We wish you all a very happy holiday and a happy new year!

Thank you for reading this edition of the Changing Tides, the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners (LSP) consortium E-newsletter!

*We hope that you will help protect our local waterways and share this newsletter with others!*

---

**Cyanobacteria (aka Blue-Green Algae)**
While this aquatic weed is normally seen in the summer months when the temperatures are warmer and rainfall less frequent, the Beaufort County Clemson Extension office has had several phone calls from pond owners experiencing a late bloom of cyanobacteria this month. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, shares many characteristics with true bacteria, but photosynthesizes like algae. These organisms can sometimes be considered a type of harmful algae because as it dies and decomposes, it can release toxins (called cyanotoxins) into the water. These toxins could be harmful if ingested by pets, wildlife, and humans. Of the 2,000 species of identified cyanobacteria, more than 40 of these species can produce cyanotoxins.

Cyanobacteria is naturally present in small quantities in slow-moving fresh or brackish water. These small quantities present no danger, but when excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus enter the water body, the amount of cyanobacteria can drastically increase. This increase in numbers is called an algal bloom. Excess nutrients can enter waterways through a variety of natural and human-based sources. In the Lowcountry, stormwater runoff containing excess fertilizer, yard waste, etc. from residential and commercial landscaping can become a source of these excess nutrients.

Cyanobacteria blooms occur on the water's surface and can vary in color from bright green to bright blue-green. The bloom can look like thick paint, but this can vary as well. Due to this variation, it can be difficult to discern what kind of algae is blooming. Clemson’s Plant Diagnostic Clinic can help with algae identification. This test is $20 and can be submitted through your local Extension office.
However, if you suspect that your pond is experiencing a cyanobacteria bloom, it's recommended to avoid all contact with the water and to keep pets and livestock from accessing it as well. Instead of collecting a sample, you may work with a pond management company to identify it instead. In fact, it is recommended to work with a pond management company to mitigate the bloom. You can find a list of pond managers who have completed Clemson Extension's Master Pond Manager program [HERE](#). The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources also has a list of pond managers that can be found [HERE](#).

You can find out more information on cyanobacteria at the Clemson HGIC [HERE](#) as well a media release on Clemson's Newsstand [HERE](#).
Both the Beaufort County and Jasper County Clemson Extension Offices and 4-H programs are fundraising with an ornamental and fruit tree sale! The plants available are bare root saplings, ranging from $8 to $36. Plants may be larger or smaller depending upon the variety. You can see available varieties and place your order by filling out the form HERE. Forms can be mailed to/dropped off at 18 John Galt Rd, Beaufort, SC 29906. **Orders are due by January 27th** and the trees will be available for pickup at the Beaufort and Jasper extension offices ONLY on February 12th. If you have any questions, please contact 843-473-6021 or vmanigo@clemson.edu.

---

**Save the Date for an Upcoming Buffer Workshop!**

On February 10th, 2019 at the Hilton Head Public Service District, Water Resources Extension Agent Ellen Sturup Comeau will host a buffer workshop! This workshop will cover how to use buffers to both beautify and protect freshwater and saltwater shorelines. Registration will be announced and opened in early January! For more information, contact 843-473-6023 or ecomeau@clemson.edu.
Join us at Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority's community room (6 Snake Rd, Okatie) as we begin planning for 2020 events and outreach campaigns! The meeting will take place on January 21st, 2020 from 1:30pm until 4:00pm.

See your upcoming event in a future edition of the Changing Tides! Send your event details to Ellen Comeau at ecomeau@clemson.edu!

Get Involved!
Becoming a volunteer!
The LSP are looking for motivated groups and individuals of all ages and abilities! For current volunteer opportunities, see our website.

Attending a training or workshop!
As part of Clemson Extension's Carolina Clear program, the LSP consortium leads, partners on, and supports a variety of programs throughout the year. You can find a list of a few of our programs HERE! For current offerings, check our events calendar or follow us on Facebook!

Using our educational resources!
We have a variety of resources on stormwater management, pollution prevention, and other water quality topics available on our website!

Stay in Touch!
To keep up-to-date with the latest Lowcountry Stormwater Partners activities, be sure to follow us on Facebook, check the events calendar on our website, and look for the next edition of the Changing Tides newsletter!

Our Partners
Have any questions, comments, or requests? Contact:
Ellen Sturup Comeau
Water Resources Extension Agent
ecomeau@clemson.edu
(843)-473-6023
18 John Galt Rd, Beaufort, SC, 29906

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

Copyright © 2019 Lowcountry Stormwater Partners, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you requested to be notified about current events, projects, and volunteer opportunities with Lowcountry Stormwater Partners, the Beaufort County stormwater consortium.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.