

2016 Annual Report

Orangeburg County
Soil and Water
Conservation District

Keep Orangeburg
County Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful Affiliate



The 2016 Board From Left to Right: George Ulmer, Louise Hughes, Chairman, John Cuttino, Sr.; Buddy Felder, and Ewart Irick.

COOPERATION

Congratulations! If you're reading this, you survived 2016. Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District witnessed first hand the damage suffered by our county due to drought conditions, floods and a hurricane.

Despite all of this our residents came together. Cooperating with partners, affiliate members, and caring citizens we were able to assist many of our landowners in restoring and preserving our natural resources. The District participated in one of the most successful litter clean up operations in our county.

Inside our annual report we will give you more details about our accomplishments in conservation and educational activities.

Thank you to our partners, staff and volunteers. Let us continue this spirit of cooperation and caring for each other and our environment in 2017. Together we can continue to make Orangeburg County a great place to live.

Conservatively yours,
B. Louise Hughes
Louise Hughes, Chairman



The staff of the Orangeburg County Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful participated in activities sponsored by: the first Annual Earth Day Event sponsored by Claffin University, PalmettoPride/Keep America Beautiful, Operation Clean Sweep - Orangeburg County, and OBC SafeKids event held at the Prince of Orange Mall. We had a booth in the Exhibit Building at the Orangeburg County Fair.

The staff represented the Orangeburg County Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful at numerous county, state and national conferences, returning with great ideas for new projects and improving present efforts.

Gabby Greenleaves the walking, talking tree; visits classrooms across our county.

Above is our booth at the First Annual Earth Day Celebration sponsored by Claffin University.



She made appearances at Holly Hill Elementary, Dover Elementary and OPS, Lower Campus. Children watch intently to see what is going to appear next from the pockets of the tree. Special times the tree may visit your school are: Earth Day (April 22), National Arbor Day (April 28), and S.C. Arbor Day (the first Friday in December). These presentations (20 -25 minutes length) are geared to Pre-K-Kindergarten to second grade. She may also be used during units on trees or habitats.

Teachers comment that they even learn something new from the "talking tree!"

THE ENVIROSCAPE : NON-POINT AND POINT SOURCE POLLUTION MODEL

2016 Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Booth at the Orangeburg County Fair.



The students at Orangeburg Preparatory School learned about everyday activities which may cause pollution. The presentation with the *Non-point Source and Point Source Model of the EnviroScape* begins with the question, "Do you live in a watershed?" Often it is answered quickly with a **no!** But, then what is a watershed? Reality sets in, everyone lives in a watershed and we all live downstream from someone. Everyday actions such as using detergents, pesticides and littering may cause problems in the environment.

Fourth grade teachers use the EnviroScape to prepare students for the 5th grade. Fifth grade teachers use the (hands on) demonstration to help their students understand how humans affect the environment. The EnviroScape is used by Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops to work toward their Conservation Patches.

The conservation district has a second EnviroScape model that shows the ground and surface sources of drinking water and how the water is treated before and after it is consumed.

These services are provided at no cost to the schools by contributions from the County of Orangeburg and you, our affiliate members.

Other Education Opportunities Offered by the Conservation District

Our Education Coordinator, is a trained facilitator in the use of the following curricular: Project WET - Water Education for Teachers; Project WILD, Project Aquatic WILD, Project Flying WILD and PLT (Project Learning Tree). These workshops have a fee. Call our office and we may help you find funding.



Above, Gabby presents a lesson to a group of 1st graders at Vance- Providence Elementary School.



Above, an EnviroScape presentation at Orangeburg Preparatory School.

2016 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

2016 Soil Stewardship Theme



- AIKEN ELECTRIC COOP
- BRIAN REED
- CHRIS/KAREN DONOVAN
- COTTON LANE FARMS
- DANTZLER FARMS
- EDISTO ELECTRIC COOP.
- EMERALD LEA FARMS
- EWART C. IRICK
- FARMERS MERCHANT BANK
- GARRICK FARMS
- GEORGE/SIRVASTEN ULMER
- GEORGE E. DANIELS, JR. TRUST
- HAIGLER FARMS PARTNERSHIP
- HORNE FOUNDATION
- JAMESON FARMS, INC.
- JANIE COOPER-SMITH
- JIM MULLIS
- KIRBY BROWN & SONS
- LAWTON BROWN
- LAWTON IRICK
- LEON BREWER
- LIMESTONE PIGEON FARM
- LOUISE/MASON HUGHES
- MILLWOOD FARMS
- ORANGEBURG MILLING COMPANY
- PORTH CONSTRUCTION
- R. BARRY HUTTO FARM
- S. F. REID, JR.
- SENATOR BRAD HUTTO
- T. F. RILEY, III
- TRIPLE A FARMS
- WEATHERS FARM, INC.
- WILLIAM DELORME

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful 2016

We conducted the Litter Survey of the county in January. The grass is very low and the litter is easy to view. The survey is conducted in each of the seven (7) County Council Districts and it is a requirement to be in good standing with Keep America Beautiful. The County Litter Control assists us.

The staff participated in the **Operation Clean Sweep** on October 15. There were a total of **683** volunteers. They picked up **3,754** bags of litter. The total weight was **41,358** pounds. A total of **127** miles was cleaned.

Operation Clean Sweep will be held again on Saturday, April 22, 2017 (Earth Day). Go to the website: <http://cleanupsc.org/> to register. Come out and help us add to the number of volunteers and help get the litter picked up off the roads in our county. Come show some Orangeburg County pride!



Operation Clean Sweep, Oct. 15, 2016
A few of the volunteers that reported to the Cope Volunteer Fire Department.



Operation Clean Sweep, Oct. 15, 2016
Even a 4 legged creature got in on the action. Picture submitted by Diane Curlee

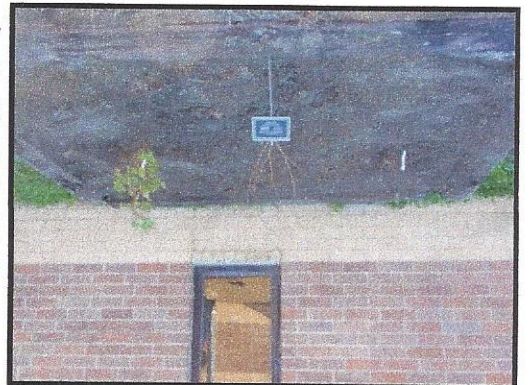
National Planting Day 2016

Hunter-Kinard-Tyler seventh grade classes taught by Ms. Willette Jenkins have a new addition to their garden. They are the proud recipients of the **American Witch Hazel Pollinator Garden**. The garden was donated by the National Skincare Partner of Keep America Beautiful, Dickson's Witch Hazel Skincare. The donation was made in support of the National Planting Day efforts and local pollinator health.

The garden (shown above) includes the following plants: (1) *Itea virginica*, 'Henry's Garnet' (Virginia Sweetspire), (1) *Hamamelis virginiana* (Witch Hazel tree) and (1) *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Amethyst' (Oakleaf Hydrangea). These are native plants that will provide nectar and pollen from winter through late summer. The garden is designated with a garden plaque.

Throughout the year, pollinators collect pollen from flower gardens. In the winter, bees and other pollinators rely on Witch Hazel plants to gather and store pollen. Witch Hazel is one of a few trees that bloom in the winter. The pollen is then used to feed the first batch of baby bees and other pollinators before spring flowers bloom.

The American Witch Hazel Pollinator Garden was designed by Rare Find Nursery in Jackson, NJ to provide local pollinators a multi-season pollen source with flowers blooming throughout the year. It will make a beautiful addition to the campus of Hunter-Kinard-Tyler school. The garden was obtained by Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.



National CoCoRaHS Recognizes a Local for Precipitation Reports

CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborators Rain, Hail and Snow Network) is a national network of volunteers that report precipitation in their backyards. It is operated by Colorado State University. **lina be #1 in one of two categories: the most new entries or the most entries based on population.**



In 2016, **Tom Kerr** was recognized by the national organization for being a consistent volunteer reporting precipitation in Orangeburg county. Congratulations to Mr. Kerr!

If you would like to take a look at the map of the reports, go to <http://www.cocorahs.org>. Once you get to the site: enter the country and state, where you would like to see local information, then select the county. Schools are welcome to join. If you have an interest in becoming a citizen scientist, this is a simple, easy way to join a network that is truly coast to coast and spreading. This is your invitation to join us. The application process is simple - go to www.cocorahs.org and fill out the form. You will need to order an official rain gauge. These may be ordered from the site too.

Submitted by: Diane Curlee, CoCoRaHS — Orangeburg County Coordinator

Help us go paperless!

There is a new way to insure that you stay in touch with The Orangeburg County Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful. **Send an email to dcurllee@orangeburgcounty.org and ask to be added to the Affiliate Member List.** You will receive our Annual Report and information about upcoming workshops from area conservation districts and SCDNR. If you get too many emails, you may send us an email asking to be taken off the list and that will be the end. Email allows us to send the Annual Report without the time and cost of printing and mailing. You may still receive a hard copy if you like.



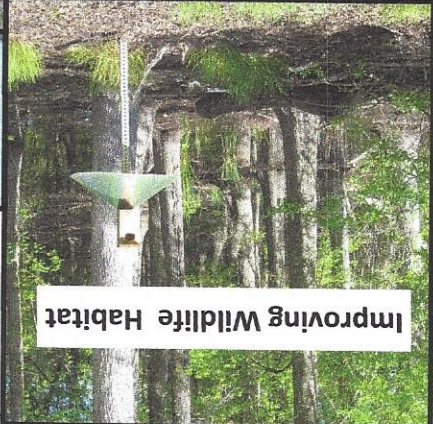
Efficient Irrigation



Prescribed Burning



Cover Crops



Improving Wildlife Habitat



Cross Fencing

USDA-NRCS
Resource Conservation
Practices
Conservation on the ground!

Information we need:
 The customer's contact information
 Map showing location of fields
 Work to be done:
 Planting or Spraying Number of acres.

Our Operator:
 transports, sets up
 completes each field visit
 - \$75

The Customer provides
 the seeds and/or
 chemicals.
Fees:
 Planting per acre - \$30
 Spraying per acre - \$10



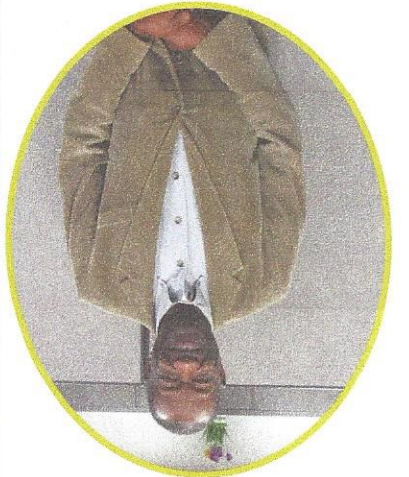
Custom Farming Services
Now Available
 By: Glenda B. Lewis

The Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District now has a tractor and equipment to plant cover crops and pollinator and wildlife plots using the no-till drill. We also have a sprayer.

Mr. Bernie Wright is the District Technician that oversees this program. He is an Army Veteran and grows row crops of corn, wheat and soy beans and some truck crops on his farm.

To schedule an appointment please call the office at (803) 534-2409 x 3. We look forward to helping the farmers of Orangeburg County.

Mr. Bernie Wright
Orangeburg County
Conservation District
Technician.





2015-2016 A year in conservation

Submitted by: Emily Bonilla

Orangeburg County District Conservationist

Someone recently asked me what did I think about **conservation**. The definition of the word is the preservation, protection or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystem, vegetation and wildlife. For the people that work in conservation the concept means a lot more. We live conservation in most of what we do from applying it to our way of life and the decisions we make on everything. What kind of car we buy, where we live and work, do we recycle, garden, how we shop, cook, eat, travel, etc. All of it affects conservation in some way.

For me, educating is a big part of conservation. **Education** is the base for establishing a conservation system that works. If you know and understand the concepts, what it takes to conserve, you will make the decision to apply and do conservation. For an Agriculture producer or a landowner, understanding what Soil Health is and how it can affect the production of the land is the difference between more economic inputs to deal with pest pressure or diseases and a crop year where the drought did not affect the farm as much during harvest. A landowner with forest land can mass plant pines or plant native pines with wildlife habitat included. Our decisions can make a big difference not only for us but for our neighbors, community and county. Every little thing makes a difference. If all of us make a lot of little changes, we can achieve greater benefits.

Orangeburg County had a great year in conservation. Through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) **49 new contracts** were obligated and **\$2,069,022.73** was available to producers and landowners to establish conservation practices. We are **helping producers to be more efficient in the use of the water resources** by replacing old and inefficient irrigation systems that use more electricity, power and water. New conservation initiatives are allowing for the **establishment of habitat for Bobwhite quail and other species of concern**. We have made strides in our county in education, awareness and establishment of **new habitat for native pollinators and providing a good source of food and shelter for honey bees**. We have helped **re-establish trees** in harvested forestland as well as **establish new habitat for wildlife**. **Firebreaks were built and prescribed fire was used to manage fuel loads and control invasive and undesirable species in planted pines**.

Ag producers will be able to **better manage nutrients** for their crops and **increase efficiency** in placement of the nutrients in the fields using **variable rate applications and precision Ag practices**. Many of our farmers have seen the **benefits of cover crops to increase or create good soil health**. The use of **cover crops** are allowing the farmers to better manage pest, weed pressure, infiltration, and reduce or eliminate soil erosion on No-Till operations. Also cover crops help increase soil organic matter to make our soils work better against drought conditions.

Ranchers and producers with animals are using **cross fencing and new watering facilities** to better graze pastureland and be better equipped to feed the cattle. New Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) are giving confined animal operations the guidelines to better manage the waste and establish sheds to avoid contamination of ground and surface water. These producers are given the opportunity to conduct **energy audits** to have a baseline on the energy that is consumed in their operations and given solutions to reduce the amount of power needed by replacing old equipment with new and efficient models and changes in management.

These efforts are making a big impact not only for the producers and landowners participating in the programs but in the community. Our **environment** is where we make our homes and where we plant and grow the food to feed and clothe us. It is our responsibility to use it and conserve and improve it for our future generations.

For information on the programs available through NRCS you may contact the office at 1550 Henley St. Room 103 Orangeburg, SC 29115 or call 803-534-2409 ext. 3 or visit our website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/sc/home/>.

IMPORTANT DATES 2017

January
 1 New Year's Day
 16 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
 24 Board Meeting 5:30PM

February
 1 & 2 Litter Survey
 6-10 The Magic of Recycling
 20 Presidents' Day
 21 & 22 SCACD meeting in Cola.
 23 Keep SC Beautiful Conf.
 N. Myrtle Beach
 28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

March
 1 GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP
BEGINS
 28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

April
GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP
Continues
 22 Earth Day Events
 Clean Sweep Orangeburg County
 Earth Day on the Square
 downtown Orangeburg
 Sponsored by Claflin University
 Come see the Rain Simulator at the
 OCSWCD and KOCB exhibit.
 25 Board Meeting 5:30PM
 28 National Arbor Day
 30 Soil Stewardship week begins
 "Healthy Soils are Full of Life!"

May
 5 SC Environthon
 5, 6, & 7 Orangeburg
 Festival of Roses
 7 Soil Stewardship week ends
 23 Board Meeting 5:30PM
 30 Memorial Day
 31 Great American Clean Up
Ends

OCSWCD Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District

The OCSWCD is a member of
 the SC Association of
 Conservation Districts
 (SCACD),
 SC Conservation District
 Employees Association
 (SCDEA)
 SE Conservation
 District

Employees Association
 (SECDEA),
 and
 the National Association of
 Conservation Districts (NACD)

We are partners with SC DNR
 and NRCS.
 We are partners with
 Clemson Extension.
 We are members of
 the Environmental Education
 Association of SC (EEASC).

KOCB

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful

KOCB is an affiliate of
 PalmettoPride,
 Keep SC Beautiful
 and Keep America Beautiful.

HEALTHY SOILS ARE FULL OF LIFE!
 2017 Soil Stewardship Theme

June
 9-11 EEASC Conference,
 Beaufort, SC
 28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

July
 4 Independence Day
 NO Board Meeting

August
 1 Tree Grant Available
 6-9 SENACD Conference
 Greenville, SC
 21 Total Solar Eclipse (Plans TBA)
 22 Board Meeting 5:30PM

September
 4 Labor Day
 20 - 22 SCCDEA Annual Meeting
 Greenville, SC
 26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

October
 2-8 Orangeburg County Fair
 9 Columbus Day
 24 Board Meeting 5:30PM

November
 7 & 8 SCCDEA Annual Conference
 Pigeon Forge, TN
 11 Veterans' Day
 22 Board Meeting 5:30
 23 Thanksgiving Day
 24 Holiday

December
 2 SC Arbor Day
 25 & 26 Christmas Holidays



1550 Henley St., NE Room 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Phone: 803-534-2409x3

E-mail: dcurllee@orangeburgcounty.org

The purpose of a soil and water
conservation district is to:

Provide information about soil, water,
and related natural resource
conservation

Identify and prioritize soil and water
concerns

Connect land owners to sources of
educational, technical, and financial
assistance, to implement conservation
practices and technologies

Each district serves as a means for all
interested people in a county to work
for natural resource conservation and
development.

All federal, state and local programs and services provided through the Orangeburg Conservation District and USDA-NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis. Without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

Have You Made the
Soil, Water, or Air
Better Today?



Only You
Can
STOP
Litter!

No Farms!
No Food!

Know Farms!
Know Food!

2017 COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED BY SC DNR

B. LOUISE HUGHES

GEORGE ULMER

ELECTED

John Cuttino, Sr.

Ewart Irick

Roy Lindsey

Associate

S.E. (Buddy) Felder

EMERITUS

Larry Patrick

County Councilman Clyde B. Livingston

Judge James C. Williams (Ret.)

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Glenda B. Lewis District Manager

Diane D. Curlee Education Coordinator

Bernie Wright SWCD Technician

SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (SC DNR)

Jonathan Williams, Program Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

(NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE)

Beau J. Sorenson

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

Emily Bonilla, District Conservationist

Darryl V. Johnson, Soil Conservation Technician