

Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District 2019 Annual Report

Serving Beaufort County for over 75 years

Mission

“To help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment by promoting wise land use practices, environmental education, and technical assistance”

USDA-NRCS Workshop: In the Know with the Natural Resource Conservation District

USDA and SC Agritourism hosted an informational workshop at St. Helena Island Library with several agencies who assist land owners on managing their farms, forests & grazing land. Presentations were given by NRCS, Farm Services, SC Forest Service, SC State Agritourism and more. The day long workshop was well attended and a broad variety of information was covered to learn about cost share programs,



BMPs, (Best Management Practices), and obtaining help through different agriculture agencies. Lunch was provided and then participants went on a farm tour.

Board of Commissioners:

Alan A. Ulmer, Jr., Chair
Claude McLeod, Vice Chair
Denise Parsick, Sec/Treasurer
Luke Inabinett, Member
Dannie Lesesne, 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
Phyllis Atkins, Community
Health, Safety, & Trails



The Conservation Partnership includes:

USDA-NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Brandon King, District Conservationist

SC Dep. of Natural Resources, Land Conservation Division:

Tyler Brown, Program Coordinator for Conservation Districts

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

Office hours: 9am—2pm,
Monday—Friday

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, paying \$56,313 in cost share. We applied conservation to 314 acres of agriculture lands in Beaufort County. Resource concerns for Best Management Practices (BMP's) were paid through EQIP, Environmental Quality Incentives Program. EQIP practices 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
- Preventing fires and managing underbrush

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.

Prescribed Burn



Tree Site Prep & Planting



Streambank and Shoreline Protection



Cover Crop



Rice Trunk Gate



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

New Commissioner Elected

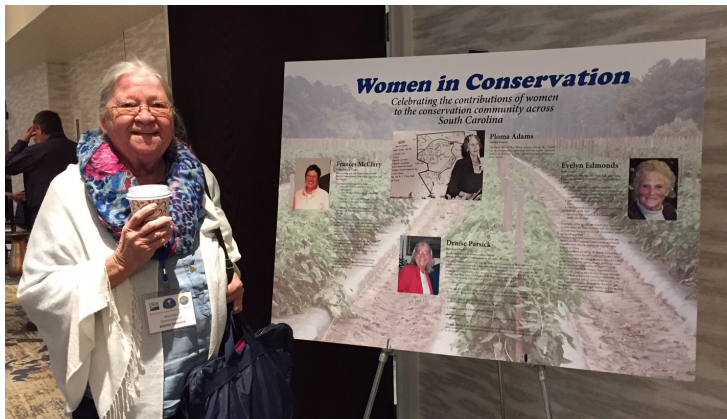
The Beaufort Conservation District Board of Commissioners welcomes new commissioner Dannie Lesesne. He was elected in the 2018 November General Election. Mr. Lesesne is a cattle farmer in northern Beaufort County and active Farm Bureau member.

Right, Denise Parsick giving the Oath of Office to newly elected Commissioners Luke Inabinett, Dannie Lesesne, and newly appointed Commissioners Alan Ulmer, Jr. and Claude McLeod, Jr.



SCACD Recognition & 30 Years of Service

Ms. Denise Parsick was recognized as one of four “Distinguished Women in Conservation” at the annual SCACD, SC Association of Conservation Districts. A display was made recognizing women and their accomplishments. SC- DNR also recognized Ms. Parsick for 30 years of service as a District Commissioner. Congratulations Denise!



Above: Congratulations to Pam Floyd for 15 years of service! Here, Pam teaches the public about sharks at the Broad Creek Clean Festival .

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/NERR/>



Kelli Coleman & Kacie Ferguson, SCDNR, lead students in fish dissection and fish printing programs.



Education: This past year Beaufort SWCD presented 267 classroom, camp, & festival outreach programs reaching over 9,500 students and adults.

Community: 90 Commissioners & Staff had partner and advisory meetings reaching over 1.300 people.

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 Broad Creek Clean Water Festival .

Eco Camp XXX: This year, Eco Camp celebrated favorite programs from previous years which focused on conservation, safety and our coastal ecosystems. The PRFD taught campers how to escape a burning building and HI naturalists taught them all about shrimp and how to cast a shrimp net. Investigating oysters, pluff mud and dissecting fish were also fun programs of the week. Port Royal Maritime Center hosted our Friday field trip with a microscopic encounter with dock organisms.

Eco Camp XXX: The Best of Eco Camp



Right: Kent Easty and Kay Summers of America's Boating Club of Beaufort teach campers about water and boating safety.



Right: The Beaufort/Port Royal Fire Department showed campers how they can escape a burning building.

Upper left: Hunting Island Naturalist Megan Stegmeir teaches campers how to cast a shrimp net.

Above Left: Martha Sette helps campers explore oyster reefs and the microscopic world of pluff mud during their week at camp.

Upper Middle: Pam Floyd leads students in a dolphin necropsy to discover it's cause of death.

Above Middle: SCDNR's Kacie Ferguson and Kellie Coleman help campers dissect fish and practice the art of fish printing.

Right: Campers use microscopes to investigate organisms that live under the docks at The Port Royal Sound Maritime Center.



Info about our 2020 Eco Camp will be on our web site next Spring!

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. We meet 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, Port Royal Elementary School works on their Litter Protection 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 **750** youth at schools and other special programs. Educators have been partnering with the Outside Foundation to present the Enviroscape for **Kids in Kayaks** for Bluffton & Hilton Head



Island 7th graders. This two part program is half day in the water and half day on land doing environmental programs.

Above right, Kids in Kayaks Program. Right, Students trying out binoculars before their tour of Crystal Lake Park. Binoculars were purchased through a previous Lowcountry RC & D grant .

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



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

Ms. Yvonne Plemmons

Lowcountry RC & D

Beaufort Kayak Tours

Dr. Al Segar

BJWSA

Mr. John O'Connell

Town of Port Royal

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

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
Ms. Denise Parsick

Beaufort County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Ulmer Brothers, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Berry

Come see us! 124 Ladys Island Drive Monday—Friday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 70
Port Royal, SC 29935

