

NOPBNRCSE



"The Alabama Link"

September 2007

NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members, non-members and prospective members. I want to take this time to say well done to the past president Christopher Ford and the former presidents of the Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE. Your marks will remain upon the face of this chapter. We have made giant steps toward our mission during your reign.

I am a big believer of new faces new ideas, old faces experience and wisdom. So, when the new faces and the old faces are face to face success looks upon success.

*Phillip Slater, President
Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE*

A WORD FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

I wanted to let each of you know that it was indeed my honor and pleasure to serve as the Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE President for the past two (2) years. I am very grateful for the opportunity provided to me. The Alabama Chapter is FAMILY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Like any family, we do not always agree, but we are always working for the betterment of the Organization and its goals of promoting agriculture, conservation, and education.

Again, thank you for the opportunity.

*Christopher Ford
Alabama Chapter Past President*

QUOTES

Quotes by:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



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MEETINGS

Annual Chapter Meeting Demopolis, Alabama August 16-17, 2007

“Communities Make the Difference”

The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Natural Resource Conservation Service Employees held their 13th Annual Meeting, August 16 and 17, 2007 at the Best Western Inn in Demopolis, Alabama. This year's theme was *“Agriculture and My Community”*. The meeting began with a brief welcoming session hosted by Chapter President Christopher Ford. After traveling to Sumter County, a conservation tour of the “Coatopa Farmers-Project Awake”, a community based organization, was given by one of its leaders, Anthony Carter. We toured several different farming operations in the community where we saw vegetable operations, large and small livestock ventures, and fruit and nut production. The tour ended with a networking session at the Project Awake's meeting house.

On Friday morning the business session was held where membership and attendance of the Organization meeting was discussed. Again it was emphasized that members should contact co-workers and encourage them to become active members. The Les Hilliard Memorial Scholarship Fund activities were discussed. The scholarship fund drive was a success. Proceeds from the scholarship drive are allotted for the purpose of awarding scholarships to students majoring in agriculture or related sciences.

Officers were elected for the next two-year term.

President	-	Phillip Slater
Vice President	-	Craig Johnson
Past President	-	Christopher Ford
Recording Secretary	-	Shirley Hall-Cole
Administrative Assist.	-	Sarah Walker
Treasurer	-	Lawrence McGhee
Parliamentarian	-	Winford Andrews
Historian	-	Herbert Ross

Two dynamic speakers, Dr. Nar K. Gurung, Research Assistant Professor, Tuskegee University and Dr. Tasha Hargrove, Associate Professor of Economics, Tuskegee University entertained us with valuable and enlightening information on various subjects of interest.

After a delicious lunch at Kora's Place, our guest speaker, Rev. Moses Jones, the 2007 Lloyd Wright Small Farmer Nominee from Alabama, gave us some inspirational words on his life's experiences as a preacher, teacher, and farmer.

More than 20 members and guests attended.



Pictured L-R: First row – Andrew Williams, Rev. & Mrs. Moses Jones, Christopher Ford. Second row – Phillip Slater, Craig Johnson, Deloris Jones, Shirley Hall-Cole, Winford Andrews, Johnny Trayvick, Lawrence McGhee and Stephon Thomas.

Submitted by:
Winford Andrews, DC, Eutaw, AL

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION MEETING

The Annual Training Conference of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees is scheduled for December 10-14, 2007, at the New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA.

This year's theme is *“Bring Conservation Back to the Bayou.”*

We encourage as many members as possible to attend this year's meeting.

OUTREACH

Rev. Moses Jones Nominated for Small Farmer Award

The Alabama NOPBNRCSE is proud to nominate Mr. Moses Jones, a 90 year old cattle farmer in Uniontown, Alabama, for the Lloyd Wright Small Farmer Award for 2007.

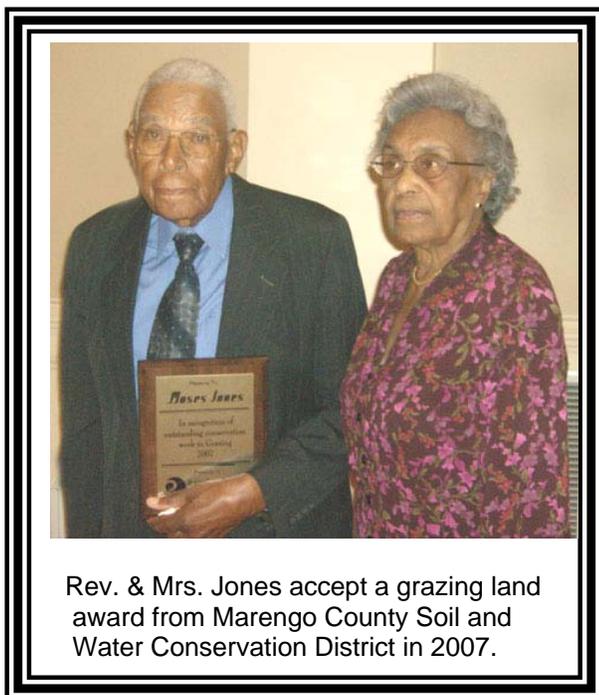
Rev. and Mrs. Moses Jones run a cow-calf operation on the 185 acres of their homestead, grow 30 acres of hay in Marengo County, raise cattle on 60 acres in Hale County that belongs to his wife, and he also tends cattle on 200 acres his son owns in Hale County. Mr. Jones says he has always planned ahead and has never run out of food to feed his cows during droughts, etc.

OUTREACH (Continued)

Rev. Jones and his family have prospered in the Black Belt Region of Alabama, partly because his father and grandfather instilled in him a respect for people and the land. Even though times were hard when they started, they took what they had, put in a lot of hard work, and built a small, self-sustaining cow-calf operation.

Rev. Jones has been running his cattle operation for over 70 years, and at the same time he taught Social Studies and Math for 30 of those years. His commitment did not stop there, while he was farming and teaching, he also pastured a church for 53 years and for three years, he pastured two churches. He traveled 2 ½ hours each way every other Sunday to Macedonia Baptist Church in Talladega, Alabama, only quitting last year. For the past three years he has been the minister at Gillfield Baptist Church in Marengo County.

Rev. Moses Jones and his wife have proved that hard work and putting your faith in a higher power can make your family a success. Their cow-calf operation is a shining example of what a small farmer can do with limited resources. Rev. Jones is respected in his community because he is always ready to give advice and a helping hand to those who seek his knowledge about the cattle business or about being a minister.



Rev. & Mrs. Jones accept a grazing land award from Marengo County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2007.

Submitted by:
Andrew Williams
Outreach Coordinator – Auburn, AL

SPOTLIGHT

FEATURE EMPLOYEE



Johnny C. Trayvick **Soil Scientist/Retired, Private** **Soil Consultant**

This quarter featured employee is Johnny C. Trayvick, Retired Soil Scientist, Auburn, Alabama. Johnny started his career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1968 in Selma, Alabama, as a soil scientist. Mr. Trayvick is currently a private soil consultant. Trayvick and his wife Sharon resides in Phenix City, Alabama.

Johnny C. Trayvick retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in December 2006 with 38 years of service. Prior to retiring in Auburn State Office, Johnny was the Soil Survey Project Leader in Barbour County, Alabama. Johnny was author of the Barbour County, Alabama Soil Survey Report. Additionally, Johnny served several years as Black Emphasis Program Manager in Alabama.

Trayvick has held numerous positions with NRCS. He began his career with NRCS (formerly SCS) in 1968 as a Soil Scientist in Selma, Alabama. Trayvick worked as a soil scientist and help publish soil survey reports in Bullock, Dallas, Macon, Sumter, Russell, Tuscaloosa, and Tallapoosa Counties. Trayvick was one of the pioneer Black Soil Scientists in the State of Alabama.

Submitted by:
Lawrence McGhee
Project Leader – Alexander City, AL

SCHOLARSHIP

THE LES HILLIARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Our Chapter has two fund raisers during the year – ticket sales and auction at our annual meeting. However, funds for our scholarship are not just limited to these two fund raisers. If there are persons interested in making a donation – you may do so at any time by merely sending it to the contact below:

Applications for the 2007 scholarship will be forwarded to liaisons at Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University during the month of October 2007.

If you wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund, contact:

Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program
USDA-NRCS, State Office
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4546

MEMBERSHIP

The Alabama Chapter is extending an invitation for you to become a member of our State Chapter of The Organization. Remember – membership is open to all persons.

You must be a member of the National Organization to become a member of the State Chapter. National dues are \$45 and State dues are \$35.

Membership applications are available online under the Alabama Chapter's website or you may contact:

Herbert L. Ross, Chair, Membership Committee
USDA-NRCS, State Office
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4585

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Alabama Chapter Members

To each Chapter Member
that has a "Birthday"
during the last six (6)
months of 2007.

"Happy Birthday"

July
August
September
October
November
December



NEWSLETTER

If anyone has articles of interest you want in the next newsletter, send articles to Winford or Deloris.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Winford Andrews
Deloris Jones