



CONSERVATION NEWS— ANNUAL REPORT

A newsletter brought to you by the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

MARCH 2019

Looking Back At 2018

The year 2018 has been a year of change, challenges and success for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District. As you read through our newsletter you will see that our staff has been busy working to achieve the mission and focus of the Lancaster Conservation District, *“To enhance awareness of natural resources by educating school children, citizens, and community leaders about conservation and environmental issues in Lancaster County.”*

Some of the highlights of 2018 are:

- ◆ The success of our Education Program in our schools, poster contests and conservation-related science fair projects.
- ◆ The technical assistance offered to our county landowners by our staff.
- ◆ The Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Boards and staff have done an excellent job of maintaining the five PL-566 watershed lakes in Lancaster County. During the 2018 historical rainfall events and hurricanes, there were no failures or problems on any of the five sites in Lancaster County.
- ◆ The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District currently offers three scholarships to Lancaster County students pursuing a career in a natural resources-related field. They are the Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship, the Bill Ardrey Forestry Scholarship and the USC-L Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship. The winner of our 2014 Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship, Anna Scott, placed first in the 3rd International Soil Judging contest held in Seropedica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on August 8-11, 2018. Congratulations Anna!

We as a district have experienced changes with our board and staff this past year. Mr. William (Bill) Ardrey, a long-time Conservation District Commissioner has retired as a commissioner and became a Commissioner Emeritus. Mr. Ardrey continues to assist the board and we are thankful to him for his service.

Mr. Troy Helms was elected as a Commissioner in the November 2018 general election and began serving in February 2019. Mr. Helms is a seasoned agriculture teacher at Buford High School and brings a vast amount of agricultural science knowledge and education experience to our board.

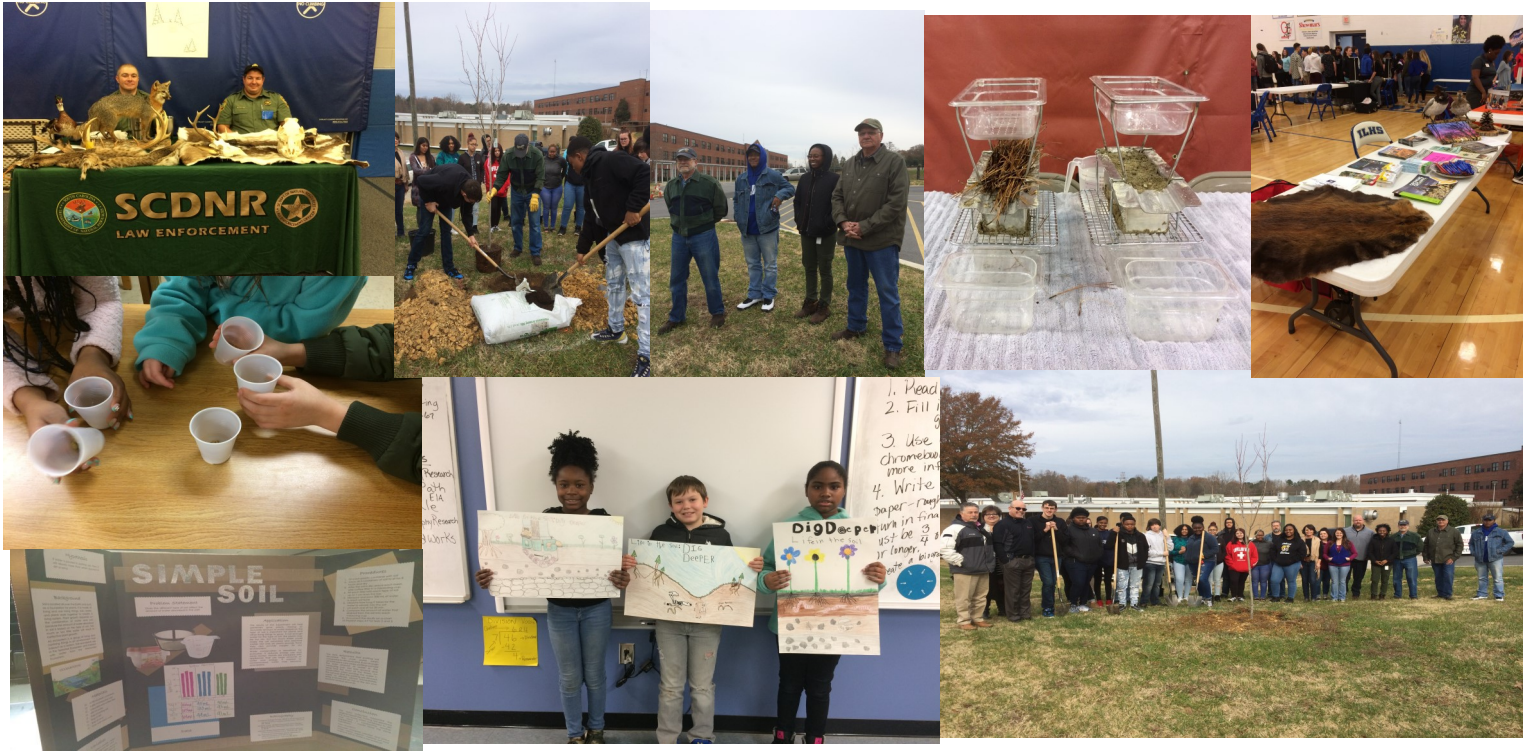
Beginning in June of 2018, the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District began sharing a NRCS District Conservationist and NRCS Soil Conservationist with Chesterfield County. Tamarra Roseburgh is the new District Conservationist, and William Walker is the new Soil Conservationist for Lancaster and Chesterfield Counties. We encourage our landowners and partners to stop by our office and meet our new staff members.

We would like to thank our affiliate sponsors, Lancaster County Council, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Your financial support, technical expertise, and resources have helped make 2018 a successful year in conservation for Lancaster County.

Sincerely

Joe H. Ghent, Jr., Chairman of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

Education/ Outreach Program



This year, we completed lots of school programs and career day events. Program topics included soils, tabletop rainfall simulator, EnviroScape and the wonderful world of worms. We presented awards to our conservation poster contest and science fair winners. We planted trees at the Lancaster Career Center for Arbor Day.

We reached over 3,000 people with our programs in 2018.
Our program is continuing to grow each year!

congratulations



Happy Retirement to Mr. Bill Ardrey! Mr. Ardrey received awards from SC Department of Natural Resources, Lancaster County and Lancaster Conservation District for his retirement during our Affiliate Membership Program in 2018.

Mr. Ardrey is now serving on our board as a Commissioner Emeritus.

Gary Moore received his 20 year service pin from SC Department of Natural Resources at the SCACD Partnership Conference.



All programs and services of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap or marital status.

2018 Award Winners

Conservationist of the Year



*Pictured left to right:
Joe Ghent, Commissioner, Jake Milhorn,
grandson of Sistare and Manny Sistare*

Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship Recipient



*Peyton Hood and family pictured
with Joe Ghent, Commissioner*

Educator of the Year



*Pictured left to right: Amanda
Roberts, District Manager and
David Platts*



Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Board Report

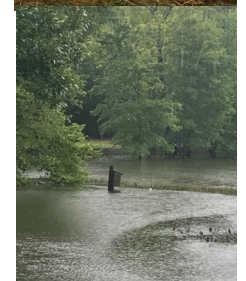
This year we had two hurricanes that passed through our area this Fall. We have implemented a system to notify people downstream of an emergency situation at our sites. The wet weather has delayed some of our current projects.

The Watershed Boards completed the following maintenance items on the dams/ spillways in 2018-2019:

- ⇒ Annual inspection on all five dams and spillways
- ⇒ Fall/Spring Mowing and partnering with the Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, a sponsor, to mow Bear Creek
- ⇒ Directors and staff assisted the public as needed on watershed questions

Weather Delayed Projects:

- ⇒ Repairing the Plunge Basin at the Ghent Reservoir
- ⇒ Repairing the toe of the dam at Little Lynches
- ⇒ Two other projects are waiting on permits from SCDHEC to begin work.



USDA-NRCS Annual Report By Tamarra Roseburgh

The USDA-NRCS offers voluntary conservation programs that provide financial and technical assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to plan and implement conservation practices to address identified resource concerns through conservation planning. During the conservation planning phase, NRCS will meet with the producer to discuss their goals and objectives and identify resource concerns to be addressed. To get started, visit your local USDA Service Center or visit the website at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted for more information. Applicants must establish farm records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and complete all required eligibility documents for USDA assistance. Eligible land includes: cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. Last year, the Lancaster Service Center wrote plans to improve grazing lands, soil and plant health, air quality, water quality, as well as re-forestation longleaf pine habitat. Our goal for 2019-2020 is to get more conservation on the ground!



Some common practices include, but not limited to: High Tunnel System, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Prescribed Grazing, Livestock Watering Systems, Forage and Biomass, and Nutrient Management.

Please sign up for Conservation Client Gateway! Conservation Client Gateway enables you to request assistance, sign documents and interact with NRCS field staff online. NRCS staff will still be available in field offices to work with you face-to-face – this online tool just provides another option. For step-by-step instructions on getting started, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.

For additional information about USDA Conservation Programs, please visit the SC NRCS website at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/sc/home/> or contact the local service center at: 803-286-4455 x3.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Voluntary conservation program administered and carried out through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. EQIP supports agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP is intended to provide producers with financial assistance to help implement conservation practices that address identified resource concerns on their farm.

EQIP Initiatives in South Carolina

1. On-Farm Energy Initiative
2. Organic Initiative
3. National Water Quality Initiative
4. Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
5. Longleaf Pine Initiative
6. Working Lands for Wildlife – Gopher Tortoise Initiative

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and maintaining and managing existing activities on agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land. CSP provides financial and technical assistance for eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Officials for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District:

Joe H. Ghent Jr., Chairman

Gary Moore

Diane Estridge

Troy Helms

Bill Ardrey, Commissioner Emeritus

Amanda Roberts, District Manager

Tamarra Roseburgh, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist for Lancaster and Chesterfield Counties

William Walker, Soil Conservationist for Lancaster and Chesterfield Counties

Robbie Newman, Soil Conservation Technician for Area 1

Mailing Address:

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Lancaster, SC 29721

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Website: www.lancasterswcd.com

2018-2019 Affiliate Members

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank the Affiliate Members for their contributions. Your contributions made it possible for us to sponsor educational activities in Lancaster County. Another special thank you goes to Education Sponsors for advertising in the newsletter. Thank you so much to everyone who had a part in making this year a great and memorable year for Lancaster County!!

CORPORATE MEMBER:

Bill Ardrey Forestry, Inc.
Founders Federal Credit Union
OceanaGold- Haile Operation
Duke Energy

STEWARD OF THE LAND:

Mr. Eric Blackwell
Wolf Den Farm
Mr. Charles Bundy
AccuTrex Products
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Mona Grey
Comporium Communications
First Citizens

SOIL AND WATER PROTECTOR:

Mr. Albert Blackwell
The Eye and Laser Center

LAND CONSERVATIONIST:

Mr. Larry and Mrs. Janice Honeycutt
Elgin Feed and Garden Center
Mr. Dick and Mrs. Ann Christie

**GLENN ALEXANDER MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP AND BILL ARDREY
FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIP:**

Bill Ardrey Forestry, Inc.
Mr. Steve and Mrs. Nancy Fleming
Mrs. Mary Barry
Mr. Joe and Mrs. Julie Ghent
Mr. Billy and Mrs. Diane Estridge

**EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT
SPONSORS:**

Bill Ardrey Forestry, Inc.
Founders Federal Credit Union
OceanaGold- Haile Operation
Duke Energy



Affiliate Membership

YOU can be instrumental in helping conserve Lancaster County's natural resources. Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team! Without monetary support given by Affiliate Members, we would not be able to carry out the many programs needed to promote conservation within the county.

Please fill out the donation form and mail to:
Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 2274
Lancaster, SC 29721
All contributions are tax deductible.
We look forward to working with you to make Lancaster County a better place to live.

- ☐ Land Conservationist - \$30.00 donation ☐ Soil & Water Protector-\$50.00 donation
☐ Steward of the Land- \$100.00 donation ☐ Corporate Member- \$250.00 donation
☐ Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship/ Bill Ardrey Forestry Scholarship- \$100.00 donation

How do you want your membership listed?

Name: _____

Company : _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Make Checks Payable to Lancaster Conservation District or LSWCD

2018-2019 Newsletter Sponsors



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Lancaster, SC 29721

Phone:

(803) 283-2303

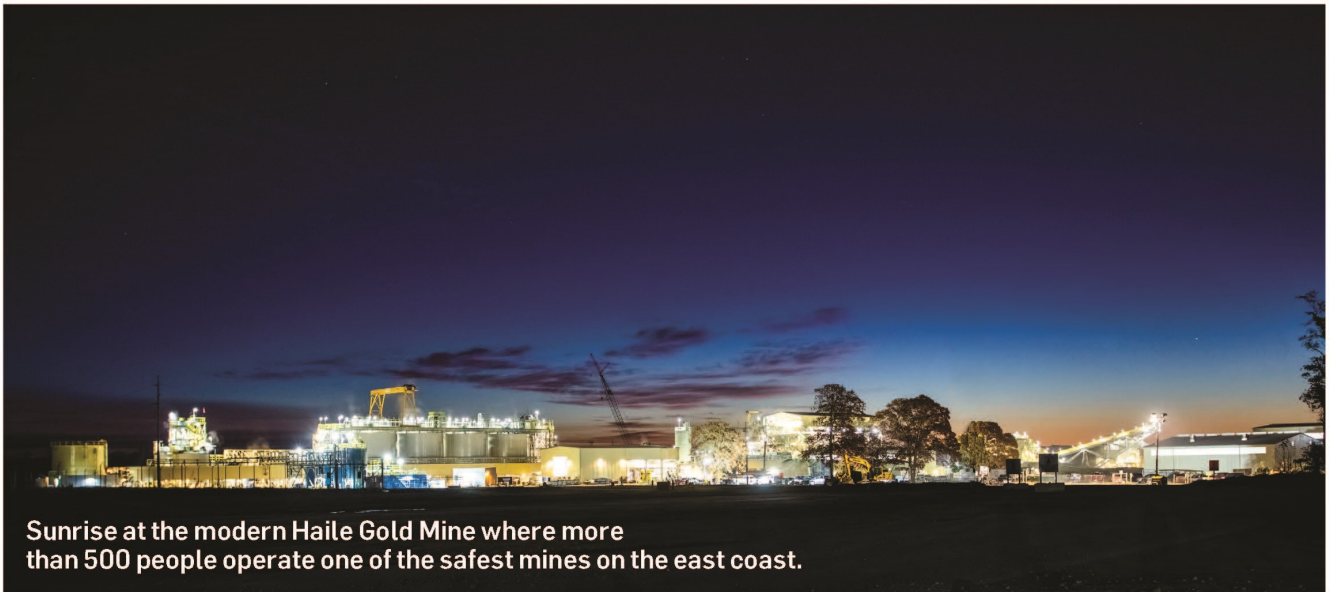
Environmental Stewardship Modern Day Mining



Reclamation, like this former mining pit at Haile, is an ongoing process.



We're helping save and propagate one of the rarest species on the planet, the Carolina heelsplitter, a freshwater mussel integral to water quality.



Sunrise at the modern Haile Gold Mine where more than 500 people operate one of the safest mines on the east coast.

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Commissioners of
the Lancaster Soil
and Water
Conservation District
meet on the first
Monday of every
month at 7:00 p.m.
Meetings are held at
the district office at
1771 Hwy. 521
Bypass South in
Lancaster, SC.

You are welcome to
join us for these
meetings!



"Soil is a dirty topic, but everyone needs to learn more about it! Each community has a variety of soil types. Just like your family members, each soil has a different personality and name. These differences in soil are very important when deciding what you would like to do with the land.

Soil maps and related soil data can provide information for a variety of land users including homeowners, gardeners, farmers, developers, home builders, engineers, community planners and others. Visit <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> for the Web Soil Survey that can assist landowners when making important decisions about their property. You can find the app for your smart devices called "SoilWeb" to learn what type of soil you are standing on and impress your family and friends.



**Help us celebrate Soil Stewardship Week,
April 28, 2019 to May 5, 2019!**

**Please visit one of our Lancaster County
Libraries to get a free book mark to
celebrate Soil Stewardship Week!
(supply is limited)**

Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 2274

Lancaster, SC 29721