



the CONSERVATION Connection

*Kershaw County is a place rich in History, Families, and Natural Resources
and we owe the future generations of Kershaw County
a land that is at least as rich in possibilities as the one that was left to us.*

Issue No. 2

FALL 2011



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Kershaw Conservation District
1126 Little St.
Camden, SC 29020



On the Historic Camden Interpretive Nature Trail



On July 30th, guests enjoyed a walk through Time and Nature.

Josh Arrants (Federal Biologist from Fort Jackson) led our Nature walk through the Historic Camden Revolutionary War Park, and down the Interpretive Nature Trail to Pine Tree Creek. The walk, which was geared for youth and adults, offered an educational experience filled with Josh's own entertaining bird calls and insightful knowledge.

A total of fifteen walkers braved the heat as we looked for insects, birds, animals, and plant life native to the since colonial times.



Taking a closer look as Josh Arrants points out the powerful jaw structure and chewing mouth parts of this local dragon fly.



We identified trees (Longleaf Pine, Pecan, Winged Sumac, Catapa, Willow Oak, Water Oak) and how habitats transform from fields to woodlands.

Surprisingly many birds were present (Acadian Flycatchers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Blue-grey Gnatcatchers along with more common Carolina Wrens, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Red-eyed Vireos). With our guests, full of questions, some taking notes, and the kids fascinated with Pine Tree Creek, we concluded the walk with cool refreshments and lunch in the park picnic area. Another successful walk through nature on this warm summer day.



From—the trees for lumber and pitch for tar, to the plants and animals for food, medicine and clothing, nature trekkers learned of their importance to Native Americans and early settlers.



Onlookers spot a high flying Mississippi Kite and learned how Turkey Vultures ride thermals.



Recycling Corner Recycling Corner Recycling Corner



News update

KCD began a recycling outreach program in Kershaw schools and communities this summer headed up by KCD Commissioners Sarah Williams, Ed Estridge, and Wesley Adamson (Kershaw County Recycling Director). KCD also coordinated recycling of brown, clear and green glass at the Camden Country Club. Kershaw County Solid Waste Department recycling containers were provided along with an agreement to maintain regular pick up service. The KCD is also working with School principals to sponsor an "Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow" workshop for teachers. That workshop is facilitated by Mary Margaret Mendenhall (SC Green Steps Initiative). There, teachers will learn about the benefits of recycling and how to incorporate an activities notebook into their daily curricula. The curricula's activities will teach students at an early age basic principles of recycling and teachers how to apply for grants for school efforts. This workshop is free, and meets science curricula standards for the State of South Carolina.



- Did you know that many common materials that you use around your homes everyday can be recycled? Items such as aluminum cans, antifreeze, appliances (white goods only), batteries, electronics, cooking oil, glass, magazines, newspaper, gasoline and oil mixtures, tires, used motor oil, and yard trimmings are among the list.
- There are currently 10 recycling centers throughout Kershaw County that will assist with these items.

*Packaging peanuts are welcomed at your local UPS packaging store.

For more information....
Or for the center nearest you, call 803-425-7187 or 803-425-1507.



2011 South Carolina Association of Conservation District's Legislative Dinner

On February 22, the South Carolina Association of Conservation District's (SCACD) held it's annual Legislative Dinner at Seawell's in Columbia. Senator Vincent Sheheen was nominated by the Kershaw Conservation District, (KCD), and chosen Legislator of the Year by the SCACD.

Representatives from Conservation Districts around the State gathered to recognize Legislators for their efforts in the area of Natural Resource Conservation.

Elected to the South Carolina Senate in 2004, Senator Vincent Sheheen represents constituents from portions of Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster Counties. He extends his support for Natural Resource Conservation by serving as a member of the Fish, Game, and Forestry Committee as well as serving on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Senator Sheheen introduced legislation and proposed that the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) review stream flow data in waterways flowing from neighboring States into SC. In that, he recommended DHEC report any significant declines in water quality flow. That new legislation authorized SC's Attorney General to act and recover any damage relevant to significant declines in our State's water flow.

In addition, Senator Sheheen proposed enacting the "Public Water Nuisance Abatement Act" to protect SC waterways by

allowing SC DNR to remove, or require the removal of, dangerous structures in public waterways. He introduced legislation that designated a portion of the Catawba River as a Scenic River. Legislation was also introduced to improve the quality of life to SC residents, by sponsoring legislation that requires DHEC to establish long-term goals on preserving and protecting the public health. Through that, DHEC must review and consider the environmental compliance history of an applicant before making permit decisions, and consider repeat violations when determining compliance and enforcement penalties.

A very enjoyable evening celebrating the many accomplishments for South Carolina Conservationists.



Thank you, Senator Sheheen, for representing us well in our Conservation efforts.



2011 Earth Day Activities

On April 20, in recognition of Earth Day, the District Coordinator, Donna Douglas, delivered an interactive video presentation on Water Conservation to first graders at Pine Tree Hill Elementary.

To prepare the presentation, Donna visited Camden's Wastewater Treatment plant, to gather video that explains what happens to wastewater once it leaves your home.

The video portion was narrated by Mr. Kyle Smith, supervisor at the plant. Mr. Smith provided information in a series of basic steps and terms that first graders could understand.



Students learned how many gallons of water a family of three uses in just one day, and the various ways in which we use this water, not only in our homes, but in our city as well. A quiz, built in to the presentation, allowed children to see just how many new facts they remembered. The presentation emphasized learning as a lifelong process, and how conservation can be fun!

Also in recognition of Earth Day, KCD participated in the Kershaw County Farmer's Market Earth Day Celebration. A Rain Barrel demonstration to promote water conservation was provided. Market totes sporting a new Conservation themed KCD logo were a big hit and helped shoppers carry educational materials and shop throughout the Farmers Market. Educational materials were provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and targeted youth and adults with conservation related information. The Earth Day event was filled with a variety of family friendly activities, a petting zoo, music, and proved a successful outreach event for the community.



the CONSERVATION Connection



Your tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of Kershaw County Conservation is an investment in your community, our county's natural resources, and our young people who will be our leaders of tomorrow. *Thank you!* for joining us as we help create a brighter future for Kershaw County.

Please make your check payable to: Kershaw Conservation District
Mail to: 1126 Little Street, Camden SC 29020

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DNR - Field Day 2011



On May 20th, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), sponsored a field day, in conjunction with the natural resource after school program, for middle school students at North Central. The DNR provided three stations for the students to participate in. Stations included a Fishing Pond, Hunting and Shooting, and Canoeing and Kayaking. Marc Cribb, Mary Crockett, Greg Lucas, Dan DuPre, Lorianne Riggan, and Billy Downer were among the DNR instructors for each station on that day. The field day was held at the Camden Plantation in Kershaw.



After School Programs

Kershaw County's North Central Middle School was one of several schools in the State participating in a DNR after school program. Throughout the month of March, the KCD provided demonstration presentations to students signed up for the Natural Resource Track.



NRCS web update

Soil Stories



Soil Stories

7 videos / 2 subscribers
 In "Soil Stories", our protagonist, Francine, embarks on a journey of discovery that begins with her realization that soil is alive and that without soil, life as we know 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 shares an epiphany about soils with Francine and translates this to modern terms.

"Soil Stories" was born out of a collaborative effort between ESRI-SC and SC-NRCS. We (Buz Kloot and Pam Thomas) wanted 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. Until that is, when I (Buz Kloot) was at a ScienceFilm workshop with Jeff Morake and Cain Bates where I began to see that the story trumps all when making videos. Colin's advice to me one morning was "why don't you make a movie about people who have a relationship with the soil?" Well, you see a story.

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.

SC-NRCS

The South Carolina NRCS site—and all other NRCS state websites—will move to the new web content management system over the next 12-18 months. South Carolina is currently featured on the national NRCS website, on the Soils page, in a recently released video production called *Soil Stories*.

The video documentary showcases SC NRCS Soil Scientists and was created by the University of SC-Earth Sciences and Resources Institute. You can also watch this, and other videos about SC's natural resources, by visiting www.vimeo.com/nrcsesrscconnect.

Friends of CONSERVATION

Generous contributions from Friends of Conservation provide funding for our numerous programs and projects. Thank you for the support we received from March through September 2011.

Thank you!



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Serving Kershaw County



The Kershaw Conservation District provides technical, consultative, and educational assistance related to the conservation management of natural resources within the district. This assistance is provided on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin.

The Kershaw County Conservation District Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:15pm at 1126 Little St. in Camden. The public is invited to attend.

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- Ed Estridge — Associate Commissioner**
- Marshall Waters — Associate Commissioner**

Assisting the District:

- Donna Douglas — District Conservation Coordinator**
- Mike Newman — District Conservationist, NRCS**
- Robbie Newman — Technician, USDA/NRCS**

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