This holiday season, take a moment to be thankful for the rivers that supply our state with water. 11% of the global population, or 783 million people, are still without access to clean drinking water.

**Upcoming Events**

**Reindogs and Elves**  
*December 15, 2013*  
*2:00-4:00 PM*  
*Carolina Children’s Garden at Clemson Sandhill REC*  
*Sign a Pet Waste Pledge for a doggie bandana!*

**RCSC Quarterly Meeting**  
*January 8, 2014*  
*10:00-11:30 AM*  
*Arcadia Lakes Town Hall*

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**Newsworthy:**

**Year 5 Annual Activities Report Completed**

The RCSC Annual Report of Activities for 2012-2013 is complete and published. Year 5 was a busy and fulfilling year. Highlights include a 50% increase in participation in volunteer cleanups, rain barrels installed at 15 schools, and a four-part Carolina Yards speaker series. RCSC would like to thank all of its hardworking partners for making the programs in this report possible. The report can be viewed at [www.clemson.edu/carolinaclerar/rcsc](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclerar/rcsc). Printed copies are available on request.

**Recent Activities:**

**River Sweep 2013**

Thank you, volunteers, for making an impact with River Sweep! On September 21, volunteers with Keep the Midlands Beautiful picked up over 30 bags of trash from the banks of the Saluda River near Riverbanks Zoo. On Sept. 22, volunteers from the Rocky Branch Watershed Association also got into the action and cleaned up trash at Olympia Park. Both events were part of the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep statewide cleanup effort, sponsored by the SC Department of Natural Resources and SC Sea Grant.
**Ongoing Projects**

**Partners for Healthy Watersheds Business Recognition Program**

Find out how your business can participate at [www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/rcsc](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/rcsc).

**Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods**

Learn how to create attractive and healthy lawns by working with South Carolina's environment rather than against it. Go to [www.clemson.edu/cyn](http://www.clemson.edu/cyn) for more information.

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**Rain Barrel Workshop**

On October 2nd, seventeen homeowners built their own rain barrels to install at their homes. Rain barrels are a great way to save water and money, and are a lot of fun to put together. The group also learned other things they could do around their homes to prevent water pollution, such as install rain gardens, pick up pet waste and volunteer for cleanups in their communities. Download instructions for building your own rain barrel at home from [www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear).

**Rocky Branch Bash**

The Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance’s first ever Rocky Branch Bash drew a crowd to Martin Luther King Jr. Park on October 20th. Participants learned about this important urban watershed while enjoying local food, live music, games and booths by local businesses and environmental groups. The highlight of the event was the rubber ducky race in the creek (left). Race entry fees will be used for future education and improvement projects in the watershed.

**Sharing about Stormwater at Blythefest**

The Richland County Stormwater Division got to talk pollution with Blythewood residents at the annual Blythefest event on Oct. 25th and 26th. With a newly designed stormwater display and the Enviroscapes watershed model, they attracted visitors to their booth to learn how to prevent water pollution in Blythewood.

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**Contact Us:**

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Like us on Facebook to keep up with events and local stormwater news!
[http://www.facebook.com/midlandsstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/midlandsstormwater)

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The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. Should you require accommodations due to a disability, please notify our office ten days prior to the event.
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The Richland County Master Gardeners will host a holiday event for dogs and children of all ages at the Carolina Children’s Garden on Sunday, December 15. Activities will include a costume contest, pet parade, photos with Santa Paws, and more. In addition, RCSC will be there giving out doggie bandanas to pet owners who pledge to pick up after their pets. Go to [www.carolinachildrensgarden.org](http://www.carolinachildrensgarden.org) for details.

<table>
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Please join RCSC to plan stormwater education, outreach, and public involvement programs for Richland County for 2014. All meetings are open to the public. If clean rivers and streams are important to you, we welcome your participation and input.

*Help to raise awareness of ways each of us can protect our local watersheds and quality of life in our communities by sharing this newsletter with others!*

You received this newsletter because you have participated in an RCSC event or expressed interest in our programming. If you would no longer like to receive our newsletter, please email mnevins@clemson.edu and ask to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you!