

Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils to Convene in SC

The South Carolina RC&D Council is hosting the Southeastern Association Conference this October. The seven councils in South Carolina are diligently preparing for this event with the effort being led by the Santee-Wateree Council. The conference will be conducted at the Wyndham Resort in Myrtle Beach, October 9-12, 2002. All South Carolina RC&D Council Members are encouraged to participate by contributing their time and talents to make this a memorable experience for our visitors. Information is available on the conference website at: <http://scrcd.tripod.com/SE2002.html>

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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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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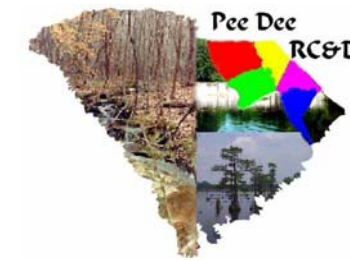
The Pee Dee Progress

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Pee Dee Land Trust Accepts Property Bordering Lynches River

The one thing God did not give Rivers and Evelyn Scarborough in 62 years of marriage was children. Now, in their golden years they were faced with a large, successful farm and no heirs to leave their land. "We tried, but the Lord just saw fit for us to not have children," Evelyn said. The Scarboroughs owned the Egg and I farm in Lamar, one of the largest independent egg producers in the world. When they sold it earlier this year, the farm had a million chickens producing 10,000 cases of eggs a day, which translates to roughly 1.6 billion eggs a year. They recently sold the egg producing part of the Darlington County farm to a Japanese agricultural company. In August, the remaining land was donated to the Pee Dee Land Trust, a private, non-profit agency that works to conserve land throughout the Pee Dee area. The Scarboroughs gave away 668 acres, some of which runs along the Lynches River adjacent to Lee County.



Pictured Left to Right: Jasper Eaddy, Chairman of the Pee Dee Land Trust; Kent Segars, Pee Dee Land Trust; Leigh Edwards, Palmetto Conservation Foundation; Rivers and Evelyn Scarborough.



Lynches River, viewed from the property donated by Rivers and Evelyn Scarborough of Darlington County.

Some of the land had been in their families since South Carolina was first settled under King George of England. For Darlington, Lee and Sumter County residents, the donation helps to preserve the quality of the Lynches River and limits development upstream. The Lynches River is on the Sierra Club's list of Special Places in South Carolina. The donated land is sandwiched between Lee State Park upstream and Lynches River State Park downstream. Knowing the land would be taken care of was a great relief for the Scarboroughs. Rivers Scarborough said that after considering all the options, he feels the life estate method the best for him, his wife and their property. "This land will be here long after we are gone, and I feel good knowing that future generations will see it just as it is now," he said.

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.

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 will be used to establish a nature center at the St. John's School in Darlington. St. John's was formerly the High School in Darlington but is now used as the Elementary. During the New Deal era of the 1930's the Works Progress Administration constructed an amphitheater on the school campus. This amphitheater will be incorporated into the current Project. Also, there is an existing observation deck overlooking Swift Creek at the rear of the school campus. This deck is a part of a former foot bridge which connected the St. John's campus with the Brunson-Dargan School Campus.

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, an Arbor Day celebration, and publishing an informational brochure.



St. John's School Amphitheater constructed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930's.



Existing Observation Deck



Swift Creek

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 – Approved
- Pee Dee Urban Forestry Awareness Project - Urban Forestry Grant request – Approved
- 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 continuing.
- Trail and tree identification signs – Signs are being produced for projects across the state.
- 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).

Pee Dee Regional Urban Forestry Awareness Project Funded

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. This will be accomplished by placing signage 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. These will be durable, weather proof signs. This project will develop a public awareness/information campaign including a regional website with links from existing websites of the Counties and Municipalities in the Pee Dee region. This website will include area historical information, natural resource information (including tree facts), a virtual tour of the various projects established during the past eleven years, with photos, event notification, etc. Also, a Pee Dee projects brochure with a map locating each project will be produced and published with distribution through the local libraries, town facilities, schools, county facilities, etc. This project is designed as an educational effort with a high priority placed on visibility. 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. The project is located within the Counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, and Marlboro. This area includes major thoroughfares to the Myrtle Beach Resort area. The development of the Pee Dee Regional Urban and Community Forestry Website with links to and from other Pee Dee related websites and submission to International Web Search Engines will introduce the program and its benefits to the citizens of the Pee Dee Region.

Digital Soil Survey Information Available on Compact Disk

The Pee Dee RC&D is developing fully self-contained compact disks with digital soils information suitable for the non Geographic Information System (GIS) user. The Pee Dee RC&D has developed a unique data format which allows for the viewing and printing of soil mapping data. Polygons of mapping units with soil symbols are overlaid onto 1999 aerial photography and then converted to Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). The data is available in several files. A data set for the entire county is in one file which can be zoomed, from the entire county down to a view of one inch equaling six hundred feet of ground surface. Mapping at the latter scale is not recommended since the data was developed to be accurate at a scale of approximately one inch equaling approximately sixteen hundred to two thousand feet. Another file on the CD contains a zoomable index to locate your area of interest within the county. The CD contains a file with an interactive index of the county, which allows the selection of portions of the county to be printed on letter size paper at a scale of approximately one inch equaling 1667 feet. Also contained on the compact disk is a file containing the manuscript text data and soil interpretation data in table format. 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. Furthermore, the files are interlinked with Acrobat bookmarks, which allow the user to move to and from the different files. The CDs are being made available to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in each County and may be obtained for a small duplication fee by contacting the local SWCD office or the Pee Dee RC&D.

