

Healthy Pond Series: Facilitating connection and collaboration opportunities in stormwater pond management outreach for both participants and educators

Stormwater ponds are the most frequently used practice to help manage flooding and pollution in South Carolina, with over 9,000 ponds in the coastal zone alone! Extension and education partners in South Carolina have offered a variety of outreach tools to help meet pond education needs. Feedback has shown that stormwater pond owners, the program target audience, desired more peer-to-peer networking opportunities. To facilitate this process, Clemson Extension, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Sea Grant Consortium, and USC-North Inlet Winyah Bay NERR developed the Healthy Pond Series. The Healthy Pond Series, now hosted in the greater Charleston, Beaufort, and Myrtle Beach communities, is designed to be an educational networking opportunity to connect stormwater pond owners with others in their area. As part of the series, participants discuss best practices in pond maintenance and feedback on successes, or failures, in their management efforts. Each segment in the quarterly series, includes a lecture portion on a maintenance topic and interactive hands-on discussion time for owners. In the Charleston workshop alone, since its start in 2017, has reached more than 400 attendees, with many of these being repeat participants and attending multiples dates during the year. Program evaluations show the delivery format is highly successful in meeting pond owner's needs. This program format provides Extension agencies a unique model for delivery of stormwater education that fosters peer-to-peer connection, as well as serving as an opportunity for cross-sector agency collaboration, leveraging resources to meet a shared goal of water resource protection.

Brooke Saari

Brooke Saari is the Coastal Environmental Quality Extension Specialist for South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, focusing on water quality, stormwater and coastal environmental health. Throughout her career, Brooke has focused on providing marine and natural resources education focused on watershed health and awareness.



Originally from Florida, Brooke earned her M.S. and B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of West Florida and Stetson University, respectively. While an undergrad, she served in Americorps with the Florida State Park Service focusing on natural resource management. After which beginning her natural resources extension career as a Florida Sea Grant Extension agent through the University of Florida IFAS Extension, for nearly seven years, until relocating to Washington State in 2014. After working as an extension coordinator for Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, she moved back to the South & into Sea Grant, in April 2020, for her current position.

C. Guinn Wallover

Guinn serves as a Water Resources Extension Agent for the coastal district with Clemson Extension and coordinator of the Master Pond Manager program. Guinn is also the Coordinator for the Charleston County Extension Office.

Guinn grew up in Atlanta, GA and received her B.S. in Earth and Environmental Science from Furman

University and her M.S. in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston. Prior to her work with Clemson Extension, Guinn worked with the Town of Mount Pleasant stormwater and drinking and wastewater utilities.

Guinn's areas of interest include pond management, surface water and groundwater monitoring and water quality analysis. Guinn is a Non-Commercial Pesticide Licensed Applicator, SC Certified Stormwater Plan Reviewer, and SC Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector.

Guinn enjoys working with communities in the Lowcountry and Grand Strand to help make natural resource management decisions that protect community and environment health.