



December 2008

Happy Holidays!

Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays from Clemson University's Carolina Clear team!

This year was an exciting time of growth and expansion for the Carolina Clear team at Clemson University. Cal Sawyer, who has built the program over the past five years, was promoted to Associate Director of the Center for Watershed Excellence at Clemson University. The center will bring more academic resources as well as the latest in technological advances to water resource management in South Carolina. This past fall, the Center partnered with many supporters to organize a statewide water resources conference at the Charleston Area Convention Center. The conference brought together more than 350 professionals and interested public to discuss water policy, research projects, research needs and water management. For proceedings, presentations and other information, check www.scwaterconference.org.

Over the past six months, Katie Giacalone has taken up the position of the statewide coordinator of Carolina Clear. In these six months, Katie has spent time meeting consortium partners across the state, developing the new Carolina Clear website (www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear), developing the statewide mass media campaign, participating in education plan development and implementation and developing new outreach materials. All of the latest outreach materials can be found in the NPS Toolbox on the Carolina Clear website; the most recent production is the South Carolina Rain Garden Manual. Download it for free on the website, or place an order for your upcoming workshops, gardening groups or community by contacting Katie directly.



Coastal Waccamaw
Stormwater Education Consortium

The Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC) has entered its fifth year, and Benjamin Powell has continued to represent Clemson University as a lead service provider in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Ben has literally been waist deep in addressing stormwater pond issues in the area. This year, he has met with 13 different homeowner associations, given six presentations and had 469 direct contacts with those concerned



about the health, management and efficiency of their ponds. His efforts have resulted in action - integrated pest management, alternative weed management, education of residents, restoration of vegetated shoreline buffers and the consideration and implementation of new ordinances.

Partners also joined together to install a rain garden at Conway High School. Nearly 100 students got their hands dirty in the installation of this large bioretention cell, and communications students filmed the construction as well as educational interviews. The video was aired for the school population of more than 1,700 teachers and students.

Upcoming activities for Ben and CWSEC include a 4-H2O summer camp in Georgetown County - date to be announced! Ben will also provide partners information on a Hazardous Waste Materials Disposal Day, which will be coordinated with current policies and practices regarding disposal of hazardous waste in the region. Clemson's Carolina Clear program will help to advertise this community resource and raise attention to this important issue as it relates to stormwater and water quality protection.



The Ashley Cooper Stormwater Education Consortium (ACSEC) had an exciting start in 2008. In July, mayors and council members from 11 communities signed a joint resolution to create the ACSEC in a ceremony held at The City Gallery in Charleston. The new ACSEC logo was also unveiled at the event. David Joyner, coordinator of the ACSEC, held the area's first 4-H2O pontoon classroom summer camp for Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. The camp was titled *Exploring the Cooper River and Beyond*, and students learned about the importance of river systems first-hand. Students became *Watershed Ambassadors* at the successful conclusion of the camp and were charged with educating others about the individual's role in supporting healthy waterways.

Dave and the ACSEC also partnered with the Exchange Park of Charleston, Clemson Extension Master Gardeners and several generous sponsors to build a living classroom for the Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods program. The Carolina Yard was unveiled at the Coastal Carolina Fair, where many thousands of visitors learned about rain water harvesting, rain gardens, pervious pavement, composting and many other environmentally friendly homeowner practices. This living classroom will be used year-round at the Ladson Exchange Park.

As for 2009, the ACSEC will soon hire an intern from the College of Charleston Master's of Environmental Studies (MES) program. The intern will conduct a regional characterization to better implement and assess the outreach campaign. Water quality monitoring efforts will also be supported by the ACSEC, through partnerships with Lowcountry Earth Force, DNR-SCORE program, Spirit of South Carolina and Michaux Conservancy. Several collaborative events for technical audiences are also being planned for 2009, specifically addressing LID and TMDL related issues.



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

- + *Cal Sawyer will complete his PhD and graduate in May of 2009. He also just completed his first three metric century rides of more than 100 kilometers. Go Cal!*
- + *Katie Giacalone and her husband celebrated their first wedding anniversary and purchased a home in West Ashley.*
- + *David Joyner and his wife Elizabeth are expecting their first child in April of 2009.*
- + *Bill Blackston's son Clayton is slated to graduate from Clemson's Mechanical Engineering Program this summer. Bill's daughter and her husband, Allan, aslo just celebrated their first wedding anniversary.*



Rain Garden installation at Conway High School (CWSEC).



Carolina Yard at Ladson Exchange Park (ACSEC).



Rain Garden installation at Cayce Municipal Building (LCSC).



06/17/2008 9:45 am
4-H2O Pontoon Classroom in Pickens County.

The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium

The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC), under the leadership of Bill Blackston, also had an exciting first year. Last winter, the Consortium had a joint resolution media kickoff event and now has more than 30 educational partners, as well as the community partners and Lexington County.

The LCSC has promoted its messages of water resource protection and stormwater awareness in several major Columbia-area magazines and the SC Midlands Master Gardner Calendar. Recently, the LCSC completed a very successful rain garden workshop featuring in-classroom learning and implementation at the Cayce Municipal Building. This public education and involvement effort was a truly collaborative endeavor that successfully educated almost 50 participants about stormwater, best management practices and rain garden design, installation and maintenance.

In 2009, look for the LCSC to develop a Bioretention Workshop for technical audiences as well as carry out the 4-H2O pontoon classroom on Lake Murray in June. The new LCSC logo will also be unveiled early in the year.

Pickens County Regional Stormwater Education

Marguerite Porter and Brian Callahan have represented Clemson's Carolina Clear program in the Pickens County area. Marguerite implemented a successful 4H2O classroom on Lake Keowee this past summer where youth spent three days on the lake learning about water chemistry, water quality and freshwater organisms as well as enjoying some freshwater recreation.

Brian included stormwater management, watershed management, buffers and water quality testing techniques in this year's Master Naturalist Program, which successfully graduated 20 participants. These participants now have a total of 600 volunteer hours to promote and implement natural resource conservation projects.

In 2009, Brian will give a *Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides* program for community partners. Marguerite will offer two 4-H2O summer camps - dates to be

announced! Marguerite will also lead an effort with Pickens County 4-H to mark storm drains. Carolina Clear will promote this activity and develop educational materials to help spread the word that “only rain should go down the drain!”



Making Waves!

There are several new community and educational partners that have joined with Carolina Clear to educate their residents, developers, engineers and decision-makers about stormwater. These communities are to be congratulated for their investment of time and money and for their commitment to improved water quality and overall improved quality of life for their residents. These new regional stormwater education partners are the following:

- Florence County, City of Florence and Darlington County;
- Richland County, Arcadia Lakes and Forest Acres;
- Sumter County and the City of Sumter.

News on these latest community partners and planned outreach activities will be forthcoming. Please contact Katie if you are interested in being involved. In these beginning stages, the more involvement and input, the better our goals will be achieved!

Carolina Clear is also very excited about the mass media campaign, which features a goldfish in a fish bowl and the affect of polluted water on life in a fish bowl. This is a general water quality awareness message that encourages everyone to do their part to protect our water resources. The television commercial and radio public service announcement (PSA) are already in rotation in the Charleston and Myrtle Beach areas, and the PSA's will soon move to other networks

More personal news...

- + *Ben Powell and his wife Katie just celebrated their son Andrew's 3rd birthday and are celebrating Katie's job transition from Horry Independent to First Baptist of Conway, where she will be closer to their son.*
- + *Marguerite Porter just completed her Master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Clemson. Marguerite is actually walking for graduation as this newsletter is being written!*
- + *Brian Callahan harvested his first ever Illinois eight point buck with a bow this year. Brian also completed his term as President of the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Agents.*

across the state. The billboards (example below) will also soon be on display. Keep an eye on the website for their locations. You can also view the commercial at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/mass_media.

In other news, the Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control course taught by Dr. John Hayes and Cal Sawyer educated it's 4,000th participant. This unique program ensures that Clemson Extension-educated individuals inspect nearly every construction site greater than one acre throughout South Carolina.

The Carolina Clear team would like to **thank you** for the opportunities that you have given us to partner and collaborate with you. We expect that 2009 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!*

Best wishes,

Katie, Cal, Ben, David,
Bill, Marguerite & Brian

