Happy Thanksgiving!

We are so grateful for your continued support and engagement. We hope that you enjoy the very best that this holiday has to offer and that this edition of the Changing Tides Newsletter sparks your interest!

Please help us protect our local waterways by sharing this newsletter with others!

Don't Guess, Soil Test!
While it may be the time of year when most of our plants are slowing down, it's the perfect time to get fired up for gardening come spring/summertime! The first step in any type of landscape planning, though, is a soil test!

A soil test determines the amount of nutrients already present in your soil as well as your soil's pH (the acidity/alkalinity of your soil). This information is used to generate both a fertilizer and a lime recommendation. Both recommendations are based upon the needs of the plants that you wish to grow. The fertilizer recommendation will include the type of fertilizer, amount, and the application rate required. This saves you both time and money by helping you buy exactly the type and amount that you need. Without soil testing, it can be very easy to apply the wrong type of fertilizer. For example, 10-10-10 fertilizer is very common in most garden centers, but is rarely recommended for our area. This is because phosphorus is so plentiful in our soils that it actually used to be mined in Beaufort County!

Soil testing can also protect our waterways by reducing the rates of improperly applied fertilizers! Just like too much fertilizer can cause plant health issues, too many nutrients in the water can cause water quality issues! Applying the wrong type of fertilizer or over-applying fertilizer can leave excess nutrients sitting in the first few inches of the soil. When it rains, stormwater runoff can pick up these excess nutrients and wash them into the nearest body of water. Excess nutrients in water can cause unsightly and harmful algal blooms.
However, it is important to mention that while finding out the correct amount and type of fertilizers can help prevent nutrient pollution, another step must also be taken. Fertilizer should only be applied when plants are actively growing. While many plants and lawns begin greening up in spring, they actually do not begin growing until May/June. If plants are not actively growing, they have no need of extra nutrients and will not take them up. Therefore, always be sure your plants are growing before applying fertilizer!

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers soil testing services at $6 a sample. If you are interested in learning more about this service, please refer to this factsheet or the Ag Service Lab's Soil Testing website. You can find instructions on how to take a soil sample here and find more information on how soil building helps watersheds here.

Happy water-wsie gardening!

Happening Now!
Happy Thanksgiving and the November Edition of the Changing Tides!

Coming In With The Tide: Upcoming Events

**Broad Creek Clean Up!**

**Sunday December 1st**

**11-3PM**

Starting from Shelter Cove Marina

**Help us collect litter in and around the creek by kayak, foot, boat or bike! A limited number of free kayak rentals are available through Outside Hilton Head with reservations - call 843-686-6996**

**Hosted by**

[THE OUTSIDE FOUNDATION](www.outsidefoundation.org)

[AMERICAN RIVERS](www.americanrivers.org)

For more information call 843-368-7342 email jean@outsidefoundation.org

https://mailchi.mp/5115debb2719/happy-thanksgiving-and-the-novembe...
Happy Thanksgiving and the November Edition of the Changing Tides!

Saturday December 7
Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District at Crystal Lake Park

Help Celebrate Arbor Day

Learn why People & Trees Need Each Other

10:00 Tree Planting
10:30 Kids Story Time and Arbor Day Activities

Beaufort Conservation District 843-255-7306
email: bswcd@islc.net  web site: beaufortconservationdistrict.org
Touch-a-Truck
December 7th from 11am-5pm

This unique event offers opportunities to climb, touch, learn and play on some of the coolest vehicles around that build, serve and protect our community. Participants will be able to sit in the driver’s seat as well as learn more about them from the various sponsors and donors. There will also be an entertainment area for face painting, bounce-houses, and other surprises! There will be plenty of food, live music and beverage options available to enjoy while resting in the shade of beautiful Paris Avenue. Admission is $5.

LSP Consortium Meeting
January 21st from 1:30pm-4:00pm

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!

See your upcoming event in a future edition of the Changing Tides! Send your event
Going Out With The Tide: Recent Events

2019 LSP Annual Report and the 2019-2023 LSP Stormwater Outreach Strategic Plan
This month, the Lowcountry Stormwater Partners published both their annual report for 2019 and an updated, 5-year strategic plan. You can find full, free copies of these reports on the "Archives" tab on our website HERE.

2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference
On November 14th, the LSP alongside Clemson Extension, S.C. SeaGrant
NERC Coastal Training program hosted the 2019 Beaufort Area Stormwater Pond Conference. Over 75 people attended and learned about the current state of knowledge on stormwater ponds, integrated pest management, aquatic plant management, sea level rise, harmful algal bloom, wildlife management, and more!

Making It Grow!

On October 29th and November 5th, Beaufort County Water Resources Agent, Ellen Sturup Comeau, was featured on SCETV's Emmy-award winning series, Making It Grow! As a panelist, she answered questions about shorescapes, buffers, and the then-upcoming pond conference. She was then responsible for assisting with the Facebook Live-stream and gathering audience questions for the next panel. You can find these episodes on the shows' website HERE.

See your success stories in a future edition of the Changing Tides! Send your a short description and pictures to Ellen Comeau at ecomeau@clemson.edu!
Get Involved!

Help protect our local waterways by:

**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](#).

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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!
Happy Thanksgiving and the November Edition of the Changing Tides!

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Have any questions, comments, or requests? Contact:
Ellen Comeau
Water Resources Extension Agent
ecomeau@clemson.edu
(843)-473-6023
18 John Galt Rd, Beaufort, SC, 29902

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.

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