

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region III



NancyAnne Conner
Christi Brantley
Miki Smith



1905 MLK Drive
Soperton, GA 30457
912-529-6728

Summer was a hot one but our pollinator garden produced beautiful flowers and an abundance of habitat for our native butterflies, birds and bees. Our “Life Cycle of a Butterfly” program kicked off and we have been able to take the program into several schools. Region III Districts hosted a variety of workshops throughout the summer. We began another school year with new and exciting class activities and now Ag/Farm Days are going strong. And of course, attending two of our big events, the Georgia National Fair in Perry and the Moultrie Ag Expo in October.

Our outreach areas continue to grow along with our enthusiasm!

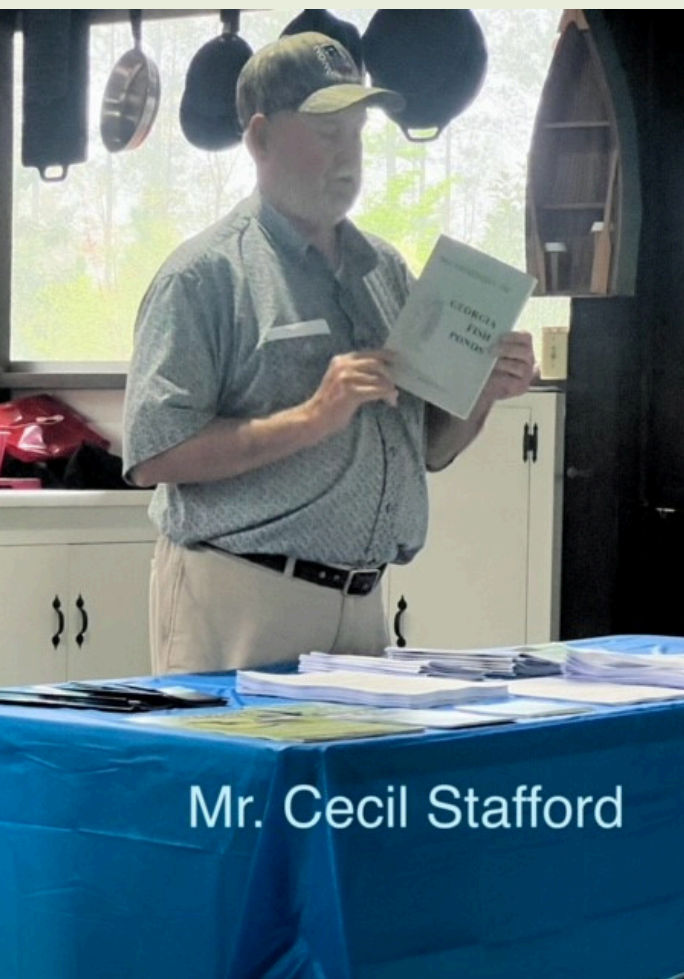
September weather events brought heartbreaking damage throughout the state of Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Our Region was not spared. Damages to homes, farms, forests and lives will leave a scar for many years to come and our hearts and prayers are with those who have been impacted by the Hurricane. We are promoting workshops and programs available for those working to recover from the storms.

Please visit our Facebook for details on all of the above and more at:
<https://www.facebook.com/GASWCCIII>

Past District Workshops



Brier Creek Conservation District -Urban Ag Workshop in February with Dana Tripp



Mr. Cecil Stafford

In Ludowici a Pond Management Workshop with Coastal SWCD's Mr. Cecil Stafford



Past District Workshops

Ochoopee District : Weed Wiper Workshop was held
June 25th in Soperton, GA





POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Join us to learn more about pond management practices including weed control, pond designs, habitat development, and healthy fish management.

JULY 11, 2024
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Bulloch County Center for Agriculture
151 Langston Chapel Road
Statesboro, GA 30458

PRESENTED BY:

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Rahn Milligan
Email: rmilligan@pinecountrygcd.org
Phone: (912)245-0950

TO REGISTER





OGEECHEE RIVER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

GSWCC
GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Sapelo Island
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (GACD)

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Ogeechee River Pond Management Workshop

Past District Workshops



Altamaha River SWCD
Grain Drill and Pollinator
Plot Planting workshop in
Hazlehurst, GA with Mrs.
Brenda Hallman with
Seven Rivers and
NancyAnne Conner



**GRAIN DRILL DEMO
& POLLINATOR PLOT PLANTING**

APRIL 15, 2024
9AM TO 1PM
829 BELL TELEPHONE ROAD
HAZLEHURST, GA 31539
LUNCH PROVIDED

Scan the QR code to
register or contact
Katelyn Poppell
386-205-5508 or
katelyn.poppell@gacd.us

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER





Satilla SWCD hosted a Grain Drill Demo and Wildlife Plot Planting Workshop in Sept. in Blackshear, GA



It was a great day in Brunswick today! GSWCC along with several partnering agencies were on hand for the Southeast Regional Conservation Outreach Conference sponsored by USDA/NRCS and McIntosh SEED. The Conference gave Farmers, Landowners, and Ranchers a chance to meet one on one with different agencies to gather information on several topics as well as attending breakout sessions with informative speakers. #conservationstateofmind #gsucc #usdanrcs #gacd



**Conservation Regional Manager
NancyAnne Conner attending the
Georgia Association of
Conservation Districts (GACD)
Annual Meeting this year in
August at Chateau Elan Resort in
Braselton, Ga.**



**NancyAnne with
Conservation
Managers
Robert Amos
and Michelle
Conner**

Region III Director NancyAnne Conner with Conservation Regional Manager Ben Roberts at The Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA



NancyAnne Conner at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie with Ben Roberts

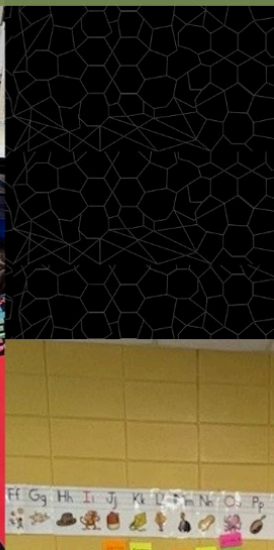




Christi M. Brantley, Resource Specialist at Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission visited Treutlen Elementary School to read Carl's Fish Farm An Introduction to Aquaculture written and illustrated by Soperton native, Michelle Edge. Pictured is Mrs. Page's Kindergarten class enjoying their fishing pole snack.



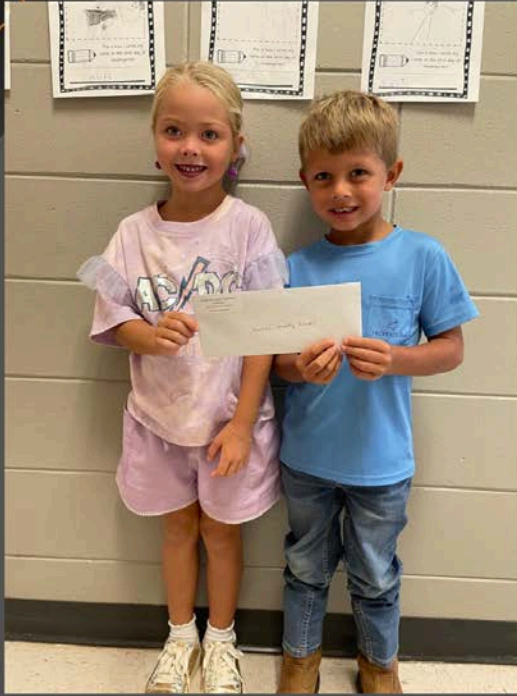
Christi M. Brantley, Resource Specialist with The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission visited Ms. Jalee Mimbs' 1st grade class at Metter Elementary School on 09/13 to read Carl's Fish Farm An Introduction to Aquaculture written & illustrated by Georgia native, Michelle Edge. After reading the book they enjoyed making a fishing pole snack using pretzels, nuts and candy.



Christi M. Brantley, Resource Specialist at Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission visited Treutlen Elementary School to read *Carl's Fish Farm: An Introduction to Aquaculture* written and illustrated by Soperton native, Michelle Edge. Pictured is Mrs. Lee's Kindergarten class enjoying their fishing pole snack.



Christi M. Brantley, Resource Specialist at Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission visited Treutlen Elementary School to read Carl's Fish Farm An Introduction to Aquaculture written and illustrated by Soperton native, Michelle Edge. Pictured is Mrs. Heidi Rogers' 1st grade class enjoying their fishing pole snack.



Ohoopce Soil and Water Conservation District presented Treutlen County Schools with \$500.00. This money will be used to re-plant the raised beds located at the school. Each growing season Nutrition Director, Red Barrett makes sure that the students are able to help with planting, growing, maintaining, harvesting and eating the seasonal fruits and vegetables from the garden. For more information on Ohoopce Soil and Water Conservation District please contact our Region III Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission office at (912) 519-6728.



Ogeechee River Soil and Water Conservation District

Katelyn Poppell, GACD's SE Regional Program Manager and Christi Brantley, GSWCC Region 3 Representative is set up at the Claxton Elementary School Ag Day!

The kids will plant a squash seed and talk about soil health and play a pollinator game!



Altamaha Conservation District

Katelyn Poppell, GACD SE Regional Program manager and Miki Smith, GSWCC Region 3 Representative had a wonderful morning at Unison Behavioral Health in Alma, Ga. They read the book "Halloween in the Orchard", painted mini pumpkins, carved a big pumpkin and made pumpkin pie in a bag! What a great day with some smiling faces!

Ohoopee District

Super exciting things are happening at the Wheeler County Elementary School! Ms. Rutherford's STEM K-5 classes just got a boost and a revamp!

As we all know agriculture and conservation are imperative in our day to day lives. Ohoopee Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission believe that our youth is the future of agriculture and conservation.

The students will be able to enjoy, to learn, and to grow in their own gardens! The nearly new greenhouse was moved and set up at the new school location. Then 6 raised beds were installed and a storage bench, a stainless-steel sink and a sunshade were added and waiting for the young farmers are new gardening tool sets, garden aprons, and gardening gloves.

Earlier in the year a grow tower was also purchased for indoor gardening.

This school garden was made possible by the Small-Scale Farming/ Urban Ag Grant through Natural Resources Conservation Service and USDA. For More Information on how we can help your school or community, please call the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region III office at 912-529-6728!



Moving Day for the greenhouse and the grow tower in Mrs. Rutherford's STEM classroom



Admin Assistant Miki Smith received lots of help from Wheeler County Elementary's STEM instructor Sherry Rutherford and her 5th grade class, school maintenance employees Daniel and Brad and Rahn Milligan of Pine Country RC&D during the setting of the greenhouse, installing the raised beds, raising the sun shade and putting together the work/storge bench.





Region III's Miki Smith with STEM class Setting up the greenhouse, filling the raised beds and showing off the gardening tools and new stainless steel sink



**Miki with
5th grade
class with
garden
aprons**

Ready to plant!



**Completed
raised beds with
concrete
coloring to
match school
colors**





Butterfly Activities

We were able to go into classrooms to teach the life cycle of a butterfly. We presented each class with a small butterfly enclosure and several Painted Lady Caterpillars with the necessary food. We provided each student a journal to document the stages of growth and work puzzles and games and further instructions for the instructor to maintain the caterpillars' growing needs.

Then with much excitement we released the butterflies after they emerged!



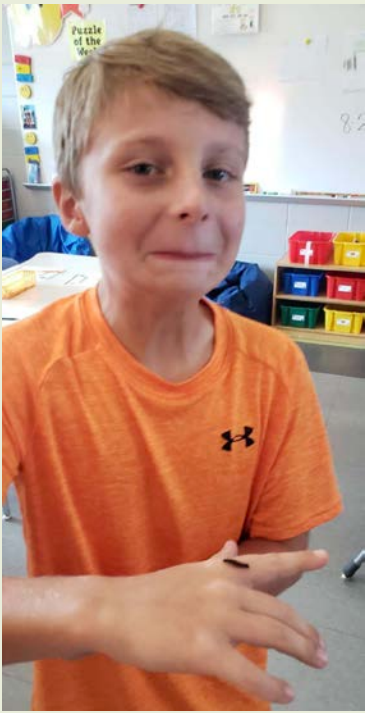
**Altamaha Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Jeff Davis Elementary



Ohoopsee River SWCD - At Wheeler County Elementary School, Mrs. Sherry Rutherford's STEM students released their Painted Lady butterflies that the classes successfully raised as they recorded the growth cycle and metamorphosis from caterpillars to butterflies!







Fall Garden Clean-Up

Many of us have quite a bit of clean-up work going on, this is something that may help lighten a little bit of the Fall Clean-Up Load. When it comes to fall cleanups, less is more. And there are many more reasons to do less than what I'm posting here.

Leaves:

- All sorts of wildlife depend on leaf litter for habitat and survival over the winter. Nobody wants fireflies to disappear. But if you're cleaning up the leaves, you're getting rid of the habitat they depend on to go from larvae to adult.
- The leaves recycle nutrients back into your soil. -The leaves help retain soil moisture.

Flower stalks:

- Overwintering birds need food during the winter. The seed heads provide that food.
- Our native bees (and other insects) over winter in the hollow flower stalks.

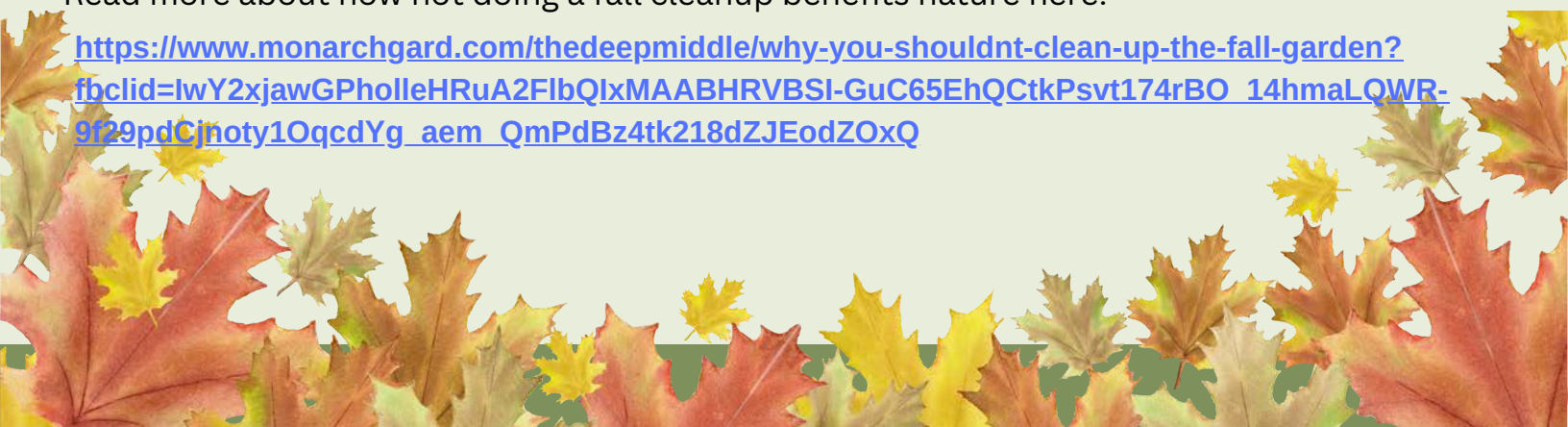
Many of us are trying to strike a balance of gardening for ourselves and nature. For Nature's sake, I'd recommend ripping the band-aid off and just stop cleaning up. But if you're used to having a heavy hand in the fall cleanup, maybe try and do a lighter cleanup (whatever that means to you). Cut the flowers stalks down to several inches instead of down to the ground. The birds will miss the seed heads, but at least bees will have some stems to over winter in. Or maybe cut down some stems but leave some stems with seed heads less visible to the public if you're concerned about aesthetics.

Prefer mulch over leaves in your garden? Rake (Don't use a blower for so many reasons) the leaves into a corner of your yard hidden from view and give those buggers a chance.

Start tipping the scales more towards nature as part of your cleanup. Do less and less each year. Take notice how much our insects, birds, and other wildlife enjoy the lack of cleanup. And once you realize the benefits of a lack of clean up, hopefully you clean up less and less each year.

Read more about how not doing a fall cleanup benefits nature here:

https://www.monarchgard.com/thedeepmiddle/why-you-shouldnt-clean-up-the-fall-garden?fbclid=IwY2xjawGPholleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHRVBSI-GuC65EhQCtkPsvt174rBO_14hmaLQWR-9f29pdCjnoty1OqcdYg_aem_QmPdBz4tk218dZJEodZOxQ



Upcoming Events

Forestry Recovery & Resilience Workshops

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the Georgia Forestry Association has decided to focus our time and resources on providing support for those in Georgia's forestry industry, many of whom have suffered catastrophic damage to their investments. For that reason, we will be shifting our remaining Regional Forestry Meetings towards hosting Hurricane Relief Workshops.

To find your closest meeting, visit gfagrow.org/regionalmeetings.

HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, USDA staff is available to assist when you are ready. USDA is working diligently to implement program flexibilities and waivers, to help streamline your recovery process.

To learn more about programs available to producers here are some resources on farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Assistance Tool can help you determine program or loan options. Additionally, FarmRaise offers an FSA educational hub with livestock disaster assistance decision tools as well as farm loan resource videos.

When you're ready, we're ready. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

USDA has resources available through the FSA call center at 877-508-8364, the USDA hotline at 833-ONE-USDA (663-8732), or producers can access program information online at farmers.gov.

**Please join us at the Farm Bureau Convention
December 7-10 on Jekyll Island**



And as always if you have an event you would like
promoted, please send it to
miki.smith11@gaswcc.ga.gov