



CONSERVATION NEWS

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

OCTOBER 2019

2019 Innovative Conservationist of the Year

Written By: Ann Christie

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District has awarded its Innovative Conservationist of the Year award to SC Truffierés & Howell Specialty Farmz in Indian Land. Owned by Carey and Natalie Howell, the operation grows specialty mushrooms, fruits and vegetables. The Howells received their award at the Lancaster Conservation District's annual recognition program Thursday, May 9, 2019.



*Natalie and Carey Howell
pictured with Tamarra
Roseburgh.*

The award was presented to the operation because of its introduction of new technology, use of mushrooms as a crop new to the county and their innovative farming techniques which demonstrated excellent conservation of natural resources on their land.

"The Howells purchased property in an urban area of Lancaster County and established a vegetable and specialty mushroom farm. According to Tamarra Roseburgh, District Conservationist for Lancaster County for the US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), the Howells constructed the first high tunnel under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a program under the USDA-NRCS.

"They also requested and were funded for a micro-irrigation system under the high tunnel. They stabilized the area around the high tunnel with critical area seeding and mulching and installed gutters on the high tunnel on their own to control runoff," said Roseburgh.

"Their new EQIP contract includes gutters and covering of the high-traffic areas between the high tunnels, different fields and processing facilities. They will use geotextile fabric and crusher-run gravel to cover the hauling roads between the fields and high tunnels. They have a cooler they built with processing machines to wash their produce, and the area in front of the processing area also receives high traffic and is heavily used and will be surfaced," Roseburgh said.

Roseburgh said that the Howells are protecting and improving soil quality and water quality and preventing erosion and water ponding around the high tunnels and in heavily-used areas.

According to Roseburgh, the first tract the Howells purchased had been graded so that there was no topsoil left in much of the area. The Howells embarked on extensive actions of soil improvement with mulching and careful working of the soil with small tools. They use organic weed-control methods that also save them money, such as purchasing out-of-date movie billboards and using the flexible material to cover areas to kill weeds. Every plant they grow is organic and all inputs are verified organic by the Organic Materials Review Institute. They have established a specialty mushroom orchard and have travelled internationally to learn about their cultivation.



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Roseburgh said that the second tract they purchased was next to their home farm. It was extremely steep, and the former owner had hauled in soil full of debris and created a pad for a barn that fell away into the floodplain on three sides. The site had not been stabilized and was badly eroded and a great deal of sediment had flowed into the stream. The farmers contacted the state's water quality agency, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, and received recommendations to rectify the situation. They requested an extensive erosion-control design from NRCS. The farmers came across a contractor who was working on an urban development nearby, who told them he needed to dispose of a large amount of soil. The farmers requested that NRCS evaluate a sample of the soil, and the engineer told them it was not the best

soil he had seen, but if they could get the contractor to fill in and stabilize the eroded area for free, they should take advantage of such an opportunity. The farmers requested information from NRCS on how the soil should be placed and seeding and mulching when the project was finished. As a result, the farmers have a stable area which they can use for future production or for a farm stand or for a public education area, according to Roseburgh.

The farmers participate in the HomeGrown by Veterans program, which certifies that US Armed Forces veterans are growing the produce and allows use of a sticker indicating that. They offer assistance through national web sites to other veterans concerning equipment and farming options.



Carey and Greg Summers,
The Lancaster News Reporter

2019 Poster Contest

The conservation poster contest are open to all students in grades K-12 who are attending public, private or home school in Lancaster County. Any student who wants to enter the contest may do so individually or through a participating school.



Theme: "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?"

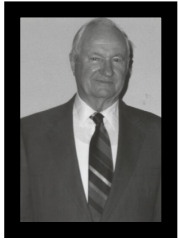
Deadline is:

Monday, December 2, 2019 at 4pm.

Check out our website for more information at www.lancasterswcd.com.

Scholarships

Glenn Alexander Memorial Scholarship— High School Students



The \$750 scholarship is presented to a high school senior residing in Lancaster County who will be attending a fully accredited college, university or technical college. The Conservation District will rank all applications with a points system. The Conservation District prefers that the recipient is majoring in an agricultural or environmental related field such as: agricultural education, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, agronomy, biology, forestry, horticulture, soils, or wildlife management, but it is not a requirement.

The deadline to apply is **February 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm.** Those interested in applying for this scholarship must fill out an application, which can be found on the website at www.lancasterswcd.com (click the education program link), or you may call the office at 803-286-4455 extension 100 for a copy.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District established this scholarship in recognition of Glenn Alexander's 57 years of service with the Conservation District and his dedication to our county.

Bill Ardrey Forestry Scholarship— High School and College Students

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District established the Bill Ardrey Forestry Scholarship in recognition of Bill Ardrey's 42 years of service with the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Bill has devoted 42 years to promoting conservation and conservation education in Lancaster County and in the state of South Carolina. It is a privilege for the Conservation District to honor Bill with this scholarship. This scholarship will continue Bill's legacy of educating our future conservationists in Lancaster County. Over the years he has received awards and recognition from Lancaster County, SC Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts and Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts," said Joe Ghent, Chairman of the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District.

"We appreciate his countless hours of dedication to the board, the county, and the partnership. He encourages the citizens in Lancaster County to be good stewards of the land. His willingness to serve and educate the public about the natural resources is an excellent example of his dedication. He received one of the highest honors as a Commissioner when he was inducted into the SENACD Hall of Fame in 2015," said Amanda Roberts, District Manager for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District is now accepting applications for the Bill Ardrey Forestry Scholarship. The \$750 scholarship will be presented to a high school or college student who is from Lancaster County. The student must be attending a fully accredited high school, college, university or technical college. The recipient must be majoring in a forestry related major. The deadline to apply is **February 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm.** Applications may be found on our website at www.lancasterswcd.com.





Cane Creek and Little Lynches Watershed Board Report

We have been busy working on our watershed dams.

Work List for 2019-2020:

Fall 2019 Mowing

Fall 2019 Fertilization

Spring 2020 Mowing

Rodent trapping during October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020

Repairing the toe of the dam at Little Lynches

Repaired the plunge basin at Ghent Reservoir

Annual inspections will be held in March of 2020



2019 Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Producers in Lancaster and Kershaw Counties are eligible to apply for 2019 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on small grain, native pasture, improved pasture, annual ryegrass, and forage sorghum. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. Eligible livestock producers must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2020, for 2019 losses. Additional Information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, is available at your local FSA office or online at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

Kershaw County USDA-Farm Service Agency Office Contact Information:
1126 Little Street
Camden, SC 29020
803-432-4174 ext. 2





USDA-NRCS Programs

USDA-NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to landowners to plan and implement conservation practices that address identified resource concerns through conservation planning. Our FY20 goal is to get more conservation on the ground!! Some common practices include, but not limited to: High Tunnel System, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Livestock Water Systems, Prescribed Grazing, Tree/ Shrub Establishment, Tree/ Shrub Site Prep, Forest Management Plan, Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, and Nutrient Management.



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.

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.

Conservation Stewardship Program Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)

This new CSP Grasslands Conservation Initiative will assist producers in protecting grazing land uses; conserving and improving soil, water and wildlife resources; and achieving related conservation values by conserving eligible land through grassland conservation contracts. .

Eligible producers will have a single opportunity to enroll in a five-year contract. The Farm Service Agency will send targeted mailings to producers with potentially eligible land. NRCS will not hold a signup. NRCS will offer producers who receive a letter or who are associated with land included in a letter from FSA an opportunity to enroll in the GCI. By signing the contract, producers agree to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for one priority resource concern by the end of the five-year contract.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Client Gateway

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/main/sc/programs/> or contact the local service center at: 803-286-4455 x3.

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservationist - \$30 donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil & Water Protector-\$50 donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward of the Land- \$100 donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Member- \$250 donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Sponsorship- \$100 donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Education Mini Grant- \$100 donation |
- How do you want your membership listed?

Name: _____
Company : _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Make Checks Payable to Lancaster Conservation District or LSWCD

Officials for the Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District:

Joe Ghent, Chairman

Gary Moore, Vice Chairman

Diane Estridge, Secretary/Treasurer

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

Rachel Kennington, USDA-NRCS Earth Team Volunteer

Ann Christie, USDA-NRCS Earth Team Volunteer

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Email: amanda.roberts@sc.nacdnet.net

Website: www.lancasterswcd.com

Board Meetings are held at our office at 1771 Hwy 521 Bypass South In Lancaster.

Education Program Sponsors

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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(803) 283-2303

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Our Upcoming Events:

November 11, 2019- Office Closed For Holiday

November 28, 2019- Office Closed For Holiday

**December 2, 2019 at 4pm- Conservation Poster
Contest Deadline**

**December 2, 2019 at 7pm- Lancaster SWCD
Board Meeting**

December 25, 2019- Office Closed For Holiday

January 1, 2020- Office Closed For Holiday

**January 6, 2020 at 7pm- Lancaster SWCD Board
Meeting**

January 20, 2020- Office Closed For Holiday