

Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

March 2006

803-576-2080



Career Night at Blythewood High



Career night was informative and fun for the seniors at Blythewood High School recently. Room after room down the long hallway was filled with professionals from many different walks of life. As Education Coordinator, I represented the Conservation District, the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Biology teacher, Mr. Stephen Biscombe, welcomed the students and parents as they entered his classroom where the Science careers were set up. Some of the other representatives were the SC Park Ranger from Sesquicentennial State Park and two representatives from USC Medical School's research department. Blythewood High School is making a serious commitment to help their students determine the career path that is right for them. By Mary Jane Henderson, Education Coordinator

DISTRICT ASSISTANCE

The staff of the Richland Conservation District is available to help rural and urban land users with soil and water concerns on your property and around your home. Upon request we will visit with you to discuss the concerns you have on your property and give you recommendations to help correct the problem.



Pond Management & Water Quality



Runoff & Underground Water



Drainage Around Homes & Yards



Vegetation On Power Line Right of Ways



Soils Interpretations For Specific Uses



Soil Stabilization



Learning Trails for Students & Adults



Outdoor Classrooms For Schools

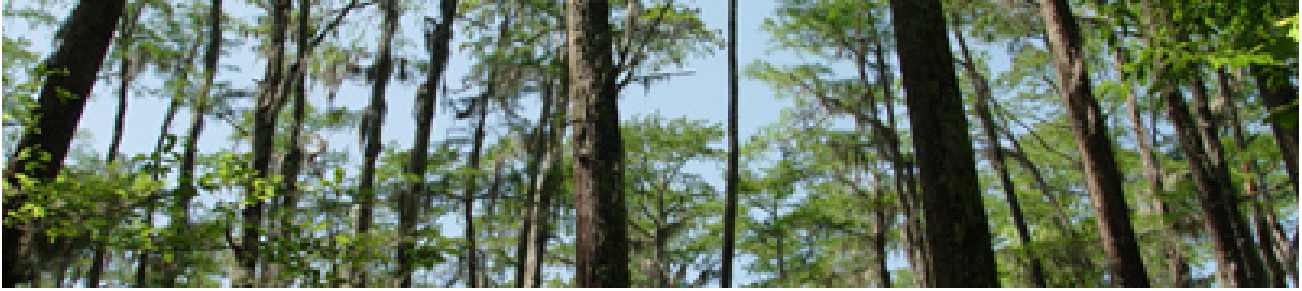


Tree Planting for Arbor Day Celebration



Youth Conservation Workshops

Nipper Creek Heritage Trust Site



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program was created in 1976, the first such program in the nation. It was established to preserve those natural features and cultural remains which are quickly disappearing as the state's population increased in size. The program's purpose is to inventory, evaluate and protect the elements considered the most outstanding representatives of our state heritage. Did you know that Richland County has one such site? The Nipper Creek Heritage Trust site is on the Richland County—Fairfield County border line. This archaeological preserve was occupied most heavily during the Archaic period, 8,000 B.B. to 2,000 B.C. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The value of the site lies in the stratified "layer cake" deposits, which produce information on past human lifestyles such as diet, technology, mobility and social organization.

The Nipper Creek site is interpreted by archaeologist as an "aggregation site," where mobile hunter/gatherer groups would meet on a yearly basis to find mates and share information about mobility and hunting strategies. These aggregations were normally conducted in winter when plant and animal resources were low. dnr.sc.gov/managed/heritage/nippercrk

2006 South Carolina Institute for Natural Resource Conservation June 19—June 23 Lander University Campus

Attention Students! Invest a week ...what you see and what you do may influence the rest of your life! This opportunity is for high school juniors and seniors from across the state to study the environment up close for a week and leave rich in experience in natural resources that will let you see your role in the world a little differently. For information please contact Mary Jane Henderson at 803-576-2083 or email: maryjanehenderson@richlandonline.com



Why Fertilize A Pond ?

There are several reasons for applying fertilizer to a pond. It allows for increased fish production, better aquatic weed control and better overall fishing. Many ponds built in Richland County have a low water hardness, alkalinity and ph. These ponds need to have Agriculture lime applied before fertilization can be effective. The Conservation District Office can perform a pond water chemistry analysis upon request to determine if lime is needed. Lime applications should be applied in the fall or early winter so it will have time to react with the bottom mud before fertilization is applied in the spring.

Fertilizer increases the growth of microscopic plants in the water. Fish do not eat the fertilizer and most of them do not eat the tiny plants, but they do eat the worms, insect larvae and other aquatic animals that feed on the tiny plants. The high production of microscopic plants in the fertile water means more pounds of fish.

High fertility often referred to as a "bloom" or a greenish color in pond water also helps prevent growth of submersed water weeds thereby making better fishing conditions and a better pond appearance.

Fertilization of a pond normally begins in the spring when the pond water temperature begins to warm to 65 degrees, generally around mid to late March and continue as needed to maintain the "bloom" until next fall when water temperatures cool down. A good rule of thumb to determine when you need to fertilize is extend your arm into the water to your elbow. If you can see your finger tips, a fertilizer application is needed.

The fertility level of a pond may be determined by your objectives for the pond, such as, fish production, water weed control, or just pond appearance. For additional information on pond management, pond weed identification, pond fertilizer analysis, fertilization methods, etc. you may contact the Conservation District Office at 803-576-2080 or email: soilandwater@richlandonline.com

NO-TIL DRILL AVAILABLE FOR SPRING TIME PLANTING - CONTACT RICHLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT 803-576-2080

Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given from Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote "Conservation Stewardship" within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping educate the students and landowners of Richland County. Become an affiliate member by sending this slip to:

**Richland Conservation District
P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202**

I would like to become an Individual/Corporate sponsor of The Richland Conservation District

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Member | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Affiliate Member | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Affiliate Member | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Affiliate Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Corporate Member | \$100-490 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Corporate Member | \$1000-5000 |

Name _____

Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

Your contribution is tax deductible

Richland Conservation District

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Doug Deaderick, District Conservationist, Agriculture, NRCS
Ricky Walker, Civil Engineer Tech. NRCS, Ft. Jackson
Joy Sullivan, Program Coordinator, DNR

PLEASE NOTE

The Richland Conservation District Commissioner's Board Meeting will be the second Monday of each month at Lizard's Thicket, 402 Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC. Each meeting begins at 6:30 PM. The public is cordially invited to attend. For information call 803-576-2080.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and disability.