

Clarendon Conservation Courier Quarterly Report

Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District

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Cliff Eaddy Says Goodbye to Clarendon

After three years of extraordinary service to Clarendon County and its residents, Cliff Eaddy has said goodbye.

Cliff started in the Manning Field Office in May of 2007 and has worked diligently to insure that our county has the necessary resources to reach our conservation objectives. Cliff always focused on customer service and would go above and beyond to ensure that the customers needs were being met.

Since Cliffs arrival at the Manning Office he has secured funding for 44 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts, 9 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contracts, and 17 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

contracts. He has also enrolled approximately 6,200 acres into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) ensuring that those wetlands will be left in their natural state.

Cliff started work at the Edgefield Field Office on June 8th and while we will miss his enthusiasm for conservation, we wish him well in all of his future endeavors.



"You'll all see me again sometime, probably around hunting season"

New District Conservationist to Report July



Antron Williams will join the Manning Field Office on July 19th as the new District Conservationist. Antron is a 27 year old Orangeburg native that enjoys farming corn, cotton, soybeans and wheat. He is a 2005 graduate of Clemson University with a B.S. in Agriculture Education and a Minor in Agribusiness Management. He is looking forward to joining the Manning Team.

SC Commissioner School for Agriculture

The 2010 SC Commissioner School for Agriculture will be held on July 17-23. The SCCSA is a premier career and leadership development summer program that informs, inspires, and challenges student participants to consider a career in the agricultural, natural resource and life science industries. The program is offered to rising 11th and 12th grade students and provides a challenging and enriching college-based experience. There was a dramatic increase in the number of applications this year which proves that the school is growing in interest and prestige.

Trey Fleming will be representing Clarendon County in the program. He is a rising 11th grade student at Clarendon Hall and also a Youth Commissioner. Look for a full report on the Commissioners School in the next quarterly report.

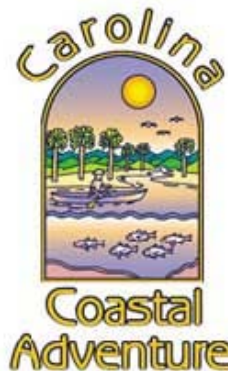


SC Forestry Commission Seeks Volunteers

The SC Forestry Commissions needs volunteers for the Wood Magic Forest Fair at Harbison State Forest in Columbia, SC. The event is scheduled for October 11th through the 15th.

Wood Magic is an award-winning comprehensive forestry education program for 4th graders and their teachers and parents. Since 1998 over 24,000 students, teachers, and parents have participated and learned about the sustainable management of forest resources and the role of forest and forest products in their daily lives. In order to conduct the program the Forestry Commission needs approximately 150 volunteers from the forestry community to serve as guides, instructors, and helpers. Last year youth commissioners volunteered as helpers in food service and helped pass out popcorn and pizza to the students. This year the youth are planning to volunteer once again.

If you would like more information regarding the Wood Magic Forest Fair you may contact Stephanie Kolok, Wood Magic Forest Fair Coordinator at (803)-896-8855 or by email at sko-lok@forestry.state.sc.us.



The Clarendon Conservation District would like to sponsor high school students to participate in an exciting 3-day environmental workshop in October. This unique event will be open to high school students in 9th and 10th grade statewide. These young leaders will receive professional instruction and hands-on educational experience emphasizing man's dependence on and interaction with aquatic and coastal natural resources.

The Carolina Coastal Adventure workshop will be based at Santee Cooper's Somerset facility in Pinopolis. SC Department of Natural Resources and Santee Cooper staff will provide the instruction and supervision. Activities will include classroom instruction in water quality analysis and watersheds, canoeing in a cypress swamp at Santee Canal Park and a tour of the Jeffries Steam Plant in Santee Circle culminating with an excursion in the Charleston Harbor on the SC Department of Natural Resources research vessel from the Fort Johnson Marine Center.

If you would like additional information on the Carolina Coastal Adventure please call Casey Blackmon at (803) 435-2612 ext 3.

Affiliate Membership Banquet Scheduled for July 20th

The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank all of our affiliate members. Their has been a showing of great support since we began our Affiliate Membership Drive in January with many returning members and an overwhelming amount of new members. Without your support we would be unable to provide Clarendon County with the various educational programs and technical assistance that promote wise use and care of our natural resources.

We all must keep in mind that conservation and environmental problems will affect all of us in one way or another. We are glad that you have taken an interest in the future of Clarendon County. To show our appreciation we will be holding an Affiliate Membership Banquet on July 20th. The banquet will be at the Compass Restaurant in Turbeville at 6:00 p.m. We welcome all of our Affiliate Members to attend. The Conservation District will also present the 2009 Clarendon County Conservationist of the Year award.

If you would like to attend the banquet please call Casey Blackmon at (803) 435-2612 ext3 by July 16th.

Leopold Education Project Training

Casey Blackmon, District Manager, participated in the Leopold Education Project training on June 10th. The Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary, critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on the classic writings of the renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold. The Leopold Education Project teaches the public about humanity's ties to the natural environment in the effort to conserve and protect the earth's natural resources.

Aldo Leopold foresaw and articulated one of the largest problems facing humankind – how do we maintain a sense of connection to the natural systems that support us? The pace and magnitude of urbanization and other changes in our society are increasingly disconnecting us from the land. Our population is not only losing contact, but also losing the realization that we are dependent upon ecosystems. Aldo Leopold described this attitude as “landlessness.”

The Leopold Education Project strives to counteract this landless feeling and to instill a land ethic among tomorrow's stewards. LEP does this through an interdisciplinary approach of reading about Leopold's recorded discoveries and participating in meaningful “hands on” activities, which provide students an opportunity to increase their appreciation for the land and to expand their ecological awareness.

If you would like for the district manager to conduct some of the activities from the Leopold Education Project in your classroom please call the office at 803-435-2612 ext 3. Activities touch on the subjects of habitats, plants, and wildlife and teach the student to take a closer look at their outdoor environment. Participants will learn to use all five senses to describe nature and then explain how those observation made them feel.



District employees participated in the Look, See, and Discover activity. They learned to not just see the environment, but to feel, hear, smell, and listen to it.

District Announces Scholarship Winner



Because of the gracious donations and support from the conservation districts affiliate members the district was able to offer a conservation scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 this year. The scholarship was offered to graduating seniors residing in Clarendon County or attending a Clarendon County school who will be majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field. Applicants had to demonstrate ability, knowledge, and need and had to have met the admission requirements to the institution of his/her choice.

The scholarship was awarded to Lauren Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Mickey and Susanne Johnson of Manning. Lauren is graduating from Laurence Manning Academy and was accepted into the Clemson University Bridge Program. Lauren hopes to major in horticulture with a minor in food science. In Lauren's essay she wrote, "I spend as much time as I can outside. I love going to my grandparents and learning from my grandfather, Sammy Plowden (1958 Clemson horticulture graduate). He has been the inspiration in my decision to follow my dream of pursuing horticulture." Lauren submitted many glowing references that all stressed her commitment to education and agriculture, as well as her dedication to reaching her goals and to helping others. Genie Hodge, Laurence Manning Academy Middle School Principal wrote, "Lauren is truly an outstanding young lady and she will leave anyone that she encounters with a lasting, positive impression. She is a team player and not an "I" player."

The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners are extremely happy that they were able to offer this outstanding student a scholarship. Thanks goes out to our wonderful affiliate members who offer their support year after year. It is because of them that the district is able to offer scholarships and educational contest.

2010 Essay Contest Winners

This year the annual Conservation Essay Contest was conducted a little differently. The theme for the essay was "Topic of Your Choice". Teachers were able to choose a topic that dealt with Conservation, Recycling, Natural Resources, or Forestry. There were many different topics to the essays that were received. Some students created storybooks about wildlife and recycling, others wrote about going green and protecting our natural resources. We were very pleased with the essays that we received and feel that next years essay contest will also be a "Topic of Your Choice". This way every teacher can fit the essay into their curriculum because they are choosing the essay topic. The Essay Contest is open to all 5th and 6th graders in Clarendon County public and private schools. Essays are judged within each grade level and each school. All winners received a certificate and a monetary prize. All teachers who had student participate in the contest had their names placed into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to help with purchasing school supplies. The winning teacher this year was Mrs. Watford from East Clarendon Middle School. The winning students are:

Manning Elementary School 5th Grade

1st Place "Forestry" Tre'veonne D. Cullum

East Clarendon Middle School 6th Grade

1st Place "Going Green" Taylor McKenzie

2nd Place "Recycling" Joshua Hickman

3rd Place "Protecting Our Resources" G Webster

Scott's Branch Middle School 6th Grade

1st Place "Recycling Disasters Become a Success" Jasmine Mullins

2nd Place "Angela Helps her Environment" Kwaneisha Walton

3rd Place "Katie and Friends Recycle" Shiayra Ragin

2010 Poster Contest Winners “Make Every Day Earth Day”

The theme for the annual Conservation Poster Contest for 2010 was “Make Every Day Earth Day”. All Kindergarten—4th grade students in Clarendon County public and private schools were able to enter the contest. Posters were judged within each grade level. This year there were 1st and 3rd grade entries. The winners are:

1st Grade, Summerton Early Childhood Center, Ms. House’s Class

3rd Grade, St Paul Elementary School, Ms. Watson’s Class

3rd Grade, Walker Gamble Elementary School, Ms. Hampton’s Class



Youth Commissioners Needed

The Clarendon Conservation District is actively looking for students who are interested in becoming youth commissioners. The Clarendon Conservation Youth Board is designed to help young people develop an awareness of the natural environment, come to understand the vital necessity for proper care and use of natural resources, and comprehend the ways in which man brings about changes in his environment. In this program the youth will learn the importance of natural resources and why it is important to conserve them. Youth Commissioners will also learn the importance of educating others about conservation efforts. Youth must be attending a Clarendon County High School and be willing to participate in our monthly meetings. If you would like additional information on becoming a youth commissioner then please call Casey Blackmon, youth advisor at (803) 435-2612 ext3.

Some of the youth activities have been:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beach Sweep/River Sweep | Tow Caw Clean Up |
| Fish Hatchery Tour | Trip to Cypress Gardens |
| Arbor Day Program | Ace Basin Boat Tour |
| Farm-City Week Luncheon | Poster & Poetry Judging |
| Wood Magic Forest Fair Volunteer | |

ENVIROSCAPE DEMONSTRATIONS

The Conservation District has an EnviroScape that illustrates Nonpoint Source Pollution. Nonpoint sources contribute a great deal to the pollution in our water bodies. The combined affect of pollution from many small sources can have a real impact on the quality of our shared water resources. By using the three dimensional EnviroScape Model we can illustrate residential, recreational, agricultural, industrial and transportation areas, all representing possible sources of water pollution. The EnviroScape is engaging and effective in creating a real sense of understanding through experience and hands-on demonstration. This makes complex issues much clearer and helps people see how to prevent water pollution in their own communities.

If you are interested in having a District Representative give an EnviroScape demonstration to your group or class, please call Casey Blackmon at (803) 435-2612 ext 3.



Conservation District Commissioners up for Re-election



David Richburg

This year the Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District will have two District Commissioners up for re-election on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot. The conservation district is managed by a five member board. Each year conservation district commissioners volunteer thousands of hours promoting soil and water conservation practices in urban and rural areas, and combating erosion and storm water problems. Their tasks include planning and directing a conservation program, assigning priority to resource development and serving as a community clearinghouse for information and services on natural resource issues. The election of conservation district



Henry King

commissioners is through the petition process on a non-partisan basis. Conservation district commissioners are non-salaried officials. Candidates must be registered voters in the county in which they are seeking office.

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No-Till: A Better Way to Farm



The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District invites you to participate in the effort to conserve our natural resources and aid in the prevention of soil loss here in our county by renting

our No-Till Drill for your planting needs. We have two Great Plains No-Till Drills (one with small seed attachment) available for rent. One is housed in Manning and one is housed in Sardinia. The drills are available to rent for \$7 an acre plus an affiliate membership fee for non-members. For additional information please call the office at 435-2612 ex 3.



Veris Machine

The Conservation District has purchased a 3150 Veris Machine so that the farmers of Clarendon County will have the opportunity to utilize this fairly new technology to target soil texture zones and more accurately apply fertilizer for optimum utilization. Many farmer will see significant savings in their fertilizer and lime inputs when they are variable-rated based on soil sample results taken from the EC generated maps. Farmers will be able to produce a crop to its optimum soil potential while saving on input cost.

The Conservation District has formed a cooperative working agreement with Southern States of Manning. David Wallace will be the Veris Machine Coordinator and official point of contact. If you would like some additional information on how the Veris Machine can save you on input cost please contact David Wallace, Veris Coordinator, at (803) 473-2555.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP 2010/2011

The commissioners of the Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District are committed to helping educate Clarendon County's children and landowners about our natural resources. It is our goal that land users and students develop an understanding of the inter-relationships of man, water, soil, air and wildlife. The more knowledge we have, the better we become as caretakers of our natural resources. The Clarendon District is a non-profit organization that depends on the financial support from affiliate members. Through your donation, the District is better able to promote conservation in all schools in the county as well as to sponsor the various programs available to promote conservation stewardship within Clarendon County. If you are not an Affiliate Member, but you would like to become one or if you are an Affiliate Member who hasn't renewed your membership, clip the following form and mail along with your check to:

*Clarendon Conservation District
9-B West Rigby Street
Manning, SC 29102*

Name _____	Contact Person _____
Address _____	City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____	Fax _____
Amount \$ _____	
Email address _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership \$25-\$49	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership \$100- \$499
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership \$50-\$99	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$500 and above
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Sponsor \$50	



Feral Hog Management in the Southeast August 17, 2010 Sandhill Research and Education Center Columbia, South Carolina

About the Course

Feral hogs are increasing in distribution and abundance across the Southeast. They can have significant impacts to ecosystems and cause damage to agricultural crops, newly regenerated forests, landscaped settings, roads, wildlife food plots, yard and ornamental plantings, and other natural and managed resources. Control of feral hogs can be time consuming, expensive, and frustrating. This workshop is designed to provide landowners, land managers and natural resource professionals with information about the status and biology of feral hogs, as well as the most effective control techniques to reduce feral hog populations.

Registration Information

The registration fee will be \$20 if received by August 3, 2010. After this date, the registration fee will be \$30. Registration includes workshop materials, a catered lunch and refreshments.

Location

The Workshop will be held at the Sandhill Research and Education Center Lakehouse in Columbia, South Carolina.

Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Forestry Education—5.0 Hours CFE Category 1 CF
Full attendance is mandatory in order to receive credit. No exceptions.

What You Will Learn

Foundations of wildlife damage management, Wild hog history, biology, and ecology, Feral swine diseases, parasites, and potential implications to humans and domestic livestock, Wild hog trapping techniques, Laws governing removal of animals, and Trap designs and techniques

For Additional Information

Contact: Susan Guynn
Phone: (864) 656-0606
E-mail: sguynn@clemson.edu
www.clemson.edu/fnrce

If you would like a brochure stop by the district office or call Casey Blackmon at (803) 435-2612 ext 3

Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District

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Justin Woodard
Lee Reaves Jr.
Dwight Stewart Jr.
Robbie Giddens

Youth Commissioners:

Tori Prosser
Valerie Green
Joshua Durant
Sheldon Morris
Trey Fleming

NRCS Staff:

Antron Williams, District Conservationist
Johnny Lee, Soil Conservation Technician
Kermit Holladay, Technical Assistant

District Staff

Casey Blackmon, District Manager

Board Meetings

The Clarendon Soil and Water Conservation District Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in the USDA Service Center conference room, 9B West Rigby Street, Manning. For more information call 435-2612, ext. 3.

