



REGION II NEWSLETTER

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission

SUMMER
2023

Protecting & improving soil & water through education, assistance, & oversight, GSWCC helps local conservation districts, landowners, & governments wisely use & maintain the soil & water resources for all Georgians.

“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.”
– **Wendell Berry**, [The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture](#)



Hello from Region II. Summer is here and it’s time for some of my favorite things— fresh homegrown vegetables, days on the lake, and of course, vacation! The Natural Resources Conservation Workshop is full steam ahead at ABAC. They are busy preparing for the students this summer. I am proud to say that Region II has 14 students registered to attend. Thank you to those districts that sponsored these students. I would also like to commend all of the districts in Region II for your timeliness in spending your state allotment funds. I’m very proud of all of the very worthwhile projects that you each chose to support. As a reminder, the time is approaching for your Annual Plans of Work to be reviewed and submitted. I will be handing out 2023 plans at your June meetings so that new plans can be completed and submitted by July.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and safe travels. *Jennifer Standridge,*
GSWCC Region II Conservation Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 22 North GA Prescribed Fire Meeting, Jasper, GA
(to register go to “events” at www.garxfire.com)

July 25 Urban Ag Workshop , Gainesville Civic Center
(to register go to www.gacd.us/events)

August 6-8 GACD Annual Meeting Savannah, GA
(to register go to www.gacd.us/annual meeting)

August 19 Northeast Georgia Ag Expo, Hartwell, GA (for more information, go to www.hart-chamber.org)

September 1 Nutrient Management Workshop, Jackson County Ag Center (more details to come)

November 16-17 GSWCC Small Farm Conference, Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA (registration not yet open)

Broad River

- Partnered with Hart Co. Library to develop a community “Seed library”
- Will have a conservation themed float in the Colbert 4th of July Parade
- Will have an exhibit at the Madison & Elbert County Fairs, as well as the NE Georgia Ag Expo in Hartwell.

Columbia County

- Will hold feral swine workshop in partnership with Lincoln and McDuffie Districts

Dekalb County

- Sponsoring 6 students to attend NRCW

Gwinnett County

- Held Soil & Water Conservation Field day with around 60 in attendance.
- Purchased pollinator seeds to distribute to the public.

Hall County

- Will hold an Urban Agriculture Workshop in July

Lincoln County

- Held 5th & 8th grade Farm Field Days at Double Branches Farm & Produce Stand. Nearly 200 in attendance.
- Awarded \$1000 to local high school student for winning their essay contest “What Does Conservation Mean to You?”

McDuffie County

- Will hold feral swine workshop in partnership with Lincoln and Columbia Districts.

Oconee River

- Will join the GA Adopt-A-Stream program and adopt one mile of Barber Creek in Barrow County. District will monitor & report quarterly.

Stephens County

- Held local poster contest

Upper Chattahoochee River

- Sponsored one student to attend NRCW

Erosion Control Corner....by Stuart Suttle

We are pleased to report that after the 21+ inches of rainfall we have had this year so far, we have not had any reports of major issues with new or worsening erosion in the area.

As we enter the warmer summer months, be sure to keep an eye out for any particularly dry sites or areas. Dust control on-site can be very important during those long, dry spells and soil detachment can happen even without the help of heavy rains. Let us know how we can help in your area.



Regional Office News:

- Region II staff and other GSWCC employees will attend an Adopt-A-Stream training next month. If your district is interested in adopting a stream in your area, let us know!
- Our office has developed a flyer to hand out at local schools to inform them of various programs and opportunities that the districts offer. We will share the flyers with you at your monthly meeting and also take them to the schools once they open again in the fall.
- Anyone interested in being a vendor at the GSWCC Small Farm Conference in November, should contact Jennifer.

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DISTRICT & REGION HIGHLIGHTS

Broad River SWCD partnered w/Hart Co. Library to implement a “Seed Library” program.



Lincoln County SWCD held 2 students field days at Double Branches Farm



Region II Staff Participated in Ag Day at 5 school systems within our area.



Gwinnett SWCD Implemented a District Ambassador Program at local high schools



Held the Georgia Envirothon Competition