

## 2007/2008 Healthy Community Grant Recipients



### Town of Bluffton (Bluffton, SC)



The Town of Bluffton will construct a demonstration rain garden at Town Hall. A rain garden consists of shallow (2"-18") depressions, typically planted with colorful native plants, strategically located to collect, infiltrate and filter rain that falls on impervious surfaces. This will result in minimizing negative impacts of run-off on receiving waters. The design and installation of the rain garden will assist the Town in its efforts to educate the public about sustainable design practices that can be incorporated into private residences and businesses to help protect water quality.

Example rain garden

### St. Peter's Catholic School (Beaufort, SC)

The grant monies will enable students to do a water quality study in a high salinity estuary that is experiencing rapid growth. The evolution of this project comes after 8 years of a previously established environmental science program at St. Peter's Catholic Middle School. As a result of the rapid growth in Beaufort County, the Beaufort River has high surges of fresh water from storm water run off. It is the intent of St. Peter's Environmental Science Program to more clearly investigate the impact the fresh water runoff is having on fouling organisms, including anemones, sea squirts, and sponges. "These students take a greater appreciation for the natural world away with them, creating stewards of our earth in our own small pocket of the world," says Heather Remold, teacher at St. Peter's Catholic School.

### Marshview Organic Community Farm (St. Helena, SC)

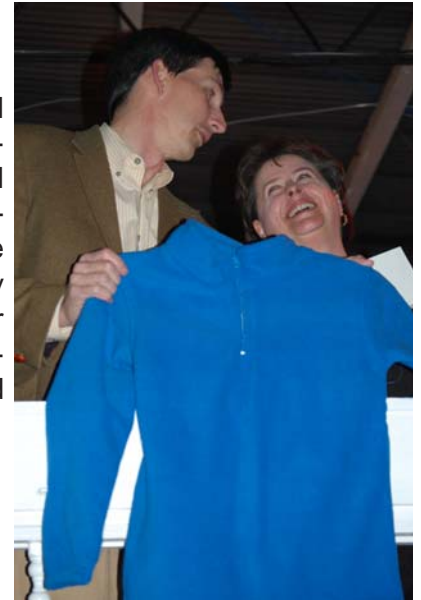


The goal of the Marshview Organic Community Farm is to educate the youth in the community about how they can be a change agent for improving their environment through training and hands-on operations in organic farming. The youth will be trained in the operation of an organic farm through applications of environmentally safe organic products and practices and through farm management. The project will also develop character in the students as they learn entrepreneurial skills in a safe and educational environment while earning a weekly stipend.

Students receiving their Healthy Community Grant award

## United Way of the Coastal Empire (Liberty County, GA)

The United Way of the Coastal Empire is partnering with Keep America Beautiful through their Students for Recycling Program. Students will collect plastic bottles (they collected six tons last year) that will be sent to Keep America Beautiful for recycling. The bottles will be sent back to the students in the form of something they can use. One year, they received 2,000 fleece pullovers that were then gifted to local students in need of warm winter clothing. One Liberty County school administrator reports, "We have always encouraged recycling at our school, but until this project where the students actually see and touch something made of recycled goods they never really understood the purpose behind it."



Berry Edwards accepting a fleece pullover made from recycled bottles

## American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Georgia Chapter



This project will create a native plant book specific to coastal South Carolina and Georgia that will seek to make environmental stewardship achievable on the personal level. It will also promote the creation and restoration of ecologically functioning landscapes in the coastal area by providing users with a comprehensive set of tools that will assist in the appropriate selection and utilization of native plants for urban development, restoration projects, and private gardens. "It is my belief as a Landscape Architect that every city or community needs to have a thorough understanding of its own distinct physiographic context in order to make informed decisions for its future," says Jamie Csizmadia.

Landscape designed using native plants