

Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District 2018 Annual Report

Celebrating 75 years of Serving Beaufort County

Mission

“To help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment by promoting wise land use practices,

environmental education,

and technical assistance”



Board of Commissioners:

Alan A. Ulmer, Jr., Chair
Claude McLeod, Vice Chair
Denise Parsick, Sec/Treasurer
Luke Inabinett, Member
Don Sanders, Member
Art Holland, Associate
Carol Murphy, Associate
Howard Heckrotte, Associate

District Staff Members:

Shelby Berry, District Manager
Pam Floyd, Education Coordinator
Debby Way, Education Specialist
Cindy Jani, Education Specialist
Taylor Mahala, Education Specialist
Phyllis Atkins, Community
Health, Safety, & Trails

We have enjoyed our first full year at Crystal Lake Park. We have had many visitors stopping by for business, meetings, and to see the beautiful passive park. Come by to visit and check out the amazing wildlife! We're here 9am—2 pm, Tuesday—Saturday



The Conservation Partnership includes:

USDA-NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Brandon King, District Conservationist

SC Dep. of Natural Resources, Land Conservation Division:

Chris Workman, Program Coordinator for Conservation Districts
Marc Cribb, Program Director, part time

Professional Memberships:

SCACD—SC Association of Conservation Districts
NACD— National Association of Conservation Districts
SCCDEA—SC Conservation District Employees Association

Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District 124 Lady's Island Dr. Beaufort SC 29907
Mailing PO Box 70, Port Royal, SC 29935 Tel: 843-255-7306
Email: bswcd@islc.net www.beaufortconservationdistrict.org



Natural Resources Conservation Service

On the Ground Conservation Practices in Beaufort County

NRCS and Beaufort Conservation District provided technical support to agricultural landowners in Beaufort County, approving \$271,889 and paying \$64,160 in cost share. EQIP, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, encourages Best Management Practices (BMP's) that help keep our water clean and make the land more sustainable by :

- Reducing sedimentation into nearby waters
- Offering protection for threatened and endangered species
- Fighting invasive species
- Keeping livestock out of area waters

Priority questions for cost share are discussed and approved by the Local Work Group, annually. The following BMP's were installed voluntarily by landowners through EQIP Cost share.

LONG LEAF PINE INITIATIVE

Provides Wildlife Habitats for threatened & endangered Species, like the gopher tortoise

INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION

Invasive species like Chinese Tallow choke out crops & native species that support wildlife



MICRO IRRIGATION

Conserves water, saves energy & prevents nutrient run off

TREE PLANTING

Prepare Land to Plant Loblolly Pine

SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL

Extends the Growing Season



USDA-NRCS Field Office—Serving Beaufort & Jasper Counties—Brandon King, District Conservationist
 7554 W. Main Street, Room 128 Mailing: PO Box 190 Ridgeland, SC 29936
 Phone 843-726-8148 Fax 843-726-5763

NRCS & SCDNR Activities

We are delighted to announce that a **new USDA-NRCS District Conservationist, Brandon King has been hired!** Mr. King grew up in Whitakers, NC near Rocky Mount and attended North Carolina A & T State University. He previously worked with NRCS in Kentucky, Missouri and South Georgia. Now he is the District Conservationist for Beaufort & Jasper Counties & with offices at the Ridgeland USDA Service Center. He is enjoying learning about the Lowcountry and we enjoy his youth & enthusiasm. Help us welcome Brandon King!



Brandon King, new NRCS District Conservationist, examines a cover crop.

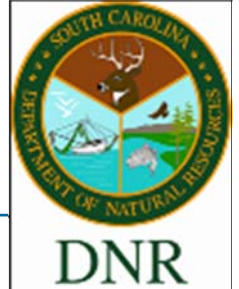
Many, many thanks to Acting District Conservationist, **Fred Tritapoe**. Mr. Tritapoe is the District Conservationist for Colleton County with headquarters at the Walterboro NRCS Service Center. He worked hard to cover his county along with Beaufort and Jasper Counties. We enjoyed leaning from him and appreciated his expertise and enjoyed his presence!



Commissioner Luke Inabinett, L, and District Conservationist, Fred Tritapoe, at a board meeting.

SC Department of Natural Resources

Beaufort SWCD continues its strong partnership with the SC Department of Natural Resources. We work together with statewide activities & education events, SWCD laws & procedures, and staff training. DNR publications, fishing and hunting information and handouts are available at our office. Further information can be viewed at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/>. **SCDNR ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)** continues to provide support to Beaufort County. The ACE Basin NERR scientists and staff provide education and volunteer opportunities to area students and adults. We really appreciate our local DNR experts! <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/>



Nick Wallover, SCDNR, shows students how oil on bird feathers can hurt birds and their flight.



Two New Part Time Educators on Staff

Cynthia Jani joined Beaufort SWCD in November 2017. Before taking a break from teaching to stay home with her children, Cynthia taught middle school science for over 6 years in Colleton, Beaufort and Greenville counties. She has also worked with SCDHEC-EQC and SCDNR and was an aquaculture volunteer with the Peace Corps in Cameroon, Africa. She has her B.S. in Biology from the College of Charleston and a Master of Zoology from North Carolina State University. Cynthia lives in Beaufort with her husband, Dan, and two young boys. She enjoys traveling, camping and planning adventures with her family.



Taylor Mahala got her start in environmental education in Palm Springs, California at the Living Desert Zoo. She led tours, worked on special events with children, and took care of animals. She especially enjoyed taking care of reptiles where she developed her love of snakes. She likes to bring Checkers to school and now has recently adopted two snakes in her home collection. Taylor has worked at animal shelters and at her home church, Praise Assembly, where her husband, Alex also works as a youth pastor.

Please help us welcome both Cindy & Taylor to our staff!

Education: This past year Beaufort SWCD presented **263** classroom, camp, & festival outreach programs reaching over **6,042** students and adults.

Festivals: Beaufort SWCD planned and presented Earth Day at the Port Royal Farmers Market. District staff works on the Kidfest Leadership planning committee as well as setting up an outreach booth and supplying volunteer staff to help with the hospitality booth and trash collection. Staff and educators also presented at the Soft Shell Crab Festival, Birthday for the Birds, and the Shelter Cove/Broad Creek Clean Water Festival & Litter Cleanup.

Eco Camp XXIX: Campers learned about endangered, threatened, and extinct species. With a focus on locally endangered species, campers explored topics ranging from endangered plant species to marine mammals. Guest speakers emphasized the conservation of these species and how campers could help. The finale' was held at Hunting Island State Park learning about Loggerhead Sea Turtles.



Eco Camp XXIX Going, Going, Gone...focusing on endangered, threatened and extinct animals.

Right: Megan Stegmeir with Hunting Island State Park shows a juvenile alligator.



Below: Pam Floyd emphasizes the importance of pollinators to our food crops.



Middle: An "extinct" T-Rex makes a rare appearance!

Right: George Rump teaches about dinosaurs.



Middle: A "Queen bee" rules the hive.

Right: .Students do Project Wild "Hazardous Links" activity while learning about availability of foods for certain species.



Cynthia Jani helps campers make leaf "fossils".



Above, right: Hunting Island State Park staff lead campers in learning about loggerhead sea turtles. Above, middle: Campers learn and demonstrate how to inventory a sea turtle nest.



Water Quality & Conservation Partnerships

Together for Beaufort Water Quality Coalition: As a member of the Beaufort County Human Services Alliance, Beaufort SWCD supports *Together for Beaufort* by leading the T4B Water Quality Coalition. Beaufort SWCD continues to strengthen this coalition that consists of agencies and organizations involved in promoting, educating, & enforcing clean water in Beaufort County. This year we combined our meetings with **Lowcountry Stormwater Partners** since there are so many members belonging to both groups. Each meeting has a special presentation on a relevant topic.



Green Steps Schools: Our staff continues to mentor Whale Branch & Port Royal Elementary Schools in the Green Steps Schools programs. The program encourages students to participate in environmental science activities, to learn about conservation practices, as well as promoting team building and qualifying their school for project grants from the state.

Check out programs and school websites at <http://greenstepschools.com/>

Left, Whale Branch Elementary School works on their recycling project.

Other Education News: This past year Beaufort SWCD received a **Lowcountry RC&D Youth Education Grant** to provide 40 conservation programs that served approximately 800+ youth at schools and other special programs. Educators have been partnering with the Outside Foundation to present the Enviroscope for **Kids in Kayaks** for Bluffton & Hilton Head Island 7th graders.



This two part programs is half day in the water and half day on land doing environmental programs.

The **H.E. McCracken Memorial Scholarship** was established in honor of the late Emmitt McCracken in 1984 to benefit Clemson University students from Beaufort enrolled in Agriculture, Natural Resources or Biology studies.

Mail donations to:
Clemson University Foundation
P.O. Box 1889
Clemson, SC 29633
Include Reference # 539,
McCracken Scholarship Fund



Above, Kids in Kayaks

Left, Board of commissioners and staff at board meeting this past year.

Our Conservation Partnership Services are Available to All Citizens of Beaufort County

Technical Support to land owners, producers and government entities on BMPs through USDA-NRCS.

Educational Support and outreach programs to teachers, students, scouts, churches, camps & civic groups.

Coordinate partnerships with other agencies on variety of projects, programs, and festival outreach events.

Technical support for creation of trails, greenways, blueways, and outdoor learning centers.

Library of historic aerial photography from 1955, soil surveys, topography, and other conservation maps.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS WHO PROVIDE FUNDING, IN-KIND SERVICES, MATERIALS & OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT:

ACE Basin NERR
Beaufort County Schools
Lowcountry Institute
Beaufort County Clemson Extension
Coastal Conservation League
Lowcountry Stormwater Partners
Beaufort County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

SC Sea Grant Consortium
Ms. Lorraine Robertson
Port Royal Sound Foundation
St. Peter's Catholic School
Friends of Hunting Island
Town of Port Royal

Lowcountry RC & D
Beaufort Kayak Tours
Dr. Al Segar
Dr. Tom Ogle
Mr. John O'Connell
BJWSA
Port Royal Farmers Market

Beaufort SWCD Affiliate Member Application

Supporting — \$35.00 Sustaining—\$50.00 Patron —\$100.00 Associate—\$100 +

Circle Level of support Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks Payable to: "Beaufort Conservation District"

Mail to: PO Box 70 Port Royal, SC 29935
Call : 843-255-7306 or Email: bswcd@islc.net
www.beaufortconservationdistrict.org



Name & or Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your support!

Please be an Affiliate Today & Help Educate Beaufort County about Conservation of our Natural Resources!
Donations directly fund local Environmental Science education programs for our area Students!

Affiliate Members

Beaufort County School District
WH McLeod & Sons, Inc.
Lowcountry RC & D
Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Beaufort

Ulmer Brothers, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Berry
Beaufort County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Location: Crystal Lake Park, 124 Ladys Island Dr. Beaufort SC 29907

Come see us! New Office Hours: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or call for an appointment.

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Beaufort SC 29907
Mailing: PO Box 70
Port Royal, SC 29935

