Happy Holidays!

Welcome to the Changing Tides Newsletter, the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners' monthly E-news service. Read and stay updated about partnership events and learn tips for reducing stormwater pollution!

*Thank you for helping to protect the health of our local waterways. Please share this newsletter with others!*

**Current Events and Updates**

**Next Consortium Meeting**

With the new year fast approaching, it is time to set a date for the next Lowcountry Stormwater Partners consortium meeting. All partners are encouraged to attend! To streamline the planning process, a doodle poll will be
used to determine the date. The doodle poll can be found HERE.

There will be a great deal to discuss, and current discussion items include:

- Developing Key Educational Messages
- Using the LSP website and Activities Database
- Drafting a LSP mission statement
- LSP logo progress and next steps
- The current state of the water quality kiosks and how to use them in the future
- The creation of a children’s character and costume for outreach activities

If there are other topics that you would like to see addressed, please send them via email to Ellen (ecomeau@clemson.edu). She will send out an official agenda with more details later in December. Hope to see you there!

Welcome New Partners!

Over the past few months, several community organizations expressed interest in joining the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners. Each member of the LSP brings something unique to the table, and all partners are dedicated to protecting our local waterways and enriching our communities through education and outreach.

Please take a moment and welcome our newest partners: the Coastal Conservation League, the Friends of Hunting Island State Park, the Outside Foundation, the Coastal Discovery Museum, Savannah Riverkeeper, and Experience Green!
Recent Events

Strategic Education Plan Completion
Just before Thanksgiving, the strategic education plan was completed and sent to the local municipalities. After our MS4 partners have submitted it to DHEC, it will be made available. All of the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners will receive a link to the plan in a future newsletter.

Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center’s Birthday Celebration
On November 12th, the Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center (a member of the LSP) celebrated their second birthday! The organization welcomed over 600 community members to the event who then spent the next few hours learning about the history, art, and ecology of the Port Royal Sound.

The Coastal Discovery Museum, the Outside Foundation, and Spartina Marine Education Charters (all fellow LSP members) were also present and helping to educate the public about water quality issues and other environmental concerns. The Lowcountry Stormwater Partners were also more directly represented by Ellen Comeau, the Clemson Extension Water Resources Agent.

Over the course of the event, Ellen used the Enviroscape to demonstrate how bacteria, pet waste, and fertilizers move through stormwater runoff and affect our local waterways to over 100 people! Overall, the event was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time!

Upcoming Events

Santee Basin River Basin Model Presentation
On November 30th, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, the draft of the Santee River Basin surface water model will be presented at the Somerset Employee Training
Center in Pinoplis, SC. Information that will be covered includes: the Santee River Basin surface water model inputs, assumptions, and calibration results in its near final stage of development. There will be additional group discussions and other learning opportunities. For more information about this event, click HERE. **Registration is required.**

This meeting is open to the public and is an opportunity to learn about the surface water availability model being developed for this river basin. These models are the first step in the development of South Carolina’s next State Water Plan. More information about these models and the effort to develop them can be found at [www.scwatermodels.com](http://www.scwatermodels.com).

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**Strategies and Tools to Protect and Restore Coastal Water Quality**

On December 8th, from 8:30am-4:00pm, SCDHEC and other sponsors will host a workshop for local decision makers, municipal staff, and citizens to increase their knowledge of coastal water quality issues and the regulatory framework around stormwater management in South Carolina. This workshop will introduce several different tools and strategies to protect and improve water quality. We will also hear several case studies from in and around coastal South Carolina.

*Space is filling fast and the registration website will be shut down at the end of the day on Wednesday, November 30th.* For more information, click HERE.

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**Clemson Extension Arbor Day Tree Giveaway**

Beaufort County Clemson Extension Service celebrates Arbor Day every year by giving away native bare root seedling trees. On **December 2nd from 9:00am until 3:00pm**, we will give away trees at the Beaufort County Clemson Extension office. Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with planting tips. This year’s selections include:
• Redbud
• Persimmon
• Crabapple
• Chinquapin oak
• Longleaf pine.

**Limit of 5 trees per family.** Pick up your trees at the Beaufort County Clemson Extension office at 102 Beaufort Industrial Village Road, Beaufort, SC 29906. For directions or questions, call 843 255-6060 or email lrose@clemson.edu. *Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.*

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**Silt Fence and Beyond: Erosion and Sediment Control Best Practices Workshop**

Carolina Clear is offering two dates and locations for this event! It will be held on January 10th in Pendleton, SC and then again on February 16th in Charleston, SC. This workshop is for contractors, inspectors, and regulators who wish to learn more about saving time and money on job sites through proper selection, installation, and maintenance of construction BMPs. Both dates cover the same information on the following topics:

• Establishing Vegetative Cover
• Hydromulching
• Erosion Control Blankets
• Turf Reinforcement Mats and more!

The cost of this workshop is $35. Lunch and training materials will be provided. Participants will receive PDHs or CEUs upon completion of the workshop. Registration for the Upstate workshop is due January 3rd and for the
Lowcountry workshop on February 3rd. For more information and to register, click [HERE](mailto:).

If you have an upcoming event that you would like posted in the next newsletter, please email the time, date, and a brief description of the event to Ellen Comeau (ecomeau@clemson.edu) for consideration.

Questions, Comments, or Requests?
Contact your Water Resources Extension Agent:

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