

On behalf of the Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. We invite you to take a moment to review the report and learn more about the important work being carried out across Orangeburg County.

This year's progress toward healthier, more sustainable land use reflects our shared commitment to stewardship—made possible through the dedication of our partners, staff, local landowners, and affiliate members.

Throughout the year, our commissioners and staff have actively participated in workshops and educational opportunities to strengthen their knowledge of conserving and protecting our natural resources. Looking ahead to 2026, the District plans to expand its outreach efforts to better inform local landowners about available programs and services.

The Conservation District remains a trusted resource and partner for all who are interested in supporting natural resource conservation and responsible development in Orangeburg County.

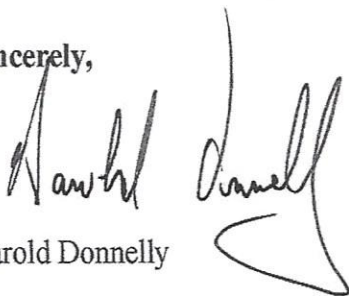
The Board meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 5:30 PM. Meetings are held on the second floor of the Agriculture Building, Room 205, located at 1550 Henley Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115, and are open to the public.

The Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District meeting is followed by the Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful meeting. We encourage community members to attend and learn more about our work and programs.

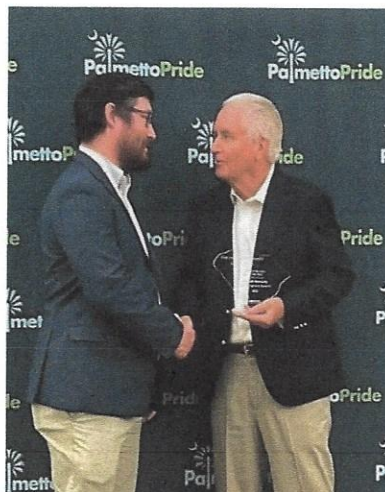
Please review the attached affiliate membership application and consider making a tax-deductible contribution to support our ongoing conservation efforts. Your support is essential in helping us continue this important work and expand our programs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Harold Donnelly
Chairman of the Board



Joe Berry, on left, presenting Harold Donnelly the PalmettoPride Commissioner of the Year 2025 award.



Wanted!

Artists to compete
for a chance to
paint the Storm Drain at the Neeses Farm and Culture Museum.

The information about this project may be found at
www.Orangeburgswcd.com or request by emailing
dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org or lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org.



Orangeburg County Schools – Public, Private, Home Schools; are you interested in helping to keep the environment cleaner? Due to the lack of vendors in our area, it is difficult to recycle in Orangeburg County. But reusing items is easy when you begin sharing ideas and items with others. Shop smarter. Repurpose things.

Learn to grow plants for food, beauty, and mental health! Composting is easy and builds new soil.

Brookdale Elementary School is continuing to work toward sustaining their **Green Steps School** projects.

Felton Laboratory Charter School is working toward becoming certified as a **Green Steps School**.

For more information about **Green Steps (a no cost program)** see the EEASC website at www.eeasc.org and look for the Green Steps School tab near the center.

Diane Curlee, Orangeburg County Green Steps School Mentor, may be reached at dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org.



The Orangeburg County SWCD partners with the **Farm Bureau Mobile Learning Lab** to bring **Farm Related Lessons** to your School. Contact the SC Farm Bureau to schedule the Lab to come to your school.

Office: (803) 936-4249 Cell (803) 707-4334
Email: ewood@scfb.org www.SCFB.org

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day
12-14 SCACD Partnership Conf.
Spartanburg, SC
19 Dr. Martin Luther King Day
*Volunteerism Workday
Jim Capers Park – Eutaw Springs
Revolutionary War Park
27 Board Meeting 5:30PM

FEBRUARY

5 – 6 Litter Survey
7 Envirothon Coaches' Training
14 -18 2026 NACD Annual Conf.
San Antonio, TX
16 Presidents' Day
24 Board Meeting 5:30PM

MARCH

*GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP BEGINS
1-7 Leopold Week
2 - 6 Read Across America Week
22 World Water Day
24 Board Meeting 5:30PM
March 21 Sat. – 29 Sun. **SC Sweep!**

APRIL

Clean Where You Work/Live/Play
The Month of April –
Choose a day or more!
3 Good Friday (County)
10 (Friday) Edisto Garden – Earth Day Celebration!
***22** Earth Day
***17** SC Envirothon Competition
24 National Arbor Day
(Last Friday of April)
***26** Soil Stewardship week begins
28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

MAY

**Advertise Local Work Group Meeting (LWG)
1 & 2 Rose Festival
3 Soil Stewardship week ends
25 Memorial Day Holiday
26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

JUNE

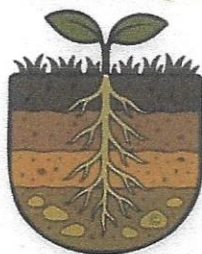
EEASC Conf. Wed. 17 to Fri. 19
19 Juneteenth [Fed. Holiday]
24 Board Meeting 5:30PM
30 County Fiscal Year End
*GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP ENDS

Soil.
Where it all Begins



2026
Calendar
Of
Events
OCSWCD
and
KOCB

Soil.
Where it all Begins



App from
Palmetto Pride:
Recycle Here SC

Soil.
Where it all Begins



2025 Annual Report
2026 Calendar

JULY

NO Board Meeting scheduled in July
1 County Fiscal Year Begins
250th July 4th Independence Day
**LWG 5:30PM July 28th see website

AUGUST

1 Tree Grant Available
PalmettoPride/KSCB
Aug. 9-11 2026 Southeast NACD
(regional) Cherokee, NC
26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

SEPTEMBER

***7** Labor Day
8-11 Keep SC Beautiful Conf.
14 SCACD Midyear Meeting
22 Board Meeting 5:30PM
30 USDA-NRCS Year Ends

OCTOBER

Clean Up for the Holidays
The Month of October
Choose a day or more!
1 USDA-NRCS 2027 Year Begins
New Water Year Begins
12 Columbus Day [Fed.]
18-24 (3rd Wk.) SC Native Plant Week
28 Board Meeting 5:30PM

NOVEMBER

3-4, 2026 SE Conservation District
Employees Association Annual
Conference Pigeon Forge, TN
11 Veterans' Day
15 America Recycles Day
17 Board Meeting 5:30
26 Thanksgiving Day
27 (County) Holiday

DECEMBER

NO Board Meeting Scheduled in
December
4 *SC Arbor Day (1st Friday of Dec.)

Certify your Backyard Wildlife Habitat
Check out
South Carolina Wildlife Federation:
scwf.org/habitats/
Help SC regain the #1 spot for registered
Backyard Habitats by population.



**Orangeburg County SWCD
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful**



Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (KOCB) was awarded \$8,750.00 for the 2025 PalmettoPride/Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grant. These funds supported the purchase of educational and promotional materials used at community programs and events such as Earth Day, the Orangeburg County Fair, Halloween events, school programs and more.

Through this grant, KOCB was able to provide flyers, pamphlets, and other educational resources to help raise awareness about recycling, proper litter disposal, the environmental impacts of litter, and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

In addition, grant funding allowed for the purchase of essential cleanup equipment including heavy duty grabbers, rolling carts, bag holders, and buckets, to support volunteers who regularly participate in litter cleanup efforts throughout the county.

Each spring and fall, Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful in partnership with Orangeburg County Litter Control, hosts a community-wide clean-up initiative known as the “Clean Where You Live, Work, Play, and Worship Challenge.” This effort is part of Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Cleanup. KOCB provides all the necessary supplies for volunteers to conduct successful cleanups. In return, participants share important data such as the number of bags collected, locations cleaned, hours volunteered, and number of participants. This information is reported to PalmettoPride and Keep America Beautiful, and helps ensure continued support for local cleanup efforts.

We invite individuals, families, and groups to join us in making a difference. To get involved, please call or email to register. Together, we can Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful.

2025 Beautification by the Numbers:



EVENTS	# PARTICIPANTS	# BAGS	# POUNDS
Volunteer Litter Cleanups in 2025	142	426	14385
Earth Day Events (3) – Beautification & Education	2,000	x	x

Numerous Recycling Events were held throughout the year for America Recycles Day (ARD), November 15 - such as batteries, cans, ink and toner recycling.

Above, Ms. Karen Myers instructs a group of students on how to dig a hole for a pear tree at Felton Laboratory Charter School on the campus of SCSU.

The Outstanding Educational Event was the SC Arbor Day Celebration. Three Bartlet Pear and three Oriental Pear Trees were planted by 6 groups of middle school students at Felton Laboratory Charter School on December 12, 2025. These pears will provide shade for the playground, food for pollinators and students, and beauty. Having two varieties helps with disease control, aids in pollination, and fruit production. Many fruit trees are susceptible to fire blight, a bacterial disease. Separating trees with different varieties and higher tolerances protects the trees from disease and provides better pollination and fruit production.



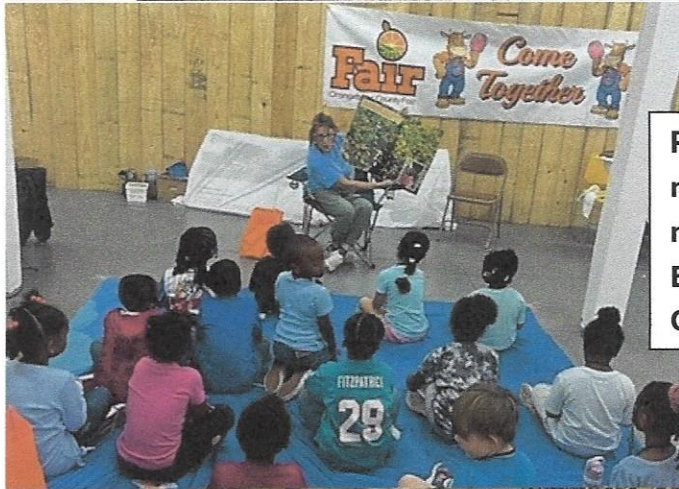
**Orangeburg County SWCD
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful**



**Orangeburg
County
Fair 2025**



Curlee, Education Coordinator shows students caterpillars and chrysalids of Gulf Fritillary butterflies from her yard.



Rigden, District Coordinator reads the story about the migration of the Monarch Butterfly to a school group at the Orangeburg County Fair.



Pat Milhouse uses litter as his daily workout routine. He can be seen all around Orangeburg cleaning the streets. Even a light drizzle doesn't deter him! (Sample of 3 days.)



Inclement weather didn't stop the **City of Orangeburg's Fall Festival**. The crowd filled the City Gym getting loads of delicious candy treats.



2026 COMMISSIONERS (Division of Local County Government)

<p>APPOINTED BY SC DNR Board</p> <p><u>GEORGE ULMER</u>, (30 years of Service) <u>Treasurer</u></p> <p><u>S.E. (Buddy) Felder</u></p>	<p>ELECTED By The Citizens of Orangeburg County</p> <p><u>Harold Donnelly, Chair</u></p> <p><u>Jackie R. Fogle (Vice-chair)</u></p> <p><u>Benjamin (Ben) Fogle</u></p>	<p>Associate <u>Non-voting Members</u></p> <p><u>B. Louise Hughes</u></p> <p><u>Jim Johnson</u></p> <p><u>John Cuttino, Sr.</u></p>
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The people listed to the left are *non-paid volunteers* serving the citizens of Orangeburg County.

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Conservation District Employees (County Employees)

Lisa Rigden Diane D. Curlee
District Coordinator Education Coordinator

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR) (State Employees)

Jennifer Morris, SCDNR Program Coordinator, Edisto-Savannah Area
Hunter Bridges, Farm Bill Biologist for Orangeburg County

USDA-NRCS (Federal Employees) (Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Kellee Melton, State Conservationist
Antron Williams, Area Conservationist
Jennifer Cardona, District Conservationist
and
Christian Gonzalez, Soil Conservationist



**Orangeburg County Soil and Water
Conservation District
And
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful**
1550 Henley St., Room 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Phone: (803) 534-2409x3
Lisa Rigden: Lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org
Diane Curlee: Dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org
www.Orangeburgswcd.com

Our Mission Is
to provide local leadership
to implement all programs
that protect, restore, or
improve
the natural resources
of Orangeburg County.

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 landowners
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.*



Orangeburg County SWCD
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful



Levels of Affiliation

(Check your level of affiliation below.)

(Sponsorship) \$5.00 to \$49.00

(Bronze) - \$50.00 to \$99.00	(Gold) \$200 to 499.00
(Silver) - \$100.00 to \$199.00	(Platinum) > \$500.00
Bronze to Platinum Affiliate Benefits	
Invitation to the Annual Banquet	
Certificate of Affiliation	
All levels of support are tax deductible.	
This funding supports the Education Programs of the conservation district.	
Contact us at: (803) 534-2409 ext. 3 visit www.Orangeburgswcd.com	

Affiliate Member Application 2026

Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

-Aldo Leopold

Last name _____ First name _____ M.I. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone () - _____ Email: _____

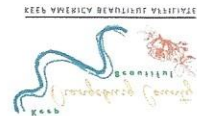
Amount of Affiliate Donation: _____ **Amount of County Park Donation:** _____

Total Donation: _____ (Make sure you have marked the forms correctly.)

Return to: Orangeburg County SWCD, 1550 Henley St. NE, Room 103
Orangeburg, SC 29115



**Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful
County Parks Fundraiser2026**



- Recommended Amounts: (mark amount of donation)**
- \$25 will cover supplies for volunteers to pick up 500 pieces of litter**
- \$50 will cover supplies for volunteers to pick up 1,000 pieces of litter**
- \$100 help purchase flowers that keep hundreds of bees buzzing**
- \$500 helps purchase materials to transform an empty lot into a safe, green park**

Please select the location below where you would like your donation to be spent.

Orangeburg County Owned Parks and Boat Landings

Town/City	Park or Landing Name	Address
Bowman	Bowman Library Park	7102 & 7104 Charleston Hwy.
Cope	Ness Landing	3674 Binnicker Bridge Rd.
Eutawville	Gilliard Park	854 Sandpoint St.
	Indian Bluff	157 Indianbluff Ct.
North	Carson Park	5061 Savannah Hwy.
	Slab Landing Boat Landing	1201 Slab Landing Rd.
Norway	Old Senior Center Green Space	105 St. Johns Ave.
Orangeburg	Family Park	Von Ohsen Dr.
	Harmon Park	531 Chestnut St.
	Lake Edisto Park	Lake Edisto Rd.
	Livingston Landing	268 Livingston Lndg.
	Michael Salley Park	1061 Kings Rd.
	Nix Stilton Park	595 Stilton Rd.
Coming Soon	Cannon Bridge Rd. Site	Cannon Bridge Rd.
Coming Soon	Rivelon Community Center	Rivelon Rd.
Springfield	Goodland Park	1404 Springfield Rd.
	Pig Pen Boat Landing	355 Pig Pen Landing Rd.

Orangeburg County Code Enforcement maintains the landings and parks owned by Orangeburg County.

Note that none of your donations will be spent paying an employee or a volunteer.

Total amount of donation to aid in cleanup and beautification of our county parks \$ _____.

Thank you for helping us beautify Orangeburg County!