

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.



Williamsburg SWCD 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

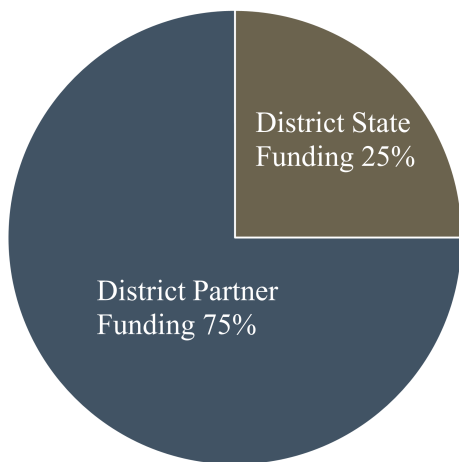
- Using the additional state appropriated funds, the district celebrated Arbor Day by purchasing Eastern redbud trees for 253 fifth grade students in the county. The students were treated to a program by Forester GraceAnna Cooper.
- 4,724 students were impacted by the many contests and programs offered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

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.