



# Annual Report

## July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- W.E. Corbin, Jr., Chairman*
- Gary Youmans, Vice-Chairman*
- Ray Crapse, Secretary/Treasurer*
- Jimmy Mole, Commissioner*
- Terrell Smith, Commissioner*
- Emmett Rouse, Associate Commissioner*

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## Two Commissioners Elected in November 2010 General Election

Jimmy Mole and Gary Youmans were both re-elected to serve as Commissioners for the Hampton Conservation District in the General Election in November 2010. Mr. Mole has served as a District Commissioner since 2004 and Mr. Youmans has been on the Board of Commissioners since 2000.

Each year conservation district commissioners volunteer numerous hours promoting soil and water conservation practices in urban and rural area, and combating erosion and storm water problems. Their tasks



Pictured left to right: Jimmy Mole and Gary Youmans being sworn in as District Commissioners by Marc Cribb, SC DNR Program Manager, during a monthly board meeting.

include planning and directing a conservation program, assigning priority to resource development and serving as a community clearinghouse for information and services on natural resource issues. Regular board meetings are held monthly for setting priorities and planning with the cooperating agencies' staff.

## Farm City Fun Day

**NOVEMBER 19, 2011**  
**10:00 AM - NOON**

**LAKE WARREN STATE PARK**

Come enjoy a morning at beautiful *Lake Warren State Park* and experience some old fashioned farm activities for the entire family!!

*FRESH APPLE CIDER ~ CORN SHELLING ~ PETTING ZOO*  
*BUTTER CHURNING ~ ANTIQUE TRACTOR DISPLAY ~ REFRESHMENTS*  
*DOOR PRIZES AND MUCH MORE!!*





There's always going to be trash, right? Whether you call it litter, trash or simply 'junk' it's dangerous to our safety, our wildlife and our economy. South Carolina is known for its beauty and our state thrives on the recreation and tourism industry, but who would want to visit a trashy state? The thousands of volunteers who participate every year in Beach Sweep/River Sweep are the ones who see firsthand all of the effects that litter has on our rivers, lakes, creeks and beaches.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep celebrated its 22nd year in 2010 and since the program began, over 133,000 South Carolinians have participated in this annual cleanup and picked up almost 1,200 tons of aquatic debris!! Last September, the Wade Hampton High School Ecology Club participated by picking up litter and debris along the roadway at Lake Warren State Park, around the spillway area and they also hosted a second cleanup at the Goat Hill Boat Landing located on Hwy 601 North. Both cleanups brought together thirty-five (35) volunteers and they collected twenty-two (22) bags of litter.



The Hampton Conservation District is the local sponsor for Beach Sweep/River Sweep. The Conservation District is proud of the efforts that have been made over the years by all of the volunteers who have given countless hours with this project.



## Earth Day Program



Excited students ranging from kindergarten to 2nd grade filed into the cafeteria at Varnville Elementary School to watch an entertaining puppet and marionette show to celebrate Earth Day. The show was hosted by the Hampton Conservation District this past April and was created by Palmetto-Pride. The show teaches children ways to take pride, take responsibility and take action against litter in their community. The play features the Columbia Marionette Theatre's marionettes and hand puppets that educate children on ways to help make South Carolina a cleaner, more beautiful place to live.

ful place to live.

During the show, the puppets encourage all of their friends and the audience to put litter in the proper place and tells how food wrappings can pose a threat to wildlife, along with making your community unattractive. The students were entertained by numerous marionettes of children and animals, upbeat music.



## 2010-2011 Affiliate Members

The Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank our Affiliate Members who are vital to the educational programs that are offered throughout the county. All contributions received through Affiliate Memberships are used to support conservation education programs to any school or group at no cost. The Hampton Conservation District is committed to educating the students and landowners about the abundance of natural resources that we have available in Hampton County. Your contribution is tax deductible.

### Steward of the Soil—\$100+

Citizens Choice Agency  
Clariant Corporation  
Dr. Tire, Inc.  
Drawdy, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Sr.  
Groton Land Company, Inc.  
Guess Farm Equipment Co., Inc.  
Hampton County Farm Bureau  
Low Country Institute  
Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Palmetto State Bank

### Sustaining—\$50

AgSouth Farm Credit  
American Forest Management, Inc.  
BB&T  
Brown, Wayne  
Goettee Farm  
Green Acres Turf Farm, LLC  
Hampton Animal Hospital  
Laffitte, Mary & Norris  
Mexico Bay Farm  
Palmetto Pharmacy  
Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth & Detrick  
State Farm Insurance ~ Debbie Elrod

### Affiliate—\$25

Benton & Rhodes, Inc.  
Bo Peep Plantation  
Breland, Heyward  
Bug Busters, Inc.  
Bullard Farms  
Chitwood, Charles  
Cummings Oil Co., Inc.  
Hanna & Hanna, Inc.  
Henderson, Danny  
Maner, C. Lawton  
Mixon Oil Co., Inc.  
Morrison Forestry & Real Estate  
Scott Woodlands, LLC  
Shaffer-Mixon & Associates Realty  
Small, Dr. William  
Tison Motor Company, Inc.  
Wise Batten, Inc.

.....

Yes, I would like to become a 2011-2012 Affiliate Member to the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District. Please complete the form below and mail to the following address:

.....

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Steward of the Soil \$100+

.....

**Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Farm Bureau Building**  
**1002 Elm Street East**  
**Suite B**  
**Hampton, SC 29924**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like your membership listed? \_\_\_\_\_

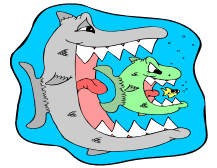
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## 2011 Conservation Contest Winners

The topic for this year's poster and essay contest was "Food Chains—What's for Dinner?". Participants were asked to describe a food chain, what producers and consumers are and decide if food chains differ from habitat to habitat. The poster contest was open to Kindergarten—4th grades and the essay contest was open to 5th—8th grades. Participating students put their creative minds to the test and delivered some very informative and entertaining posters and essays following the contest guidelines.

The poster contest winners in each grade level received a class ice cream party and the students made their own ice cream through an activity provided by the Hampton County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Cash prizes of \$30-1st place; \$15-2nd place; and \$10-3rd place along with certificates were presented to the essay contest winners. (Winners continued on page 7)

***Food Chain—A hierarchy of different living things, each of which feeds on the ones below.***



Mrs. Breland's 1st grade poster winners from Varnville Elementary School



Mrs. Smith's 2nd grade poster winners from Varnville Elementary School



Mrs. Hiers' 3rd grade poster winners from Varnville Elementary School



Mrs. Robinson's 4th grade poster winners from Hampton Elementary School

## Farm City Celebration

What is a Farm City celebration? I am glad you asked! It is a county-wide event that celebrates the relationship between farm families and urban residents, providing community members with educational programs and materials about the people who grow their food. Farm City celebrations are typically held the week before Thanksgiving. However, the Hampton County Farm City Committee hosts multiple events throughout the year to remind everyone how important our farm and city neighbors are to each other.

- ◇ *Farm City Fun Day* is the longest running Farm City activity in the county. This old fashioned event offered many opportunities for those who attended. Whether you wanted to make apple cider, shell corn, observe an antique tractor display, or pet various farm animals there was something for everyone to do.
- ◇ *Cotton and peanut tours* were held so students could see the crop in the field, watch it as it was being harvested and learned the process it takes getting from the field and made into a product that we use every day.
- ◇ *Dairy Day* events were held in June, which is National Dairy Month, at various locations in the county. Participants learned about dairy farms, dairy products, participated in dairy related games and crafts and helped to hand churn ice cream. Local radio station, WBHC 92.1, advertised Dairy Day events by hosting a dairy trivia question contest and winners received a "Got Milk" reusable tote bag filled with various items donated by the Farm City Committee.
- ◇ Other events such as pumpkin painting, coloring and photo contests, Farm City Breakfast, National Ag Day and various bulletin board displays were held this past year to promote agriculture and its importance in our county.

The Hampton County Farm City Committee consists of staff members from Clemson Extension Service, Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA-Farm Service Agency and other volunteers.



Sheep shearing was just one of the many activities that were offered at last year's Farm City Fun Day.



Youngsters from Estill Elementary enjoyed a morning of pumpkin painting, games, story time and crafts at the Estill Library.



Students visited a peanut field where they viewed peanut plants and the equipment used to harvest the peanuts. Afterwards, they traveled to Birdsong Peanut Plant in Fairfax. There the students learned what happens to peanuts after they are harvested, transported to the plant and prepared to be dry roasted or put into candy bars. Students even enjoyed a snack of homemade peanut butter and crackers!

## Wild & Well Day

Lake Warren State Park was once again the perfect site for the annual Wild & Well Day program that was held on May 20. The concept behind this fun day for fourth graders was to bring about an understanding and awareness of the environment, and encourage health life-style choices. Many of the teachers involved expressed their appreciation and stated that the field trip was an important learning experience for their students. The hands-on sessions focused on teaching point and non-point pollution, dairy, wildlife, nature awareness, horseshoe crabs and team building skills/communication.

Partners with this program were Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District, Hampton County Clemson Extension 4-H, Hampton County Recreation Department, Lake Warren State Park, New Life Center, Orangeburg County Clemson Extension 4-H, Orangeburg Soil & Water Conservation District, and USDA-NRCS.



Lake Warren Park Ranger points out different varieties of trees during a walk through one of the nature trails at the park.



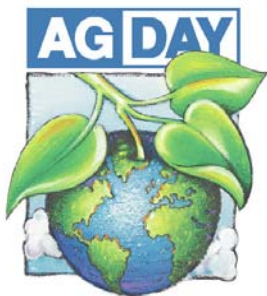
Students were able to touch and get an up close look at a horseshoe crab during a session that discussed the crabs and their habitat.



These students use their teaming building skills to answer questions in an exciting game of Dairy Jeopardy.



Students listened intently to a session on wildlife located within Hampton County. They examined and identified several skulls and furs.



National Ag Day is a time when producers, agricultural associations, government agencies and numerous others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products.

Second graders from Ben Hazel Primary received a special treat last March when staff from Clemson Extension 4-H, Hampton Conservation District and WHHS 4-H Garden Club members presented a program highlighting National Ag Day. Students read a book about farm animals, learned that many items they use every day come from agricultural products and they also received an animal safety lesson on chickens and rabbits. The students especially enjoyed being able to see and touch some baby chickens and a rabbit.



This student is all smiles as he gets an opportunity to pet a baby chick.

## Contest winners continued from page 4



Pictured are the 5th grade essay winners from Hampton Elementary (L-R): Mary Elizabeth Murdaugh, 1st Place; Reeves Rhodes, 2nd place; and Trent Terry, 3rd Place. Not pictured are the 5th grade science teachers, Terri Stansfield and Bonnie Smiley.



Pictured are the 6th grade essay winners from Hampton Elementary (L-R): Dawson Smith, 1st Place; Madison Terry, 2nd Place; and David Topper, 3rd Place. Not pictured are the 6th grade science teachers, Deborah Burch and Anthrown Roberts.



Pictured are the 7th grade essay winners from Patrick Henry Academy (L-R): Travis Hauptmann, 1st Place; Blair Moore, 2nd Place; Sarah Sanders, 3rd Place and Debbie Creason, teacher.

## Wood Duck Box Program

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the State Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (SCDU) and the SC Department of Corrections, will resume the construction and distribution of wood duck boxes this winter. This long standing program will be resumed, applications will be accepted and approximately 1,000 boxes will be distributed in November or December. SCDU has contributed approximately 50% of the cost for construction and distribution and The Wateree Correctional Institute will assemble the predator shields and construct the boxes. Each unit will consist of a treated pole, a predator shield and assembled box.

The wood duck is the most important waterfowl species in South Carolina and is the only duck that breeding habitat can be managed effectively throughout all geographic regions of the state. This Project supplements natural production in tree cavities of forested wetlands by providing artificial nesting sites. Fewer natural cavities are available today because of the impacts of human activity upon bottomland hardwoods. Private landowners wishing to obtain wood duck boxes can go to [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/publications/pdf/WoodDuckProject\\_2011.pdf](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/publications/pdf/WoodDuckProject_2011.pdf) to obtain an application.

Contact DNR waterfowl biologist James Rader for information on the State Wood Duck Box Project at (843) 844-8957 or via e-mail at [wodubox@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:wodubox@dnr.sc.gov). Up to 5 boxes per applicant will be available for distribution throughout the State. **The application deadline to be considered for boxes this year is October 15, 2011.** All approved applicants will be notified by e-mail or phone at time of award.

The statewide project for construction and distribution of nest box units to requesting landowners began in 1982. Since 1982, over 31,000 nest box units have been issued to over 4,100 cooperators. The project provides nest boxes, poles and predator guards to landowners having suitable wood duck production and brood-rearing habitat.



## USDA NRCS Launches New and Improved Website

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to announce their national website has adopted a new look-and-feel and will use a new web content management system. As of August 1, 2011, NRCS' new website improves how the agency communicates with the public. With this move, NRCS strives to improve how web users can find and use their vast amount of content. In order to access or view, simply visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



The new NRCS website will organize content by subject, such as Soil, Water, and Air. Visitors can search for information about subjects by name, as opposed to having to navigate through countless program or division pages. In the past, if a website visitor wanted to know how NRCS works to improve our nation's water resources, they essentially had to visit the National Water Management Center website, the Water Quality and Quantity website, and the Wetland Science website to gather information. Now, they can simply go to the NRCS homepage and click on "Water." NRCS consolidated 12 separate NRCS websites into one.

NRCS has improved the site's search capability, giving users an advanced search capability to better define what they seek. As for new features, if you want to stay up to date on the latest NRCS news, the new site has an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feature. This allows you to receive news releases through the email or RSS reader, such as other free popular ones. The public can also provide feedback through the new website feedback forms, which can be found in the "Contact Us" section of the new site. NRCS will still have a "Programs and Services" section, where in-depth information about the Farm Bill and other financial and technical assistance programs can be found. The "Technical Resources" section remains as well. Users can find special content in the new "People" section, which includes information for employees, volunteers, and partners.

## SC NRCS Produces Video Series about the Fascinating World of Soil



Dr. Buz Kloot, the film's director, cinematographer, scriptwriter, and editor, worked with SC NRCS State Soil Scientist Pam Thomas to get all the information about soils across, but in a way that was engaging. "While facts came easy, it's not always easy to be engaging on this subject," admitted Kloot. Until that is, when Kloot gained insight at a ScienceFilm workshop in Washington State. Someone suggested to him, "why don't you make a movie about people who have a relationship with the soil?" Well, the rest is history, and *Soil Stories* does just that. In the production, our main character, Francine, embarks on a journey of discovery that begins with her realization that soil is alive and that without soil, life as we know it would not exist. In her journey of discovery she meets with soil scientists who help her "see" beneath the surface of the soil and help her understand how diverse yet ordered soil bodies are in the landscape and how much work has been done in soil survey.

In the second half of the story, Francine meets with characters that help her take an up close and personal look at some physical and biological attributes of soils without which they would not function. In the final part of the video, a character from history, Mr. Hugh Hammond Bennett ("Big Hugh") shares an epiphany about soils with Francine and translates this to modern terms.

Visit <http://vimeo.com/channels/soilstories> to check out this entertaining, innovative, and engaging look into the world beneath our feet. For more information, or to request a DVD of the series, contact Amy Overstreet, SC NRCS Public Affairs Specialist and Outreach Coordinator at (803) 765-5402 or [amy.overstreet@sc.usda.gov](mailto:amy.overstreet@sc.usda.gov).

## Conservation Efforts in Hampton County

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners in Hampton County. NRCS provides conservation assistance through the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District. NRCS in Hampton County develops conservation plans and engineering designs on a variety of conservation practices that protect the natural resources in the county.

Recently, NRCS received funding for sixteen new contracts which will bring over \$180,000 to landowners within the county. The practices that are to be installed will put conservation 'on the ground' and will have major environmental benefits. The following conservation practices were installed this past year to keep the county's water clean, preserve and sustain healthy soil and restore wildlife habitat:

### Summary of Conservation Practices Applied 2010-2011

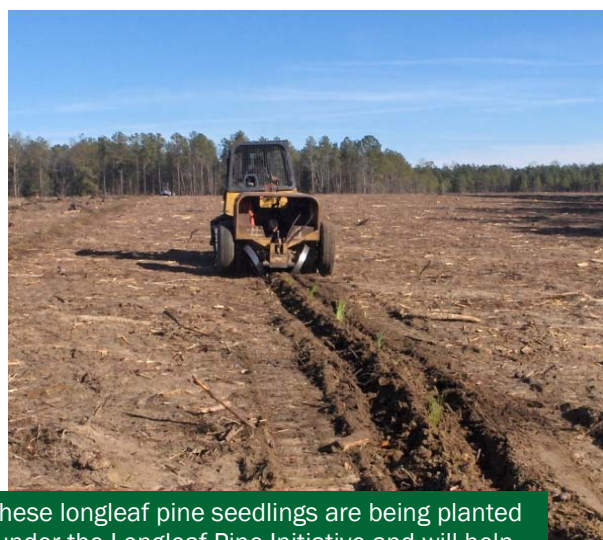
- ✓ As part of a rotational grazing system **13 acres of prescribed grazing** was completed, along with **1,600 ft of pipeline for livestock watering**.
- ✓ **86,393 In. ft. of firebreaks** were completed in preparation of **923.2 acres of prescribed burning** that was accomplished for wildlife habitat enhancement and to reduce wildfire hazards.
- ✓ **458.9 acres of mechanical or chemical site preparation** was completed to eliminate vegetative competition for the **433 acres of longleaf seedlings** that were planted.
- ✓ **1 seasonal high tunnel structure** was established to extend the growing season, increase yields and provide other benefits to organic growers.



This high tunnel structure, or hoop house, is a temporary structure which lengthens the time frame for local marketing of produce and offers advantages to small, limited resource farmers.



These planted pines are in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address additional resource concerns as well as maintaining existing conservation systems.



These longleaf pine seedlings are being planted under the Longleaf Pine Initiative and will help control erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Through this program, 433 acres of longleaf restoration was completed in 2011.



## Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District

Farm Bureau Building  
1002 Elm Street East, Suite B  
Hampton, SC 29924

Phone: 803-943-2586, ext. 3  
Fax: 803-943-5743  
Email: paula.rhodes@sc.nacdnet.net

### USDA Cost-Share Programs

Did you know that Farm Bill Conservation Programs are available for sign-up throughout the year? NRCS encourages all those who are interested in NRCS programs not to wait, but visit their local NRCS Service Center. The following is an overview of cost-share programs managed by USDA's NRCS.



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is USDA's conservation program that targets production agriculture. EQIP provides cost-sharing and incentive payments for conservation practices such as cover crops followed by no-till/strip-till spring crops, terraces, grass waterways, grazing land management (fencing, wells, stockwater tanks, etc.), grass planting for pasture or hay, tree planting in cropland fields, and the modification of an irrigation system to improve water application efficiency. Precision agriculture, the variable rate application of fertilizer and lime based on soil samples from management zones within each field, is also eligible for payments.

#### **WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP):**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides cost-sharing and incentive payments to landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Financial assistance may be provided for practices such as prescribed burning, establishing permanent firebreaks, field borders, hedgerows, hardwood and longleaf pine planting, and management of native vegetation.

#### **WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):**

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore wetlands that have been altered or drained. Landowners participating in WRP can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30 year duration, or they can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent conservation easement through WRP, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land as well as cost-sharing for work needed to restore the wetland. The 30-year easement payment is 75% of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75% of the restoration cost. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land.

#### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):**

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative covers such as wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Program participants receive an annual rental payment for the term of the 10 or 15 year contract. In addition, cost sharing is provided to establish the practices. There is a continuous sign-up for anyone interested in installing vegetative field borders or buffers in cropland fields or planting longleaf pines in cropland fields with sandy soils.

*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, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are regularly scheduled on the second Monday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Hoover's Restaurant in Hampton. All meetings are open to the public.