

# Williamsburg Conservation Update

## Williamsburg Soil & Water Conservation District

### 2021 Annual Report

502 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway, Kingstree, SC 29556  
843-354-9621 ext. 3 phone 855-589-9002 fax

#### Board of Commissioners

Frances McClary  
Chairman

Scott Williamson  
Vice-Chairman

Ruth Brown  
Secretary & Treasurer

Brian McClam  
Atwood McIntosh

#### Associate Commissioners

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**Commissioner Emeritus**  
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**District Coordinator**  
Denise Smith

#### NRCS

**District Conservationist**  
Daniel Cabaniss

**Soil Conservation Tech.**  
Anthony Parson

**Soil Conservationist**  
Bradley Stokes

#### Mission Statement:

The protection of our environment through the wise use of our natural resources.



## Camp Wildwood

Camp Wildwood is a high energy hands on outdoor environmental camp. It is a fun filled week in which studnets can experience many aspects of their natural environment. They discover that we are a part of nature and everything we do in some way affects the natural balance. The campers acquire the knowledge and appreciation needed for the protection and wise use of our natural resources. They learn self reliance, self discipline and



independence while in an outdoor setting. It helps them to build self confidence in relationships and learn how to cooperate within a group. They learn about the diversity of our natural resources and how many career choices there are in the environmental field. Scholarships are

offered to students who attend the camp. Held at Kings Mountain State Park in June, the camp is available to 10 – 12 grade students. In 2021 three studetns from Hemingway Day School were sponsored by the Williamsburg Conservation District. Brylie Harrell, Tykeshia Lewis and Rivers Stuckey attended. The students enjoyed their amazing experience. Here are some of the participants comments:



Brylie: "I was able to enjoy all the classes and activities. Especially out shooting campers with skeet and catching the most fish." "you have given me the most glorious lesson of facing my fears" "I also met new friends that were awesome teammates.

Those friends taught teamwork makes a dream work. Again, thank you for giving me a week of fun and learning."

Tykeisha said “A week at Camp Wildwood was self-refreshing. I have learned to be a better leader, face fears, and try new things. I was able to push my boundries and accept myself. Thank you for helping me get to Camp Wildwood.”



Rivers said “Camp Wildwood was a great experience for me. I was able to learn many new things through the classes, including Hunter’s Educaiton, Fishery, Boating, Wildlife, and Forestry. This experience helped me realize my passion for working with wildlife and land management. Most importantly I had the opportunity to meet some great friends who I now consider family. Thank you again for providing the scholarshp to me to have these experinces that I will carry throughout my life and memories that I will not ever forget.”

The Williamsburg Conservation District is proud to send these students to camp and are very grateful for the help from our Affiliate Members who enable us to do so.



### 4H Camp Long

In the summer of 2021, the Williamsburg Conservation District sponsored five students to attend Camp Long, a 4H Camp located in Aiken, SC. It offers outdoor opportunities for all ages and skill levels with a rappel tower, giant swing, and a 35-foot climbing tower. The campers may participate in basketball, softball, or football. Located on the lakefront, it offers swimming and canoeing and nighttime meetings around the firepit. Williamsburg County students Anna Godwin, Anna Rhett Hedrick, Kinsley Prosser, Jake Hedrick, and Landon Marlow attended the weeklong camp. The students truly enjoyed their experience and were grateful for the opportunity to attend.





## Essay Contest

The Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual essay contest for students in Williamsburg County. The purpose of the contest is to help youth learn about our natural resources and ways they can help protect them. In 2021, the topic of the contest was “Healthy Forests; Healthy Communities”. The students’ essays investigated how people and communities are affected by the forests.

The contest winners were: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winner – Chloe Pressley and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Elijah Hilton. Honorable Mention went to Syncere Nero, all of Greeleyville Elementary School. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winner – Jasmine Murray and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Trevion Young both from Greeleyville Elementary School. From the grade winners, a County Winner is chosen who receives an additional award. The County Winner for 2021 was Chloe Pressley.



County Winner &  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winner  
Chloe Pressley



Elijah Hilton



Syncere Nero

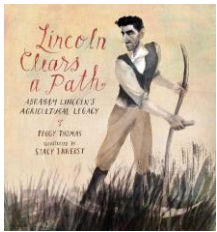


Jasmine Murray

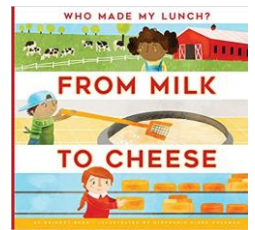


Trevion Young

## Book of the Month



Book of the Month is a program sponsored by the SC Farm Bureau Women’s Committee. It is a literacy outreach program with ag-related resources to utilize in the classroom. Every month, a new book is available with accompanying activities that are aligned with SC State Standards. The Williamsburg Conservation District is pleased to sponsor school libraries in the county to receive the informative and ag-educational books making them available to all students at the schools. The Williamsburg Academy library was sponsored by the Williamsburg Conservation District in 2021 to participate in the learning program.



## Teacher’s Class Award

The District offers an award of \$250.00 for teachers to assist with conservatin education in the classroom. It is available to a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. In 2021 the teacher chosen to receive the award was Crystal Mercer of Williamsburg Academy. Ms. Mercer said, “I was honored to have been chosen as the winner for the classroom award.” She requested the funds for an “Exploring Decomposition” project. The students learned about the rate of decompositiion and the effects of soil type on decomposition. They explored the different types of substances that decompose and investigated the effect of various factors on decomposition and biodegradability.



## Clean Up Day

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the citizens of Williamsburg County joined together for a county wide cleanup. Participants picked up the trash along the highways and ditches in the county. The litter, which is a detriment to our roads, is harmful to wildlife and really looks terrible. The event, sponsored by Keep Williamsburg Beautiful, had at least 75 participants who picked up trash at their choice locations. The Williamsburg Conservation District assisted by providing gloves for the participants. Palmetto Pride also provided supplies for the event.



## Earth Day

Earth Day is a day to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth. It is celebrated on April 22 each year. It was founded by Senator Nelson after he observed a horrific oil spill at Santa Barbara. Senator Nelson announced his idea for a nationwide day of awareness for the environment and hoped that he could convince others how concerned Americans were about the environment. The first official Earth Day was observed in 1970 and has been celebrated every year since.

The Williamsburg Conservation District participated in Earth Day by donating Earth Day Activity Booklets to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Williamsburg Academy. The books contained many fun activities for the students that helped them learn about ways to help preserve and protect the environment.



## SC Wildlife Magazine



South Carolina Wildlife magazine has a long tradition of helping young people and adults learn about the importance of the environment and the value of our state's natural resources. The magazine's statement of purpose, included on the Contents Page of each issue, says it best – Dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of our wildlife and natural resources, and to the education of our people to the value of these resources. The magazine is an extremely valuable tool to teach the youth, therefore the Williamsburg

Conservation District has donated a year's subscription to school libraries in the county. This makes the magazine available to countless students for study and enjoyment.

## Board Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meet on the first Tuesday of each month to address the issues related to conservation and the natural resources in Williamsburg County. Due to Covid restrictions the meetings were held on a limited basis in 2021. The Board is currently meeting monthly. Anyone with conservation or program concerns and questions may contact the district at 843-354-9621 ext. 3. You may also visit the District's website at [www.williamsburgswcd.com](http://www.williamsburgswcd.com). Conservation District Commissioners are charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water within their Conservation District. Conservation Districts provide customer service to local landowners, conservation related education and outreach opportunities, and serve as conservation advocates for the community. Conservation Districts are the voice for locally led conservation!

## New Soil Conservationist



In October of 2021 NRCS in Kingstree welcomed a new Soil Conservationist, Bradley Stokes, to the office. Bradley was raised in Seneca and attended Horry Georgetown Technical College and Coastal Carolina College. He graduated from Brigham Young University with two bachelor's degrees: one in Agronomy and one in Fish and Wildlife Ecology. His work history includes the US Forest Service, US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corp of Engineers. He brings a great deal of knowledge about land conservation and program management to the office. Bradley currently lives in Georgetown with his wife and son and enjoys fishing and hunting when he can.

**Agriculture and related agribusinesses are the number one industry in the United States, and the number one industry in South Carolina generating \$41.7 billion annually in annual economic impact. (SC Farm Bureau)**

**With nearly 25,000 farms and 4.7 million acres of farmland, South Carolina is driven by agriculture. Agribusiness (agriculture + forestry) is the state's No. 1 industry, accounting for 246,957 jobs and \$46.2 billion in annual economic impact. <http://agriculture.sc.gov/about/>**

## Global Footprint

How much land area does it take to support your lifestyle? Most of us don't think that the actions of one person can affect the world. But a lot of our activities do make a difference. From how much we drive and use gasoline or the amount of electricity we use to how much we recycle or use locally grown foods. The Global Footprint Network has a website where you can use their footprint calculator to determine the amount of global acres of the Earth's productive area are needed to support you. You can find it at

<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/>

You may find ways to influence parts of your footprint and tips on changing your lifestyle.

[Ecological Footprint Calculator](#)





NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance and to help plan and implement conservation practices. These practices address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. The 2018 farm bill is being implemented over a five- year period.

### **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

Although the CTA program does not include financial or cost-share assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address natural resource problems such as watering systems for livestock, conservation tillage, Seasonal High Tunnels and many other practices. In 2021, NRCS in Williamsburg County awarded 17 new contracts totaling \$288,667.38 on 1,901.7 acres.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program participants take additional steps to improve resource conditions including soil quality, water quality, air quality, and habitat quality, as well as energy. CSP provides two types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation. In 2021, NRCS in Williamsburg County awarded 27 new and contracts totaling \$1,269,857.39 on 15,566.4 acres.

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program provided financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easement component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easement component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

*All programs and services of the Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and DNR-Land, Water and Conservation Division are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital status, political beliefs or handicap.*



# NRCS Practices Installed

Cover Crop Mix



Firebreak



Pasture Overseeding



Hand Planted Pines



Tree Planting Site Prep Bedded



Post LLP Burn



CSP Fruit Tree Planting

Young Pine Burn

Mature Pine Burn

CSP Fruit Tree Planting

Young Pine Burn

Mature Pine Burn



## 2021 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The Williamsburg Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize our Affiliate Members who are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given by the Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote conservation stewardship within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping the landowners and educating the students of Williamsburg County. Thank you Affiliates! **The Camp Fund Contributors is a level in which the money is specifically used to send students to one of the conservation camps available.**

### CAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Ingram Lumber Co.  
DSM

### PLATINUM

Mishoe Insurance Agency  
Wake Stone Corporation  
Farmers Telephone Cooperative  
Bank of Greeleyville  
Williamsburg County Farm Bureau

### GOLD

S2 Farms LLC  
Kingstree Forest Products, Inc.  
Anderson Brothers Bank  
First Citizens Bank  
Palmetto Pump Systems, LLC  
The Citizens Bank  
Palmetto Synthetics, LLC  
Santee Cooper  
Scotswood LLC

### SILVER

H. E. Hemingway  
Archie B. Ward  
Never Fail Farm  
Charles R. Barwick





**Williamsburg County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

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