



Edgefield Soil & Water

Soil – Not Just Another Four-Letter Word

What is soil? And before you say it, no, it's not dirt! Dirt is soil out of place – like on your hands or feet. Soil is the solid material on the Earth's surface that serves as a natural medium for the growth of plants.

Soil is not only necessary for our food production, but also for our clothing and shelter. Just think about the cotton used to make your shirt and jeans. Where did that cotton grow? What about the wood and bricks in your house?

Most of this is common knowledge. However, there may be many things about soils that you do not understand. There is a website with a plethora of soils information ranging from soil formation to soil songs. There are lesson plans for teachers and coloring pages for kids. You can find posters for your wall and experiments for all. You may be asking, "What is that web address?" It's not a secret, so I guess I will tell you. It is <http://soils.usda.gov/education>. Feel free to stop in and browse anytime.

By: Emory Holsonback

Resources Soil Scientist

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As the soil, however rich it may be, cannot be productive without cultivation, so the mind without culture can never produce good fruit.



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Photo Contest

The Edgefield Soil and Water District held its annual photo contest in February. The contest was open to all 7th grade students that attend Edgefield County Schools. The theme for this year's contest was rural life. The students were asked to take photos of old barns and buildings, or grazing cows. Just using your imagination was the biggest thing we asked. The photos were judged on composition, originality and effectiveness of the theme or category. We received about 25 photos in the contest this year. The First place winner received a MP-3 player Second and third place received cash prizes and fourth place received a McDonald's gift card. We would like to give a special thank you to all of the students and teachers that participated in this years contest. We look forward for another successful contest next year.



First Place Photo Winner:

Taylor Yonce

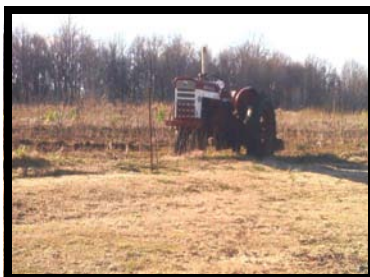


Second Place Photo Winner:

Leigh Northrop



L to R: Caleb Meriwether (Third Place), Taylor Yonce (First Place), Leigh Northrop (Second Place), Jacob Brown (Forth Place)



Third Place Photo Winner:

Caleb Meriwether



Forth Place Photo Winner:

Jacob Brown

SC Envirothon

The 14th annual SC Envirothon was held on May 7th at the Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development. Despite the warm temperatures, nearly 240 students, coaches, staff and volunteers descended upon the Institute to face a day of rigorous academic and hands-on testing.

Students were tested on Aquatics, Forestry, Oral Presentation, the Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning, Soils, and Wildlife. The oral presentation that the students must prepare before the competition demands a working knowledge of every station, and an ability to analyze the information, coordinate with their team a course of action, and illustrate a plan for implementation. The teams had to present a comprehensive water management plan for a large SC county considering drought, population increases, ground and surface water protection, urban and agricultural needs, and storm water management. Hardly what most students eagerly do on a Friday afternoon !

The staff and volunteers that participated left the competition knowing that they had had a small impact on the future of this state. The Envirothon prepares these students for issues that are now, and will continue to challenge our leaders. All 23 teams from across the state left with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that they gave their best shot and that they now have a better grasp of the environmental issues. Some of the teams also walked away with college scholarships and station awards !



Two Teams that the Edgefield District Sponsored from Strom Thurmond .

Coloring Contest

The district held one of its contest that always has a great turn out. The coloring contest is open to all Kindergarten students in Edgefield county. This years coloring sheet was about fresh water habitats. The coloring sheets were judged on creativity, originality. Ten different classes with over 150 students participated in this years contest the largest turn out that the district has had since starting this contest. The

schools that sent in coloring sheets were Parker, Johnston, Douglas, Merriwether. Each classes received a basket full of classroom supplies and something special for each student. I would like to thank each and every teacher and student that made our contest a HUGE success. The district looks forward to another great turn out next year.



Each Class received a basket filled with class room supplies !

2010 Affiliate Members

Platinum Membership :

Strom Thurmond Career Center
Thompson Forest Consultants

Silver Membership:

John Kemp

The Edgefield District appreciates all of our affiliate members who donated this year. You as members have helped keep our education programs going for our students in the county. The Commissioners & staff would like to thank each of you for your generous donations.

Gold Membership :

White Columns Farms
North Augusta Animal Hospital
Ernest Bryan
Warren Whitlock
Pioneer Clearing
Log Creek Timber Company

Bronze Membership:

Town of Edgefield
Yonce Ford
State Farm (Tom Long)
Vann Family Partnership
Johnston Animal Hospital
Edgefield County Farm Bureau
Edgefield Dental Clinic
(Dr. Randy Bryan)
Town of Trenton
Claude Humphries
Edgefield County Chamber of
Commerce
Yonce Promised Land Farm

People's Garden

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack challenged all USDA employees to create a "People's Garden". USDA is collaborating with First Lady Michelle Obama to emphasize the link between gardening and healthy lifestyles and a key component is educating our youth through the use of gardens.

Edgefield County FSA and NRCS offices planted a spring "People's Garden" at their Service Center. It was a team effort between both agencies. We planted squash, cucumbers, peppers, watermelons, tomatoes and egg plants. The produce that is grown in the garden is to be donated to the needy. Shawn Risher Chief Professional Officer/BGCA with the Salvation Army Nancy Moore Thurmond Boys & Girls Clubs of Aiken, SC along with a few of the children that go to the club came by the Service Center to collect the produce. Mr. Risher stated, "For several of these children, this was the first time they ever saw a garden and picked fresh produce. They enjoyed very much getting into the garden and picking some produce. Some of our local farmers heard about what we were doing and wanted to donate fruit and vegetables to the children. J.W. Yonce and Sons donated peaches, Titan Farms donated watermelons and peppers and Derrick farms donated squash. We would like to thank all of the local farmers for the donations. The children want to come back when we plant our fall garden.

Submitted By: Virginia Johnson , Edgefield FSA Office



In the photo is Shawn Risher with The Boys & Girls Club along with a few of the children from the club. Virginia Johnson and Nanette Hughes, Edgefield County FSA Office, Lee Nicholson, NRCS Office, Kelley Hyler, Soil & Water Conservation District. Keith Ritter, Edgefield County Executive Director for FSA states, "The team effort made all of the difference."

Edgefield Welcomes New DC

The Edgefield County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to welcome the new District Conservationist for Edgefield County Mr. Clifford B. Eaddy. Mr. Eaddy began work as the Edgefield NRCS District Conservationist on June 7th. Cliff is originally from Manning, SC where he previously served as their District Conservationist. Cliff has an array of experience in working with NRCS, he began work as a Soil Conservationist in Berkley and Abbeville County and later became a District Conservationist and served York and Manning. Cliff Now resides in Johnston, SC with his wife and two children. Mr. Eaddy is very eager to assist in conservation applications and has become a very valued asset to the Edgefield NRCS. Once again we would like to say welcome to Edgefield.

Submitted By: Jeffrey Epps, Edgefield NRCS

Edgefield Commissioners & Staff

Bill Smith, Chairman

Reg Williams, Commissioner

Joe Alvin Derrick, Treasurer

Malcolm O'Neal, Commissioner

Suzanne Holmes, Commissioner

Bob Bowie, Associate Commissioner

Kelley Hyler, District Staff

Lee Nicholson, Soil Conservation Technician

Jeffrey Epps, Soil Conservationist

Cliff Eaddy, District Conservationist

Feel Free to Contact us with any questions !

304 Gray Street

Edgefield, SC 29824

637-3220 Ext: 3

Check us out on the web at :

www.edgefieldconservation.com

Calendar of Events

October

Oct. 6, 2010.....District Meeting @ 7:00pm

Oct. 11,2010Columbus Day (office closed)

November

Nov. 3 , 2010.....District Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Nov. 11, 2010Veterans Day(office closed)

Nov. 25, 2010 .Thanksgiving Day(office Closed)

December

Dec. 24, 2010.....Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 ,2010.....Christmas Day

Dec. 31, 2010New Year's Eve

January

Jan. 1, 2011.....New Year's Day

February

Feb. 2, 2011.....District Meeting @ 7:00pm

Feb. 14, 2011.....Valentine's Day

Lander University Hosts SC Conservation Workshop for Youth

Once again, the Conservation Districts of South Carolina have provided a premier environmental education experience for the high school students of the state. Students in grades 11 and 12 were sponsored by their Districts to a week-long residential education experience at Lander University. Kinsley Reeves, Haley Gobat, and Sierra Wright were sponsored by the Edgefield Soil and Water Conservation District to attend. Each of these young ladies received one hour of college credit for their participation.

Subjects included soils, water and water quality, and forest management to name just a few. In addition, they were given the opportunity to participate in a river trip by canoe and kayak on the beautiful Saluda River, from Ware Shoals to the upper end of Lake Greenwood.

This event is sponsored annually by the SC Conservation Districts Foundation, the SC Conservation Districts Association, and Lander University. Each student competes for college scholarships and receives credit transferable to any institution of higher education upon successful completion of the comprehensive final examination. Students interested in participating in the 2011 program should contact the District at 803-637-3220, extension 3.

Submitted By: Neil Bartley

Students observe some of the powerful equipment used in a modern logging operation. Here, Tim Williams of Log Creek Timber explains how the cutter operates. Many thanks to Log Creek Timber for shutting down their harvest operation for this tour.

