

Suggestions for the 2010 Photo Contest Theme

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

Photos should incorporate at least one Conservation Practice

| Conservation Practices | Definitions and/or Examples |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Composting | Composting is recycling organic wastes into a beneficial soil amendment. There are four basic ingredients in the compost pile, nitrogen, carbon, water, and air . Examples of these ingredients are: Nitrogen - Green materials; ie: coffee grounds & filters, grass clippings, vegetable & fruit trimmings, & animal manure's. Carbon -Brown materials; i.e. Dry leaves & grasses, straw, wood chips, corn stalks, & shredded paper. Water - Adding water to the pile will balance the correct moisture level. Air - Oxygen is very important to the organisms that are working in the pile to breakdown the organic material. Bacteria, fungi, microorganisms, & insects need oxygen to breathe & air space in which to move throughout the <i>pile</i> . |
| Field Borders | A band or strip of perennial vegetation established on the edge of a crop field. |
| Plants/flowers/crops | Plants that provide food, nectar or shelter for wildlife, i.e. Purple Cornflower, Black Eyed Susans, Butterfly Bush, Milkweed, & Lantana. Cover crops such as: clover, wheat, & rye are used to improve the soil. |
| Priority Conservation Concerns | Priority areas are defined as watersheds, regions, or areas of special environmental sensitivity or having significant soil, water, or related natural resource concerns. These concerns could include soil erosion, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest and grazing lands. The bobwhite quail, wintering waterfowl, shorebird habitat, threatened /endangered plant and animal species have been identified as "priority conservation concerns" in the South Carolina. |
| Recycling & Reuse | Reclaiming resources that have been discarded as waste. Sanitizing and refilling bottles is an example of reuse. Sorting plastics, glass, paper, & aluminum; and then delivering them to a recycle center is recycling. Other examples of reuse are: Mulching w/ newspapers, using broken clay pots for toad house, etc. Recycling & reuse reduces landfill materials. |
| Riparian Buffer | An area of trees & shrubs located adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds, & wetlands, to buffer runoff water prior to entering the waterway. |
| Tree Planting | Planting trees helps the environment by preventing soil erosion & gives wildlife shelter & food. |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat | Habitat created for upland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish, and birds in South Carolina. |
| Wildlife Food Plot | An area planted with specific plants to attract wildlife. |
| Wildlife Habitat | <u>Backyard Habitat</u> - Create havens for wildlife in your yard, by including at least essential elements for wildlife habitats. Element Examples: Food Sources: Native plants, seeds, fruits, nuts, berries, & nectar. Water Sources: Birdbath, pond, water garden, & streams. Places for Cover: Thicket, rock pile, & birdhouses. Places to Raise Young: Dense shrubs, vegetation, nesting box, & pond. <u>Schoolyard or Community Habitat</u> - Same as Backyard Habitat only created at a school or neighborhood. |
| Worms in compost | Worms digesting compost. |

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