



**Front Row Left to Right: Diane Curlee, Education Coordinator; Louise Hughes, board chair and Glenda Lewis, retired District Manager
Back Row Left to Right: Commissioners: Roy Lindsey, John Cuttino, Sr., Buddy Felder, Associate, Ewart Irick, George Ulmer and SWCD Technician, Bernie Wright.**

As the old saying goes we have good news and bad news. The bad news is long time District Manager, Glenda Lewis, retired at the end of 2017. We will miss her enthusiasm and passion for conservation. She has graciously agreed to share her experience and wisdom with us as needed. We will miss her daily guidance and presence.

The good news is we have hired a young man, John Cuttino, Jr. He has been involved with our programs since high school. He has long demonstrated his interest in conservation, his love for the environment, and his enthusiasm for a greener world.

Together we will face the challenges ahead with confidence that Glenda's experience and John's new ideas will bring success.

Orangeburg County Soil and Water Commissioners look forward to 2018.



**Orangeburg County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**



**Keep Orangeburg
County Beautiful**

Keep America Beautiful Affiliate

USDA-NRCS**Fiscal Year 2017****By: Emily Bonilla, DC**

Driving through our county you can see the conservation efforts everywhere. Today we have the largest number of Agricultural producers converting the regular tillage land into conservation tillage by going completely No-Till. You can see agriculture fields planted in cover crops during the winter months, new and efficient irrigation systems in place of old ones and more trees and wildlife habitat than ever. The work is just starting but 2017 had a great impact in getting more to achieve our goals of having more conservation on the ground.

All of this is part of the conservation partnership effort in our county. I can't take the credit for all that is happening

in the county because it is a group of very dedicated people from multiple local, state and federal backgrounds that are making all this a reality. Our partners include Clemson Extension, SC State Extension, SCDNR, SCFC, USFW, SCSWCD, among many others. We all contribute to the effort of getting the message out and helping the people of Orangeburg County do more conservation.

I have found that one of the most important parts of getting Conservation on the ground is education. This is what we have been doing for the last 5 years to get to this point. We have partnered with many to get our message through and we are making good progress. But, there is

more to be done.

In 2017 NRCS had the largest number of applications for financial assistance programs in the last 10 years. Most of these were special initiatives and regular programs. We were able to fund **63 applications** in Planning, Specialty Crops, Socially Disadvantage, Long Leaf Pine, On-Farm Energy, Locally Led and CSP. These new contracts will add **\$2,170,561.66** to the conservation efforts in the next couple of years. A total of **14,075 acres** will be impacted by the conservation these contracts will help fund.

We have many more efforts, education and partnerships working for the future of our county!



**New Smiling Faces
in the Orangeburg Office
SCDNR and USDA-NRCS Employees**



Susan Sullivan received her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management from Auburn University in 2013 and her M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Clemson University in 2015. Her graduate research project examined the feasibility of a technical assistance and cost-share program for landowners experiencing wild hog damage in South Carolina. She then worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a supervisory field crew leader performing sage grouse habitat assessments in Idaho. Since 2016, Susan has worked as a **wildlife biologist** for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Small Game Program. The majority of her time is spent contributing to the **South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative** our state's central focal region including Calhoun, Orangeburg, and Clarendon counties. She provides technical assistance to private landowners interested in undertaking quail habit management practices on their properties as well as information on available sources of financial assistance to undertake these practices.

Robyn M. Amie is from Riverdale, GA. She is the new **soil conservationist** for the USDA-NRCS Orangeburg District office. She grew up as a military child and has visited 45 out of the 50 states. She graduated from Fort Valley State University with a degree in Agriculture Economics. Conservation is her passion. She completed internships with USDA-NRCS in Matthews, NC and with the Forest Service in Pisgah National Forest in Brevard, North Carolina.

2017 Annual Banquet Summary

The annual banquet of the Orangeburg County Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful was held in April. **Mr. Mac Davis – “Mac Millen”** provided the entertainment with selections of country music.

Our Business Partner of the Year: was Claflin University, **Friends of the Earth** represented by: **Rodney Hudson** and **Ms. Sherlene Brown**, Friends of the Earth President. Also in attendance was **Aaron Bradley**, Administrative Assistant. We have partnered with Claflin by being a vendor at the **Earth Day** Event on the Square in Downtown Orangeburg for the past two years.

Mr. Pat Milhouse, our **Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Volunteer of the Year 2017** was recognized for keeping Broughton Street and other residential streets cleaned of litter. He comes by the office for bags and grabbers.

Conservation Teacher of the Year was **Mrs. Sandi Ott**, Speech Therapist at Edisto Elementary School. She has done a phenomenal job transforming an unused part of the Edisto Elementary School campus into a productive school garden and outdoor classroom in less than a year!

The USDA – NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) recognized **Mr. James McClain** as the Farmer of the Year and **CawCaw Creek Farms** as the Conservation Volunteer of the Year represented by: **Rosemary McGee** and **Nancy O’cain**. The awardees were presented a red cedar **Bluebird House** that has been approved by the **North American Bluebird Society**.

Pictures below are by Diane Curlee, Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Education Coordinator:



Conservation Volunteers of the Year
Left to Right: Nancy O’cain, Emily Bonilla, and Rosemary McGee. Nancy O’cain and Rosemary McGee represent CawCaw Creek Farms.



Farmer of the Year.
Left to Right: Mr. James McClain and Ms. Emily Bonilla, Orangeburg County District Conservationist, presented the award.



Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Sandi Ott, Speech Therapist at Edisto Elementary School. Accompanying her is the Assistant Principal, Dr. Steven Preast.



Business Partner of the Year:
Left to Right: Glenda Lewis, District Manager (retired) presents - Claflin University, Friends of the Earth, Rodney Hudson and Ms. Sherlene Brown, President accepted the award.



Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Volunteer of the Year.
Left to Right: Glenda Lewis, Executive Director of Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (retired) and Pat Milhouse.

John F. Cuttino Jr., is the new District Manager of the Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District, as well as the new Affiliate Director of Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful. Even though he is new to these titles, he is no stranger to the work we do here. During his 21 years he has experienced many different things, held multiple positions of leadership, and taken life one day at the time. However no amount of traveling ever took him away from his home (Orangeburg). He has gained his most precious gift here in Orangeburg, which is the gift of a deep appreciation for wildlife, and the natural world. He will always be an advocate for conservation, and intends to serve our mission well by combining his knowledge of the environment, and his passion to protect it.

He graduated from Edisto High School in May 2014. He is currently in his senior year at Lander University. He is majoring in Business Administration & Management with Marketing and a minor in Psychology.

John has already proven to be an asset by updating and running our website. Check it out at: www.Orangeburgswcd.com.



Meet Our NEW District Manager And Affiliate Director



Brittany Felder Technical Service Provider (TSP) USDA-NRCS Through the Orangeburg County SWCD

Brittany Felder is from Holly Hill, SC. Her parents are Buddy and Lindy Felder. She studied Mandarin Chinese in Taipei, Taiwan as a Rotary International exchange student and graduated magna cum laude from the College of Charleston in 2017 with a degree in Biology. She is currently working as a Technical Service Provider for USDA-NRCS through the Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District.



School Garden Update

The garden at Edisto Elementary School is providing produce to their community during the school year and during the summer. The students are learning how to grow their own food. They are planting new things and trying a variety of new foods. **Above** are some of the raised beds at the school. The hose (orange) is used to water the beds. The yellow table is one of the writing stations in the garden. The garden is also used as an outdoor classroom. Interested in having a garden at your school? Give us a call!



Presentations at Girl Scout Journey in a Day

The area **Girl Scout Troops** were invited to participate in a **Journey in a Day**. This event brought a large group of girls together to experience many different activities that qualified them for patches. The conservation district held two activities for different age groups. The Daises discovered the differences between native plants and non-native plants. The Seniors and Explorers discovered watersheds and how they may become polluted. **Pictured to the left** is part of the group learning a “mob” dance during assembly.

Arbor Day 2017 – The Holiday that Celebrates the Future



Redbud trees are an early blooming small tree. These trees are good for the early emerging pollinators. The buds emerge directly from the trunk and branches of the tree. The trees were given to Edisto High School, Edisto Elementary, Carver-Edisto Middle School, Orangeburg Preparatory School (Lower Campus) and Hunter-Kinard-Tyler School. Each of these schools has begun or has a thriving school garden.

Gabby Greenleaves visits Head Start and Kindergarteners

Gabby Greenleaves visited Orangeburg Head Start 3 and 4 year-olds (**picture below left**). The children were thrilled to have a tree visit their classroom. She also visited the Kindergarten groups at Orangeburg Preparatory School (**picture below right**). The children enjoyed seeing the items the “tree” pulled from her pockets. They discovered that the squirrel is the natural planter of the forest. The children like to have their pictures taken with the tree. Would you like Gabby Greenleaves to visit? Give the office a call: (803) 534-2409x3.





Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Report 2017

Our big event in 2017 was *The Magic of Recycling* (see the article below). The **Litter Survey** was conducted in February and involved the 7 County Council Districts. A report, which included each of the council districts and a summary, was given the council. It confirmed what most of us already know, we have a litter problem in our county. It is going to take all of the citizens in the county working together to solve this issue. Everyone needs to realize they have a stake in the solution. The survey is required by KAB for the affiliate to be in good standing.

We continue to participate on the **Litter Initiative Committee**. One important thing that has come out of this committee is the new ordinance that focuses on fines in the county for littering. The statements in the ordinance make the ordinance more enforceable.

This leads to needing ways to report litter. **You may call the Orangeburg County Litter Control office at (803) 533-6162.** You may send **pictures and emails** to litter@orangeburgcounty.org. You may **contact the state litter group at Palmettopride.org**, and you may call them **toll free at 1-877-7litter or 1-877-754-8837**. Please remember, don't be a litter bug. Every piece of trash matters. See the last page for information about cigarette butts. The citizens of our county need to take a stand that **litter is not tolerated**.



The Magic of Recycling

Timothy Wenk is the producer of *The Magic of Recycling*. Greg Allen (pictured top left) did the performances. The shows were awesome. Allen invited students from the audience to come up and act out the story as he told it. The expressions on the assistants' faces were priceless (bottom left). Greg knows how to amaze the children. He kept the audience on the edge of their seats wondering what was coming next. He kept the best until last making the audience hungry for more.

The message was simple – Recycle! Keep as much trash out of the landfill as possible. Once a landfill is full it is closed. You have to build a new one! Save energy, save money and save resources! Reuse stuff. Reduce the amount of stuff thrown away (sent to the landfill) by reusing. Recycle as much as you can. Send things to the landfill as the last resort. There is no such thing as away! We don't have a fairy (like the student in the blue crown and wig) who can wave a wand and magically recycle the goods inside!

A Keep SC Beautiful Grant gave us the funding for the shows that covered the county. 350 students attended each show. We scheduled 12 shows. The students came and were not disappointed. Everyone had a great time.



Note About Landfills

When a landfill is closed, it is no longer receiving any more materials. However, landfills will need to be monitored to make sure there are no contaminants leaching into the ground water. A landfill is never abandoned. A landfill never goes away. A landfill is forever.

Native Pollinator Programs

Pollinators: **native bees, butterflies, flies, hummingbirds and bats** - may play a role in pollinating plants depending on the season, species and the time of day the plant blooms.

Mason and leafcutter bees are often seen buzzing around barns and houses during the early spring. By providing "natural houses" for these insects, you may be able to persuade them to find a more suitable site rather than your outbuildings and tools.

If you would like more information about these insects or would like to schedule a Pollinator Program for a group, give our office a call: **(803) 534-2409x3**.

Tips on Pollinators

By: Diane Curlee



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
(state butterfly)
Feasting on nectar from
Yellow Jessamine
(state flower)

Picture by Diane Curlee

1. **Think year round.** If pollinators are flying, they need to have something to eat. What are you going to provide for them?
2. **Simple flowers are best.** Pollinators need landing pads. Double flowers may be pretty, but they are deserts for the pollinators. Few doubles offer nectar or pollen.
3. **Row crops that have pollinator strips, have higher yield.** How long does a row crop bloom? Where are the pollinators feeding when your crop is not producing nectar and pollen? Don't just think about annuals and perennials, trees and shrubs work too.
4. **Honey Bees fly in straight lines. Bumble Bees fly zigzag lines.** Bumble Bees and Honey Bees working together give better crop coverage than just one type of pollinator. Each type of pollinator is suited for particular types of plants. The more pollinators that are attracted the better the pollination. Better pollination equals a higher crop yield.
5. **BEFORE applying pesticides - scout the field for pollinators.** Don't kill your friends! Few or No pollinators means a poor yield. Everyone wants a healthy bottom line. Even crops that are pollinated by wind may benefit from pollinators. At a Xerces Workshop the following information was given: with just wind pollination and everything else being average to above average - the corn yield was 75% compared to a field where pollinators were present 90%. A 15% yield increase is a 15% price increase. Everyone can relate to those figures! It does not cost to farm for pollinators, it costs not to do it.

Need more information on pollinators?

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

www.SARE.org

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

<https://xerces.org>

Clemson University Extension Service

www.hgic.clemson.edu



Pictures by: Diane Curlee



Do You Know the Truth About Using Cover Crops?

Which of the following are TRUE statements?

1. If it works in my neighbors field, it will work in mine.
2. Rye grows more in Fall and early Spring, absorbs more nitrogen and matures faster, but is harder to establish, to kill and to till than oats.
3. All cover crops are created equal.
4. Rye and wheat are so similar, they should be managed the same.
5. Unlike many grain legumes, cowpeas can leave a net nitrogen gain even if seeds are harvested.
6. Wheat is less likely than barley or rye to become a weed, and is easier to kill.
7. Sorghum-sudangrass produce chemicals that inhibit certain weeds and nematodes.
8. Rye can be planted later in Fall than other cover crops.
9. Tillage breaks down organic matter much slower than no-till.
10. Cover crops can enhance the soil and field environment to favor beneficial insects.

Answers: FALSE Statements: 1, 3, 4, 9, All others are TRUE.

Material for the questions was obtained from: *Managing Cover Crops Profitably*, SARE Handbook 9

www.sare.org

Need more information on cover crops?

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

www.SARE.org

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

<https://xerces.org>

Clemson University Extension Service

www.hgic.clemson.edu



Cover Crops at different stages
Pictures by: Darryl Johnson
Soil Conservation Technician



2018 IMPORTANT DATES



January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 15 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- 23 Board Meeting 5:30PM

February

- 15 Integrated Pest Management
Workshop 6PM
- 19 Presidents' Day
- 21-23 Keep SC Beautiful Conf.
Myrtle Beach, SC
- 26 SC Soil Society Meeting
- 27 & 28 SCACD meeting in Cola.
- 27 Board Meeting 5:30PM

March

- 1 GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP BEGINS**
- Litter Survey March 6 & 7**
- 27 Board Meeting 5:30PM
- 30 Good Friday

April

**GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP
Continues**

**April 1 - 7 County Wide
Clean Where You Live/Work Challenge**

- 20 SC Envirothon held at Sandhills REC, Cola.
- 21 *Earth Day Celebration* - Claflin University Campus
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Board Meeting 5:30PM
- 27 National Arbor Day (Last Friday in April)
- 29 Soil Stewardship week **begins**
"Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home"

May

- 6 Soil Stewardship week **ends**
- 4, 5, & 6 Orangeburg Festival of Roses
- 22 Board Meeting 5:30PM
- 28 Memorial Day
- 31 END GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP**

June

- 15-17 EEASC Conf., Greenville, SC
- 26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

July

- 4 Independence Day
- NO Board Meeting

August

- 1 Tree Grant Available*
- SE NACD Meeting, Williamsburg, VA
- 28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

September

- 3 Labor Day
- 19-21 ? SCCDEA Annual Meeting
- 25 Board Meeting 5:30PM
- 30 *Orangeburg County Fair*

October

- 1 - 7 *Orangeburg County Fair*
- 8 Columbus Day [Fed.]
- 23 Board Meeting 5:30PM

November

- 3 *Neeses Health Fair and Carnival*
- 6 & 7 SECDEA Annual Conference
Pigeon Forge, TN
- 11 (12) Veterans' Day
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 23 Holiday
- 27 Board Meeting 5:30 PM

December

- 7 *SC Arbor Day* (First Friday in December)
- 24 & 25 Christmas Holidays
- NO Board Meeting

**Orangeburg County Conservation District
challenges you to make Every day
an Earth Day.**

*Do you know someone who would like to be an
Earth Team Volunteer?*

Youth (13 or older) or Adults that would like to give some community service, please contact us. We can use help at festivals, community cleanups, etc.

You decide when and how much time.

March 12, 2018

Dear Environmental Advocates,

Orangeburg County is fortunate to host a variety of rich and diverse ecosystems. Being a predominately rural county, many of Orangeburg’s residents must closely interact with the environment in their everyday lives. This is why it is important to support education, and outreach that can improve the environmental quality of our county.

Our mission at (OCSWCD & KOCSB) is to protect, and conserve the natural resources of Orangeburg County. We can better reach this goal by a number of partnerships, which support our efforts to make Orangeburg a better place. We could not begin to make a lasting change without the support of our community partners.

You are invited to become an Affiliate Member, the application is below. By becoming a member, you will be instrumental in the conservation of the world around you. By working in the present as partners, we are striving to insure a better environment for our future.

Sincerely yours for conservation,

John F. Cuttino Jr., District Manager (OSWCD)/ Affiliate Director (KOCB)
jcuttino@orangeburgcounty.org



Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful
Affiliate Member Application

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men, and land.”
-Aldo Leopold

Levels of Affiliation

ANY DONATION \$5.00-\$99.99 WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS A SPONSOR, AND RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP

Affiliation Levels and cost

- (Bronze) - \$100.00-300.00
- (Silver) - \$351.00-\$600.00
- (Gold) - \$601.00- \$999.00
- (Platinum) (2yrs) > \$1000.00

Affiliate Benefits (All Levels)

- 2 Tickets for the Annual Showcase Banquet
- Certificate of Affiliation
- Access to our Educational Programs
- Promotional bag

Below services are reserved for Gold level affiliation, and above.

(Gold)

- Cover crop strip _____, or Pollinator strip _____
- Cigarette Hut

(Platinum)

- Cover crop strip _____, and Pollinator strip _____
- Cigarette Hut
- 2yrs Affiliation



Contact us at: (803)534-2409 ext.3
Or visit Orangeburgswcd.com

All levels of support are tax deductible

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
Judge James C. Williams (Ret.)**

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Conservation District Employees

**John Cuttino, Jr. Diane D. Curlee Bernie Wright
District Manager Education Coordinator SWCD Technician
Brittany Felder, Technical Service Provider (TSP)**

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)

**Jonathan Williams, Program Coordinator
Susan Sullivan, Wildlife Biologist (SC Bobwhite Initiative)**

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
Carl Wright, Soil Conservation Technician
Robyn Amie, Soil Conservationist**

2017

Affiliate Members

Dick Horne Foundation

**Kirby Brown & Sons
Janie Cooper-Smith
William Delk**

**George E. Daniels
Emerald Lea Farms**

Garrick Farms

**Haigler Farms
R. Barry Hutto Farm**

**Jameson Farms
Triple A Farm**

Becky Gramling

Louise and Mason Hughes

Brad Hutto

Jim Mullis

Sam Reid

James & Sylvia Williams

In Memory of Clyde B. Livingston

Mr. Livingston was a life long supporter of conservation in all areas. He once said he learned to recycle long before recycling even had a name.

Following in his father Adan's footsteps he served on Orangeburg Soil and Water Board from 1993 to 1994, before moving on to serve on Orangeburg County Council. As a councilman, he continued to support conservation. Mr. Livingston always listened to all sides of an issue before forming an opinion. His decisions were made in the best interests of all citizens, not on how to get the most votes.

Orangeburg County will greatly miss this life long public servant.

There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.

Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949. pp.6





WE ARE ON THE WEB: www.Orangeburgswcd.com

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, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION, AGE, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND MARITAL OR FAMILY STATUS, CITIZENSHIP, OR VETERAN STATUS.

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT OF THE LITTERED
CIGARETTE BUTT**

