

CONSERVATION REGIONAL  
MANAGER

CHRISTI BRANTLEY – RESOURCE  
SPECIALIST

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## Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region III

NEWSLETTER

# Hello from GSWCC Region III!

Our summer started off with participation in the Treutlen County Summer Readers program, the buzz of NRCW camp in Tifton and the lively Atkinson County Farm Day and Ag Camp at Atkinson County School.

We discovered new opportunities and developed new programs just in time to throw us right into the new school year.

As we were barely catching our breath, it was time for the Georgia National Fair in Perry followed by the Ag Expo in Moultrie!

**\*WHEW\***

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and the accompanying photos.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page for even more updates!

And remember, if you have an event you'd like us to promote, please reach us via email at [Miki.Smith11@GASWCC.ga.gov](mailto:Miki.Smith11@GASWCC.ga.gov).



<https://www.facebook.com/GASWCCIII>

# About GSWCC

Supporting local conservation districts is the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, which is a state agency. Commission members are District Supervisors who appointed by the Governor to the state board and represent different regions of the state. The Commission's professional staff provide technical and administrative support to the 40 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

State personnel are involved in:

Dam maintenance and rehabilitation projects involving Georgia's 357 flood control dams.

Land Disturbance Reviews by GSWCC in partnership with conservation districts to minimize soil erosion through the use of best management practices (BMP). These efforts result in reduced soil erosion and decreased water sedimentation, thus reducing the cost of treating water at municipal filtration plants.

Urban erosion and sediment control certification.

Improvements to the quality of water for agricultural producers (non-point source pollution).

Local Districts sponsor field days where they demonstrate best management practices (BMPs) in soil and water conservation. They also sponsor scholarships, the annual Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for students, and an annual state environmental competition known as Georgia Envirothon. Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide grants for local conservation projects and review and approve local soil erosion and sediment control plans before local development projects can break ground.

Local Conservation Districts and their partners help farmers try out a number of conservation practices by purchasing equipment and making it available to rent. Please see the link on <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/> to “view the list”.



# Altamaha SWCD

Appling, Bacon, Coffee, Jeff Davis, Telfair

## Bacon County

Region III CRM NancyAnne Conner was in our Altamaha Conservation District at New Vision Learning Center teaching a class on Soil Layers and the importance of healthy soil. CRM Conner read a book to the students, presented them with a color sheet, and let them make their own yummy soil layer snack complete with gummy worms!



# NEW VISION

ALTAMAHA SWCD  
THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS



THE CREW

ON MONDAY, CRM NANCYANNE CONNER WENT TO NEW VISION LEARNING CENTER IN ALMA, GA TO TEACH THE STUDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS. AFTER THE LESSON, THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A POLLINATOR RELAY RACE!



# Altamaha SWCD



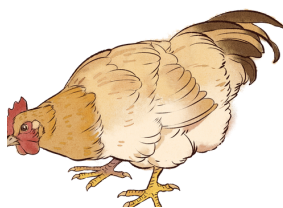
RS Christi Brantley brought some fun to New Vision with a terrarium-making lesson! She shared how to pick the perfect container, choose cool plants, and arrange them just right. Plus, she highlighted how terrariums purify air, look great, and are an easy way to bring nature indoors.



# Altamaha SWCD

## Jeff Davis Elementary - Hazlehurst, GA

Collaborating with Assistant Principal Chris Campbell and Ag teacher Creasy Parlor, along with her students, Miki Smith installed a gutter system on the chicken coop. This setup creates a waterfall catch system that connects to rain barrels, aiding in water conservation for the raised beds and fence-hung planters.



# Brier Creek SWCD

Burke, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Richmond

## Belair Middle School in Richmond County



WE INSTALLED RAISED BEDS WITH  
7TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER  
KYLE THRIFT AND LOOKING  
FORWARD TO GREAT PROJECTS TO  
COME!



WITH PINE COUNTRY RC&D'S RAHN  
MILLIGAN INSTALLED 3 MORE  
RAISED BEDS AT BELLE TERRACE  
COMMUNITY GARDEN

# Coastal SWCD

Bryan, Chatham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh



🌱 COMMUNITY IN ACTION! 🌱

COASTAL SWCD HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING FROM PEMBROKE'S MAYOR TIFFANY ZIEGLER AND HER AMAZING STUDENT COUNCIL ABOUT THEIR UPCOMING PROJECT. WE WERE THRILLED TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR GOAL OF BUILDING RAISED GARDEN BEDS IN PICKETT PARK!

# Ogeechee River SWCD

Bulloch, Candler, Effingham, Evans, Screven, Tattnall

## Candler County



Ogeechee River SWCD was honored to respond with a generous donation to enable Mr. Tommell Wilcox of Metter College and Career Academy, Metter High School FFA and the Candler County Young Farmers to establish a sustainable school garden that will provide hands-on learning opportunities for his students. The school garden will serve as an outdoor classroom where students can apply agricultural concepts, explore conservation practices and develop skills in food production, soil health, and natural resource management. The Ogeechee SWCD donation will provide the necessary funding to purchase and install essential garden infrastructure, including irrigation supplies, piping, and installation materials giving the school a reliable irrigation system to ensure their crops thrive year-round allowing students to observe and manage water use efficiently while reinforcing the importance of conservation – principles directly aligned with the mission of the Ogeechee SWCD.

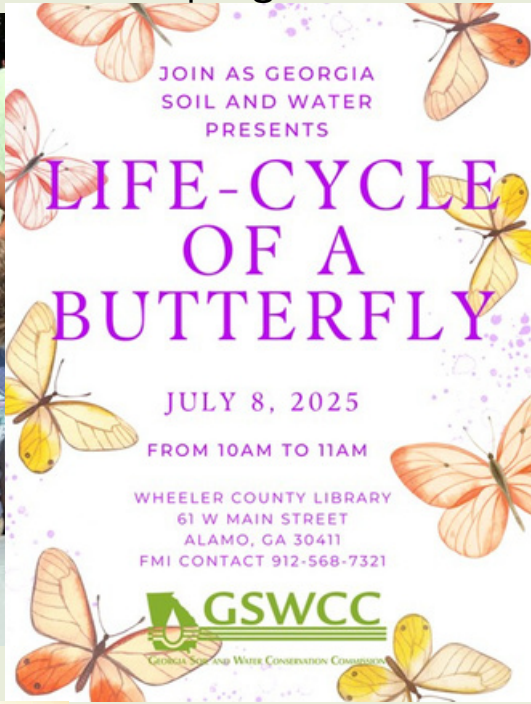


# Ohoopee River SWCD

Emanuel, Montgomery, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler

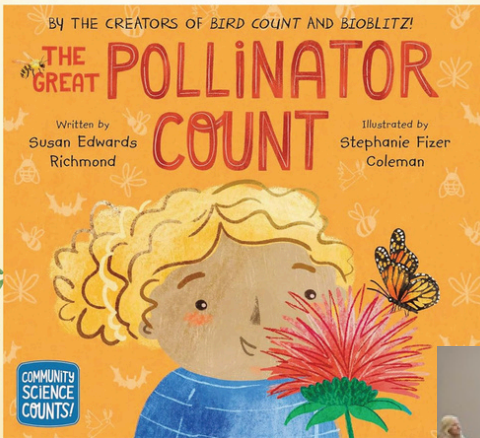
## Wheeler County Public Library

Region III representative Miki Smith initiated a series of programs aimed at bringing together residents of Alamo/Wheeler Co. to create their own Agriculture/Garden program.

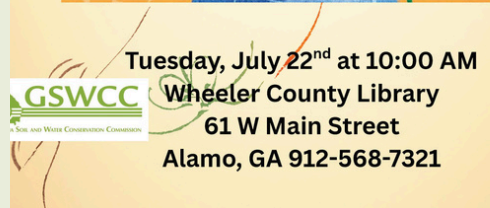


**Come Join Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts as we present "The Great Pollinator Count"!**

Region III Rep Miki Smith with GACD Regional Program Manager -SE Katelyn Poppell and Wheeler Co Library's Elaine Joiner



Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Wheeler County Library  
61 W Main Street  
Alamo, GA 912-568-7321

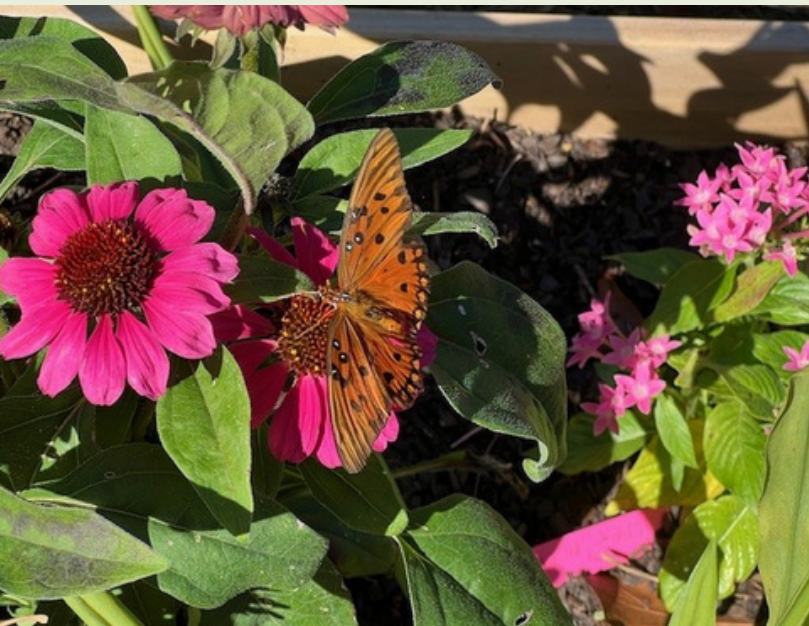




Class photos and our raised bed project for the library



With Adeline, Trudi and Reilyn Villegas



# Ohoopee River SWCD

Emanuel, Montgomery, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler

## Wheeler County Elementary School in Alamo

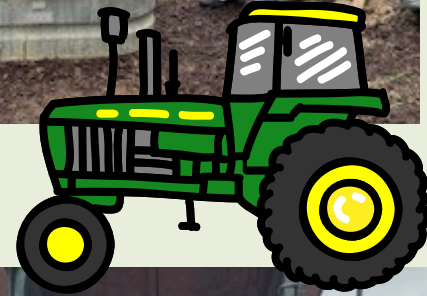
Miki rejoined Sherry Rutherford's STEM classes as the new school year commenced, focusing on planting late-season crops in the raised beds. We explored various topics, including planting with seed tape, understanding pH levels, conducting soil tests, creating soil amendments, and refreshing beds for new plants.



# Ohoopee River SWCD

## Wheeler County Elementary School in Alamo

And returned with the tractor and auger to streamline the tree planting process. The students absolutely loved it!

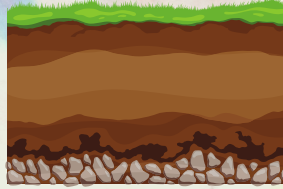


# Ohoopee River SWCD

Wheeler County Elementary School in Alamo

Exploring Various Soil Types Through Creative Engagement  
Discovering the different types of soil, especially those native to our region, culminated in an exciting hands-on activity where we created “Soil Shirts” using soil samples from Wheeler County. It was an awesome experience!





# SOIL LESSONS



# Ohoopee River SWCD

Emanuel, Montgomery, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler

## Wheeler County Elementary School in Alamo

Christi Brantley visited Wheeler County's PreK classes to read "The Pie that Molly Made" and make pumpkin pie in a bag!



# Ohooppee River SWCD

Treutlen County



Then visited  
Treutlen  
Elementary PreK  
classes to read  
"The Pie that  
Molly Made" and  
make pumpkin pie  
in a bag!



# Ohoopie River SWCD

Treutlen County



Christi dazzled as Region III's representative at the spooktacular trunk or treat event hosted by Treutlen County Schools!



With Supervisor Lane DeFee and Camdyn Brantley



# Satilla River SWCD

Atkinson, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Pierce, Ware, Wayne



GSWCC Region III's NancyAnne Conner, Christi Brantley and Miki Smith were joined by GACD's Katelyn Poppell to present soil lessons, the benefits of sunflowers, the importance of pollinators and the lifecycle of butterflies at Atkinson County School's FFA Mini Ag Academy for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders.





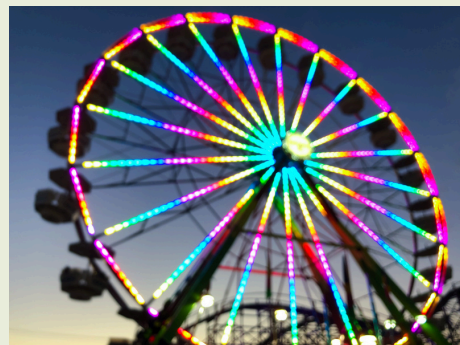
# The Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA

GSWCC had a booth at the recent 2025 Georgia National Fair as part of an effort to educate the public on the importance of conservation and agriculture.

The fair, which highlights Georgia's leading agriculture industry, runs every fall at the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agriculture Center in Perry, GA.

The GSWCC booth was located inside the Georgia Grown building.

The GSWCC and several other state agencies partnered to spread awareness about conservation and agriculture through interactive and educational exhibits.



# Sunbelt Ag Expo 2025

Moultrie, GA



Executive Director Mitch Attaway, CRM Ben Roberts, Region V and CRM NancyAnne Conner, Region III

Georgia Soil and Water was a significant presence at the 2025 Sunbelt Ag Expo, with the state featured as the "Spotlight State" to showcase its agricultural innovations and sustainability efforts. The expo included live demonstrations of soil and water conservation practices, such as precision irrigation and no-till farming, which were highlighted in the 530-acre research farm and various exhibitor displays. Organizations like the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission ([gaswcc.georgia.gov](http://gaswcc.georgia.gov)) also participated, focusing on education and careers in natural resources and soil management.

# Upcoming Events

**Satilla River Grain Drill Demo & Wildlife Food Plot Planting Work Demo Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> from 11-1, lunch will be served 2187 GA HWY 203; Alma, GA 31510**

**Farm Bureau Convention, Jekyll Island, Dec. 7-9**

**Please see our Facebook Page for updates!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/GASWCCIII>**