



PICKENS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to Natural Resource Conservation in Pickens County. Serving Pickens County since 1937

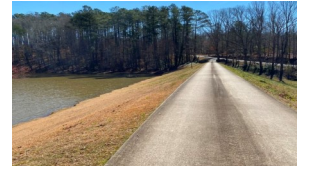


"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." Isaiah 61:11

We would like to recognize the students from Mrs. Gillian Black's class at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center for their participation in the 2023 South Carolina Envirothon on April 28th. The SC Envirothon is a high school environmental competition where students compete in the environmental categories of soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental topic. The 2023 current environmental topic is Adapting to a Changing Climate. The competition is comprised of taking written practical exams for each of the topics and delivering an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges on the current topic.

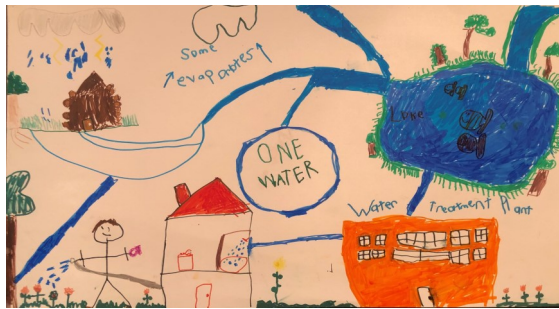


The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board along with the Georges Creek Watershed Board is accepting bids for watershed maintenance to mow and spray watershed dams. There are seven watershed dams in the Twelve Mile Watershed that the PSWCD Board is responsible for maintaining and one watershed dam in the Georges Creek Watershed that the Georges Creek Watershed Board is responsible for maintaining. Please contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District by email: pickensswcd@gmail.com or phone: 864-878-6155 if you would like to submit a bid package. **Bid packages are due on or before Monday, July 10, 2023 by 2:00 p.m.**

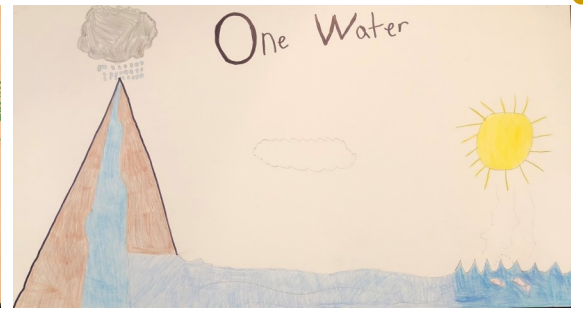


Congratulations

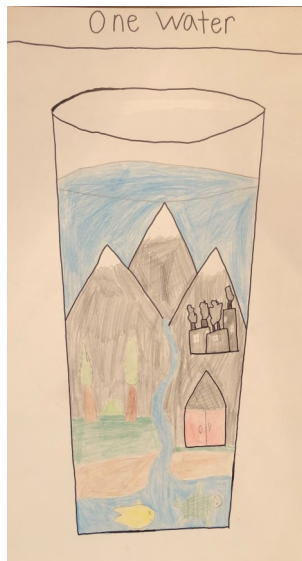
To the
Winners of the
NACD Education
Contest:
"One Water"



1st Place Reese Townsend



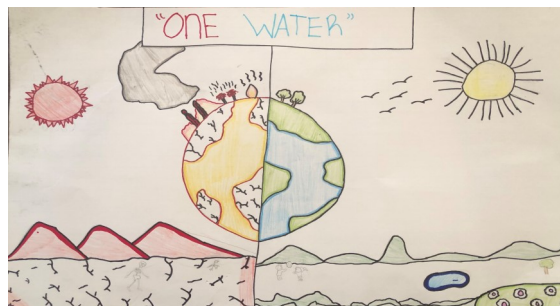
1st Place Anna Atcheson



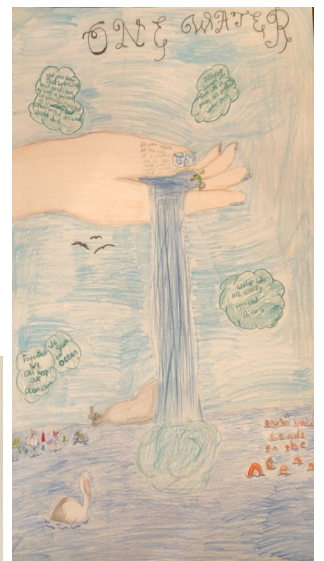
1st Place Carter Atcheson



2nd Place Leann Gordon



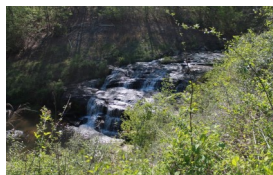
2nd Place JulieAnn Robinson



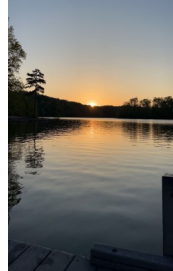
1st Place Aubrey Greeno



3rd Place Baylee Maxwell



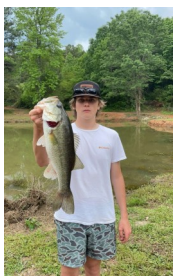
1st Place Reese Townsend
K-5th



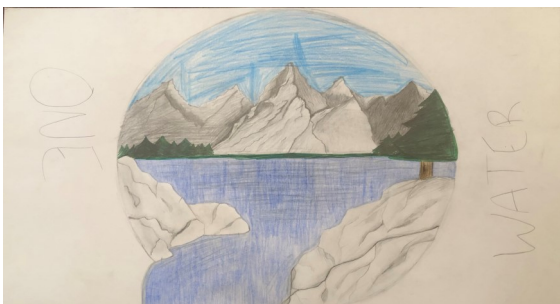
1st Place Jimena Olvera-Guerrera



2nd Place Jacob Escancy



3rd Place Eli Stewart



4th Place Sharlyn Thacker

Thank You to the following teachers for participating in the Education Contest:

Jill Keeran
Kelli Abernethy
Elizabeth Atcheson
Beth Bladon
Sophia Barry
Gillian Black

Central Academy
Six Mile Elementary
Six Mile Elementary
Six Mile Elementary
Six Mile Elementary
PCCTC



4th Place Joseph McGinney



Natural Resources Conservation Service United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS is here to help farmer's improve their usage of Natural Resources. Our motto is:
"Helping people help the land"

USDA works everyday to strengthen the American agricultural economy. Despite the difficult economic climate of the past years, our efforts - coupled with the 2018 Farm Bill, the Recovery Act, and the hard work and resilience of America's farmers and ranchers - are helping American agriculture lead the nation's recovery. We maintain a strong and appropriate safety net for America's farmers, ranchers and growers which includes assistance to struggling industries, disaster assistance, and crop insurance, and provide technical assistance, access to credit, and help producers implement conservation practices.

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/farming>

To qualify, farmland must:

- be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program
- be privately owned;
- have a conservation plan for highly erodible land;
- be large enough to sustain agricultural production;
- be accessible to markets for what the land produces;
- have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services;
- and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

Depending on funding availability, proposals must be submitted by the eligible entities to the appropriate NRCS State Office during the application window.

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers, and forest owners. To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted

Get Started with NRCS, 5 steps to assistance:

1. Planning
2. Application
3. Eligibility
4. Ranking
5. Implementing

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District NO TILL RENTAL PROGRAM

Want to improve your land without tilling the soil?

Take advantage of the Pickens Soil & Water No-Till Drill Rental Program. Contact us today to reserve your rental! Rental Fee: \$25 minimum For more rental information regarding rates and availability contact Amy Wilson 864-901-6946

No-Till Drills Improve Pastures. No-till drills plant seeds without tilling the soil. This makes pasture management easier, more economical, and reduces loss of soil. An acre meter on each drill measures use.



Advantages of No-Till Farming

- * *Less Soil Erosion*
- * *Reduce Erosion & Runoff*
- * *Less Soil Compaction*
- * *Saves You Time*
- * *Lower Fuel Costs*
- * *Use Less Fuel*
- * *Less Soil Moisture Loss*
- * *Healthier Soil*
- * *Buy Less Seed*
- * *Grow Healthier Crops*
- * *Prevent Weeds*

Why Should You Use Our No-Till Drill?

Compare the results of the same Pickens County farm planted using a No-Till Drill versus Traditional Broadcast Planting.



Yes! I want to lend my support as an Affiliate Member of the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District and join the impressive list of individuals and businesses who believe in sharing the responsibility for the abundant natural resources in which we live, work, and play.

Memberships are Tax-Deductible.

____ \$1,000 or above Trustees of the Land _____ \$500-\$999 Guardians of the Land
____ \$200-\$499 Keepers of the Land _____ \$50-\$199 Stewards of the Land _____ \$49 or less Defenders of the Land

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone#: _____ E-mail: _____

Submit to:

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
144 McDaniel Avenue
Pickens, SC 29671

Telephone: 864-878-6155
E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Visit our website:
www.pickenssoilandwater.com
“Like” us on Facebook:
Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner’s meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month.at the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671 at 8:45 a.m. in the Stillwell Conference Room (unless otherwise posted at the office)

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Commissioners

Kirby Player - Chairman
Chuck Owens - Vice-Chairman
Clayton Kerr - Treasurer
Roddey Gettys, III - Commissioner
Amy Wilson - Commissioner

Associate Commissioners

Leslie Morgan
George Hood
Alix Danker
USDA-NRCS

Brian Stoddard - NRCS District Conservationist
Robby Holcombe - NRCS Soil Conservationist Technician
Racquel Slaton - NRCS Soil Conservationist

District Manager

Aimee Brown
Education Coordinator
Anaston Porter

Wednesday, May10, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Monday, May 29, 2023
Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 14, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Independence Day

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, August 9, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Monday, September 4, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
PSWCD Board Meeting 8:45 a.m.

Georges Creek Watershed Board

Steve Pace ~ Chairman
John Cutchin ~ Treasurer
Stewart Bauknight
Clay Coggins
BJ Sutherland

Oolenoy River Watershed Board

Andy Anderson ~ Chairman
Greg Thomas ~ Secretary
Jeff White ~ Treasurer
Zach Dunaway
Oolenoy River Watershed Board of Directors Bi-Monthly Meetings.
Location: Pumpkintown Fire Department
4205 Pumpkintown Highway, Pickens, SC 29671
Time: 6:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.
Thursday, May 18, 2023
Thursday, July 20, 2023
Thursday, September 21, 2023
Thursday, November 16, 2023

Associate Commissioners Needed for the Pickens
Soil & Water Conservation District

Want to be an Associate Commissioner?

- * Associate Commissioners, are officially appointed by the board as advisors and representatives.
- * Associates do not vote on board decisions but augment the board’s knowledge and experience and assist with conservation district programs.
- * Attend the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District’s monthly board meetings at, 8:45 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 144 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners is governed by a local board of five commissioners serving four year terms. Three commissioners are elected during the General Election and two commissioners are appointed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Board.

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ****

Volunteers are needed to participate in Pickens Soil and Water Conservation District activities. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in promoting Conservation in the Pickens County Community. For more information on volunteering: 864-878-6155 or E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Office Space For Rent

Are you looking for a small office space to rent?
Contact the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District for more information: 864-878-6155 or Email: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Advertise Your Business Here

In the Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Newsletter! The PSWCD Newsletter is published to over 300 Affiliate members! Contact the Pickens Soil & Water office for more information! Call: 864-878-6155 or E-mail: pickensswcd@gmail.com

Pickens County Extension Office

222 West Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671 ~ Phone: 864-878-1394
Clemson Extension employs local Extension Agents who provide expertise in Agribusiness, Agronomy, Food Safety & Nutrition, Horticulture, Livestock & Forages, Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Water Resources, and 4-H and Youth Development. For more information and upcoming events please visit the following link: <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/pickens/index.html>

Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to be partnering with Anderson & Pickens County Stormwater Partners, Clemson University Cooperative Extension and the Pickens County Beautification Committee

Need a Soil Sample?

Bring your soil samples to your local Clemson Extension Office located at: 222 W. Main Street
Pickens, SC 29671
Phone: 864-878-1394



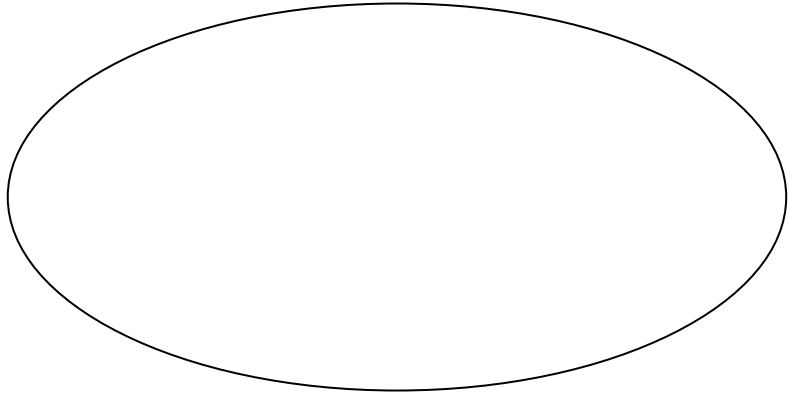
Pickens County 4-H

222 W. Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671
Pickens County 4-H is an organization of young people who wish to "Learn by Doing" in Pickens County, SC .
Contact Janine Sutter: 864-878-1394 ext. 122
or email: jsutter@clemson.edu

Join Today



Address Service Requested



It's Gardening Season

Visit the **Lynn R. Baker Seed Library** at the Sarlin Library Branch in Liberty
Pickens County Library System, Sarlin Branch, 15 South Palmetto Street, Liberty, SC 29657
For more information, please visit: pcls.fyi or call the Sarlin Library at 864-843-5805.



Seed Library at the Sarlin Library Branch in Liberty

The Seed Library was created in partnership with the Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide education on growing food and flowers, promote nutrition, and to promote sustainable gardening practices. Library patrons can visit the Seed Library at the Sarlin Library in Liberty and take home up to ten packets of seeds. They can choose from multiple varieties of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds including heirloom varieties. Seed packets come with planting instructions for when to plant, spacing, light requirements, and more. For upcoming monthly events information, call or stop by the Sarlin Library and see the Seed Library. Anyone with a library card will have access to free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds. Seeds will be stored in a vintage, card catalog cabinet. For more information, please visit: pcls.fyi or call the Sarlin Library at 864-843-5805.

***** Upcoming Programs at the Lynn R. Baker Seed Library at the Sarlin Library Branch in Liberty *****

June 6th, 4:00 p.m.: Smells Like Green Spirit: The Road to Zero Waste

An informational session about how to start and use your own worm compost bin.

July 11th, 4:00 p.m.: Need Some Encourage-Mint? Accessible Gardening for Beginners

Join us and turn an everyday item into a beautiful planter. While decorating, we will learn about USDA hardiness zones, which plants are in season, and how to use compost to give your garden the boost it needs!

July 22nd from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.: Putting Down Roots, A Community Plant Swap

Not sure what to do with all those extra plants, seeds, or cuttings? Bring them to the Seed Library plant swap! Any plants are welcome.



Pickens County Cattlemen's Association ~ Pickens County Cattleman's Association offers informative meetings on a myriad of subjects including pasture management, calving problems, animal health, and selecting the right bull, just to name a few. We are committed to the cattle industry and the promotion of beef. We are stewards of the land and the animals. If you have cattle and live in Pickens County, or surrounding counties, we urge you to join the PCCA or your local Cattlemen's association and the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association (www.sccattle.org) in order to stay up on the latest information. If you have no cattle, but enjoy a good steak, come join us at a meeting and see where your beef is raised. Visit pickenscountycattle.com to fill out a membership form.

The Pickens Soil & Water Conservation District had a wonderful time at the 2023 Pickens Azalea Festival



**SC Adopt-a-Stream
Kit Rental Contest
Clemson Extension Office
Pickens, SC**

The first 5 people to use the SC Adopt-a-Stream kit from the Clemson Extension Office in Pickens, will get a free t-shirt with an outline of Lake Hartwell on the front!


**Attention Teachers and
Educators in Pickens County!**
**We are now offering K-12
Environmental Education
Programs!**

Topics Include: Water Resources, Soil Health, Forestry,
Wildlife, Careers in Natural Resources & Agriculture

Programs will be offered through the Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 School Year!
We will come to your classroom and teach lessons that meet SC State Standards!

Contact Anaston Porter (anaston.porter@andersonswcd.org) for more details!

Project WILD

project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

