

# Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District



Spring 2025

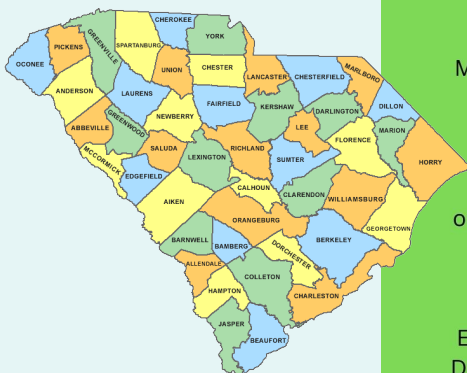
## State Conservation in the News



Conservation Districts Day took place on March 4, 2025, in Columbia, SC, on the State House grounds! Participants from each Conservation District gathered for a short orientation before walking through the State House to meet with Legislators during their session.

### SC Conservation 2024

Soil and Conservation Districts assist with the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs which brought **more than \$81 million** to South Carolina's private lands for conservation implementation impacting nearly **200,000 South Carolina acres** in federal FY 2024.



More than **56,000 students** were reached by conservation district youth-oriented programs such as school gardening, seed libraries, SC Envirothon, Arbor Day, and Earth Day events, stormwater education, scholarships, and conservation related contests.

More than **1.8 million adults** were educated on conservation topics including but not limited to Farm Bill Programs, pollinator promotion, stormwater mitigation, invasive species control, prescribed fire, water quality and conservation, habitat restoration, and land easements.

More than **10,000 acres** statewide were impacted by conservation rental equipment available through conservation districts (no-till drills, prescribed fire equipment, hog traps, etc.)





## It's Spring! Do you know what that means?

Spring is officially here! That means it's **Berkeley Outdoor Life** time! Clean that kayak, find your walking shoes, pump up those bike tires, and grab that fishing pole and tackle! Berkeley Outdoor Life offers:

- 27 Kayaking Trails; More than 250 miles of navigable water.
- 24 Hiking & Walking Routes; More than 185 miles of family adventure.
- 21 Cycling Trails & Routes; More than 330 miles of riding.
- 9 Easy-Going Walking Path in our Accessible Trails program; truly something for everyone!
- More than 30 places to Camp: RV camping, car camping, lakeside "fish camps," backpacking, kayak camping and *bikepacking*.
- More than 50 FREE public parks in Berkeley County.
- 6 Disc Golf Courses.
- 26 Public Boat Ramps.
- Lake Moultrie, Lake Marion, Goose Creek Reservoir, Santee River and the Cooper River.
- The best Fishing in the State of South Carolina!

Find all this information and more at [www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com](http://www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com). The program offers concierge-level "customer service" for anyone wanting personalized recommendations to help you *"Find Your Family Adventure"* in Berkeley County.

**[www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com](http://www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com)**



# BERKELEY COUNTY AG+ART TOUR

Join us for Berkeley County's second Ag+Art Tour, May 10th and 11th! The South Carolina Ag + Art Tour is a free, self-guided tour of farms and markets featuring local artisans at each location. During the tour visitors have the opportunity to learn about local food production, see first-hand where their food comes from, watch artists in action, and learn more about rural life. During the tour visitors can support local farms, markets, and vendors by purchasing their produce, flowers, and artistries!

This year's tour will feature, Little Frying Pan Farm, The West Family Farm, Wabi Sabi Farm, The Market at Peninsula Cove. Each site will offer their own unique experience and products - So make sure to pay a visit to each location!

If you are interested in learning more about this year's tour you can visit the Ag+Art website. On the site you can explore the tour sites, their hours, scheduled activities, and even check out what other South Carolina Counties are also participating.



**BERKELEY COUNTY**



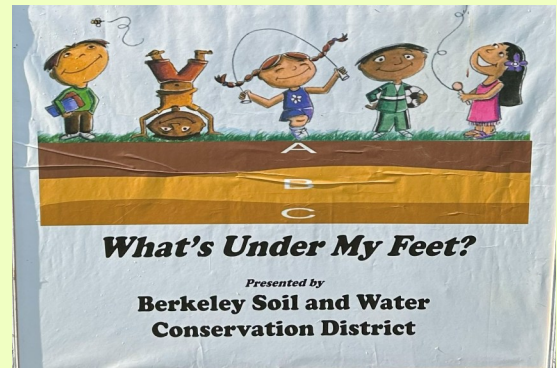
**MAY 10-11, 2025**  
Saturday & Sunday 9am-4pm

## KIDS WHO CARE—April 25, 2025

More than 700 students from Berkeley County will take part in the 2025 "Backyard NatureScope" on April 25th. This event celebrates the elementary school students participating in the Kids Who Care Environmental Project Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

"Backyard NatureScope" is a three-hour field day where students participate in a series of environmental presentations, each lasting between 5 and 15 minutes. Teachers rotate their classes through all the exhibits, ensuring that students experience as many presentations as possible.

The Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District takes part in this exciting program every year. The District offers a hands-on activity where students learn about soil types and textures. Each child will create a soil sample project by filling a tube with various layers of soil.



**If you are aged 12-17 and you could  
use \$500, keep reading.**

If you care about having a clean, attractive community and you like to volunteer, apply for our Youth Initiative and Participation Incentive Award.

Youth who volunteer at least 20 hours in our three goal areas—litter control, community beautification, and recycling—may apply. Award year runs Dec 1, 2024 through Nov. 30, 2025. For details and the application, email [friendsofkbb@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkbb@gmail.com) or scan the QR code. Two prizes will be awarded!



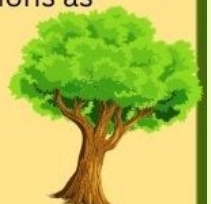
**Show your  
community pride!**



**2025  
THE YEAR  
TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

**BECOME  
AN AFFILIATE!**

The BSWCD heavily relies on the support of individuals and businesses in the community for donations as Affiliate Members.





**BERKELEY COUNTY SC TOURISM** | **RICH HISTORY. BRIGHT FUTURE.** *One Berkeley*

# Shop Local IN BERKELEY COUNTY!

**BERKELEY COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS**

**GOOSE CREEK:**  
Saturdays 9:00am - 1:00pm  
519 N. Goose Creek Blvd.

**ST. STEPHEN:**  
Wednesdays 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
113 Ravenel St.

**MONCK'S CORNER:**  
Thursdays 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
418 East Main St.

**DANIEL ISLAND:**  
Fridays 11:00am - 4:00pm  
200 Seven Farm Dr.

**CARNES CROSS ROADS**  
Every Fourth Friday 5:00pm - 8:00pm  
513 Wodin Place

**BONNEAU BEACH**  
Last Tuesday 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
204 Butter Rd.

**SUMMERVILLE**  
Saturdays 8:00am - 1:00pm  
218 South Main St.

*See You There!*

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE!**

 **Explore Berkeley County, SC**



## Berkeleybees

A local group for anyone interested in beekeeping!

All ages and experience levels welcome!  
*Meetings held 1st Monday of Each Month, 6 pm*

The Nesbitt House, 1003 US Hwy 52, Moncks Corner, SC






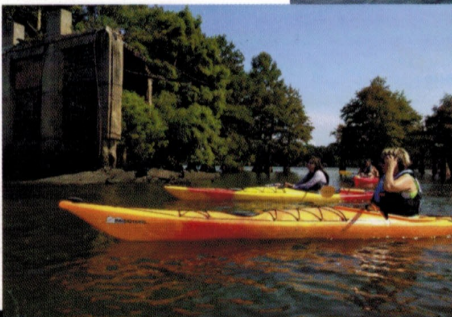

# SWAMP FOX

50 MILE PADDLE & CAMP TRAIL

**5 days of paddling on Lakes Moultrie & Marion & 4 nights camping along the waterways!**

**Visit 5 historic sites**

- \*Eutaw Springs Battlefield
- \*The Ruins of Ferguson Mill
- \*The Santee Indian Mound & Fort Watson
- \*The Historic Church of the Epiphany site on Church Island
- \*The Old Santee Canal

[www.swampfox50milepaddleandcamptrail.com](http://www.swampfox50milepaddleandcamptrail.com)

**To learn more about  
Berkeley County, visit  
[www.ExploreBerkeleyCounty.com](http://www.ExploreBerkeleyCounty.com)**

**To learn more about  
Berkeley Soil and Water, visit  
[www.berkeleysoilandwater.com](http://www.berkeleysoilandwater.com)**



## Carolina Bays and Their Mysteries ~

Carolina Bays are elliptical depressions, found primarily in the Coastal Plain Region of South Carolina, that have intrigued residents since the arrival of the first settlers. Additional investigations have shown that all the Carolina Bays are smooth elliptical depressions only a few feet deep, with their long axis oriented in a remarkably consistent northwest to southeast direction. Most have a surrounding rim of sand that is especially obvious along the southeastern edge. Sand ridges usually have gentle slopes and rise only a few feet above the level of the Bay. From the air, Bays look like impressions made in the earth's surface by a giant egg, ovals of dark greenery surrounded by patchworks of tilled farmland.

Bay size ranges from an area of only a few square feet to monster Bays having dimensions up to four miles long and two miles wide. Bays average 2,210 feet in length and 1,430 feet in width. The depth of these basins lies anywhere from a couple of feet to as much as forty feet below the surface level of the surrounding Coastal Plain. Depth can be misleading, however, since most Bays contain thick accumulations of soil and peat deposits.

Because Bays are such subtle features, and because they are usually very swampy and hard to cross, most Carolina Bays generally have gone unnoticed by the local population. The exact number and geographic extent of Carolina Bays were not recognized until aerial photographs, made by USGS in the 1930's, revealed that hundreds of these unique Bays existed from southern New Jersey all the way to northern Florida. Estimates now range as high as 500,000. Estimates for ages for Bays range from 6,000 to 60,000 years, and even older. Data obtained from the bottom-most sediments in the Bays indicates that most existed as lakes many years ago and have since been filled in with mud and vegetation.

Several Carolina Bays are well enough known to have been given individual names, some even a Heritage Preserve site (and offering tours . . . maybe an idea, Rachel?).

A few of many theories of the origin of Carolina Bays are a basin scooped out by giant turtles; fish nests made by giant schools of fish waving their fins in unison over submarine artesian springs; large sinkholes formed in limestone solution areas; and natural circular depressions elongated by prevailing winds resulting in elongation and deposition of sand on the perimeter of the Bay. In the case of Carolina Bays, there is no conclusive data that substantiates any of the theories. The origin of the Carolina Bays is still a mystery today.



Soon after the Europeans settled here, they started to call these small swamps, dominated by small, aromatic bay trees, “bay swamps” or “pocosins.” Later, to avoid confusion with coastal bays, they were called “Carolina Bays.” John Lawson recorded the first written mention of Carolina Bays in the late 1700’s. In 1765, Pennsylvania botanist John Bartram wrote of seeing “bay swamps” in South Carolina. He reported that local native American fishermen utilized the buckeye tree’s branches and leaves to make a highly effective fish narcotic used to stun fish before catching them. They also used the seeds of the buckeye trees for making eyes for the deer masks they wore while stalking deer. The Native Americans made extensive use of these wetlands and their diversified biological productivity without changing them in any significant way.

The rich organic soils which underline most Carolina Bays have attracted farmers to ditch and drain the Bays to convert them to agriculture. Once a ditch is dug through a bay, water will seep out of the surrounding soil, under the influence of gravity. In early colonial years, a similar procedure was followed to provide access to valuable, particularly cypress, hardwood timber.

By: Keith Gourdin, Commissioner







# EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Helping People Help the Land



## What is the Earth Team:

The Earth Team is a volunteer component of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Earth team provides opportunities for individuals to get involved in conservation efforts, support NRCS programs, and contribute to the protection and improvement of natural resources across the United States.

The Berkeley County Earth Team is a vital part of BSWCD. By volunteering with our Earth Team, you are helping with the conservation and beautification of our county. Earth Team volunteers help with boat landing litter pickups, provide help at community events and festivals, and enjoy fun group activities. Volunteers who commit 50 hours of service or more within a calendar year will earn a reciprocal pass that allows you to visit many local museums, gardens, and recreational venues free of charge!



**Make a difference, Join our Team!!!**

### **Upcoming Events:**

Easter Festival — Old Santee Canal Park — April 12  
Easter and Spring Plant Sale — Cypress Gardens — April 12  
Native Plant Festival — Old Santee Canal Park — May 17

**To Join contact Courtney Downing, 843-719-4146 or [info@berkeleysoilandwater.com](mailto:info@berkeleysoilandwater.com)**

## *Earth Team Awards for 2024*

Alex Arvai—Helping Hands	Joann Arvai—Helping Hands	Roxy Bishop—Coordinator of the Year
Beverly Burton—Helping Hands	Linda Chandler—Shining Star	Krista Demeny—Most Versatile
Sally Dupree—MVP	Howard Hogue—Above & Beyond	Cliff Martin—Heart of Gold
Beth Mathieu—Team Player	Kevin Mathieu—Team Player	Kathy McDuffie—Team Player
Max McDuffie—Team Player	Ann Nash—Difference Maker	Don Nash—Difference Maker
Phillip Obie—Legacy Award	Nancy Potts—Helping Hands	Cheryl Ravoria—Community Champion
Joanne Schaaf—Helping Hands	Tom Snowden—Helping Hands	Jim Ravoria—Community Champion
Dwight Williams—Helping Hands	Wade Wyndham—Helping Hands	



# Berkeley County Earth Team

## Volunteers and Events

Where Everyone is a Winner & Appreciated







United States Department of Agriculture

**NRCS**

2070 Northbrook Blvd  
North Charleston, SC, 29406  
Voice 843-727-4160  
Email: [ashleigh.james@usda.gov](mailto:ashleigh.james@usda.gov)  
Web: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

# News Release

## Every Successful Farm Starts with a Plan

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in their operations and local communities to keep working lands working, boost rural economies, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture and improve the quality of our air, water, soil and wildlife habitat.

Simply put – NRCS helps America's farmers, ranchers and forestland owners make conservation work for them.

Our Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program enables every acre of voluntary conservation applied through every program NRCS administers. It is the foundation of our financial and technical assistance delivery system.

Every farm and acre is unique and requires tailored management; and every decision maker has different management concerns and needs. Our technical assistance is one-on-one, personalized advice and support to help producers make the best decisions for their lands – and is offered free of charge.

This personalized assistance provides producers with the science-based data and tools to make informed decisions about where to target efforts to get the greatest return on their investment and ensure the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.

A comprehensive conservation plan is the first step to managing all the natural resources on a farm. NRCS walks the farm with the producer and develops options to address that producer's needs. Our toolbox includes aerial photos, soil surveys, engineering solutions and individual science-based analysis customized for the producer's property. The plan we develop with the producer combines existing production methods with recommended conservation practices to best manage that farm's unique natural resources, while allowing the producer to grow sustainably and productively. Supported by our expert analysis and recommendations, the producer chooses which option best meets their needs. These decisions become the producer's conservation plan, a step-by-step guide to reach their objectives.

This planning process also makes it easier to identify how and when the farmer, rancher or forest landowner could qualify for Farm Bill financial assistance to help them install conservation systems or receive incentives for trying new ones. We have the expertise to see our customers through this process. Because identifying when, where and how to implement practices is not plug and play.

The final plan provides a roadmap for the producer to meet their natural resource conservation goals. It includes helpful information on each of the producer's practices, such as how they benefit the farm, how to maintain them, and how they help the soil, water and wildlife.

By developing a conservation plan and adding conservation to the land, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners can protect the land's ability to provide for their family and future generations.

With offices in communities nationwide, NRCS staff provide the information, tools and delivery systems necessary for producers – in every state and territory – to conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources.

Contact your local [USDA service center](#) to find out more.





# LEARN ABOUT BERKELEY SOIL AND WATER WITH A LITTLE FUN!

Discover hidden words for  
BSWCD knowledge and activities!

KVRKVPOSCEARTHTEAMPODUDSTETPKL  
KITRDPPOUYDPMHYQGWEKMYHLMCQRH  
XKWECSXZHHUVDUQGAYZLYZAIGZCSKN  
GJKLFICFVZVKXBAGUTNMWMSGXADSMO  
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SAMMLIOWNLHTECHFHXASZHBUEOFLGAN  
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TXNNLEEEYSCCMZQRAIRTD MHTZZEEAGG  
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GLRAMNVOANXXFLFKFVHLFRJHJEBXLV  
IZIRETINHSCXWCSQZNUEONREUMELFG  
HXLTFPCENEZDJWEARQVNXTEBWB L PJS  
IBLRGREBYRNOTYEFPMCVC MZEIETAEX  
KQURBGZENVWSJTDZMHMUWKPRZRBLIL  
SVXSOHPRZAKOBTBQHXTDQWWKVJWMGE  
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JKJGMHLEMIWSXXNJRPXPYGLHGF TZQ  
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FKZREKXEINNJJKKFDWDUHLKYGYCOTD  
BERKELEYOUTDOORLIFENLB PBRISTES  
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IFJBYCKIDSWHOCARENSLGCXQNUKLQM  
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SKWABERKELEYCOUNTYUZCGCKLQSANX

EARTH TEAM

SWAMP FOX

FOREST SERVICE

GRAIN DRILL

KIDS WHO CARE

SCDNR

GREENBELT

CONSERVATION

PALMETTO TRAIL

AG AND ART

BERKELEY BEES

USDA

BERKELEY COUNTY

BERKELEY OUTDOOR LIFE

AFFILIATE MEMBER

BYGONE BERKELEY



223 East Main Street, Ste. B  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

SPRING 2025 Newsletter

**Grow with us—there’s so much to do in Berkeley County!**

**YES, I would like to become a supporting Affiliate member of the  
Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District!**

**2023 Membership (please circle one)   \*\$500—Golden Ambassador  
\*\$250—Ambassador   \*\$200—Conservationist   \*\$150 Sustaining Member  
\*\$100—Patron Member   \*\$50 Student (under 20 y/o) Member**

**Name/Company Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact #**\_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address**\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or bring a check to: 223 E. Main Street, Ste. B, Moncks Corner, SC 29461, Office 843-719-4146**

*The BSWCD Board meets monthly, The 4th Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am.  
Most meetings are held at Old Santee Canal Park. If you are interested in attending  
a meeting, call our office a week prior to the meeting for confirmation on location.*