

News

Division of Media Relations
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201
(803) 898-3886
www.scdhec.net/news



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2003

Dr. Jack A. Turner Wins State Environmental Award

COLUMBIA -- Jack A. Turner received the 2002 South Carolina Environmental Awareness Award from Gov. Mark Sanford in a ceremony Wednesday at the State House in Columbia. Turner was honored for developing an environmental education outreach center for Spartanburg County.

Dr. Turner's vision of providing an educational outreach program to enhance the environmental education of the young people and community in Spartanburg County led to the creation of the Watershed Ecology Center at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg in 1999. The center collects, analyzes and disseminates sound scientific information on the watershed ecology of the region.

Dr. Turner envisioned a program that would teach young people in kindergarten through eighth grade about the dynamics of a healthy watershed and how to prevent nonpoint source pollution. The program has grown from offering one presentation to offering a variety of grade-specific, water-related programs that are designed to meet the South Carolina state science standards.

By November 2002, the program had reached 3,864 students across the seven local school districts, and more than 300 programs have been scheduled.

The center's first outreach program was the Volunteer Water Monitoring Program, which in partnership with the Spartanburg Area Conservancy is monitoring the health of Lawson Fork Creek. The newest program is the Water Watchdogs program. In this program, volunteer property owners in the watershed are given a checklist of items to watch for, and they report any problems to the Water Watchdogs number.

The South Carolina Environmental Awareness Award, now in its 11th year, was established by the S.C. General Assembly during the 1992 legislative session to recognize outstanding contributions made toward the protection, conservation and improvement of South Carolina's natural resources.

Each year, the public is invited to submit nominations that are then reviewed by an awards committee made up of representatives from the state's natural resource agencies. In judging nominees, the committee considers excellence in innovation, leadership, education and accomplishments that influence positive changes affecting the environment.

2002-2003 Monthly Champions of The Environment – DHEC

USC Spartanburg Watershed Ecology Center Watershed Education Program

Dr. Jack Turner, Bonnie Webster, Ingrid Norris

September 2003



The team from USC Spartanburg's [Watershed Ecology Center](#) **Exit DHEC** consists of Dr. Jack Turner, Ingrid Norris, and Bonnie Webster. The goal of their watershed education program is to educate area residents about their local waterways. They visit area schools and other organizations to teach about protecting local water sources and common sources of water pollution.

The center's staff instruct students using a watershed model, which looks like any average community. Students use materials such as soy sauce to represent the pollution from a car leaking oil and kool-aid to represent excess lawn fertilizer. Then rain is introduced in the form of a spray bottle. Students observe a number of pollutants washing away because of the rain. The pollution washes down storm drains and into local waterways. The lesson reminds students that pollution on land washes into nearby bodies of water when it rains.

The staff educated well over 3,300 students during the 2001-02 school year. This year they plan to reach even more students. Educational program offerings include "Hurray for Habitats" and "Marsh Munchers" and are designed for K-8 grade students.

Education Award Ingrid Quigg Norris



Ingrid Norris is an Environmental Educator in the Watershed Education Program of the Watershed Ecology Center at the University of South Carolina in Spartanburg. Through her passion for protecting natural resources, Ingrid took her message of watershed protection to public and private schools, home school groups, and girl and boy scout troops working days, nights, and weekends. In 2001, Ingrid developed interactive programs for children in kindergarten through eighth grade that focused on the ecological importance of a watershed and human impacts on watersheds. During the 2001-2002 school year, she reached 3461 students. In 2002, the program expanded to offer a different water related problem for each grade level, addressing the SC State Science Standards appropriate for each grade level. Ingrid reached over 10,000 students with her watershed message giving approximately 420 presentations throughout the 2002-2003 school year.

During the 2003-2004 school year, Ingrid has partnered with DHEC teaching their Green Driver environmental message to high school students enrolled in Driver's Training expanding the environmental message to Greenville and Laurens counties. Ingrid worked with the City of Spartanburg to develop a storm water drain stenciling program and has organized Girl and Boy Scout troops, after-school programs, and community groups to stencil the storm drains to read "Dump No Waste - Drains to Stream" and distribute educational literature. Ingrid has also approached the City of Spartanburg about partnering with their program to educate the public about non-point source and storm water pollution. Through education, Ingrid is providing Spartanburg's youngest citizens with the opportunity to be caretakers of our water resources.



THE SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION



 Santee Cooper POWER



News Release

Division of Media Relations
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201
(803) 898-3886
www.scdhec.gov/news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 10, 2004

Recycling awards presented

COLUMBIA – The top recycling programs, projects and people were honored Tuesday during the ninth annual Recycle Guys Awards Program hosted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

“This is our way to recognize, thank and make everyone aware of the hard work that is taking place throughout the state,” said William W. Culler, director of DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. “South Carolina’s recycling programs compare favorably to those in any state and it’s because of the commitment and dedication of local governments, staff and, of course, all of those who recycle.”

Vickie Williams of Greenville County received the Jack Hirst Recycling Coordinator of the Year Award. Williams was honored for her work in improving the county’s recycling program with an integrated approach that included installing new processing equipment, increasing what recyclables the program accepts and developing a comprehensive public awareness and education program.

Pickens County was named the Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Program. The county was recognized for its long-time excellence, growth and commitment to education and outreach. The county, for example, has a unique project that has volunteers go do-to-door at homes and businesses that are not recycling and encourage them to recycle. In addition, the county helped local schools set up a cardboard and mixed paper recycling program and implemented a mandatory recycling program for county government offices.

Other winners were: the City of Rock Hill, Outstanding Composting Program; Horry County, Outstanding Local Government Waste Reduction/Recycling Education Program; Sumter County, Outstanding Local Government Used Oil Recycling Program; the University of South Carolina at Aiken, Outstanding College or University Waste Reduction/Recycling Program; the S.C. Department of Transportation, Outstanding State Agency Waste Reduction/Recycling Program; and Keep the Midlands Beautiful, Most Creative Waste Reduction/Recycling Effort Award.

Julia Romo of Anderson County was presented the Melba McKenzie Award for Outstanding Volunteer efforts of a

person, group or association. Romo was recognized for working on numerous environmental projects including playing a key role in the recycling program at her daughter's school to assisting the school district on other recycling projects. She supported the Keep America Beautiful affiliate in Anderson County and later became part of the organization's board of directors. She practices what she preaches at work and at home by driving a hybrid vehicle.

As part of the America Recycles Day (ARD) celebration held annually on November 15, the ARD in South Carolina statewide steering committee sponsored three contests.

Cynde O'Rear of Hartness-Thornwell Elementary School in Clinton was named the Recycling Teacher of the Year. She received 10,000 sheets of recycled content paper from International Paper and a Palm Pilot from the U.S. Postal Service, Greater South Carolina Cluster.

The Thomas Webster family from Spartanburg was recognized as the All-American Recycling Family of the Year and received a prize package from several sponsors valued at \$1,500.

Horrell Hill Elementary School was named Recycling School of the Year. The school received 90,000 sheets of recycled content paper from International Paper.

The Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP), a partnership of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling and the Center for Waste Minimization along with the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program presented two awards. Horry County was presented B-RAP's top honor recognizing the public sector while SMI Steel was given the top honor for the private sector.

The Recycle Guys serve as the logo and stars of printed materials and public service announcements developed by DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

-###-

For further information:

Jana White (803) 896-4221

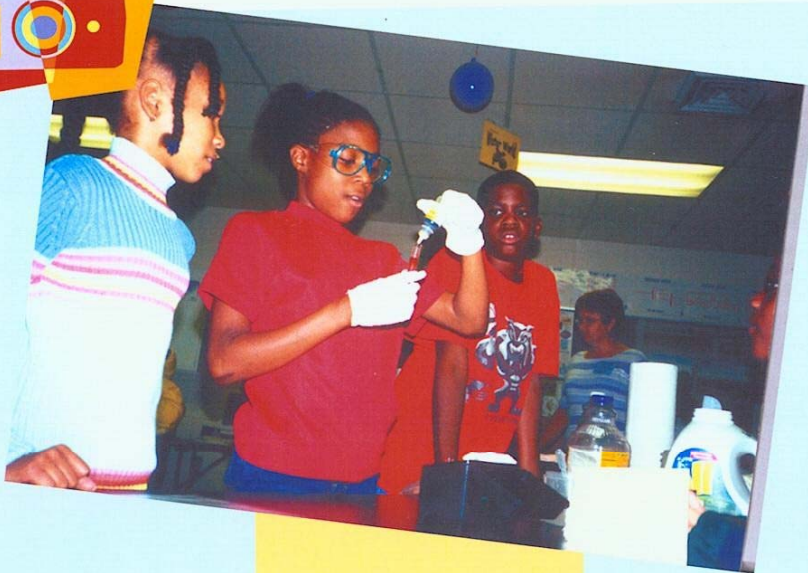
Eric Melaro (803) 896-4231

Thom Berry (803) 898-3885

E-mail – berrytw@dhec.sc.gov

BNR1465

photo contest
2002



Honorable Mention

presented to

**University of
South Carolina
Spartanburg**

Spartanburg, SC



Chestertown, MD 21620