

Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2026

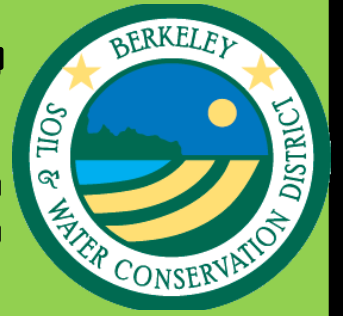


Photo credit: Scott Lynch

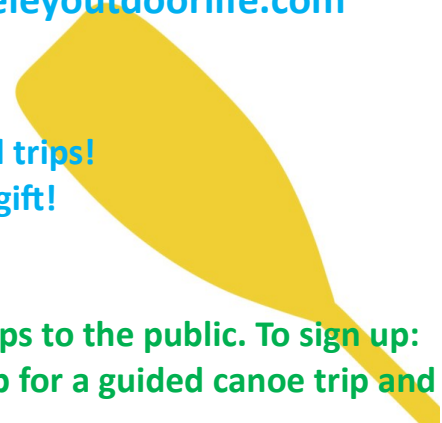
Pictured above is a photo of a Cypress Trees and their “knees” on Berkeley Blueway #8
THE DUCKPOND on Lake Moultrie.

How do I find information on our local blueways? berkeleyoutdoorlife.com

What if I don't have my own kayak?

***BLUEWAY ADVENTURES** in **BONNEAU** offers a range of guided trips!
Perfect for individual or couple activities or a special birthday gift!
Call (843) 697-2812 or bluewayadventures.com

***OLD SANTEE CANAL PARK** periodically offers guided canoe trips to the public. To sign up:
oldsanteecanal.recdesk.com and choose “programs” to sign up for a guided canoe trip and
other activities!



BETTER OFF WITH BATS ~

Historically, bats have been cast as terrifying night stalkers. This, however, is a misleading portrayal. “I’ve personally noticed,” says Erin Cord, Community Engagement Manager for *Bat Conservation International*, “that when I show people, who are generally afraid of bats, up-close photos of them, people are often surprised how cute and fragile they are.”

Good looks aside, bats have many other redeeming qualities, including being exceptional garden helpers. A little brown bat can devour 4,000 to 8,000 insects a night, helping manage garden pests such as midges, hoppers, moths, ants, and mosquitoes. Their pest control efforts also have a huge impact in farming industries. Bats contribute over \$3 Billion (with a “B”) worth of agricultural insect control a year in the U.S. Thanks to bats, farmers not only save on pesticide costs, but the overall environment and other wildlife also benefit when less pesticides are used.

Some bats are also pollinators and planters, dispersing seeds through their droppings (guano), which can add fertilizer to garden beds. Yet, despite their ecological services, bats are threatened.

In 2023, the *North American State of the Bats* report revealed that 53% of bat species were at risk of extinction, with habitat loss being a top reason. “Deforestation, the destruction of caves and rapid urbanization are shrinking the spaces bats need to survive. Many species are highly specialized and can’t adapt when their roosts disappear,” says Melissa Donnelly, science specialist with *Merlin Tuttle’s Bat Conservation*. White-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease, has also eradicated 90% of northern long-eared bat populations, another valued member of the garden’s pest-control brigade.

Fortunately, there are some things you can do at home to help your local bats. Most North American bats are insectivores, so cultivating plants that appeal to nocturnal insects and reducing your use of pesticides are the best ways to support bats. Where there are insects, bats are sure to follow.

Nocturnal bugs prefer flowers that open or stay open at night and are fragrant with pale-colored petals that stand out against the night sky. Honeysuckle, Datura and Evening Primrose are great native picks, and in parts of the Southwest, these plants might attract nectar-feeding bats that visit the area.

A Habitat to Call Home – a minimally lit or dark garden with trees, stumps and piles of wood mimics wilder natural surroundings. This encourages bats to forage and roost. “Installing a bat house is another helpful action,” Melissa says, “but it’s important to do your research first. There’s no one-size-fits-all solution and like all wildlife, bats may or may not choose the roost you provide.”

According to Erin, bats drink midflight by skimming water off their wings. A pond or trough that is 7-to-8-feet wide without overhanging branches gives a bat room to swoop down and scoop up a much-needed sip.

When gardeners help provide safe spaces for bats to rest and forage, ecosystems are healthier. “If we didn’t have bats on the landscape, including our gardens, it would be dire,” Erin says.

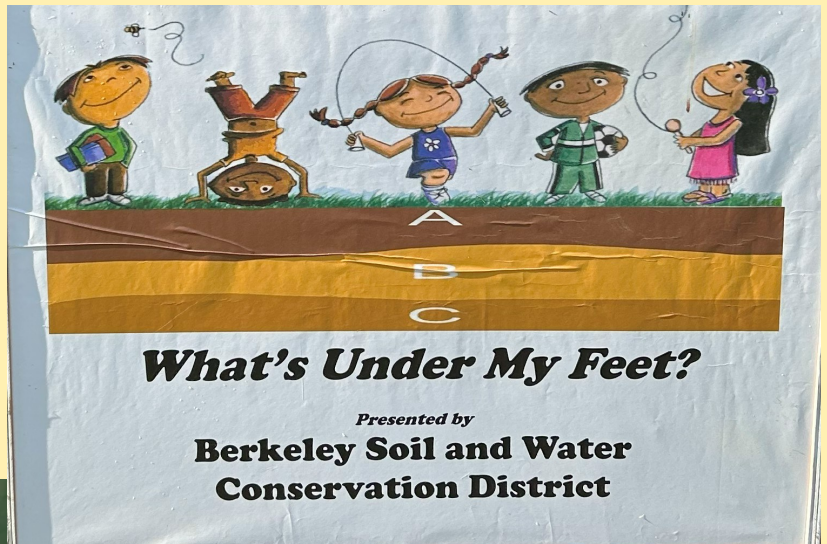
Written by Jennifer Cole, a garden expert and writer in Vancouver, Canada, where she has planted a moonlit garden of white lilies, daises, and anemones to attract nighttime pollinators.

Edited by Keith Gourdin


BACKYARD NATURESCOPE

Approximately a thousand 2nd grade students from Berkeley County will take part in the 2026 "Backyard NatureScope" on April 15th at Old Santee Canal Park. Classes invited to this educational and interactive event participated in the 2025/2026 Kids Who Care Environmental Project Contest which encourages students to learn about conservation and sustainability.

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



The Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District takes part in this impactful program each year. The District offers a hands-on activity called "WHAT'S UNDER MY FEET?" where students learn about soil types and textures.

Each child will create a soil sample project by filling a tube with various layers of different types of soil and learn about properties of each. 



Spring is in the air! You know what that means. There's no excuse not to get outside and "Find Your Family Adventure" in Berkeley County. With **31** kayaking trails, **24** walking and hiking paths (Pro Tip: 9 are "Accessible" trails), **21** bicycling routes, over 50 public parks, and the best fishing in the state, there's truly something for everyone.

Berkeley Outdoor Life offers concierge-level support to help you find an adventure in the County. Text or call **843-433-0361**. We respond FAST and have the answers you're looking for!

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com

Calling all history buffs!! We have a new rack card that highlights "Adventures with Francis Marion in Berkeley County." This has (4) four super family-friendly day trips to learn about one of the most important figures in South Carolina and American Revolution history. You can pick up this rack card at our office, at the Berkeley County Welcome Center and it's coming soon to all of the South Carolina Welcome Centers around the state!



ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

www.ByGoneBerkeley.com

ByGone Berkeley
Adventures in History

Adventures with Francis Marion in Berkeley County, SC
4 Family Day Trips!

Something for the entire family!
Easy trip from Charleston, Columbia, Charlotte or Atlanta
www.ByGoneBerkeley.com

ByGone Berkeley is a signed program of the Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District and Berkeley County Government.

843-719-4146
843-433-0381

Find your Francis Marion Family Adventure FAST !!

- Francis Marion Burial Site
- Hike with Francis Marion
- Bike with Francis Marion
- Kayak with Francis Marion

BERKELEY COUNTY SC
ExploreBerkeleyCounty.com



**A local group for ANYONE
interested in beekeeping!**

***All ages and experience level
welcome.***

**Meetings held the 1st Monday
of each month, 6:00—7:00 pm**

**Location: The Nesbitt House,
1003 US Hwy 52 Moncks Corner**

berkeleybees is a program started in 2017 by Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District and Berkeley County. The purpose is to help encourage and facilitate the education of beekeepers in Berkeley County.

The activities of the group and meetings are lead by Berkeley County Farm and Land Services Specialist Jonathan James. For more information on the group or meeting info contact Jonathan at: (843) 719-4140

We are excited for another year of the **berkeleybees** program! Spring is just around the corner, and that means that beekeeping and honey making go into full swing!
Jonathan James

berkeleybees just completed a year of learning under **Mr. Glenn Cook**, and we have a variety of speakers planned for this upcoming year.

A new rack card has been designed and printed for the program to get the word out and grow our membership. These rack cards will have also include a seed packet with them so that people can attract pollinators. Some of these seed packets will be donated to Keep Berkeley Beautiful in order to create pollinator patches at their beautification projects. These rack cards and packets can be found at the Berkeley County Welcome Center, the County Administration Building, and the Soil & Water Board office with more locations to come!"



Berkeley County Earth Team

Volunteers and Events

“Where Everyone is a Winner & Appreciated”



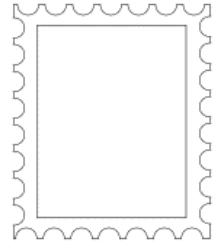
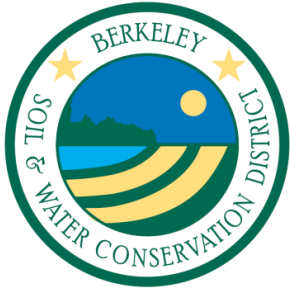
SHEILA BAXLEY
EARTH TEAM COORDINATOR

Earth Team Volunteers can be anyone 14 years or older who want to make a difference in their community. Projects range from volunteering as “support staff” at local events, litter clean up with groups, working with local partners to promote conservation efforts in the community and more! Volunteers may choose which projects/dates according to opportunities available.

If you are interested in signing up to be an EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER, please go to: berkeleysoilandwater.com and fill out a volunteer application!

Thank you to our current volunteers! Below are photos from recent meetings and project meet—ups!





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

SPRING 2026

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!

2026 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