



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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

DISTRICT NEWS

Covid 19

In 2020, Georgetown County and the world were dramatically impacted by Covid 19. We all felt the impact on our families, our community, and our daily lives. We saw many heroes arise with acts of courage, humanity, and love. Through these trying times, we remain optimistic that our country and world will thrive again soon. The impact of Covid 19 limited our service and reduced the number of educational programs that we were able to conduct this year. We will strive to continue with all our programs in the coming year and emerge from the pandemic even better than before.

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. 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.

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 recipients this year were Heather Elaine Newman and Macie Elliott; both students at Horry Georgetown Technical College studying Wildlife Management. They have participated in volunteer work in the community while maintaining their studies which includes such topics as Forestry Management, Wetlands Ecology, and Forest Protection Practices. The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to recognize their hard work and dedication.

Pictured are scholarship winners Macie Elliott, Heather Elaine Newman and Professor Deanna Ruth

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 2020 topic of the contest was “Where would we Bee without Pollinators?”. Pollinators form the foundations of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but in recent years, they have shown concerning signs of decline. These hard-working animals and insects often go unnoticed. It’s important that we work to help them prosper by enhancing native pollinator habitats and protecting against pollinator declines.



The winners of the contest were from Waccamaw Intermediate School. First place went to Sophie Hardin and Second place went to Jack Hopkins. Their Intermediate School, teacher Mrs. Frechette who submitted the most essays in the contest and she also received an award.



and Second place went to Jack Hopkins. Their Intermediate School, teacher Mrs. Frechette was the submitted the most essays in the contest and she also received an award.



South Carolina Envirothon



The 2021 SC Envirothon Competition will be held virtually due to concerns and restrictions of COVID-19. Students will be competing for scholarships, awards, and a sponsorship for the 2021 NCF-Envirothon competition. The current topic remains the same as last year “Water Resource Management, Local Control and Local Solutions”. Coordinated by the SCDNR the Envirothon competition is a day of testing for high school teams in the areas of Agriculture and the Environment (Current Topic), Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and Wildlife.



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.



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. Unfortunately, because of Covid 19, the camp had to be cancelled in 2020 but the program will continue in 2021.



South Carolina Forestry Facts

- Who owns South Carolina's timberland?

- 5% by the public
- 5% by national forest
- 16% by forest industry
- 74% by non-industrial private landowners

- Timber is South Carolina's largest cash crop, with an annual delivered value of over \$876 million.
- Wood products are the 3rd largest manufacturing industry in the state, employing over 32,000 residents and contributing \$8.5 billion annually to our economy.
- Forested timberlands occupy approximately two-thirds (12.3 million acres) of South Carolina's land area.
- In the 2000-01 planting season, tree seedlings were planted on 145,251 acres in South Carolina.
- Approximately 48 percent of South Carolina's forests is pine, 52 percent is hardwood.
- Pine plantations account for nearly 25 percent of SC timberland.
- Over 300,000 acres were regenerated annually between 1993-2000.
- There are over 88,000 forest land-owners.
- South Carolina ranks 12th in trees planted in the USA in 1998.
- South Carolinians planted some 90 million tree seedlings in 2000-01.
- Forest products are grown and processed in every county.
- Approximately 78 million seedlings were produced by forest tree nurseries in South Carolina in 2000.

Cigarette Butt Litter

Thousands of smokers don't think twice about leaving a trail of cigarette litter behind them. According to Keep America Beautiful (KAB), cigarette butts continue to be the most commonly littered item in the United States and around the world today. 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide every year. Just one can contaminate one quart of water in one hour. The core of most cigarette filters, the part that looks like white cotton, is actually a form of plastic called cellulose acetate. By itself, cellulose acetate is very slow to degrade in our environment. It can take up to 5 years to decompose. But that isn't the worst of it. Used cigarette filters are full of over 60 toxins, which can leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that come into contact with them. Most filters are discarded with bits of tobacco still attached to them as well, further polluting our environment with nicotine, which is poisonous. Cigarette filters are a threat to wildlife that could ingest them, mistaking filters for food, and to small children, who may eat them if they're within reach. 80% of littered butts will end up in the stomachs of wildlife and marine animals. Discarded cigarette butts also pose a significant threat to our environment in terms of fire. Every year, forest fires ravage vast areas, killing off wildlife and vegetation that take years to return.



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.

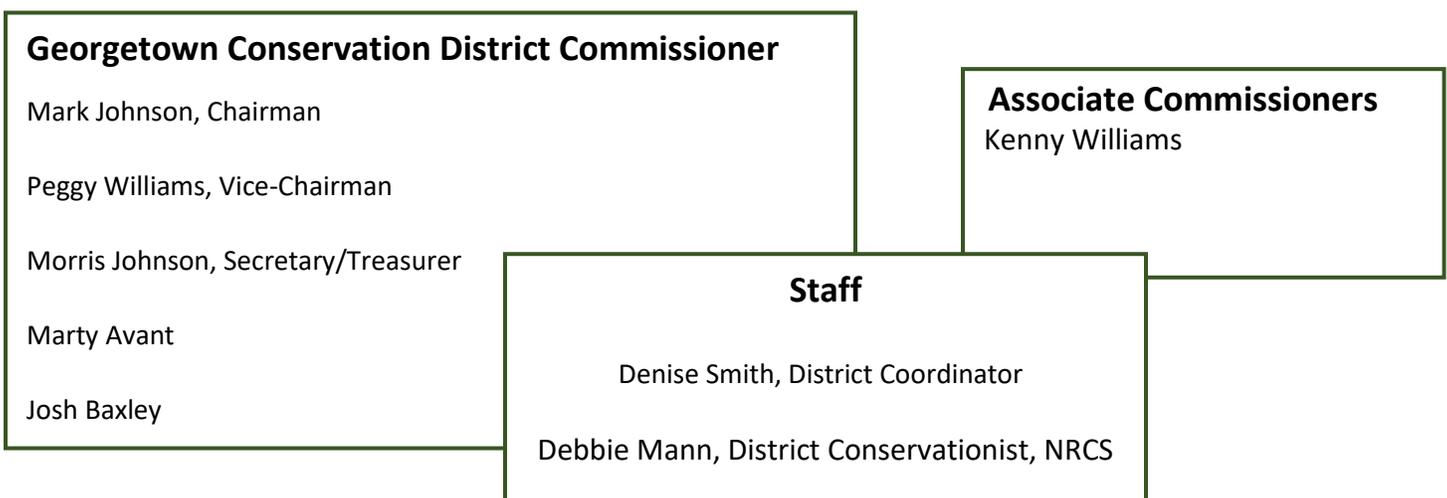
Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP offers cost share for implementing conservation practices which help with water quality, soil health, water conservation, and livestock management. Practices include, but are not limited to: conservation tillage, nutrient management, cover crops, conservation 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.



Our 2020 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

Samuel O. Cribb
W. Sherwyn Jacobs
Ron Charlton
Chicora Wood Plantation
Owens Farm
Dover Plantation
Wardie & Sybil Collins
Capps Farm
Bob P. Cribb
Rubeth Earl & Patsy Williams
Kyle W. & Jodi Daniel

Supporting Membership

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

Sustaining Membership

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

Endowing Membership

Mount Pleasant Plantation LLC
Charles Ingram Lumber Company
Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp
Estherville Farm
Bordeaux-Clark Group Inc.

1837 North Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440

