



MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

"Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of a nation."

Theodore Roosevelt



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Greetings!

When it comes to making wise choices with regard to installing BMPs per the plan, what does "wise" really mean? Wisdom usually comes by way of learning from our mistakes, but for the wisest people it often comes from learning from the mistakes of others. Georgia politicians have made plenty of mistakes in their decisions to be reactive instead of proactive when it comes to erosion laws. Today, with a view to the lack of funding for Georgia's

environmental protection agencies (ie GAEPD, GSWCC, etc.), many would say there's not a lot of wisdom involved in the political decisions to underfund these valuable agencies. Why would a state decide to underfund the very agencies that protect the reason many people move to Georgia to begin with?

A few years ago, a land developer attended one of my recertification classes. He had recently suffered a lot of personal property damage caused by another developer whose sediment discharged onto his property after a significant storm event. What he told me from his experience, I want to share with you. He said, "As a developer, I always knew it wasn't right to go the cheap route when it came to hiring erosion plan designers and erosion control

contractors. I always hoped for a local inspector to be slack in their enforcement, and they usually were. I knew every now and then that my attitude might come back to haunt me, but I never dreamed that I would have to go through the horrible experience of having my own property's creeks and lake fill up with sediment." He said, "When it comes to erosion control, I'll never do things on the cheap again!" In the end, I was able to help him recover some damages from the NPDES permit violator that caused him so much grief, but not enough to put his property back the way it was. He understands today from his own personal experience that poor erosion control compliance and inadequate local enforcement is damaging more than you can imagine.

Let's show wisdom and be respectful of the people and critters downstream from our sediment discharges. It's the American way!

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT



SAVING MOWERS & WILDLIFE

Author: Kristine Nemek, Stormh20.com

More state DOTs are embracing biodegradable erosion control netting. A call from a concerned landowner prompted a state Department of Transportation to overhaul its erosion control specifications. The landowner noticed more than **50 water snakes** entangled in plastic erosion control netting along a local road. An environmental resources coordinator took the call and removed as many snakes as he could. After the incident he asked DOT engineers if there was a product that would control erosion

but allow wildlife to escape.

Click the link to learn about the product that was used! Hydraulic erosion control mats should be considered as well.

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TECH TALK



Tech Talk is a forum for resolving erosion and sediment control and/or construction related problems from a technical perspective. Questions are submitted by the reader; suggestions may be from the NPDES Training Institute,

[Southeast Environmental Consultants, LLC \(SEC\)](#) or other sources. The reader is solely responsible for the results if suggestions are implemented.



GO TO THE SOURCE & STABILIZE IT!

The article below, written by Rhett Kerby of KerTec Environmental Services, helps us understand the long term impacts of erosion and sedimentation IF we don't prevent them. Rhett takes pride in his work and the results prove it. He provides stakeholders of civil construction projects reclamation consultation and

contracting services with a focus on seed bed preparation, seed application methods, seeding rates, species selection, weed control methods (chemical and mechanical), soil health and erosion control.

[Click Here](#) to check out Rhett's LinkedIn profile!

Rhett Kerby, KerTec Environmental Services

I challenge you to study these pictures. The natural ecology of this area is a mid-to-tall grass prairie. Disturbance to the vegetation that took place decades ago has forever changed this landscape.

The removal of vegetation in the 1920's led to the most significant man-made disaster in human history, the Dust Bowl. The lessons learned from that era began a movement within government as well as academia to understand plant and soil science.

From academia and government we now have laws and regulations known as the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Protection Act to prevent future disasters. Today, my job is to eliminate naivete within industries responsible for large areas of land disturbance.

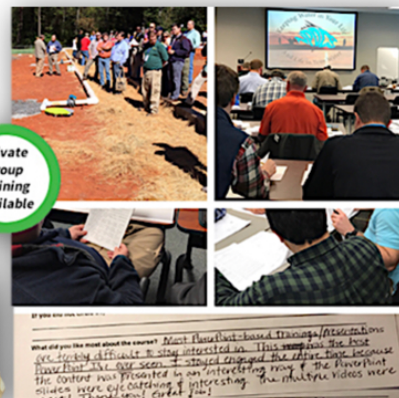
With proper planning and an understanding of plant and soil science, the risks associated with land disturbances (solar, wind and energy land development projects) are mitigated, lawsuits are prevented, and a finite resource, the soil, is preserved through stewardship practices.



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What did you like most about the course? Most Pleasant-based training/education
get things difficult to see interested in. This was the first
time that I've ever seen a student engaged and active. Because
the content was presented in an interesting way & the presentation
slides were eye-catching & interesting. The multiple videos were
great! Thank you!

For More Information or to Schedule a Class:

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or

Rita@npdestraining.com



The **MS4 Stormwater Inspector 4-Hour Online Course**
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Rita@npdestraining.com

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Whether it's a Check Dam, Filter Ring, Baffles, Flocculants or a Surface Skimmer, Dr. Jim Spotts and I provide training on how to integrate Best Management



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Practices (BMPs) into the site plan so your sediment basin can actually do its job and prevent sediment from entering our watersheds.

We hope to see you at our next class!

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MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician

The MS4GIT Course is a 1-day training experience focusing on Green Infrastructure BMPs and their installation & maintenance. Attendees will learn how to identify and solve issues surrounding poor maintenance, as well as avoid GI failures entirely. This course was designed especially for stormwater managers, stormwater engineers and consultants, MS4 Inspectors and maintenance crews.

Upon completion, trainees will have learned to:

- Implement correct construction sequencing protocol for BMPs
- Understand how to read a BMP landscape plan
- Identify soil mixtures and calculate soil / material volumes
- Identify and select appropriate plants for BMPs
- Understand maintenance requirements of BMPs
- Identify common problems and solutions for BMPs
- Understand how to implement a landscape maintenance plan
- Evaluate plant performance and how to replace failing plants



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Today, hunters and fishermen have invested **BILLIONS of dollars** into the wildlife and sports fishing recreation programs across America. We are truly the largest group unsung heroes in the environmental protection movement, *even though many of us may not be aware of it!*

For the Hunter & Fisherman, EVERY DAY is EARTH DAY!



In 1937, Congress passed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), which makes federal funds available for state wildlife protection and propagation. The funds are derived from Americans paying an excise tax on rifles, archery equipment and ammunition, and are subsequently used for purchasing game habitat and conducting wildlife research.

Due to the success of the Pittman-Robertson Act, in 1950, the Dingell-Johnson Act (or Sport Fish Restoration Act) was created to provide similar management, conservation and restoration improvements for fisheries.

The outdoorsman today has transformed the landscape and immeasurably improved the conditions and prospects for America's wildlife. That said, fish can't live in rivers and

lakes full of mud. NPDES Permit compliance is how we keep our stocked rivers, lakes and estuaries fishable and swimmable. Be a grateful American and share this article with your family and friends. Your country needs you!

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT
President, NPDES Stormwater Training Institute

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"I recognize the right and duty of this generation to use the natural resources of our land, but I do not recognize the right to waste them or to rob by wasteful use, the generations that come after us!"
Theodore Roosevelt



Sincerely,
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