

Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils Convened in SC

The South Carolina RC&D Council hosted the Southeastern Association Conference at the Wyndham Resort in Myrtle Beach, October 9-12, 2002. The Pee Dee RC&D had seven representatives in attendance. Attendees from 10 southeastern states learned of the various projects being implemented across the Southeast. Tours were conducted at the Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Grand Strand Sewer and Water, and a Power For Wildlife site representing the SC Statewide Power for Wildlife program in which private landowners are compensated for maintaining utility right-of-ways.

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

Chesterfield	Darlington	Dillon	Marion	Marlboro	Staff
Cecil Kimrey	Joyce Franklin,	Bill Aston	Jasper Eaddy, Chairman	Bunyon Anderson, Vice-Chairman	David Arthur, RC&D Coordinator
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Mike Smith	Roosevelt Wallace	Hartsell Rogers, Jr.	Kent Williams	Marion Wright, Jr.	

All programs and services of the Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Area Council are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

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and Development Council, Inc.
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Pee Dee Land Trust Hosts a Landowner Meeting in Darlington with the American Farmland Trust



Ben Zeigler, Pee Dee Land Trust Board Member, (standing) and Myra Lemburg, American Farmland Trust, (lower center), provided farm land protection easement information to approximately 25 Pee Dee Area landowners at Oaklyn Plantation.

Ann Williamson, Pee Dee Land Trust Board Member, and her husband Ben Williamson provided their home at Oaklyn Plantation as the venue for a Pee Dee Land Trust Landowner Meeting on Wednesday evening December 4th. Information on conservation easements and the easement donation process/benefits was presented to area landowners. Describing the role of the Pee Dee Land Trust, Ben Zeigler stated, "The Pee Dee Land Trust is about community-based-conservation. It is about communities and the people within them coming together to work for responsible and sustainable land use. It is about helping the people of this region to recognize the value of our undeveloped land as a resource, something that is essential to a decent quality of life, and to understand that how we treat the land, in many ways defines who we are. The Pee Dee Land Trust operates on the premise that the land is a community to which we all belong."

For Information concerning the tax benefits of donating land or conservation easements, and the many options available to the donor, visit <http://peedeelandtrust.tripod.com> or call (843) 393-9809 ext. 4.

Pee Dee RC&D Watershed Proposal Submitted to EPA by Governor

The Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Council (Pee Dee RC&D) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of water quality and watershed health in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina. We recently submitted a Watershed Initiative Project proposal for the Pee Dee Watershed of South Carolina in response to the call for nominations for the Watershed Initiative [FRL-7262-8] sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Our proposal was selected by Governor Hodges as one of two which SC is allowed to submit to EPA for regional and national consideration.

Arbor Day at St. John's Elementary School Nature Center

The Pee Dee RC&D has assisted the Darlington Soil and Water Conservation District in obtaining an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the South Carolina Forestry Commission. This grant is being used to establish a nature center at the St. John's School in Darlington. The 2002 Arbor Day program at St. John's was conducted as a component of this project. The program, moderated by Principal Jean Taylor, included a presentation by the 6th grade chorus, a dramatic reading of the History and Origins of Arbor Day, a poetry reading, and a rap session by Mr. Tommy Taylor. The Arbor Day event concluded with a tree planting ceremony. A Darlington Oak was planted on the school lawn honoring Senator Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday. The event was attended by 300 students and local citizens from the Darlington County area.

Other components of this project include the establishment of a nature trail with tree identification signage, planting an arboretum, construction of a pavilion, development of a website for the nature center, development of a nature center curriculum, and publishing an informational brochure.

For more information visit the project website which is "under construction" at:
<http://stjohnselementary.tripod.com>



The "Tree Planting Crew" received instructional supervision in proper planting technique from Mr. Tommy Taylor (back left with hat).



Students shared in the work, everyone had their turn with the shovel.



Mr. Taylor provided the student body with tree facts about the "Darlington Oak".

Current Efforts of the Pee Dee RC&D

- Soil Surveys on Compact Disk – Digital soil surveys in an easily accessible user friendly format - Ongoing
- St. John's School Nature Trail (Darlington) - Urban Forestry Grant requesting funding for an outdoor classroom – In Progress
- Pee Dee Urban Forestry Awareness Project – Currently in progress
- McColl Elementary School Nature Center – Planning underway.
- POWER for Wildlife – Five FY 2002 Applications approved.
- Rural Fire Protection Water Storage Tanks (Dillon) - Tanks being installed and fitted with hydrant heads.
- Dry Fire Hydrants (Darlington) - Additional hydrants being installed in the Hartsville area.
- Thompson Creek TMDL Project (Chesterfield) - Collection and analysis of water samples and WS characterization completed.
- Trail and tree identification signs – Signs are being produced for projects across the state. 84 signs produced for Playcard Center in Loris.
- Pee Dee Geographic Information – Current Emphasis is on developing an comprehensive Water Quality Plan for the Pee Dee..
- Cheraw Intermediate School – Assisting the Chesterfield County School District with development of an outdoor classroom.
- The Pee Dee Regional Trails Plan Implementation – The plan was recently presented to the public and is available on the internet at:
http://www.palmettoconservation.org/pee_dee_trail_plan.html (all spaces in the URL are underscores).

Thompson Creek Water Quality Assessment

The final set of water samples from the five monitoring sites have been collected and analyzed to determine the level of nitrates, phosphorus, fecal coliform, total suspended solids and fixed suspended solids. This data is now being modeled to predict the sources of contaminants and to determine the best approach for restoring the water quality in Thompson Creek to acceptable levels. A project stakeholder meeting is planned for early next year to present finding and remediation scenarios to the Chesterfield Community. This Project supports SC efforts to develop a TMDL for the Thompson Creek watershed above highway S-13-243 in Chesterfield County. A TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) establishes the maximum allowable pollutant loading for a water body and provides a basis for taking actions needed to restore water quality. The Pee Dee RC&D will develop a water quality practice implementation plan based on this project's results and public comment from the planned stakeholder meeting. 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.

Pee Dee Regional Urban Forestry Awareness

The Pee Dee RC&D has received a grant from the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the South Carolina Forestry Commission for a regional urban forestry awareness project. The Pee Dee Regional Urban & Community Forestry Public Awareness Project will create public awareness of the Pee Dee Urban and Community Forestry Projects established during the past eleven years. Signage will be placed in project areas and along the trails identifying the existing and established native trees and explaining the environmental benefits of green space in an urban setting, riparian protection, urban carbon sequestration with trees, etc. The native tree identification signs will include species information as well as traditional uses, etc. Visit the project website at:

<http://peedeurbanforestry.tripod.com>

This project will develop a public awareness & information campaign including a regional website. The citizens of the Pee Dee Region and students in the local school systems will be made aware of the environmental issues to which the Urban Forestry Program is dedicated, including: native tree identification, green space in an urban setting, riparian protection, urban carbon sequestration with trees, etc. The impact of this project will be to enhance awareness of the benefits of urban forestry by the citizens of the Pee Dee Area.

SC Historical Markers of the Pee Dee Region

The Pee Dee RC&D with permission from the SC Department of Archives and History is developing an internet website providing the location and text of all the roadside historical markers in the five county RC&D area. The website, when completed, will include an interactive road map of each county with the marker locations and links to information and photos concerning the marker subject. This project relates to the cultural heritage initiative of the RC&D Council. Visit the site at: www.peedee.org/heritage.html

Digital County Road Maps on Compact Disk

The Pee Dee RC&D is developing fully self-contained compact disks with digital road maps suitable for the non Geographic Information System (GIS) user. Road mapping with new road names are overlaid onto 1999 aerial photography and then converted to Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). The data is available in two files, one with names and one with road numbers which can be zoomed, from the entire county down to a view of one inch equaling six hundred feet of ground surface. Each compact disk is self-contained, not requiring that any software be installed on your computer. The shareware, Adobe Acrobat Reader, is installed on each disk and automatically opens when the CD is placed into your computer's CD ROM. The disk when inserted opens to an interactive page with the same characteristics as an internet web page. The user may select the file of choice from this opening page. Copies may be obtained for a small duplication fee by the Pee Dee RC&D.