



# TAKE ACTION E-NEWS

*Be part of the solution!*

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*As you work in your yard this spring, look for ways to work with nature, not against it. This will make your yard better for the environment, and easier to care for. The Carolina Yards website is a great place to go for ideas.*

[www.clemson.edu/cyn](http://www.clemson.edu/cyn)

### Upcoming Events

#### **Sumter Stormwater Solutions Meeting**

April 11, 2013  
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM  
North Hope Center

#### **Earth Day Celebration and Rain Barrel Art Competition**

April 20, 2013  
8:00 AM-1:00 PM  
Swan Lake Iris Garden

#### **Carolina Yards at the Sumter Iris Festival**

May 25, 2013  
Swan Lake Iris Garden

### Recent Activities:

#### **Turkey Creek Cleanup**

Volunteers worked hard to make a difference along Turkey Creek on March 16<sup>th</sup>. This urban stream drains much of the stormwater on the west side of Sumter, carrying it into the nearby Pocotaligo River. The volunteers collected a total of 21 bags of trash, 13 bags of recyclables, 7 tires, 2 bike wheels, and a toilet! Many of the volunteers were students from Crestwood High School. Let's give a big THANK YOU to everyone who came and did their part for clean water and clean communities.



*Volunteers pose with the pile of trash they kept from being washed downstream.*

## Ongoing Projects

### **Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods**

Learn how 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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## **Dog Day at Dillon Park**

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sumter Stormwater Solutions celebrated the installation of new pet waste disposal stations at Dillon Park with a fun day for our furry friends. Dog owner and other park goers received water bottles, doggy bandanas, and frisbees, as well as information on the importance of picking up pet waste to keep it out of our streams and rivers. Next time you are walking your dog at Dillon Park, don't forget these stations are there for your convenience.



*Showing off the new pet waste stations at Dillon Park*

*Left to right: Commissioner Betty Martin and educator TJ Yarber with the Sumter Conservation Commission, Jolie Brown with Sumter Stormwater Solutions, and Tank, our mascot for the day.*

## Upcoming Activities:

### **Sumter Stormwater Solutions Meeting**

**April 11, 2013**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**North Hope Center**

Please join us to plan stormwater education, outreach, and public involvement programs for the Sumter area. All meetings are open to the public. If water quality is important to you, we welcome your participation and input.

### **Earth Day Celebration**

**April 20, 2013**

**8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Swan Lake Iris Garden**

On Saturday April 20, 2013, the City of Sumter invites you and your family to Swan Lake Iris Gardens for a day of GREEN! Sumter Stormwater Solutions will be there with information about our Carolina Yards program and other opportunities for

you to make a difference for water. We will also have judging for the Rain Barrel Art Competition (see below). I hope you can join us!

### **Rain Barrel Art Competition for Sumter Schools**

The barrels are delivered, and students are getting creative with their paint brushes! Four schools are participating in the first ever Earth Day Rain Barrel Art Competition. Kingsbury Elementary, Chestnut Oaks Middle School, St. Francis Xavier High, and Lakewood High all received rain barrels for their students to decorate. Come to Earth Day at Swan Lake on April 20<sup>th</sup> to cast your vote for the best barrel design! The winning class will receive a pizza party. If you see a barrel you like, you can bid on it in the silent auction, proceeds to go to stormwater outreach projects in Sumter.

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

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