



GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

October—December

Volume II



TARA HALL RECEIVES GRANT From Lowcountry RC&D

Tara Hall Home for Boys, located in rural Georgetown County, received a \$750.00 grant from the Lowcountry Resource Conservation and Development Council's Youth Environmental Educational Grant Program. This program was created to encourage and enhance natural resources education for South Carolina's young adults. The funding for these grants is provided by the Council's Wildlife Incentives Program seed sales.

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with Outreach Farm to help the boys of Tara Hall plant a garden in 2005. The District provided seed, fertilizer and along with NRCS, provided technical assistance in planting the garden. This worked well for several years. The boys grew a variety of vegetables, such as cucumbers, squash, watermelons, cantaloupe, tomatoes, collard and broccoli. They thoroughly enjoyed eating what they had grown. In 2009, materials for a greenhouse were donated to Tara Hall and it was decided that having the garden on the property would work out better for everybody. The greenhouse was assembled with the help of volunteers. Tara Hall is planning on using the grant money from Lowcountry RC&D to add heaters, blowers, and irrigation to the donated greenhouse.



Jay Potter, center, from the Lowcountry RC&D Board presented the check to Jim Dumm, Director of Tara Hall and Patsy Morris.

Tara Hall is a home for boys who are neglected, abused, or troubled. *"Tara Hall's purpose is to provide residential, educational and family services to boys from the state of South Carolina."* They accept boys from the age of six to twelve, with a preference given to boys from the Grand Strand, Low Country, and Pee Dee areas.

For more information on Tara Hall Home for Boys, go to www.tarahall.org.



Tara Hall is located on eleven acres on Mingo Creek in the northwestern area of Georgetown County. A view of beautiful Mingo Creek from the deck outside the cafeteria and recreation room at Tara Hall can be seen in the picture above.



A Note from Your Commissioners....

Please remember to send in your Affiliate Membership Dues. If you haven't paid your 2009 dues, you can still do so.

Thank you for your continued support of the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District. We look forward to working with you on all your conservation needs in 2010!!

The Envirothon Competition is fast approaching. Deadline for team registration is April 2, 2010. The competition will be held on May 7 at the Sandhill Center in Columbia.

Information on the 2010 Scholarships will be coming out soon!!

EDUCATION

Carolina Coastal Adventure



The 2009 Carolina Coastal Adventure was a huge success with many students from across the state attending. This hands-on workshop is for 9th and 10th graders. The goal of this workshop is to help each student realize that healthy aquatic ecosystems are valuable resources that provide human communities with clean water, food, recreation, and unique cultural traditions. Activities included classroom instruction in water quality analysis, canoeing in a cypress swamp at Old Santee Canal Park, and a tour of the Jeffries Steam Plant on the Tail Race Canal. Representing Georgetown County in October of 2009 was Matthew Justice of Andrews. He is shown pictured at the left with Lindsey Fairchilds with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Classroom Presentations

District Staff provided classroom instruction to seventh graders at Rosemary Middle and Georgetown Middle Schools. This instruction was an overview of the things learned in the unit on soil conservation. Below left, Debbie Mann explains how to use an auger to look at and identify soils. In the photo at right below, Gordon Mikell demonstrates run-off by using the Enviroscope. Along with these exercises, instructional time in the classroom also was used to explain many aspects of soil conservation and natural resources.



Conservation Photo Contest for Seventh Graders

The District once again sponsored a Conservation Photo Contest for Seventh Graders. This contest was held in the month of September and ended on October 9, 2009 to coincide with the student's unit on Soils. Only two schools in the county participated. They were Georgetown Middle and Rosemary Middle. The students were given a choice of specific categories and were urged to be very creative. The categories were: Landscapes, Native Wildlife, Rural life, and Trees and Plants. First and Second Place Winners and honorable Mention Winners were chosen for each school.



Winners from Rosemary Middle are shown with Mr. Cavaris and Science Teacher Barbara Player. They are: Kayla Pitts, Dean Lambert, and Zachary Gunter,

Georgetown Middle Seventh Grade Science Teacher Nina Runion is shown to the right with Second Place Winner Gerald German.



First Place Photos:



*First Place: "Farmville"
Category: Rural Life
By: Harley Bavrier
Georgetown Middle School*

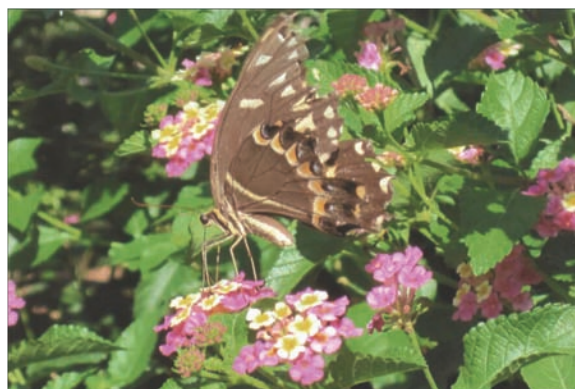


*First Place: "Cotton 'N' Color"
Category: Rural life
By: Brooks Cribb
Rosemary Middle School*

Second Place Photos:



*Second Place: "The Marsh"
Category: Landscape
By: Gerald German
Georgetown Middle School*



*Second Place: "Butterfly"
Category: Native Wildlife
By: Kayla Pitts
Rosemary Middle School*

Honorable Mention Photos:





2010 DCP Signup

Enrollment for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2010. USDA urges producers to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or producers can visit any USDA Service Center to complete their 2010 DCP contract.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2010, eligible producers may request advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment.

Farm Operators Subleasing Cropland

All producers planting **DCP base acres** must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payments for the farm. Producers, who enroll a farm in DCP/ACRE and at a later date sub-lease DCP cropland to another producer, **MUST** revise the DCP Contract to reflect the proportionate share of the additional producer. Failure to report the new producer and revise the DCP/ACRE contract shares is a contract violation which will result in contract termination and loss of payments for **all** producers on the farm.



Program Update From Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): 3 applications funded
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 6 applications funded
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): 1 application funded

All programs are continuous signup with cut off dates for funding.

NRCS offers technical assistance for all landowners. Program participation is not required for technical assistance to be provided.

For more information on program and conservation practices, contact the Georgetown NRCS office.



RC&D Projects: Dry Hydrant
Gordon Mikell, Soil Conservationist, spreads some grass seed to the finished area around a dry hydrant

The pictures below are the before and after of a Heavy Use Area installation for livestock. This practice improves water quality as well as animal health.



State Leadership Meets in Georgetown County

NRCS's State Leadership Team met in Georgetown County November 17-18, 2009. On Tuesday, November 18, the Leadership Team met at Mt. Pleasant Plantation, where they enjoyed a Chicken Bog lunch prepared by Sam Ward with the SC Department of Natural Resources. Following lunch, Nathaniel Ruth, Commissioner and Manager of Mt. Pleasant, conducted a tour of the plantation to look at quail habitat management. The group then traveled to Rice Hope Plantation to meet with Associate Commissioner Kenny Williams and manager Jim Clark to look at tidal impoundment habitat.



AFFILIATE MEMBERS

*Fitz Allison
Annandale Plantation
Bates Hill Plantation
Baxley Farms
Robbie & Renee Boykin
Bordeaux-Clark Group, Inc.
Herbert Butler
Cagle Construction
Capps Farm
Charles Ingram Lumber Company
Ron Charlton
Clermont Plantation
James O. Creel
Lonnie Creel
Bob Cribb
Samuel O. Cribb*

*Robert Delapp III
Dover Plantation
H.E. Hemingway
Edward Hickson
W. Sherwyn Jacobs
Low Country Forest Products
James W. Moody
Mossdale Plantation
Mt. Pleasant Plantation
Kyle Daniel
Jeffrey T. Owens
Legrand Owens
Martin Owens
Phil Owens
Tommy Owens
Truitt Owens*

*Prevatte & Associates
Wendell Powers
Bob F. Roberts
Roberts Paper Tubes
Santee Cooper
Santee Electric Cooperative
Samuel K. Squires
Stephen R. Squires
Town of Pawleys Island
Wallace & Mary Catherine Vaught
R.E. & Patsy Williams*

****SILENT MEMBERS**

ATTENTION ALL AFFILIATE MEMBERS !!

All 2010 and past 2009 Dues Now being Accepted. If you need any assistance, please call (843) 546-7808 extension 130.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

*Mickey Lankford, Chairman
Mark Johnson, Vice Chairman
Peggy Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne Avant, Commissioner
Nathaniel Ruth, Commissioner
Elery Little, Associate Commissioner
Kenny Williams, Associate Commissioner

Robin Munnerlyn, District Coordinator

Debbie Mann, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist
Gordon Mikell, Soil Conservationist

Krista Noel, SC DNR & NRCS Wildlife Biologist
Sam Ward, SC DNR -LWCD*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2.....*Envirothon Team
Registration Deadline*

April 19.....*Board Meeting*

May 7.....*Envirothon Competition
Sandhill Institute, Columbia*

May 17.....*Board Meeting*

May 31.....*Memorial Day
Holiday*

The Georgetown Conservation District Commissioner's board meeting will be the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. Each meeting begins at 11:00 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, please call the District office at (843) 546-7808 extension 3 for more information.

All programs and services of the Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and DNR-Land, Water, and Conservation Division are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, marital status or handicap.



Georgetown Soil & Water
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