



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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

DISTRICT NEWS

No-Till Grain Drill

The District has a no-till grain drill for rent. The District has 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 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.

Pee Dee Area Meeting

The Georgetown Conservation District hosted the Pee Dee Area Meeting in 2019 for the commissioners and staff of the surrounding twelve counties. The commissioners were given a tour of the Kaminski House Museum in which the tour guide provided the participants interesting facts about the history of the home and those who lived there. She told about their lifestyles in past days and pointed out items of interest in the house. Then a tour of the Maritime Museum on Front Street was given which featured exhibits related to South Carolina's remarkable maritime history. Georgetown is the third oldest city in South Carolina and became an official port of entry in 1732 bringing merchants and trade to the town. The Pee Dee Area Meeting was opened by local historian, Paige Sawyer, who gave a presentation of "By George" which highlighted the interesting history of Georgetown. Amanda Strickland and Fred Chandler gave reports for the SC Department of Natural Resources. Sterling Sadler gave a report for the SC Association of Conservation Districts and Frank Stephens gave a report for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The guests were treated to a meal of shrimp gumbo and chicken pileau catered by Sam Ward.



EDUCATION

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 recipient in 2019 was William Bennett Lawshe. Lawshe is a student at Horry Georgetown Technical College, pursuing a career in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. Bennet has a love for the outdoors and animals and said, "A degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology will allow me to work in a field that I am passionate about." Bennet said "This scholarship will allow me the opportunity to learn about practices and policies that affect animals in our environment. When it comes to wildlife and fish, conservation and management are two key words." The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to recognize his hard work and dedication. Pictured are Commissioner Peggy Williams, William Bennett Lawshe and Professor Deanna Ruth.



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. The winners for 2019 were Jalee Rogers of the Georgetown Middle School and Sarah Weathers of Waccamaw Middle School.



Jalee Rogers

Sarah Weathers



Essay Contest



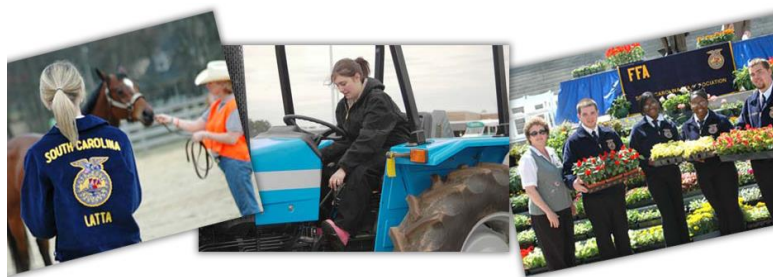
The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual essay contest for all 6th grade students in Georgetown County. The purpose of the contest is to help youth learn about our natural resources and ways they can help protect them. The 2019 topic of the contest was “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”.



The students explored many ways in their essays that we need healthy soil in our daily lives for food, clothing, clean water, and homes. They researched how healthy soil equals a healthy you and the difference between soil and dirt. The students did a great job on their essays making the judging very difficult. There were sixty-three essays submitted for the contest. The winners were: from the Georgetown School of the Arts and Sciences – 1st Place – Morgan Edwards and 2nd Place J. Marion Dickerson, and, from Waccamaw Intermediate School – 1st Place - Townsend Crosby and 2nd Place – Gabriella Rana. 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.

FFA Wildlife Career Development Event

The District annually sponsors the Future Farmers of America, Wildlife Career Development Competition, which hosts 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 is conducted by faculty of the Forestry Management Technology Program of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. FFA teams from high schools across South Carolina compete for individual and team prizes and the title of State Champion. The winning team will earn a trip from the college to the national competition. The National FFA Organization is committed to the individual student, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It helps the members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of agricultural career pathways. The 2019 winning team was Pelion High School with Aynor in second place and Belton Honea-Path in third.



South Carolina Envirothon

Since 1997 the SC Envirothon has asked 9-12th graders across the state to Accept the Natural Challenge of the Envirothon, and those that do, are richly rewarded. While some students were planning Spring Break events, on April 12th, the high school teams attending the 23rd Annual SC Envirothon Competition were delving into issues of Sustainable Agriculture. Twenty-three teams converged on the Sandhill REC site in Pontiac early Friday morning for a day of testing in the areas of Agriculture and the Environment (2019 Current Topic), Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife. Still practicing their oral presentations on Sustainable Agriculture as they arrived, these are not your average teenagers! Students experienced the full outdoor adventure with rain, mud, bugs and bites, yet left the event with smiles on their faces, recharged to do more for our natural resources, and ready for anything those four classroom walls could throw at them. The Georgetown Conservation District sponsored a team from Carver's Bay FFA to attend the event. The top three placing teams and their coaches are rewarded with cash and scholarship prizes amounting to \$10,500. Taking 1st place was a team from Spartanburg High School.



Agricultural Education



In the summer of 2019, the Georgetown Conservation District sponsored two local students to attend 4H events.

The students then attended the August District Board Meeting with 4H Agent, Sherry Livingston, to give presentations of their week at camp. The District strives to promote agricultural education and work with educators.

4H Camp: Jayshawn Ford was sponsored by the District to attend 4H Camp. 4H Camp is for students ages 7 – 14. It offers traditional camp activities with plenty of fun, friends and adventure. It is held at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton and Camp Long in Aiken. Jayshawn gave a report to the Board about his week at camp. He said they participated in archery and riflery, canoeing, swimming, sports, and other activities. Jayshawn brought the Board a thank you letter for sponsoring him to attend the camp. He attends Plantersville Elementary School.

4H Congress: Miriam Vereen was sponsored by the District to attend 4H Congress July 10 - 13. The goal of State 4H Congress is to motivate and provide educational experiences for outstanding 4H teens; allowing them to develop the life skills and leadership abilities they need to become contributing citizens in their communities.

Miriam presented the Board with a PowerPoint Presentation of her week at the camp. Some of their activities included workshops and community service projects, an awards banquet and a trip to the trampoline park. She provided the board with a thank you card for their generous sponsorship; which allowed her to attend the camp, learn valuable things and meet new friends. Miriam is a student at Carver's Bay High School.



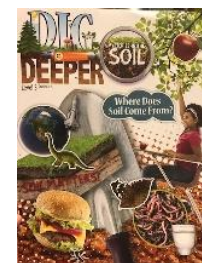
FFA: The Future Farmers of America is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. It develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success. The FFA Teacher from Georgetown High School, Cody Floyd, attended the August Board Meeting and gave the commissioners an update on the FFA activities planned for the upcoming year. They will be attending camps and the state convention. Also, they will participate in leadership training and fundraisers as well as community projects including the river sweep. This is his third year at the school, and he has approximately 50 students in the program. To learn more about FFA, visit their website at <https://www.ffa.org/>

Pollinator Week

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them. The US Senate approved the designation of a week in June as “National Pollinator Week” which marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. It is a celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles. You can go to the NACD website at <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/pollinators/> to see what you can do right in your own backyard to help.



Earth Day



In observance of Earth Day, April 22, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District donated conservation books to the Waccamaw Intermediate School Library/Media Center. The books encourage the importance of taking care of our special planet through environmental awareness and sustainability. The books are aimed at lower school children and present the information to the students in fun and creative ways with vivid illustrations.

They also gave “Mysteries in the Soil” activity brochures to teachers Dayna Frechette at Waccamaw Intermediate School and Lane Crosby at the Georgetown School of the Arts and Sciences. The brochures will help the students learn about the living soil under their feet and it’s many layers.

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.



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 2019 there were 12 new EQIP contracts on 642.8 acres.

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 2019 there were 10 new CSP contracts on 2202 acres.

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

Staff

Denise Smith, District Coordinator

Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, NRCS

Pee Dee Area Meeting



Our 2019 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

Kyle & Jodi Daniel
Chicora Wood Plantation
W. Sherwyn Jacobs
Samuel O. Cribb
J. Floyd & Joyce Tyler
Owens Farm
Bob P. Cribb
Rubeth Earl & Patsy R. Williams
Wardie & Sybil Collins
Austin Beard
Jimmy & Linda Capps

Supporting Membership

H. E. Hemingway
Gray Lady at Pawleys Island
John R. Beahrs
Big Dam Plantation
Charles C. King
Black River Plantation LP
Legrand Owens

Sustaining Membership

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

Endowing Membership

Bob & Mary Roberts
Bordeaux-Clark Group
Charles Ingram Lumber Co., Inc.
Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp

1837 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

