



Pictured from Left to Right: Commissioners - John Cuttino, Sr. (chair); Jackie Fogle, Louise Hughes, George Ulmer, District Employees - Diane Curlee and Lisa Rigden and Commissioner - Roy Lindsey.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated in previous Litter Clean-ups. It is definitely a problem in Orangeburg County. Clean Where you Work/Live is a concerted effort to get citizens involved with keeping our County clean and beautiful. This is something that all Orangeburg County citizens need to participate in, so that we can be proud of our county. With everyone working together, we can make great strides in curbing the litter problem.

Since I was elected five years ago, there have been changes in personnel. Glenda Lewis retired at the end of 2017, and was followed by Jay Cuttino. Jay modernized our reports and record keeping as well as revised the (O.C.A.P.) tractor program, and re-envisioned our annual awards banquet to include a broader audience by showcasing our previous year's accomplishments.

I would like to commend Lisa Rigden our new District Coordinator and the current staff for keeping up with the day to day running of the office and their continued efforts with ongoing programs, all while stressing the benefits of conservation. Orangeburg County has had increases in the Conservation practices each year and is currently at an all-time high. Thanks to Emily Bonilla and her staff.

We also participated in Growing C.O.B. which is a program for persons living in food deserts, and I would like to commend Diane Curlee for taking a leading role in helping establish raised bed gardens at SC State University, and acting as an advisor for additional community projects.

I would like to thank Ewart Irick for his 12 years served on our conservation board, and I would like to welcome Jackie Fogle, who is the new Commissioner that filled his position. I would also like to welcome Ms. Dana Vogt who filled one of the director vacancies of the Horse Range Watershed Board. I look forward to working with the Watershed Board to review some of the Watershed concerns. Together as a team we can make a difference in Orangeburg County.

I would also like to thank all of the Affiliate members, and current Board members for their contributions and look forward to seeing all of you at our affiliate banquet on May 16. Thank all of you for your continued support, and hope we can continue our efforts to make a positive difference in Orangeburg County.

Sincerely,

John F. Cuttino, Sr., Chair



**Orangeburg County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**



**Keep Orangeburg
County Beautiful**

Keep America Beautiful Affiliate

USDA-NRCS

Fiscal Year 2018

By: *Emily Bonilla, DC*
Brittany Felder, ISSP

What Does Conservation Mean To You?



We all have different associations with the word “conservation” and its meaning. For me, it is associated with our natural resources, how we can preserve and protect our resources, and how those resources can be enhanced for the future. Over the past six years, we have accomplished quite a bit, but we still have a long way to go with sustainability and conservation in order to maintain a healthy and prosperous planet for generations to come.

The **USDA -NRCS** has been doing its part in promoting resource conservation and sustainable farming practices in Orangeburg County. The number of land owners and operators reaching out to us for assistance and participating in our programs has **increased significantly** over the past few years, and that number has only continued to grow. Even though we cannot accurately measure the effects of our county, the **numbers tell** us that we have contracted **320 applications** from 2012 to 2018, affecting **over 66,500 acres of farm and forest land**.

The **diversity of the participants** in these programs has also **increased** to the point that nearly 50% of all applicants last year were within the Historically Underserved category of producers. This category **encompasses new and beginning farmers, farmers with limited resources, veteran farmers, and minority farmers**. In 2018, we approved 62 contracts, funding \$3,122,534 worth of practices across a variety of funding pools, including Historically Underserved, the Longleaf Pine Initiative, On-Farm Energy, the Bobwhite Quail Initiative, Cropland, Forestry, Agricultural Waste, and Pastureland.



A cover crop under irrigation.

Our programs provide a very diverse offering of practices our participants may **implement to increase and improve resource conservation** on their property and within their operations. Producers implementing **practices to reduce energy consumption** within confined animal operations in the county allow producers to reduce their carbon footprint. Construction of stacking sheds around these same facilities helps to improve water quality by reducing the chance of contamination from runoff and leaching into nearby ground and surface water. Pastureland participants may implement new watering systems for their livestock to prevent contamination of nearby riparian areas and water sources, especially those sensitive areas within the 303 designated impaired watersheds. **Cover crops have helped tremendously in improving soil health**, which increases the productivity and profitability of the soil. **Pollinator habitats** are a popular practice across multiple funding groups that increases food, cover, and shelter available to pollinator populations on the property, including honeybees. In the **Longleaf, Bobwhite Quail, and Forestry funding categories**, producers focus on practices that help improve forest health and wildlife habitat.



A pollinator habitat in bloom.

What does conservation mean to you? What have you been doing to help conserve our resources? Any small action or practice helps contribute to the overall goal of conservation, but we are not there yet. We still have a lot of ground to cover as far as education and outreach are concerned, not just for adults, but also for the coming generations who will be the ones taking care of our resources. We want to **make sure that once we pass along these responsibilities to future generations**, we can say with a clean conscience we made our best effort toward promoting sustainabil-



Make A Difference!



Clean Where You Live/ Work Challenge Orangeburg County!

Focus Area: Orangeburg County Roadsides

When:

Saturday, April 13 to

Saturday, April 27, 2019



Orangeburg County Litter Control

803-533-6162

litter@orangeburgcounty.org

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful

803-534-2409x3

beautifyoburg@orangeburgcounty.org

Call and register to receive: bags, grabbers and vests.

Orangeburg County Litter Control will pick up the bags after you have filled them with litter.

This event is being held during The Great American Cleanup: March 21- December 21 sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Earth Day is April 22. This is a great time to show your pride in your community!



Litter Control



Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



Orangeburg County SWCD



A New Partnership is born!

There was an amazing thing that happened in 2018. It started with a meeting in Orangeburg at the end of 2017 with Ashley B. Page, MSW; Research Associate (End Child Hunger SC & SNAP-Ed), USC Dept. of Health Promotion, Ed. & Behavior inviting persons from SCDHEC and other agencies that were interested in helping communities begin community gardens to meet. The Orangeburg Conservation District was included. This group has formed a partnership that grew into Growing COB (Calhoun, Orangeburg and Bamberg Counties). The first grant to begin a community garden was written and received in the Fall 2018 in time to start a garden at SCSU. Our first Distribution Day was held at Jamison Pharmacy



Pictured to the left is Ashley Page and Orangeburg SWCD Chair, John Cuttino, Sr. at the garden at SC State University. We had our first harvest in December. The group is making plans to start the next garden in Denmark in Bamberg County. We work with schools, churches, and neighborhoods wanting to start a community garden. We are continuing to learn about the process of working with State and County groups and writing federal grants.

Orangeburg Conservation Assistance Program

Do you need: a wildlife or a pollinator plot tilled or planted?
Do you need a firebreak?
Call us for assistance!

You Supply: Seeds, fertilizer, and funds for the transportation of equipment and labor.

Our operator: brings the equipment to your site and operates the equipment.

Rates: \$3.00/mile transport fee
\$75.00/ hour operating fee .



Our Equipment: Tractor and



Contact Information:

Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District

1550 Henley St., NE Room 103, Orangeburg, SC 29115

(803) 534-2409x3

Lisa Rigden

lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org

Diane Curlee

dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org

See our website:

www.Orangeburgswcd.com

The limit on bush hogging is:
no larger than 1" stems.

Summer Programs at the Main and North Branch Libraries



The Growing Up WILD curriculum was used to provide lessons during the summer. Almost 550 people attended the sessions. Some examples of the lessons used were: Ants of Parade, In a Grasshoppers World, Hiding in Plain Sight, Fishing Fun! and Who Lives in a Tree?

Each lesson had take home pages to help extend the lesson. There were songs that went with some of the lessons. The children and the adults enjoyed the lessons. There were hands-on activities that were included with the lessons. The Main Branch Library furnished a book for each attendee.

We are already preparing sessions to be held at the North Branch Library for the summer of 2019.

At left: Kaylassa Williams and John Cuttino, Jr. with an Amethysts crystal.

Arbor Day 2018 – The Holiday that Celebrates the Future



The flowers on a Redbud tree grow from the trunk, branches and twigs of the tree. Note, in the picture to the right, how they spiral around the branch.

The Redbud tree is one of the earliest blooming trees. It provides nectar to pollinators that emerge on the first warm days of late winter or early spring.



We are continuing to plant Redbud trees at schools across our county. Five more were planted in 2018. The schools that received trees are: Branchville HS, Edisto Primary, Lockett Elementary, St. James-Gaillard Elementary and Vance-Providence Elementary Schools. Arbor Day programs were held at Lockett Elementary in Branchville, St. James-Gaillard Elementary in Eutawville and Vance-Providence Elementary in Vance.

Gabby Greenleaves provides programs about the importance of trees to students in preschool through second grade in the county. She presented two Arbor Day programs at St. James-Gilliard Elementary School.

The students learned how trees clean the water and air as trees make food to grow and produce fruit. Pine trees are grown by farmers to produce lumber that may be made into houses, pencils, paper and many other useful things people use. Trees are a **renewable** resource.



Orangeburg County's Orangeburg Preparatory School Envirothon Team competed in its first SC Envirothon competition in Columbia on April 20th, 2018. The team did very well and earned the **New Team Award**. Pictured from left to right are Thomas Williams, Nhi Ngo, and Carter Chandler.

The team is coached by Melissa Plummer. She is Dean of Arts and Sciences Agriculture Program Coordinator at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

To form a team, contact the Orangeburg Conservation District for information. Teams are made up of groups of 3-5 students in grades 9-12.

Meet Our NEW District Coordinator and Affiliate Director



Lisa Rigden is our new District Coordinator of the Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District and Affiliate Director of Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful. Her husband is Fred Rigden. She has two children, Maranda and Freddie. She has taught school and helped run a daycare. She helped her husband with his car transport business. We welcome Lisa to her newest endeavor.

Earth Day 2018 at Claflin University



Diane Curlee, Education Coordinator for the District and the Affiliate, was invited by Claflin University to be the keynote speaker at the Earth Day event.

Girl Scout troops and others were on hand. KOCB and SWCD had a booth, where John Cuttino and Curlee spoke with attendees. They signed up some of the Claflin students as Earth Team volunteers, who helped man the booth at the county fair. We are always on the lookout for volunteers.



Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (KOCB) Report 2018

There is a new poster on the bulletin board at the end of the hallway in the Orangeburg County Agricultural Building. It is about Microplastics. Did you know that Microplastics have found their way into our food chain? Could litter be that pathway? Could it be that there is a threat to life out there in the ditches across our county and country because people do not care where they throw trash? Scary thought! But, the answer is YES!

Each year the Litter Survey is conducted in each of the 7 county council districts. The survey is a requirement for KOCB to remain an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful (KAB). The results show that the county has a litter problem. (Table of the right.) No surprise there. We have noticed a pattern. Stop signs at intersections is where most litter congregates. Litter is concentrated where there are no houses. The worst roads are the ones leading to the landfill or a convenience site. What this tells us is that most people living in the houses care enough to pick up the trash that is in their yards! Most of the people in Orangeburg County do not want trash in their yards.

Areas	Area Score (Average of Sites)
1	2.7 (almost 3)
2	2.5
3	2.3
4	2.1
5	2.2
6	1.7 (almost 2)
7	1.8 (almost 2)

1-7 are the County Council Districts 1 = none or 1 piece/ 1/2 mile 2= littered
3=effort needed for up 4 = dump site

Orangeburg County Litter Control has had a Tarp It! Campaign in 2018. They have been at the Convenience Sites across the county giving out tarps to alert people that the back of trucks should be covered to keep the contents from blowing out. **Remember, it is illegal to go topless! Keep those truck beds covered.**

Be Part of the Answer to Stopping Litter in Orangeburg County:

You may call the Litter Control Office @ 803-533-6162

You may email litter@orangeburgcounty.org

You may go to www.Palmettopride.org

Or call 1-877-7litter (1-877-754-8837)

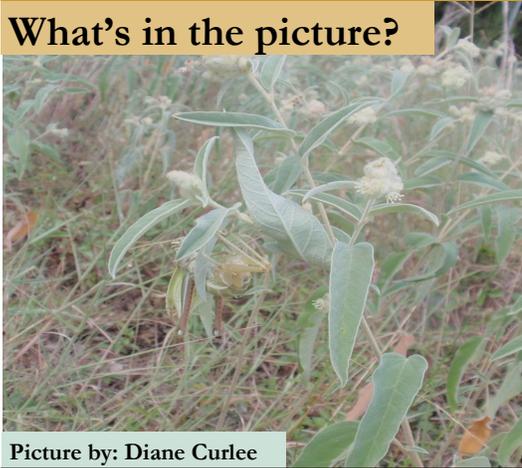
Show your Orangeburg Pride - Don't Litter! Help us clean it up and keep it clean!

Water Use Awareness

Would you like to estimate you daily water use? This calculator helps you estimate your total water use. You know water comes from the tap, but do you know how much water goes into your sandwich? Your gadgets? The electricity that powers them? Go to www.watercalculator.org and answer a few questions to get your water footprint.

Knowing how much water you use, is the first step in beginning to conserve one of our most precious resources. This calculator helps you to track your indoor and outdoor consumption.

What's in the picture?



Picture by: Diane Curlee

The picture to the left was taken in a field that is part of “The Hundred Acre Wood.” It is the Wildlife Habitat Council Site at SI Group, used during the annual Midlands Chapter of the Carolina Butterfly Club Butterfly Count. Observation is a skill that is needed in many day to day jobs. It is one that butterfly enthusiasts hone. There is something unusual happening in the picture. How many times have you walked past such an event and not seen it? A close up picture of the almost completed creature is on page 8. The plant in the picture is croton. It is the host plant for the Goatweed Leafwing. Rolled leaves may hide caterpillars. The butterflies hang upside down from the leaves to lay eggs. Sometimes it is not just butterflies that amaze us on butterfly counts.

2018 Annual Banquet Summary



Conservation Volunteer of the Year:

Will Amick (left) and Orangeburg County District Conservationist Emily Bonilla (right).

The keynote speaker for our 2018 Annual Banquet was Jonathan Wardell, biologist at the National Fish Hatchery in Orangeburg. The hatchery was the first one in South Carolina and still uses the original ponds. One of the major projects currently at the hatchery is the restoration of the Carolina Heelsplitter. Clams are extremely important to water systems, they can filter up to 40 gallons of water per day!

Awards were given to the following deserving people:

Conservation Farmer of the Year: John Patrick.

Conservation Volunteer of the Year: Will Amick.

Conservation Teacher of the Year: Willette Jenkins, HKT 7th grade Science Instructor. Sadly she died at the end of December 2018. She and her classes have planted a garden and fruit trees outside their Science Lab. The produce from the garden was used by the students in their studies.

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Volunteer of the Year: Lewis Jones.

KOCB's Business Partner of the Year: PalmettoPride Organization.

Attendees at the banquet viewed a presentation: **Soil Stories**. The video documented the life of Hugh Hammond Bennett. He is known as the Father of Conservation because of his efforts to preserve natural flora and fauna during the early to mid-1900's. To view the video on the web, search Hugh Hammond Bennett and videos. Select *Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America's Private Land Conservation ...*”.

Celebrate the ACE Basin



Our theme for our booth at the **Orangeburg County Fair in 2018** was on Watersheds and focused on the ACE Basin. The Basin is comprised of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers. We have heard about the problems with the Chesapeake Bay. But not much is ever said about our ACE Basin. The reason is the Chesapeake Bay is taking millions of federal dollars to clean it up. Our ACE Basin is pristine. It is the most pristine estuary on the East Coast.

Orangeburg County affects the South and North Forks of the Edisto River. The citizens of our county need to be aware that our every day activities affect the ACE Basin every day. Rain water carries the surplus fertilizer, pesticides, trash, etc. from our yards, fields, ditches, etc. to the river and into the ACE Basin. It is up to each of us to help keep it clean.

The ACE Basin is the home to the baby shrimp, crabs and fish we enjoy. Remember, Edisto Beach is part of the ACE Basin too!

Our Earth Team Volunteers helped with the booth:

Suishti Kola, Dalton Holman, Adrianna Dacres and James Seal. Absent when the picture was taken - Isheku Au.

Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Presents Check to Next Gen Magnet School



The Orangeburg County Conservation District helped the **Next Gen Magnet School** students attend the 2018 **SC Water Resources Conference** held in Columbia on October 18, 2018 by using funds donated by our Affiliate Members. We continue to educate our youth about the importance of our natural resources which lays the ground work for the future. Water is a finite resource. Water is renewed and recycled by nature. Misuse of the water can lead to it not being usable. Safeguarding our rivers and aquifers is a concern that will face every generation. For every 1 Liter of water there is on Planet Earth only 1 drop may be useable. Water is necessary for life. Education is a key to safe guarding our precious resource -**water**.

By being an affiliate member, you helped to send these young people to the conference in Columbia. Thank you!



North Branch Library Hosts Fall PLT Lessons

Five Project Learning Tree Lessons were presented at the North Branch Library in the fall, 2018. The lessons were attended by members of the community. Two retired teachers, that continue to substitute teach, attended the five lessons and earned Continuing Education Units. They are from left to right: Lillie Robinson and Sandra Walley.

Congratulations ladies!

For more information on the Curricula that are facilitated by the Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District, contact: our office at (803) 534-2409x3 or go to our website: www.Orangeburgswcd.com.



Continued from page 7. Here is the creature (to the left) after it has almost completed its transformation. This is the fifth molt of a grasshopper. It is no longer a nymph, it is now an adult. The adult form of an insect has **Wings!** It is amazing to watch the transformation take place. The complete process takes about an hour. The pictures that were taken spanned about 20 minutes. Insects are invertebrates, they do not have backbones. In order to grow they shed the exoskeleton (to the right).





2019 IMPORTANT DATES



January

1 New Year's Day
09 & 10 Litter Survey
21 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
22 Board Meeting 5:30PM

February

February 15-17, 2019
Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, Charleston, SC

18 Presidents' Day
20-22 Keep SC Beautiful Conf.
Myrtle Beach, SC
25 SC Soil Society Meeting
26 & 27 SCACD meeting in Cola.
27 Board Meeting 5:30PM

March

1 **GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP BEGINS**
March 22-24, 2019 Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic 2019
SC State Fair Grounds, Columbia, SC
26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

April

GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP Continues
Sat., April 13 to Sat. 27 County Wide
Clean Where You Live/Work Challenge

16-17 SECDEA Mid-year Meeting, Surfside Beach, SC
19 Good Friday
20 SC Envirothon held at Sandhills REC, Cola.
22 Earth Day
23 Board Meeting 5:30PM
24 *Earth Day Celebration* - Edisto Primary
School
26 National Arbor Day (Last Friday in April)
28 Soil Stewardship week begins
"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper"

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**



**Make Every day
an Earth Day.**

June

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

July

4 Independence Day
NO Board Meeting Scheduled

August

1 *Tree Grant Available*
28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

September

3 Labor Day
19-20 SCCDEA Annual Meeting
25 Board Meeting 5:30PM
30 *Orangeburg County Fair*

October

1 - 7 *Orangeburg County Fair*
8 Columbus Day [Fed.]
20 - 26 SC Native Plant Week
22 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 Scheduled

*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.

Would you like to help conservation in your community? Help preserve the natural environment for future generations by becoming an affiliate member of the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District. Our mission at OCSWCD and KOCB is to provide local leadership to implement all programs that protect, restore, or improve the natural resources of Orangeburg County.

By becoming an affiliate member of the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District, you are uniting with other environmental advocates in Orangeburg County who support the implementation of educational, technical, and financial programs, and the coordinating of partnerships that are available to help preserve natural resources in Orangeburg County. To make a lasting change, we need your support! Your check will give us the level of affiliation. Thanks in advance for your support!

Orangeburg Soil & Water Conservation District
1550 Henley Street, Suite 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Your friend in Conservation,

Lisa I. Rigden District Coordinator (OSWCD) / Affiliate Director (KOCB)

lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org



Affiliate Member Application

Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful



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

Levels of Affiliation

All Donations will be acknowledged with a Certificate of Sponsorship

Affiliation Levels and cost

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> (Bronze) - \$50.00 - \$99.00 | <input type="radio"/> (Gold) - \$200.00 - \$499.00 |
| <input type="radio"/> (Silver) - \$100.00 - \$199.00 | <input type="radio"/> (Platinum) > \$500.00 |

Affiliate Benefits:

- * 2 Tickets for the Annual Showcase Banquet
- * Certificate of Affiliation
- * Promotional Bag

Services for Gold level

Cover Crop or Pollinator strip
(underline choice)
Cigarette Hut (KOCB)

Services for Platinum level

Cover Crop AND Pollinator strip
Cigarette Hut (KOCB)
2 years Affiliation

All levels of support are tax deductible.

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

2019 COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED BY SC DNR

**B. LOUISE HUGHES
GEORGE ULMER**

ELECTED

**John Cuttino, Sr.
Jackie R. Fogle
Roy Lindsey**

Associate

S.E. (Buddy) Felder

EMERITUS

**Larry Patrick
Judge James C. Williams (Ret.)**

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Conservation District Employees

**Lisa Rigden Diane D. Curlee
District Coordinator Education Coordinator
Brittany Felder, Technical Service Provider (TSP)
Jim Ulmer- SWCD Technician**

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)

**Dan R. Peeples, III
WFF-Wildlife Division - Region 3C**

USDA-NRCS

(Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Beau J. Sorenson, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

**Emily Bonilla, District Conservationist
Robyn Amie, Soil Conservationist
Darryl V. Johnson, Soil Conservation Technician
Carl Wright, Soil Conservation Technician**

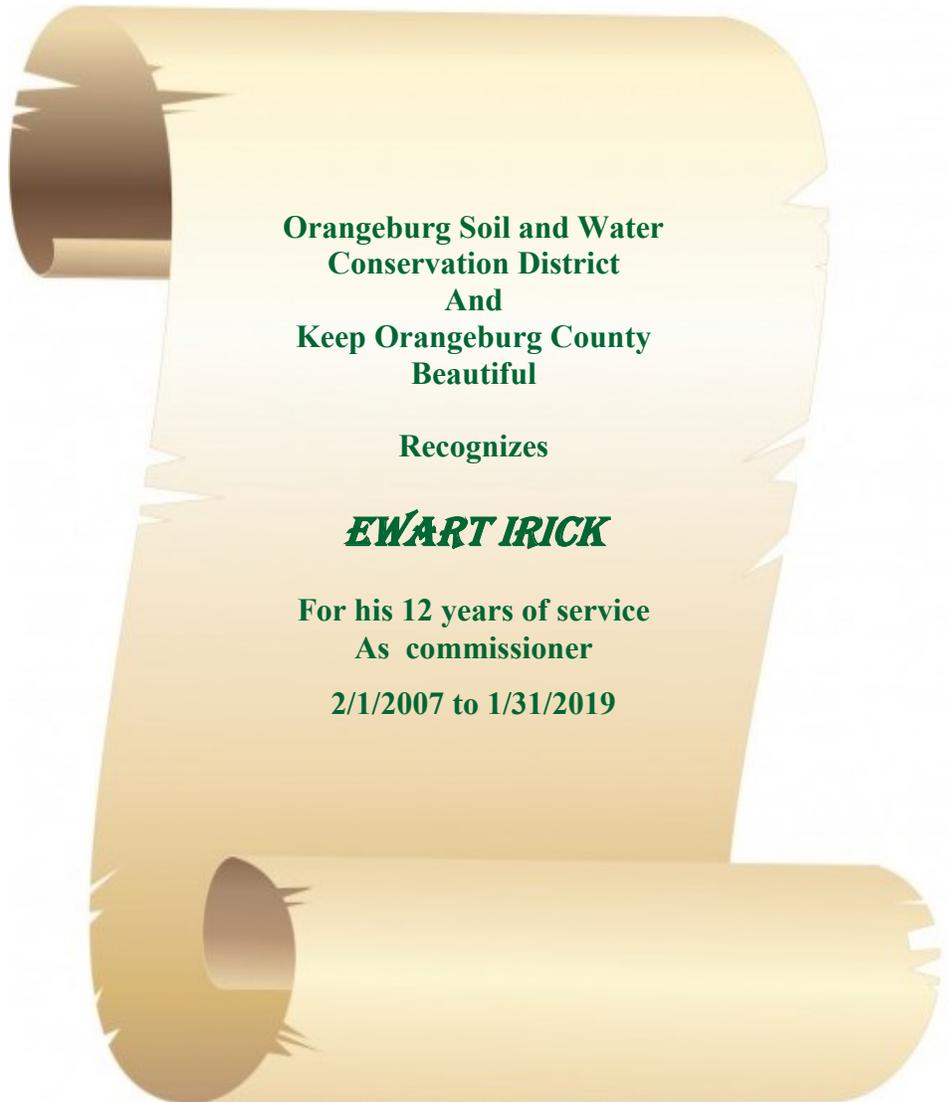
2018

Affiliate Members

Bronze

- American Forestry Management
- Dantzler Farms
- George E. Daniels, Jr.
- Janie A. Cooper-Smith
- Kirby Brown & Sons
- Limestone Pigeon Farm, Inc.
- Millwood Farms, Inc.
- Orangeburg Milling Co., Inc.
- Samuel F. Reid, Jr.
- Tilden Riley, III
- Silver
- Aiken Electric
- Barry Hutto
- Brad Hutto
- Garrick Farms, Inc.
- Geoff Gleaton
- Haigler Farms Partnership
- Hayden's Nursery
- Jameson Farms, Inc.
- John Cuttino, Sr.
- Mason & Louise Hughes
- Porth Contracting Company
- Roy Lindsey
- Weather's Farms

Thank you for helping us
provide conservation education to
the citizens of
Orangeburg County.





CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB: www.Orangeburgswcd.com
Like us on Facebook @ [Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful](#) and
@ [Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

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

