

South Carolina's  
**Current Developments**  
 A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION  
 Helping People Help the Land  
 for 75 Years



USDA  
 Natural  
 Resources  
 Conservation  
 Service

WINTER  
 2010

From the Office  
 of the State Conservationist



*ANN ENGLISH*

**Greetings!**

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us, and the New Year is fast approaching. I know that NRCS employees in South Carolina have been working very hard the past few months to accomplish multiple tasks—especially the challenge of ABC data input. Your efforts paid off and I thank you for what you did to ensure we met the goal. The data will help our agency look ahead at staffing needs, meet performance objectives, and remain efficient as we continue to help people help the land.

As we enter 2011, I would like to issue a challenge. I am asking every NRCS field office and RC&D office to recruit and resourcefully utilize at least one Earth Team volunteer. I know many of our offices have already discovered that volunteers are an important and valuable asset to the conservation family. But for those of you that have not yet learned the benefits of the Earth Team Volunteer Program, this is your chance to find out why it has been an integral part of our agency's history. Volunteering began with the organization of conservation districts in 1937. In recognition of the interest and skills many Americans have in conservation, Congress passed legislation in 1981 permitting NRCS to use volunteers. In 1985, the volunteer effort was organized as the Earth Team, primarily due to the Farm Bill and the increased workload of NRCS.

As our workloads continue to increase, so does the pressure to both implement conservation practices *and* document our work. That means we need to be two places at once—both in the field working with our customers, and in the office keeping up with the demands of computer work. This is how volunteers can really help save the day. What can you teach a volunteer to do which might save you hours a day?

**In this issue....**

SC NRCS Celebrates  
 Hispanic  
 Heritage Month  
 and American  
 Indian Heritage  
 Month.....pages 3-4

Lowcountry RC&D  
 Celebrates  
 Six Years of Youth  
 Environmental  
 Education .....page 7

SC's Earth Team  
 Program.....pages 9-10

Conservation Photo  
 Contest  
 Winners.....pages 11-12

Personnel  
 Update.....page 13

Conservation  
 Program Sign Up Dates  
 .....page 13

-continued on next page-

## A Legacy of Conservation

letter from Ann English continued...

It requires a bit of time and effort to find the right volunteer, and introduce them to our work, but the rewards are great.

And don't be afraid to get creative when you think of ways that volunteers can help. Have you ever thought about an *Earth Team Conservation Journalist*? Most of you have examples in your county of outstanding stewards of the land and projects that are really making a difference in the health of natural resources. We need to make sure we tell these stories! I hear time and time again that our folks are doing great work, but that people don't know about our accomplishments because we are too busy to tell our own story. This is just one simple way that an Earth Team Volunteer could make a difference in your county. There are lots of people in the Palmetto State, young and old, from various backgrounds and experience levels, who would be great additions to our conservation team, and who are willing to volunteer their time and talents, and to help us tell our story.

Where are these volunteers? You mean they aren't lining up outside the field office waiting to get in? It's probably because they don't know we exist! Seek and you will find them. SC NRCS Earth Team Coordinator Sabrenna Bryant has put together some great ideas on where to find volunteers, and you can read more inside this newsletter on page 10.

You will also see from her report where we currently stand in terms of volunteer use in the state. My goal is to have these statistics dramatically improved by this time next year. I also have asked Sabrenna to form a State Volunteer Committee composed of employees, district employees, volunteers, NRCS supervisors, and a diverse mix of individuals who can come to the table with ideas to help make the Earth Team a success. If you wish to serve on this committee, please contact Sabrenna and let her know.

With the challenge issued, I urge you to get to work in seeking volunteers. I look forward to seeing how our SC NRCS Earth Team grows and strengthens, and I will be rewarding and recognizing those employees who enthusiastically embrace the challenge.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the All Employees Training in Columbia.

*Sincerely,  
Ann English*

**"Volunteering is the  
ultimate exercise in  
democracy.**

**You vote in elections  
once a year, but when  
you volunteer, you vote  
every day about the  
kind of community  
you want to live in.**

*~Source Unknown*



# Notes from the Field



## SC NRCS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

October 15-September 15, 2010

**Hispanic Cultural Awareness Training Program Conducted by Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager**

by Sabrenna Bryant, Public Affairs Specialist

Jayson Mas, SC NRCS Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager (HEPM), conducted *Hispanic Cultural Awareness Training* on October 6, 2010, in Bamberg, SC.

Lee Serralta McElveen, Hispanic/Latina Coordinator for the SC Commission for Minority Affairs, was the guest speaker.

Mas opened the program with a presentation highlighting his native country, Puerto Rico. His lively discussion provided the audience with an overview of native foods, economic statistics, climate, geography, and traditions and beliefs of the Puerto Rican culture.

McElveen then informed the audience on statistics and trends regarding the growing Hispanic population in South Carolina, as well as topics such as language barriers, education and economics of this community.

As a token of appreciation on behalf of State Conservationist Ann English, McElveen was presented with a certificate and an NRCS watch.

The program concluded with light refreshments including samples of traditional Puerto Rican food and drink.



Jayson Mas, SC NRCS Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager (HEPM), planned and conducted a very informative and personal lecture highlighting his Puerto Rican heritage.



Lee McElveen of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs (Hispanic Program Manager) was the guest speaker. She told the audience about the growing Hispanic population in South Carolina.



The educational session concluded with a sampling of cultural foods from Puerto Rico.

Visit the SC NRCS  
HEPM webpage for more information  
[www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/HEPM.html](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/HEPM.html)

## A Legacy of Conservation

### SC NRCS Celebrates American Indian Heritage Month in November

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month originated in 1915 when the president of the Congress of American Indian Associations issued a proclamation declaring the second Saturday in May of each year as American Indian Day. The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York.

In 1986, President Reagan designated November 23-30 as American Indian Week. Four years later, President Bush proclaimed the first National American Indian Heritage Month. Each year since, U.S. Presidents have proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage Month. NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month in November. As part of this celebration, an American Indian Tribe artist is chosen each year to develop a poster.

The NRCS American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage theme for the 2010 poster is "From the roots of our past, grow the promises of tomorrow." The artwork of Mr. Smoker Marchand, from the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington, was selected for the 2010 poster.

Daniel Cabaniss is South Carolina's American Indian/Alaskan Native Emphasis Program Manager, and grew up on the Catawba Indian Nation in York County, SC. For more information, visit [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/AIANEP\\_07.html](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/AIANEP_07.html).



### A Berry Big Sweet Potato in the Upstate!

Greenville NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Hollis Berry and his wife Aurelia know how to grow sweet potatoes--BIG ones! They produced a larger than life Beauregard variety purchased at their local garden center in the Upstate. It was planted in the Spring and harvested this Fall, weighing 14 pounds!

Mrs. Berry watered the sweet potato during the hot dry summer and fertilized it according to Clemson University soil test recommendations. This potato made several sweet potato pies just in time for Thanksgiving.



*Berry holds the massive sweet potato grown by his wife Aurelia. This photo also made news in the SC Department of Agriculture publication Market Bulletin.*

### SC NRCS Welcomes New Engineer to North Charleston

Liz Colby is a new Civil Engineer located in the North Charleston NRCS office. She was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, and earned her bachelor's degree from Purdue University in Agricultural and Biological Engineering in 2005. She then completed a master's degree from the University of California, Davis in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2009, and is a registered Professional Civil Engineer (California).

Her NRCS career began in 2005 when she started working for NRCS in Petaluma, CA, through the Career Intern Program (CIP). There, she gained experience working with dairies, livestock ranches, orchards and vineyards, and served as the official government representative and project manager for six Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects in Sonoma and Marin counties after the January 2006 floods. In 2007, she worked at NRCS while going back to school full time. She worked on flood plain mapping and

modeling the effects of invasive species on stream flooding for the Watershed Planning group based out of the State Office. After graduation, she transitioned back to a field support position as the Dairy Team engineer for Northern California. This team completed trainings for Technical Service Providers and NRCS staff on writing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) and assisted field offices with complex planning and engineering/agronomy projects on the dairies, such as separation facilities, manure irrigation systems, and correctly timing manure applications to meet regulatory requirements.

Colby says she also enjoys using her engineering knowledge for volunteer service projects. She was one of the first members of the *Engineers without Borders* chapter at Purdue and traveled to Tanzania in 2007 with the San Francisco Professionals chapter, and was afforded the opportunity to spend time working with the villagers to complete their first health clinic, test the water quality of drinking water wells, and install micro irrigation to encourage vegetable gardens/plots in the region. "It was challenging, yet wonderfully rewarding work," she said.

She married her husband Jeff this past July, and he is an Air Force pilot with the 17<sup>th</sup> squadron at Charleston AFB and flies C-17s. "I am very excited to explore a new part of the country, learn from everyone here, and help the field offices that I serve. I look forward to meeting everyone!" Welcome to SC NRCS Liz!



Liz Colby (left) is the new SC NRCS Civil Engineer in the North Charleston office. She is with fellow engineers Larry Cantrell and Jonathan Todd from Florence County, Rick Colson from Colleton County, and Eddie Mitchell, Soil Conservation Technician.

## My Experience as an Intern with the SC NRCS Dillon Office

by Heather Coleman, SC NRCS Student Intern

EQIP, WHIP, CRP, CSP, WRP, LWG. These are the words that I heard on day one of my internship. Not to mention all the stuff about contracts, Toolkit, protracts, field checks, etc. Needless to say, overwhelmed doesn't even begin to describe the way I felt. I had no idea how I was going to even attempt to learn about all of this stuff over just one summer. But I was told that I was young, and would learn fast, and two and a half months later and after one bottle of Tylenol, they were right. I was catching on. Slowly.

I attempted field surveys, working on the government computer, fumbling my way through Toolkit, and much more. One of the most memorable times was going out with wildlife biologists, Krista Noel and Sudie Thomas, in 110-degree weather to search for rare plant species for almost four hours. I was completely lost, as I know hardly anything about plants, but they tried their best to educate me. I think I was told every plant name in every area we walked and searched. What I remember most is learning what poison ivy looks like (as we were surrounded by it), my amazing farmer's tan afterwards, and the bug bites. Oh yea- we found two out of the five we were looking for. These are only a few of the many tasks that I tackled during this summer, but each of them was meaningful to my training experience.

I was also able to spend some time in surrounding counties. It was a little different, but still had the same outcome—positive customer service. I grew up on a farm in Dillon County, so I knew about NRCS, but just didn't know all the things that they do. My internship has shown me just how strong the relationships this agency has with its farmers and other land owners is, and how much each benefit from working with each other.



Heather Coleman interned with the SC NRCS Dillon Field Office last summer and had a great experience. She is a Senior at Clemson University and will graduate this May with a degree in Ag. Education.

## A Legacy of Conservation

### Calhoun SWCD Donates Water Garden-Fish Pond to Local Schools

Calhoun SWCD donated a water garden/fish pond (designed and installed by Hay Hill Services) to two Calhoun County Schools-St. Matthews School and Sandy Run School. These water features will provide a wonderful resource for students to learn about water quantity and quality, fish management, and just how soothing and calming water can be!

The natural area can also be used by all class disciplines as a central study point, including poetry, math, science, and photography.

The Calhoun SWCD hopes the students, as well as the community, will enjoy the water gardens for years to come.

Margaret Thornton, Calhoun SWCD Administrative Assistant, recruited the St. Matthews NRCS Field Office staff as well as SWCD volunteers, to help catch and move the fish from their previous location (old Guinyard Elementary School which is no longer occupied by students) to their newly constructed homes.



*Jonathan Williams, SCDNR Resource Specialist, consults with Calhoun SWCD Volunteer Anna Margaret Weeks and her son Lowndes as they carefully place fish in buckets to be transported.*



*St. Matthews NRCS employees Will Faulkner, Soil Conservationist (in the orange shirt), and Mike Sigmon, District Conservationist (holding on to his hat), offer assistance as the fish are transported into their brand new home at the school.*



*The water garden/fish pond at St. Matthews K-8<sup>th</sup> School is a lovely focal point and a great habitat for fish.*

### South Carolina NRCS Employee Makes Headlines in National Magazine

Rich Williamson, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician in Sumter County, SC, was featured in the national magazine, *American Careers*. The article, "Soil Conservation: An Important "Green Job," explores the various aspects of Williamson's job, as well as the importance of his position in "helping maintain the viability and balance of natural resources" in his county. You can download a copy of the article by visiting [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/news/](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/news/).



*Rich Williamson (right) is a Soil Conservation Technician in Sumter County, and was interviewed by American Careers Magazine about his profession.*

**Lowcountry RC&D Celebrates Six Years of Supporting Youth Environmental Education**

*Council has awarded over \$100,000 to SC environmental education programs since 2004*

The Lowcountry Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council has announced that its Youth Environmental Education Grant Program has reached a milestone after the latest round of grant announcements. Since the program's inception in 2004, the council has presented over \$100,000 to programs throughout the Palmetto State that teach environmental awareness to youth. Just this October, the council presented over \$20,000 to winners statewide.

The grants were developed to encourage and enhance natural resources education for South Carolina's young adults, and as a result have benefited at least 150,000 students. A Youth Education Committee selects the awardees each year and winning applicants receive up to \$2,000 to promote, enhance, or assist with environmental education programs for youth.

Funding for this program comes from the Lowcountry RC&D Council's Wildlife Incentives Program seed sales. Certified and treated one year old corn, soybean and sorghum seed are offered each spring for wildlife planting and wheat seed is offered each fall. Annually, over 8,000 acres are planted with critical wildlife habitat as a result of this seed program. To be placed on the seed list, please call 843-549-5596 and leave name, address, and cell phone number. Announcements will be mailed concerning the availability of seed.

**The most recent grant winners were selected in October, and the recipients include—**

**Beaufort County**

- Beaufort Conservation District Soil Tunnel Booklet - \$1,100/Thumbs Up - \$1,500/Sea Explorers - \$250 /Okatie Elementary School - \$500

**Berkeley County**

- Cypress Gardens Education Program - \$2,000 /Keepers of the Wild Education Program - \$250

**Charleston County**

- Learning Naturally With SEWEE Association - \$2,000

**Colleton County**

- Pineland District Boy Scouts Env. Education - \$250

**Dorchester County**

- iPod Tech at Beidler Forest - \$1,800/ Dorchester Academy Outdoor Science Center - \$500

**Hampton County**

- Hampton/Allendale County 4-H Programs - \$2,000

**Jasper County**

- Blue Heron Nature Center - \$2,000

**Statewide**

- Tara Hall Home for Boys - \$1,500 - Georgetown County
- Hunter Safety/Animal Biology, John de la Howe School- \$1,500 - McCormick County
- Lower Savannah River Alliance - \$500 - Allendale, Hampton Counties
- Wood Magic Forest Fair - \$500 - Richland County
- Woodland Clinic - \$500 - Greenwood County
- Spring Planting Event - \$500 - Williamsburg County
- SC Envirothon - \$350 - Lexington County
- Environmental Discovery Center Program - \$250 - Florence County
- Hopewell Youth Group Outdoor Classroom - \$250 - Williamsburg County
- Teacher's Environmental Workshop - \$250 - Sumter County
- Leopold Education Project - \$250 - Orangeburg County



*Lowcountry RC&D has been promoting environmental education for youth with a grant program that is now in its sixth year.*

### NRCS Helps High School Students Conduct Survey to Create Soccer Field

Recently, a generous donor gave Colleton Preparatory Academy part of the parcel across the street from the school to enable a new soccer field to be built. As part of an effort to integrate high school projects with real world applications, Mechanical Engineer turned *AutoCAD* teacher Christy Langdale asked NRCS to show her junior and senior students how to survey a piece of land and create an *AutoCAD* design with it. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, NRCS Engineers Rick Colson, Larry Cantrell, Jonathan Todd, Liz Colby, and Soil Conservation Technician Eddie Mitchell met with the students to offer conservation technical assistance.

NRCS staff divided the students into three teams for hands on training using both *Leica* GPS surveying equipment and *Total Station* surveying equipment. NRCS staff will return early next year to show the students how to import the survey into *AutoCAD* and create a soccer field, detention basin and parking lot layout with the data that the students gathered. The students were very interested in the surveying portion of the training and have already asked Ms. Langdale when NRCS will return to finish the training. Several students expressed a newfound interest in careers that include surveying.



NRCS Civil Engineer Technician Rick Colson works with students to conduct a land survey.

### 24th Annual Wild Quail Management Seminar scheduled for March 10-11, 2011

Bobwhite quail populations in South Carolina and the Southeast have been declining steadily over the past 60 years due to major land use change and reduction in suitable habitat. The 24th Annual Wild Quail Management Seminar, sponsored by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is designed to instruct landowners and land managers in the proper techniques of creating habitat that will support native populations of bobwhite quail.

This year there will be only one expanded seminar which can accommodate 35 participants on March 10-11, 2011, at the Webb Wildlife Center (1282 Webb Avenue, Garnett) in Hampton County. The registration fee is \$80 and includes meals, overnight accommodations and seminar materials. If 20 participants are not registered by February 11, 2010, the seminar will be cancelled. Space is limited to 35 participants, so register early to reserve a slot. For more information write Quail Management Seminars, DNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202, or call the DNR Small Game Project in Columbia at (803) 734-3609, or e-mail [castinep@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:castinep@dnr.sc.gov).

Field demonstrations and classroom instruction will focus on habitat practices including firebreak establishment, prescribed burning, forest management, brush control, discing for natural foods and supplemental food patch plantings. Presentations will be given on wild quail natural history, biology, diseases and parasites, predation and other factors that may be contributing to the population decline. "These seminars are designed to improve quail habitat management skills and the information is presented so that anyone with an interest can implement these practices on their property regardless of size," stated Billy Dukes, DNR Small Game Project Supervisor.



SC DNR will sponsor a quail management seminar in March.

# Earth Team Volunteers in South Carolina

## Making a Positive Difference!

### Trail Blazers

*Ninety-Six District RC&D Volunteers  
Convert Old Railroads to Nature Trails  
by Michelle Laxer, reprinted from Index Journal News*

McCormick County Council went for a ride in the woods Saturday morning for the orientation tour of the first open leg of the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail. "Basically, it was to explain to the county council members how the project is proceeding," said Don Norton, a leader of the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail steering committee. The Ninety-Six District Resource Conversation and Development Council is also working on the trail project.

The trailhead is located on Barksdale Ferry Road next door to the McCormick Country Club. A short access path from the parking lot leads hikers to the actual trail, where it crosses Barksdale Ferry Road and goes into the woods. While on the trail, walkers and bikers can see remains of old railroad ties and whistle markers. The trail is not paved and Norton said there are no plans to change that. The only thing left to add to the trail is mile markers and signage.

The Savannah Valley Railroad Trail is part of the Rails-To-Trails program that turns old railroads into walking and biking trails. In the late 1800s, the Savannah Valley Railroad ran between Anderson and Charleston. Service was discontinued in 1987, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce purchased it in 1983. The idea for the trail project came about in the mid-1990s, but due to lack of funding and support, the project just only got started recently.

Norton said volunteers from the John de la Howe House, the Marines and the Boy Scouts started to clear the trail of vegetation and trees last fall. The project had help from about 300 volunteers, and that help is still needed for trail maintenance. He hopes that he can get groups to "sponsor" a mile of the trail for maintenance.

The trail is supposed to stretch another six miles to Willington, but the 96 RC&D council has a bridge to cross before that leg is completed.

Literally. A wood walking bridge must be built over the Old Mill Creek trestle for the project to continue. "We also have to be sure that the trestle itself is safe and that's going to take a large sum of money," said Frank Clayton, steering committee member.



A lack of funding has prevented the council from the trestle project. It will apply for the fourth time for a parks, recreation and tourism grant to help with funding. Until then, the committee will work with the U.S. Forest Service to develop alternative access trails at different points along Savannah Valley Railroad. Wallace Wood, a member of the steering committee, said the project fits into the council's plans for more nature-based tourism.

"I think it's an economic development project because once it's completed and advertised, people will drive to it," he said. "People are looking for these opportunities." Phil Cox, vice chairman of the council, said it was important for McCormick to embrace what it has to offer for recreation. "We should plan to use our natural resources to make people aware of our beautiful county," he said.



*Members of McCormick County Council and members of the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail Earth Team Volunteer Group discuss the eight-mile trail with Ninety-Six District RC&D Coordinator Elyse Benson, second from left.*

### Do you have a volunteer success story?

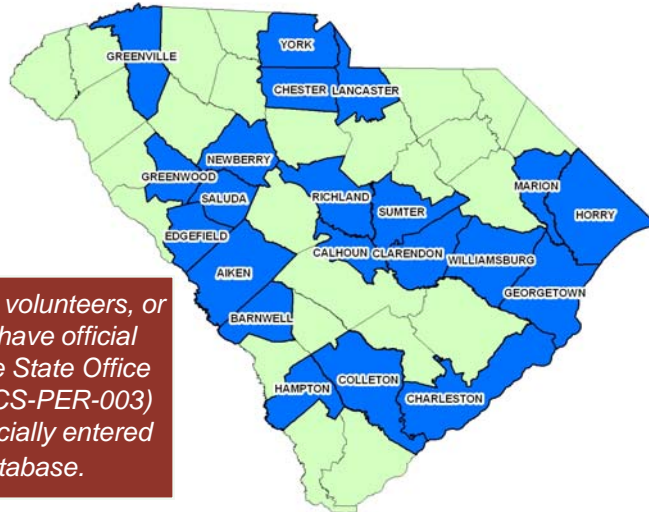
Let us know. We want to feature you in the next newsletter.

Call Amy or Sabrenna in the state office.

## Earth Team Volunteer Use in SC for 2009-2010



*The map highlights SC counties (those shaded in blue) that utilized Earth Team volunteers over the past two years\*\*. Out of 48 NRCS offices, including RC&D's, only 21 offices reported Earth Team volunteer hours.*



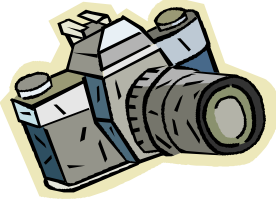
**\*\*Note:** Only Earth Team volunteers, or volunteer groups, who have official applications on file in the State Office (NRCS-PER-001 or NRCS-PER-003) can have their hours officially entered in the volunteer database.



## Ideas for Recruiting Earth Team Volunteers

**As you search high and low for Earth Team volunteers, remember--**

- 1. Start with yourself.** As an employee of NRCS, you are the perfect advocate for how great our agency is and how cool it would be to volunteer.
- 2. Think about who you already know.** Think of everyone connected to NRCS as an assistant recruiter. Staff, volunteers, and board members have seen the program at work, and can get the word out to friends and family members.
- 3. Be ready to provide good customer service.** Your agency should always be prepared to respond to inquiries from potential volunteers. Have someone on your staff who is specifically responsible for responding to initial telephone inquiries and follow-ups.
- 4. Have clear goals and expectations of what your volunteer will do.** Make sure volunteers understand the importance of the task they are doing, and how it fits into the overall agency mission. Never allow people to feel that you wasted their time or that they weren't really needed.
- 5. Tap in to unique sources.** Be open to recruiting from places you haven't considered before. Think about the following:
  - Online volunteer databases like [volunteermatch.org](http://volunteermatch.org) or [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov)
  - Military personnel and spouses
  - Religious organizations, such as churches and temples
  - Vocational Rehab. centers and agencies
  - Scout troops and other youth groups
  - Local Fraternities and Sororities



# Conservation Photo Contest Winners



*Ann Bentley, Charleston NRCS*

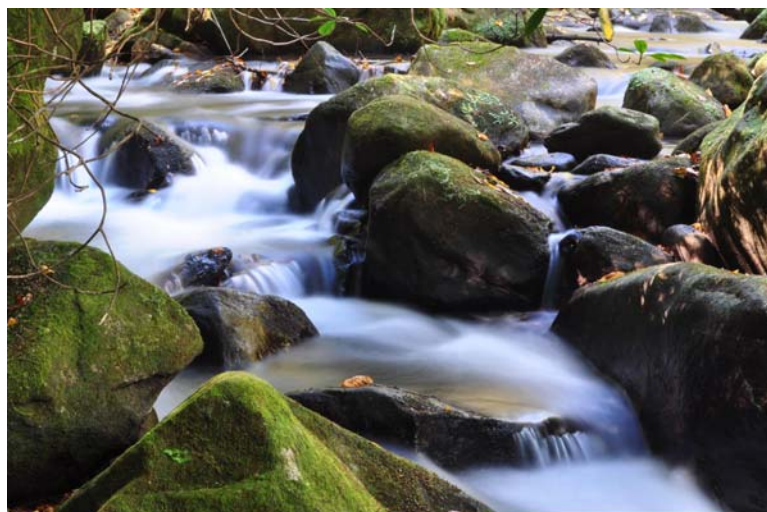


*Jackie Heuermann, Chester NRCS*

*The Public Affairs Team always welcomes your photo submissions of conservation/nature scenes from the Palmetto State. Send them to us anytime, and please make sure they are at least 200 dpi .jpg files.*



*Staci Henry, Newberry NRCS*



*Sue Griggs, Chesterfield NRCS*

*More winners on next page....*

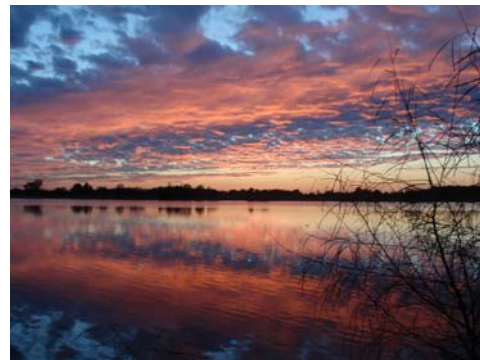
**Conservation  
Photo  
Contest  
Winners**



*Debbie Mann, Georgetown NRCS  
The owl was photographed at his home,  
a new Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)  
easement.*



*Lisa Good, Laurens NRCS*



*Karen Brady, Edisto Savannah RC&D*

---

## **South Carolina NRCS Conservation Program Dates!**

*Get more information, including eligibility requirements on our website for these upcoming opportunities:*

- **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Proposals-due by January 31, 2011.**
- **Grants for Innovative Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Carbon Sequestration Projects-apply by February 11, 2011.**
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative-apply by March 4, 2011.** Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000.

**More information at [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov)**

## Personnel News

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Carrie Gosik was selected as a Financial Technician, GS-0503 -05, in the State Office, effective August 1, 2010.

Elizabeth Colby was selected as a Civil Engineer, GS-0810-11, in the Charleston Field Office, effective October 24, 2010.

Jacqueline Heuermann was selected as a Soil Conservationist Technician, GS-0457- 06, in the Chester Field Office, effective August 1, 2010.

William Byrum was selected as a District Conservationist, GS-0457-11, in the Sumter Field Office, effective September 13, 2010.

### PROMOTIONS

Amy Williams was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-09, in the Florence Field Office, effective July 4, 2010.

Daniel Cabaniss was promoted and reassigned to District Conservationist, GS-0457-09, in the Marion Field Office, effective September 26, 2010.

Benjamin Padget was promoted and reassigned to District Conservationist, GS-0457-11, in the Hampton Field Office, effective October 24, 2010.

Dorothea Martinez was promoted to Contract Specialist, GS- 1102-11, in the State Office, effective August 15, 2010.

Jeffrey Epps was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-07, in the Edgefield Field Office, effective September 12, 2010.

Gordon Mikell was promoted to Career Intern Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-09, in the Georgetown Field Office, effective September 12, 2010.

Joshua Martin was promoted to Soil Conservationist, GS-0457-07, in the Sumter Field Office, effective August 15, 2010

### TRANSFER

Ray Dotson, District Conservationist in the Hampton Field Office was promoted and transferred to Michigan effective June 20, 2010.

### REASSIGNMENT

Antron Williams, District Conservationist in the Marion Field Office, was reassigned to District Conservationist located in the Manning Field Office, effective July 18, 2010.

Curtis Hall, Field Operations Coordinator in the State Office, was reassigned to Contract Specialist located in the State Office, effective September 12, 2010.

Eddie Martin, Civil Engineer in the Greenville Field Office, was reassigned to Civil Engineer located in the Anderson Field Office, effective September 26, 2010.

### RESIGNATION

Corey Calderone, Soil Scientist, GS-0470-09 resigned effective July 31, 2010, from the Laurens Field Office.

*Visit us on the web at  
[www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov)*

### [NRCS Public Affairs Team/Newsletter Staff](#)

**Editor:** Amy Overstreet Maxwell, State Public

Affairs Specialist and Outreach Coordinator

**Co-Editor:** Sabrenna Bryant, Public Affairs Assistant

**Editorial Assistant:** Beverly Alexander, Admin. Asst.

**Please send comments and suggestions to:**

**USDA-NRCS**

**EDITOR-Current Developments**

**1835 Assembly Street, Room 950**

**Columbia, SC 29201**

***SC's Current Developments*** is published quarterly.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."