

Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District

Summer 2026



Photo credit: Scott Lynch



Diane Hooper Edwins
December 4, 1944-May 3, 2026

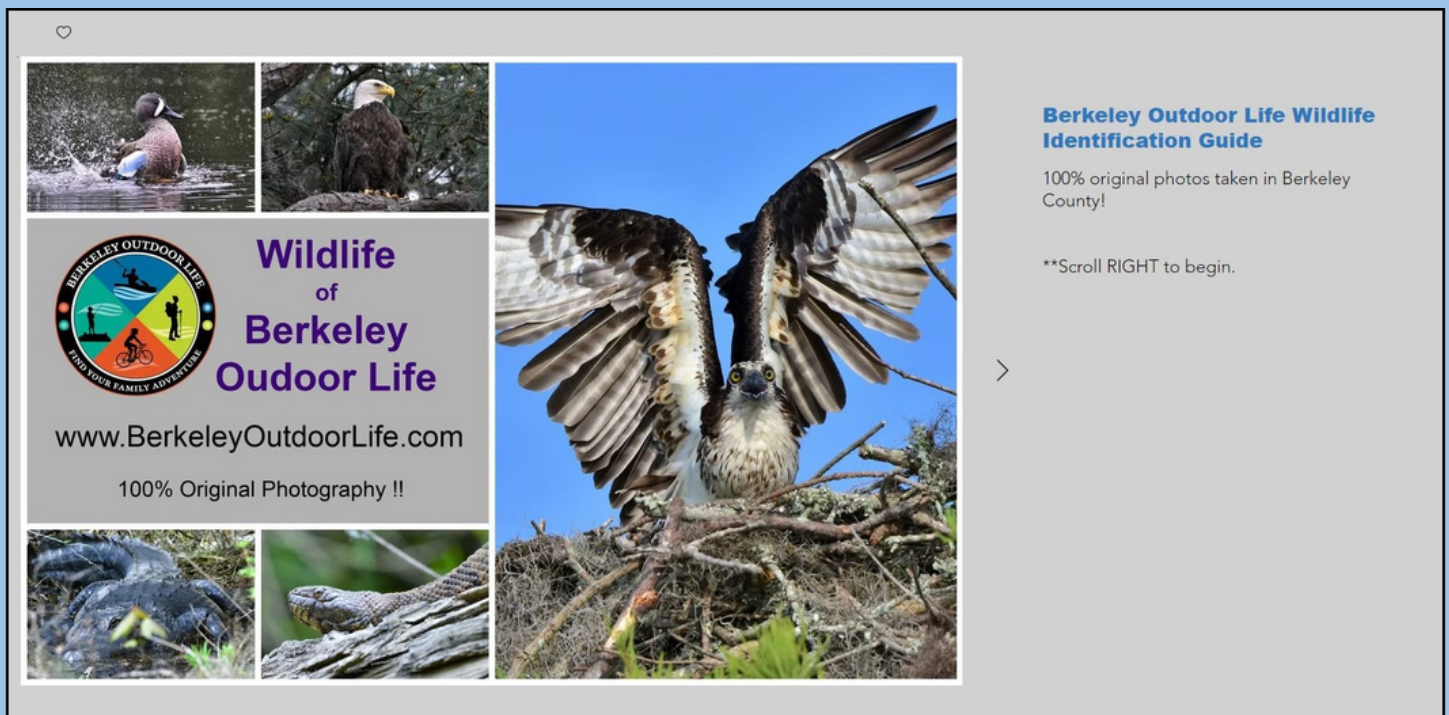
We bid farewell to Mrs. Diane Edwins, affectionately known as Ms. Diane, whose legacy in conservation and community service will be cherished for generations. With a career spanning decades, she joined the BSWCD as a Commissioner in 1999 and twice led as Chairman, showcasing her unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship. Her leadership extended to the state conservation board, where she served as Treasurer for three terms, Secretary for one, and as the area director for the Edisto/Savannah district. Ms. Diane also dedicated 16 years to the Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust and 11 years to the AG South Bank Board. Her remarkable contributions earned her a place in 2018 in the Hall of Fame. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Diane will be fondly remembered for her warm mentorship and the comfort of her hugs, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew her.



Since 2015, the **Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District** has awarded two annual scholarships to students who promote and support conservation efforts. This year the district awarded Luke Williams, a 2026 graduate from the SC Governor's School of Agriculture, with a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of his commitment to a degree from Clemson University in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology. We wish Luke all the best!!



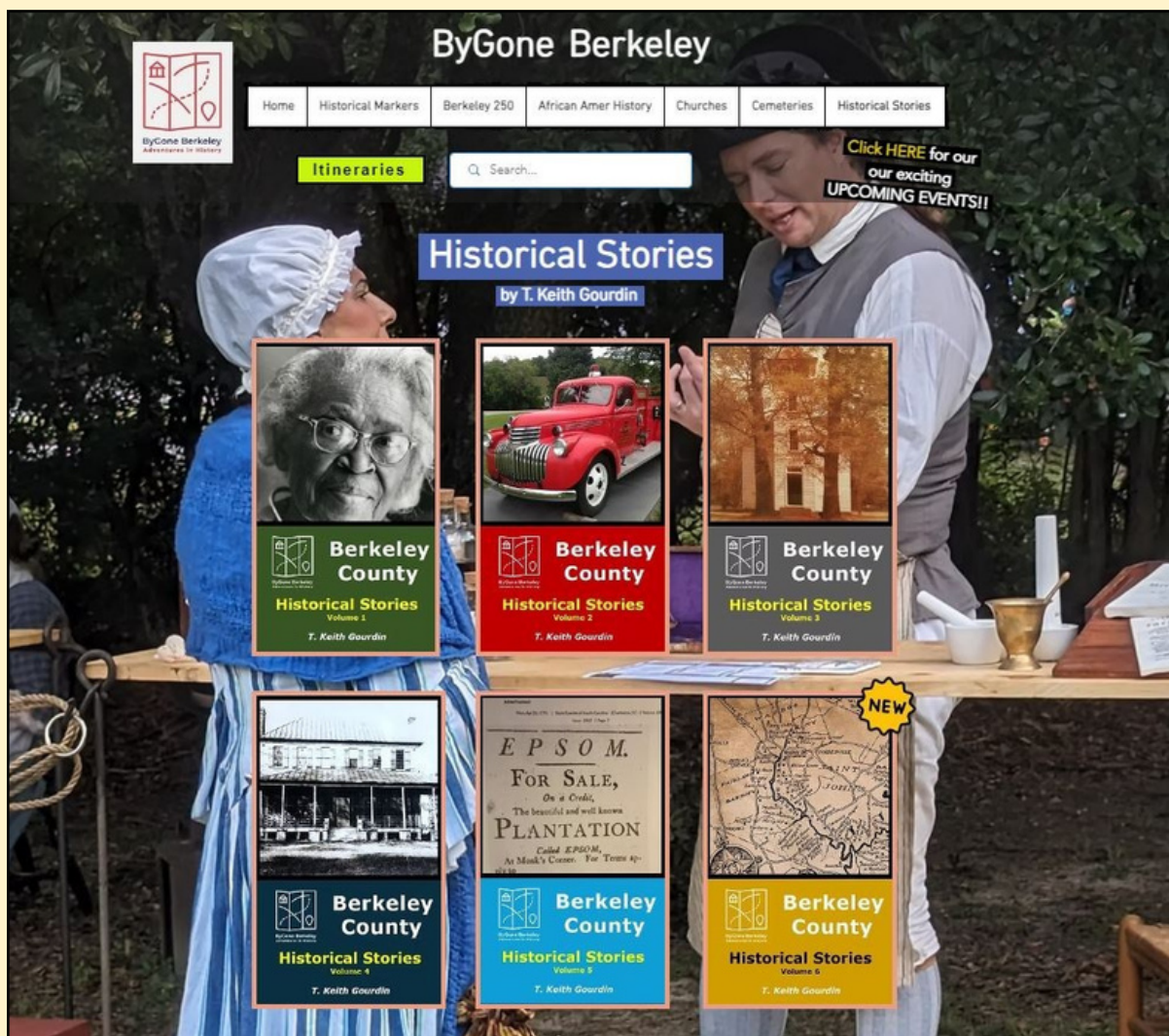
It's truly heartwarming to see Keith Gourdin being honored with the title of Commissioner Emeritus by the SCDNR Deputy Director for Land, Water and Conservation, Tyler Brown. This prestigious recognition, bestowed upon fewer than 100 Commissioners, underscores Keith's remarkable contributions to conservation efforts and his dedication to preserving the rich history of Berkeley County. His tireless work in these fields not only highlights his commitment to environmental stewardship and historical preservation but also serves as an inspiring example for others. This accolade is a testament to his enduring impact and the respect he has garnered within the community. Congratulations to Keith on this well-deserved honor!



Introducing a big new educational enhancement for

Berkeley Outdoor Life — a Wildlife Identification Guide!!
 50 species were identified, fun facts are included and all original Berkeley County photography! This can be found on the Berkeley Outdoor Life Homepage or in the top menu bar.

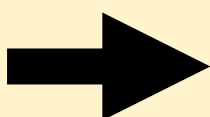




Volume 6 of ByGone Berkeley's "**Historical Stories**" by Keith Gourdin is now live and available for reading and download!! This brings the total number of stories to just over 150. Berkeley County has more history than any other county in the state!

Go to **www.ByGoneBerkeley.com**, click on Historical Stories in the top Menu Bar, then find this exciting new volume.

**SCAN HERE to
read Volume 6**





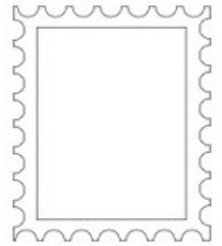
Raleigh West, a proud native of Moncks Corner, was honored with the prestigious H.H. Harvey Award at the 2026 Berkeley Soil and Water Affiliate Recognition Reception held at Wampee. This accolade is awarded to individuals who have made significant, enduring contributions to conservation efforts. This year, the award featured a beautifully framed print titled "Stillness," captured by Berkeley Outdoor Life creator and photographer Scott Lynch. Raleigh West's dedication to environmental conservation was celebrated in the presence of Commissioners Barry Jurs, Nick Yoder, and Troy Diel, highlighting the community's recognition of his impactful work. The H.H. Harvey Award is sponsored by the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Moncks Corner.



At their monthly lunch meeting, the Moncks Corner Rotary had the pleasure of welcoming Berkeley Outdoor Life creator and photographer Scott Lynch and ByGone Berkeley author Keith Gourdin as guest speakers. These two passionate individuals shared insights into their respective projects, highlighting the rich tapestry of history and outdoor beauty that Berkeley County has to offer. Scott Lynch, through his captivating photography, invites both locals and visitors to explore the natural wonders and recreational opportunities available in the area. Meanwhile, Keith Gourdin's work on ByGone Berkeley provides a fascinating glimpse into the county's past, preserving its stories and heritage. Together, they emphasized the importance of community engagement and appreciation for the unique aspects of Berkeley County, encouraging attendees to discover the treasures that lie in their own backyard.



The "Kids Who Care" event at Santee Canal Park provided a remarkable educational experience for 1,000 second graders, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the BSWCD Earth Team Volunteers, Commissioners, and Jonathan James, the Berkeley County Land Specialist and Berkeleybees Coordinator. At the interactive site titled "What is under my feet?", the children engaged in hands-on learning by creating their own test tubes that demonstrated the distinct layers of soil found in Berkeley County. This activity not only sparked curiosity about the natural world but also encouraged young minds to appreciate and understand the importance that top soil plays in supporting all life on our planet. Through such initiatives, the event successfully promoted environmental awareness and stewardship among the young participants, fostering a connection with nature that is crucial for future conservation efforts.



223 East MainStreet, Ste. B
MoncksCorner, SC 29461

Summer 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: 223E. MainStreet, Ste. B, Moncks Corner, SC 29461, Office 843-719-4146