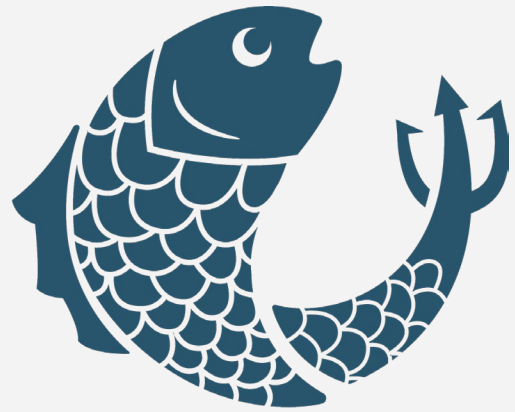




# Charleston Waterkeeper Community Engagement

Britney Prebis  
Community Science Manager



CHARLESTON  
**WATERKEEPER®**

We protect and restore your harbor, rivers,  
and tidal creeks so you can fish, swim, surf,  
paddle, and sail without fear of pollution



## Where it started: Creek Watcher/South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream

- Started in 2017
- Regular trainings/recertifications
- Kit checkout system
- Communication is key!



Engaging with volunteers in the field!  
Provide regular trainings for:

## Creek Watcher Testing



## Microplastic Monitoring



## Nurdle Surveying





..and in the lab!



# Leveraging Partnerships: i.e., SCDNR SCORE



## Education: Kids on Point/Youth to Ocean Partnership



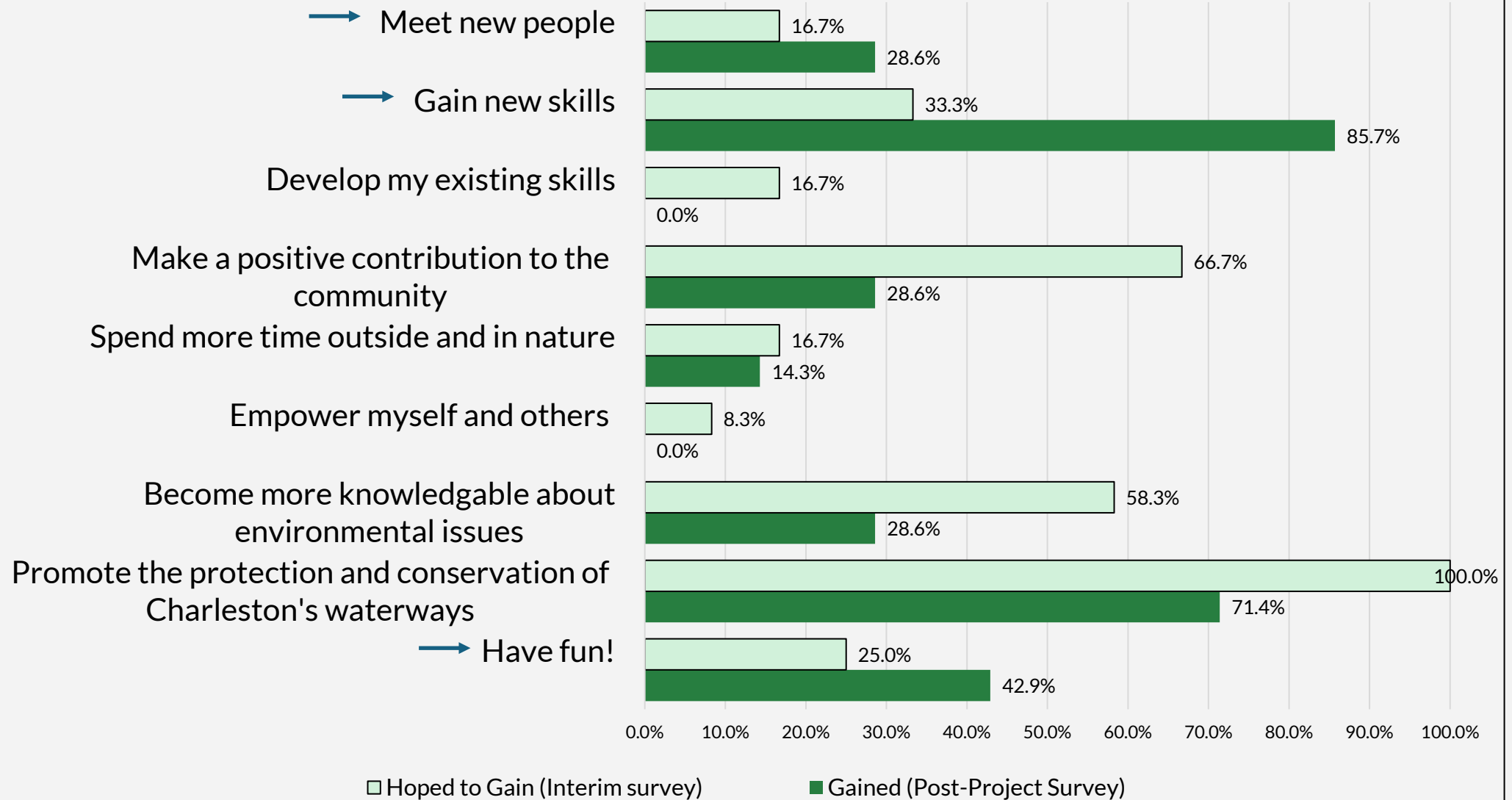
## Education cont.: Kids on Point/Coastal Expeditions Partnership



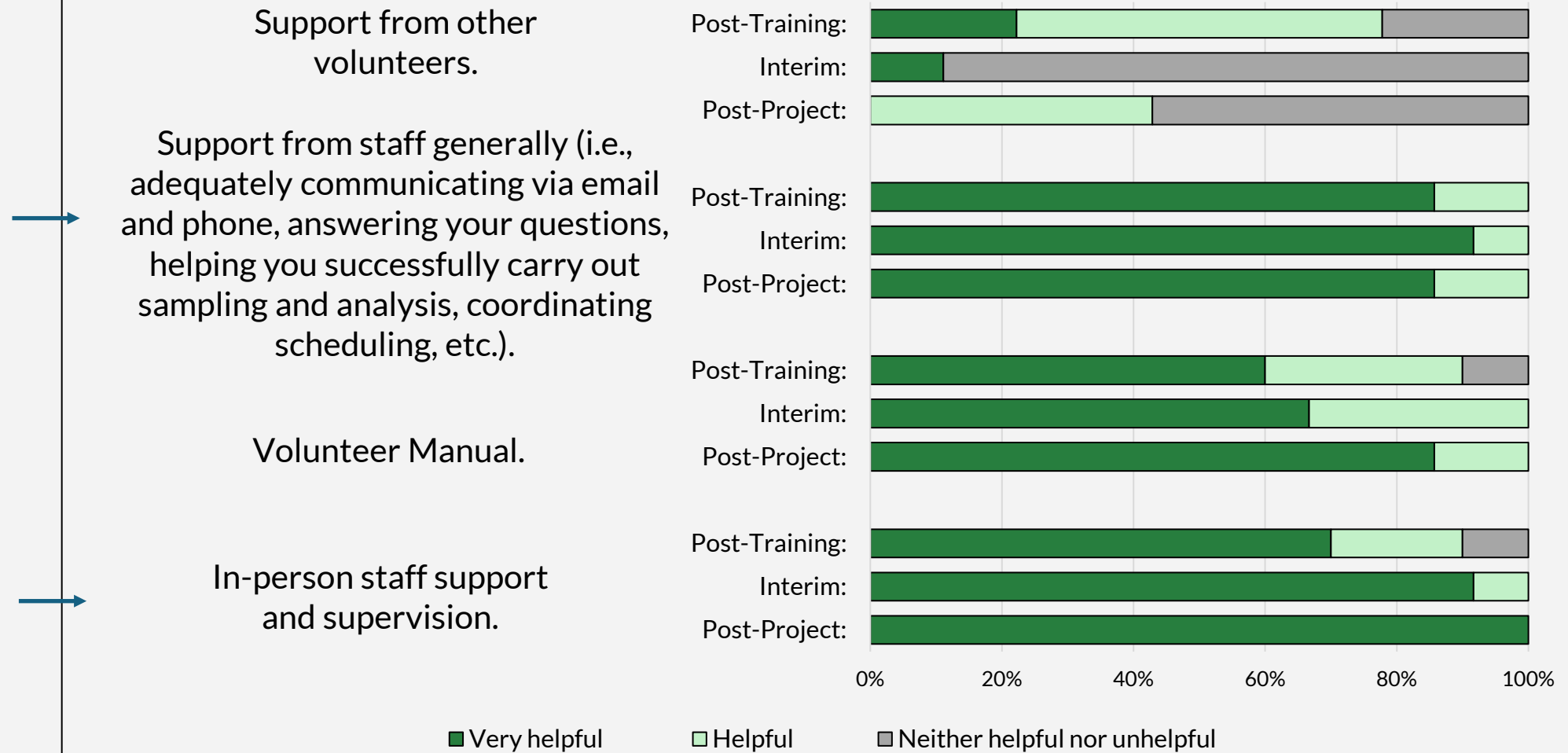
Group Litter Sweeps:  
Conservation  
knows no age!



## Motivations for Program Participation



## Level of Helpfulness per Program Attribute



Frequency of responses pooled chronologically by survey administration date (post-training survey, interim survey, or post-project survey) for each statement about level of helpfulness of each program attribute.

# Annual Volunteer & Board Appreciation Bash

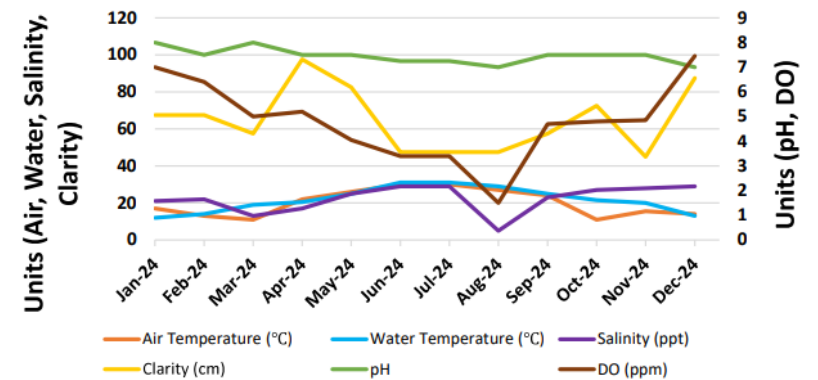
- Personalized awards!
- Yearly “Report cards”



## WATER WATCH REPORT CARD

Wappoo Creek; Site CW1 – WC-2150

	Standard	Score	Grade	Grading System	
Dissolved Oxygen	> 4 ppm	75%	C	A	90-100
Secchi Depth	> 30 cm	100%	A	B	80-89
pH	6.5-8.5	100%	A	C	70-79
Temperature	< 32.2°C	100%	A	D	60-69
Debris at Site	No debris	100%	A	F	0-59



### 2024 Notes:

- Marsh grass continues to go through normal seasonal color change.
- Water remains mostly transparent but is somewhat turbid in summer.
- Abnormal observations in August due to Tropical Storm Debby.



## Lab Open House: April 2026



## Others:

- Word on the Water
- Public Access Takeovers
- Misc. Educational Demos



## Key Ideas:

- The community is the backbone of our work
- Initial recruitment: Engaging through partner orgs
- Regular forms of communication
- Encouraging feedback (i.e., volunteer surveys)
- Education (Kids on Point, Coastal Expeditions)
- Community Science lab





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