

The Pee Dee Progress

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Chesterfield Darlington Dillon Marion Marlboro

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Blenheim Nature Center Dedicated as BAKER'S TRAIL

The Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Council is providing assistance to the Blenheim, SC Elementary/Middle School Complex in the development of a Nature Center. This Project is funded by an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the SC Forestry Commission with contributions from the Town of Blenheim, International Paper Foundation, Marlboro Soil and Water Conservation District, Marlboro County Public Works, Evans Correctional Institute, and Willamette Industries. Approximately 100 persons attended the dedication ceremony on January 25th.



Millie Baker, Principal 1993 - 1999



A Grant was received from International Paper Foundation for the Blenheim Nature Center Project. Left to right - **Janice Henson, Blenheim School** - **Mike Branyon, International Paper Blenheim Supertree Nursery** - **Jasper Eaddy, Chairman Pee Dee RC&D** - **Dr. Ray Brayboy, Superintendent Marlboro County Schools**. This grant was used to purchase two electronic digital weather stations and a gazebo to serve as a learning center on the trail.



Everyone is encouraged to visit the project website where numerous photos of the progress to date are available.

<http://pdrcd.tripod.com/BODClass.html>

Thompson Creek TMDL Project

Velocity measurements are being taken in Thompson Creek in Chesterfield County, which in conjunction with data collected from a recently installed stream gauge, will enable project staff to determine the volume of water flowing through the creek. By comparing this total volume of water and the laboratory results of stream samples, the quality of the water can be determined. A TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) establishes the maximum allowable pollutant loading for a waterbody and provides a basis for taking actions needed to protect water quality. Funding for this project is from the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control through the US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319.



Charles Babb, NRCS Left and **Keith Butler, Town of Chesterfield** Right, taking velocity measurements in Thompson Creek.

The Pee Dee Geographic Information System Project

Marlboro farm field and tax parcel data sets are completed (Marion County completed last year) and work has begun to digitize the farm field and tract boundaries for Dillon County. The Earth Science Resources Institute of the University of South Carolina has been successful in integrating these data sets into the ArcView GIS Customer Service Toolkit developed by NRCS's Information Technology Center. Efforts are underway to develop an additional software module to assist the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and NRCS Field Offices with the development of waste management plans for agricultural producers. This project's mission is to provide technological assistance to the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in assisting agricultural producers with meeting the water quality regulations of the state of South Carolina, thereby protecting our local environment. This mission is being accomplished by the development of a digital system which ensures that all of the plans developed are consistent and complete while minimizing the staff time required for this effort. Funding for this project is provided through a Congressional Grant by US Senator Ernest Hollings.

Marlboro High School Nature Center

Work has begun on the *Touch Ponds* for the Marlboro High School Nature Center. An underground irrigation system is also being installed. Tree selection for the *Arboretum* is complete and planting is planned for this month. There will be a *Community Workday* on March 17th. Anyone interested is invited. For additional information contact the Marlboro Soil and Water Conservation District office at (843) 479-4552 Ext. 3. This Project is funded by an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the SC Forestry Commission with contributions from Marlboro County Public Works, Marlboro Soil & Water Conservation District and the High School Science Club.



Other Current Efforts

Learning Tree Child Development Center - Grant application submitted for grounds improvement - Pending
 POWER for Wildlife - FY 2000 contracts have been paid and FY 2001 Applications being processed for approval.
 Constructed Wetland Project - Sample Analysis Completed, Summary report of data now being developed.
 International Paper - Grant requesting additional funding for the Blenheim School Nature Center - \$5,000 received

The Pee Dee RC&D is grateful to the local Conservation Partnership; including the NRCS Field Staff, the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and Staff, SC Department of Natural Resources Field Staff, and Citizen Volunteers. Without the support and efforts of the Partnership, many of these projects which we coordinate would not exist.

Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Incorporated

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