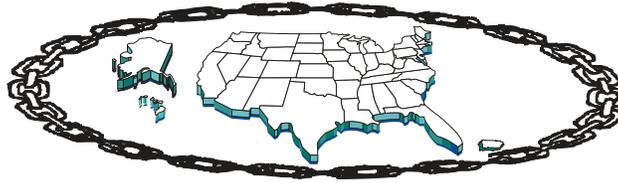


NOPBNRCSE



"The Alabama Link"

October 2005

NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

First of all, it is a tremendous honor to serve as the new President of the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE. I'm committed to keeping the overall mission and goals of our organization. As chapter president, I will continue to build on the successful facets of our organization; helping new employees, underserved communities, scholarships, networking, and other outreach activities.

As President, I would like to commend the Alabama Chapter for all the dedicated service for the past 12 years. Our numbers may be small, but our dedication and service is mountainous. Thank you fellow chapter members for your efforts and dedicated service.

As a chapter, our goal is to mentor and motivate NOPBNRCSE members and potential members to become leaders in the workplace as well as in society. I believe our chapter has been successful in that aspect, but we always want to strive for better and continued successes.

Is short, let's stay dedicated, let's stay together, and continue to help one another!!!!

Christopher Ford
President, Alabama Chapter

QUOTES:

"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away."

"Leave everything a little better than you found it."

"When anger rises, think of the consequences."

Submitted by:
Herbert L. Ross
Resource Inventory Specialist, Auburn, AL



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MEETINGS

**ALABAMA CHAPTER (NOPBNRCSE)
11th Annual Meeting, Mobile, Alabama**

Thursday, August 11, 2005

Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service held it's 11th Annual Meeting on August 11-12, 2005, in Mobile Alabama. This year's theme was "Small Scale Farms-Approaching the Next Level".

This year meeting was hosted by a tour of the Sessions Family Farm located in Grand Bay, Alabama, on Thursday afternoon. The evening was highlighted by a seafood and barbecue networking dinner on at the Sessions Home Place.

The tour and dinner was hosted by the Session Farm; Alabama Farmers Coop; Mobile County Farmer Federation, Fruit and Vegetable Division/Young Farmers Committee; and the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A special appreciation is expressed to the Session family and Joyce Nicholas, NRCS Soil Conservationist Perry & Bibb County for their coordinating efforts and great hospitality.

Pictorials from Tour of Sessions Farm



Thursday Evening Networking at Sessions Home



Friday, August 12, 2005

Friday activities began with a business meeting. Officers were elected for the 2006-2007. They are:

- Christopher Ford - President
- Phillip Slater-Vice President
- Shirley Hall-Cole – Recording Secretary
- Sarah Walker – Administrative Assistant
- Lawrence McGhee –Treasurer
- Sebastian Thomas - Historian
- Winford Andrews – Parliamentarian
- Johnny Trayvick - Past President.



Left to right: Sebastian, Phillip, Christopher, Shirley, Winford, and Lawrence

Below - President Johnny Trayvick (right) presenting Andrew William (left) with the Organization's Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the "Organization" and NRCS in outreach efforts.



The Technical Session was highlighted with three dynamic speakers.

Jeremy Sessions and Blake Nicholas highlighted the operation of the Sessions Family Farm located in Grand Bay, Alabama. James Miles from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service shared some of his experiences with the Session Farm Operations and marketing strategies.

Mr. Rob Dickey, Marketing Manger of Jones Valley Urban Farms, Birmingham, Alabama, presented a very informative presentation on the cut flower industry in Alabama. He also presented a demonstration of cut wildflowers arrangements.



Dr. Amy Young, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Southern Mississippi, gave an interesting presentation on studies of three African-American communities in Southern Mississippi.



The morning session was concluded with the ticket drawing for the Organization's Scholarship Program by Shirley Hall-Cole.

Winners were:

- Johnny Trayvick - \$50
- Winford Andrews - \$25
- Phillip Slater - \$25

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

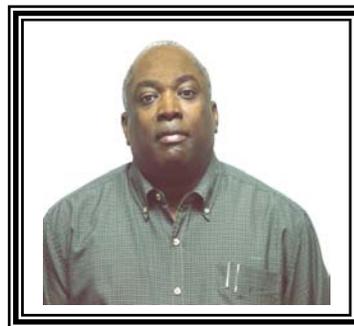
National Meeting

Little Rock, Arkansas

The 13th Annual Training Conference will be held December 12-16, 005, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The theme is "The Golden Age: A Homecoming to the Natural State, Providing a New Beginning in Conservation." The site for the training conference will be the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock.

Mark your calendars.

SPOTLIGHT



"Andrew Williams" A Man On the Move

As a student at Alabama A & M University, Andrew started his career with NRCS as a Student Trainee. During his tenure as a Student Trainee, 1972 – 1975, he worked in Marengo and Talladega Counties. In 1975, he was hired as a Soil Conservationist in Lawrence County.

In 1977, Andrew was promoted to District Conservationist and relocated to Washington County. A man on the move, he knew what it would take to move up in the agency. In 1980, he decided to move to Wilcox County to get more experience. In 1991, after gaining much needed experience, he was promoted to RC&D Coordinator in the city of Muscles Shoal, Alabama.

Andrew is the type person that loves to work with people. Most pressing for him is his desire to help those that are underrepresented. In 1996, his vision and desire to help others came to past, when he was promoted to Outreach Coordinator for the State of Alabama. Andrew's style of dealing with the underrepresented has earned him two National Awards and one State Award. In addition, others States in the Southeast have used this style in their Outreach Programs.

In addition to Andrew's outreach duties, 1998 – 2000, he served as a Rural Development Specialist in the office of Representative Earl Hilliard. Presently, Andrew is working on ways to help the Limited Resource Farmers to receive benefits for non-traditional practices not covered under EQIP. Some of those practices are plastic mulch, woodland grazing for small ruminant, and others. Andrew, a man of vision, what's next on the horizon? (State Conservationist)

Andrew recently received an award from the Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE for his outstanding contributions to the "Organization."

*Submitted by:
Johnny Trayvick*

MEMBERSHIP

The Alabama Chapter is extending an invitation for you to become a member of our State Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE.

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.

SPECIAL
New Employees and First-Time Members Only
One time deal - State membership dues for \$10.

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

Phillip Slater
Chairman, Membership Committee
USDA-NRCS, Courthouse Annex
103 First Avenue, NW
P. O. Box 307
Fayette, AL 35555

THE LES HILLIARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Les Hilliard Scholarship program is designed to provide a one-time monetary payment to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture, nature resources, and related sciences.

Donations for the Les Hilliard Scholarship are always welcomed and accepted. Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact:

***Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program
USDA-NRCS, Auburn, AL***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!!

***Alabama Chapter Members
June – August 2005***

June

20th

Lawrence McGhee

27th

Deloris Jones

July

3rd

Phillip Slater

August

4th

Shirley Hall-Cole

19th

Winford Andrews

29th

Johnny Trayvick



NEWSLETTER INFO

If anyone has articles of interest you want in the next newsletter, please contact Deloris.

***Deloris Jones
Newsletter Coordinator***