



December 2009

Happy Holidays!

Dear Friends,

*Happy Holidays from Clemson University's Carolina Clear team!*

This newsletter could very well be a book with the collective accomplishments of this program and the regional stormwater education efforts! This year was an exciting time of growth, learning and expansion for the Carolina Clear team at Clemson University, and it proved to be a great time to talk about stormwater. South Carolina moved from severe drought conditions to most of the state receiving more than 50 inches of rain since last December. New consortiums were initiated, a new agent was hired and the program launched its first mass media campaign with billboards, radio and television commercials. **Collectively, the regional stormwater consortiums reached more than 2 million people across the state!**



Additionally, new web tools have been developed which will hopefully lead to improved awareness, communication and increased public involvement in watershed management. Building on University of Connecticut's Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials National Low Impact Development (LID) Map and in partnership with SC Sea Grant, there now exists a *SC LID Map*. One can use the tool to view nearby locations of rain gardens/bioretention areas, rain water harvesting projects, bioswales, permeable pavement installations, constructed wetlands and more. There is also a user-friendly form so that users can enter their own LID projects into the map. Please take the opportunity to map your projects and those nearby!

The second web tool developed this year is the *Watershed Stewardship Mapping Tool*, developed in partnership with Clemson's CCIT and Center for Watershed Excellence. This map includes information on organizations across the state that offer volunteer opportunities related to watershed protection and restoration. Future additions will include information on developing a local watershed group. This tool was developed in hopes that with increased awareness of watershed management and protection, there will be a need to connect concerned citizens with organizations that offer solutions and ways to get involved. To view both maps, please visit [www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear).

Finally, Carolina Clear partnered with the University's Department of Sociology to conduct telephone surveys to 1600 households across the state to gauge the public's understanding of watershed concepts, perceptions of pollution and understanding of actions and impacts on the health of local waterbodies. The full report will be available in early 2010 for each area surveyed.





## Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium

Ben, along with the partners in the CWSEC, held their first ever Spring Greening Day with 50 participants bringing household hazardous waste to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority. Additionally, the 4H<sub>2</sub>O camp held in Georgetown educated middle school students on watershed science, map interpretation, water chemistry, boating safety and much more! There is also no shortage of phone calls related to water quality and ponds. Ben fielded nearly 200 phone calls this year and also met with 32 board directors in various subdivisions to inform them about water quality and stormwater management, especially as it relates to ponds. Training for decision makers has also been a highlight of this busy, busy year.



In 2010, Ben will work with partners in the CWSEC on a rain garden workshop, another Spring Greening day, Master Naturalist and Master Gardener course work, an LID and bioretention workshop and a property manager's workshop.

## ASHLEY COOPER STORMWATER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

The ACSEC had an eventful year in 2009, highlighted by the addition of many people and organizations supporting the regional stormwater education effort. Julia Carter, a master's student at the College of Charleston, was hired as an intern in February. Julia is performing a physical and social characterization of the region using ArcGIS and will present her results early in 2010. Michael Inman, a Clemson undergraduate interned over the summer and focused on low impact development economics and rain water harvesting. Also, the Carolina Clear program welcomed two agents who will be supporting youth and adult programs. Extension Agent Erin Menchhofer will be coordinating youth programs for the Carolina Clear program in the ACSEC region. Extension Agent Angela Crouch, currently coordinating Community Pride, Inc. and the Adopt-a-Highway program for Charleston County, will be managing the regional storm drain marking program.

The ACSEC also completed its first annual report in September 2009, and announced that *the ACSEC had over one million educational impacts in the first reporting period.* The number reflects an achievement that could only have been attained through a cooperative partnership.

Next year, some of the planned activities include the Carolina Yard Experience at the Ladson Exchange Park on March 13, two new summer camps and a rain barrel program.



The Carolina Clear team also has exciting personal news to share with it's partners!

- + Katie Giacalone and her husband Matt are expecting their first baby in February - a baby girl!
- + David Joyner and his wife Elizabeth celebrated the birth of their daughter, Ava on April 29<sup>th</sup>!
- + Bill Blackston's son Clayton has graduated from Clemson University in Mechanical Engineering and is now employed with SCE&G here in the Midlands. Bill's daughter Kristina is going into her final year of nursing school in the Myrtle Beach area. And, wife Libba is recuperating from spine surgery. The Blackston's are counting their blessings, as Libba is able to walk again after this operation.



Participants at LCSC Rain Barrel Workshop.



Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop in Pickens County.



Rain Garden Installation in Richland County.



Sumter Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshop.



The second year for the LCSC has brought many educational programs reaching out to approximately 100,000 citizens. LCSC had many highlights this year but certainly the Cayce rain garden and the recent rain barrel workshop are at the top. We had wonderful teams of volunteers that assisted in the planning and implementation of these endeavors. Based upon the fact that both workshops were quick to sell out, and the rain barrel workshop has a waiting list, we know that our citizens are eager to learn more about stormwater and the tools that they can utilize to make a difference in their own landscape. Planning has already begun for next spring's rain barrel workshop!

Our 4H<sub>2</sub>O pontoon classroom on Lake Murray in June now has passed its one-decade mark and continues to be a success for youth education. With our new educational partnerships within the consortium, we can expect this program to grow.

Certainly our many educational partners have had a tremendous year with us as well, and we cannot thank them enough for their support and partnerships.



Marguerite Porter is now the local coordinator for the Pickens Countywide Stormwater Consortium! This year, the consortium finalized its logo shown above. Also, the consortium held three very successful Build Your Own Rain Barrel workshops at which more than 40 people from the local community learned about stormwater, drought mitigation and built their own rain barrels to bring home.

2010 will start off with presentations to city councils as well as a luncheon for elected and appointed officials on the requirements of the stormwater permit, meeting compliance and purpose of regional stormwater education and public involvement efforts. In the spring, the consortium will be surveying residents to gain insight on the public's understanding of watershed principles and actions that lead to degraded water quality.

In February, Marguerite along with George Dickert of Clemson Extension will present a poster on the rain barrel workshops and follow up evaluations with participants. The poster will be presented at the USDA CSREES National Water Conference in Hilton Head in February and also made available on the Carolina Clear website.

***Mark your calendars for the 2010 South Carolina Water Resources Conference to be held in Columbia, October 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.***



Under the guidance of new agent, Mary Nevins, RCSC had a productive first year and has made a strong start in its second year of activities. The goal of the first year was to establish an identity for the consortium. A logo was created and mission statement adopted, and in October, council members from Richland County, Forest Acres and Arcadia Lakes signed a joint proclamation in support of regional stormwater education efforts.

A major highlight of the past year was the installation of a rain garden at Bookman Road Elementary School in November. It is our goal that this garden will serve as a model for other schools to use bioretention to reduce erosion and runoff. Mary also visited the school on six occasions to teach students about rain gardens and non-point source pollution.

Projects we hope to accomplish in 2010 include a 4H<sub>2</sub>O camp, a pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer conference, and a summer water festival. Also, the county's efforts to mark all storm drains in Richland County neighborhoods is expected to be completed this summer!



The FDSC has made it through the first year developing partnerships, priorities for education and formalizing this regional education process. The name, logo and website were developed this year. Also, leaders from Florence County, Darlington County and the City of Florence came together to sign a joint resolution pledging their community's support of regional stormwater education and public involvement. Following the resolution signing, the officials went outside to mark storm drains!

In this next year, the consortium looks forward to strengthening and growing new partnerships. Together, the consortium will be out at events educating folks on rain water harvesting, carrying out a technical workshop on sediment and erosion control plans and post-



- † *Ben Powell and his wife Katie welcomed a second boy into the world this past fall. Reese Alexander Powell was born September 21<sup>st</sup>!*
- † *Marguerite Porter got engaged this past year to West Bishop! Their wedding date is set for the fall of 2010.*
- † *New agent Mary Nevins and her husband Allan moved to Columbia, and are delighted to be back in the city where they first met and closer to friends and family. Even though she was a Gamecock first, Mary is excited to be starting her career with Clemson!*

construction maintenance and to learning more about constructed wetlands at a new city park in Florence.

## *Sumter Stormwater Solutions*

Sumter Stormwater Solutions completed its first year of activities in November, under the direction of its new coordinator, Mary Nevins, and is moving forward with enthusiasm for the upcoming year. Two events particularly stood out in giving Sumter partners a feeling of accomplishment and teamwork. In May, Master Gardeners installed a rain garden at the Sumter County Public Works building, which treats run-off from a fueling station and adds beauty to the facility. In August, 21 homeowners participated in a fun and educational rain barrel workshop. Participants learned about stormwater quality and water harvesting, then built their own barrels to take home. Sumter County Public Works hosted the workshop with the assistance of Clemson Extension. Public Works built their own barrel which was showcased at the Sumter County Fair and raffled off to visitors to their booth.

Plans for the future include a training for high school students for DNR's Envirothon competition, a technical seminar series for engineers and new logo to help make our organization more visible in the community.

The Carolina Clear team would like to **thank you** for the opportunities that you have given us to partner and collaborate with you. **The successes of this year would not have been possible without your support, ideas, sharing and partnership.** We expect that 2010 will be another terrific year of growth, collaboration, learning and achievement. We look forward to taking those next steps with you. *May you and your family have a joyous and happy holiday season! Wishing you peace and prosperity in the New Year!*

Our thanks and best wishes,

Katie, Cal, Ben, David,  
Bill, Marguerite, Mary,  
Dawn, Erin & Angela

