




**South Carolina Conservation Districts
2022 Annual Report**



Overview

The South Carolina Conservation Districts 2022 Annual Report is a comprehensive set of accomplishments by South Carolina’s 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts), the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources – Conservation Districts (SCDNR-CD), and the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD). This report highlights conservation implementation, economic impact, education, outreach, and dedicated service to the citizens and natural resources of South Carolina.

Each local Soil and Water Conservation District within South Carolina is charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water within their respective counties that are governed by a board of commissioners. Each local district is the front-line advocate for locally led conservation within every county in South Carolina.

SCDNR-CD supports districts, promotes conservation partnerships, serves by providing conservation education and technical assistance, and advocates for new and emerging conservation practices. The SCACD represents districts as their voice on natural resource issues, provides useful information to districts, and offers needed services to districts.

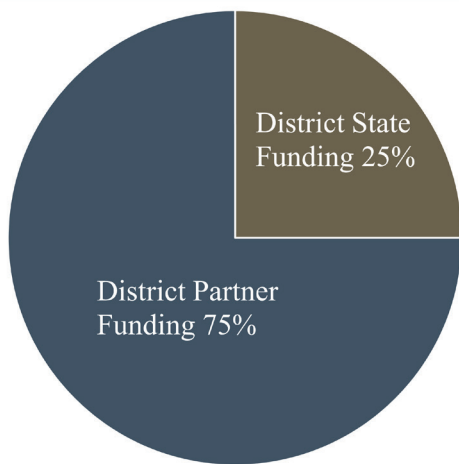
Since 1937, Conservation Districts in South Carolina have worked to promote and establish the wise use of soil and water resources on the land. Together, South Carolina’s local 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, SCDNR-CD, and SCACD make significant contributions and impacts and serve as champions for conservation!

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South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2022 Impact

State FY23 Conservation District Funding



For every \$1 of state appropriated funds to Conservation Districts, \$3 on average is leveraged to implement conservation programs in South Carolina.

Conservation Districts assist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs which brought more than **\$55 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation in federal FY22.

More than 72,000 students were reached by conservation district youth oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests, etc.

More than 1.3 million adults were educated on conservation topics including Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, land easements, etc.

More than 44,000 acres statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.).

SC Envirothon State Champions took **17th place** overall at the 2022 international NCF-Envirothon Competition competing against teams from the US, Canada, and China.

Programs involving land easements, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, water conservation, watershed improvement, litter removal, and conservation education are just a handful of the vast conservation topics implemented statewide by Conservation Districts.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Districts

SCDNR-CD New Office Location!

SCDNR - Conservation Districts Team will now be located at 5 Geology Road in Columbia, SC. The new office location is far more accessible and offers ample space to host the Conservation Family for trainings, meetings, and visits. The SCDNR-CD Team moved into the new office at the end of 2022, and it is open for visitors and constituents!

Education Sponsor at PSC

Conservation Districts served as the 2022 Palmetto Sportsman's Classic Education Sponsor. The SCDNR-CD Team manned an education booth for the entirety of the event where Conservation District literature and outreach materials were available. Seed starting kits as well as coloring sheets educating about food resources were available for youth. Conservation Districts were highlighted on the back of every volunteer t-shirt with the slogan "Start the Conversation on Locally Led Conservation" as well as how to get more information about Conservation Districts.

Statewide Conservation District Trainings

Training sessions for Conservation District Commissioners and Employees were a high priority for SCDNR-CD throughout the year. The SCDNR-CD Team facilitated the following in-person trainings New Employees Training, New Commissioner Training, Local Work Group Facilitation Training, Watershed Districts Training, and Conservation Districts Advocacy Training. Webinars were hosted on CoCoRaHs and Drought Reporting, Conservation District Auditing, and SC Envirothon Orals Judging. Training videos were created on Local Work Group Facilitation and SC Envirothon Overview. As well as a concerted effort was made for a team member to provide an orientation session to each new Conservation District Employee across the state.

2022 Supported Programs

- South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts
- SC Envirothon
- South Carolina Conservation Districts Employees Association
- Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund
- Palmetto Leadership for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry
- Environmental Educators Association of South Carolina
- Forestry Association of South Carolina

Other Notable Accomplishments

2021 South Carolina Conservation Districts Annual Report received a Notable State Document Award from the South Carolina State Library.

Increased support for statewide Watershed Districts through identifying support needs and increasing collaboration with state and federal partners.

Through the support of the General Assembly, the SCDNR-CD Team received funding to grow by two conservation field staff members to directly support Conservation Districts!

Tyler Brown, Program Manager, selected as the Vice President for the NASCA Executive Committee.

Brooke Myres, Field Operations and Program Development Manager, graduated with the first PLEAF cohort and serves as the SE Region Rep. and Records Keeper for the NCFE Operating Committee.



SC Envirothon



1st Place Overall: Spartanburg High School A Team
2nd Place Overall: Spartanburg Day School Carolina Team
3rd Place Overall: Pendleton High School FFA Team 1

Aquatics Station 1st Place: Spartanburg High School A Team
Current Topic Station 1st Place: Aynor High School Blue Jackets Team
Forestry Station 1st Place: TIE Pendleton High School FFA Team 1
and Spartanburg High School A Team
Oral Presentation Station 1st Place: Spartanburg Day School Carolina Team
Soils Station 1st Place: TIE Pendleton High School FFA Team 1
and Mid-Carolina High School
Wildlife Station 1st Place: Pendleton High School FFA Team 1

Marc Cribb Exceptional Leader Award: Anna-Wallace Cheek from
Spartanburg High School

Support SC Envirothon

SC Envirothon is a hands-on, environmental competition made possible only by the generous contributions of time and money from SCDNR-CD, Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, and various other businesses, individuals, agencies and groups. Please consider supporting this worthy cause!

For more information about the SC Envirothon program or becoming a sponsor, reach out to Brooke Myres (myresb@dnr.sc.gov).

2022 NCF Envirothon

Spartanburg High School represented South Carolina at the international National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. Competing against 40 teams from the US and Canada - South Carolina placed 17th overall, 2nd place in Wildlife, and 4th place in Aquatics! They were model students showcasing teamwork, professionalism, and integrity. We are SO PROUD of our South Carolina team!



2023 Envirothon Dates

- 2023 SC Envirothon Coaches Training (FREE!) to be held February 4, 2023 at Clemson Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC
- Competition registration deadline April 3, 2023
- 2023 SC Envirothon Competition to be held April 28, 2023 at Clemson Sandhill REC in Columbia, SC with Current Environmental Topic: "Adapting to a Changing Climate"

South Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Historic Legislative Victory for Districts

On April 5, 2022, the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) ascended with district commissioners, employees, and partners to the SC State House to visit with State Legislators. As a result, the 2022-23 state legislative session featured the biggest budget increase in our history. This includes an additional \$10,000 in aid to each Conservation District (a new total of \$25,000 per district per year) recurring every year and two state positions for direct SCDNR-CD field support. During the visit to the House of Representatives Chamber, SCACD recognized the Legislator of the Year, Representative Sylleste Davis of Berkeley County.

President Jeff Wilson and Vice President Ben Setzler, chair of the SCACD Legislative Committee, led a diverse group of district commissioners from around the state to advise the SCACD Executive Committee on legislation that might affect conservation districts and their constituents.

SCACD is grateful for the General Assembly's support of districts in South Carolina. Thanks to the commissioners and supporters, our unified voice, presence, and dedication was felt throughout the budget process this year.



SCACD President, Jeff Wilson, presenting Representative Sylleste Davis her SCACD Legislator of the Year Award.

Landowner and District Listening Sessions

In July 2022, SCACD organized and coordinated a visit from James Tillman, Southeast Regional Conservationist for NRCS. SCACD took the initiative to work with Mr. Tillman and State Conservationist Ann English on coordinating four meetings to hear from landowners and conservation districts who have experienced challenges as it relates to landowner service. Mr. Tillman, along with NRCS and SCACD representatives visited Clarendon, Orangeburg, Edgefield, and Lexington Districts.

2022 Highlights

Coordinated and sponsored the Annual South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference in Charleston, SC.

Convened a one-day Policy Committee meeting to review and update supported initiatives and district operations.

Continued to manage a Contribution Agreement with NRCS to coordinate technical and administrative assistance on NRCS contracts. For 2022-23, \$257,500 was allocated for 26 conservation districts. This program has made significant strides in tackling huge conservation technical assistance workloads. SCACD is grateful to our partners for their cooperation and support.

Approved 6 district applications for NACD Technical Assistance Grants totaling almost \$300,000.

Participated in the NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting and appointed representatives to sub-committees.

Monitored state legislation.

Supported district commissioner representatives on each of the River Basin Advisory Councils.

South Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Southeast NACD Hall of Fame Inductee

Former SCACD President Kenny Mullis was inducted into the Southeast NACD Hall of Fame at the Annual Southeast NACD Meeting in Puerto Rico. Commissioner Mullis continues to serve as our NACD representative and was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Southeast NACD Board this year. Kenny is an asset to conservation in South Carolina and across the nation!



South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation

Established in 1976 by the SC Association of Conservation Districts, the SC Conservation Districts Foundation was organized exclusively to promote educational, scientific, and charitable efforts to conserve South Carolina's life supporting resources. The Foundation is an IRS designated 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Annually, the Foundation awards approximately \$30,000 in college scholarships.

In 2022, the Conservation Districts Foundation Trustees held 2 board meetings and the executive officers held a meeting for planning purposes. Other activities included: Foundation Chair Sterling Sadler sent a letter to all Conservation District Commissioners, district employees and partners to reinvigorate support for the Foundation; Ms. Sadler reported at the SCACD Executive Committee Meetings; and a Foundation Trustee was on the agenda at each of the SCACD Area Meetings to inform about the opportunities for Foundation support.

In addition to endowed scholarships, the Foundation supported: SC Envirothon, FFA Soil Judging Contests, Wood Magic Forest Fair, SC Farmer and Agribusiness Association, and SC Environmental Education Association.

Initiatives for 2023 include: Trustee meeting at the Annual Conservation Partnership Conference, increase visibility and fundraising efforts, update of the Memorandum of Understanding with SCDNR, and review Foundation Constitution and Bylaws.

Sponsored Programs

- SC Envirothon
- South Carolina Conservation Districts Employees Association Training Workshop
- South Carolina Soil and Water Society
- Midlands Local Food Collaborative
- Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund



Abbeville

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Abbeville Conservation District proudly presented two \$750 H.O. Mullinax Scholarships this year. The Scholarship Luncheon was held on May 11, 2022 at “Talk of the Town” in Abbeville, South Carolina.

Ann Marie Brooks, the daughter of David and Renee Brooks, is currently a sophomore at Clemson University. Ms. Brooks is studying Environmental and Natural Resources with plans of pursuing a career with Clemson Extension or SCDNR. Savannah Winn is the daughter of William and Shannon Winn. Savannah is currently attending Piedmont Technical College. Her goal is to teach at the Governor’s School of Agriculture.

The Abbeville Conservation District scholarships are awarded in memory of H.O. Mullinax who served many years as a commissioner and was a great supporter of the Abbeville Conservation District and its practices.



Chairman Fred Raines presenting our two students, Ann Marie Brooks and Savannah Winn, with their scholarships.



District's new Great Plains No-till Drill with a native seed box purchased this year to replace an older no-till drill.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Abbeville District's Farmer of the Year was Josh Fox. He practices good stewardship to ensure that his operation is building for the future.



Abbeville District's Teacher of the Year was Josh Murdock, Agriculture and FFA teacher at Dixie High School who goes above and beyond as a teacher.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,015 acres planted through no-till drill rentals
- Agriculture equipment rented 81 times
- 1,300 people reached through Facebook regarding our new no-till drill
- With the help of additional state appropriated funds, a \$2,500 grant was provided to Dixie High School to assist with the Plastic Baleage Recycling Program

2023 District Plans

- Attain new affiliate memberships
- Help county library with their Seed Library
- Build shed for rental equipment
- Increase student participation in our Poster Contest
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team

Aiken

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

2022 was an exciting year for our Aiken Soil and Water Conservation District! We were named SCACD Outstanding Conservation District of the Year at the South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference in Charleston, SC! That honor led to us being recognized by Aiken County Council with a Resolution for our contributions to the County. We were also recognized by Aiken County Senators for our work with the SC Mobile Irrigation Lab Pilot Program.

We also sponsored the Farm Bureau Mobile Ag Lab for our Green Step School, Aiken Elementary. Aiken Elementary was awarded SC "Restore" School of the Year for South Carolina for their gardens and composting. We are currently working with another school for Green Step Certification!

Our first "Jingle and Mingle" was held in December and was well attended. We collected more than 100 canned goods for donation to a local charity food bank.



Event attended by our State Delegation in recognition of winning SCACD's Outstanding Conservation District of the Year.



Farm Bureau Mobile Ag Lab at Aiken Elementary. We plan to sponsor Ag Lab at two additional schools in 2023 using additional state appropriated funds.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Received over 200 entries for the NACD Poster Contest for 2022. Lily Welty from Aiken County was the state winner for her age category!



Our scholarship winner for 2022, Lance Brown, was awarded \$2,500. He is attending Clemson University.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Youth outreach: volunteered at and donated \$500 to SC Envirothon, planted microgreens with more than 200 students for Special Olympics/Earth Day Event, provided rain barrels to 2 schools, and sponsored 5 CSRA Eco Meet Teams
- Hosted a "Healthy Soil 101" Workshop with 50 attendees
- Sponsored booth at SEED Day with over 2,000 in attendance
- More than 700 acres planted through no-till drill rentals

2023 District Plans

- Host Agricultural Awareness Day with Clemson Extension and FSA
- Participate in and sponsor SC Envirothon and NACD Poster Contest
- Sponsor EEASC Annual Meeting
- Engage local artists in a contest to bring awareness to storm drains with the NACD theme "One Water"

Allendale

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In January 2021, Allendale Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) entered into an agreement with USDA for Seasonal High Tunnel Technical Assistance for three years. The agreement includes high tunnel installations in all counties in South Carolina.

During 2022, there were eight high tunnels completed throughout South Carolina from Charleston to Gaffney. High tunnels help farmers and landowners grow vegetables all year long as they plant directly into the soil inside the high tunnel. Some growers have been able to harvest three crops of peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, and other vegetables during one year.

During the various programs offered by ASWCD during 2022, we reached approximately 54 adults and 23 children.



Initial steps of high tunnel installation in Awendaw, SC. Setting posts and framework.



Completed high tunnel in Awendaw, SC.

Other Notable Accomplishments



ASWCD continued to partner with Allendale County Clemson Extension for "Coffee with Clemson" programs in the Agriculture Building.



Participated in America Recycles Day in November by placing displays in the county Agriculture Building and the county library.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2.1 million for conservation practices in Allendale County
- 15,605 acres in Allendale County were enrolled in conservation programs
- 20 new landowners contracted to put conservation on the ground and 75 applications received for CTA
- Assisted 61 landowners with active EQIP and CSP contracts

2023 District Plans

- Continue with Seasonal High Tunnel Technical Assistance
- Use additional state appropriated funds to meet staffing requirements and create educational programs
- Sponsor "Coffee with Clemson" and celebrate America Recycles Day

Anderson

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through several local grants, Anderson Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) is increasing education and outreach programs in the county and growing our Seed Library. We are striving to make new partnerships in the community and connect local people with local resources. Staff became certified in K-12 Project WET, WILD, and PLT curriculum as well as SC Adopt-a-Stream monitoring protocols which is a statewide volunteer citizen scientist program to help monitor our waterways. Twenty different education programs for home school groups, community centers, and public schools were held. In total, our education programs reached approximately 1,255 people! The Seed Library distributed more than 10,000 seed packets and hosted two educational workshops.

From all ASWCD Commissioners and Associates, we would like to thank Anaston Porter and Pamela Richey for all the hard work they have put in this year. These programs and achievements would not be possible without their help. Thank you!



Soil Composition Education Program - home school group from the Barn and Twin Creek Farm in Pendleton, SC.



Raised Garden Beds and Design Workshop - Anderson Main Library (27 participants).

Other Notable Accomplishments



Hosted our 4th Annual Barrels & Beer Event at Magnetic South Brewery! Proceeds support our Environmental Stewardship Mini-Grant.



We now have two updated SC Adopt-a-Stream kits in our office for community members to borrow. Kits are fully stocked for freshwater monitoring.

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 1,255 adults and children educated through our outreach programs
- 10,856 acres of agricultural land protected through conservation programs in Anderson County with a total of 100 producers participating
- Approximately 130 bags of trash picked-up by our commissioners and staff from a local highway that feeds into Anderson's drinking water supply

2023 District Plans

- Hire an Education and Outreach Intern to help support 2023 programs using additional state appropriated funds
- Offer 2 SC Adopt-a-Stream Trainings
- Establish more connections and relationships with local schools, home school groups, and community centers and secure funding sources for outreach activities

Bamberg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

The Bamberg Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) provides administrative support for NRCS conservation programs that assist farmers and landowners with the completion of conservation practices.

In 2022, more than \$1.4 million was obligated for contracts through two conservation programs, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

During the past 5 years, conservation program contracts have obligated \$5,834,306 to help farmers and landowners partially cover the cost of completing the conservation practices that were planned for 38,234 acres.

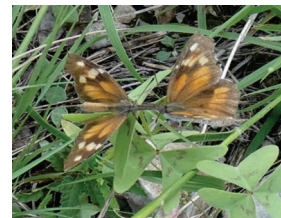


Water troughs provide clean drinking water for livestock and are a critical part of a well-managed grazing system.



A crushed stone pad installed around the trough on top of the geotextile filter fabric (provided by BSWCD) eliminates mud and standing water.

Other Notable Accomplishments



The district works to provide pollinator blends or grass seed for anyone seeking them for pleasure or completing contracts for NRCS.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$1.4 million for conservation practices in Bamberg County

2023 District Plans

- Use increase in state appropriated funds to organize a storm drain art contest in the county
- Host Forestry Field Day highlighting conservation practices

Barnwell

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) would like to congratulate Barnwell Elementary student, Lyanna Wilson for winning first place in the BSWCD Poster Contest “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” for 2022. The Annual SCACD and NACD Poster Contests highlight the work of conservation districts and agencies to protect and enhance natural resources.

New Commissioners elected: Curtis Hogg, Jr. and Fleming McMaster were elected to office in the November 2022 General Election. Their terms begin February 1, 2023 and will expire January 31, 2027.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Kallie Stanfield was hired as the new Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Assistant in September 2022.

Kallie graduated from Aiken Technical College in 2012. She and her husband, Nick have 3 children - Tanner, Ansley Kate, and Tate. Kallie grew up in Barnwell.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of approximately 174 contracts in the amount of \$3.3 million in conservation programs in Barnwell County
- 13,385 acres in Barnwell County enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Attain more than 60 affiliate memberships
- Use additional state appropriated funds to visit Barnwell County schools to provide Conservation Education
- Participate in NACD Poster Contest

Beaufort

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through additional state appropriated funds, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners hired three new staff members: Leslie Meola was hired as District Manager to replace Shelby Berry who was the manager for more than 20 years. Annie Boyd was hired as the Education Coordinator which had been vacant for the past year. BSWCD also hired Hilary Gallop as a second Education Specialist.

As the COVID-19 pandemic eased, we aimed to grow our education outreach. The three new employees, along with veteran Education Specialist, Debby Way, and volunteer Education Specialist, John O'Connell, have been busy creating involvement and partnerships with environmental programs such as SC Adopt-a-Stream, Green Step Schools, Audubon SC, Lowcountry Master Naturalist, attending conferences, workshops, and updating our 14 environmental education programs to realign them to the 2021 SC Science Standards. BSWCD hopes to get invited into more classrooms by making their programs more accessible and relevant to classroom curricula.



Annie passing on her knowledge of shell marine life at the Beaufort Water Festival over the summer.



Hilary participating and learning new environmental education programs at the Project Wild workshop over the summer.

Other Notable Accomplishments



We were thrilled to host our summer Eco Camp again after a two year break due to COVID-19. With help from Clemson 4H, Extension campers learned about farm conservation.



40 acres in Beaufort County received Herbaceous Weed Treatment to address herbaceous competition through the use of environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression strategies.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 4 landowners in Beaufort County were served with conservation technical assistance
- 49 acres enrolled in conservation programs
- 1,814 students educated through education programs provided to area schools
- 1,704 people reached at public outreach events and festivals

2023 District Plans

- Become a SC Adopt-a-Stream Hub
- Pursue funding support from multiple sources
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Implement the Audubon SC Shorebird Program for area elementary schools

Berkeley

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District has been working on two signature projects since Spring 2021. Berkeley Outdoor Life was completed earlier this year, and the first two phases of ByGone Berkeley are expected to be completed by January 2023 with additional phases to come later next year. These platforms continue to lead the Southeast in outdoor recreation and historical opportunities. No other county has this much to offer! Please continue to follow our progress at www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com and www.ByGoneBerkeley.com.

Berkeley Outdoor Life: 25 Kayaking Trails (235 miles), 23 Hiking and Walking Trails (185 miles), 20 Bicycling Routes (315 miles), and 35 Places to Camp (20+ are FREE).

ByGone Berkeley: 109 Historical Markers, 32 American Revolution Action Sites, 20 African American History Sites, and Historical Churches.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Through additional state appropriated funds, we were able to partner with B.C. School District, U.S. Forest Service, SC Forestry Commission, Berkeley County, Keep Berkeley Beautiful, B.C. Library System, Old Santee Canal Park, Cypress Gardens, and Clemson Extension to further the education of Berkeley County citizens.

We continue to work with NRCS to help our farmers and citizens of Berkeley County.

Earth Team Volunteers and berkeleybees groups continue to be very active and growing.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 302 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- More than 400 acres in Berkeley County were enrolled in conservation programs
- 26 landowners assisted with new EQIP applications
- 48 landowners enrolled in CSP

2023 District Plans

- Assist with EDUC 695 Graduate Class for teachers - Environmental History of Berkeley County. Begins Jan. 2023 and completes March 2023
- Continue our partnerships to make Berkeley County citizens aware of the beauty and history available through education opportunities
- Partner with Berkeley County Schools to have Kids Who Care 2023

Calhoun

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In April, the Calhoun Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) hired a new coordinator for administrative duties and outreach. To better communicate with our members and community, we launched a new website, www.calhounsoilandwater.com, and a Facebook page. Three grant proposals have been submitted to support educational programs. We are mentoring Calhoun County's first Green Step School.

With additional state appropriated funds, community donations, volunteers, teachers, and students, the district initiated a program to restore and beautify the St. Matthews K8 water garden. The district organized new programs in agriculture and forestry for both our public K8 schools. We are working with our middle and high school teachers on an interactive teen conservation program. CSWCD frequently submits press releases to share our programs with our community.

We welcome community involvement!



3rd and 4th grade students planting day lilies at the St. Matthews K8 water garden.



Learning how to plant and care for the new magnolia tree.

Other Notable Accomplishments



CSWCD Commissioners and staff hold a board meeting and explore Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve.



Students, teachers, and volunteers celebrate the water garden planting.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of almost \$2 million for conservation practices on more than 16,000 acres in Calhoun County
- Engaged 365 students in conservation programs
- St. Matthews K8's 550 students are participating in Green Step Schools
- Welcomed 10 new Affiliate Members

2023 District Plans

- Youth outreach: launch Teen Conservation Program and Student Book of the Month Club; mentor additional Green Step programs
- Utilize Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve for conservation programs for all ages
- Increase Affiliate Memberships and business involvement

Charleston

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



This year Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) successfully promoted the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest to schools within Charleston County. This year's theme was "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life". We had over 150 students participate!

The CSWCD Coordinator and Commissioners provided in school outreach through NACD's resources. Students were judged on the topic message, appeal, originality, and visual effectiveness. Hand drawn and digital entries were submitted with awards provided to the top 3 in each school.

The overall winners were submitted to the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) Poster Contest with hopes of moving to the NACD National Poster Contest!

Other Notable Accomplishment

Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner and Chairman, Bill Simpson, received his 45 year service pin at the 2022 South Carolina Annual Conservation Partnership Conference. Chairman Simpson has served with the Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District since 1977. He also serves as the chair of the SCDNR - Land, Water and Conservation Advisory Committee.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$100,000 for conservation practices in Charleston County
- Provided conservation technical assistance to more than 50 landowners and producers
- Supported 5 students in their participation in Camp Wildwood
- 86 Affiliate Members supported district outreach

2023 District Plans

- Provide conservation education to schools in Charleston County
- Sponsor 2 SC Envirothon teams
- Grow the Affiliate Membership to 100 members
- Broaden conservation outreach to local producers in Charleston County using additional state appropriated funds

Cherokee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District has focused its efforts towards working with Cherokee County students in unique ways. We have partnered with the Cherokee Clemson Extension 4-H leader, Laura Haddon, to support a series of special programs this spring and summer. The district sponsored the Life Cycle of a Butterfly project for kindergarten students across the district and at Palmetto Christian Academy. New district coordinator, Sarah Allen, presented the EnviroScape model for two Science Day field trips at the outdoor classroom and learning area sponsored by Duke Energy. During the month of June, the district assisted with a series of 4-H Junior Naturalist Camps with the topics of water/watershed, birds, fishing/macroinvertebrates, and trees. Students enjoyed hands-on activities at the outdoor classroom. During July and August, the district visited the five Boys and Girls Club summer program locations to present a recycling program and build edible landfills. This program was also presented at Cherokee Charter Academy this past fall.



Commissioner Willie Sarratt assists students of Boys and Girls Club Program at Luther-Vaughan Elementary School in assembling individual edible landfills.



District Coordinator Sarah Allen presents the EnviroScape model during a Science Day field trip for fourth and fifth grade students from Corinth Elementary School.

Other Notable Accomplishments



CSWCD welcomed two new associate commissioners this year -Kim Poole and Trey Haddon.



CSWCD awarded a \$500 scholarship to high school senior Amaria Wilkins - Clemson University.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Awarded a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior
- Affiliate Membership Program received donations from 54 individuals and small businesses totaling more than \$5,000
- More than 400 acres were planted through the local Land Management Program (LMP)

2023 District Plans

- Continue updating new website and increase interaction with Cherokee County residents
- Sponsor conservation contests and awards banquet
- Invest increased state appropriated funds in LMP by updating equipment and transport methods
- Continue partnership with Thicketty Creek Watershed District

Chester

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Chester Soil and Water Conservation District continued to focus on spreading the message about conserving our natural resources to future generations in our county by informing and educating our youth through our Conservation Education Contests. Through this endeavor, three district sponsored contests were available to all students living or attending school in Chester County (public, private, and home schooled). All three utilized the 2022 stewardship theme of "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life". The first contest was the Conservation Essay Contest for 6th-8th graders. The essays were judged by former teachers on category understanding; imagination and creativity; and originality. The second contest was the Conservation Photography Contest for 5th-12th graders and was judged by a local photography expert. The final contest was the Poster Contest for students in grades K5-12. The criteria for our volunteers that judged the posters included conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality, and universal appeal. The top three entries in each division won a certificate and a monetary award.



Presentation of awards to the top three finishers in the Essay Contest at Great Falls High School with the proud teacher and principals.



Chester Park Elementary School of the Arts Conservation Poster Contest winners displaying their certificates with their teacher and principal.

Other Notable Accomplishments



76 shrubs/pollinators and 25 trees were given away in Chester County through our Arbor Day Project.



Donation made to fund creation of a Pollinator Garden in Great Falls. This and other projects were made possible by increase in state appropriated funds.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Chairman Allen Beer is the longest serving active commissioner in South Carolina (1973 to present)
- 627 acres planted through no-till drill rentals, almost doubling last year's acreage
- 2 newly elected commissioners and 27 affiliate memberships
- 5 scholarships awarded (4 for Camp Woodie and 1 for college tuition)

2023 District Plans

- Increase participation in conservation contests
- Promote attendance at local, area, and state events
- Partner with other agencies to increase outreach
- Continue to work with Rocky Creek and Tinkers Creek Watershed Directors to maintain dams
- Encourage no-till planting as a conservation practice

Chesterfield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Patricia and M. B. Godbold were honored as Conservationists of the Year by the Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD). The family has been cooperating with CSWCD since 2015, when they expressed the idea of using their forestland to produce habitat for honeybees raised by their daughter, Layne Rogerson. Old stands of longleaf were thinned and had fire introduced along with native understory plantings. Artificial nest cavities were installed for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers with a successful hatch of two chicks this year. Off site pines have been removed and replaced with longleaf seedlings using selective herbicides to protect native wiregrass. Riparian buffers are protected and managed for cavity dwelling species, amphibians, and a lone pitcher plant that has emerged in the wetland.

The Godbolds have allowed the property to be used as an educational center for others to learn about a variety of topics, holding events for students, NRCS employees, and landowner groups who wish to expand their forestland uses to include priorities other than timber production.



CSWCD Chairman Roger Smith (right) presents the Conservationist of the Year award to Pat and M.B. Godbold and family members.

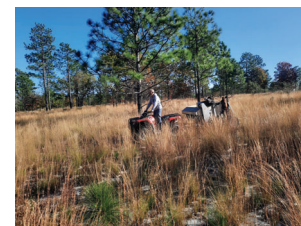


Layne Rogerson discusses honeybee life cycle with students and 4H members at a field day where native seeds were planted.

Other Notable Accomplishments



CSWCD welcomed Tony Graham. Increase in state appropriated funds allowed the CSWCD to increase landowner assistance and education.



Seed collected by CSWCD and NRCS staff was provided to landowners wishing to restore native understory vegetation for habitat improvement.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 127 landowners assisted with active EQIP and CSP contracts to protect 20,281 acres in Chesterfield County
- 29 landowners funded with new NFWF agreements to improve 864 acres of longleaf habitat
- 83 landowners assisted with new EQIP and CSP applications
- 12,666 acres enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Apply for 11th National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant
- Financially assist landowners to establish and manage at least 2,000 new acres of longleaf habitat and 25 acres of native understory vegetation
- Use additional state appropriated funds to host two landowner training events, upgrade district equipment for use by farmers, and increase part time staff hours

Clarendon

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) hosted our 2022 Farm City Luncheon. Our special guest speaker was Mr. Carl Coleman from Dillon, SC. Mr. Coleman is the owner and operator of The Little Mill Seed. Mr. Coleman was able to speak on the importance of districts as well as keeping conservation on the ground. We were honored to have Mr. Quandri Bell with Congressman Jim Clyburn's office as well as Mr. A.D. Jordan with Senator Tim Scott's office in attendance along with many of our Affiliate Members.



Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District 2022 Farm City Luncheon



Welcomed two new Youth Commissioners: Stevie Warren, freshman at Clarendon Hall (left); Isabele Parimuha, junior at Wilson Hall Academy (right).

Other Notable Accomplishments



Donated over 200 vegetable plants for students from East Clarendon Middle School, Mrs. Sheri Sims' 6th grade class to plant in established raised beds.



Provided several fruit baskets to our elderly Affiliate Members.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 75 students educated about stormwater and pollution
- 200 6th grade students learned the importance of vegetables
- 40 new Affiliate Members
- 25 producers rented no-till drills

2023 District Plans

- Gain more Youth Commissioners
- Participate in SCACD Poster Contest using additional state appropriated funds
- Share the EviroScape at several schools
- Participate in NRCS program trainings
- Host Affiliate Banquet

Colleton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Jacob Breland and Chairman Gary Herndon

Jackson Bell and Chairman Gary Herndon

Colleton Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) awarded its inaugural Agriculture Scholarships to Jacob Breland and Jackson Bell. Both winners are currently attending Clemson University. Mr. Bell is pursuing a degree in Forestry while Mr. Breland is majoring in Agricultural Mechanization and Business. The Ag Scholarships were \$1,000 each.

CSWCD was able to offer the scholarships this year as a direct result of the additional state appropriated funds. The scholarship opportunity was offered to graduating seniors and current college students from Colleton County who were pursuing a degree in an agricultural or natural resources related field. Both of the recipients are deeply rooted in agriculture conservation and have a strong desire to see it continue to thrive within South Carolina and Colleton County.

Other Notable Accomplishment

In celebration of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, Rev. Gerald Mabry organized a tour of the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area with SCDNR Biologist Daniel Barrineau. Donnelley WMA covers 8,048 acres and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. It is a wonderful recreational and educational area open to the public with two nature trails for driving tours and miles of dirt roads for hikers and bicyclists.



Donnelley Wildlife Management Area

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted 400 landowners with conservation issues and 24 landowners with EQIP and CSP contracts
- 5,982 acres enrolled in conservation programs
- Promoted poster/essay contest to 15 public, private, and home schools in Colleton County

2023 District Plans

- Attend the 2023 South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference
- Host Affiliate and Awards Banquet
- Have a district booth at the Colleton County Rice Festival

Darlington

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Through additional state appropriated funds, Darlington Soil and Water Conservation District was able to launch a school wide gardening and composting project with the environmental club at Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology. We were able to provide funds to cover all supplies needed to turn food waste into compost which is then used for the on-site garden. Through this project, the plan is to bring back the existing garden space into a community-oriented, volunteer-based area. In order to do this, the environmental club is planning on initiating a garden and composting committee at the school to educate the students, staff, and faculty about the importance of food waste reduction, gardening, and composting. We are excited to see how this program grows and impacts our students and community!

"We are so grateful for your funding! We will strive to create a thriving on-campus gardening and composting program to inform our peers about the importance of agriculture. We cannot wait to start our project. Thank you again." - Hannah Jewell-Mayo, Environmental Club President

Conservation by the Numbers

- Approximately 300 students will learn about gardening and composting at Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology
- Around 50 youth attended the Darlington County Deer Hunt and were educated on safety of the sport, while teaching them to respect the beautiful outdoors and adopt good ethics
- 60 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground

Other Notable Accomplishments



Sponsored Lee Academy Clay Shooters which is a program that instills life skills, ethics, and values through the shotgun sport.



Supported Darlington County Sheriff's office Youth Deer Hunt.

2023 District Plans

- Launch a seed library
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Start another Composting Project
- Participate in SCACD Poster Contest
- Construct bird boxes for nesting sites

Dillon

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Dillon Soil and Water Conservation District has several pieces of equipment for rent. This is a John Deere 1590 No-Till Grain Drill. The Dillon Equipment Rental Program has helped put conservation on the ground in Dillon County.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Dillon Soil and Water Conservation District provides rain gauges and calendars to producers. The commissioners work side-by-side with producers every day to make them aware of what programs and funding are available to meet their needs and become better conservationists.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Financial donations to the Governors School of Agriculture and South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation
- Conservation coloring book donations to local elementary schools
- 1 newly elected Commissioner - Joe Hayes

2023 District Plans

- Offer seed packets to be distributed to students and citizens
- Host an Annual LWG Meeting
- Nominate a Conservation Farmer of the Year
- Work with a local school district on a spring agriculture project using additional state appropriated funds

Dorchester

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In October 2022, Dorchester Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) started its Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary offering a variety of vegetable and flower seeds. With only three months left in 2022, DSWCD hosted its Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary at four events reaching approximately 800 people! During events, 730 packets of seed and 200 coloring books were handed out to attendees. There are many benefits and lessons to be learned when planting a seed, such as importance of soil and water quality, pollination, patience, and how to become more self-reliant while creating food sustainability.

The increase in state appropriated funds allowed DSWCD to create the Dorchester SWCD Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary. DSWCD is excited about the reach the program has had in the past three months and remains excited to see how the program will grow in 2023!



Dorchester SWCD Administrative Assistant, Tammi McAlhany at one of our Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary events.



Vice-Chairman Bobby Long assisting a group of students in picking out seed packets at a Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary event.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Chairman James Fender and Vice Chairman Bobby Long presented three \$1,000 scholarships to local high school students.



Commissioner Marie Dantzler and Commissioner Patricia Clark presented Poster Contest Awards to our 1st-place winner and her teacher.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,500 local citizens educated through outreach efforts
- 730 packets of vegetable and flower seed distributed
- 42 Affiliate Conservation District Members
- 175 landowners served with conservation technical assistance
- 4,121 acres enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Attain 5 new affiliate members
- Grow the reach of the Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary
- Participate in the 2023 NACD Photo and Poster Contests
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Host a workshop for local landowners

Edgefield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

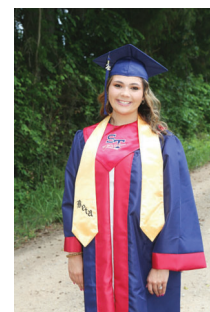
Edgefield Soil and Water Conservation District (ESWCD) hosted the Southeast Regional Conservationist of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), James Tillman, for a round table with Edgefield County landowners and producers. Discussions were centered around NRCS technical service issues within Edgefield County. More than 30 local landowners, congressional delegations, soil and water conservation district representatives, and partners attended the round table. Input was provided first hand from landowners who had experienced service issues and proposed resolutions were provided by Mr. Tillman.

Since this meeting, Edgefield Soil and Water Conservation District continues to work towards improving NRCS service issues through advocating on behalf of producers, landowners, and constituents.

Other Notable Accomplishment

This year, ESWCD was excited to continue the Annual Bob Bowie Scholarship by providing funds to a student pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field of study.

This year's scholarship was awarded to Bailey Hyler, an Edgefield resident pursuing her degree in AgriBusiness at Clemson University.



Conservation by the Numbers

- District Affiliate Drive was very successful with ESWCD having more than 35 Affiliate Members
- Education outreach to more than 400 students
- Served 100 landowners with conservation technical assistance

2023 District Plans

- Advocate for enhanced NRCS service to Edgefield County
- Promote SC Envirothon in the high schools
- Increase landowner workshops using additional state appropriated funds
- Offer and grow awareness for the Bob Bowie Scholarship

Fairfield

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) continues working with the youth in the county.

One of our most popular activities is sending youth to Camp Wildwood each summer. Camp Wildwood is a natural resource learning camp. Activities are filled with teaching and learning about natural resources and how to take care of them for future generations.

FSWCD also hosts an Annual Photo Contest. Requirements include the pictures be of farm life, flowers and trees, animals (no zoo animals), and/or landscapes. This contest teaches the students to appreciate our natural resources and instills an appreciation for wildlife.

FSWCD also Adopted-A-Highway which has been successful.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Students at Richard Winn Academy and students at the Fairfield Career Center planted a tree on their school grounds in recognition of Arbor Day.



Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 200 acres planted through rentals of the district's Tye No-Till Drill
- Assisted with implementation of almost \$400,000 for conservation practices in Fairfield County
- 3,500 acres in Fairfield County enrolled in conservation programs

2023 District Plans

- Offer a scholarship for a graduating senior planning to major in an agriculture related field with the increase in state appropriated funds
- Work with our newly elected officials on conservation and environmental projects
- Sponsor more Camp Wildwood campers, support SC Envirothon, host Annual Photo Contest, and work with a local school to build an outdoor classroom

Florence

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Florence Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) continued its emphasis on conservation education during 2022. The Environmental Education Center at Lynches River County Park provided continuing conservation education to all.

FSWCD also held its Local Work Group Meeting in July which welcomed land users and members of conservation organizations for a discussion of conservation practices which benefit Florence County and should be applied through NRCS Farm Bill Programs in our county.

The district participated in the SCACD Contribution Agreement Program that enabled our district employee to perform technical assistance to our NRCS office. Through this partnership program, FSWCD provided hands-on service to more than 20 land users participating in cover crop programs.

One of the most outstanding events of the year was the participation of the FSWCD in the Conservation Districts Day at the Statehouse in April. The event provided the opportunity for our district to directly contact each of our Statehouse members from Florence. Our district along with the other districts in SC received recognition from the floor of the House and Senate for their work in the conservation field. The efforts on the part of each district led to an increase in conservation funding for 2022/23. The increase in state appropriated funds will help FSWCD institute its 2023 plans and help all SWCDs continue to provide measures to assure the conservation of our natural resources in SC.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$3 million for conservation practices in Florence County
- 37,565 acres were enrolled in conservation programs in Florence County

Other Notable Accomplishments



District oversees Salem Community Watershed which provides 42 miles of drainage canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.



District oversees the Lynches Lake-Camp Branch Watershed that provides 21 miles of canals and ditches for agricultural drainage relief.

2023 District Plans

- Provide programs and contests to Florence School District concerning litter prevention
- Provide mini-grants to schools and organizations that provide conservation education programs
- Provide locally led conservation measures for landowners and users in Florence County

Georgetown

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In June, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District (GSWCD) commissioners and staff met at Sandy Island to view the damaged road on the island for potential assistance by GSWCD. The group walked along the road which is in need of repair work to view the washout areas. They were given information about the water levels and damage done to the road. When the water levels are high, the people who live on the island cannot access the road to leave for any reason including medical assistance and emergencies.

They also viewed the shore restoration work which was done through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Program. Due to storms causing erosion, the shoreline had washed out causing considerable damage and impeding boats from landing. The commissioners were then given a tour of the island by Charles Pyatt and shown some points of interest on the island along with some historical facts about the island school house and church.



Georgetown Commissioners view the damaged road on Sandy Island in need of repair.



This area of the island's shoreline was restored through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Other Notable Accomplishments



FFA students, Jenna Kay and Jennings Avant, were sponsored to attend the week long environmental Camp Wildwood in the summer of 2022.



Horry Georgetown Technical College students, Matthew Oxendine and William Hartley, were awarded \$500 scholarships by the district.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 500 acres planted with the district's no-till drill
- 1,700 students were impacted by contests and programs offered by the district
- 85 adults participated in district programs and services
- Provided scholarships to students at Horry Georgetown Technical College using additional state appropriated funds

2023 District Plans

- Provide no-till drill rentals equipment to landowners
- Maintain 25 Affiliate Members
- Offer annual programs: Poster, Essay, Photo Contests; Earth Day distribution; Book of the Month
- Continue to work under Contribution Agreement with NRCS to assist with conservation program delivery

Greenville

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Greenville Soil and Water Conservation District (GSWCD) worked with Roper Mountain Science Center (RMSC) on a rainfall simulator that is housed in their new Environmental and Sustainability Building. This project required design modifications of a standard simulator to render it suitable for indoor use. Additionally, custom images were created to highlight the function of the simulator. This simulator educates middle school students on stormwater issues in an urban landscape with demonstrations on how rainfall penetrates the ground on surfaces such as asphalt, shingles, permeable pavers, and grass/plants. In 2022, 42,720 students participated in education sessions and learned about soil health!

In addition, smaller, tabletop simulator models continue to be used at RMSC for other courses/grade levels continuing GSWCD's mission to educate on stormwater issues and impacts.



The rainfall simulator is in use at Roper Mountain Science Center for K-12 students.



District Manager Kirsten Robertson demonstrates a tabletop rainfall simulator in action.

Other Notable Accomplishments



After school programs focused on soil health were implemented at six locations.



We partnered with Save Our Saluda on a streambank restoration project and a streambank workshop.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,278,339 constituents reached by conservation and stormwater programs
- 45,643 students learned about stormwater, pollutants, and soil health
- 1,100 acres impacted by conservation practices
- Online outreach efforts seen by 249,392 viewers

2023 District Plans

- Continue successful programming using additional state appropriated funds
- Increase outreach and education impact in South Carolina with a focus on stormwater education, farmer/landowner outreach and programming, and facilitating conservation practices in the county

Greenwood

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Through additional state appropriated funds, Greenwood Soil and Water Conservation District (GSWCD) was able to purchase a new Great Plains No-Till Drill in October. In the past, landowners in Greenwood County have rented a grain drill from a local business. Upon learning that the business would no longer be able to provide this service, our commissioners saw a great need in our county. The purchase of the drill allows producers in our county to rent the equipment when needed at a fair rate.

Upon purchase, the district along with Clemson Extension hosted a demonstration at Connie Maxwell Farms. Greenwood County landowners were able to attend to learn how to properly operate and calibrate the new drill.

Other Notable Accomplishment

GSWCD worked with landowners to educate and provide trapping services to help inhibit the destruction caused by feral hogs in our county. Educational efforts have increased the amount of landowner trappings. The district has acquired three commercial traps that are available for landowner use.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 44 new conservation program contracts covering more than 9,500 acres in Greenwood County
- 269 acres planted with our new no-till drill
- More than 300 hogs trapped by our District Trapping Program in 2022 with more than 2,200 hogs trapped since program started

2023 District Plans

- Host a Spring and Fall Field Day/Workshop
- Continue to assist local schools, FFA, Cattlemen's Association, and other organizations in our county

Hampton

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

As part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Project, the Hampton Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) hosted a feral swine trapping demonstration in the spring of 2022. Attendees had the opportunity to speak with specialists about laws, regulations, and property management options. Two different types of traps used in Hampton County were on display, and eligible landowners could sign up for free feral hog trapping.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services completed its fourth year in Hampton County. Last fiscal year, 899 hogs were captured with the assistance of four APHIS technicians and one biologist. They have worked on over 51 properties in the county, with access to almost 40,000 acres and managed up to 18 traps. The district staff are the local contact for assisting the technicians with the purchase of supplies and equipment and coordinating landowners who want trapping assistance on their property.



A local landowner discussing feral hog property damage with a research specialist.



APHIS technician discussing with landowners how a Pig Brig net trap works.

Other Notable Accomplishments



In March 2022, the puppet show Litter Trashes Everyone reached more than 250 students and teachers at two elementary schools.



Participated in the 80th Annual Hampton County Watermelon Festival with environmental information and a watermelon sun catcher craft.

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 2,000 students and citizens were reached via educational contests, programs and booths at local events
- 29 Affiliate Members with HSWCD
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2 million for conservation practices in Hampton County
- 14,906 acres are enrolled in conservation programs in Hampton County

2023 District Plans

- Host an Earth Day Recycling Contest
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team and assist on competition day
- Participate in Read Across America Day
- Increase in state appropriated funds will be used to meet staffing needs and expand educational programs

Horry

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

The Horry Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) goal for 2022 was to complete two 319 water quality projects. HSWCD has assisted with the installation of 286 septic systems and one agricultural livestock practice totaling over \$642,969 in cost share money to residents to improve water quality on their land over the last three years. HSWCD assisted 152 homeowners in the Kingston Lake and Crabtree areas. The Little Pee Dee Phase II 319 Grant, assisting 134 homeowners, was completed in December. A broad spectrum of constituents have received assistance through the 319 programs. These 319 Water Quality Improvement Grants are sponsored by SCDHEC (funded by EPA) and have improved water quality in Horry County. The cost share grant rates are 60% for cost-share assistance and 40% landowner expense for septic system/sewer taps with reduced assistant percentages for rentals and agricultural best management practices.



Before water quality project funding assisted in fixing a failing septic tank system.



After water quality project funding assisted in fixing a failing septic tank system.

Other Notable Accomplishments



NACD grant to provide two district technicians to assist with installation of practices.



Planting of 6,000 acres of cover crop in Horry County for 2022.

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 5,000 students learned about stormwater and conservation through HSWCD Essay Contest
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2.4 million for conservation practices that will impact almost 15,000 acres in Horry County
- Completed PL566 Watershed Plans for 6 watersheds to assist in funding request to rehabilitate the watersheds and reduce flooding issues in the county

2023 District Plans

- Secure NACD Grant for technical assistance to provide 2 district technicians
- Sponsor 2 SC Envirothon teams and attend Swampfest using additional state appropriated funds
- Host Baby Animal Day Workshop and Watershed Directors and Stormwater Annual Meeting
- Assist SCDHEC with 319 grants

Jasper

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) recognized Mr. John Carswell with the prestigious award of Conservationist of the Year for 2022 at our Annual Gorden Wells Memorial Benefit. This ceremony and auction is to benefit the Blue Heron Nature Center, our communities wildlife, and conservation learning and youth center. Mr. Carswell was the owner of Cypress Creek Plantation which remains in his family today. He has done so much for the youth of Jasper County by conducting hunts, camp outs, arrowhead hunts, and seminars on natural wildlife preservation for our community. Mr. Carswell is known for being a true wildlife management steward, and his exemplary timber management of Cypress Creek is a testament to this. He placed significant acreage in a conservation easement and guided others in the Jasper community to do the same. Funds raised from this event allowed the district to refurbish our display room and continue our natural resource education efforts to our community, especially our youth. Congratulations to Mr. John Carswell for his outstanding achievement and continuing to be a sustainable land and wildlife steward.



Chairman Tommy Stanley and John Carswell at the Annual Gorden Wells Memorial Benefit.



Commissioner Stan Wells and John Carswell at the Annual Gorden Wells Memorial Benefit.

Other Notable Accomplishments



District received Leaders Against Litter Award 2022 from the Assn. of SC Counties to Keep Jasper County Beautiful for collecting 55 tons of litter.



JSWCD hosted the Edisto/Savannah Area Conservation Districts Annual Meeting with 39 attendees from 9 counties.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 51 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground on approximately 1,500 acres
- 2,015 students reached with presentations on litter, recycling, container gardening, local wildlife habitat and good conservation practices
- Assisted with implementation of \$30,589 in conservation practices on more than 200 acres of land in Jasper County

2023 District Plans

- Increase in state appropriated funds will be used for administrative support, conservation education for the schools, and speaker series seminars for landowners utilizing the Blue Heron Nature Center
- Partner with Clemson Extension to offer certification seminars/classes
- Assist Jasper County in comprehensive plan for best management practices for developers and landowners

Kershaw

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

"Healthy Soils, Healthy Life" was the theme for the 2022 Stewardship Week Campaign. Kershaw Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD) strived to make this an awareness campaign that would reach as many different aspects of the community as possible. Kershaw County Council signed a proclamation designating the week of April 24th-May 1st as Stewardship Week in the county. The presentation to Council included the various ways in which the community could participate. Schools, restaurants, local media, branches of the Kershaw County Library, and churches from all denominations came together to help resound the message that we ALL have a responsibility in the protection, care, and management of our natural resources. During this process of involving the media, local radio station WPUB aired a PSA every day during the week. This effort led to the creation of "A Minute from the Conservation District". This will be an ongoing PSA that will provide a simple conservation fact that changes from month-to-month.



A Food Lion customer carries groceries out in bags decorated by students from Camden Elementary School.



Governor Henry McMaster signs a proclamation in support of Stewardship Week across the state of South Carolina.

Other Notable Accomplishments



KSWCD sponsored a Forest Health and Invasive Species workshop coordinated by the local Clemson Extension.



An Affiliate Membership Drive was made possible with additional state appropriated funds.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 50 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 200 students educated about the effects stormwater runoff
- 50 landowners educated about forest health
- 350 youth educated about the effects of litter

2023 District Plans

- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Attain 10 new affiliate memberships
- Sponsor a shelter at the Nature as Teacher Preserve
- Provide tree plaques for trees in the county planted by KSWCD
- Coordinate 2 PLT workshops for teachers

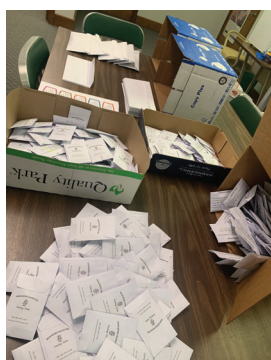
Lancaster

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

2022 has been a very big year for Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD)! The funding we receive from the county and state were critical in our successful year. We appreciate all of the support from our local, state, and federal partners. The increase in state appropriated funds is helping our education program. We are providing more resources to our local FFA/Ag Teachers to support the SC Envirothon Competition. We are creating three training trunks for the teachers/students to use as they prepare for this annual competition. We also increased our contributions to NACD.

During the 2022 SCACD Annual Partnership Awards Program, we had three conservationists from our county receive recognition: Amanda Roberts, District Manager for 15 years of service with Lancaster SWCD; Gayle Posipanko, Conservation Educator of the Year- Secondary Level (7th-12th) Buford High School Ag/FFA teacher; Joe Ghent, Commissioner, for 20 years of service with Lancaster SWCD.



District sent out a total of 670 packages through Sowing Seeds Program. Over 3,450 individual packets of seeds were sent to landowners in the spring of 2022.



Cane Creek and Little Lynchies Watershed Board completed maintenance on and SCDHEC and NRCS completed inspections on the five flood control lakes.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Chairman Joe Ghent and District Manager Amanda Roberts attended Conservation Day at the State House.



Lancaster SWCD hosted the SCACD East Piedmont Area Meeting.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,370 acres enrolled in conservation programs in Lancaster County
- 41 active conservation contracts on 4,717 acres
- 22 new conservation program applications on file for 2023
- Lancaster/Chesterfield Offices had the most EQIP Applications funded in 2022!

2023 District Plans

- Sponsor SC Envirothon teams for high schools and Book of the Month Program for elementary schools
- Provide conservation awards and education mini grants
- Host Arbor Day Event and Conservation Education Contests and Scholarships
- Maintain five flood control lakes

Laurens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through additional state appropriated funds, Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) was able to launch a seed library in partnership with the local library! To date, 300 seed envelopes have been distributed. Plans for 2023 Seed Library are underway with a goal to increase the number of seed envelopes by at least 100.

Seed libraries are an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about agriculture and educate about where food comes from to youth and urban citizens. This seed library also has potential to help mitigate a food desert in the area by teaching citizens how to grow their own food. In conjunction with seed packets being available at the library, we also set up a booth at our Adair Center Fall Festival. We are very excited to see how the program and partnerships grow in the coming years!



Other Notable Accomplishments



Our annual photo contest was once again a huge success - receiving 148 entries. The winners will be celebrated at our banquet in February.



We hosted the first Pioneer Day at the Adair Outdoor Education Center for a local home school group!

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 500 third graders impacted by Team Ecology
- 22 new landowners contracted to put conservation on the ground in Laurens County
- 1,470 acres in Laurens County enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2 million for conservation practices in Laurens County

2023 District Plans

- Grow district's Fall Festival to be an anticipated event by the community every year
- Recruit new Team Ecology Volunteers
- Assist with more Keep Laurens County Beautiful clean up events

Lee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Lee Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) was instrumental in completing conservation planning on more than 14,000 acres of cropland, pastureland, and forestland in 2022. Conservation was applied on over 10,000 acres of land to improve water quality, soil health, livestock health, forestland health, and wildlife habitat. LSWCD worked hand-in-hand with the local NRCS office to offer technical knowledge and Farm Bill programs to our constituents.

LSWCD wished Larry Garner, a 42-year NRCS soil technician alumni, the best in his retirement. Larry is a well known face to all the producers in Lee County, and he will be greatly missed. LSWCD welcomed a new employee to the conservation field this year - Wil Vanderlinde joined the Bishopville office as a Soil Conservationist and is already making inroads to provide technical assistance to the producers in our district.



Christy McCormack, LSWCD Clerk, speaks to students at Lee Central High School about conservation and conservation careers.



Prescribed Burning and Timber Stand Improvement completed on 1,100 acres enhanced and created much needed habitat for quail and other ground nesting birds.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Fencing enables producers to practice prescribed grazing-protecting water quality, reducing soil erosion, and improving grazing for livestock.



Seasonal high tunnels completed in Lee County enable producers to create niche markets for their produce.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 3,800 acres planted to cover crops and trees to enhance carbon sequestration
- 6,200 acres of residue management completed to improve soil health on cropland
- 35 children educated on water quality issues at Camp 4 H2O
- More than 200 landowners assisted in the office with conservation technical assistance

2023 District Plans

- Participate in 2023 SCACD Poster Contest
- Increase carbon sequestration practices by 1,000 acres to lower Lee County's carbon footprint
- Host a Seasonal High Tunnel Workshop using additional state appropriated funds
- Participate in the Camp 4 H2O for school children

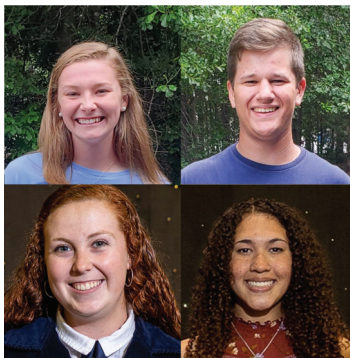
Lexington

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

With the world still recovering from the pandemic, 2022 was a hard year for in-school programs. To help combat this, Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) focused their efforts on providing financial education assistance through scholarships and mini-grants. With the increase in state appropriated funds, LSWCD was able to reallocate the funds received during the 2022's Affiliate Drive towards education assistance and award four scholarships (two at \$1,500 and two at \$750).

Although the scholarships are helpful, they can only help one student at a time, that is why the Mini-Grants are so vital. The Mini-Grants are available to any public, private, home school association or alternative school and they can apply for up to \$500 in grant funding to support conservation projects and youth environmental education. This year, LSWCD had three recipients for the Mini-Grants: White Knoll High School, Brookland-Cayce High School and Leaphart Elementary.



2022 scholarship winners



White Knoll High School students used the grant money they were awarded to build a greenhouse.

Other Notable Accomplishments



RH Fulmer Middle School was presented with a tree on Arbor Day to celebrate Megan Carrero winning 2022 State Middle Level Principal of the Year.



District Manager John Oxner, and Commissioner Gunter preparing trees for transport during the Bradford Pear Bounty.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 55 Affiliate Members partnered with the district to promote conservation through our Scholarship and Educational Contests
- Nearly 1,300 individuals received conservation programs and event information through our Facebook page
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$3.5 million for conservation practices in Lexington County

2023 District Plans

- Work with Scott Lynch of Blaze LLC to establish Lexington Outdoors
- Partner with Farm Bureau and Lexington School Districts to provide Ag in the Classroom to both public and private schools
- Work towards conducting conservation and agricultural summer camps

Marion

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

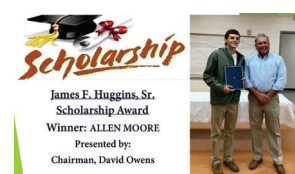


David B. Owens grew up on a farm in the Gapway Community of Mullins, SC. David has implemented conservation practices and enhancements across his operation for over two decades on more than 1,600 acres of cropland. Some practices include conservation crop rotation, nutrient, pest, and residue management, no-till/strip till, soil and energy management, cover crop with multiple species, cover crop systems, and wildlife enhancement with standing grain. All of these have had both measurable and immeasurable impacts on water quality, soil quality, soil health, improved farming operations, and lowered impacts from management, also benefits to wildlife. This has helped improve infiltration and runoff, benefited management inputs, increased the flexibility of crop management, and improved the overall quality of the land. David also grows and sells rye, wheat oats, and pumpkin seeds. David is living by example as a conservation farmer carrying out conservation practices every day and sharing his knowledge with other local farmers while preserving the land here in Marion County.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Each year the district reaches many students in 5th-8th grades with the Annual Essay Competition. Awards are presented by commissioners. This year the topic was "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life"!



Conservation by the Numbers

- 1,437 acres planted through rentals of the district's no-till drills and Brillion seeder
- \$1,000 awarded with the James F. Huggins, Sr. Scholarship
- 1,200 litanies, bookmarks, and activity placemats distributed for Soil Stewardship Week
- Conservation Essay Competition and Banquet for all Marion County 5th – 8th grade students

2023 District Plans

- Use additional state appropriated funds to host 2 workshops and provide a cost-share program for tree planting/site prep for landowners on conservation topics
- Attain 10 additional affiliate memberships
- Participate in NACD Poster Contest, assist with new school agriculture programs, double our James F. Huggins, Sr. Scholarship to \$2,000

Marlboro

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Marlboro Soil and Water Conservation District's (MSWCD) biggest achievement for 2022 was reinvigorating outreach efforts post COVID restrictions. Once restrictions were lifted, MSWCD made outreach a main focus for the year. The district plans to increase funding for education and outreach with additional state appropriated funds.

In June, MSWCD and NRCS visited a 4-H summer program where we talked about the benefits of soil health, cover crops, where food comes from, and a usable soil demonstration. At the beginning of the school year, we went to Wallace Elementary where the NRCS truck was in a parade to showcase work vehicles in the county. We also discussed the benefits MSWCD and NRCS provide to the community including water quality improvements and wildlife benefits. In November, Marlboro High School had an event for job recruitment for ages 16 and older. This event recruited 10 Earth Team Volunteers sparking interest to seek a career in conservation and agriculture!



Wallace Elementary Parade with NRCS work truck



Marlboro High School Job Recruitment Fair

Other Notable Accomplishments



MWSCD voted for Johnathan M. Helms to be featured as a NRCS success story. Johnathan is a 4th generation farmer in Marlboro County. Johnathan's operation focuses on rotational row cropping (approximately 1,400 acres). NRCS has increased yields and reduced cost inputs for Johnathan by improving his soil health, water availability, wildlife enhancements. According to Johnathan, "Helping us execute precision agriculture is the largest contribution NRCS provided for our operations."

Conservation by the Numbers

- 275 landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on the ground
- 9,566 acres in Marlboro County are enrolled in conservation programs
- 150 students taught about conservation through outreach

2023 District Plans

- Increase conservation outreach and education
- Distribute seed packets to students and citizens of Marlboro County
- Attain additional affiliate memberships
- Promote rental of the district's cover crop seeder

McCormick

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

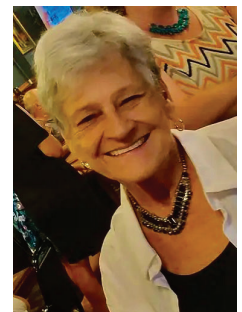


McCormick Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) Board Chairman - Mr. Bob Edmonds - presented the Annual Bob Edmonds Conservation Scholarship to outstanding high school students enrolled in the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. The scholarship supports the rigorous agricultural education program that challenges motivated high school students to develop their interest in agriculture and natural resources. The scholarship's name honors Edmonds for his considerable service on the conservation board since 1980. Mr. Edmonds also contributed to the John de la Howe School Foundation to help offset the travel costs for 22 FFA students to attend the 95th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

In a news release on October 17, 2022, President Tim Keown said, "We are grateful to the McCormick Soil and Water Conservation Board and Mr. Edmonds's dedication to cultivating future leaders in the agricultural industry."

Other Notable Accomplishment

MSWCD recognized Phyllis Albert for 22 years of outstanding and meritorious service as District Clerk. She has handled the aesthetics for holding the annual Cedar Hill Field Day, a hands-on exercise sponsored by the district for fourth grade students from 2005 to 2018 and the district-sponsored Annual Community Appreciation Banquet from 2014 to 2019.



Conservation by the Numbers

- 150 McCormick residents reached with conservation efforts
- 5,097 acres in McCormick County were enrolled in conservation programs
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$260,000 for conservation practices in McCormick County

2023 District Plans

- Award scholarships to the Governor's School of Agriculture
- Sponsor FFA at Governor's School of Agriculture
- Host a Photo Contest for McCormick High School students
- Sponsor SC Envirothon using additional state appropriated funds

Newberry

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the 1st Keep Newberry Beautiful Summer Fair August 25-28, 2022 with support from Newberry County, City of Newberry, Clinton Newberry Gas Authority, T Mobile and others. This is the first fair in more than 20 years in Newberry County. We saw more than 10,000 visitors in four days. Fifteen quality amusement rides, fun games, fair food, nine food trucks, more than 30 retail and community booths. There was a stage with a DJ during the day and live local bands played throughout those hot summer nights. The Historical Society opened their museum to view relics from our past. Admission was free to the public. Proceeds from the fair fund beautification projects, mini grants, and scholarships for students attending secondary schools.

Other Notable Accomplishment

Hosted the 8th Annual Camp Conservation. A week-long summer day camp with 37 children in attendance. Programs teach our youth about our resources and how to protect them including: fishing, forestry, logging, EnviroScape, water games, vermicomposting, wild animals including snakes, alligators, and a huge vulture. Plus, a tour of the water treatment facility in Newberry.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$4 million for conservation practices in Newberry County
- More than 140 soil samples tested for local landowners
- 950 students impacted with conservation programs
- 44 miles of roadway cleaned with 202 bags of trash removed which equals 3,030 lbs of litter!

2023 District Plans

- Host 2nd Keep Newberry Beautiful Summer Fair to include an agriculture component, 9th Annual Camp Conservation, Annual Legislative Breakfast, and Movie Night on the Farm
- Use additional state appropriated funds to continue scholarship, education, and litter prevention and cleanup programs
- Complete 3rd year of Feral Swine Pilot Program

Oconee

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In 2022, Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District (OSWCD) updated its 5-year Strategic Plan. Primary goals designated within the plan include increased conservation planning with local governments, increased conservation awareness through community education outreach, and increased awareness and support of current and future farmers in Oconee County.

The increase in state appropriated funds enabled OSWCD to start and maintain the Oconee Seed Exchange which is designed to encourage community members to engage in gardening, harvesting vegetables, and saving seeds to exchange with other community members. Packets of seeds are available in the district's Seed Bank to all community members. In addition, a program named "Sprout for Sprouts" was initiated to assist local K-12 teachers in gaining instructional materials and supplies geared towards lessons in seed germination and growth. Teachers can visit the office to get seeds, peat cups, and other materials for individual classes or whole grade levels to learn about the planting and germination process and to raise plants they can put in their own home gardens.

OSWCD participated in the South Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair in Seneca, SC where an educational outreach booth was maintained by staff. Attendees had access to information related to the importance of local agriculture, conservation, and preservation of natural resources. Our district continues to award the Grobuskly Scholarship to students in Oconee who intend to major in natural resource studies in college, as well as continued promotion of NACD's Art and Essay Contest with this year's theme of "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life". Forty acres of land were placed in an easement this year, and there are five active applications for easement protection in the works!

Other Notable Accomplishments



Oconee County FFA students presented this handmade logo sign to the district in November.



Mark A. Fischer began as new District Manager for OSWCD on November 21, 2022.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 13 students from West-Oak Middle school submitted artwork for the NACD Poster Contest which was made into a calendar
- 10 community youth participated in presentations at Whispering Pines Farm regarding baby goats, lambs, and forage expectations
- 35 FFA members from area middle and high schools participated in our Agricultural Awards Banquet in November

2023 District Plans

- Offer minimum of two conservation workshops for homeowners, farmers, or students
- Continue efforts to promote awareness and use of the district's no-till drill rental program
- Regular updates to district website and social media
- Update and improve educational programs and materials for K-12 public and private schools

Orangeburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

A WATERGOAT device was installed on Sunnyside Canal off of Riverside Dr. in Orangeburg, SC. The WATERGOAT was introduced to Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District (OSWCD) by Mallory Coffey of PalmettoPride/KSCB in 2021. It drew our interest because it removed floating trash from stormwater in canals and ditches. The device is easy to clean without getting into the water. This structure does not obstruct the flow of water and does not catch animals. This project was brought to the City of Orangeburg by a partnership formed with the City of Orangeburg, Department of Public Utilities, OSWCD, and PalmettoPride/KSCB. Funding for the project came from the City of Orangeburg, Department of Public Utilities, and PalmettoPride. The City of Orangeburg is responsible for cleaning the materials that are collected from behind the WATERGOAT. For more information about the WATERGOAT, see our website www.Orangeburgswcd.com and/or contact PalmettoPride at www.PalmettoPride.org or syles@PalmettoPride.org.



OSWCD Commissioners discussing the value of the WATERGOAT to the environment with members of PalmettoPride and Jeff Miles company owner.



The WATERGOAT is located on Sunnyside Canal before the confluence with the North Fork of the Edisto River.

Other Notable Accomplishments



OSWCD hosted 4-H2O Camp at Santee State Park.



Jeans for Teens Project resulted in 377 pounds of material being removed from the waste stream!

Conservation by the Numbers

- More than 500 people volunteered to clean up the Orangeburg County roads in spring and fall 2022
- 6 Eastern redbud trees were planted at 6 schools in celebration of SC Arbor Day that provide for early pollinators
- Assisted with implementation of more than \$2 million for conservation practices on more than 50,000 acres. Almost, \$250,000 of that was for forestry and wildlife!

2023 District Plans

- Promote and grow volunteer base for Litter Cleanups in Orangeburg County in Partnership with PalmettoPride and Keep SC Beautiful
- Grow our presence in the county by dividing the county into sections: East, Central, and West
- Strengthen and build additional partnerships and outreach opportunities through increase in state appropriated funds

Pickens

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) expanded its influence across the county by holding two networking events in 2022. In July, an Appreciation Breakfast was held to express gratitude to everyone who supports the district. In December, in conjunction with a swearing in ceremony for newly elected commissioners and watershed board directors, a holiday reception was held focusing on county officials who support PSWCD and family and friends of newly elected board members! Tyler Brown and Chris Workman from SCDNR-CD administered Oaths of Office. In cooperation with the Anderson SWCD and using additional state appropriated funds, Anaston Porter, Anderson SWCD Education Coordinator, will devote one day a week to promote conservation education in Pickens County. Her first official event was a family craft night instructing families to make wild turkey pine cone crafts and learn how to become backyard environmental stewards. In addition, the county was awarded grant funding by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts to support NRCS programs.



Susan Lunt, Clemson Extension, assists with turkey pine cone craft.



Oaths of Office conducted by Tyler Brown and Chris Workman for newly elected: BJ Sutherland, Steve Pace, Jeff White, Andy Anderson, and Zach Dunaway.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Chuck Owens received Oath of Office for Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District.



Clayton Kerr received Oath of Office for Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 9 new landowners served with conservation technical assistance to put conservation on 569 acres in Pickens County
- 5,126 seed packets distributed to 986 people through district sponsored seed library; 27 students and 8 teachers participated in the education contest (total awards \$730); 80 people attended the district's two networking events
- 133 acres planted through District No-Till Drill Rentals

2023 District Plans

- Sponsor SC Envirothon Team
- Participate in 2023 SC Conservation Partnership Conference; SCACD Poster Contest; Keep Pickens County Beautiful; as well as local festivals, farmers markets, FFA and association meetings
- Establish SC Adopt-a-Stream on the 12-Mile River
- Assist County Council with Tohi Walking Trail

Richland

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through the increase in state appropriated funds, Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) was able to provide additional technical and financial support to local educators to implement school-based conservation projects.

Jennifer Mancke joined the district's program team as a Green Step School Mentor. In this capacity, she meets with school faculty and staff to develop plans for school gardens, wildlife habitats, nature trails, outdoor classrooms, and other campus conservation projects. She also provides technical assistance and training to teachers and leads hands-on learning opportunities for students.

RSWCD awarded nine Conservation Education Mini-Grants totaling \$6,250 to local schools to support pollinator habitats and school gardens in Richland County. Since the launch of the Mini-Grant program in 2012, RSWCD has awarded 91 grants totaling \$39,500.



RSWCD partnered with fourth-graders at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School to plant a Carolina Fence Garden and pollinator habitat in spring 2022.



This winter, students at PACE Academy engaged in hands-on, garden-based learning, thanks to a new raised garden bed and rain barrel supplied by RSWCD.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Community Outreach Intern Diana Llaca-Curiel hosted several pop-up Seed Sanctuary events to distribute free seeds to the community.



RSWCD team members Mary Burts, Hannah Lindsay, Kenny Mullis, and Chanda Cooper received awards from SCACD, NACD, and EEASC in 2022.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 183 educators attended 7 professional development events; 142 farmers and resource professionals attended 5 workshops; 350 people attended 8 community conservation presentations
- 37 classroom presentations delivered to 1,264 students; 111 students from 9 schools entered 2022 poster contest; 10 Green Step Schools mentored by RSWCD staff
- 588 acres managed with RSWCD's no-till drill and crop roller

2023 District Plans

- With financial support from Richland County Conservation Commission, RSWCD will host the Richland County Ag+Art Tour June 10-11, 2023
- Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Dominion Energy, RSWCD will expand the Seed Sanctuary Program
- RSWCD is excited to incentivize SC Envirothon participation by offering \$500 stipends and covering team registration fees for up to four local teams

Saluda

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

In conjunction with Saluda County Clemson Extension Service, the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District held a Pesticide Safety and Proper Pesticide Storage Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The meeting was held at T & S Farm Banquet Hall in Leesville, SC.

This was a very informative meeting focusing on the importance of proper handling, storage, and disposal of all pesticides, including herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

This was a very successful event with 110 landowners in attendance. Everyone had a great time, learned a lot of valuable information, and earned credit towards their pesticide license.



Other Notable Accomplishments



Saluda High School Ag students utilized funds from Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District to plant raised garden beds.

2022 Tomato Project Winners



Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with Saluda County 4-H to help youth learn about growing tomatoes.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 12 FFA students participated in the Raised Garden Bed Project; 100 4-H students were given five tomato plants to learn how to grow tomatoes; 10 FFA students attended the Outdoor Adventure Camp; 258 students received educational materials for Soil Stewardship Week at local schools
- 2 district employees assisted NRCS with EQIP contracts and check-outs

2023 District Plans

- Provide health insurance for our full-time Conservation District Manager
- Host an Annual Banquet and Pesticide Safety and Proper Storage Meeting
- Use increase in state appropriated funds to sponsor FFA Projects, 4-H Projects, Woodland Clinic, and SC Commissioner's School of Agriculture at Clemson University

Spartanburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Through additional state appropriated funds, Spartanburg Soil and Water Conservation District was able to purchase, install, and maintain a WATERGOAT on a local stream. WATERGOATs offer an excellent opportunity to spread awareness about non-point source water pollution and litter, while also taking action to help resolve the issue. The WATERGOAT floats on the surface of Persimmon Creek with a weighted net that hangs about 12" down into the stream. The device catches and holds litter that otherwise would flow downstream, breaking into smaller and smaller pieces until they become very hard to remove. As the WATERGOAT is located in a high traffic portion of the arboretum walkway, it's visibility attracts curious visitors to the nearby educational signage with a QR code that leads to the district's website with further information about WATERGOATs, litter, water quality and the district. The litter collected is sorted, counted, disposed of properly, then the data is shared with the SC Aquarium's Litter-Free Journal. More than 784 pieces of trash and 5 full trash bags have been removed by the WATERGOAT!



The WATERGOAT on Persimmon Creek on the USC Upstate Campus, installed on 10/5/2022. Ready to catch litter!



The WATERGOAT is cleaned as necessary. Most of what is removed is styrofoam and other environmentally harmful plastics.

Other Notable Accomplishments



County students participated in the NACD Poster Contest. Winning submissions appear in a 2023 calendar for Affiliate Members.



A soil friendly low-till Firminator and trailer were purchased for rental by county residents.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 387 acres tilled responsibly with district rental equipment
- 1,155 community member contacts through programs and events plus more via social media and website; more than 250 seed packets donated to local Seed Library; 1 scholarship presented to a high school student
- District contributes data to 4 citizen science projects
- 10 native trees planted on Arbor Day

2023 District Plans

- Sponsor at least 2 SC Envirothon Teams and manage a SC Envirothon Training Trunk
- Participate in the NACD Poster Contest
- Continue citizen science programs (SC Adopt-A-Stream, Project Feeder Watch, CoCoRaHS, and the SC Aquarium's Litter Free Journal)
- Continue No-till Gardening Video Series

Sumter

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



Through additional state appropriated funds, Sumter Soil and Water Conservation District (SSWCD) was able to purchase a spreader! In addition to our No-Till Drill and Feral Hog Traps, the spreader will now be available for producers in our county to rent.

Spreaders aid in sustainable production for higher yields in crops and maintain the health of the soil through accurate and precise distribution of fertilizer. Spreaders assist producers in improving soil health and hastening plant development.

Other Notable Accomplishments



Local Work Group Meeting held in June 2022 was a well-attended success, uniting environmental stakeholders in Sumter County.



SSWCD attended Sumter Art in the Park April 2022 and the eSTEAM festival in November 2022.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 9,200 students and adults educated through outreach at Sumter eSTEAM and Art in the Park
- 35 local environmental stakeholders participated in a Local Work Group to address resource concerns in Sumter County
- 60 landowners provided conservation technical assistance
- 2 Fellows selected and participated in the Annual Sumter Soil and Water Conservation District Fellowship Program

2023 District Plans

- Attend at least two environmental fairs/festivals in Sumter County
- Sponsor SC Envirothon team
- Host Environmental Sciences Teacher Workshop
- Participate in SCACD Poster Contest

Union

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022



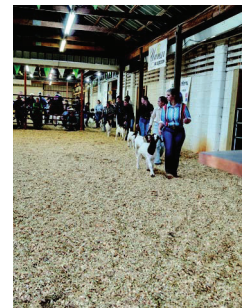
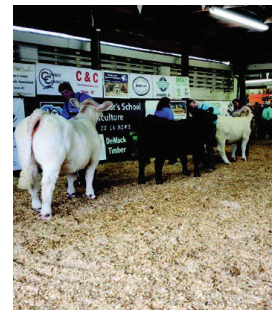
Union County Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) was a sponsor for the 2022 Upstate Livestock Show held in Union, SC on September 19 - October 1.

Exhibitors from across NC, SC, and GA came to showcase their beef cattle, dairy cattle, pigs, and meat goats across the 3 day event.

The Upstate Livestock Show is hosted annually by the Union County Livestock Association.

Other Notable Accomplishment

This year, the UCLA raised more than \$38,000 from sponsors to give cash payouts, scholarships, belt buckles, banners, and laser cut ear tags to winners. USWCD helped sponsor these events.



Conservation by the Numbers

- Assisted with implementation of more than \$850,000 for conservation practices in Union County
- 230 students were involved in the Upstate Livestock Show

2023 District Plans

- Maintain Watershed Dams
- Host Conservation Poster Contest for 3rd Graders
- Obtain 10 new Affiliate Memberships
- Sponsor Upstate Livestock Show and at least 2 Commissioners to attend Annual South Carolina Conservation Partnership Conference using additional state appropriated funds

Williamsburg

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD) hosted a Learn to Burn Workshop. Fire is a necessary tool in forest management, but it is very dangerous if not used properly. In February, WSWCD held a workshop to educate participants about the proper ways to conduct and maintain a burn. They were taught by Forester Ron Holt the proper pre-burn preparations including how to make a burn plan and how to notify the South Carolina Forestry Commission of a burn. They were taught about the effects of the weather and how to do a test fire. Liability issues were discussed as well as how to get assistance. Different burning techniques were conducted to show different ways to burn. The attendees were then allowed to take part in a burn by using a drip torch and securing the burn while under close supervision of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. A successful burn was conducted, and those in attendance gained a lot of useful information.

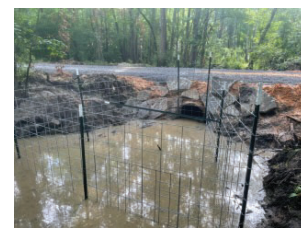


A participant is shown how to use the drip torch to start the fire.



A demonstration was done on burning uphill and downhill to show the vast difference in the burns.

Other Notable Accomplishments



A beaver management project was conducted to show the benefits of using the excluders constructed above to prevent beaver access to the pipes.



WSWCD hosted the Pee Dee Area Meeting in October. Guest speaker, Louis Drucker, gave a presentation of the new Black River State Park.

Conservation by the Numbers

- Using additional state appropriated funds, the district celebrated Arbor Day by purchasing Eastern redbud trees for 253 fifth grade students in the county. The students were treated to a program by Forester GraceAnna Cooper.
- 4,724 students were impacted by the many contests and programs offered by WSWCD
- Workshops and meetings benefited 97 landowners and attendees

2023 District Plans

- Host Annual Poster, Essay, Photo, and Teacher Contests
- Work with Keep Williamsburg Beautiful to help control the litter issues in the county
- Continue to work on the technical assistance grant to assist NRCS with program delivery

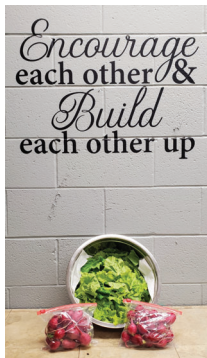
York

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Biggest Achievement of 2022

Our biggest achievement of 2022 was growth. York Soil and Water Conservation District (YSWCD) has worked on networking and developing relationships with local organizations that are focused on similar goals. We have been involved in more schools, summer camps, and outreach events than the previous year. YSWCD was also involved with a local Earth Day event, Ag + Art Tour, and promoting Stormwater outreach and education.

We are thankful for the challenges that the previous years have given us, because they remind us to look forward. As we all continue to face challenges directly, we look forward to the growth of our district and all South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Garden vegetables grown at a local school that participated in our Garden Series Program.



We presented the EnviroScape at Earth Day 2022 held at the York County Material Recovery Facility.

Other Notable Accomplishments



YSWCD presented the EnviroScape weekly for the 2nd year at Curtin Farms in Clover for their "Down on the Farm" Summer Camp.



Bethelwoods (a local summer camp) asked YSWCD to come weekly and present the EnviroScape to campers.

Conservation by the Numbers

- 2,425 acres in York County enrolled in CSP which builds on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations
- 517 acres in York County enrolled in EQIP which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns

2023 District Plans

- Grow Stormwater Program within York County
- Collaborate with local 4-H
- Develop more programs for school outreach
- Use additional state appropriated funds to start a local seed library

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Contacts & Acronyms

Contacts

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Local SWCD contact information can be found here:
<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation>

*All reports were collected from individual district and
SCACD representatives. SCDNR-CD team compiled
and edited individual reports to ensure consistency.

**Cover photo taken by Joey Frazier, SCDNR

Acronyms

APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

CSP - Conservation Stewardship Program

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

EWP - Emergency Watershed Program

FFA - Future Farmers of America

FY - Fiscal Year (federal 10/01/21-09/31/2022; state
07/01/22-06/30/23)

KSCB - Keep South Carolina Beautiful

LWG - Local Work Group

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts

NASCA - National Association of State Conservation Agencies

NCF - National Conservation Foundation

NCFE - National Conservation Foundation Envirothon

NFWF - National Fish and Wildlife Service

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

PLEAF - Palmetto Leadership for the Environment, Agriculture,
and Forestry

PLT - Project Learning Tree

SCACD - South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts

SCCDEA - South Carolina Conservation Districts Employees
Association

SCDHEC - South Carolina Department of Health and
Environmental Control

SCDNR-CD - South Carolina Department of Natural Resources -
Conservation Districts

SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District

TA - Technical Assistance

USDA - United States of Department of Agriculture

2022 Conservation Award Recipients

Outstanding Conservation District
Aiken Soil and Water Conservation District



Outstanding Conservation District Commissioner
Mary Burts, Richland SWCD



Outstanding District Employee
Mary Hannah Lindsay, Richland SWCD



SC Envirothon State Champions
Spartanburg High School



Watershed District of the Year
South Tyger River Watershed District



Outstanding Watershed District Director
Mitch Adkins, Fishing Creek Watershed Board

Conservation Educator of the Year (K-6)
Dr. Jamie Browder, Richland County



Conservation Educator of the Year (7-12)
Gayle Posipanko, Lancaster County





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