



# Conservation Digest

GREENVILLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SPRING 2012



# 2012 Banquet Keynote Speaker: Russell Stall



*Keynote Speaker: Russell Stall  
Executive Director, Greenville Forward*

Russell is a boomerang, one of those people who grew up in Greenville, left, and didn't come back for 16 years because he didn't think Greenville was cool or progressive enough. However, Greenville changed and became a place where Russell wanted his family to grow.

Russell is Executive Director of Greenville Forward, the organization he created in 2006. Greenville Forward is responsible for making sure that the bold and aggressive dreams of Vision 2025 are accomplished.

Russell is an active public speaker and motivator, telling the story of Greenville's transformation from the "Textile Capital of the World" into a diversified economic region through collaborative relationships, community engagement, and creative partnerships. In the last few years, Russell has told this story to over 325 groups and 17,000 people.

Prior to founding Greenville Forward, Russell owned ResearchWorks, a strategic marketing research firm that focused on community development and customer satisfaction research. He conducted patient satisfaction measurement for over 50 hospitals and strategic marketing research for over 100 clients. He has also worked as a management consultant with Mercer Management Consulting, Coca-Cola USA, and as the Southeast Regional Account Manager with Ralph Lauren Home Furnishings.

Russell has an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta School, and a BA in Psychology from Washington and Lee University. Russell has been extremely active in serving Greenville over the years through his board membership with the Bon Secours St. Francis Foundation, Cancer Society of Greenville County, Project Host Soup Kitchen, Greenville University Center, Graduate Greenville, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Greenville Zoo, Metropolitan Arts Council, and Junior League Advisory Council. He has been Chairman of Leadership Greenville for six years, and have been named as one of Greenville's Most Influential People by Greenville Business Magazine three times.

# 2012 Urban Conservationist of the Year:

## Cecil Leviner

### Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission - GreenWaste



Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission set up the GreenWaste site in Greenville County several years ago. The 127-acre site is now home to a unique asset to our community. The GreenWaste facility was established to recycle green waste generated in neighborhoods. It now converts weeds, leaves, grass and branches into premium compost for use in area gardens. While the garden soil is available for purchase, many yards of the product is donated to local schools, non-profit organizations and community garden projects.

The GreenWaste program keeps yard waste out of landfills and creates compost, reducing the amount of chemical fertilizers used in Greenville County.

Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission, in this project spearheaded by Director, Cecil Leviner, not only reduces waste, but also preserves natural outdoor space for wildlife. The site serves as habitat for foxes, birds, spiders and a whole host of native South Carolina wildlife. Mr. Leviner and his staff cleaned out a creek on the property and planted numerous organic vegetable gardens for educational purposes. GGSC hosts over 2,000 students and teachers annually to tour the facility and get an incredible hands-on experience.

This year, GCSWCD recognized the Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission for its GreenWaste facility and its contribution to water quality, pollution prevention and community outreach.



*Integral former Greater Greenville Sanitation Commissioner, Thomas W. Jones; GreenWaste Director, Cecil Leviner; and site Master Gardner, Rebecca McKinney*

# Conservation Education Teacher of the Year:

## Steven Pruitt



Mr. Steven Pruitt, environmental science, marine science and physical science teacher at Blue Ridge High School, is the 2012 Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Pruitt gives his students a broad understanding of environmental issues. His environmental science curriculum includes stream ecology; wildlife field studies; benefits of local agriculture on environment; erosion control; land use planning; and evaluations of clean energy alternatives. His marine science curriculum focuses on holistic ecosystem assessment. His students learn of the connection between rivers and the sea in South Carolina, and link the environmental issues surrounding marine communities of South Carolina with local activities.

Steven Pruitt is a former Envirothon coach, leading his team to impressive placements of 4<sup>th</sup> in state 2006 and 1<sup>st</sup> place Forestry 2007.

Along with his students, Mr. Pruitt is spearheading "Saving the environment one bite at a time: The eat local project" to create a brochure to educate students and community about the benefits of eating local.



# 2012 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year: Davis Dairy



*Davis Dairy owners*

Davis Dairy began in the mid-1930's as a traditional 50- acre farm, growing cotton and produce. In 1952, the Davis family started a milking operation, using feed grown in their own fields for the dairy cows. The dairy produced raw milk, chocolate milk and homemade butter. The premium products were delivered straight to the customers' doorsteps until 1972. Between 1972 and 1994, Davis Dairy's milk was primarily sold to a wholesale company and distributed throughout the Upstate.



Since 1994, the dairy continued operating and increased focus on the agricultural crops and farming operations. The farm now produces hundreds of acres of corn, soybeans and wheat and uses no-till conservation practices on 400 acres of the land.

The Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District grants the 2012 Cooperator of the Year award to Davis Dairy for the Davis family's commitment to conservation and years of dedicated assistance with maintenance of a dam situated on the farm. The Davis family has been able to persist with a small, family farming operation during a time most others have abandoned the fields. Congratulations to John Davis, Wilton Davis, Jeff Davis and Jason Davis!



# District funds Brook Glenn Elementary Indoor Air Quality Project

*Submitted by Linda Wade, 3rd grade teacher at Brook Glenn Elementary*

On the first day of Glenn Elementary, I noticed that their administrator's nose was running. Our administrator attributed the runny nose to possibly the air in our building since the air is

Another instance of this arose when my student in our computer lab. I noticed a lot of snorting, sniffing, and sneezing. It would be proud. I thought about stock investments in Clark or whom ever

Kleenex. Joking aside, this leads me to believe that the air quality in our building would benefit from plants which would filter out toxins, pollutants and the carbon dioxide that we exhale-replacing it with life sustaining oxygen in our learning environment.

With the help of GCSWCD, plants were purchased and given to the teachers to care for in their classrooms. As the plants grew, some were transplanted to grow more plants for the school. "The plants add a touch of serenity and freshness to our school environment," stated Malissa Hawkins, a first grade teacher. Mrs. Wade's third grade class also planted pansies that are now in the butterfly garden.

Our teachers were excited to get plants into our school and worked to get our plant filtration system up and going. I appreciate the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District for partnering with Brook Glenn to make our learning environment green and healthy.



school at Brook Glenn Elementary. A person in the building's nose was running. This was attributed to the runny air in our building, which was turned off at night.

respiratory problems. Students spent time in the classroom. There was a cacophony of sniffling, coughing, and sneezing. I thought about other germicides in or Kimberly-Clark manufactures



# 2012 Essay Contest Winners



"Soil is INCREDIBLY important, from the food it provides us with to the beauty in nature we can see. It provides so much and we don't even realize it most of the time!" -

**Michaela Henson, 7th Grade**



## **Fifth Grade Essay Contest Winners**

*(Pictured Left to Right)*

Dillan Duckett, *Lake Forest Elementary*

Nandi Whitley, *Robert E. Cashion Elementary*

*Not Pictured:*

Keondre Allen, *Robert E. Cashion Elementary*

## **Sixth Grade Essay Contest Winners**

*(Pictured Left to Right)*

Ben Enten, *Mauldin Middle School*

Molly Butler, *Mauldin Middle School*

Emma Ducker, *Mauldin Middle School*



# 2012 Essay Contest Winners

*"Without farms, how would we get our fresh, nutritious, high-quality food? Farms play a vital role in today's life. Farmers benefit society by helping to preserve an essential connection between consumers and their food."* - **Cameron Jensen, 8th Grade**

## Seventh Grade Essay Contest Winners

*(Pictured Left to Right)*

Michaela Henson, *Northwest Middle School*  
Leanne Smith, *Northwest Middle School*

*Not Pictured:*

Colin Whaley, *Hillcrest Middle School*



## Eighth Grade Essay Contest Winners

*(Pictured Left to Right)*

Cameron Jensen, *Riverside Middle School*  
Elizabeth Schell, *Riverside Middle School*  
Xavier Allen, *Riverside Middle School*

## Essay Contest Winners' Teachers

*(Pictured Left to Right)*

Bill Heinrich, *Lake Forest Elementary*  
Fonya Page, *Robert E. Cashion Elementary*  
Caroline Williams, *Robert E. Cashion Elementary*  
Debbi Long, *Mauldin Middle School*  
Margaret Dacko, *Northwest Middle School*  
Sara Austin, *Hillcrest Middle School*  
Mandy Underwood, *Riverside Middle School*







# Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes

## Outstanding Science Fair Projects

Each year, Roper Mountain Science Center and the South Carolina Academy of Science showcase middle and high school projects in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair. In March 2012, the TD Convention Center housed the independent research of more than 200 local teen scientists. Of those entries, four outstanding middle school projects were selected as the SWCD's special award winners. Our congratulations go out to each participant as well as our award winners!



**Anish Chaluvadi**  
"Wasted Waste?"

Anish's project examined the potential for harvesting ethanol from decomposing household waste. Of the items he examines, Anish was able to produce the most ethanol from rotting banana peels. As the world increases its interest in alternative fuel sources, including ethanol from corn, the capacity for production of this fuel from readily available waste will be economically viable.



## Kadeshia Dodd “Grow Baby Grow”

Kadeshia demonstrated which type of soil was most effective for plant growth in this region. Her project was inspired by a discussion with her father in which he said that clay soil would create the best plant growth in their yard. Kadeshia did not agree and took soil samples from her yard to determine its composition. She then compared the growth rate of the same plant seeds in clay, sand, mulch and loam soils. Clay, in fact, did not grow plants as well as other soil types.

## Sean Lagan “How Safe is Our Water?”

Sean investigated the level of water contamination for seven different pollutants in waters available in and around Greenville County. His project used water samples from rainwater harvesting rain barrels, tap water and local lakes. Sean’s project utilized water quality indicators such as pH and temperature in addition to measuring quantities of actual pollutants in the samples involved in the study.



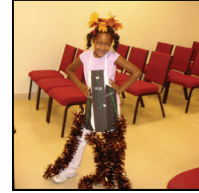
## Kaylee Sparrow “Grow, Grow, Grow”

Kaylee was curious about which type of water would have the most positive effect on growing plants. She harvested rain water from rain barrels, collected tap water from her home and purchased bottled water to evaluate in her project. Kaylee standardized her experiment by using the same kind of seeds and the same amount of soil for each plant. She found that rain water is the most beneficial for plant growth.



# Affiliate Memberships

## Sponsor Education Programs



To become a member of the Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District, fill out the form below and return it with your **tax deductible** gift. Donations help the District award essay contest winners, provide environmental education presentations in schools, and sponsor delegates to the South Carolina Institute for Natural Resources.

Your gift helps the District educate the public about natural resource conservation, places your name on District newsletters and annual reports, and secures an invitation for you and a guest to our Annual Awards Banquet.



## Donate Today!

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

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**Business Name**

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**Mailing Address**

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**City**

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**State**

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**E-mail**

- Select a Category:**    **\$1000**       **\$750**       **\$500**       **\$200**
- \$150**       **\$100**       **\$50**       **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Greenville County Soil & Water.*

**Return to: Greenville County Soil & Water,**

*Front Cover: This edition's front cover picture is a Greenville County student enjoying organic corn grown at the Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission's GreenWaste site.*

**GREENVILLE COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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Greenville, SC 29601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District  
301 University Ridge, Suite 4800, Greenville, SC 29601 864-467-2755**

**Commissioners**

**Dr. Robert Hanley, Chairman • Claire Bradbery, Vice-Chairman • Danny Howard, Secretary-Treasurer • Darrell Harrison • David Gibble • Ben H. Dillard, Commissioner Emeritus**

*Commissioners meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM at County Square in a meeting that is open to the public. Call 864-467-2755 for details on location of the conference room.*

*Commissioners are unpaid volunteers, three elected in the general election for a four-year term and two are appointed.*

**Affiliate Member Donations Underwrite the Conservation Education Effort for the District**

**Benefactor—\$1,000**

*ReWa*

**Friend – \$500**

*Darrell & Georgia Harrison  
Strange Brothers Grading Co., Inc.*

**Supporting – \$200**

*Butch & Diane Kirven*

**Sustaining – \$150**

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