

Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District



Fall 2025

Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Act

South Carolina farmers have more options than ever when it comes to preserving farmland for future generations!

If you are a landowner interested in conservation visit the South Carolina Conservation Bank website.



Location: Hickory Bluff Berry Farm
Photo credit: Adam Kelly, City of Goose Creek

Looking back to Look Forward...

Dear Affiliate members and friends of the Soil & Water District,

Nothing is more important than saying to you how grateful we are for your support, both physically, spiritually, and monetarily. Without your support and our many partnerships, we would not be able to flaunt the many programs and project successes.

Efforts towards natural resource conservation ethics in the minds of our public are never more urgent than today. Tomorrow is too late! Teaching basic concepts through education and outreach programs, targeting students, private citizens, and local government, in partnership with our many organizations, is a must for good land management and sufficient soil and water protection.

This year is going by so fast it's hard to realize that 2026 will soon be upon us . . . only three months! *Berkeley Outdoor Life* and *ByGone Berkeley* online platforms continue to evolve with new projects. By the time you read this, we will have three new Berkeley Blueways, giving us a total of thirty Blueways, more than 265 miles of paddling in the County, and we are adding yet another new Blueway later this Fall. We've also added a fifth volume of Historical Stories to *ByGone Berkeley* with another volume to come later this year. Our *Berkeley Bees'* meetings continue to offer assistance to all the needs of our county's beekeepers. Volunteers of our *Earth Team* can't be thanked enough for their dedication and work. Two *Cane Bay High School* Students were awarded BSWCD Scholarships. Berkeley County's *Greenbelt Commission* continues working with landowners on acquisitions as well as property donations, following the District's mission of promoting the wise use and care of natural resources for the benefit of citizens of Berkeley County.

Thinking of 2026 without mentioning our country's 250th celebration of liberty and freedom, our county's thirty-two Revolutionary War action sites, and what our ancestors left for us, gives us all the more reason to want to do everything we can to conserve and protect what we have. Ask us how you can help!



It is an honor and privilege to serve you,

Diane Edwins, Chair,

Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District



WELCOME!

To Our Team

Kimberly Nolte,

BSWCD Manager of District Operations

Kimberly Whiddon Nolte is a native of Tallahassee, Florida. She has lived all over the South and knows the importance of preserving and protecting history and the environment.

Kimberly and her husband Ron, have raised their family and lived in Berkeley County for 34 years. Kimberly has a BS from FMC and brings years of experience to the office. Please join us in welcoming Kimberly to the BSWCD Family!



Jonathan James,

Berkeley County Land Service Specialist



Jonathan joined Berkeley County in 2025 as the Land Service Specialist. He is dedicated to conservation and protecting green spaces for future generations.

Johnthan is a Berkeley County native who earned a Business Degree from Charleston Southern University. He has a passion for History and outdoor recreation, including hiking. BSWCD welcomes Jonathan to our conservation Family!

Berkeley Outdoor Life




30 Kayaking Trails
24 Hiking & Walking Trails
21 Bicycling Routes
Best Fishing, Camping & Hunting in the State!

Something for the entire family!
 Easy trip from Charleston,
 Columbia, Charlotte or Atlanta!

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com



Berkeley Outdoor Life is a proud program of
 the Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation
 District and Berkeley County Government.



843-719-4146
 843-433-0361



**Find that Family Adventure FAST
 with our MAPS!**

30 Blueways



24 Walkways



21 Bikeways



Gameways




**BERKELEY
 COUNTY SC**
ExploreBerkeleyCounty.com

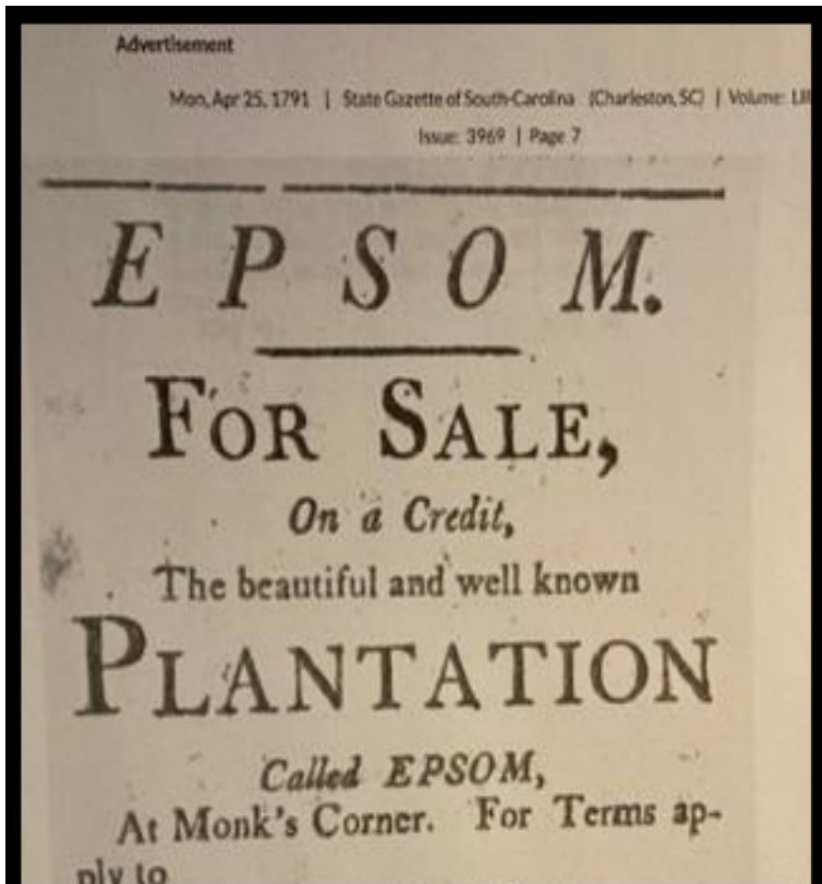
There's a new Berkeley Outdoor Life rack card for use at special events available at the Berkeley County Welcome Center and the South Carolina Welcome Centers across the state!

www.BerkeleyOutdoorLife.com

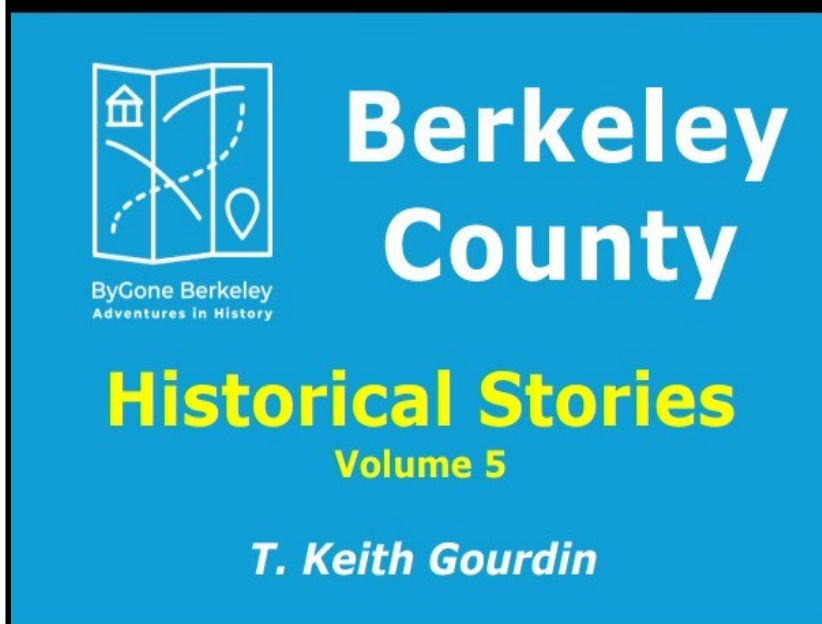


Berkeley County Historical Stories Volume 5 by Keith Gourdin is now available for reading and download on ByGone Berkeley! This latest volume has 25 new stories about our county history. Check it out at:

www.ByGoneBerkeley.com/historical-stories



or click scan to read:



Keith Gourdin

The Joys and Benefits of Volunteering!



Assisting Others, Enjoying Festivals, Reciprocal Pass to Local Interest Entities



**Colonial Day at Berkeley County
Museum September 27, 2025,
Old Santee Canal Park**



YARD ART AT CONTEST AT CYPRESS GARDENS , August 2025

This fundraiser for Cypress Gardens is always successful, primarily because of the enthusiasm, joy and happiness everyone brings with them. Volunteers enter art made from recycled material. A total of \$300 was raised and donated to the Gardens through the sale of the art. There's always something special at every year's fundraiser and this year was no exception.



**1st Place—\$100
Beth & Kevin Mathieu**



**2nd Place—\$50
Joanne Schaaf**



**3rd Place—\$25
Courtney Arvai**

**Volunteers will enjoy a Fall
Field Trip To Magnolia
Gardens, Oct. 21, '25**

Future 2025 Events and Opportunities to Volunteer

1. Bushy Park Cleanup— 3rd Tues. of each Month
 2. Halloween in the Swamp—Cypress Gardens
 3. Celebrate the Season—Old Santee Canal Park
- Call BSWCD 843-719-4146 for Further Information

CONSERVATION NO-TILL GRAIN DRILL AVAILABLE



For more information about the program or to rent the drill for the upcoming planting season call: Robert DeHay at (843) 607-3999; Berkeley County Farm Bureau at (843)761-4940; or Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District (843)719-4146.

**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



To learn more about
Berkeley County, visit
www.ExploreBerkeleyCounty.com

To learn more about
Berkeley Soil and Water, visit
www.berkeleysoilandwater.com

What is NRCS? NRCS stands for the *Natural Resources Conservation Service*. This agency is the technical partner for Conservation Districts such as ours. The NRCS is under the umbrella of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and partners with Conservation Districts and other state agencies to provide technical and financial support to landowners and farmers.



What sort of services can they provide? NRCS provides technical assistance, writes applications for funding through NRCS programs for landowners and farmers, keeps the public apprised of opportunities of cost-share programs available through theirs and other agencies, and can also offer educated solutions for various farming issues.



Current available programs that might interest you:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land conservation program. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, changes are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program: NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture.



Technical Assistance: *This assistance can help land users:*

Maintain and improve private lands and their management; Implement better land management technologies; Protect and improve water quality and quantity; Maintain and improve wildlife and fish habitat; Enhance recreational opportunities on their land; Explore opportunities to diversify agricultural operations; Develop and apply sustainable agricultural systems.



Call our office for more information.



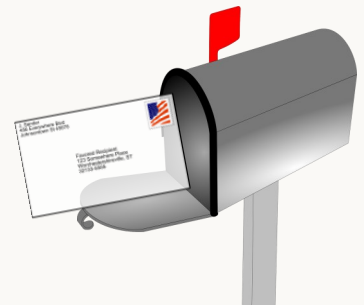
843-727-4160, Ext. 5081, Charleston Office



A Few of BSWCD Affiliates who Help us Help Berkeley County



*Check your mailbox.....
Membership Opportunities will
Be arriving soon...*



Did You Know? ~ Pride of India or Chinaberry . . .

By Herbert Ravenel Sass

For ages I have been meaning to write, and at Gates Mills on my desk is a file of things that I wanted to discuss, clippings from Woods and Waters. Among them I know is an article about "quail." For a number of years, the late James Henry Rice wrote to me quite frequently, and I have a file of his letters. All quite fascinating, Mr. Rice always contended our Bobwhites were not quail, but partridges.

Your request the other day for information concerning the *Pride of India* (my favorite name for the *Ilex azedora* or *Chinaberry*) brings forth the enclosed. The older Negroes here always called the tree "Friday Vindy," their interpretation of Pride of India. At the time, I made up my mind to grow the tree for cabinet wood. I went personally to the Forest Service in Washington, and their files were searched for information as to who had introduced the tree into this country. No luck. Then the *Arnold Arboretum* approached, but still there were no results. I am sure it reached this continent via the West Indies. Probably early settlers from Barbados or one of the other British colonies introduced it to the Carolinas. You will see in the account from *Arboretum et Fructicetum Britannicum* (trees and shrubs of Britain), that it was known in greenhouses in England since 1656. I have a set of this publication which I bought in Edinburgh, for it contains a long account of my direct ancestor, Andrew Heron, Laird of Bargally, who was a very noted botanist in his day. He introduced several hitherto unknown plants and trees into England.

I think one of these is the so-called *Monkey Puzzle* tree. There is an enormous specimen of this tree at Bargally. I have visited the place several times. For some years it was rented by the Duke of Bedford (the late 11th Duke) for a shooting box. It is near Newton Stewart in southwest Scotland. The Duke sent me fifty acorns from the great oaks at Bargally. I grew from them 49 English oaks. Some are here at the Borough, the others at Gates Mills. Those at Gates Mills (Ohio) have outgrown those here, the climate is better for them there, I suppose. The Duke and I became great friends, and I sent him live oak acorns from *The Borough* for his principal residence, Woburn Abbey. I visited him there the year before he died.

Now that cedar has become so scarce it occurred to me that *Pride of India* could take its place for storage chests. Cedar is no good as a moth-repellant anyway. Moths thrive in cedar chests unless they are discouraged by chemicals of some sort. As for *Pride of India*, it seems abhorrent to them, and it is a beautiful wood besides, with no perceptible odor.

When I leave here in the late Spring, the carpets in the rooms we occupy are vacuum cleaned, then *Pride of India* leaves are scattered over them, and the rugs rolled up. A moth never goes near them, and a moth has never been seen in the old wardrobe described in Mrs. Stubb's article in *The State Magazine*. The width of the boards in the doors of this wardrobe, which was made here by my great-grandfather's slave carpenters, ca. 1820, would indicate a tree at least 24" in diameter, so the *Pride of India* must have been introduced quite early into South Carolina.

The Guignards in Columbia told me that they had read in a book in their library, that the tree was introduced by one Dr. Cheny (or Chany, not sure) and that it was properly called Cheny berry, also that when the Negroes call it "Chany berry" they were correct. We always thought it was their way of saying China berry. The Guignards were never able to locate this account of the introduction of the tree, and I have never discovered a reference anywhere to this elusive "Dr. Chanty." I am inclined to discount this theory.

My attempt to grow the tree has not been too successful. At first, I tried planting the seed. Practically no germination. Finally, the State Forest Service grew some for me, but they found that they would not germinate unless they first had a chemical bath, which corresponded to the acids to which the seed are subjected in the intestinal tract of birds. It is a peculiar circumstance that even though the ground beneath a *Pride of India* tree is covered with berries, no young ones ever spring up, but along ditch banks and other places where they have been dropped by birds, they grow and flourish.

Articles other than the one enclosed attribute the origin of the tree to South China and the Vale of Kashmir. I think it is a foregone conclusion that it did originate in this region before it appeared in the Mediterranean regions.



Article by Virginia S. White

Edited by Keith Gourdin



223 East Main Street, Ste. B

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Fall 2025



**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.**

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