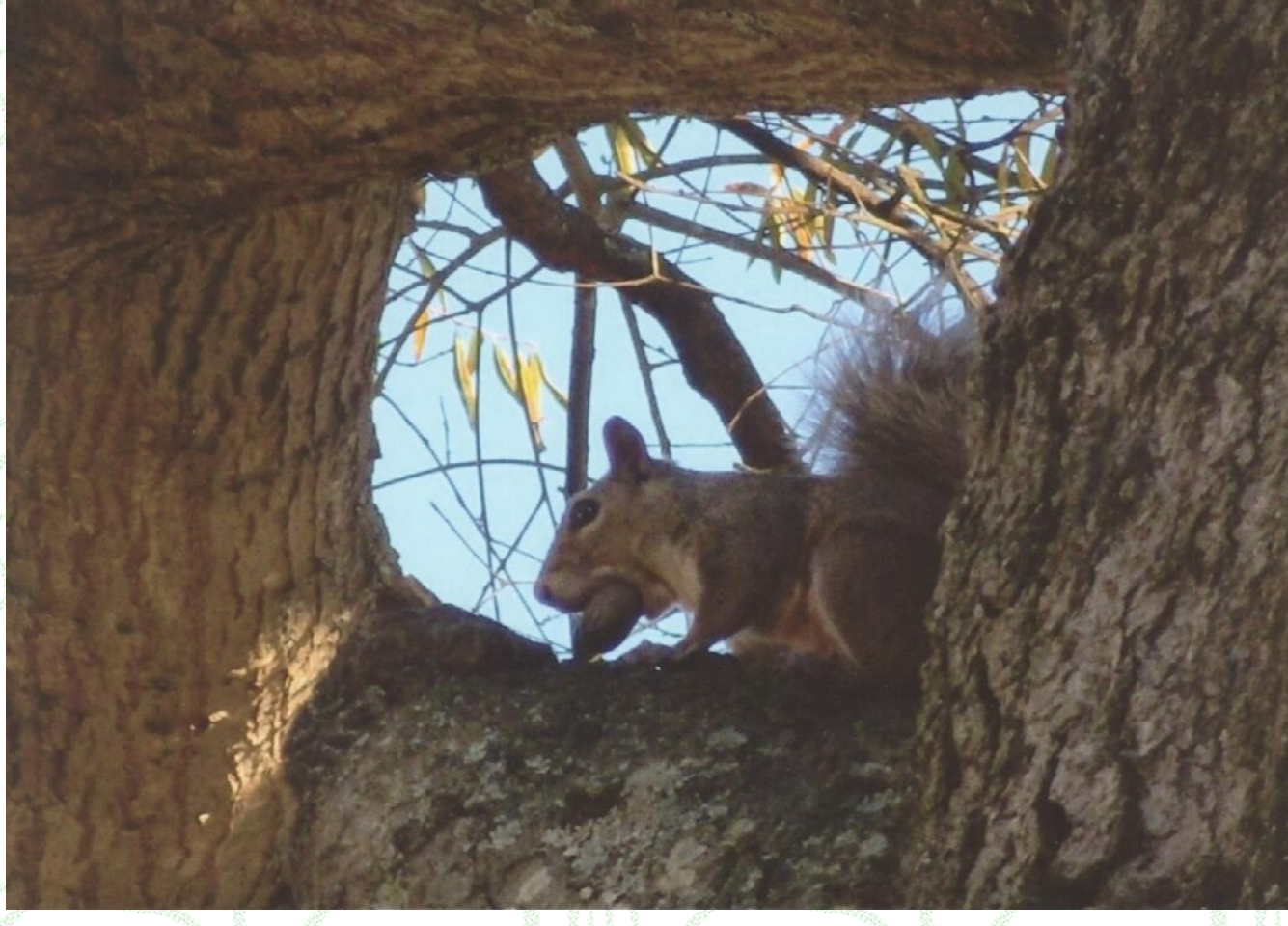


WELCOME

Thank you for visiting the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District web page. We hope you find this web site interesting and educational.



Mouthful by Weston Cook, Laurens County

The Board of Commissioners for the Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center located at 104 Ashley Lane, Laurens, SC. The public is invited to attend.

All programs and services of the Laurens County 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..

Web page last updated December 6, 2014 by Connie Daniels, Webmaster

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Our Mission

The South Carolina Conservation Districts have one common purpose — to promote among landowners a realization of their stewardship of our natural resources. The Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District is unique in the way that it goes about its mission. We are very fortunate to have been a facilitator for significant projects in Laurens County by aligning partnerships with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service along with forging alliances with a diverse group of governmental agencies, local cooperatives, businesses, and religious institutions in the county.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service works “through” the Soil and Water Conservation District. This is what makes the NRCS federal programs “local” programs. This is a unique situation in our government structure. SWCDs play a crucial role in their communities and help NRCS achieve its mission of helping people help the land.

Our mission includes educating residents in Laurens County about the importance of our natural resources and the consequences of ignoring our soil and water resources. Our education is accomplished in a variety of formats. The funding for the educational programs comes from the generosity of residents becoming Affiliate Members. Please see the Affiliate Membership page for more specific information about becoming an Affiliate Member.



Briana Boland: Drops on a Leaf 2012 Photo Contest Entry

The Color of Winter!

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About Us

Commissioners direct the efforts of conservation professionals from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Conservation Districts division of the SC Department of Natural Resources. The conservation district works with these agencies to ensure that staff time is directed to local priorities.

The Laurens County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD), founded in 1945, is one of forty-six conservation districts in South Carolina. There are approximately 3,000 conservation districts nationwide. LCSWCD promotes clean streams and natural resources protection. In collaboration with government, industry and the public, our aim is to improve positive impacts on urban and agricultural activities on land and water resources through effective leadership, technical assistance, and outreach programs

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Contests **Congratulations to the 12 Photo Contest Winners!!**



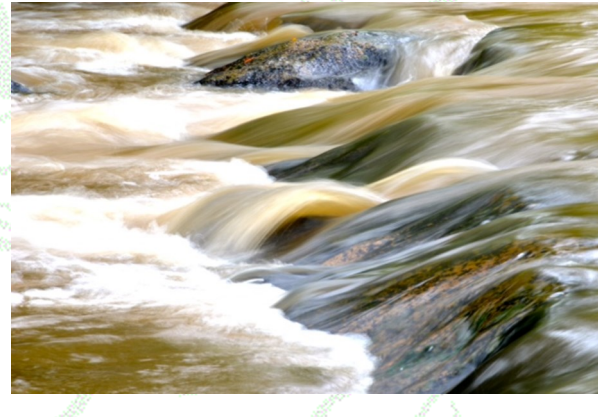
1st Place Adult-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Honey Bee on Winged Sumac by Gene Ott



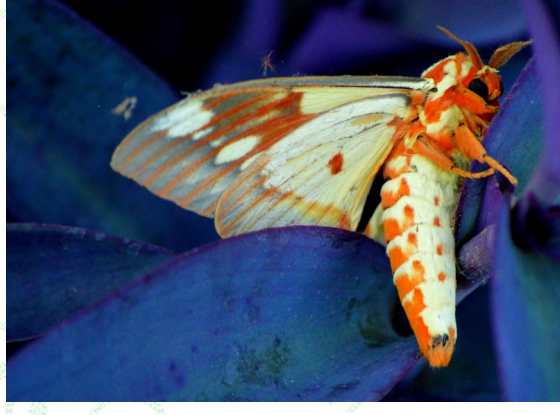
1st Place Adult-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Lake Rabon Sunset by Debbie Gibbs



2nd Place Adult-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Soaking Up Some Sun by Wendy Willingham



2nd Place Adult-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Tumbling Shoals by Sid Osofsky



3rd Place Adult-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Royal Walnut Moth on Purple Heart by Rachel Lloyd



3rd Place Adult-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Precision Woodwork by Bluejay Adametz



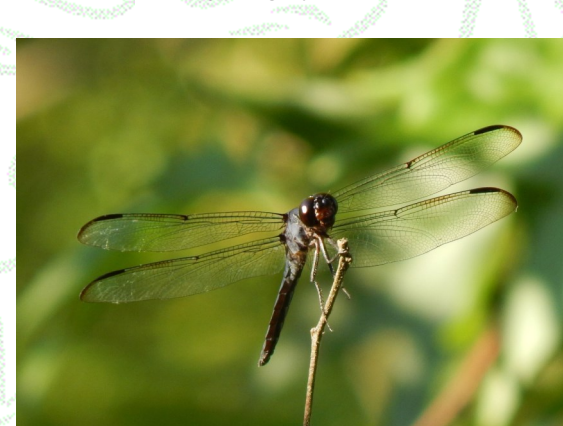
1st Place Youth-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Autumn Farm Pond by Sydney Halbert



1st Place Youth-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Friendly Frog by Luke Rankin



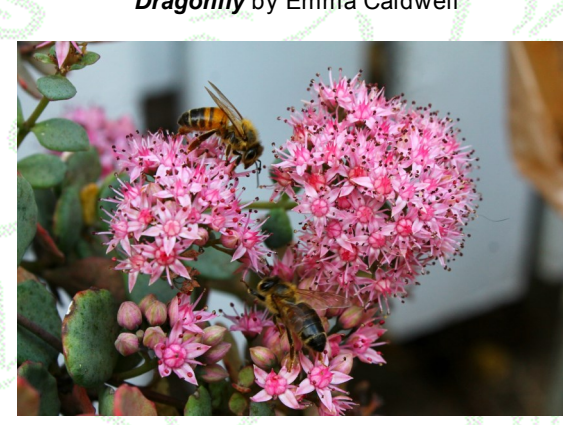
2nd Place Youth-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Reflection by Anna Lusby



2nd Place Youth-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Dragonfly by Emma Caldwell



Third Place Youth-Ponds, Rivers, Lakes, or Streams
Quiet Waters by Cayla Crowder



3rd Place Youth-Wildlife, Insects, or Aquatic Life
Honey Bee and Sedum by Elliott Davis

LCSWCD is pleased to have the Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission sponsor the annual photo contest.



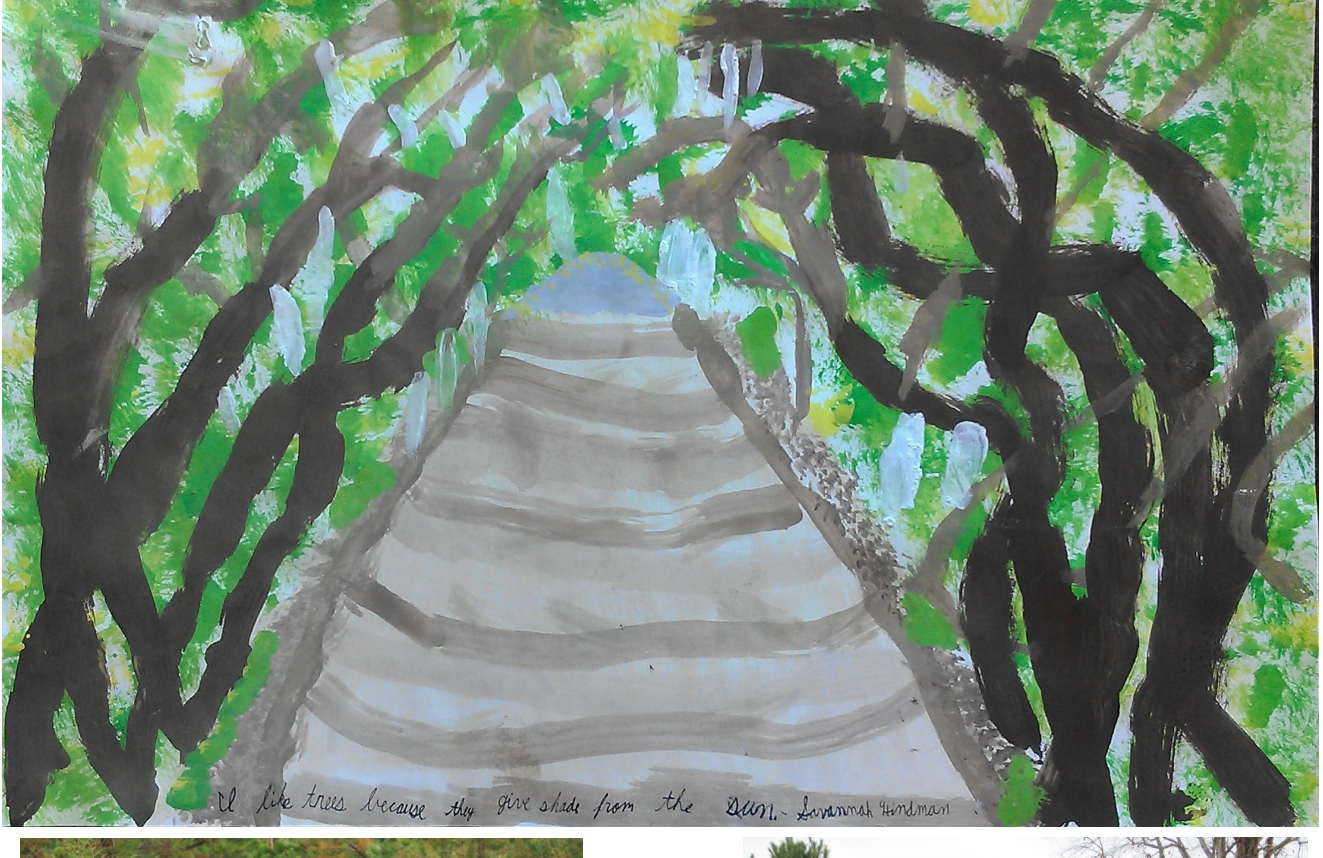
All programs and services of the Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender, national origin, religion, handicap or marital status.

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In the News

Laurens Academy Arbor Day Program

On December 5, South Carolina's Arbor Day, the 4th grade students at Laurens Academy planted a Sunset Red Maple tree donated by the Laurens County Soil & Water Conservation District. Laurens Academy was selected to be the recipient of the tree as a result of a poster submitted by them with the topic "I like trees because.....". Miss Savannah Hindman's poster was selected by the school to be the submission to the Laurens County Soil & Water Conservation District 4th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest. Mr. Keith Tollison, County Councilman, read an Arbor Day Proclamation for Laurens County. Mrs. Dena Whitesides, Piedmont Region Urban Forester provided an interactive program about the gifts of trees after which the students helped plant the tree. All the students were involved with the planting; even Headmaster Mr. Todd Kirk took a turn with the shovel.



Mr. Keith Tollison reading Arbor Day Proclamation for Laurens County



Laurens Academy 4th grade students learning about the "gifts" of trees



Students beginning to backfill the hole with soil while the tree is held in position by LCSWCD Commissioner David Coggins.



After the hole was filled, students learned how to properly mulch a tree.



Urban Forester Mrs. Dena Whitesides with the 4th grade Laurens Academy students standing by the newly planted Sunset Red Maple tree. The 4th graders are responsible for keeping the new tree watered and healthy. Subsequent 4th grade classes will do the same.

Our Commissioners

The Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District Commissions serve on a volunteer basis. These are people who strongly believe in the conservation of the natural resources of Laurens County and are willing to donate their time and efforts to continue this mission. There are two appointed commissioners, three elected commissioners and four associate commissioners.



From left to right:

Calvin Robertson, David Coggins, Jay Wham, Michael Seymour, Pat Garrett

Calvin Robertson, Chairman

Graduated from Clemson University with a BS in Agriculture as well as an MS in Agriculture. Married to Diane, three children and 5 grandchildren. Owner of Robertson Supply Co. (Ace Hardware). Member of Laurens Co. Forestry Board, RC&D Board, Farm Bureau County & State Boards, and Cattlemen's Association. Member of Cattlemen's Association. Has been a board member of the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District since 2002.

Michael Seymour, Vice Chairman

Graduate of Laurens District 55, attended USC-Union at Laurens, Piedmont Technical College and Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson. President of Print-A-Matic, Inc. in Laurens. Has three children. Chairman, Legislative Committee of the SC Association of Conservation Districts. Member Joe Adair Outdoor Education Foundation Board. Previously elected secretary of SCACD. Has been a board member of the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District since 1995.

David Coggins, Secretary/Treasurer

Graduated Tri-County Tech with Associate Degree in Animal Science. Previous owner of Coggins Dairy. Current owner and operator of Coggins Poultry and Coggins Farm. Has 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Currently Chairman of the Board of the Joe Adair Outdoor Education Foundation Board. Born and raised in Laurens County. Has been a board member of the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District since 2005.

Jay Wham

Bachelor's in Aquaculture, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Clemson. Married to Becca who teaches at M.S. Bailey Child Development Center in Clinton. Two pre-school aged children. Owner of Wham Environmental, LLC. Raised and lives in the Mountville community. Has been a board member of the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District since January, 2009.

Pat Garrett

Graduate of Clinton High School and attended Piedmont Technical College. Pat is employed at Garrett's Farm and Poultry and Garrett's Farm and Produce. He has been a board member of the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District since 2007.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS:

The associate members provide a valuable service to the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District by providing advisory services on a volunteer basis. They are non-voting members of the Board. All of the Associate Commissioners have a strong interest in the conservation of our natural resources in Laurens County.

Reverend Bill Blakely, Chaplain

Connie Daniels

Davis Gibbs

Michael "Mickey" Sutton

Affiliate Membership

Affiliate members are a vital partner in the quest to educate the public in Laurens County about the importance of preserving our natural resources. Working together we can make a difference preserving the resources of our land and water, fish and wildlife. Please consider assisting with this mission by making a **tax-deductible** donation in one of the following categories.

Friend of Conservation	\$ 50.00
Conservation Sponsor	\$ 100.00
Steward of the Land	\$150.00
Conservation Colleague:	\$250.00
Conservation Partner	\$500.00

Please mail your donation to the Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District, 104 Ashley Lane, Laurens, S.C. 29360

Your **tax-deductible gift** will enable us to continue to offer a variety of educational opportunities on conservation in our county. We value you as a partner in managing and protecting our natural resources for future generations.

Your gift places your name in the District newsletters and annual reports, secures an invitation for you and a guest to our Annual Awards Banquet and helps the District educate the public about natural resource conservation. You will receive a Membership Certificate of Appreciation.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

How would you like your membership listed?

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (s): _____

Email Address: _____@_____

Please return this information with your check made payable to:

**Laurens County Soil & Water
Conservation District
104 Ashley Lane
Laurens, SC 29360**

Thank you for your continued support of natural resources conservation !

Contact Us

We are located in the USDA Building on the west side of Ashley Lane in Laurens. Staff is available from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our mailing address is: 104 Ashley Lane, Laurens, SC 29360

Our phone number is 864-984-6921, Extension 101 or Extension 3

Our fax number is 864-984-4033

Our e-mail is: info@laurensconservation.com

District Staff:

Connie Daniels
864-984-6921 Extension 3
E-mail: cdaniels.lcswcd@gmail.com

NRCS Staff:

Lisa Good, District Conservationist
864-984-6921 Extension 3
E-mail: lisa.good@sc.usda.gov

Emory Holsonback, Resource Soil Scientist
864-984-6921 Extension 102
E-mail: emory.holsonback@sc.usda.gov

M. Lance Brewington, MLRA Soil Survey Leader
864-984-6921 Extension 103
E-mail: lance.brewington@sc.usda.gov

Related Links

The following web sites may be useful for you as you explore the world of soil and water conservation. Please contact us if any of the links are not functioning properly.

Laurens County Websites

- Laurens County: <http://www.laurenscountysc.org/>
City of Laurens: <http://www.cityoflaurenssc.com/>
City of Clinton: <http://www.cityofclintonsc.com/>
City of Fountain Inn: <http://www.fountaininn.org/>
Laurens County GIS Maps: <http://www.laurenscountygis.org/LaurensGIS/>
Laurens County Recycling: <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/laurens.htm>

State Websites

- SC Department of Natural Resources: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/>
SC Forestry Commission: <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/>
SC Department of Agriculture: <http://agriculture.sc.gov/>
Clemson Extension: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>
SC State Parks: <http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/>
SC Department of Health & Environmental Control: <http://www.scdhec.gov/>
SC Government: <http://www.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
SC Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov>

National Websites

- Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>
Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>
National Association of Conservation Districts: <http://www.nacdnet.org/>
Soil and Water Conservation Society: <http://www.swcs.org/>
Web Soil Survey: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>
NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
Soil Data Mart: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Survey.aspx?State=SC>
US Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/>
US Army Corps of Engineers—Charleston District: <http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/>
FEMA Map Service Center (Flood Maps): <http://www.msc.fema.gov/>
USDA—Rural Development: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Home.html>

The Laurens Soil and Water Conservation District is not responsible for the content on these websites.

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