

South Carolina's Current Developments

Home of the first soil conservation district plan...February 4, 1938

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

July/August 2003

From the Office of the
State Conservationist

Walter W. Douglas



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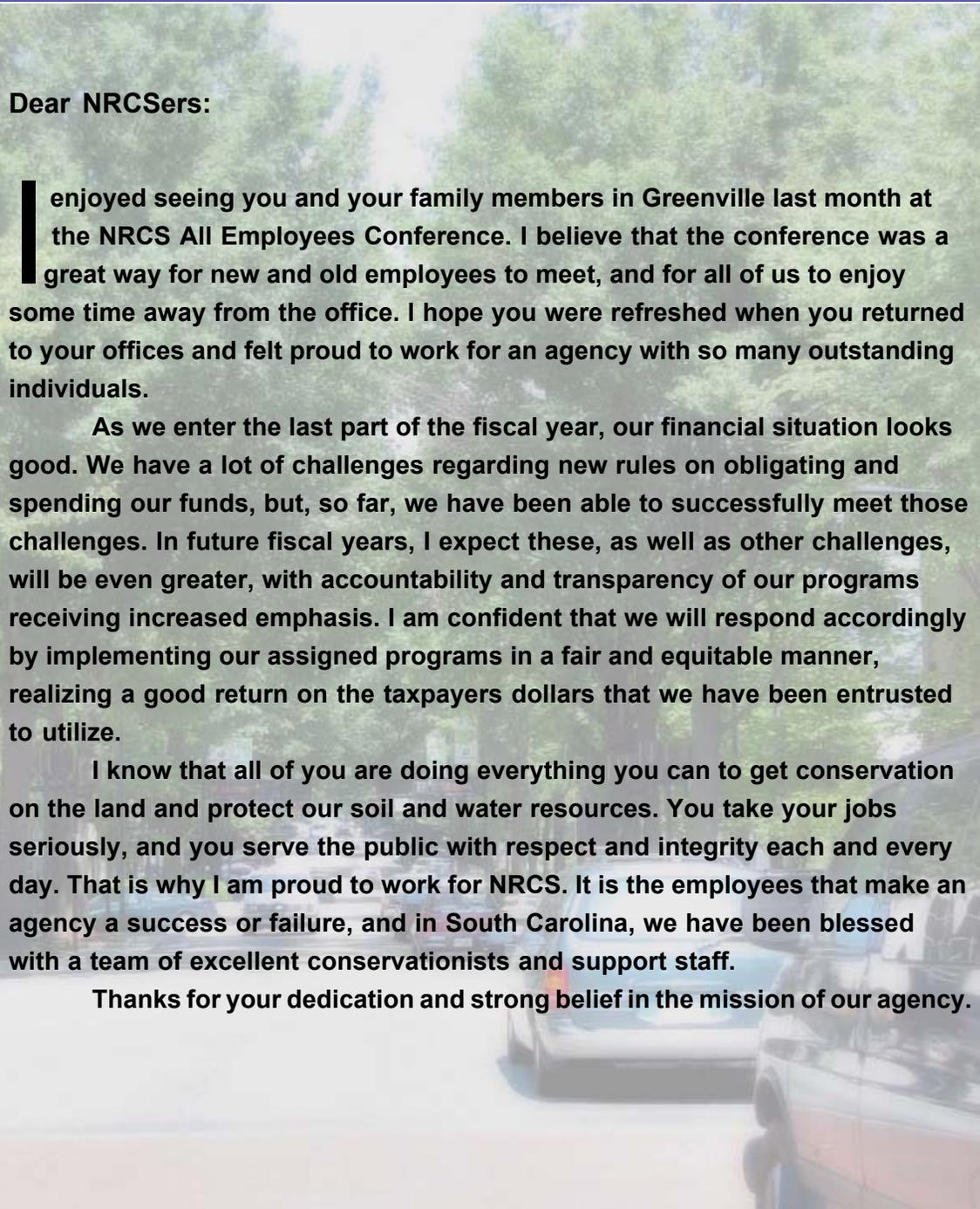
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Dear NRCSers:

I enjoyed seeing you and your family members in Greenville last month at the NRCS All Employees Conference. I believe that the conference was a great way for new and old employees to meet, and for all of us to enjoy some time away from the office. I hope you were refreshed when you returned to your offices and felt proud to work for an agency with so many outstanding individuals.

As we enter the last part of the fiscal year, our financial situation looks good. We have a lot of challenges regarding new rules on obligating and spending our funds, but, so far, we have been able to successfully meet those challenges. In future fiscal years, I expect these, as well as other challenges, will be even greater, with accountability and transparency of our programs receiving increased emphasis. I am confident that we will respond accordingly by implementing our assigned programs in a fair and equitable manner, realizing a good return on the taxpayers dollars that we have been entrusted to utilize.

I know that all of you are doing everything you can to get conservation on the land and protect our soil and water resources. You take your jobs seriously, and you serve the public with respect and integrity each and every day. That is why I am proud to work for NRCS. It is the employees that make an agency a success or failure, and in South Carolina, we have been blessed with a team of excellent conservationists and support staff.

Thanks for your dedication and strong belief in the mission of our agency.

Main St, Greenville, SC



Notes from the Field



Downtown Greenville, SC

Reaching New Heights—The NRCS All Employees Conference

by Sabrenna Bennett, public affairs assistant

The NRCS gang headed to the serene and airy mountains of Greenville, SC, to enjoy a few days of physical and mental rejuvenation through camaraderie with friends, training sessions, extracurricular activities and the beautiful sights and sounds of the Upstate! The All Employees Conference took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, located in the center of downtown Greenville. The location was perfect for an outdoor lunch at a local café or frequent trips to the Mast General Store.

The conference kicked off Monday, July 14, at 1:00 pm with a welcome by NRCS Greenville District Conservationist Dennis Bauknight, Greenville Mayor Knox White, and NRCS State Conservationist Walter Douglas. Special guests from NRCS National Headquarters in Washington D.C. were also on hand. Associate Chief Tom Weber and Budget Analyst Debbie Curtis delivered informative discussions on conservation activities and Farm Bill funding at the national level. Consultant Donna Taylor from Athens, Georgia, began Monday's final session with a lesson in professional etiquette, and a cookout and talent show at Paris Mountain State Park that evening completed Monday's activities.

NRCSers were up bright and early Tuesday morning to learn facts about other cultures from all over the world. This included a lesson in cultural differences between Americans and Asians, the origins of Puerto Rican folk dance, and Native American storytelling. Tuesday afternoon featured a variety of breakout sessions on both personal and professional topics, such as *Preparing for Financial Security and Prospering in Workplace Change*. The day ended with a banquet in the Regency Ballroom, which included dinner, entertainment by motivational speaker Carol Ann Small from Boston, and music by DJ Smokin' Joe.

Wednesday morning marked the ending of the conference with a wrap-up session featuring Dr. Venaye Reece, an Animal Emergency Response Coordinator, Motivational Humorist Glen Ward, and a farewell from State Conservationist Walter Douglas.



Upstate NRCSers Dennis and Amanda Bauknight exhibited their musical talents at the NRCS Talent Show at Paris Mountain State Park.



The NRCS banquet for employees and their families gave everyone a chance to socialize and enjoy a nice dinner.



Michelle Yarborough, daughter of NRCS Administrative Assistant Angela Yarborough, and her friend Yasmine Eskew, dance at the talent show.

NRCS All Employees Conference--Greenville, SC July 14-16, 2003



Cherokee storyteller and artist Freeman Owle moved the crowd with his touching stories.



Ayana Brown, NRCS Federal Women's Program Manager, displayed materials and pictures on her special emphasis program.



The planning committee for the conference enjoyed the banquet.



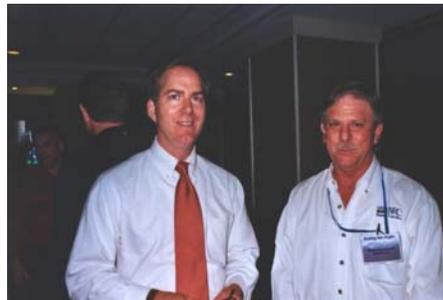
Banquet speaker Carol Ann Small and Assistant State Conservationist Ellis Morrow hammed it up during dinner.



State Office Administrative Assistant Petra Sumter and Computer Specialist D.L Glover strut their stuff at the NRCS dance.



30-year Length of Service Award recipients proudly display their plaques.



left to right: Knox White, Greenville Mayor, and NRCS District Conservationist Dennis Bauknight greeted the crowd at the opening session.



NRCS State Conservationist Walter Douglas presented Edgefield District Conservationist Bob Bowie with the State Civil Rights Award.



Dancers from Grupo Taino displayed their enthusiasm and talent.



Consultant Donna Taylor discussed professional business etiquette.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), NRCS Team Up



With nearly 50 percent of the land in the U.S. privately owned, the proper conservation of wildlife and its habitat depends heavily upon the efforts of individual landowners. To help ensure that these private landowners have the resources available to them to make informed decisions about what to grow and how to manage their property, the NWTF's Wild Turkey Woodlands program has signed a formal agreement with USDA-NRCS.

Through this agreement, both organizations will participate in meetings, landowner workshops and conferences to provide information and advice about managing wildlife. They will also provide habitat management information in news articles, reports, newsletters and other outreach publications made available to members of the Wild Turkey Woodlands Program.

"We have to properly manage habitat where we can find it, and, in many cases, that land is privately owned by corporations or individuals all over North America," said Dr. James Earl Kenamer, NWTF senior vice president for conservation programs.

For more information on Wild Turkey Woodlands, go to www.nwtf.org.

Wheels-to-Work Workshop Teaches Responsible Auto Ownership and Maintenance

Twelve Wheels-to-Work (WTW) participants took part in the first WTW Ownership and Maintenance workshop held Saturday, June 7, 2003. Workshop attendees received "hands-on" training by certified automotive mechanic and owner, Flip Quiller, of Flip's Auto Repair Center in Aiken, South Carolina.

The skills attendees learned at the workshop were-

- Visually check vehicle, tires, and lights
- Identify checkpoints under the hood
- Jump start procedures
- Spare tire/jack usage

- Knowing when services are due
- Service recordkeeping
- Budgeting and planning for future repairs
- Finding an honest mechanic
- Checking engine lights

The Edisto Savannah Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) was awarded a grant to provide over 100 previously owned vehicles at zero interest loans to South Carolina welfare program graduates. The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) awarded the grant which funds the *Wheels to Work* program—a first of its kind in South Carolina. This is a demonstration project administered by Edisto Savannah RC&D for the counties of Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg.

Since its inception, the program has demonstrated cost savings to South Carolina. According to DSS, *Wheels-to-Work* saves the agency a minimum of \$15,358 per month, and this figure will increase as more candidates are placed with vehicles and relieve the county transportation budgets. Costs will further increase as clients achieve their goals of self-sufficiency and are no longer in need of Family Independence services.



Participants of the Wheels-to-Work workshop learned hands-on skills for car maintenance.

NRCS and Fort Jackson Team Up to Combat Soil Erosion

Results include improved water quality and enhanced training areas

by Amy O. Maxwell, USDA-NRCS public affairs specialist

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Columbia, SC, works side-by-side with troops at Fort Jackson. While NRCS conservationists aren't carrying ammunition or perfecting their aim on the rifle range, they are making it easier for troops to navigate the sandy terrain. Many soldiers deployed to Iraq have received training at Fort Jackson, on this very same soil.

For the past ten years, NRCS has worked with Fort Jackson to alleviate serious soil erosion problems. The erosion control program at Fort Jackson began in 1991 with the initiation of an erosion control inventory, conducted by NRCS. Fort Jackson awarded 13 contracts for work to improve its training lands, and the installation restored more than 200 acres of critically eroding land on 68 sites. Fort Jackson officials said working with the NRCS has been the key to the erosion-control program's success. NRCS provides a turn-key operation: from high quality technical assistance in design and construction to contract administration and payment certification.

Because of Fort Jackson's location in the Sandhills of South Carolina, sandy soils mean highly erosive conditions. Coupled with heavy foot and vehicle traffic, the poor soil conditions meant that the area was quickly degrading and in many spots became dangerous for troops to cross, especially

while carrying dangerous and explosive ammunition. Over the past eight years, over 120 sites have been identified for conservation. Using a variety of geotextile materials and innovative designs, Fort Jackson and NRCS have come up with an excellent plan for slowing soil erosion, particularly at the heavily used Omaha Beach Firing Range.

NRCS Civil Engineering Technician Ricky Walker is stationed at Fort Jackson and has been a major player in the erosion control process. "In order to repair and enhance the training grounds at Omaha Beach, we used a variety of materials such as geotextile mats, interlocking blocks, and vegetation to stabilize the highly erodible soils," he explained.

NRCS District Conservationist Jim Wilson oversees project implementation at Fort Jackson and stated that the staff at the fort is extremely dedicated to conservation and doing things right the first time. "The environmental team at the fort are committed to protecting the natural resources, and have dedicated funding and staff time to ensure the work is permanent and not just a quick fix," said Wilson. Currently, NRCS and Fort Jackson have established five contracts involving conservation work ranging from soil erosion, forestry, and wildlife conservation.

The work involved stabilizing roads with mulch and gravel, channel stabilization, and planting vegetation such as Bermuda, Bahia, and Brown Top Millet. In addition, an excess of pine trees was causing pine straw to block drainage culverts therefore caus-



Before: This firing lane was suffering from severe erosion due to overuse.



After: The firing lane was re-vegetated to provide a permanent cover and NRCS suggested rotating lane usage to allow for regrowth.

ing sediment to invade training fields. Cutting down some of the trees alleviated this problem. In addition, channel stabilization involved lining the bottom of the channel with cloth, then placing a cable concrete mat on top to provide stability and protection. This allows troops to cross the channels much quicker and safer than previously. Walker added, "This technique was a much better option than using traditional rip-rap, which is not aesthetic, or safe to maneuver across." Furthermore, the work is permanent, and should require little if any maintenance.

The erosion control project at Omaha Beach began in April, and the vegetation that was planted then has benefited greatly from plentiful rains this spring and summer. This high traffic area is now protected from excessive erosion that was damaging it. "Looking at the big picture, not only is this firing range protected, rather, the entire surrounding watershed is safeguarded from nonpoint source pollution," explained Wilson. "The project has a wide reaching effect in protecting nearby water sources which were previously affected by soil erosion from this area."

NRCS also recommended a rotating land usage process in an effort to allow regrowth of vegetation. "Shooting lanes were seeing excessive use and had no time to repair or regrow, so rotating the use of the lanes should improve them," explained Walker. Troops were getting sand in their weapons because of the excessive erosion, and this was a definite safety hazard. The lanes were seeded and mulched, as well as fertilized and limed. "It's important to rotate usage to allow for regrowth, much like a farmer will do for pasture management," he said.

In another improvement at Omaha Beach, a berm containing no vegetation was reshaped and planted. "We put topsoil on it, seeded it, and



Before: This channel was eroding at a fast rate and was a danger to troops crossing the area with heavyammunition.



After: Selective tree thinning and channel reinforcement using geotextile cloth and articulating concrete block ended the erosion problems and made the area much safer.

stopped the erosion from the unprotected area from running off into the adjacent firing lanes," said Walker. An added benefit is that wildlife species such as turkey and quail can feed off the grass.

The strong partnership between NRCS and Fort Jackson resulted in many improvements at the army installation, and soil and water resources for miles will be permanently protected. The conservation work implemented not only improved soil and water health in the impacted area, but also in the surrounding watershed. Conservationists are not planning to stop here. "This is just the beginning of the improvements we can make at the installation, and we plan to continue our conservation efforts for a long time to come," concluded Walker. *For more information, contact Jim Wilson at (803) 576-2084.*



NRCS Civil Engineering Technician Ricky Walker is stationed at Fort Jackson and has been a major player in the erosion control process.



Conservation Partnership News



*South Carolina Department of Natural Resources- Land, Water, and Conservation Division
and South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts*

2003 Governor's Institute Scholarships Awarded

The 36th Annual Governor's Institute for Natural Resources Conservation was held June 16th through the 20th on the campus of Lander University in Greenwood, SC. Forty-three high school students representing 26 counties from across the State attended the Institute, which focused on the wise use and conservation of natural resources. The Institute is a cooperative venture of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation, the 46 Conservation Districts of South Carolina, and Lander University.

The students competed for seven scholarships, including a full four-year scholarship to Lander University to major in Environmental Science. The scholarship winners were determined by their score on a comprehensive exam given at the end of the week. The scholarships awards and recipients were: Walter Ruff Scholarship to Aaron Ingle of the Edgefield District; M. L. Long Scholarship to William DeFee of the Chesterfield District; Robert L. Scarborough Scholarship to Austin Hendrickson of the Calhoun District; SC Conservation Districts Auxiliary Scholarship to Russell Henderson of the Edgefield District; SC Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarship to James Butler of the Greenwood District; and Don McPhail Scholarship to Jason Gore of the Horry District. Austin Hendrickson also qualified for the Martha Covington King Scholarship, offered to the top senior to attend Lander University and major in Environmental Science.

Those students who scored a passing grade on the exam earned an hour of college credit in Environmental Science issued by Lander University. Subjects such as aquatics, forestry, conservation engineering, and wildlife biology, are taught by true professionals in their field.

"This year's participants showed an active interest in the subjects taught and that level of interest shined through on their exam scores," says Neil Bartley, Institute Director. The Institute is planned and staffed by employees of SCDNR-Land, Water, and Conservation Division.



Participants of the 36th Annual Governor's Institute for Natural Resources Conservation at Lander University.

Adventures of an Earth Team Volunteer

Personal reflection on experiences as an Earth Team Volunteer by Daniel Peeler, Florence Field Office



This summer I had the opportunity to volunteer as a member of the Earth Team at the Florence County NRCS field office. I learned many things about conservation and enjoyed quite a few memorable moments through the various kinds of work I did. I would like to share a little about how I came to volunteer at NRCS, and about some of the work I did this summer.

My first encounter with conservation came from Mr. Eddie Martin, who formerly worked at the Florence field office, but transferred to the Greenville office several years ago. Mr. Martin is a good friend of my family, and he came to our house a few times to educate my sisters and me about conservation. My second encounter with conservation occurred several months ago when I went to the Florence field office to gather information that I needed for a project that I was working on just for fun. Though my project later proved impractical, my interest in natural resources was sparked. A few months later, my parents suggested that I volunteer at NRCS for the summer. They wanted me to look at a few career options during the summer, and thought that since I was so interested in natural resources, that I ought to do some volunteer work. That is how I came to volunteer with NRCS.

My work at NRCS varied from day to day. Throughout the summer, I have done field work, office work and even camp work. When it comes to field work, two jobs really stand out in my memory. The first was a CRP shallow water impoundment being constructed near Cartersville. The pond almost became a sort of "pet project" and I visited it several times. As I watched an empty field become a ten-acre impoundment, I learned many things about surveying, engineering, and CRP. The other job in the field that stands out was when I went to Bishopville with two engineers to survey for a new drainage ditch. We had to make sure that the new ditch would drain properly, which meant that we had to survey

the existing ditch. While the property was nicely manicured, the areas to be surveyed were not. I ended up carrying the cumbersome rod through thick brush and down into a five-foot-ditch filled with two inches of water (and five inches of mud). I will not forget that day any time soon.

Besides field work, I also did a good deal of office work. This included filing papers, answering telephones and cleaning out the storage room. This particular storage room contained broken surveying equipment, old furniture, obsolete computer equipment and junk from the past

twenty years. As everyone else was busy, I was given the responsibility of sorting through everything and seeing that all trash ended up in the dumpster. The days I spent in that storage room were more tiring than days out in the field.

The final type of work I did this summer was to help out at a week long day camp run by 4-H and the Lee County NRCS. Called 4-H2O, this camp taught children

between the ages of 8 and 12 about conservation, watersheds, wetlands and wildlife. The camp was held in Florence County at the Lynches River County Park. My main responsibilities were crowd control and supervising recreation. That was undoubtedly the hardest week of the summer and I have come to the conclusion that the thickest brush and the messiest storage rooms are nothing compared to controlling children at 4-H2O!

In summation, I had a good time during my volunteer work. I learned many things about conservation, engineering, surveying and government programs, not to mention the useful experience I gained in hiking in rough terrain, organizing storage rooms, camp counseling, and being prepared for the unexpected. Though I do not know whether I will pursue conservation as a career, I know I will not soon forget my summer as an Earth Team volunteer.



Daniel Peeler, Florence County Earth Team Volunteer, lends a helping hand to the conservation partnership.

New Septic System Introduced in South Carolina

by Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

Foul odors, above ground leakage, and complaining neighbors may be a few of the many symptoms associated with a problematic septic system. For homeowners in South Carolina who are dealing with this problem, Bio-Gator septic generator may be the solution. Bio-Gator is a product of Natural Clear Solutions, which is based in Ohio. It has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an acceptable modifier for existing septic systems. A partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Piedmont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) began evaluating the effects of the Bio-Gator system on July 10, 2003, at the home of a Lake Murray resident. This was the first time Bio-Gator was used in South Carolina.

Bio-Gator is an Aerobic Bacteria Generation System (ABGS) that's inserted into existing septic systems, converting it to an advanced treatment unit. It works by releasing an all natural, living bacteria into the septic system to break down the organic matter that can clog the drain fields and prevent water passage into the soil. This bacteria is found in soil, and consumes dead leaves and other vegetation. It possess enzymes capable of digesting a wide range of organic materials and can survive under a wide range of temperature and environmental conditions, unlike intestinal bacteria found in most septic tanks.

"I think this new septic system has a tremendous amount of potential for individual homeowners," stated NRCS Urban Conservationist Jim Wilson. Wilson, along with RC&D and SCDHEC officials chose to evaluate a Lake Murray resident's home because of previous septic problems, including above ground drainage and foul odors.

To ensure that Bio-Gator is working correctly, the foul odor of the sewage should completely disappear within 24 to 48 hours.

According to Wilson, the main issue dealing with septic systems is water quality. Bio-Gator assists with the passage of undesirable nutrients into the soil, which may otherwise go into Lake Murray. "We are willing to experiment with new technology that has potential to improve water quality," stated Keith Cain, East Piedmont RC&D Coordinator.

The Bio-Gator septic system can be purchased for \$2500 or less, depending on excavation and installation cost. Homeowners should maintain the system through a contract with the company.

For more information, please contact Jim Wilson at the Lexington office at (803) 359-3165 or Keith Cain at the East Piedmont RC&D office at (803) 635-2757.

Reference to any commercial product or service is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by USDA-NRCS OR East Piedmont RC&D Council is implied.



The BioGator septic system is demonstrated at a Lake Murray home.

SC Congressman Joe Wilson Witnesses Conservation Success on Farm Tour

On June 16, 2003, the Lexington NRCS office hosted a legislative conservation tour for Congressman Joe Wilson, 2nd District of SC and his staff aide. Leading the tour were NRCS District Conservationist Doug Deaderick and State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas. The tour was conducted on a farm in Leesville, SC. Farm owners Nelda and P.C. Rikard were kind enough to share their conservation success story with the group, and Representative Wilson spent the morning looking at conservation practices. The practices were installed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and included fencing cattle out of ponds, a well, pipeline and watering trough—all practices that contribute to a prescribed grazing system.

"We showed Congressman Wilson "before" pictures so he could see the results of EQIP cost sharing," explained Deaderick. "Judging from his comments and questions, what we showed him really made an impact on him in terms of the importance of conservation."

Lee Central High School Outdoor Classroom

The Lee County School District has approved a request from the Lee County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to assist the school in enhancing their environmental education. The school district and conservation district will partner to establish an outdoor classroom at Lee Central High School in Bishoptown, South Carolina.

The outdoor classroom will provide the students and citizens within the community a facility that will help educate them about the value of trees and water, and the relationships we have with all of our environmental resources. This open classroom will also enable students to have hands-on experiences that not only show textbook principles to enrich the learning process, but also offer ownership and responsibility towards our environment.

Construction of an outdoor sheltered classroom and a marsh walkway for environmental studies are planned. The wetland habitat and water quality environmental program will focus around the recently constructed two-acre sediment and storm water retention pond located behind Lee Central High School. This project will provide aquatic, wildlife habitat, physics, and water quality studies, as well as develop an appreciation of the natural environment.

"We envision, along with the obvious science studies, music and art students utilizing the site to draw inspiration and math classes using the site as a spatial reference for geometry lessons and various other capabilities," said Lori Bataller, NRCS district conservationist.

The development of an arboretum and creation of an ever-changing model of a working forest will be used to demonstrate an environmental relationship through tree planting and wildlife food plots within the upland fallow fields surrounding the retention pond. Studies are also underway to establish a curriculum to improve the student's understanding of urban forestry and to increase the awareness and knowledge of the aesthetic and economic values of urban forests.

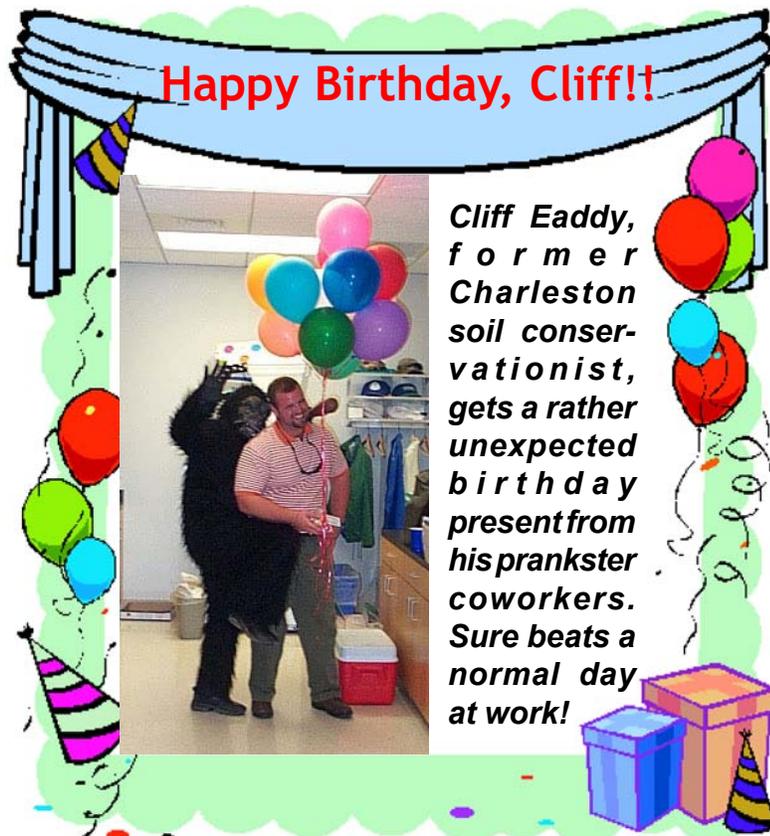
In order to complete this project, partnerships have been formed with Lee County, Lee County School District, Lee County SWCD, Lee County Chamber of Commerce, Santee-Wateree RC&D Council, Clemson Extension Service, SC Forestry Commission, Lee County Career and Technology School, USDA-NRCS,

SC Cotton Museum, City Nursery, Jared's Ace Hardware, Nick's Plumbing Service, R&J Contractors, Dennis Construction Co., as well as with other local citizens and businesses.

As a result of this partnership, a grant from South Carolina Forestry Commission Urban & Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program has been secured in the amount of \$7,500 as well as \$500 from both the Santee-Wateree Resource RC&D and the South Carolina Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). In addition to these grants, the Lee County SWCD donated \$3,000.

Don Grant, Jr., chairman of Lee County SWCD added, "We appreciate the support of Dr. Townes and the Lee County Board of Education for their approval of this important project. We feel the project not only helps solidify the relationship between NRCS and our schools, but also guarantees an opportunity for our youth to have hands-on classroom experience with important facets of our natural resources. Also, we offer a special thanks to Mark Davidson for his dedication to the youth and natural resources of Lee County."

For more information, contact the Lee USDA Service Center at (803)484-5388.



Cliff Eddy, former Charleston soil conservationist, gets a rather unexpected birthday present from his prankster coworkers. Sure beats a normal day at work!

Is Burning the American Flag Ever OK?

by Dennis DeFrancesco, former Ninety-Six District RC&D Acting Coordinator

Actually, it is, when it's done to properly dispose of "unserviceable" or worn American flags.

The Ninety-Six District RC&D Council partnered with Greenwood American Legion Post 20, and Boy Scout Troops 66 and 313 to have a very stirring and patriotic ceremony on Flag Day, June 14th. Dozens of well-worn flags were given a proper retirement in a well attended public ceremony.

The flames that rose from the red, white, and blue on that day were definitely born out of patriotism and respect.

Senator John Drummond, a much-decorated WWII fighter pilot, gave the keynote address. Although he had notes in front of him, you could tell that he was speaking straight from his heart, because he rarely glanced at them. He easily held the audience's attention. Drummond explained that this was a time to promote our nation's greatness. "It shows that our flag, like people, represent a resource which can be renewed from time to time in support of our nation's best interests."

The scouts acted as an honor guard throughout the ceremony, which included a bugler and the singing of our National Anthem. "It was really emotional," Boy Scout J.D. Tolbert said.

Brenda Galloway, chairperson of the Ninety-Six District RC&D Council, remarked that she was "very proud to be a part of this ceremony that honors flags that are worn from service to our country."



Legionnaires from Post 20, Greenwood, respectfully dispose of worn American Flags. Every part of this formal ceremony is scripted and rehearsed.

Hunting Island State Park Wins Erosion Battle

Hunting Island State Park, like all barrier islands, loses inches daily from forces of erosion pounding away at the slipping sand. As the State of South Carolina battles the sand and funding issues surrounding this problem, local agencies, scouts and volunteers made significant progress in holding the line in the sand for our park.

July 23, 2003, twenty people including staff members of SC Parks Recreation and Tourism (PRT), USDA NRCS, SC Department of Corrections, along with volunteers from the Friends of Hunting Island, BSA Troop I, Beaufort High Science Club, and USDA Earth Team assisted Charlie Berry, Eagle Scout Candidate, with his project. The name of his project is "Controlling Erosion along Cabin Road at Hunting Island."

Early this year tons of sand had been placed along Cabin Road to protect the road and cabins from further erosion. March winds blew the sand and blocked the road it was intended to protect, therefore creating maintenance costs and havoc for Ray Stevens, park director, and his crew. The Beaufort SWCD heard about the problem and put Stevens in touch with Charlie Berry. Berry coordinated efforts to bring in the technical assistance from experts with the USDA and volunteers to complete the project.

The project consisted of installing 2500 linear feet of sand fencing in triangles along the loose sand. The triangles of fence will cause sand to build up around the fence and actually build a dune. In November, the Friends of Hunting Island will follow up on this project and place 2,000 dune stabilization plants under the direction of NRCS District Conservationist Chuck Truax.



About 20 volunteers installed sand fencing along Cabin Road at Hunting Island State Park to control erosion.

Personnel News

Promotions

Bright-Rivera, Martha A., 0203-06, Human Resources Assistant, effective July 13, 2003

Buckner, Colin, 0457-07, Soil Conservationist, Hampton, effective July 13, 2003

Eaddy, Clifford, 0457-09, Soil Conservationist, Abbeville, effective June 29, 2003

Jacobs, Kristen, 0499-04, Student, Conway, effective June 15, 2003

Lee, Johnny , 0458-06, Soil Conservationist, Manning, effective June 15, 2003

Major, Angela, 0470-09, Soil Scientist, Bishopville, effective June 29, 2003

Mendez, Rafael, 0457-07, Soil Conservationist, Sumter, effective June 29, 2003

Sirman, Odessa, 0458-06, Soil Conservationist Tech, St Matthews, effective July 27, 2003

Worley, Shaun, 0457-07, Soil Conservationist, Benneteville, effective July 13, 2003

Transfer to Another Agency

Bimbi, Melissa – 0401-07, Fish & Wildlife Biologist –Department of Interior, effective April 20, 2003

Student

Berkland, Troy, 0899-02, Student Temporary Employment, Columbia, effective July 13, 2003



One does not have to travel far to see the simple beauties of nature.

Anonymous

Magnolia Plantation Gardens, Charleston, SC