rental fee is \$9.00 per acre. Call the District Office at 546-7808 ext. 3 to rent the drill or for more information. No-Till cropping is based on the concept of keeping the soil covered at all times. It includes the use of crop rotations, cover crops, and planting into a seed slot created by coulters. The seed slot will include no more than 30% of the total surface. No-till can be practiced continuously without any additional tillage for seed bed preparation. This benefits the producer by increasing profit and by reducing costs associated with conventional tillage such as fuel and labor costs. It benefits the land by increasing soil quality, soil organic matter and moisture content. No-till reduces soil erosion because the soil isn't being turned over, less soil blows away and less washes away. The vegetation cover left behind helps control the loss of topsoil on slopes from runoff and helps prevent wind erosion.

Conservation District Commissioners

Conservation District Commissioners are charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water within their Conservation District. Conservation Districts provide customer service to local landowners, conservation related education and outreach opportunities, and serve as conservation advocates for the community. They meet once a month to discuss issues and projects in the county. Conservation Districts are the voice for locally led conservation! In the 2020 general election a new commissioner was elected to the Georgetown Board of Commissioners. Joshua Baxley was voted in as the new commissioner. Josh is a farmer in Georgetown County and has a deep concern for the land and resources of Georgetown County. The Board welcomes him and looks forward to working with him in the coming years.

Global Footprint



How much land area does it take to support your lifestyle? Most of us don't think that the actions of one person can affect the world. But a lot of our activities do make a difference. From how much we drive and use gasoline or the amount of electricity we use to how much we recycle or use locally grown foods. The Global Footprint Network has a website where you can use their footprint calculator to determine the amount of global acres of the Earth's productive area are needed to support you. You can find it at

<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/>

You may find ways to

influence parts of your footprint and tips on changing your lifestyle.

[Ecological Footprint Calculator](#)



Agriculture and related agribusinesses are the number one industry in the United States, and the number one industry in South Carolina generating \$41.7 billion in annual economic impact. (SC Farm Bureau)

With nearly 25,000 farms and 4.7 million acres of farmland, South Carolina is driven by agriculture. Agribusiness (agriculture + forestry) is the state's No. 1 industry, accounting for 246,957 jobs and \$46.2 billion in annual economic impact. <http://agriculture.sc.gov/about/>

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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 2020 there were 8 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 2020, 967 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 2020 there were 14 new CSP contracts on 9,052 acres.

Georgetown Conservation District Commissioner

Mark Johnson, Chairman

Peggy Williams, Vice-Chairman

Morris Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Marty Avant

Josh Baxley

Associate Commissioners

Kenny Williams

Staff

Denise Smith, District Coordinator

Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, NRCS

Amelia Farrell, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS

Our 2021 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

Wardie & Sybil Collins
Samuel O. Cribb
Owens Farm
Kyle W. & Jodi Daniel
Harry J. Butler Jr.
Rubeth Earl & Patsy Williams
W. Sherwyn Jacobs
Capps Farm

Supporting Membership

H. E. Hemingway Sr.
Legrand Owens
Gray Lady at Pawleys Island
Charles C. King
Robert Delapp, Black River LP

Sustaining Membership

Hobcaw Barony – Baruch Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Vaught – Hobonny Fields Farm
Fred R. & Janice Powell
Prevatte & Associates, Forest & Land Consultants
S2 Farms, LLC
China Grove Plantation
Santee Cooper

Endowing Membership

Mount Pleasant Plantation LLC
Charles Ingram Lumber Company
Bob & Mary Roberts
Estherville Farm
Bordeaux-Clark Group Inc.

1837 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

