
NEWBERRY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR END 2017





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The Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District is organized under the provision of the Soil and Water Conservation Statutes of the State of South Carolina. It is responsible for developing and carrying out programs for the conservation, protections, and development of natural resources.

The main objectives of the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District are to conserve and utilize all natural resources, provide technical assistance to direct customers, promote positive conservation education opportunities to all citizens of Newberry County, and to help improve the productivity of agricultural enterprises in the District.

Section 1

Message from the Chairman

Dear Supporters and Members,

As we near the end of another year, we pause to express our gratitude to you, our affiliate members and partners. I hope you will be reading this during our annual banquet and if so, you are hearing about the many programs and projects that have been accomplished this year.

If you have given your time, it has helped to watch over and teach the excited children at Camp Conservation, or to help clean up our roads, or maybe to teach a conservation skill to the community. If you have given financially, it has helped to feed those same children, or to hold a class for farmers and landowners, or to install gardens at schools. If you have been a partner, whether on the local, state, or national level, you have guided us and shown us where the greatest areas of need were, or taught us how to run a new program, or donated your staff to help.



The Newberry Soil and Water Conservation depends on help from so many individuals, businesses, and organizations to accomplish our goal of putting conservation on the ground in Newberry County. As we celebrate at our annual banquet and as we continue to say "thank you" for the rest of the year and into the next, we want you to know that because of people like you, Newberry is a better, cleaner, more sustainable place to live. We look forward to working with you again and we thank you for all you've already done.

Please, if you know of any way we can be more effective or can offer any kind of help, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Ben Setzler, III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

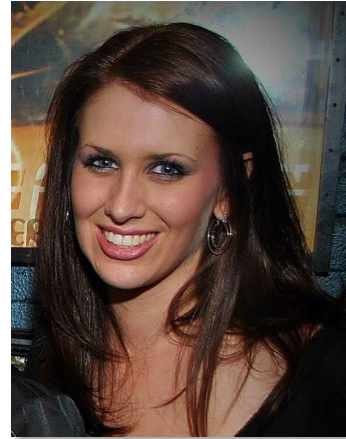
C. Ben Setzler, III
Chairman

Message from the District Coordinator

Dear Supporters, Members, and Potential Supporters:

After three years with the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District, I can honestly say that it has been quite a journey for me! I can't tell you how many relationships and friendships I have come to have over these last few years, but they are certainly relationships I know I will have for a very long time.

I enjoy working with so many diverse people and businesses. I never knew how much this job covered until now. I'm not just working with agricultural-related business or individuals in the community, I'm working with all sets of businesses and people that you would never have known to be a part of a Conservation District ... but they are! It is exciting and intriguing knowing that conservation, and the education of, highlights so many different aspects of our lives. I love knowing that conservation can encompass so many levels, and I am excited to find other avenues where I can incorporate my knowledge to educate others.



This year has been very busy both personally and professionally. I can't believe the outpouring of support from co-workers, friends, family, my Commissioners, and people in general from this past year. After several highs and several lows, I've come to realize that life and work do have to mix ... BUT the bright side is that is Can and it Should. There's a balance to everything and there are people around who can help you when you can't find that balance. Knowing and figuring it out is part of the journey to growing and becoming a better person, a more efficient worker, and a teacher when you see someone else making that struggle. Pay it forward is now the new motto both in conservation and in my life.

I hope you enjoy this Annual Report and the love for conservation show through the work and programs we have listed. These programs and classes have grown tremendously over the years due to the Affiliate Members, my Commissioners, the support of everyone in Newberry County, and all of the partnerships outside of Newberry as well. Thank you to all who have helped me in this job and I am looking forward to many more years with Newberry County.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Danielle Himsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Danielle Himsey
District Coordinator



Section 2

NSWCD Programs

Membership Affiliate Program

The Membership Affiliate Program has grown significantly over the last couple of years. We have our Affiliate Membership Program so that we can help fund programs and events, such as Camp Conservation, the Gardening Series, and all other education and outreach events, as well as to encourage and educate youth and the community on conservation. Our outreach efforts have gone beyond our members into schools and churches due to the availability of membership funding. This year, our total number of members topped out at 61 totaling \$5,915.00. So we would like to THANK YOU for all of your support!

Soil Sampling Program

Soil Sampling in Newberry County is vital to farmers and residents alike. The soil sampling program at



the conservation district allows users to hire a sampler to come out to the fields and take samples to tell the quality of the soil, what the soil needs to make a specific crop prosperous, how to treat and upkeep the soil on a yearly basis, the pH, organic matter, and much more. We recommend doing a soil sample every year to ensure the best results.

Newberry Soil & Water works in conjunction with Clemson Extension and the Clemson University Laboratory to test the samples. Once the sampler finishes, he brings the bags to the conservation district where paperwork is drawn up, and the District Coordinator brings the samples to Clemson Ext. to be sent to Clemson University for testing. Once tested, the results are e-mailed back to the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District to give to the customer

requesting the information.

Legislative Breakfast

Every year we host a breakfast with local and state legislators to show them what the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District is doing and to address issues in Newberry County pertaining to agriculture and our scope of practice. This combining of legislators is meant to help all of those in Newberry County. Should you feel like your voice is not being heard by our legislators in the Ag Community, we invite you to contact us so we can address your issues with the appropriate legislators.

Scholarship Program

The new Scholarship Program was introduced in 2015. We allotted \$2,000 to two scholarship recipients, and this grew to \$3,000 and four recipients in 2016. This year we were able to award another four

scholarships in the combined amounts of \$3,000. Two Scholarships, for \$1,000 each, went to students in the Ag-related or Conservation related field. The other two, for \$500, went to KNCB related studies (see more below: KNCB Scholarship Program).

Rain Barrel Workshops

Back in 2014, we hosted our very first Rain Barrel Workshop where people came to B.Y.O.B. ... that's right "build your own barrel," using donated or purchased barrels from Enoree River Vineyards and Pioneer Foods. Over the years, Enoree River Vineyards has supported this program with completely donated barrels for every class! We then purchase supplies for attendees to drill, install, and create a perfectly usable rain barrel to collect runoff from rainwater. This class has steadily grown in numbers to the point where we have to host several classes per year to accommodate the demand.

Pesticide Credit Class

Working with Clemson Extension has always been a rewarding partnership. Being able to host our first Pesticide Credit Class in 2016 sparked a lot of interest in the community, so, for 2017, we decided to host another Pesticide Class for Credits. Jay Crouch with the Newberry Extension office came to talk about Corn and Soybean Diseases, while farmers and landowners could gain knowledge and earn their continuing education credits.

Camp Conservation

Camp Conservation is one of our most influential and exciting programs that we offer! It is an outreach program we host for youth ages 6-14, grades 1st-8th, to teach them about the outdoors, wildlife, conservation, sustainability, farming, soil health, water quality, forestry, and so much more! The camp is a week-long event and we collaborate with various organizations and businesses to have a variety of instructors that are well trained in each area of expertise. From wildlife handlers to pond seining, the campers can get a hands-on approach to learning in an outdoor environment.

Camp has grown from 40 to 60 campers in only 4 years, with a waiting list! Volunteers and businesses from all over the county come to volunteer as counselors, ATV drivers, instructors, guides, and more. The Wilson family donates their land, Kubota RTVs, and time, making sure everything looks immaculate, for that whole week of camp. The response from the community has grown with each year and we anticipate it will continue!



Camp Conservation consisted of several fun activities including building mason bee nests with Gary Peters; presentations and hand-on activities on forestry with the USFS and Timber Resources; farm tours to Nichols Farm, Mayer Dairy, and the Water Treatment Plant; dairy and nutrition presentations with

Satterwhite Dairy and CPC Commodities; a pond seine with Marc Renwick, sun dials with Becky and Jim Hilliard, wildlife presentations with live animals, such as a coyote, owls, reptiles, and amphibians with SRS Ecology Lab and Clemson 4-H; tie dying with Becky and Jim Hilliard, recycling presentations with Newberry County Recycling Centers; an obstacle course complete with water balloons, water guns, and limbo; making bins and learning about vermicomposting with Master Naturalist Ginny Holt; and riding on farm equipment with Setzler Farms. This was an exciting and busy week of camp!

The average cost to run this camp is approximately \$165 per camper. However, we only charge \$30 per camper to make it affordable to all families. We think education is more important than the costs associated so we heavily depend on donations, volunteers, and membership funding. With each year, we have received more and more donations from local contributors and we hope to be able to add more programs and events to camp with each additional donation.

Gardening Series

We hosted our second Gardening Series, expanding off of the first year's successes with backyard gardeners! Our first class was about Vermicomposting, or worm composting. The second class was on Fruit Trees and Berries, collaborating with the South Carolina New and Beginning Farmer's Program. The third class was on Bee Keeping.

Education

We have visited several schools in the County, bringing around hands-on experiences in Environmental Science and putting conservation on the ground via gardens, beautification projects, and recycling programs. From Energy Conservation and Wildlife Management to planting trees and creating pollinator gardens, we have been able to reach approximately 150 students this year. Mid-Carolina High School implemented the first ever Bluebird Trail around the school by putting up Bluebird Boxes and recording their progress. We also made homemade solar panels to demonstrate how heat is absorbed and how to conserve energy. Being certified in WET, WILD, PLT, and Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow, we are able to supplement Environmental Science education in Grades K-12th.

Indian Creek Restoration Project

The Indian Creek Restoration Project was started back in the early 2000s between the Newberry SWCD



and other partners including the US Forest Service, NRCS, SCFC, Quail Forever, SCFGLC, Clemson Extension, National Wild Turkey Federation, DNR and landowners. After Phase I was complete around 2009, there was talk about a Phase II; in late 2014, Phase II began. The Newberry SWCD was asked to collaborate again but with more involvement than before. Due to our nonprofit status, we were able to lease the DELTA area in Union County (part of the Indian Creek Area) to write and hold grants to implement conservation on this property. Since early 2017, the DELTA

area now serves as a State named Wildlife Management Area emphasizing small game and quail habitat.

Federal, State, and private dollars, in the form of grants, are going into this Wildlife Management Area to increase quail populations, create better habitats for birds and small game, and introduce pollinators.

NRCS Partnership

This year was the first time we have been able to partner with NRCS on a Contribution Agreement. This allowed the District to sub out the District Coordinator for a small fee for the year. By doing so, the District Conservationist with NRCS can spread out some of her work so as to make the workload a little lighter and improve the fluidity of the office.

SCFGLC Partnership

The South Carolina Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition partnership began in October 2016, when the District Coordinator for the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District was approached to help start the SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition with their 501(c)3 and grant work. With the help of their new “Executive Director” this partnership took off! Funding became available to create soil health teams that would travel all over South Carolina educating landowners on grazing and conservation.

Movie Night

Movie Night was a first for the Newberry SWCD, two years ago. It was such a big hit, we decided to bring it back this year! Working with the Newberry County Career Center FFA students, we showed the movie “Ivy League Farmer” on a jumbo screen on Setzler Farms. This movie was also filmed partly on Satterwhite Dairy. This event was a community event and free to both members and nonmembers. All proceeds from the FFA Concession Stand went back to the FFA Program.



Envirothon

The Department of Natural Resources hosts the Envirothon Competition every year in May. This is a competition for students in High School to come together and work on quizzes that test their knowledge on Soil, Wildlife, Forestry, Aquatics, Oral Presentations, and a Current Topic of DNR’s choice. Each year, along with helping put the competition on, we sponsor a team from Newberry County. This year, Mid-Carolina High School had two teams that were interested in competing. Though the teams did not win the overall scholarship, they did very well and placed in the competition. We are excited to help sponsor these students again next year, and hopefully have more interest from other schools!

4-H₂O Camp

Newberry County 4-H is a wonderful partner of the Newberry SWCD and we enjoy working with them every year. We “trade out” camps, where the 4-H Agent helps with Camp Conservation, and we help with 4-H Camp. This year, we were able to help with their 3-day camp consisting of water quality activities, recycling and pollution activities, a tour of a water treatment facility, and more. Campers were able to experience all of these activities on pontoon boats on Lake Murray, donated by generous Lake Murray residents.

Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic

Every year the Department of Natural Resources hosts the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic. The Classic is a 3-day event and the Southeast's largest hunting, fishing, and outdoor show, emphasizing free, fun sports events for the entire family. The NSWCD appreciates all of the support and assistance from DNR and we help with volunteer hours for the event every year.

SCCDEA Meeting

The Newberry SWCD hosted the South Carolina Conservation District Employees Association in Newberry SC. This meeting was a 2-day event where District Employees across SC came to take a tour of Newberry including the Carter & Holmes Orchids, Satterwhite Dairy, and Lever Farms. Jim Errante, the NRCS Archeologist for South and North Carolina came to discuss the historical side of the SC and NC area. This meeting ended with a partnership banquet.

Section 3

Keep Newberry County Beautiful Programs

Grinding of the Greens

The Grinding of the Greens is a community event where we partner with Tractor Supply Company, Newberry Electric Cooperative, and the City of Newberry to accept live Christmas Trees to later be mulched up and given back to the public. Mulch was available for FREE on a first come, first serve basis.. This is the 4th year KNCB has successfully planned a Grinding of the Greens event!



Scholarship Program

In conjunction with the Newberry SWCD, Keep Newberry County Beautiful allotted \$1,000.00, left from the Newberry SWCD Scholarship Program, to go towards 2 scholarships to two students that were actively involved in the community and litter pickups. This funding came from the District side, but was given on behalf of the KNCB Program to encourage students to engage in the community and keep it clean.

Great American Cleanup

The Great American Cleanup, GAC, started by Palmetto Pride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful, encourages litter-free areas and recycling. We hosted a County-wide pick-up in May, coordinating with the Adopt-A-Highway Groups to increase our efforts. Altogether, approximately 115 bags of trash were collected. This equals about 2,875 lbs. of trash.

Newberry Academy – DHEC Champions of the Environment

Newberry Academy has been interested in redoing their garden area between the two front buildings for years. However, with their private school status, it was hard for them to find grant funding to assist them in this process. This year, the Newberry SWCD was blessed enough to meet Amanda Ley from DHEC who came to Newberry to assist us in finding grant money to not only redo the whole garden, but also purchase new benches for the school. The garden focused on Rain Gardens and low-maintenance plants and incorporated a new walk-through trail, covered with pebbles and pavers. The students were the Major Grant Winner for the Champions of the Environment Grant! DHEC came to Newberry Academy and shot a commercial highlighting the project. The commercial can



be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQIPH3E0uEw&feature=youtu.be>.

Camp Conservation

In conjunction with the Newberry SWCD's Camp Conservation, we set aside a day to talk about recycling and litter. Stacy Guy, from the Newberry County Recycling Center came to discuss the ins and outs of recycling and how important it is to pick-up trash. All of the campers took "bets" on how many plastic bottles we would be able to recycle by the end of the week of camp! The winner received a prize!

Forest Ridge Planting

The City of Newberry and Keep Newberry County Beautiful have partnered many times over the last several years on beautification projects. This year, we partnered to plant mature trees in front of the Forest Ridge Subdivision. The entrance to this subdivision had been destroyed due to necessary ground work. The City of Newberry workers planted and irrigated the trees, while Keep Newberry County Beautiful purchased the trees.



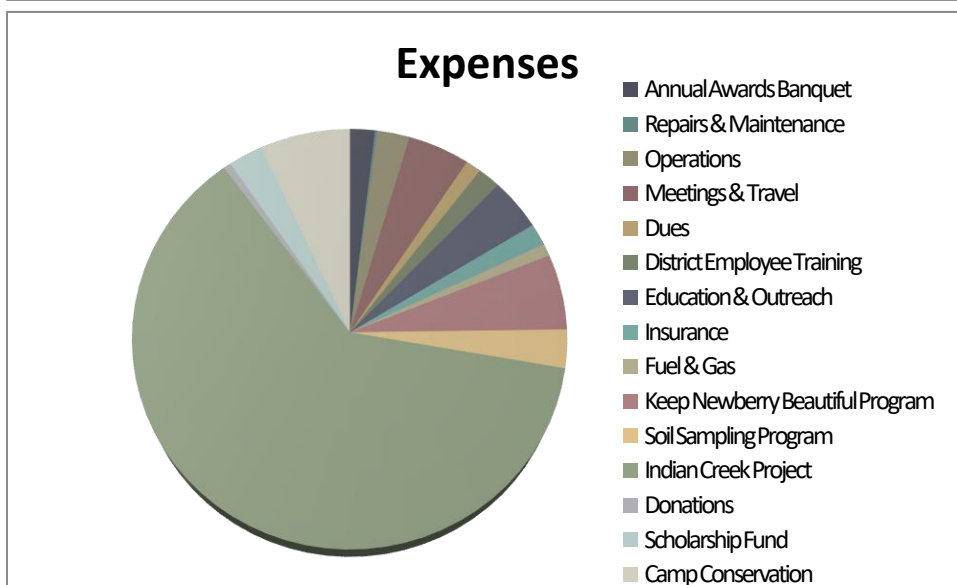
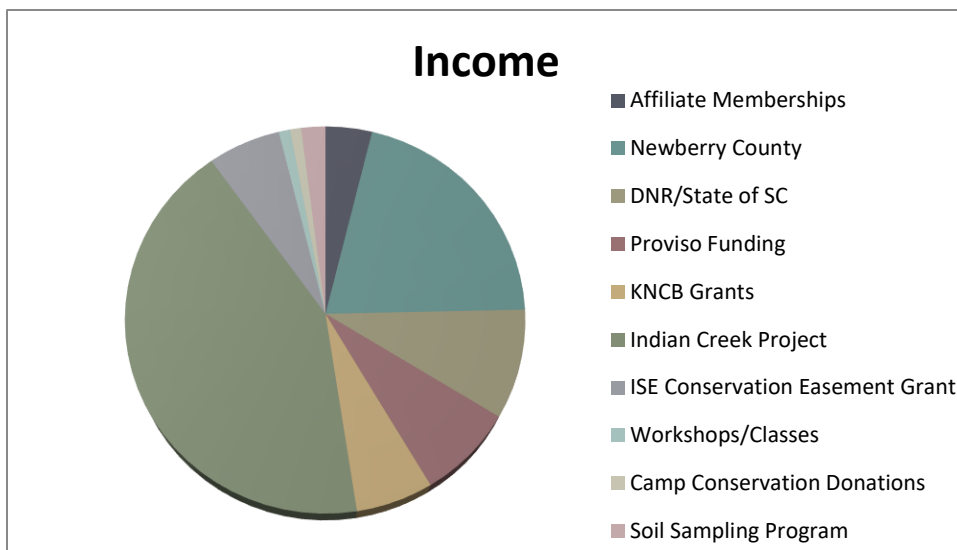
Section 4

Financials

The Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District strives to be a good steward of membership funding. Provided are the summaries for the Income and Expenses.

If you have questions or would like full Statements of Financial Income/Expenses, Statements of Financial Positions, and/or upcoming budgets and cash flow projections, please come by our office and we will be happy to provide those to you.

Our funding and donors are what keeps the Conservation District going and continues our ability to reach new heights:



Section 5

Thank You

At the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District, we are dedicated to not only conserving our natural resources, but also to bringing awareness of natural resource conservation to the public eye. Through our Affiliate Membership Program, we aim to keep our affiliate members current and up to date on the “happenings” with the district; promote and encourage conservation techniques through farming, agriculture, beautification, and recycling; and uphold the members of our district as the face of conservation in Newberry County.

Our members are leaders in the community and examples of good conservationists. Without your continued support, our conservation and education efforts could not be possible. We want you to know that you are helping to make Newberry a wonderful place to live and that your efforts help make a difference in children’s lives all over Newberry County.

We are so very thankful for everything our partners, members, and supporters do to help us make a difference in the community!!



Section 6

Call to Action

Thank you for your support of the important work we do here at the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District. You can make a difference for next year by donating or by volunteering your time. We are always looking for volunteers and interns. We are happy to work with people of all ages with the same mind-set about conservation and awareness.

This year, we have raised thousands of dollars to aid in conservation awareness. We strongly encourage your continued support as we strive to make the coming year even more productive. New programs and projects cannot be carried out without your support, time, and donations.

Donations by mail may be made to: Newberry Soil and Water, 719 Kendall Road, Newberry, SC 29108. We also accept PayPal donations through our website: <http://nswcd.com>.

We understand that not everyone can or wants to make a financial contribution; therefore, we have many programs and events where we would love to work with you if you would rather.



- Volunteer with education programs
- Volunteer in the office
- Volunteer for litter pick-ups/Adopt-a-Highway

Please visit our website at <http://nswcd.com> to learn more, call the office at 803-597-3160 or send this form by mail to our office at 719 Kendall Road, Newberry, SC 29108

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email (if applicable) _____



NEWBERRY SOIL AND
WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Chairman

C. Ben Setzler

Vice-Chairman

Wayne Satterwhite

Secretary

Jason Bishop

Treasurer

Doug Heydt

Chaplain

Reverend James Shealy

Associate Commissioners:

Barbara C. Baughman

Toni W. Warren

William (Bill) Waldrop

John F. Long

Eugene Wilson

Keep Newberry County

Beautiful Commissioners:

Doug Heydt, Chairman

Stacy Guy

Cynthia Gardner

Mike Everson

Katrina Bartlett

Beth Jaeger

Ashley Boone

District Coordinator

Danielle Himsey

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