


# 2024 SC Stewardship Week

Jennifer Morris and Jessica Egan

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# May the Forest be with You, Always!

The 2024 NACD Stewardship week theme was 'May the Forest be with You, Always'

SCDNR- Conservation Districts team planned out a week full of forestry focused activities and events to celebrate SC Stewardship Week alongside districts and increase participation!

Timeline for the week:

Monday- Proclamation Event

Tuesday- In the Classroom

Wednesday- Field Day

Thursday- Outdoor Recreation

Friday- Forest Industry

# Friday – SC Envirothon (*the unofficial kickoff*)











# Monday – Proclamation Event



## State of South Carolina

### Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the soil and water resources of South Carolina are the foundation for the health and well-being of our residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the wise use of soil and water in the Palmetto State is essential to a sound environment, a strong economy, and the vibrancy of agriculture, forestry, and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS,** each county in South Carolina is organized as a Soil and Water Conservation District and managed by a board of commissioners; and

**WHEREAS,** these forty-six Soil and Water Conservation Districts are committed to the conservation of soil and water resources through the wise use of soil and water for the benefit of all South Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS,** Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, partner to actively implement agricultural, forestry, urban, and educational programs and technical assistance for soil and water conservation and management with the active participation of landowners and other volunteers; and

**WHEREAS,** Soil and Water Stewardship Week calls attention to the importance and value of locally-led conservation efforts by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to continually improve the soil and water resources for present and future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 28 - May 5, 2024, as

**SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize our responsibilities to future generations as stewards of our vital soil and water resources.

HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# Tuesday – In the Classroom







# Wednesday

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# Field Day



# South Carolina Forestry Opportunities, Uses and Management Practices









- Opportunities Available in Forestry: Johney Haralson - Bamberg Commissioner
- Types and Uses of a Forest: Wallace Wood - Master Forester
- Best Management Practices: Vaughan Spearman – South Carolina Forestry Commission








# Fire Education, Safety and Awareness

- Prescribed Burn: Newberry burn trailer: Crista Lukoski – District Employee Newberry
- Wildfire Prevention: Andy Johnson - South Carolina Forestry Commission Firewise Program
- Fire Wise Program: Drake Carroll - South Carolina Forestry Commission Firewise Program

# Wildlife Habitats

- District Participation in Stewardship week: Barbara Padget – Lexington Commissioner
- Walk to Vernal Pond: Beth Foley – South Carolina Forestry Commission
- Creating a Healthy Backyard Forest and Wildlife in your Backyard: Ari Hippensteal – South Carolina Wildlife








## Forestry Programs, Financial Assistance and Community Outreach Opportunities

- NRCS: Gail Westcot
- SC Forestry Commission: David Nagel
- Conservation Districts: Melanie Shull - Aiken Commissioner















# Drive Through Forest

- Presented by:
  - Janet Steele - Cooperative Extension Service
  - Matt Schnabel – South Carolina Forestry Commission
- Highlight the History of the Harbison State Forest
- Healthy Forest Management
- Life Stages of the Forest

# Thursday
# –
# Outdoor Recreation



# Friday – Forestry Industry



# Social Media Toolkit

**2024 SC Stewardship Week Social Media Toolkit**

"May the Forest be with You, Always"

This toolkit provides your district with 2024 Stewardship Week social media content. Use the following toolkit to post directly to your social media platforms or the link to SCNDR's post will be emailed out if you would like to share. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Jessie Egan at eganj@dnr.sc.gov or 803-917-0398.

**Monday- Proclamation:** *Share the statewide proclamation from SCDNR's social media platforms or if you attained a local proclamation share that.*

*Caption:*

Governor McMaster has proclaimed April 28 - May 4, 2024, as SC Stewardship Week. There are 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts) in South Carolina. Districts are subdivisions of state government, divided by county lines, and charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water through locally led conservation. The National Association of Conservation Districts hosts a Stewardship Week each year to celebrate different aspects of agriculture and natural resources. This year, districts are celebrating forestry and forestlands through the theme 'May the Forest be with You, Always'. Follow along this week as we celebrate!

**Tuesday- Economic Impact:** *Share the "Economic Impact" graphics (No SCDNR post will be made)*

Caption:

As we continue to celebrate 2024 NACD Stewardship Week theme 'May the Forest be with You, Always', we want to highlight the economic impact of forestry. In South Carolina, forestry contributes $23.2 billion to our state's economy. Everyone uses forest products daily, such as paper, musical instruments, building materials, etc., in our everyday lives. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are actively engaged in forestry conservation to ensure this industry and other forest resources are available for generations to come.

To learn more about our district and how you can get involved, visit: (*insert your district website link here*)

**Wednesday- Life Cycle of a Managed Forest:** *Share the "Life Cycle of a Managed Forest" graphics (No SCDNR post will be made)*

Caption:

The 2024 NACD Stewardship Week theme 'May the Forest be with You, Always' celebrates the importance of forests. A managed forest is intentionally maintained to achieve the landowner's goals whether that me producing wood products or providing wildlife habitat or recreational opportunities. Forests can be designated as National Forests, State Forests, Family Forests, Industrial Forests, or Urban Forest each with differing goals and management needs. The life cycle of these managed forests are generally the same with slight variations.

To learn more about our district and how you can get involved, visit: (*insert your district website link here*)

**Thursday- Outdoor Recreation:** *Share SCDNR's post.*

*Caption:*

The 2024 National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week theme of 'May the Forest be with You, Always' celebrates the vast opportunities forestlands have to offer. Though the economic impact of timber production is important to our state, the opportunity to enjoy South Carolina's natural resources is equally as important. Whether you want to take a short stroll along the marsh or hike up a mountain, you will see the value forestry brings to South Carolina.

In South Carolina, there are 46 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts) that conform to county boundaries. Districts are charged with promoting the wise use of soil and water in South Carolina by advocating for resource concerns in their community through locally led conservation. Our districts have provided a list of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout South Carolina. To view this list and learn more about districts, visit: https://www.southcarolinawild.org/2024/04/23/enjoy-our-forested-lands/ and share your outdoor adventure with us!

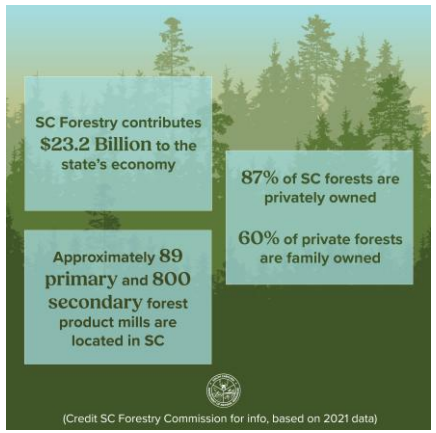
**Friday- SC Conservation Districts in the Forest Industry:** *Use the share feature on this YouTube video (SC Conservation Districts in the Forest Industry (youtube.com)) or share SCDNR's post.*

*Caption:*

The 2024 NACD Stewardship Week theme 'May the Forest be with You, Always' celebrates the impact of forestry. Many of our Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners are foresters or own forested lands in South Carolina. Their involvement ensures districts are actively engaged with forestry conservation.

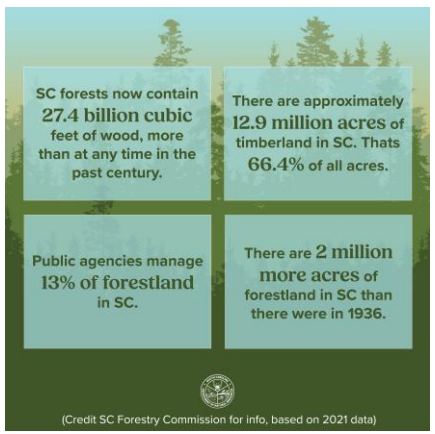
To learn more about the opportunities we offer and how you can get involved, visit: (*insert your district website link here*)

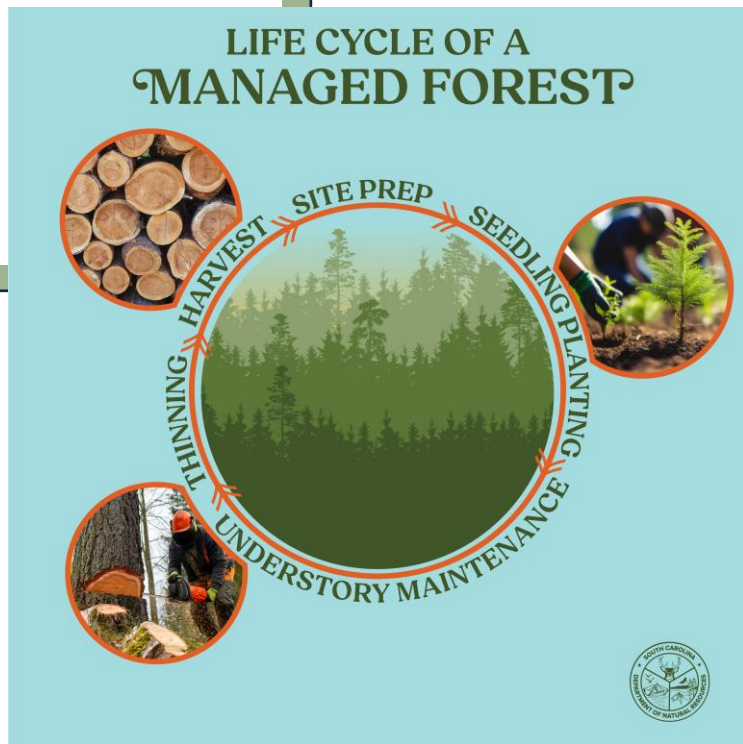








# South Carolina Stewardship Week
# "May the Forest Be with You, Always"

JESSICA EGAN, SCDNR - CONSERVATION DISTRICTS






**THE 2023 OUTSTANDING DISTRICT OF THE YEAR,** Anderson Soil and Water Conservation district, was presented the Governor's proclaimation of S.C. Stewardship along with a county and city proclamation.

In the 1930s, after many years of poor farming practices combined with drought conditions and high temperatures, our nation experienced a catastrophic crisis referred to as the Dust Bowl. It was at this time the federal government realized something had to be done to protect the land and agriculture production throughout the United States. President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law. This act laid out the groundwork for states to implement Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts). The framework of districts has been essential to their success in bringing conservation into their communities. During the 1930s our nation was also suffering from the effects of the Great Depression and citizens had little to no trust in the government. President Roosevelt knew farmers would be hesitant to listen to the conservation recommendations unless it came from their neighbors. That is exactly what conservation districts do. They promote the wise use of soil and water through locally led conservation. There are forty-six Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina. Districts are subdivisions of state government, bound by county lines, who advocate for conservation practices through education and outreach and by promoting conservation cost-share opportunities.

To celebrate this long history of locally led conservation, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) hosts a Stewardship Week each year to focus on various aspects of agriculture and natural resources. This year, districts celebrated forestry and forestlands through the theme "May the Forest Be with You, Always." Governor McMaster proclaimed April 28 through May 4, 2024, as S.C. Stewardship Week. Since Forestry is the leading industry in South Carolina, contributing 23.2 billion dollars to the state's economy, it is integral that our Soil and Water Conservation Districts are actively engaged with forestry conservation. Each conservation district is governed by a board of five volunteer commissioners, many of which work in the forest industry or are forest landowners.

A managed forest is intentionally maintained to achieve the landowner's goals whether that be producing wood products or providing wildlife habitat or recreational opportunities. Forests can be designated as National Forests, State Forests, Family Forests, Industrial Forests, or Urban Forests each with specific goals and management needs. Of the approximately 12.9 million acres of forested land in South Carolina, 13 percent (approximately 1.7 million acres) is publicly managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC), and local county and city agencies. These forests offer the opportunity for the public to enjoy our state's natural resources. Outdoor recreation within forested lands allows us to observe wildlife, camp, hike, bike, hunt, and simply enjoy nature. The other 87 percent (approximately 11.2 million acres) of our state's forested land are privately owned and managed for wildlife habitat or timber production, such as pulpwood for paper products or sawlogs for construction materials. Since 1937, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have served as the leading voice for conservation within their community. Through local, state, and federal partnerships, conservation districts work hard to ensure our natural resources and these outdoor recreation opportunities are available for generations to come.

To celebrate S.C. Stewardship Week, Soil and Water Conservation Districts across South Carolina received local proclamations of the week along with the state proclamation, used social media to share educational graphics and videos related to forestry in South Carolina, hosted "May the Forest Be with You, Always" poster and essay contests for students, provided classroom lessons, and participated in the statewide Forestry Field Day at Harbison State Forest. The Forestry Field Day was hosted by SCDNR in partnership with SCFC and the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD). Participants rotated through four stations to learn about cost share opportunities, prescribed fire resources and wildfire prevention, wildlife habitats, and stewardship of forested land. Be sure to keep an eye out for next year's Stewardship Week to learn how you can get involved with the celebration!



**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS** visited local schools to teach students about forestry through hands on demonstrations and classroom lessons.

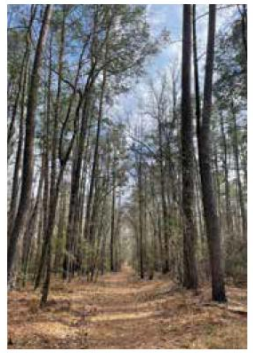




**THE FORESTRY FIELD DAY EVENT** offered participants a chance to learn about how districts are involved in forestry from commissioners and district staff, resources available for forestry practices in SC, and how they can manage and conserve their own forested land.







Learn more about Forestry in South Carolina. Scan Code

**APPROXIMATELY 1.7 MILLION ACRES OF FORESTED LAND IN SOUTH CAROLINA** are publicly managed for outdoor recreation opportunities. Districts encouraged their community to get out and enjoy forested lands through a short form video on social media.

# Contact us!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