

Summer
2019



Koinonia
Community Garden

Mini-Grant Applications Due September 30

Each spring and fall, the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) awards Conservation Education Mini-Grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth conservation education initiatives. Eligible Mini-Grant recipients include schools and community education centers serving Richland County youth.

In the 2018-2019 school year, RSWCD awarded nine Mini-Grants to support school and community vegetable gardens, wildlife habitats, and hydroponic growing systems. These projects promote environmental stewardship and help students develop important environmental knowledge and life skills.

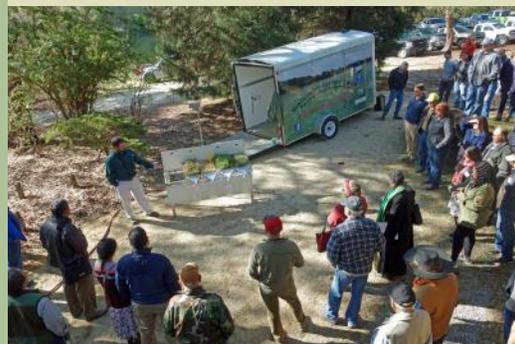
One recent Mini-Grant recipient, Koinonia of Columbia, used the funding to support a community and youth gardening program. Koinonia is a non-profit organization working towards community development and student enrichment in Eau Claire. Youth from the community maintain the garden, learning important lessons about gardening, teamwork, and responsibility in the process. They also take home some of the garden's fresh produce. This gardening program has been a true asset to Koinonia and has



helped the community learn about food production while providing a source of fresh and organic food.

Mini-Grant applications received by September 30 will be considered for award in October 2019; applications received by February 3 will be considered for award in February 2020. Project work and expenditures must be completed by June 15, 2020. If you are interested in applying for a grant, further guidelines and applications can be found online at richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd.

RSWCD Partners with SC New and Beginning Farmer Program



The South Carolina New and Beginning Farmer Program (SCNBFP), administered by Clemson Extension, helps new and beginning farmers be successful, productive, and innovative members of the agricultural community.

Since 2016, RSWCD has partnered with the SCNBFP to expand educational opportunities for SCNBFP participants and to open SCNBFP trainings to the general public. In the 2018-2019 program year, RSWCD co-hosted three SCNBFP events, including the 2019 SC Farmer Resource Rodeo, Sandhill REC Field Day: Cover Crops in Sandy Soils, and Integrated Pest Management: Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects Workshop.

All RSWCD workshops are open to the public. Details are available online at richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd.

WWW.RICHLANDCOUNTYSC.GOV / RSWCD

Richland Soil and Water
Conservation District



A Message from New USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez



As the new District Conservationist for Calhoun and Richland Counties, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself officially to you. My name is Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez and I have been with the Natural Resources Conservation

Service (NRCS) for 13 years. I am originally from Puerto Rico, where I also graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences, majoring in Mechanical Technology in Agriculture.

My career started as a Soil Conservationist with NRCS in 2006 in Fargo, North Dakota, where I worked with

large cropping operations in the Red River Valley. In 2008, I was transferred to Bismarck, North Dakota, where I worked with large grazing systems in pasture and native rangeland, as well as incorporating the Soil Health components to cropping systems to make productions more sustainable and profitable.

I moved to Orangeburg, SC in 2011, where I have been the District Conservationist for the last 8 years. There, I was able to help many agricultural producers and landowners achieve their conservation goals in Cropland, Pastureland and Forestland. I come with a vast experience in both Agronomic and Engineering practices to help you with your conservation needs.

I look forward to meeting you in person and helping you with your conservation goals. I am available for meeting in person at the office or in the field. You can contact me over the phone at (803) 874-3337 ext. 3 or reach out to me digitally via email at emily.bonilla-gonzal@sc.usda.gov.

Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez
USDA-NRCS District Conservationist
Calhoun and Richland Counties
904 F.R. Huff Drive, Saint Matthews, SC 29135

Site Preparation Tips from Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez

It's time for site preparation!

If you are planning any special planting this fall or coming spring, don't forget to plan for site preparation. The success of any planting—whether trees, conservation cover, or annual food plots—depends on how well the planting site is prepared. Each site is different, and you should consider soils, land use, current plant population, and what you plan to plant as you make decisions about site preparation.

Trees: First, consult a forester to determine the best combination of practices for the species you have selected. Frequently, a combination of chemical application, mechanical equipment, and prescribed burns are needed for planted pines or wood production. Use caution selecting chemicals for fruit trees and orchards so as to avoid damage from residuals in the area. Consult your local Clemson Extension office for herbicide suggestions and application instructions. Always follow manufacturer recommendations on application rates and method!

Conservation Cover: Conservation cover is any planting of perennial herbaceous species for wildlife

habitat development or food sources. They can be native or introduced species of grasses and forbs. Whatever the combination of plants, this kind of planting is very susceptible to competition from non-desired species. In our area, Bahia and Bermuda grass can be very difficult to control. Multiple chemical applications may be required to push back or kill these competitors. Another practice needed is disking or harrowing the area to create a uniform bed to allow the very small seeds to have contact with the soil.

Annual Food Plots: Planting food plots is very similar to planting crops, and food plots often require the least site preparation. Most commonly, food plots are established with a chemical application before planting. But, take into consideration the type of plants you are seeding, whether a single species or a mix. With a single species, it is possible to make additional chemical applications during the growing season, but with mixes this is very difficult.

If you need more information or guidance on site preparation, contact your local NRCS office.

Upcoming Events for Farmers and Resource Professionals

Building Soil Health: Principles, Practices, and Profitability

October 28 & 29, 2019
Madren Conference Center & Inn
Clemson, SC



Day one of this conference is for farmers, researchers, and agriculture professionals. Up-to-date information will be delivered by experts in the field, with breakout sessions on specific management practices in livestock, row crop, and horticulture systems. General session topics include principles

of soil health, soil biology, soil health indicators, economics, and more. Day two of the conference will offer special extended programming, *Tools for Teaching Soil Health*, for agriculture professionals who work with farmers.

Presenters include:

Gail Fuller - Fuller Farms, Emporia, KS
Nathan Lowder - NRCS Soil Health Division, Athens, GA
Kris Nicols - KRIS Systems, Alberta, Canada
Dr. Ray Ward - Ward Laboratories, Inc., Kearney, NE

Full conference details and registration information [coming soon!!](#)

Pine Straw Workshop and Field Tour

September 10, 2019
Sandhill Research and Education Center
900 Clemson Rd, Columbia, SC

9am-3pm • Cost: \$20



Includes 2 Pesticide License CCHs
Additional \$50 for forestry CFEs, 5hrs Category 1

Pine straw is a popular mulch in the southeastern US and pine straw harvesting is a strong industry in the region. Raking pine straw can be a valuable source of

income for forest landowners, providing an opportunity to cover some of the costs associated with establishing and maintaining longleaf pine ecosystems. This workshop will help resource managers and landowners balance the income from harvesting operations while preserving desired wildlife benefits and stand health.

Contact: Ryan Bean
(803) 840-6124 or rbean@clermson.edu

Register online:
<https://tinyurl.com/PinestrawColumbia>

SC Farmer Resource Rodeo Showcases Agricultural Resources



The fourth annual SC Farmer Resource Rodeo, held at Saluda Shoals Park in February, attracted 167 participants and representatives from 35 resource providers, making it the largest Rodeo yet! The Rodeo is a collaborative effort between the RSWCD, Midlands Local Food Collaborative, SC SCNBFP, and dozens of sponsors and supporters.

The event is designed to introduce the technical, financial, and educational resources available to SC farmers. It provides opportunities for farmers to connect and network in an efficient, engaging format by "wrangling" resource providers in the same place at the same time.

"I had no idea there were so many resources available...I collected so much info...it is almost overwhelming (in the best possible way)," said one participant!

FY2019: By the Numbers



During Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019), RSWCD provided or supported:

Youth Education

- 102 class presentations on topics of water quality, soil science, and composting, reaching 2,238 students at 16 schools and educational sites
- 141 poster contest entries addressing the topic “Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper” from students at 12 schools
- 2 high school Envirothon teams
- 1 Arbor Day tree-planting and school assembly for 550 students at Joseph Keels Elementary School



Teacher and Educator Support

- Project mentorship for 17 Green Steps School projects at 6 schools
- 8 Midlands Meetups for teachers and environmental educators
- 2 Project Learning Tree curriculum workshops, reaching 40 pre-service teachers at Columbia College
- 1 Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) curriculum workshop, reaching 11 educators
- Sponsorship and support for the Environmental Education Association of SC's annual conference at Moore Farms Botanical Garden, attended by 75 teachers and informal educators

Farmers and Resource Professionals

- 2 Soil Health Field Days for 113 attendees at Carter Farms and the Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center
- 4th annual SC Farmer Resource Rodeo, featuring 35 farm resource providers and 167 participants
- 1 Integrated Pest Management: Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects Workshop for 39 participants
- 1 Local Work Group Meeting for 14 participants

And...

- Support for the first Richland County Ag+Art Tour, which exposed 1,369 tourists to 5 local farms!



Education Programs Available for Fall 2019!

K-12 Class Presentations



RSWCD offers a limited number of class presentations for Richland County students on a variety of conservation topics. Programs available in the upcoming school year include:

- Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?
- Wonderful Worms: Vermicomposting
- SuperSoil: Soil Science 101
- Watershed Explorer

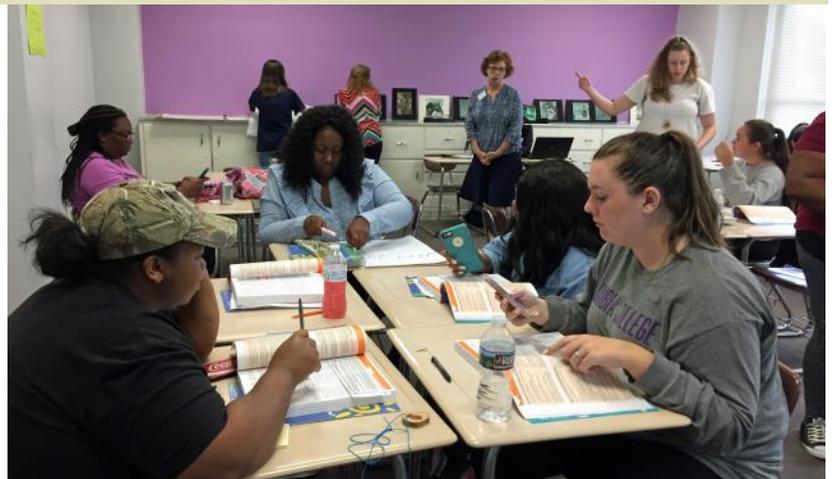
Programs are aligned to SC Science Academic Standards and are available at no cost on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd for details on available programs and guidelines.

A list of other guest presenters for school and community groups, and a list of conservation-themed field trip opportunities in Richland County, are also available online.



Environmental Educator and Teacher Trainings

Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) are award-winning international environmental education curricula designed for teachers and informal educators who work with students from early childhood through high school. Richland SWCD facilitates PLT and Project WET educator trainings in Richland County; to request a training for a group of teachers or informal educators, contact Chanda Cooper at cooper.chanda@richlandcountysc.gov. You may also visit the SC PLT and SC Project WET websites for more information.



FY19 Event Highlights

Blythewood Historical Society Field Day



Every year, the Blythewood Historical Society and Museum hosts a field day for Bethel-Hanberry Elementary school third graders. The students take a stroll through the evolution of Blythewood and Richland County, examining how transportation and cartography aided in the county's economic and environmental development.

RSWCD educators Chanda Cooper and Mary Hannah Lindsay participated in the field day by leading a program station about soil health and its crucial role in agriculture. Students participated in the rainfall simulator, where they were able to see the effects of runoff on healthy and unhealthy soils. Healthy soils, which are full of root systems and living creatures, are less likely to erode because roots hold the soil in place and larger pore spaces allow water to soak into the ground.

Richland Recycles Day

RSWCD hosted a conservation activity station at Richland Recycles Day on May 10, 2019. This annual event allows Richland County students to learn about environmental issues and ways they can make a positive difference. This year, 126 students participated in the event, and they were able to learn about topics from stormwater to gorilla conservation!

RSWCD educator Mary Hannah Lindsay and volunteer Rosemary Martin-Jones had students participate in a "Resource Relay." During the Relay, students learned about natural resources and the differences between renewable and non-renewable resources. Students loved learning more about the planet and identifying actions they can take to improve the environment.



SC Envirothon



Student teams from Westwood High School (pictured at left) and Spring Hill High School represented Richland County in the 2019 SC Envirothon. During the competition, students were tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and agriculture. They also made an oral presentation on the topic "Agriculture and the Environment." The winning team from Spartanburg High School progressed to the international competition and placed 6th overall out of 53 teams from the US, Canada, and China.

The 2020 SC Envirothon will be held on Friday, April 24. The special topic will be "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions." Coaches' training and competition details will be posted online at dnr.sc.gov/education/Envirothon/ as they become available. Contact SC Envirothon Coordinator Brooke Myres at MyresB@dnr.sc.gov for more details.

Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper Poster Contest

Twenty-three students won awards in this year's poster contest, themed "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper!" The contest encouraged students to turn a "dirty" topic into something beautiful and educational as they learned more about soil ecology and soil conservation. Entries showcased soil habitats as ecosystems and highlighted erosion-preventing measures such as silt fences. There were nearly 150 submissions from 12 Richland County schools, and photos of winning posters are available at [facebook.com/rswcd](https://www.facebook.com/rswcd).

Winners

K-1st Grades:

- **1st Place:** Samara Wilkins, E.E. Taylor Elementary School
- **2nd Place:** Zipporah Bull, Arden Elementary School
- **3rd Place:** Rylie Nicole Cureton, Catawba Trail Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Lily Rankin, AC Moore Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Ian Pordes, AC Moore Elementary School

2nd-3rd Grades:

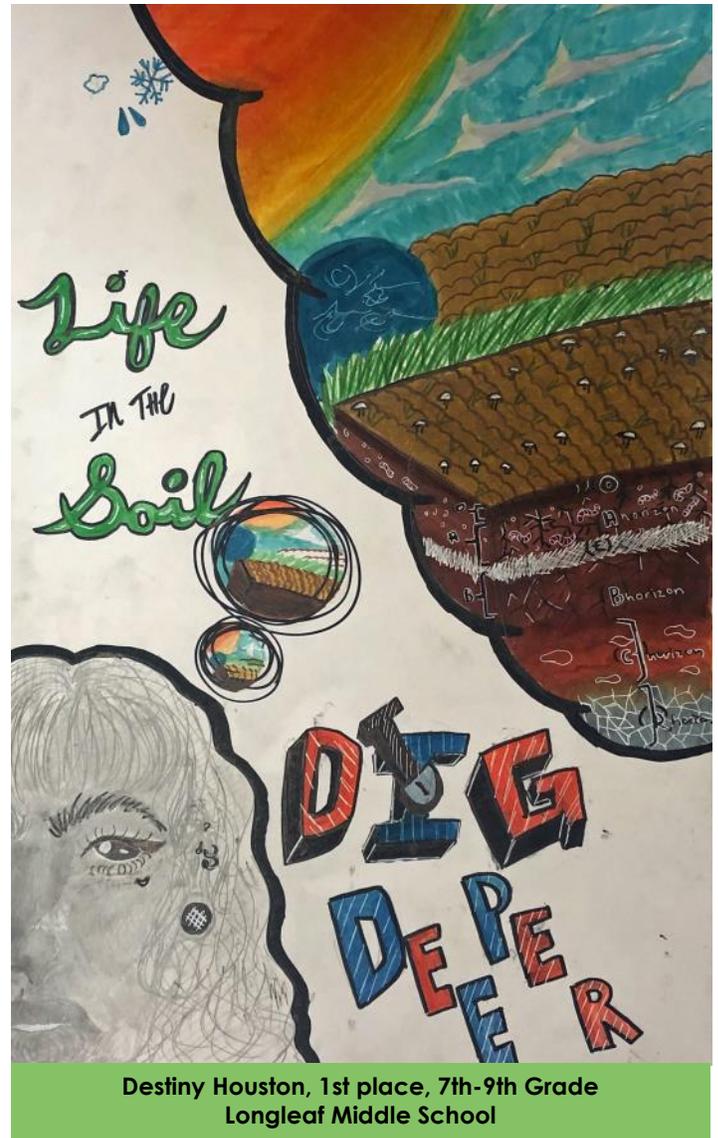
- **1st Place:** Evan Outlaw, Catawba Trail Elementary
- **2nd Place:** Natalie McElveen, Logan Elementary
- **3rd Place:** Nigeria Brown, Edward E. Taylor Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Tanner Toogood, Lake Carolina Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Janelly Resendíz, L.W. Conder Arts Integrated Magnet School

4th-6th Grades:

- **1st Place:** Annie James, Crayton Middle School
- **2nd Place:** Sara Weston, Crayton Middle School
- **3rd Place:** Gabrielle Franklin, Bethel-Hanberry Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Eliza Brown, Saint John Neumann Catholic School
- **Honorable Mention:** Ayanna Frederick, Catawba Trail Elementary School
- **Honorable Mention:** Lillie Brown, Bethel-Hanberry Elementary School

7th-9th Grades:

- **1st Place:** Destiny Houston, Longleaf Middle School
- **2nd Place:** Lillie Graham, Longleaf Middle School
- **3rd Place:** Erin Kohn, Sisältö Institutti



Destiny Houston, 1st place, 7th-9th Grade
Longleaf Middle School

- **Honorable Mention:** Samaiya Days, Longleaf Middle School
- **Honorable Mention:** DeAsia Jacobs, Longleaf Middle School
- **Honorable Mention:** Abdurhman Quzah, Longleaf Middle School

10th-12th Grades:

- **1st Place:** Taylor Kohn, Sisältö Institutti

Congratulations to these students!

The 2020 poster contest theme is "Where would we BEE without pollinators?" Entries are due Friday, April 10, 2020, so get ahead of the buzz and brush up on your polli-knowledge for the opportunity to win cash prizes! For complete rules and details, visit [richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd](https://www.richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd).

Conservation Teacher of the Year: Jennifer Mancke

This spring, RSWCD announced Jennifer Mancke as Richland County's 2019 Conservation Teacher of the Year. Mancke teaches 1st-5th grade at Harmony School in Forest Acres. Her classroom is modeled around sustainability, and her students learn and live by the principle "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

Mancke's classroom is a waste-free zone, and students use reusable bowls, plates, and utensils; reuse items like egg cartons, newspaper, plastic bags, and cardboard tubes for classroom pets' needs and art projects; and even upcycle items that would be thrown away into costumes for an Earth Day Fashion Show. Students also tend an herb and vegetable garden and keep unconventional classroom pets: chickens!

Mancke frequently arranges for off-site field trips, such as visits to a wastewater treatment plant, Richland County Council meetings, farms, and natural areas. Students learn about current events and local sustainability issues.



RSWCD awarded Mancke a cash award and a \$500 Conservation Education Mini-Grant to enable her students to participate in a new conservation project in the upcoming school year. We can't wait to see what she does next!

Education Program Assistant: Mary Hannah Lindsay

Mary Hannah Lindsay joined the RSWCD team as a student intern in August 2018 and has since been promoted to a part-time position as Education Program Assistant.

Lindsay developed an interest in the environment and conservation during childhood on her grandfather's farm in Dacula, Georgia. She remembers the buckets of tomatoes her grandfather would bring home from his garden, and how happy he was to give away fresh produce to his church congregation. These experiences gave her an appreciation for home gardening and farming, and that appreciation followed her to the University of South Carolina (USC), where she majored in Marine Science and Political Science.

Her time at USC further strengthened her connection to, and compassion for, the environment; and she realized she needed to be in a sustainability-related field. Lindsay graduated in December 2018 and was then promoted to serve as RSWCD's Education Program Assistant. In this role, she has taken on more responsibility for the RSWCD's educational programs.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Lindsay conducted or assisted with classroom programming for nearly 2,000 Richland County students. She has



also obtained certifications in Project WET and the Leopold Education Project, and she co-manages the RSWCD's social media presence. In the upcoming school year, she will coordinate the "Where would we BEE without pollinators?" poster contest.

She plans to apply for graduate school at USC later this year to pursue a sustainability-related master's degree. Her time and experience at RSWCD have proven invaluable, and we look forward to how she continues to grow with us!

Volunteer of the Year: Charles Weber

Charles Weber was announced as RSWCD's Volunteer of the Year at the 2019 Conservation Cookout. Weber is a Commissioner with the Richland County Conservation Commission (richlandlegacy.com) and frequently volunteers at RSWCD programs.

In the 2018-2019 school year, Weber supervised dozens of elementary school students in the raking, pruning, weeding, and mulching of a courtyard garden at Dutch Fork Elementary School. On Arbor Day, he helped students plant, water, and mulch a maple tree at Joseph Keels Elementary School. In the spring, he joined other volunteers to plant a pollinator garden at Pinewood Lake Park. And, at the 2019 Conservation Cookout (where he was surprised with the Volunteer of the Year Award), he served hamburgers and hotdogs in the food line and assisted with the event break-down and cleanup.

Weber visits the RSWCD office in the Richland County Administration building on his way to county council meetings. He's never empty-handed and is always eager to share a sweet treat and a laugh



with RSWCD employees. His kind spirit and passion for volunteerism are contagious.

During the award presentation, Education Coordinator Chanda Cooper noted that Weber "approaches the world with a servant's heart." Richland County Councilman Bill Malinowski and Chanda Cooper presented Weber with a "Silver Shovel" in appreciation of his service to the RSWCD.

South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts Employee of the Year: Charlie Fisher



RSWCD Administrative Assistant Charlie Fisher was named 2019 Outstanding Employee of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD). Fisher was nominated for the award by her colleagues, who kept the announcement a secret until the Conservation Awards Banquet in February. Fisher has 14 years of service with the RSWCD.

"Charlie is the glue that keeps us all together," says Conservation Coordinator Nancy Stone-Collum. In addition to Fisher's core functions of office management and bookkeeping within the Richland County Conservation Division, she also routinely volunteers to serve on committees and assist with initiatives of the SCACD, SC Conservation District Employees Association, and other organizations.

For example, she assisted with the 2016 Environmental Education Association of SC Annual Conference; provided administrative support to the SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition during its infancy; and has been a key contributor to the success of the Midlands Local Food Collaborative's SC Farmer Resource Rodeos (2015-2019). She takes meeting minutes for several organizations and committees, including the SCACD Executive Committee, and is always a willing assistant during events.

"She is always willing to go the extra mile," says Conservation Division Manager Quinton Epps. Thank you for your service to Richland County and to the RSWCD, Charlie!

2020 Youth Poster Contest Promotes Pollinator Conservation



The National Conservation Poster Contest, sponsored annually by the National Association of Conservation Districts, raises awareness about soil and water conservation issues through youth outreach. The Contest is open to public, private, and home-schooled students in grades K through 12. The 2020 theme is "Where would we BEE without Pollinators?" and Richland County entries are due by April 10, 2020. Rules and entry forms are available online at richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd.

Did you know?

- Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, and bats play a key role in the life cycle of many flowering plants. By carrying pollen from flower to flower, pollinators enable plants to produce seeds. These seeds, in turn, allow for new generations of plants to grow.
- Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants

depend on pollinators to reproduce, and humans and animals alike depend on these plants for survival. Most fruit, vegetable, and seed crops--and other plants that provide fiber, medicines, and fuel--are pollinated by animals. In fact, nearly one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators!

- Pollinators also play important roles in land-based food webs. For example, some 96% of terrestrial birds (including species that eat seeds and fruits as adults) raise their young on insects, including insect pollinators.
- Pollinators have a significant economic impact. In 2010, crops pollinated by honeybees and other insects contributed \$29 billion to farm income in the United States.
- In addition to providing pollination services, honeybees (which are not native to North America but are common and important pollinators) produce a variety of substances which are used by humans, including honey, wax, and propolis. In 2017, the United States honey industry was responsible for more than 22,000 jobs and its total economic output was \$4.74 billion.
- Pollinators face many challenges in the modern world, including habitat loss, disease, parasites, and pollution. But, there are many things we can do to help pollinators! Adding native, pollinator-friendly plants to the landscape to provide pollen and nectar, reducing the use of pesticides, and leaving areas for native grasses and shrubs to grow are all conservation practices that will help support pollinator survival.

A world without pollinators would certainly be less colorful, less fruitful, and less productive...which is why we hope you will illustrate the importance of keeping the environment healthy so our pollinators can continue to do their jobs!



A Message from Commissioner Jeff Laney: Affiliate Memberships Matter!

Affiliate Membership matters! A critical component to the success of RSWCD programs is having community awareness of who we are and what we do through our affiliates. Additionally, community involvement plays a role in funding our educational projects. One way to get involved in the work of the RSWCD is by becoming an Affiliate Member! We thank our existing members for their tremendous support, and we hope you will consider becoming one, too! An affiliate membership application and a list of our current affiliates is located on the back of this newsletter.

-Commissioner Jeff Laney

Commissioner Jeff Laney is an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He bagged an unusual leucistic (white) turkey this season! Laney manages the Affiliate Membership Program for the RSWCD.



In Memorium: Margaret Gardner



Margaret Gardner was born in the Cedar Creek community of Richland County in 1920 and, from the age of eight onwards, was a dedicated 4-H member and volunteer. She worked for Clemson Extension Service and Standard Oil Company and was very active in her community, serving in various capacities in the Fairfield Chapter of the American Bible Society, the Lion's Club, and the Richland County Farm-City Committee.

At the time of her death in September, 2018, Mrs. Gardner was the RSWCD's longest-serving Affiliate Member. She rarely missed an RSWCD awards program. Her absence at the 2019 Conservation Cookout was keenly felt.

Mrs. Gardner's family members **Ed Eargle and Raymond and Julie Hendrix** continue to serve as RSWCD affiliate members, and we thank the family for their long and continued support of conservation programs in Richland County.

In Memorium: Roger Ross



Roger Ross founded a trucking company, R&G Enterprises, and grew it to include multiple trucks and drivers. He was known for his generosity toward his employees. He also raised cattle, and he participated in the RSWCD's Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed Water Quality Improvement Program by installing several best management practices on his farm in Elgin.

Mr. Ross has been an honorary affiliate member of the RSWCD since 2016, when he volunteered his time and transportation to move a pallet of education supplies from Charleston to Columbia on behalf of the RSWCD.

Mr. Ross passed away earlier this year, and our community is impoverished by his loss.

Affiliate Members

Platinum Members

SC State Fair

Gold Members

Blythewood Pasture Services

Matt Bowers

Eastside Printing

Edwin Eargle

Gonzales Land & Timber

Raymond & Julianne Hendrix, Jr.

International Paper

Kirk Construction

Mike Newman

SC Wildlife Federation

Steve & Janie Stancyk

Ravi & Lydia Surendran

ZooBot Magnet Program,

Longleaf Middle School

Silver Members

Ag South

Al & Mary Burts

Carol Kososki

Al & Linda McNeil

Jim & Gloria Rhodes

Affiliate Members

Jason Carter

Cooper Family Farms

Pamela Greenlaw

Melanie & Chuck Hayes

Jeff Laney

Lizard's Thicket

Honorary Members

City Roots Farm

Mike Craven

SC Farm Bureau

2020 Hampton Street, Rm. 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: 803.576.2080

Fax: 803.576.2088

soilandwater@richlandcountysc.gov

Website: richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd

Facebook: facebook.com/rswcd

Twitter: twitter.com/rswcd

Instagram: instagram.com/richland_swcd/



Thank you!

Support the District: Become an Affiliate

Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. The financial support given by Affiliates helps us carry out many of our conservation and stewardship programs within the County. Please support our efforts by becoming an Affiliate Member today! Affiliate Memberships are good for **one year** from the date of application. Contributions are tax deductible.

- \$25—Affiliate Member
- \$50—Silver Affiliate Member
- \$100—Gold Affiliate Member
- \$250—Platinum Affiliate Member
- Mini-Grant Sponsor***: \$500 each

Membership Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

***Conservation Education Mini-Grants** are awarded to local schools to support conservation projects each fall and spring. Sponsors will be recognized in publicity materials.

Please return this form and a check made payable to RSWCD to:

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District
2020 Hampton Street, Rm. 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204

