



Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful 2019 and 2020 Combined Annual Report



The year 2020 brought about many changes with health concerns: restricting travel, in-person meetings, conferences, and programs. In February, some of our staff attended the SCACD Partnership Conference in Charleston, SC. We were also represented at the Edisto-Savannah Area Meeting, as well as the SC Litter Control Association/Keep South Carolina Beautiful Conference in Myrtle Beach. Later in the year, in compliance with social distancing guidelines, we were able to have our first tele-conference meeting in lieu of an in-person monthly meeting.

A special thank you to Roy Lindsey for his 4 years of service on the board and a hearty welcome to Harold Donnelly who will be replacing him. We would also like to welcome Dextrin Dorsey, District Conservationist and Khalia Giles, Soil Conservationist to our office setting. We hope they will be very happy here. On the same note, we were very sorry to see Robyn Amie, Amanda Croft, Jeff Lucas, and Antron Williams leave. Additionally, we would like to thank Darryl Johnson, Carl Wright, D.L. Glover and Dan Peeples for their continued hard work and outstanding service with the NRCS.

We were able to secure additional grant funds for the technical support person for NRCS. We would like to welcome Brittany Felder back to our office. She provides administrative and technical support for the development of conservation plans for local NRCS programs. Orangeburg County is one of most agriculturally productive counties in South Carolina and has an increasingly high volume of agricultural applications each year.

We would like to thank Diane Curlee, who has served for 20 years as our Education Coordinator. She promotes conservation and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful programs in our schools and other outreach locations and received an award for 20 years of service at the SC Conservation District Employees Association Conference. We would also like to thank Lisa Rigden, our District Coordinator, for her dedication to the Conservation District as well as Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful and the programs and events associated with both.

KOCB is working with local and state officials to identify areas of constant or higher concentration of litter in order to focus on how to clean up and prevent further issues. If anyone knows of a particular area facing extreme or constant litter issues, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

The OCAP program continues to grow in interest and services. This program provides no-till planting, bush hogging, discing, and, with the recent purchase of another machine, we are now able to install drip tape and plastic mulch layer. Anyone interested should contact our offices for rates and more information at 803-534-2409 ext. 3.

I would like to thank all of our affiliate members. Your continued support with our conservation programs is invaluable. I look forward to 2021 and hope we can continue our efforts to make a positive difference in Orangeburg County.

Sincerely,

John F. Cuttino, Sr., Chair

Horse Range Watershed Tour

Our Commissioners toured the entire Horse Range Watershed in **December 2019**. We are looking forward to sharing the pictures from this tour with the watershed board members. We would like to welcome the newly elected members, Nathaniel Abraham, Felicia Beker-Washington, and Randy Haas. We hope that in 2021 we will be able to provide oversight to the board and to focus efforts toward keeping the watershed cleaned to promote better drainage.

Submitted by: John F. Cuttino, Sr., Chair



Photos taken of the Horse Range Watershed

These pictures show more than an issue of mowing and keeping trees out of the ditches.



These photos were taken December 27, 2019 by John Cuttino, Sr. Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Chairperson.



Orangeburg Conservation Assistance Program
The services we provide are:
No till Drill (pictured) Discing
Plastic Machine Bush Hog (1" diameter)
Our driver performs the service.
\$3/mile from Orangeburg round trip
\$75/hour for work time.

To set up an appointment:

call the Orangeburg County Conservation District Office at: 803-534-2409x3.

The following information is needed:

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Producer's name | A Working Phone Number | The Farm Address |
| The Number of Acres for the Job | The Farm Number and The Tract Numbers | |

We look forward to working with you!

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful (KOCB) Keep American Beautiful Affiliate, was awarded \$9,000.00 for the year 2020 PalmettoPride/ Keep South Carolina Beautiful (KSCB) Grant. The grant provided funds for the following: Going Green Pocket Guides, pens, calendars, masks, renting a vehicle so we could conduct the litter survey, a laptop, ArcMate Grabbers, The Big Green Box for recycling batteries, and more.

The PalmettoPride/Keep South Carolina Beautiful Grant enables us to spread the word about recycling and the importance of placing our trash where it belongs. If you would like to help us beautify Orangeburg and become a volunteer for KOCB, please contact us at [\(803\) 534-2409 x3](tel:8035342409).

Article submitted by Lisa Rigden.

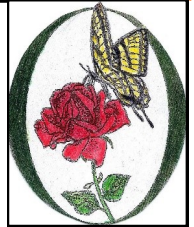
Orangeburg County Clean Where You Work/Live The Month of April, 2021.

Need Supplies—grabbers, bags, vests, gloves, and safety suggestions?
Call the **Orangeburg County Litter Control Office** at (803) 533-6162 email: litter@orangeburgcounty.org.

Call the **Orangeburg County Conservation District Office** at (803) 534-2409x.3
Email: Lisa Rigden, lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org or Diane Curlee, dcurlee@orangeburgcounty.org.



**Contact the Orangeburg County
Soil and Water Conservation District or
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful Keep America Beautiful Affiliate
at (803) 534-2409x3.**



To learn more about what is currently going on with the Orangeburg County SWCD and Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful, visit our website: Orangeburgswcd.com.

Like us on Facebook and Instagram.

Use these hash tags: #DoBeautifulThings #KeepSCBeautiful #LitterFreeSC #PalmettoPride #KAB #ShareThisPost #BeautifyOrangeburg.

Affiliate Members

Thank You for supporting our conservation programs.

**American Forest Management; Bull Swamp Plantation;
Janie Cooper-Smith; Edisto Electric Co-op;
Garrick Farms, Inc./Triple G. Farms, LLC;
Haigler Farms Partnership; Hayden's Nursery; William Hayden;
R. Barry Hutto Farm; Brad Hutto; Brad Hutto For Senate;
Tommy A. Jameson; Limestone Pigeon Farms;
Hugh McLaurin; Millwood Farms, Inc.;
New America Corporation; Orangeburg Milling Co.;
Springfield Grain Co.; Sunshine Recycling;
Tilden F. Riley, III; Weather's Farms**

Items Illegal to Send to Landfill in S.C

Car batteries Computer monitors Computers Motor Oil
Television Tires White Goods Yard Waste

Orangeburg County Solid Waste Sites are open 7AM to 7PM

***Monday & Tuesday and Thursday to Saturday.
For more information about what may be taken to
Orangeburg County Solid Waste Sites
go to: www.orangeburgcounty.org/217/Recycling***

**Remember to
Cover Your Load.
Help Keep
Orangeburg County and
South Carolina
Beautiful.
Thank you!**

Illegal to Burn in S.C.

Asphalt Cardboard Construction Debris
Copper Wire Dead Animals Demolition Debris
Household Chemicals Metal Paint Paper Petroleum
Plastics Tires Treated Wood



Gabby Greenleaves with a bird nest with puppet baby birds.



The Non-point and Point Source Pollution Model. The students gather around to see what is going to happen next.



Moore Farms Botanical Gardens was the site of the EEASC 2019 Conference.

Arbor Day 2019

**Elloree Elementary School
Mellichamp Elementary School
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary School
Dover (North) Elementary School
Lake Marion High School**

Due to COVID –19 there were no Arbor Day celebrations held in 2020



Eastern Redbud Trees, also known as Judas Trees were planted at each of these schools.

Arbor Day is the holiday which celebrates the future.

**Celebrate the future - Plant a Tree!
Trees make great gifts for a wedding, an anniversary, a new baby, etc.**

**The Orangeburg
County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

**Education
Coordinator**

**Celebrated
20 years**

in 2020



Back Row: Roy Lindsey, Commissioner; S.E. (Buddy) Felder, Associate Commissioner; and Jeff Lucas, Acting District Conservationist.

Front Row: Jackie Fogle, Commissioner; Louise Hughes, Commissioner; Diane Curlee, Education Coordinator; and George Ulmer, Commissioner.

**The Mission
of the
Orangeburg County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

*Is to provide local leadership
to implement
all programs to 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

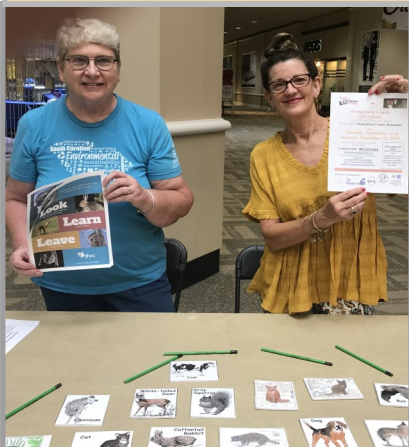
*Connect landowners to sources of
educational, technical, and financial assistance,
to implement conservation practices and
technologies*

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

August 2019

Lisa Rigden and Diane Curlee attended the Back to School Bash event in Vance, SC. Their booth placed emphasis on handwashing. Little did they know in August 2019 what March 2020 would be like! Each bag contained a sheet explaining the correct way to wash hands and a bottle of hand washing liquid soap. Each participant received a bag.

Safe Kids Super Saturday was held at the Prince of Orange Mall in Orangeburg. Pictured left, Curlee and Rigden attended the event. Curlee discussed Animal Safety (Rabies) with the children and Rigden discussed the upcoming Fall Litter Challenge with their parents.



**The 2019 Annual Banquet
May 16, 2019
The Family Life Center**

Awardees at the Annual Banquet were:

**Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful, Business Partner of the Year
SI Group, Adopt A Highway**

**Orangeburg County SWCD Conservation Coach of the Year
Melissa Plummer, Dean of Sciences, O-C Tech College**

**Conservation Teacher of the Year
Libby Ray, Science Chair, OPS**

**Conservationist of the Year
Francis Whetstone, Jr.**

**Conservation Farmer of the Year
Embeford Farms, SC**

Speaker: Jeromy Walther of Walther Farms

Spoke on the importance of keeping up with the newest technology in irrigation. Irrigation affects soil health. One nozzle putting out too little or too much affects the entire circuit of rotation. It is very difficult to fix. It is worse than just one row in the field.

Special Recognition was given to (pictured below):

Left, Emily Hughes, 7th Grade Science Project on Deer Deterrent. She experimented on various oils that would keep the deer from eating plants. Right, The 2018 and 2019 Envirothon Team members , from Orangeburg Preparatory Schools.



Conservation Project, by Emily Hughes. What can be sprayed on items to keep deer away? Mint, Garlic and Dill were tried. Garlic was found to work the best of the three.



Some of the students on the 2019 Envirothon Team from Orangeburg Preparatory School. The competition was held virtually in 2020.



Gabby Greenleaves at Precious Moments in Bowman, SC talking with the children about birds.

The 2020 Pandemic hit the middle of March.

March 19 Santee State Park visit
to plan 4-H2O Summer Camp—**Cancelled**
March 21 PLT training for Volunteers helping with a
Dogwood Alliance Grant sponsored Day Camp Event to be
held at SCSU was scheduled for March 28—
Both were Cancelled.
Growing Up Wild Workshop for SC Conservation
District Employees April 2 **Cancelled.**
You get the idea. It was a busy planning time and
suddenly it STOPPED!
**Everything was Cancelled including
Clemson's Summer Camp .**
We were able to provide a Week of Materials for
18 children picking up materials from the North Branch
Orangeburg County Library

2021 COMMISSIONERS**APPOINTED BY SC DNR Board**

B. LOUISE HUGHES
GEORGE ULMER

ELECTED

John Cuttino, Sr.
Jackie R. Fogle
Harold Donnelly

Associate

S.E. (Buddy) Felder
Roy Lindsey

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, District Technician
Jim Ulmer- SWCD Technician

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)

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

USDA-NRCS

(Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Reginald Liddell, Area Conservationist

Dextrin (Dex) Dorsey , District Conservationist
Robyn Amie, Soil Conservationist (moving)
Khalia Giles, Soil Conservationist
Darryl V. Johnson, Soil Conservation Technician
Carl Wright, Soil Conservation Technician

**NRCS Annual Report**

Brittany Felder, District Technician



The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the Orangeburg SWCD and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and foresters in our county. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the NRCS assists farmers, ranchers, and foresters in the implementation of conservation practices to address natural resource concerns affecting water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, energy efficiency, crop productivity, and air quality.

In FY2020, our office obligated 87 contracts for a total of \$4,298,721.00 covering 12,011.6 acres, an increase of over \$1.2 million in contract obligations compared to FY2019. Right now, the NRCS Orangeburg Field Office maintains a total of 225 active EQIP contracts and 13 active CSP contracts funding conservation practices in a variety of categories, including Cropland, Pasture, Energy, Agricultural Waste, Planning, Forestry, Seasonal High Tunnels, the Longleaf Pine Initiative, the Bobwhite Quail Initiative, and the Center for Heirs Property and Preservation. Applicants may also qualify for higher cost-share rates if they are located within a Source Water Protection Area or fall into any of the following Historically Underserved funding categories: Beginning Farmer and Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Veteran Farmer and Rancher. Currently, 56% of all active contracts in Orangeburg County qualify as Historically Underserved.

Orangeburg County has around 293,790 acres of agricultural land, more than any other county in the state, so naturally the Orangeburg Field Office is one of the busiest NRCS offices in the South Carolina. It has become an even greater challenge to address the financial and technical needs of our producers as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of office personnel and the producers we serve, including mandatory face-coverings for all employees, restricted entry of non-government and non-Extension employees, and social distancing. Despite these limitations, which have restricted in-office staff to 50% capacity or less at any given time, we are still committed to assisting our producers, many of whom are facing their own economic and personal hardships during this time.



Partners in the Office

At the top is **D.L. Glover**. He is the IT guy that keeps our computers talking to each other!

Carl Wright is a roving Soil Conservation Technician. He shares time with Dorchester County too.

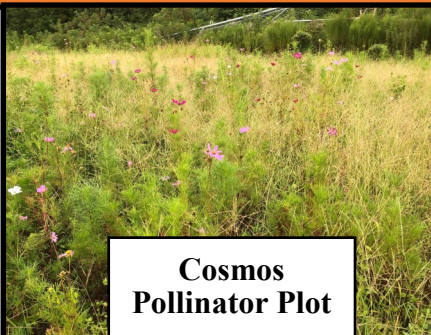


Darryl Johnson is the Soil Conservation Technician for Orangeburg County. He is always running trying to keep everyone happy! He wins the contest for the most phone calls!

Dan Peeples is the SCDNR representative working with USDA-NRCS. He works with the Quail initiative with Long Leaf Pine.



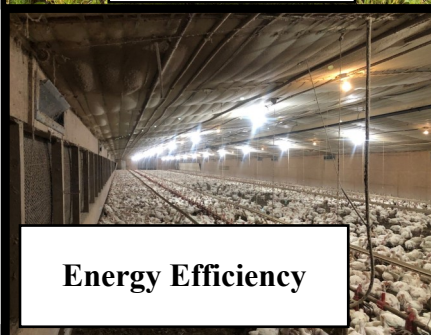
Brittany Felder is working on her masters and helping out in the office. She is the District Technician working with NRCS.



Cosmos Pollinator Plot



Composter



Energy Efficiency



Irrigation



Heavy Use Area



Cross Fencing



Stacking Shed



Conservation Cover Crop Pollinator Plot—Clover



Meet Khalia Giles

Greetings, my name is **Khalia Giles**. I was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and raised in Baltimore, Maryland and Atlanta, Georgia. I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Tuskegee University in Environmental Science. I have worked with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management as a Pollution Control Specialist, the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as a 4-H Regional Extension Agent. In my previous position, I served as a Park Guide with the National Park Service at the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site. My interest include sustainable housing and renewable energy. I am a mother of three and I enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends.



Meet Dextrin (Dex) Dorsey *Orangeburg County District Conservationist*

I grew-up in Harlem, Ga on the outskirts of Augusta to a family of farmer people. We had about 15-20 head of cattle alongside goats, chickens, pigs, a horse, and a mule. I attended the Harlem High School, at which I played football and basketball. I was an exceptional linebacker, receiving tons of accolades and capturing the interest of major universities throughout the south (UGA, Auburn, South Mizzou, Louisville, and Mid-Tennessee). Due to unfortunate events and miscommunications, I decided to attend The Fort Valley State University (HBCU - Land Grant) on an athletic scholarship.

It was there that I returned to my roots and developed a refined love for agriculture. Majoring in plant science, I was able to secure three consecutive internships (2009-2011) with NRCS. Over those years, I spent my summers conditioning for the upcoming football season and familiarizing myself with Michigan Agriculture. My training varied from small vegetable and fruit operations to large dairy and fruit operations.

In the spring of 2013, I accepted a full time offer and reported to Saginaw, Michigan. I spent two years soaking up as much knowledge as possible before I was relocated to Ann Arbor, Michigan (servicing Washtenaw & Wayne Co) in 2015 to assist the acting District Conservationist with the day to day workload and train a new Soil Conservationist. My time at this location consisted of expanding my knowledge, outreach to historically underserved participants, and acting experience. From 2015 to 2018, I served as Acting District Conservationist 4 times (Bay City, Jackson, Monroe, & Jackson), as the "day to day office manager" for District Conservationist 2 times (Monroe & Mount Pleasant), and Soil Conservationist assistant multiple times in surrounding counties.

December 2018, I accepted my first official District Conservationist position in Monroe Michigan. The county was south of Detroit (Wayne Co) and directly adjacent to Lake Erie. This location challenged me to enhance my problem solving/critical thinking abilities, evolve my outreach strategies, and establish local partnership. Historically there was always more money than could be spent so I wanted to close that gap by increasing the number of applications/contracts. I was able to do just that, but I didn't get to see my dream come to fruition, as I found an opportunity to get back to "The South" and closer to home. That said, I'm on a new journey now and I plan to see this dream manifest from a seed to maturity.



Important Dates 2021



January

1 New Year's Day

Litter Survey

(Cancelled Due to COVID-19)

18 Dr. Martin Luther King Day

26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

February

Envirothon Coaches' Training

15 Presidents' Day

23 Board Meeting 5:30PM

March

1-7 Leopold Week

*GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP BEGINS

22 World Water Day

23 Board Meeting 5:30PM

April

Clean Where You Work/Live

The Month of April

Choose a day or more!

2 Good Friday (County)

22 Earth Day

SC Envirothon Competition

(to be held virtually)

25 Soil Stewardship week begins

Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities

27 Board Meeting 5:30PM

30 National Arbor Day (Last Friday of April)

May

2 Soil Stewardship week ends

25 Board Meeting 5:30PM

31 Memorial Day

June

*GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP ENDS

22 Board Meeting 5:30PM

July

Monday 5, July 4th Holiday Observed

4 Independence Day

NO Board Meeting scheduled in July

August

1 Tree Grant Available

24 Board Meeting 5:30PM

September

6 Labor Day

8-10 PalmettoPride/KSCB Conf.

Myrtle Beach, SC

21 Board Meeting 5:30PM

October

1 USDA-NRCS 2022 Year Begins

New Water Year Begins

11 Indigenous People's Day [Fed.]

17-24 (3rd Wk.) SC Native Plant Week

26 Board Meeting 5:30PM

November

2-3 SECDEA Annual Conference

Pigeon Forge, TN

11 Veterans' Day

***15 America Recycles Day**

1,000 Meeting OC Tech

23 Board Meeting 5:30

25 Thanksgiving Day

26 (County) Holiday

December

3 *SC Arbor Day (1st Friday of Dec.)

24 & 27 Christmas Holidays

NO Board Meeting Scheduled in December

***Earth Team Volunteer Opportunities**



Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful Affiliate

1550 Henley St., NE Room 103

Orangeburg, SC 29115

Phone: (803) 534-2409x.3

Fax: (803) 268-1018

Lisa Rigden, District Coordinator

lrigden@orangeburgcounty.org

Check out our Website: Orangeburgswcd.com for updates