

# Happy New Year

Wishing you *peace* and *joy* in 2015!

**From all of us with Clemson's Center for Watershed Excellence and Carolina Clear,** we hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and feel renewed in this new year. THANK YOU for your support and partnership in 2014 and for your efforts towards protecting South Carolina's water resources!

This year, our newsletter will focus on the strengths of those who comprise the Carolina Clear and Extension's Water Resources Program team. I have had the greatest pleasure of directing Carolina Clear now for more than six years, and Cal and I have enjoyed watching individuals grow leadership skills through our regional partnerships and team programming. For the program as a whole, Carolina Clear supports the development of skill sets of each team member across the state. In this way, strengths can be shared for new and increasingly targeted outreach that benefits the overall Carolina Clear program and the public we serve.

At the same time, we are working with fellow Agents and Specialists in creating online professional development opportunities that will encourage greater watershed

stewardship. The courses in development and their status are also detailed here.

Clemson University, as well as the Clemson Extension Service, has experienced many changes in administration and organization this past year. At this time, it is especially important to thank our new Extension Director, Dr. Tom Dobbins, and Associate Director, Dr. Brian Callahan, for their support and involvement in our water resources program outreach. These changes at the university level and in Extension administration, and the national climate of water quantity and quality concerns, have resulted in greater program support, awareness and increases in communication with Agents, faculty and others. Without these great partnerships, we would only have our own ideas and our own successes. So, thank you for your partnership!

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2015!

Your friend in water protection,





# Program Highlights of 2014

## National Award Winning!

Several years ago, I asked for some professional guidance on how to elevate a non-traditional Extension program for greater University recognition and awareness. We did run our statewide commercial during Clemson's 2013 Bowl Game, which was helpful! On a more serious note and following that guidance, our program became nationally recognized! The Universities Council on Water Resources awarded Clemson's Carolina Clear Program the 2014 Education and Public Service Award, alongside the Mystic River Watershed Association. This award recognizes significant contributions to increase public awareness of water resources development, use or management in the biological and social sciences.

## Survey Says

This year, we also completed our environmental attitudes, awareness and behaviors survey, a follow up from 2009. This survey instrument seeks to guide program development, measure changes in awareness, knowledge and behaviors, and determine best approaches and audiences to meet program goals of sustained behavior changes that benefit water resource protection. Data is being summarized for delivery to each consortium, and summary reports will soon be available on our website. Some points to consider:

- 65% or more SC respondents recognize that land use has a "great impact" on waterways, an increase since 2009.
- More than 89% of respondents feel that waterway health is "very important" to SC's economy and tourism.
- When asked, green gardening was the greatest topic of interest for a workshop that the respondent would be likely to attend than other offerings such as rain gardens, rain barrels, clean ups or watershed information sessions.



## Clearly Doing Good

Under our new program co-coordinator, Dr. Amy Scaroni, 2015 will also see the launch of our new Clearly Doing Good program, where private land owners or managers can apply for stormwater best practices to be installed with signage at highly visible locations. This program includes

requirements of watershed stewardship and involvement and continued maintenance. Lots of details, and we look forward to its roll out!



## Media Campaign

Carolina Yards program was generating considerable interest several years ago; however, the program needed considerable work to develop specific recommendations and messages for sustained behavior adoption. Through the efforts of a committee of faculty, agents and colleagues, and with thanks to our partners and the Clemson Extension Service, the Carolina Yards program received the overhaul it needed and a program coordinator! The media campaign from this 2013-2014 took a new approach, advertising program resources that support SC-focused, environmentally friendly landscaping practices. The various media buys resulted in more than 5.2 million views. Four billboard designs at 15 locations across the state were seen by an estimated 1.3 million drivers. Check [http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/mass-media/13\\_14\\_campaign.html](http://www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/mass-media/13_14_campaign.html) and our Carolina Clear YouTube Channel for more information.

Artwork from Carolina Yards' billboard media campaign.



**Barrels of Fun.**  
Carolina Yards are water-wise.  
Do you have one? [www.clemson.edu/cy](http://www.clemson.edu/cy)

Carolina CLEAR  
FLORIDA-DARLINGTON  
Extension Consortium



**Healthy Soil.**  
Carolina Yards enhance and sustain.  
Do you have one? [www.clemson.edu/cy](http://www.clemson.edu/cy)

Carolina CLEAR  
ASHLEY COOPER  
Institute for Soil & Water Conservation



**Give It a Rest.**  
Carolina Yards are low maintenance.  
Do you have one? [www.clemson.edu/cy](http://www.clemson.edu/cy)

Carolina CLEAR  
A MEMBER OF THE  
stormwater PARTNERS  
Coalition



**Buffer Zones.**  
Carolina Yards protect and preserve.  
Do you have one? [www.clemson.edu/cy](http://www.clemson.edu/cy)

Carolina CLEAR  
Coastal Waterways  
Regional Institute



## ANDERSON & PICKENS COUNTIES stormwater PARTNERS

A PUBLIC SERVICE OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Consortium members worked together to develop a five-year adaptive education plan, while continuing to build on existing programs. The APCSP will continue to focus efforts on sediment and erosion control; fats, oils and grease (FOG) disposal best practices; proper pet waste disposal, along with other ongoing programs that include watershed awareness, automotive oils disposal and better management of nutrients to our region's watersheds.

- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Elected & Appointed Officials Luncheon was held at the Clemson Outdoor Lab, including the SC DHEC Watershed Managers for the Savannah and Saluda River basins as guest speakers.
- Water and Wildlife Day at Lake Jocassee included the installation of a rain barrel, rain chain, rain garden, erosion control garden and many wildlife habitat boxes at Devils Fork State Park.
- Our fall sale distributed more than 100 rain barrels and 50 compost bins to residents across the region.
- Rain garden workshops were hosted at the SC Botanical Garden and Darwin Wright Park. School groups and Scouts helped with maintenance at other local rain gardens.
- Scouts, 4-H clubs and school groups across our counties have been busy painting rain barrels installed in visible locations to raise awareness about this useful stormwater tool.

Upcoming event highlights for 2015 include a Green Gardening Workshop series at the SC Botanical Garden, the 6th Annual Elected Officials Luncheon, and Water and Wildlife Day at Keowee-Toxaway State Park, along with displays at local festivals and farmers markets.

*Cathy was awarded the 2014  
Conservation Educator Award  
from the SC Wildlife*

*Federation and continues to work with many local non-profit organizations and schools on environmental education projects, including a Champions of the Environment award for a composting project.*

*Rachel looks forward to attending Dr. McKenzie-Mohr's Community-Based Social Marketing Course this past spring. Nearly every agent on the Carolina Clear team have attended this or a similar training to build consistent approaches to developing, testing and improving upon environmental education and involvement outreach strategies.*



## ASHLEY COOPER STORMWATER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

2014 proved to be another exciting year for the ACSEC. Thanks to the hard work of our community and education partners, we recorded more than an **estimated 2 million educational impacts in the Tri-County** – all in the name of protecting our waterways!

- The spring 2014 Stormwater Pond Management Conference attracted 150 attendees with added field tour and hands-on instruction. This is the second time this conference has been hosted by the ACSEC.
- The Joint Resolution Signing Event in May 2014 brought together 13 community leaders and staff to reaffirm commitment to the ACSEC's regional education strategy. This event occurs every five years; the original signing kicked-off the ACSEC in 2009!
- One of the largest one-time rain barrel sales in the southeast was recorded by the ACSEC, selling more than 250 barrels!
- The ACSEC's demonstration sites recorded more than 70,000 visitors, providing a hands-on opportunity for residents to see and learn about best management practices for their yard.

Don't miss out on upcoming ACSEC programs and initiatives in 2015! In particular, we are looking forward to collaborating with partners to:



- Recognize the first restaurants participating in the Carolina Clean Watershed Restaurant program, a program designed to encourage best management practices in the food service industry.
- Develop rain garden programming to provide information on design, installation and maintenance of residential rain gardens. This programmatic effort will aim to increase the use of rain gardens in the home landscape.
- Host the launch of the Master Pond Manager program in the Charleston area in Spring 2015!

We are thankful for the partners of the ACSEC and are looking forward to 2015 as we work together to serve the Lowcountry community and protect its unique water resources.

*Kim obtained her American Rainwater Catchment System Association accredited professional (AP) designation; she is now one of four certified APs in South Carolina!*

*This year, Guinn has enjoyed working alongside a host of Extension Agents and Specialists to develop the Master Pond Manager program, slated to launch during Spring 2015.*



The Carolina Yards media campaign, in partnership with the Florence Darlington Stormwater Consortium (FDSC), was a major highlight for the CWSEC in 2014. This dynamic, 9-month media campaign with WBTW highlighted the principles of watershed-friendly landscaping through monthly promotional spots, online banner ads, news at noon interviews, and news segments. Endorsed by Chief Meteorologist Frank Johnson, the campaign targeted avid gardeners and weekend warriors with the goal of encouraging them to engage in gardening activities that make positive changes in the environmental quality of their yards, neighborhoods, and surrounding waterways.

More specifically, topics mirrored the principles of the Carolina Yards program and included:

- Shoreline erosion prevention,
- Shoreline buffers to deter residential Canada Goose populations,

- Native plant options,
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and timing of fertilizer and herbicide products,
- Rainwater harvesting,
- Soil building.



The Carolina Yards campaign, in partnership with the CWSEC, was a major highlight of 2014. This dynamic, 9-month media campaign with WBTW highlighted the principles of watershed-friendly landscaping through monthly promotional spots, online banner ads, news at noon interviews, and news segments. Endorsed by Chief Meteorologist Frank Johnson, the campaign targeted avid gardeners and weekend warriors with the goal of encouraging them to engage in gardening activities that make positive changes in the environmental quality of their yards, neighborhoods, and surrounding waterways.



In June, the FDSC hosted a week-long 4-H<sub>2</sub>O “Exploring Pee Dee Waterways” day camp for 20 Florence County students ages 9-14. Camp activities were designed to foster an appreciation of and stewardship ethic for our natural resources. Dargan’s Pond, accessible from Clemson’s Pee Dee Research and Education Center, was an ideal setting for participants to learn about watersheds, water pollution, macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality, and freshwater fish. The highlight of camp was a 5-mile kayak trip down Lynches River.

Look for the residential FOG campaign “Keep Your Drain Fat Free” in 2015, which will seek to minimize clogged pipes, backups and overflows. In an effort to assist Pee Dee residents with proper FOG disposal, the FDSC will provide free, reusable grease can lids to all groups and organizations hosting an educational program.

Additional plans for 2015 include the installation of a shorescaping demonstration site to illustrate the beauty of a three-dimensional, alive shoreline that also protects water quality and minimizes property loss from erosion.

*Terasa was part of a team that traveled to Washington, D.C. to represent Clemson University at the 2014 Cooperative Extension Centennial Convocation.*





Richland County Stormwater Consortium, in partnership with the City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County, hosted the Summer Celebration of Water at Riverfront Park, bringing in more than 1,000 area residents to enjoy their local waterways and find out how to better protect them from everyday sources of pollution.

As part of our partnership with area schools, in addition to the dozen Enviroscape demonstrations and instruction, RCSC also participated in Green Apple Day of Service at Meadowview Elementary School, building raised garden beds and installing small shrubs for erosion prevention.

Finally, approximately 2,000 square feet of shoreline was vegetated and seeded for erosion prevention and to deter resident Canada Goose populations from nesting in an area of public park space. This site will serve as a shoreline buffer demonstration for the consortium, internal MS4 training venue, and a training grounds for Carolina Clear's new Clearly Doing Good program launching this spring 2015.

*After 6 years of service with Clemson Extension, Mary Caflisch has moved on to be a full-time educator. We will miss her leadership and passion for youth education! Carolina Clear is currently seeking to fill this vacancy; 2015 will include new personnel and an updated education and involvement strategy that builds on many developed partnerships and recurring awareness-building efforts.*



Sumter Stormwater Solutions had a busy year in 2014, already our 6th year of regional partnership!

Our second annual Rain Barrel Art Contest went well with triple the amount of barrels submitted! The barrels were judged at the Earth Day Festival at Swan Lake Iris Gardens in April. The first place winner for the second year in a row was Dr. Davis's art class from Lakewood High School! Second place went to Ms. Rennick's class at Sumter High, and third

place went to Millwood Elementary School's Ecology Club. SSS looks forward to hosting the contest again in 2015!

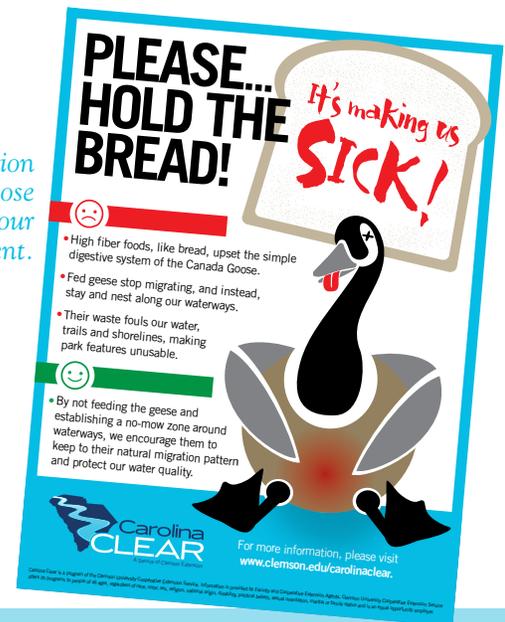
A shoreline buffer was installed at Patriot's Park in partnership with the Sumter County Recreation Department, Sumter County Stormwater Utility Department, Sumter County's Soil and Water Conservation District, and Sumter County Planning. The shoreline around the ponds at the park were bare and eroding; by planting native grasses and a few shrubs and trees, the shoreline has now stabilized. This is a regional demonstration project that others can adopt for environmentally protective shoreline management!

In 2015, a rain garden at Dillon Park will be installed as an education and demonstration site that is highly visible to the public. There will be a workshop involved to teach folks about rain gardens their function. Following the indoor portion, the workshop will continue outside with the participants helping to install the rain garden. There will be an educational sign posted for walkers-by to read following the workshop.

In partnership with Sumter County and the City of Sumter, we will host a stormwater credit workshop, educating citizens on how to qualify and apply for stormwater credits to reduce their utility bill and protect local water resources.

Jolie is also excited about her first writing award. She writes for the "Sumter Item Keeping Sumter Beautiful" column and Lakeside Magazine. Jolie was honored to receive the South Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents 2014 Communications Award for 2nd place in the personal columns category.

For more information on new Canada Goose signage contact your local agent.



Keep up the conversation on Facebook! 

Carolina Clear  
[www.facebook.com/carolinaclear](http://www.facebook.com/carolinaclear)

Ashley Cooper  
[www.facebook.com/ashleycooperstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/ashleycooperstormwater)

Florence Darlington Stormwater Consortium  
[www.facebook.com/FlorenceDarlingtonStormwaterConsortium](http://www.facebook.com/FlorenceDarlingtonStormwaterConsortium)



Midlands Stormwater Consortium  
[www.facebook.com/midlandstormwater](http://www.facebook.com/midlandstormwater)

Anderson & Pickens Counties Stormwater Partners  
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# Carolina YARDS

A CLEMSON EXTENSION SERVICE 

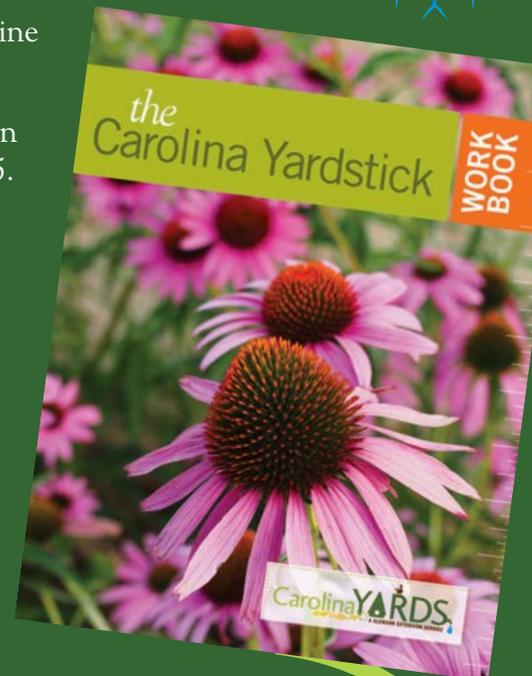


Carolina Yards has been enjoying putting its new tools and resources to use! Please visit the Carolina Yards website ([clemson.edu/cy](http://clemson.edu/cy)) for regularly updated information, or contact Sara Pachota at [gpachot@clemson.edu](mailto:gpachot@clemson.edu).

- The Carolina Yards Plant Database has become a popular search engine for South Carolinians to find low maintenance plants fit for their needs and site conditions.
- The 2nd edition of the Carolina Yardstick Workbook was released this fall and serves as a great interactive book to help residents get started with creating a Carolina Yard. The Workbook can be purchased through Clemson's PSA online Shopping Mall.
- The Carolina Yards Online Guide to Environmentally Friendly Gardening ran statewide for the first time this past spring and is set to run again in May 2015. There's a full waiting list from last year, so register early!



As the Carolina Yards program expanded its resources, it also looked at ways to reach new audiences interested in environmental landscaping. *Carolina Schoolyards* was created in order to offer the principles of the Carolina Yards program to educators. The program is in the early stages of building training modules complete with curriculum, tools, and resources that will help teachers implement environmentally friendly education and activities within their schoolyards. The first curriculum-writing workshop was held in Charleston last summer with four local educators who created lesson plans and activities focused on the importance of using "rain as a resource." The educators will test drive the lesson plans in their classrooms this school year. Carolina Schoolyards will continue development this year with more to come!





# Applied Research *Overview*

with Dr. Cal Sawyer

2014 has been a very productive year in terms of applied research targeted at addressing water resource impairments in South Carolina. I am privileged to work with several colleagues who share my passion and curiosity about investing new and better practices for improving water quality. Here's an overview of some of the projects on which we're currently working:



**Turbidity Control and Surface Outlets** A three (3) year project in partnership with SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is evaluating turbidity and surface water withdrawal associated with linear construction site stormwater discharge. In particular, we're measuring total suspended solids (TSS) and turbidity levels on active sites from best management practices (BMPs) designed for the 80% trapping efficiency design standard. Instrumentation is also being deployed at 3 sites across the state and on campus to measure and evaluate TSS and turbidity levels from selected BMPs following passive flocculent treatment with polyacrylamides (PAM) under both field and controlled conditions. The project will conclude in 2016 with recommendations for specifications and design aids based on results for the various BMPs investigated.



*Turbidity reduction research using sediment tubes with PAM application.*

## **Vegetative Succession in Restored Ecosystems**

Historically, many streams in South Carolina have been hydrologically modified to suit our agricultural or growth-related needs. Due to the lack of floodplain connectivity and upstream influences, resulting impacts on many of these ecosystems have altered plant communities into an invasive dominated community. Stream restoration attempts to rebuild the natural curvature, reconnect the stream to a functional floodplain, and reestablish a natural vegetative community. Hunnicutt Creek, located on Clemson University's campus, is one such system and was restored in late 2013. Using the Carolina Vegetation Survey (CVS) sampling protocol, plots have been established within the restoration reach and the remaining impaired stream area to compare the existing communities with the restored communities.



*Creative Inquiry team establishing CVS plot within restored stream reach.*

Though only preliminary data sets have been established, there are some very interesting early findings related to the existing vegetative communities:

- While the tree canopy consists of 100% native woody species, the understory is dominated by invasive plants.
- More specifically, 71% of the herb strata and an astonishing 90% of the shrub strata are comprised of such aggressive non-natives as Chinese Privet, English Ivy, Nandina, and the dreaded Silverthorn.



In the coming semesters, our Creative Inquiry team will be continuing to collect data that will allow us to

evaluate success related to reestablishment of ecological and hydrological functions within the restored reach.



*Students observe controlled grazing in progress.*

**Riparian Invasive Species Control and Management** Another exciting research project (and offshoot of the vegetative succession work) is also being implemented in the Hunnicutt Creek watershed further upstream of the restoration project. Creative Inquiry students have established another set of nested CVS plots to examine the efficacy of various invasive plant management strategies. Along with control plots, active removal techniques being evaluated include mechanical, chemical, mechanical-chemical combination, and one other practice that has garnered a good deal of attention on campus: prescribed grazing using goats. Using animals to chew down unwanted vegetation has been an option for thousands of years and it may yet prove to be less expensive and more environmentally friendly than applying manpower, machines or chemicals. In addition, studies of bacterial density along with turbidity and TSS will compare water quality before the goats' arrival, during and subsequent to their deployment.

For more information on research and student involvement on Hunnicutt Creek, please visit the project web site at [www.clemson.edu/public/hunnicutt/](http://www.clemson.edu/public/hunnicutt/)



## *Welcome, Chuck Jarman!*

Being a new member of Clemson Extension's Water Resources Program Team has been a rewarding experience. This past year, I was able to provide technical assistance to a number of instructional programs. These programs have included CEPSCI and CSPR certification programs, Charleston's Stormwater Pond Management Conference, SC DHEC MS4 Workshop, IECA Field Day, LID workshops, Sediment Basin Design workshop, and several demonstration projects including the installation of various best management practices at the Charleston County Public Services Building.

Look for the launch of several technical capacity building efforts in 2015:

- Post Construction Inspection and Maintenance Course led by Dr. Dan Hitchcock.
- LID design and installation workshops in stormwater consortium areas across SC.
- Outreach materials that support stormwater management programs as well as help prepare decision makers and developers for greater implementation of LID practices.

As Extension's Water Resources Engineer, I am here to help. Please contact me with any of the following needs: technical assistance with stormwater BMP designs, project planning, hydrology, hydraulics, or municipal stormwater management. I can be reached at [cjarman@clemson.edu](mailto:cjarman@clemson.edu).



# Technical Instruction *updates*

## Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector Program (CEPSCI)

This past year the CEPSCI program set near record numbers of attendance at both the initial certification and recertification classes. Seven initial certification and 9 recertification classes were taught at 4 locations throughout South Carolina certifying or recertifying nearly 900 individuals.

## Center for Watershed Excellence Course Update



In 1914, the Cooperative Extension Service was formalized by the Smith-Lever Act. Extension Agents traveled by train to educate farmers using science-based best practices. Fast forward 100 years, and we are still working to connect Clemson experts to target audiences, traditional and new! Thanks to funding secured through the Clemson Extension 2013 Lever Initiatives, the Center for Watershed Excellence is establishing a new online classroom designed for blending distance learning with hands-on field activities. The learning experience and the material are tailored for developers, contractors, city planners, commercial landscapers, and industry professionals. Many Clemson Extension faculty, agents, and partners, are hard at work to build new courses for this online classroom relating to stormwater, water resources, and landscaping best practices. During 2014, course teams developed learning material, which then was reviewed by experts and revised. We are thrilled to debut our initial courses in 2015!

- **Post-Construction BMP Inspector** (led by Dan Hitchcock, Ph.D., P.E.) offered an in-person pilot in July at Furman University, and after content revisions, will host a hybrid pilot in Spring 2015 in the coastal region.
- **Master Pond Manager** (led by Extension Agent Guinn Garrett Wallover) is in the final stages of review, preparing for a hybrid pilot in Spring 2015.
- **Landscape Professional** (led by Dara Park, Ph.D. and Sarah White, Ph.D.) is finishing content development. After reviews, an online pilot will occur during Spring 2015.
- **Stream Restoration** (led by Greg Jennings, Ph.D., P.E.) is nearing the completion of initial draft content development.

In addition, we are in the early stages of planning courses on stormwater conveyances, watershed management, and others. Watch for more details during the year ahead! We are always looking for new partners, sponsors and ideas on training needs to affect greater watershed stewardship.

### CEPSCI Initial Certification

January 13, 2015  
 March 3, 2015  
 April 29, 2015  
 July 15, 2015  
 September 2, 2015  
 November 19, 2015

### CEPSCI Recertification

April 28, 2015 (SC DOT)  
 April 30, 2015  
 May 19, 2015  
 June 9, 2015  
 June 10, 2015  
 June 24, 2015

[www.clemson.edu/public/CEPSCI](http://www.clemson.edu/public/CEPSCI)

### *Wetland carpets work...and quickly!*

Before and after images of wetland carpet installation by Sumter Stormwater Solutions at Patriot's Park, Sumter, SC.



Before



After





# updates from our team...



**Jolie Brown** is excited to announce that she and her husband, Mike are expecting their first child. Baby Brown is due to arrive February 28th. They are excited to meet their little girl!

**Kim Counts** married her partner in rainwater harvesting and on-the-water recreation, Marty Morganello! Kim and Marty spent their honeymoon traveling Europe.

**Rachel Davis** moved to the upstate from Charleston when she joined the team in July. She was married in October, and she and her husband just purchased their first house. She is looking forward to planting a vegetable garden and installing a rain barrel!

**Michael Griffin** is excited to announce his recent publication in Water Resources Research (<http://bit.ly/griffin2014wrr>), which details his work on stormwater flow pathways in minimally developed, first-order, coastal-plain watersheds. Michael and his wife purchased their first house this year, in Oak Terrace Preserve, an LID community. Michael is excited for the year ahead with the release of our initial hybrid courses!

**Terasa Lott** reports 2014 was a productive and memorable year, especially the month of May. After the 2014 Cooperative Extension Centennial Convocation, she was married the day after at Kalmia Gardens of Coker College.

**Sara Pachota** has been enjoying this past year with a new puppy, a beagle named Buoy and has also been busy planning her wedding. Sara and her fiancé, David, are very excited to celebrate their marriage with family and friends in Charleston this upcoming fall! Sara also became an aunt for the first time and was able to meet her niece, Cicilia, this past holiday.

**Jeremy Pike** has just completed his first full year working with the CEPSCI program, where he has progressed from running day-to-day program activities to taking a shared instructors role in the class. This past year, he has been involved with numerous water-related research projects on Clemson's main campus; this coming year will be no different! Jeremy actively works with the local SC DNR office where his research focuses on aquatic community responses to physical and species-targeted stream restoration activities. He has also just begun research to associate in-stream sedimentation with aquatic invertebrate communities in the Broad River Basin.

**Cathy Reas Foster** has backpacked over half of the Appalachian Trail to the Delaware Water Gap!

**Guinn Garrett Wallover** is excited to announce her marriage in the fall of 2014! Guinn and Nick lived the pura vida life in Costa Rica for their honeymoon.



[www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear](http://www.clemson.edu/carolinaclear)

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