This year, set an anti-pollution resolution! Volunteer for a cleanup, mark your storm drains, plant a rain garden, green your yard.... There are so many ways you can do your part for clean water. Find out more at www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear

Upcoming Events
Sumter Backyard Landscaping Series
Tuesdays Feb. 11-March 4, 6:00-7:00 PM
Sumter County Public Library Main Branch
111 North Harvin Street
Sumter, S.C. 29150

Spring Litter Cleanup
March 8, 2014
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Location TBA

Rain Barrel Art Contest
January-April 2014
Sumter schools can call now to request your barrel.

Newsworthy:

Speaker Series: Backyard Landscaping
Tuesdays February 11th - March 4th, Sumter home gardeners can learn how to go green in their backyards. Based on the Carolina Yards program, this FREE speaker series is designed to assist homeowners in achieving their desired landscape while saving time and money and protecting South Carolina’s natural resources. Both novice and experience gardeners can benefit from these presentations. The series will be held at the Main Branch of the Sumter County Public Library from 6:00-7:00 PM. This year’s topics are:

- **February 11: Pest Management** (Tony Melton, Horticulture Agent, Clemson Extension, Florence County)
- **February 18: Gardening for Wildlife** (Sara Green, Director of Education, South Carolina Wildlife Federation)
- **February 25: Rain Gardens** (Rebecca Turk, Education Coordinator, Moore Farms Botanical Garden)
- **March 4: Gardening with Native Plants** (Claudia Rainey, Senior Planner, Sumter City-County Planning Department)

Recent Activities:

Shorescaping for Garden Clubs
On January 15th, Jolie Brown spoke to the Bland Garden Club about shorescaping. For those with ponds or streams on their property, managing the water’s edge to prevent erosion is very important. There are lots of great options for things to plant that will be beautiful and functional for your shoreline. Learn more with SC Waterways factsheets at http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/water/resources_stormwater/, or request a presentation for your group by contacting Jolie Brown, jolie2@clemson.edu.
Upcoming Activities:

Spring Litter Cleanup

March 8, 2014
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Location to be Announced

Mark your calendars! The SSS Spring Cleanup will be March 8th, and volunteers are needed. The location is still undecided, but will be announced in the next few weeks. Please join us to help pick up litter in Sumter County, to beautify your community and protect local streams rivers. Thank you for doing your part!

2014 Rain Barrel Art Contest

January-April, 2014

Applications are now being accepted for the 2nd annual Rain Barrel Art Contest. Participating schools will receive a rain barrel to decorate with an “Earth Day” theme. The decorated barrels will be judged at the Sumter Earth Day Festival on April 12th, 2014. The winning classes will enjoy pizza parties. The contest is open to all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools in Sumter County. After the festival, the rain barrels can be installed on school grounds or at a public location such as a church or library, or donated back to SSS for a silent auction at the festival. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please call Mary Caflisch at 803-865-1216 or Jolie Brown at 803-773-5561. Barrels are being delivered now. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will receive your barrel.

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!

You received this newsletter because you have participated in an SSS 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!