Leadership Georgetown County

Leadership Georgetown County has been developing the capacity of local leaders for nearly two decades. Beginning with the 2009-2010 program year, Clemson Extension Service partnered with the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce to direct and facilitate Leadership Georgetown County. Twelve community leaders completed the nine-month program that included full-day sessions on the history of Georgetown County, education, economic development, the environment, non-profits, state and local government. They also met with Gov. Mark Sanford and a number of elected officials and other leaders throughout the year.

Participants put their leadership skills to work through a community service project. The Class of 2010, in cooperation with local officials, numerous volunteers and the SC Department of Natural Resources, focused their efforts on cleaning up the grounds at the Georgetown County Lighthouse, a national historic landmark.

Extension Makes a Difference

Clemson University’s statewide network of Public Service Activities (PSA) conducts research and outreach programs to improve the quality of life for citizens in Georgetown County and throughout the state. No other state agency provides the research and knowledge transfer needed to enhance critical agriculture sectors. Since June 2008, PSA state appropriations have been cut 46%, leaving state funding at the same level as 1985. We are determined to continue to serve the citizens of the state as long as possible, so we are implementing strategic plans to focus all state resources on critical programs that support economic development of SC’s $34 billion agriculture and natural resources industries. In Georgetown County you will find programs directed at strengthening the rural economy, improving communities and its youth, and protecting our natural resources. Clemson Extension is dedicated to helping you.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.
Palmetto Youth Leadership

The Palmetto Leadership Program is offered by Clemson Extension through the 4-H Program. The long term goals of the program are to teach students leadership, teach them to give back to their communities, and to be contributing members of society. The mission of South Carolina Palmetto Youth Leadership is to provide opportunities for all youth to gain responsibility leadership skills. This will be accomplished through opportunities for learning leadership skills, provide interactive, experiential learning experience and engaging in positive civic service.

The following schools participate: Georgetown Middle, Rosemary Middle, Carvers Bay Middle and Waccamaw Middle Schools. Students are selected to participate in grades 7-8. Each school provides a classroom for instruction. The curriculum is offered twice a month to more than 100 youths. This program is a pilot program and in its second year.

Natural Resources & Stormwater Education

Forested lands and other natural resources are vital to the high quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors of Horry and Georgetown Counties. The local Natural Resources Agent, Ben Powell, provides programming such as Pond Clinics, Master Wildlifer, Master Naturalist, and Master Tree Farmer to encourage the wise use of the region’s natural resources and improve productivity for landowners. Also, the agent serves as a local contact for other natural resources questions related to nuisance wildlife control, invasive species, native species, vegetated buffers and easements, wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, urban and structural pests, pond management, tree care, and forest management.

Non-point pollution carried in stormwater runoff is the leading source of pollutants that enter South Carolina’s public waterways. The beaches drive tourism and rivers provide a major water source. Ben is also the local Carolina Clear coordinator and provides training to local decision makers and private property owners on the proper maintenance of stormwater drainage facilities to assist the regulated municipalities in protecting water quality in the rivers and beaches of Horry and Georgetown Counties.

Steps to A Healthier You

This program is designed to inform and educate youths, adults, and families on the importance of making healthy food choices for a healthful diet. It was implemented through the 4-H Healthy Life Style Education Curriculum. A major purpose is to increase awareness of the changes from The Food Guide Pyramid to the new MyPyramid.

The target audience is 4-H Youth, Families, Adult Volunteers, and Citizens of Georgetown County. The following agencies provided support and collaboration: Georgetown County School District, DHEC, Waccamaw EOC, churches, and youth serving agencies.

Since the implementation of this program in May 2005, more than 5,000 youths, adults, and families have been introduced to this curriculum. It is presented through the use of presentations, school enrichment programs, after school programs, community health fairs, food demonstrations, table top exhibits, and physical fitness activities.

The greatest reward of conducting the numerous programs is that lives are being impacted and participants understand more about the importance of eating, feeling, and looking healthy.

Additional 4-H Projects and Programs Areas are: Agriculture/Animals, Leadership/Citizenship, Natural Resources, Personal Development, and Science/Engineer/Technology.

Sherry Davis-Livingston teaching MyPyramid to Sampit Elementary Students
SC Women’s Connection Hosts Leadership Lunch Series

SC Women’s Connection, an initiative of the Clemson Institute for Economic & Community Development, seeks to empower women to become dynamic participants in the leadership of businesses, civic organizations and government and to be actively engaged in community stewardship and philanthropy. SCWC brings together women who are interested in personal and professional development as well as in sharing their experience and expertise to help women and girls in the Palmetto State.

The Leadership Lunch program in Georgetown County features speakers each month on a variety of topics. Highlights for 2009-2010 include: Women and Politics, Dr. Lynne Ford, College of Charleston; Pluff Mud Economics, Sel Hemingway, Georgetown County Administrator; WomensLaw.org, National Domestic Violence Project, Elizabeth Martin, Esquire, Founder; Katie’s Project, Sarah George, Marketing Strategies, Inc.; Women and Money: What’s in Your Wallet?, Marguerite Willis, Esquire; and Women of the Waccamaw, Lee Brockington, Hobcaw Barony.

Commercial Agriculture/Horticulture

Educational programs that make an impact are very important in the area of commercial agriculture. Listed are highlights from programs developed by Carlin Munnerlyn for the 2009-2010 year.

• A program entitled Pesticide Carrier Water Quality was presented to commercial horticulture professionals last winter. The topic asked the question, “Are you getting 100% from your pesticides or are factors in your water making a difference?”

• Insecticide Mode of Action is an important concept to reducing insect resistance and increasing effectiveness. A program was conducted for horticulture professionals that explained how to use this information to make better insecticide choices.

• The reality of P. Ramorum or Sudden Oak Death escaping into our natural environment is a scary thought. Clemson Plant Industry’s specialist, Sherry Aultman explained to horticulture professionals the ramifications of this disease and how to detect it in the landscape.

• Wildlife food plots are becoming increasingly popular in Georgetown County. Marion Barnes, Clemson Extension Agent Colleton Co. and Dr. Mike Marshall, Clemson Weed Specialist, presented information to local land owners and wildlife enthusiasts on topics pertaining to selection and management of wildlife food plots for deer and wild turkeys.

• Private Pesticide Recertification – Carlin Munnerlyn, local Extension Agent, held programs offering 3 recertification credits to local producers.

• Local producers were given the opportunity to participate in a Pee Dee regional Marketing Strategy symposium organized by the area Extension Agents.

• Local Crop Updates were conducted for local producers in the areas of tobacco, corn, soybeans, cotton and peanuts. Clemson Extension specialist and agents presented the information.

• Extension agent delivered a 3 day, 3 hour training for the horticulture staff from the city and county of Georgetown.

• Three research test plots (Tobacco Curing Efficiency, Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus control, and Corn Varieties) were conducted in Georgetown County this year.

• Local Extension Agent continues to work in the field helping commercial professionals and producers professionals and producers become successful by bringing them research-based information.

Livestock Management

Confined Animal Manure Managers

The focus of CAMM trainings is to educated facility owners and operators about water quality protection, best management practices, animal manure utilization, nuisance vector control, and dead animal disposal. An owner or operator of an animal confinement facility must pass an examination to become a Certified Animal Waste Applicator. As part of this work the Area Livestock Agent, Lee Van Vlake, planned, coordinated, and implemented 9 CAMM trainings throughout the Pee Dee Region. Over170 confined animal producers attended these meetings from across the State.

Lee also makes many farm visits on a weekly basis to assist and educate livestock clientele. Farm visits include education on forages, marketing, herd health, reproduction, bull selection, heifer selection, pasture management, fencing, facilities, equine management, goat production and many other facets of animal agriculture.

Lee also assists the 4-H Agents in the Pee Dee Region with 4-H Livestock Programs.
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Volunteer Efforts Stories

4-H Volunteer Salute!

4-H/Youth Development proudly salutes Shelia Sullivan of the Georgetown County Library for her unselfish dedication to 4-H. Mrs. Sullivan serves as the Director of Children Services. She is a member of the Clemson Extension 4-H/Youth Development Advisory Committee.

4-H has actively participated in numerous activities and events that targets youths and families. Collaboratively, 4-H has provided workshops and certifications for childcare providers through the library children services.

Beginning in 2011 the Georgetown County Library will launch a two-year, innovative, “Smart Investing at your Library” program to promote financial education throughout the entire community. 4-H/Youth Development, along with a variety of civic groups countywide, will assist to help local citizens, including many disadvantaged ones, to learn to manage and invest money more effectively. 4-H is honored and happy to be a part of this program.

Master Gardeners in Action!

Master Gardener volunteers are the backbone of the Consumer Horticulture program at the Extension Office in Georgetown County. These knowledgeable volunteers conduct Plant Problem Clinics throughout the growing season at the Inlet Square Mall and the Georgetown County Farmers Market at East Bay Park. Just bring your plant problems to one of these clinics and receive helpful information from our expert gardeners! Also, Master Gardener Art Cornelison is available at the Georgetown Extension office on selected days to help answer your gardening questions.

The Master Gardener program is offered in the fall and is taught at Brookgreen Gardens. Over 35 participants invest 40 hours of volunteer service each. For more information concerning this program, contact the Georgetown Extension office.