

The Conservation Corner

Newsletter of the Charleston, S. C. Soil and Water Conservation District

2016 Annual Report



Charleston Conservation District

2016 Annual Report

Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District Remembers Raymond L. Tumbleston



Raymond L. Tumbleston, long time Commissioner with the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District, passed away on June 2nd of this year. Mr. Tumbleston was born in Ravenel, SC. Beginning in 1968 he established his farming operation and for over 40 years, he established and operated one of the largest farming operations that included soybeans, corn, vegetables, winter greens and the largest tomato production in Charleston County. Living in Edisto Island, he and his brand label was known as **“Geehee Boy.”**

In 1984 Mr. Tumbleston was appointed Commissioner of the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District, where he served as Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. In 1996 he was named the Outstanding Conservation Farmer-of-the-Year by the Woodman of the World, then in 1997,

Mr. Tumbleston was honored as “1997 Outstanding District Commissioner” across South Carolina! Along with Mr. Tumbleston’s numerous board positions held on other boards, to include his membership and his long tenure serving on the Farm Credit ACA Bank Board, he continued his pursuit of the preservation of our natural resources until March 13, 2013 when he retired from the District Board as an appointed Commissioner. He was quickly reappointed as an Emeritus Commissioner where he continued to fulfil his tenure of 32 years to Conservation. Mr. Raymond L. Tumbleston was committed to the preservation of our Natural Resources and he dedicated his life to conservation. He will be remembered as a kind-loving man who cared deeply for his church, his community, his work, and his loving family. **Mr. Tumbleston’s Conservation Legacy** will continue to be known for years to come.



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Our Mission:

To preserve and enhance water quality,
working farms, natural areas,
and wildlife through locally-led
conservation efforts.



DISTRICT IN ACTION

SAM COOK—2016 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Sam Cook, was honored as 2016 Conservationist of the Year at the District's Award's Recognition Dinner held on Tuesday, June 7th. He is married to his wonderful wife, Sherry Cook, and together they have one child who is 27-years old she is living and working in Santa Barbara, California. She was in the Navy for 8 years.

Sam worked for three years as the Director of Forestry for the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Since 2009, he also worked as a Consulting Forester, providing landowners with information to assist them in the management of their forestland. In 2014 Sam became a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Service Provider.

Sam's position at the Center has allowed him and the Center's team to help over 24 landowners (representing approximately 1834 acres) in Charleston County by providing technical support, forestry and conservation advice and referrals of these landowners to many different forestry & conservation professionals. Seven of these landowners, covering approximately 932 acres, applied and were successful in obtaining financial assistance to help establish good forestry practices on their property under the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). One landowner is also working with the Lowcountry Open Land Trust on a Conservation Easement and has also planted longleaf pine.

Sam's reach is larger than just Charleston County, since June 2013, Sam has worked through the Center to provide outreach, education, and technical advice to over 300 landowners across 11 counties of the Lowcountry of South Carolina and helped over 85 landowners get approved for EQIP funding to support conservation improvements on their land. He has A.S. in Forestry from Tuskegee University in 1981 and a B.S. in Forestry Management from NC State in 1984.

This past July, Sam began a new career at NC State University College of Natural Resources and the Executive Director of Forest Assets. We would like to take this moment to thank Sam for all his passion and dedication to the natural resources and to the citizen of Charleston County! ***Congratulations and Best Wishes Sam!***



Chairman, Bill Simpson, presents Sam Cook with the 2016 Conservationist of the Year Award.



Left to Right:

Forester Joe Murphy

Lori Bataller, NRCS

Sam Cook (Awardee)

*The Center's Executive
Director, Dr. Jennie Stephens*

*Bill Simpson, Charleston
Conservation District
Chairman*

*Executive Assistant, Jackie
Wilson*

*Alex Singleton (Board Chair-
man for the Center)*

Staff Attorney Hope Watson

2016 Poster/Essay Contest Winners "We All Need Trees"



Ms. Terry Hartnett's **Kindergarten Class Winners**
Montessori Community School of Charleston

Thanks to all the schools who participated in our Trees poster and essay contest! !



First Grade Poster Winner—Charleston Collegiate School—Teacher: Ms. Krystie Mueller



2nd Grade Poster Winner-Imari Banks Birch
Mary Ford Elementary School
L: Teacher Willette Scott Ash -R: Loretta Hart



3rd Grade Poster Winner
Mary Ford Elementary School
Students: Erin Banks Birch and Keniyah Wilson, shown centered



4th Grade Sail Class Winners
Mt. Pleasant Academy



5th Grade Essay Winner
Carla Carroll - Ms. Angie Alves
James B. Edwards Elem. School



6th Grade Essay Winner
Ms. Megan Herrman - Mary Hackett
C.E. Williams Middle School for Creative & Scientific Arts



7th Grade Essay Winner
Ms. Patricia Joseph—Kelsea Carmichael
Chas. Charter School for Math & Science



Left: 8th Grade Essay Winner
Student: Zamani Lyde - Erik Hilden, Teacher
Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science

Right: 9th Grade Essay Winner
Student: Savannah Brown - Kevin Short, Teacher
Charleston School of the Arts



2016 CONSERVATION RECOGNITION AWARD'S DINNER



*Best Conservation "Tree" Poster
4th Grade Sail (C-H) Class
Teacher, Ms. Laura Graham
Mt. Pleasant Academy*



*Best Conservation "Tree" Essay
9th Grader Savannah Brown,
Teacher, Kevin Short. Not shown,
Charleston School of the Arts*



*2016 "Most Creative Tree Poster"
Teacher Ms. Nancy Amis
4th Grade Winners—Trident Academy*



*2016 Envirothon Team Competition Award
Team Coach, Jessica Herbert
Wando High School*



*2016 Greatest School Participation Award 8th
Grade Teacher, Erik Hilden
Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science*



Laura Graham—2016 Conservation Teacher of the Year



*2015 "Conservation Teacher Award"
Ms. Laura Graham, 4th Grade Sail Teacher
Mt. Pleasant Academy Debbie Eckard,
District Manager/Education Coordinator,
congratulates Laura!*

Laura Graham is a Sail Teacher at Wando High School and has just finished her 27th year of teaching. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Masters of Education from Converse, then a Masters of Arts in History from The Citadel. Laura states that she has always loved environmental education and has enjoyed having her students participate in the Charleston Conservation District poster contests.

Laura's enthusiastic commitment to conservation education is impressive. It takes a special teacher who loves and cares about our natural resources to prioritize these contests for her students.

Congratulations Cynthia!

AWARDS RECOGNITION DINNER

Each year the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District hosts an Environmental Conservation Recognition Awards Dinner to honor the top educators and conservationists in Charleston County.

It is a pleasure to honor our local educators, students, and farmers-landowners who have a passion for the preservation of our natural resources.

Your school can also be a conservationist. Our education programs can be seen at our website. Check us out!

S. C. ENVIROTHON

The District is a sponsor of the annual Envirothon competition for high school students which cultivates a passion for environmental science and conservation policy by testing in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and this year's topic: **"Invasive Species: A challenge to the Environment, economy, and Society."**



The competition was held Friday, May 13, 2016 at Sandhill Research Education Center in Columbia, SC.

Left: Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored Jessica Herbert and her team from Wando High School.

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM

The District sponsored **Drayton Hall Elementary School**, December 2nd, for an Arbor Day event with Fourth Grade Foresters USA. Debbie Eckard, **"Twiggy the Tree,"** presented each fourth grade student with a tree to plant at home. A short program was given to about 275 fourth graders to talk about the value of trees to the environment. Arbor Day is always the first Friday in December for South Carolina. *Students at Drayton Hall Elementary School had fun with "Twiggy" on an Arbor Day/Earth Day!*

See photo below!



ASHLEY SCENIC RIVER COUNCIL

Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District is a member of the Ashley Scenic River Advisory Council and a co-sponsor of previous annual events. This Council was formed in 1999 and was created according to the Scenic River Act to assist and advise the SCDNR in protection and management of the scenic river. The leadership is driven by the local advisory council. Council meetings are monthly at the Dorchester Library on Dorchester Road. Water Quality issues and storm water runoff are at the heart of the Council's concerns. Focus is always to bring more attention to the care and restoration of the Ashley Scenic River. ***Let's keep our Ashley River clean!***

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH DINNER

The SC Association of Conservation Districts held its annual Legislative Dinner, February 23rd at Seawell's in combination with the Partnership Conference in Columbia. Charleston District along with other representatives from Conservation Districts around the state gathered to recognize Legislators for their efforts in the area of Natural Resource Conservation. About 300 people attended the event. Legislators were also able to speak to Districts about their concerns and budget needs to lobby for their continued conservation programs and outreach needed in our counties. See Awards below:

Legislative Appreciation Awards were:

**Senator Katrina Frye and
Representative Roger K. Kirby**

CATR FARMS EASEMENT REVIEW

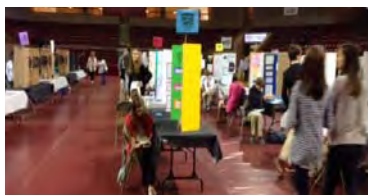
Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District is proud to hold the Conservation Easement on **CATR Farms**. This easement was signed into place December, 2009. The purpose of this easement is to protect and preserve the Conservation Values; To prevent any use or activity that will impair the Conservation Values; and To allow the continuation of historic and traditional uses and activities as well as limited uses that would not impair or degrade the Conservation Values.

Bill Simpson, Chairman, John Smoak, Vice Chairman, and Debbie Eckard, District Manager, met with Murray S. Neale, Executive Director, to look at their newly covered Equestrian Center recently constructed to enhance their therapeutic Riding Program. The District was very pleased with this great addition to CATR.

How fortunate we all are to be involved in such a wonderful outreach program as this and at the same time preserving the conservation values that make this property so beautiful to us all! Great Job CATR Farms! Riding lessons are available! **Below: Riding Equestrian Facility**



LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR



Each year the Charleston Conservation District proudly sponsors and judges students' projects from all over Charleston County whose projects demonstrate excellence

in the Environmental Category of the Lowcountry Hall of Science & Math Science Fair. On April 5th, Commissioners, **Bill Simpson, Chairman, and Mickey Floyd, Treasurer,** judged and selected the Conservation projects that represented the **Environmental Earth Science Area Category.**

Below are the top Junior and Senior Winners in the Environmental Earth Science Category:

Junior 1 Division Winner (5th-6th) Nicholas Credito

The Georgetown School of Arts and Sciences

Title: *Survival of the Crickets*

Junior 2 Division Winner (7th-8th) Katie Scott

Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School

Title: *The Effect of Acid Rain on Seed Germination and Plant Growth*

Senior 1 Division Winner (9th-10th) -Avery Rose Higgins

The Georgetown School of Arts and Sciences

Title: *Reuse Water, Reduce Disease...Save the World*

Winners were recognized with Gift cards and certificates

See winning students photos on page

SOUTHEASTERN WILDLIFE EXPO

The annual Southeastern Wildlife Expo was held February 15-17th at Marion Square in downtown Charleston. The District sponsored a booth to display various resources, both education and technical, to Lowcountry citizens interested in conservation of our natural resources. This year's display was a Pollinator exhibit that encouraged local conservationists to learn the benefits of pollinators for crops. Pollinator posters, along with many other education handouts were given to interested folks. Charleston District/NRCS staff had an opportunity to interact with fellow conservationists to learn more about our programs!

See Photo on page 11

CAMP WILDWOOD SPONSORSHIP

The District sponsored English Walpole Caroline Rumph from James Island Charter HS, to attend Camp Wildwood, held June 12-17, at Kings Mountain State Park, SC. This outdoor camp provides HS students with the "Knowledge and Appreciation" needed to protect our natural resources.

The Charleston Conservation District is proud to sponsor students for this outstanding camp!

See photo on page 11

CHARLESTON COUNTY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Charleston County hosted it's 17th annual Earthday Festival Saturday, April 23, 2016 at Riverfront Park. **This Year's Theme was "Protect Our Planet, Conserve Resources."** The festival is a hands-on science-based interactive experience, designed to encourage participants of all ages to develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues. Earth Day was established in 1970 and is now celebrated by a half-billion people around the world. **This event focuses on environmental Stormwater and Water Quality management practices.** The District set up a coastal watershed model called the enviroscape for kids of all ages to have a hands-on learning experience about our watershed. Handouts were available to all on septic care, how to keep your water clean handouts, along with plenty of fun for students who took the time to learn more about water quality and our watershed.

Thanks to all who volunteered to make this day a fun day of learning for all who stopped by our District booth!



Left: Commissioner Kathy Woolsey & Debbie Eckard, District Manager, man the District Booth for a fun Earthday at Riverfront Park

Right: Fun activities and entertainment were part of the Charleston County Earthday Festival. Educational Poster Awards were also presented to participating schools.

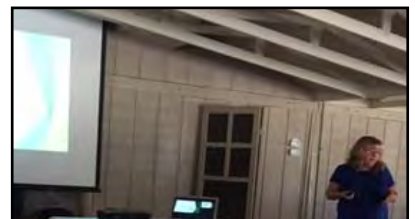


BASICS OF CONSTRUCTION & CROP PRODUCTION FOR HIGH TUNNELS TRAINING OUTREACH

On Wednesday, October 26th, the Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS, (Natural Resources Conservation Service, partnered with Lowcountry Local First, Clemson Extension, Clemson University Sustainable Agriculture Program, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, and Middleton Place to promote a day-long hands-on High Tunnel Construction Training event at Middleton Place Organic Farm, using Do-It-Yourself plans for building a 100'x20' mobile high tunnel. This is a low-cost, easy to assemble hoop house design that measures 100' long by 20' wide, by 9' high, cost about \$1500.00; compared to other high tunnels that can cost upwards of \$20,000.

The morning session started with approximately 40 beginning and existing farmers attending the training. **James Walawender, Middleton Place Farm Manager**, led the hands-on high tunnel training by first discussing the great benefits to having high tunnels for crop production, allowing growers to extend the growing season and increase profitability. He discussed the cost effectiveness of this hoop high tunnel and the ability to move it from one location to another in your field.

The afternoon classroom session followed up a nice lunch prepared by Middleton Place. The agenda started with **Genea Moore, CFSA**, giving a power point presentation on Production, planning and using high tunnels in horticultural crop production. **Lort Bataller, NRCS**, gave a powerpoint presentation on NRCS Programs for High Tunnel Growers. **Debbie Eckard, Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District Manager**, spoke to the group about the District's Mission and their outreach partnerships and programs that promote the conservation of our Natural Resources. The Education session ended with a question/discussion. **The District was proud to partner and participate in this event which will help farmers with their crop production on their farms.**



Middleton Place New and Beginning Farmer Program Seasonal High Tunnel Installation
Charleston Soil and Water Conservation District Participated as a partner in this education Outreach Event -10/26/2016

2016 NRCS ANNUAL REPORT – CHARLESTON COUNTY

Longleaf Pine in Charleston County

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is a native species which historically dominated the Southern United States. Today longleaf has been replaced with fast growing species of pine and are in decline. NRCS promotes native species and assists landowners with conservation planning.

In 2016, NRCS assisted four landowners with longleaf pine planning in Charleston County on 180 acres. Practices successfully established include forest site preparation, long leaf pine planting and prescribed fire to control competition.

Prescribe fire is the most efficient management tool used to improve the success of longleaf pine. Fire is good for the species' health and will maintain an open landscape generating native forbs and grasses that benefit many native wildlife species including quail and turkey.

Rules of Thumb for Best Results to Plant Longleaf Pine (from the Longleaf Alliance)

- Plant early in the season; trees planted before Christmas tend to have better survival and growth rates than late planted seedlings.
- Do not plant in dry soils. Wait for adequate rain to wet at least the rooting zone (upper 6 inches of soil). You may plant as early as October provided the soil is moist.
- Do not plant if soils are frozen.
- High winds and low humidity associated high pressure-cold fronts may dry out exposed bareroot seedling roots, potentially leading to high mortality rates if extra care is not taken.
- Plant seedlings soon after delivery. Try to have all bareroot planted within one week of lifting from the nursery. Don't waste your money buying leftover bareroot from other planting jobs. Containerized seedlings will store better, but the sooner they are planted after lifting, the better.
- Always protect bareroot seedling bundles and boxes of container seedlings from freezing, excess heat, and exposure to the sun and wind.
- Bareroot seedling roots should be exposed to the sun and air for as little time as is absolutely necessary. Never wash or prune the roots of bareroot seedlings as these procedures will reduce survival.

NRCS promotes the establishment of native trees, such as the Longleaf pine, in addition to native shrubs, grasses, wildflowers or forbs and legumes to improve habitat conditions for declining wildlife species including pollinators and the Monarch butterfly. Contact the Charleston NRCS office for details at (843) 727-4160 ext. 3.



Longleaf pine (Pinus palustris).



NRCS provides conservation planning for native species establishment for landowners

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE- FIELD SHOTS



*NRCS Field Visit - Ongoing Construction Project
Wadmalaw Island*



*Happy Goats- Temporary Fencing for Rotational Grazing
Meggett*



*Mechanical Forest Site Preparation
Ravenel*



*Installed Heavy Use Area and Water Tank for Livestock
Hollywood*



*Fencing and Pasture
Ravenel*



*Cabbage Crop on plastic mulch
Johns Island*

THE YEAR



Above, 2016 Savannah, Edisto Area Conservation Outreach Meeting at Beidler Forest



Commissioners Bill Simpson and Mickey Floyd shown judging a student's project

Southeastern Wildlife Expo- Below: Snapshots of Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners volunteering and promoting the District's Conservation Education Outreach Programs!



Commissioner Kathy Woolsey

Lowcountry Math & Science Fair- Charleston Conservation District Education Outreach

The District participates annually to judge and select winners in the Senior and Junior Divisions of the Earth and Environmental Science Categories. Winning Students are presented with Monetary Gifts and certificates at the Award's Program. To the right are the winners in the Environmental Category.

Congratulations to the Winners!



Avery Rose Higgins, "Reuse Water, Reduce Disease.....Save the World"



Chairman, William S. Simpson and daughter Suzanne



John Smoak, Vice Chairman



Katie Scott, "The effect of acid rain on seed germination and plant growth"



Commissioner, Mickey Floyd



Commissioner Ford Walpole



Nicholas Credito, "Survival of the Crickets"



2016 Camp Wildwood Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored students, English Walpole and Caroline Rumph



LOCAL WORKGROUP MEETING

Charleston Conservation District Hosted the meeting at Ft. Johnson Marine Center Conference Room was the setting where local conservationists and farmers met to discuss their resource concerns for federal funding.



Annual Conservation Recognition Awards Dinner where District—Education / Conservation Outreach Recognitions are awarded



Charleston Conservation District participates and sponsors Lowcountry Math & Science Fair and their Education Outreach Event for students. Conservation is promoted!



2016 Local Work Group Meeting—Ft. Johnson Marine Center Local Farmers and Conservationists met to prioritize conservation resource concerns that affect Charleston County. Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District along with NRCS hosted this event.



Partners in Conservation!

2016 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank our County, State, Federal Partners, and 2016 Affiliate Members for your ongoing financial and technical support. Your gift helps us to educate the public about natural resource conservation. THANK YOU!

CONTRIBUTING	CORPORATE SPONSOR	SUSTAINING
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Mt. Pleasant Garden Club	Adair McKoy, IV	Michael J. Manning
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	Walter Bonner	
	Welborn, Inc.	
	William C. Kennerty	

Affiliate Membership Levels:

Corporate Sponsorship—\$500 or above

Advertising Membership—\$250-\$499

Sustaining Membership \$100

Associate Membership—\$50

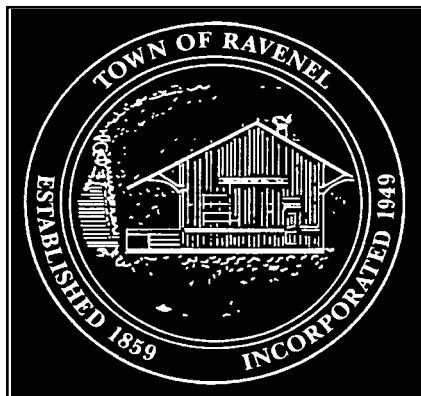
Contributing Membership-\$25

Government Financial Partners

Charleston County
SC Dept. of Natural Resources
USDA / Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Total Affiliate Memberships—117

Government Partners—3
Corporate Sponsor—1
Advertising—18
Sustaining Memberships—35
Associate Memberships—29
Contributing—34





MEET AND WELCOME DOTTIE'S PHARMACY 2016 CORPORATE CONSERVATIONIST SPONSOR



Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District would like to welcome Dottie's Pharmacy, located on James Island, as our first Corporate Conservationist Sponsor!

Corporate Sponsors receive a full advertising page about their business. Thank you Scott Farfone and Dottie's Pharmacy for your support of our conservation outreach for Charleston County residents.

See what is special about Dottie's Pharmacy below:

Dottie's Pharmacy, Specialty & Compounding is a local, family owned and operated Pharmacy. We offer compounding with our in-house compounding lab and are a URAC accredited Specialty Pharmacy as well as a traditional pharmacy. Dottie's takes all insurances and believes good customer service comes before everything! **We are located at 354 Folly Road, Charleston, SC 29412 and can be reached at 843-501-9500.**

Dottie's Pharmacy is excited to announce their recent accreditation as a Specialty Pharmacy through URAC (Utilization Review Accreditation Commission). URAC has been the leader in promoting health care quality through accreditation, education and measurement for the last 25 years. This accreditation is not only a major accomplishment (2 years in the making), but it is great for the Lowcountry as Dottie's Pharmacy is the first and only URAC accredited Independent Specialty Pharmacy 3.0 located in Charleston. Upon conclusion of the on site review it was determined that they scored a 100% on every aspect of the 3.0 Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation.

What is Specialty Pharmacy? Specialty Pharmacy is the future of medications. 80% of the new drugs coming to market will be classified as "Specialty"; these drugs are very disease specific, requiring additional training on use and follow up to ensure their effectiveness. These "Specialty" drugs also typically require prior authorizations and additional medical information from the patient for the insurance companies. This accreditation ensures "white glove" service throughout the entire prescription process in dealing with the patient, provider (prescriber) and payer (insurance company).

"It's necessary for Specialty Pharmacies to provide a higher level of treatment for patients so desired outcomes are achieved." Dottie's Pharmacy shows a dedication to patient education and safety through the recognition of quality it received with URAC's independent accreditation," said URAC President and CEO Kylanne Green. "With URAC accreditation, people know that Dottie's Pharmacy strives to adhere to industry best practices."

Dottie's Pharmacy is a local, family owned and operated pharmacy located at 354 Folly Road in Charleston and can be reached at 843-501-9500. In addition to being a traditional and Specialty Pharmacy. Dottie's Pharmacy also has an in-house compounding lab to service patient's compounding needs.

Thanks so much, Scott

Scott Farfone

Scott W. Farfone

Proprietor

Dottie's Pharmacy, Specialty & Compounding

354 Folly Road

Charleston, SC 29412



Dottie and Scott Farfone



Come check out Dottie's Pharmacy!

2016 Charleston Soil & Water Annual Report

CHARLESTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8
North Charleston, SC 29406-9253

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Organization
U.S. Postage
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PLEASE HELP US CONSERVE! Receive your newsletter by email.

Call Debbie at 843-727-4541 x 3 to update or send your email address to: debbie.eckard@sc.nacdnet.net

Check out our new website:! www.charlestonconservationdistrict.com



The Charleston Soil & Water Conservation District meets
the Second Tuesday of each month, 3:30 PM at
2070 Northbrook Blvd., Ste. A-8, North Charleston, SC .

Our meetings are open to the public!

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2016 Commissioners

William S. Simpson, III, Chairman
John H. Smoak – Vice Chair
Mickey Floyd—Treasurer
Ford Walpole
Kathy Woolsey

Associate Commissioners

Hal Hanvey
Brian Celek
Barbara Neale

Commissioner Emeritus

W. C. Geraty
William C. Kennerty

District Staff

Debbie Eckard, District Manager &
Education Coordinator

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Lori Bataller, District Conservationist
Ann Bentley, Soil Conservation Technician
Randy Fowler, Resource Soil Scientist
Colton McClendon, Soil Conservationist