



# TAKE ACTION E-NEWS

*Be part of the solution!*

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**Turn your yard into a Carolina Yard! Clemson is offering a five week Carolina Yards Online Course, which starts May 8<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu) for details and registration.**

## Upcoming Events

### **Shorescaping Demonstration**

May 7, 2014  
9:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Patriot Park

### **Rain Garden Maintenance Day**

May 14, 2014  
9:00-11:00 AM  
Patriot Park

### **Rain Barrel Workshop**

May 15, 2014  
4:00-7:00 PM  
Sumter County Training Center

## Newsworthy:

### **Rain Barrel Art Contest Winners**

Sumter Stormwater Solutions is pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Earth Day Rain Barrel Art Contest!

- 1st place: Lakewood High School, painted by Dr. Davis's Class
- 2nd place: Sumter High School, painted by Ms. Rennick's Class
- 3rd Place: Millwood Elementary School, painted by the Ecology Club

We were overwhelmed by the beauty and uniqueness of each barrel submitted. The barrels were voted on by attendees at the Sustainable Sumter Earth Day Celebration on March 12. The contest is an annual event, so if you would like your child's school to participate next year, contact Mary Cafilisch ([mnevins@clemson.edu](mailto:mnevins@clemson.edu)) for details. Thank you to all our local students for sharing their creativity and passion for the planet with us!



*Winning rain barrels, left to right: Lakewood High School, Sumter High School, and Millwood Elementary School.*

**Carolina Yards Challenge  
at Sumter Iris Festival**

May 23 & 24  
Swan Lake Iris Garden

**Summer Cleanup**

June 7, 2014  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Winston Road

**Ongoing Projects**

**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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**Recent Activities:**

**Spring Litter Cleanups**

Thanks to the efforts of our fantastic volunteers, Sumter is a cleaner place this spring. Three cleanups were held in the city and county. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 20 volunteers, all from Crestwood High School, removed 28 bags of trash, 22 bags of recyclables, and 4 shopping carts from a stormwater ditch by Sumter Mall. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, volunteers cleaned up Manchester State Forest. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 42 students from Wilson Hall School volunteered their time. One group worked in the city, picking up trash along Market Street. The other group collected trash from Cockerill Road and Lewis Road out in the county. For summer, another cleanup is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> along Winston Road. Thank you, volunteers!



*Left, volunteers from Crestwood High School pick up trash near Sumter Mall. Right, students from Wilson Hall clean up along Market Street.*

**Sumter Earth Day**

On April 12, Sumter celebrated Earth Day with its annual festival at Swan Lake Iris Garden. Displays from local environmental organizations and businesses informed visitors about fun ways to protect the earth. Sumter Stormwater Solutions provided information on the Carolina Yards program and showcased rain barrels painted by local students. Beautiful spring weather made it an absolutely lovely day to appreciate our planet!



*Rain barrels decorated by Sumter schools on display at the Sumter Earth Day festival.*

## Storm Drain Marking

On April 23, St. Francis Xavier High School marked storm drains at Lakewood Links subdivision. They will continue marking drains in this neighborhood on May 21. Storm drain marking is an easy service project for student and community groups. Marking drains lets neighbors know that storm drains can carry pollution into nearby water bodies. To sign up your group, email Jolie Brown at [jolie2@clemson.edu](mailto:jolie2@clemson.edu).

### Upcoming Activities:

## Shorescaping Demonstration

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Patriot Park**

How do you stop shoreline erosion, reduce pond weeds and algae, keep pollution out of your pond or lake? Create a shorescape! On Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Sumter County will be installing a shorescape along the edge of the main pond at Patriot Park. The badly eroded bank will be planted with ornamental grasses and native wildflowers, creating an attractive buffer to protect the shoreline and the pond. Please join us for this demonstration, which is open to the public. You can learn more about shorescapes and pond management by visiting [www.Clemson.edu/hgic/water](http://www.Clemson.edu/hgic/water).



## Rain Garden Maintenance Day

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014**  
**9:00 - 11:00 AM**  
**Patriot Park**

Volunteers are needed! Join Sumter Stormwater Solutions to spruce up the Patriot Park rain garden for summer. We will provide some gloves and gardening tools, but please bring your own if you have them. Volunteers will pull weeds and spread mulch in the rain garden, which filters pollution from rain water that runs off of the parking lot. Thank you for your help!

## Rain Barrel Workshop

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**  
**Sumter County Public Works Training Center**  
**1289 North Main St., Sumter**

Space is still available! Make your own rain barrel to collect water from your roof. Rain water is free and can be used to water your lawn and landscape. The cost of the workshop is \$30 and includes all of the materials for a complete rain barrel for your home. Registration is required. Contact Jolie Brown at [jolie2@clemson.edu](mailto:jolie2@clemson.edu) to register today!

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

**May 23 & 24, 2014**

**Swan Lake Iris Garden**

Find out if your yard is a Carolina Yard, and enter for a chance to WIN A RAIN BARREL! Sumter Stormwater Solutions will be at the Sumter Iris Festival with information on environmentally friendly lawn care, pollution prevention, and more. Visit our table in the Gateway to Gardening area for water quality fun!

## **Summer Cleanup**

**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Winston Road, Sumter County**

Sumter County needs your help to remove litter from a rural road. A small branch flows along Winston Road, which would be quite scenic if not for all of the trash. Volunteers should meet at 10:00 on Winston Road. We will provide gloves, trash bags, and water. Please dress according to the weather and prepare to get dirty. Waders or rubber boots are a plus! By working together, we can make a difference for Sumter County.

***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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