

# CHESTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT

SPRING 2010

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government, organized March 4, 1938, in accordance with Conservation District Law Number 182 of the 1937 General Assembly. It was originally organized as a part of the Catawba Conservation District, which included Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, and York counties. The Chester District became a single county conservation district on July 7, 1950.

The District programs are administered by a board of commissioners consisting of three members elected in the general election and two members appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Input regarding various concerns such as conservation education, soil and water stewardship, erosion and sediment control and state and federal regulations are solicited from citizens as needed.

The District is assisted by a District Coordinator and technical staff assigned to the Chester District by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The boundaries of the Chester Conservation District are the same as the boundaries of Chester County. The district has one major land resource area. Elevation above sea level ranges from 270 feet near Great Falls to almost 710 feet above sea level near Lowrys. The county is bounded by the Catawba River on the east side and the Broad River on the west side. It is surrounded by York, Union, Fairfield and Lancaster Counties. The towns in the district are Chester, Great Falls, Fort Lawn, Richburg, Lowrys, Edgemoor, Lando, and Blackstock.

The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners appreciate the assistance given by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Chester County Council in the development and support of the district.

# 2009 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS



The winners of the 2009 Photography Contest are pictured here. In the photo on the left are Morgan Yarborough who won second place and Ashley Crompton, first place winner. Both are students at Chester Senior High School. In the photo on the right is Carria Treveiler, third place winner, a student at Lewisville High School.



## CAROLINA COASTAL ADVENTURE

Emily McNerney, daughter of Richard and Ann McNerney, a ninth grade student at Chester High School, and Griff Wilson, son of Joey and Sanna Wilson, a tenth grade student at Westminster Catawba Christian School attended the CAROLINA COASTAL ADVENTURE, at Somerset Facility at the Wammpee Conference Center on Lake Moultrie in Pinopolis on October 9-11, 2009. CAROLINA COASTAL ADVENTURE is a weekend long camp that teaches rising 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grader about what keeps our water supplies clean, our rivers healthy, and our marine resources thriving. This program is put on by the Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Over the weekend these young leaders create many lasting memories with new friends from across the state as they explore the waters from the lakes to the Coast, from a canoe to a scientific research vessel. Activities will include classroom instruction in what keeps our water supplies clean, our rivers healthy, and our marine resources thriving. Canoeing in a cypress swamp at Santee Canal Park, touring the Jeffries Steam Plant in Santee Circle, and sailing in the Charleston Harbor are included in this unique experience. The Chester Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored these two students.



**Pictured left to right are: Lindsay Fairchilds, Coastal Region Program Coordinator; Emily McNerney; and Griff Wilson.**

# NO-TILL FARMING

Conservation Tillage, also known as No-Till Farming, is a way of growing crops from year to year without disturbing the soil through conventional tillage. Conventional tilling agitates the soil in various ways, usually with tractor-drawn implements. This can lead to unfavorable effects, like soil compaction, loss of organic matter, degradation of soil aggregates, death or disruption of soil microbes, arthropods, and earthworms, and soil erosion where topsoil is blown or washed away. In no-till farming the soil is left intact and crop residue is left on the field thus avoiding those unfavorable effects. Advantages of conservation tillage as listed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources are:

**\*\*\*\*\*REDUCED LABOR AND FUEL NEEDS:** As little as one trip for planting compared with two or more with conventional tillage.

**\*\*\*\*\*TIME SAVINGS:** On a 500-acre farm, the time savings can be as great as 225 hours, or almost four 60-hour workweeks.

**\*\*\*\*\*EASIER PLANTING:** You can plant in straighter rows on hilly land; rows don't have to exactly follow the contour.

**\*\*\*\*\*MORE SOIL MOISTURE:** Crop residues lower evaporation from the soil. This can mean up to 2 additional inches of water available to your crop in late summer.

**\*\*\*\*\*BETTER SOIL TILTH:** It builds up a rich layer of organic material on the soil surface. This increases water infiltration and moisture-holding capacity. That means more uniform stands that can better survive dry weather.

**\*\*\*\*\*LESS EROSION:** Year-round ground cover can reduce erosion by up to 90% compared to an unprotected, conventionally tilled field.





## 2010 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



Winners from Chester Middle School pictured left to right are: Josiah Shutt, third place, grade 8; Joseph Kovas, second place, grade 8; Jacob Wright, second place, grade 6; Khyla Dixon, first place, grade 6; and Principal Mrs. Gail Hamilton. Absent when picture taken was Maddison Dallas, third place, grade 6.

Winners from The Academy for Teaching and Learning pictured left to right are: Sloan Caldwell, first place, grade 8; Rhyna Simmers, first place, grade 7; Breanna Davenport, second place, grade 7; and Holleigh Birch, third place, grade 7.



Chester County Supervisor R. Carlisle Roddey proclaimed the week of April 26-May 3, 2009 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week. From the left are Rodger McDaniel, member of the Board of Commissioners for the Soil and Water Conservation District; R. Carlisle Roddey, County Supervisor; and Carol Shockley, district coordinator for the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District.





**THINK GREEN**

**REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ALLEN L. BEER, CHAIRMAN**

**JEFF WILSON, VICE CHAIRMAN**

**MARGARET M. HAUSMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER**

**D. RODGER MCDANIEL**

**LOUIE M. TURNER**

**DR. DWIGHT PEARSON, CHAPLAIN**

**CAROL SHOCKLEY, DISTRICT COORDINATOR**

**ROCKY CREEK**

**TINKERS CREEK**

**WATERSHED DIRECTORS**

**WATERSHED DIRECTORS**

Keith McDonald, Chairman

Jerry Mozingo, Chairman

Steve Counterman

Henry T. Westbrook

Claudia F. Dean

Henry F. Allen, Jr.

Walker Revels

Michael W. Allen

Oscar (Buddy) Peay

David J. Wilson

## **2010 BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST WINNERS**



Lindsey Mobley, First Place  
Chester Academy



Carletha Jackson, First Place  
Chester Park



Joyce Witherspoon, First Place  
Lewisville Elementary



Jane Glenn, First Place  
Home School

Each year the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a bulletin board contest for the students in Chester County who are in kindergarten through fifth grade. The theme for the contest this year was CONSERVATION HABITS = HEALTHY HABITATS. Entries were judged on the conservation message, visual effectiveness, imagination and creativity, and clarity. All students in the class must have been involved in the process. Above are the first place winners. The second place winners were Gwen D. Hope at Chester Academy for Teaching and Learning, Jennifer Adkins at Chester Park School of Inquiry, and Casey Davis at Lewisville Elementary School. Third place winners were Karen Gardner at Chester Academy and Karen Houston at Chester Park. The Conservation District congratulates all the winners.



2009-2010 CONSERVATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Melinda Darby Abercrombie, daughter of Ed and Gayle Darby, is a Chester native. She graduated from Clemson University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. In 1995 she earned a Masters of Education degree from the University of South Carolina. She taught first grade for six years at Chester Park Elementary School. She worked for three years as an Early Care Center mentor with Chester County First Steps and is currently working as a kindergarten teacher at The Academy for Teaching and Learning. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Chester where she teaches Sunday school. Melinda is married to Jamey Abercrombie and has two daughters, Claire and Sophie.



At the September meeting of the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners, Mr. Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director of Land and Water Conservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, administered the oath of office to Mr. Jeff Wilson, newly re-appointed Commissioner.



## **CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS IN CHESTER COUNTY**

**CONSERVATION PLANS WERE DEVELOPED ON 900 ACRES.**

**ONE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM CONTRACT WAS APPROVED ON 119 ACRES FOR \$31,350.00.**

**ONE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM CONTRACT WAS APPROVED ON 437 ACRES FOR \$17,647.00**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICES THAT WERE CERTIFIED FOR LANDOWNERS INCLUDED:**

**COVER CROPS - 427 ACRES**

**FENCE - 4800 FEET**

**WATER TROUGHS - 7**

**PASTURE PLANTING - 26 ACRES**

**PIPELINE FOR WATER TROUGHS - 10,456 FEET**

**FIREBREAKS - 27,150 FEET**

**PRESCRIBED BURNING - 41 ACRES**

**UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT - 753 ACRES**

**THERE WERE 8 APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEW CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND 5 WERE APPROVED FOR CONTRACTS.**

**THERE WERE 21 APPLICATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND 8 WERE APPROVED FOR CONTRACTS.**

**THERE WERE 5 APPLICATIONS FOR THE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND ONE WAS APPROVED FOR A CONTRACT.**





***THE ROBBIE BANKS CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR FOR 2009-2010 WAS PRESENTED TO DAVID BRUCE ANDREWS. BRUCE SERVES AS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST FOR CHESTER AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR NEARLY 24 YEARS. BRUCE IS A NATIVE OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, AND IS A GRADUATE OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. HE IS A VERY DEDICATED WORKER WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AND IS RESPECTED AND LIKED BY ALL HIS CO-WORKERS.***

**Allen L. Beer, Chairman, is shown presenting a 20-year pin to Margaret M. Hausman, Secretary-Treasurer, for her faithful service to the Chester Soil and Water Conservation District. Congratulations, Margaret Susan! Thank you from the Board of Commissioners, Watershed Directors, and Staff members.**



**CHESTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS IS TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF SOUTH CAROLINA THROUGH ITS 46 MEMBER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BY PROVIDING THE LEADERSHIP, INFORMATION, AND TOOLS WHICH ENABLE DISTRICTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.**