



TAKE ACTION E-NEWS

Be part of the solution!

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Has this rainy spring left you with standing water or erosion in your yard? A RAIN GARDEN might be the solution! Go to www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear/cc_toolbox to download Clemson's Rain Garden Manual.



Upcoming Events

Rain Garden Maintenance Day

May 7, 2013
8:00-10:00 AM
Patriot Park

Carolina Yards at the Sumter Iris Festival

May 25, 2013
10 AM – 6 PM
Swan Lake Iris Gardens

Newsworthy:

Rain Barrel Art Competition Winners

Congratulations to all of the wonderfully creative students who participated in the Earth Day Rain Barrel Art Contest! Four gorgeous barrels were dropped off at Sumter Earth Day on Saturday for judging. Festival participants voted for their favorites, and the judging was intense! Here are the results:

- 1st Place – Lakewood High School
- 2nd Place – St. Francis Xavier High School
- 3rd Place – Kingsbury Elementary School

Chestnut Oaks Middle School will be installing their rain barrel at the school to use as part of their outdoor classroom. The other three barrels were auctioned off at the festival, raising \$141 for future stormwater education projects like this one.



Rain Barrel entries, left to right: Kingsbury Elementary (3rd place), Lakewood High (1st place), St. Francis Xavier High (2nd place), and Chestnut Oaks Middle School.

Recent Activities:

Sumter Earth Day Festival

Our partners were out talking about water on Saturday, April 20th. City of Sumter's Earth Day Celebration at Swan Lake Iris Garden attracts hundreds of people to learn about taking care of the environment. Sumter Stormwater Solutions displayed pond life, information about environmentally friendly gardening, and rain barrels decorated by Sumter students. Master Gardeners, City-County Planning, Public Works, and Central Carolina Technical College were also there, sharing their environmental expertise. This annual event is always so much fun. Thanks to everyone who participated!

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 for more information.

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At Sumter Earth Day. Left: Sumter City-County Planning displays their Master Plan for the Shot Pouch Creek Greenway. Right: Central Carolina Technical College demonstrates water filtration equipment.

Cherryvale Elementary School Earth Day Celebration

Kids at Cherryvale Elementary School got a hands-on look at pond life during the school's Earth Day celebration. By looking at what kinds of creatures live in a pond, the young scientists drew conclusions about how clean the water in the pond was, as well as the importance of preventing pollution where they live. Cherryvale Elementary is also a SC Green Steps School, with recycling and rain water harvesting projects.



Water scorpions were just one kind of pond life found by the students. They are not really scorpions and don't sting, instead belonging to the order Hemiptera, or "True Bugs."

Upcoming Activities:

Rain Garden Maintenance Day

May 7, 2013

8:00-10:00 AM

Patriot Park

Sumter Master Gardeners and other volunteers! We need your help on May 7th to spruce up the rain garden at Patriot Park for summer. Please join us from 8:00-10:00 AM for some garden maintenance. We will be spreading mulch, weeding, and planting new plants. Please dress appropriate to the weather and prepare to get your hands in the dirt. We will provide drinking water, gloves, and tools, but you are encouraged to bring your own gloves, rakes, shovels and gardening tools, if you have them. Thank you!

Carolina Yards at the Sumter Iris Festival

May 25, 2013

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Swan Lake Iris Gardens

Does your yard measure up? Take the Carolina Yards challenge and find out how to make your yard better for South Carolina's environment. You'll save time and money, too, by working with nature instead of against it. Visit our booth in the Gateway to Gardening area of the Sumter Iris Festival for gardening tips and tricks from the Carolina Yards program.



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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