



NRCS Alabama Current Developments

What's Inside:

Pages 2-3

- Earth Team Volunteers & Earth Day
- Earth Team Award Winners
- 40 Years of Earth Team
- EWP Funds Help Repair Damages
- Lexington Ag Alumni Meeting
- Rep. Bright Visits Service Center
- Envirothon Competition

Pages 4-5

- Newest Soil Conservation Friend
- Arbor Day Celebrated
- Geneva Co. Field Demo
- State Con Visits Blount Co.
- Sacred Roots for Poarch
- Wiregrass Coop Field Day

Pages 6-7

- Coffee Co. Field Day
- Walker Co. Career Day
- A Warm Christmas to All
- TREASURE Forest Field Day
- Silvopasture Field Day

Pages 8-9

- Montgomery Co. NRCS Hosts Tour
- Engineering Training
- AL Cattleman's Ass. Annual Mtg
- Walker Co. SWCD Recognized
- Land Judging, Randolph Co.
- Alabama Forage Conference

Pages 10-11

- Up-Coming Meetings
 1. Silvopasture Workshop
 2. Alabama SWCS Meeting
 3. Field Day at Red Roof Farm
 4. Grazing Clinics
 5. Wildlife School
- Food Drives
 1. Madison Co.
 2. Lawrence Co.
- RC&D-Making Things Happen
 1. CAWACO RC&D
 2. AMRV RC&D

Pages 12-13 (RC&D-con't)

3. Coosa Valley RC&D

Pages 14-15 (RC&D-con't)

4. North West AL RC&D
5. Wiregrass RC&D

Pages 16-17

- Celebrating Wear Red Day
- Employees In the News
 1. Retirement Seminars
 2. Zona Beaty-Capitol Hill Wkshop
 3. Joint Professional Org Meeting
 4. Carolyn King, SE Reg. Rep.
 5. NRCS Retirees

Pages 18-19

- Outreach News

Page 20-21

- Outreach Meetings
- Black History and Women's History
- New State Office Employees

Page 22

- Personnel News
- In Sympathy

From the State Conservationist - Dr. William Puckett



This year we will celebrate two important agency milestones: the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the 25th anniversary of the Earth Team Volunteer Program.

On April 27, 2010, NRCS celebrated 75 Years of "Helping People Help the Land". Since being established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), our mission has changed from being an erosion control agency to one that uses science-based technology to resolve natural resources issues on private lands.

In 1985, the Earth Team was formed to assist SCS, now NRCS, with conservation efforts. Volunteers and conservation district partners are vital members of our team. They commit time and talents to conserve and protect our natural resources. Through their valuable contributions, NRCS is able to accomplish more on the landscape. I am very proud of our dedicated employees, volunteers, and district partners. Thank you for sharing in our conservation legacy of "Helping People Help the Land."

NRCS Celebrates 75th Anniversary

NRCS has a rich history of "Helping People Help the Land." In 1935, during the Great Depression, the U.S. was suffering not only from economic hardship but from a fierce drought, aggravated by poor conservation practices. Under a cloud of Midwest dust, Congress met in Washington D.C. to discuss the formation of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), that would be tasked with preserving the nation's livelihood—its soil.

Formerly under the Interior Department as the Soil Erosion Service (SES), on April 27, 1935, Congress transferred the organization to the Department of Agriculture forming SCS. Hugh Hammond Bennett, known as the father of soil conservation, became the first chief of the SCS.

Bennett penned publications and gave lectures to encourage and inform the public about soil conservation. In 1937, President Roosevelt sent letters to the governors urging the passage of legislation authorizing the creation of Soil Conservation Districts. In November 1939, the first Alabama Conservation Plan was signed, by J.C. Bailey, a farmer in Chambers Co. At that time they were called district cooperative agreements. In 1994, SCS changed its name to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to better reflect the positive impact on not only soil but other natural resources.

Today, 70 percent of the land in the U.S. is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners critical to the health of our Nation's environment. NRCS has become a conservation leader for all natural resources. In Alabama, NRCS employees understand local resource concerns and challenges. They assist landowners in making sound conservation decisions. This truly epitomizes what NRCS is about; working with private landowners to preserve the environment for future generations.



Celebrating Earth Team Volunteers and Earth Day

Earth Team

The Earth Team is celebrating 25 years of volunteering. NRCS is proud of the dedicated volunteers and staff who commit their time and talents to conserving and protecting our natural resources.



The Earth Team has been around since 1985, when Congress passed legislation allowing NRCS to use volunteers in all programs. Nationally, more than 35,000 Earth Team Volunteers donated over 679,000 hours of

their time. Total value of volunteer time in 2009 was over \$14 million.

Celebrating 40 Years of Earth Day

April 22 marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The first Earth Day was held in 1970. People all over the country made promises to help the environment and they got involved. Since then, Earth Day has spread all over the planet. More than 1 billion people participate in Earth Day activities, making it the largest secular civic event in the world. One person had an idea and kept working until everyone began working together. See what happens when people care!

Alabama Earth Team Groups Win National and Regional Awards



Coosa Valley RC&D Council received the National RC&D/ NRCS Earth Team Award. The 1,155 Earth Team Volunteers donated over 12,000 hours to complete projects identified in the Coosa Valley RC&D Council's Plan of Work. Projects ranged from educational activities and demonstrations to job training for special needs students. Over 13,000 citizens benefitted from these services.

The Montgomery Co. Water Festival

received the East Region NRCS Earth Team Group Award. These individuals focused on educating students and teachers on the



importance of surface water, ground water, and related natural resources. They strive to instill in students an environmental awareness and a stewardship ethic. About 2,900 students from 42 public and private schools in Montgomery Co. participated in this year's Water Festival.

The Colbert Co. SWCD

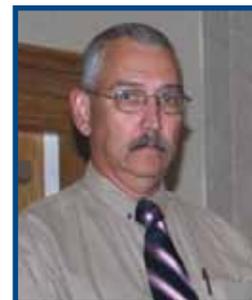
received Alabama's Outstanding Earth Team NACD Partnership Award. Volunteers in this group are actively involved in promoting

conservation education activities for youth and citizens of the county through teacher workshops, ag days, and numerous other events.



Randy Nicholas

of Mobile Co. SWCD was named the Alabama Outstanding Earth Team Individual Award winner.



The Alabama Earth Team Award,

a new Alabama category, went to the Central Team from Bessemer, AL. The team had more than 2,800 volunteers who donated more than 24,000 hours.



From The Field

EWP Funds Help Repair Damages



The City of Andalusia received Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds to repair damages caused by heavy rains during September and October 2009. A pipe drop structure was installed on the Jericho Road site to stabilize gullies threatening a power pole, buried fiber optic phone lines, a water main, storm drain pipes, and a paved street.

Lexington Ag Alumni Meeting

The Lexington Ag Alumni held its annual meeting at Lexington High School. About 85 people attended, including alumni, farmers from the area, and students from the Lexington FFA chapter.

Lauderdale Co. NRCS District Conservationist (DC) Renea Dyer was invited to discuss NRCS programs. Renea answered questions about pasture planting, watering systems, and cross fencing financial assistance. The meeting resulted in several farmers, who were not aware of NRCS programs, signing up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Other speakers included Ag Alumni President Charlie Thompson and Tim Malone, from the Farm Service Agency (FSA).



Representative Bright Visits Service Center

U.S. Rep. Bobby Bright (District 2) recently stopped by the USDA Service Center in Clayton and talked with staff members. (l-r) NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Jimmy Hatcher, NRCS DC Don Nelson, SWCD DAC Carol Threatt, SWCD Chairman Kenny Childree, Barbour Co. landowner Jack Powell, Rep. Bobby Bright, and SWCD Secretary-Treasurer Kendall Cooper.



Envirothon Competition

The Franklin Co. SWCD, with assistance from the Russellville NRCS staff, recently held their annual Envirothon competition. Belgreen High School won the competition, Red Bay came in second, and Phil Campbell took third. Belgreen and Red Bay will participate at the State level in April.



Newest Soil Conservation Friend



Kathy Walker SWCD DAC in Huntsville, has a new friend -- a hand-made Soil Caterpillar that she assembles and introduces to those interested in soil and water conservation. She plans to help students construct Soil Caterpillars during Earth Week presentations in April. She builds a smaller caterpillar for inside growing and a larger one for outdoor gardens. The creatures are made by putting grass seed and potting soil into a stocking and tying off sections. The caterpillar develops a personality when eyes and antennae are added.

Arbor Day Celebrated in Prichard

The Mobile Co. Alabama Natural Resource Council (ANRC) partnered with the City of Prichard for the annual tree give-away as part of the 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration. Joyce Nicholas, DC in Mobile, said the event was a great success.



Students enjoy getting their hands dirty helping plant trees.

After the celebration the ANRC committee members met at Eight Mile Colin Elementary School to assist with another tree planting and give-away. High-school, forestry, and George Bryant Career Technical School students assisted with the tree give-a-way and were very helpful in planting the trees.

Geneva County Field Demonstration

The 3rd Annual Geneva Co. Field Demonstration for vegetable and fruit production was held behind the USDA Service Center in Geneva. W.M. Donnell, Chairman of the Geneva Co. SWCD, welcomed the 60 participants. Representatives from NRCS and FSA informed the local producers about USDA programs and how to participate. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) personnel presented information on irrigation, fertility, and best management practices for producing fruits and vegetables on plastic.



NRCS State Conservationist Dr. Puckett (c) met with area farmers at the Geneva Co. Field Day.

Geneva Co. producers Frank Petty and Kelley Farms demonstrated how to lay plastic on a raised bed mulch for crop production.

The day concluded with the demonstration of two new EQIP practices. Earl Snell from Ozark set up a seasonal high tunnel house to show the advantages of extending the growing season. Ted Vignola from Time Limited Forestry, Inc., brought a feral hog trap to show proper procedure for capturing and eradicating feral hogs that are causing tremendous damage.

The field day was a tremendous success and was made possible by the hard work of the Geneva Co. SWCD/ NRCS, ACES, and the presenters and farmers who volunteered their time.

NRCS State Conservationist Visits Blount County

Merry Buford, NRCS DC in Blount Co., was proud to host Dr. Bill Puckett, the first NRCS State Conservationist to ever visit the county. She said it was a proud moment for Blount Co.

Blount Co. producers have completed many note-worthy projects through SWCD/NRCS programs. The group visited a site where a Spring Development and Pond with Watering Ramp were installed through the 319 Dry Creek Watershed Program. They also visited a local producer, Pat Whitley, who raises row crops, poultry, cows, hay, and timber. This year Whitley even grew peanuts, which is not a typical north Alabama crop. This producer completed pest management and residue management through the EQIP program.

Everyone involved in the day's events said that visits like these show that supervisors care about what is going on at the local level.



The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council helped plant River Cane and plan to continue the restoration project in other locations on Tribal property.

River Cane, a natural fiber used for basket-weaving, has become scarce and the Poarch Band of Creek Indian (PBCI) basket makers travel over 90 miles to a cane break in central Alabama for material to make their baskets. Even there, the cane is in short supply.

Nationally, it has been listed as "Critically Rare." This is why Creek basket makers have been using a commercial substitute to weave most baskets. When NRCS State Conservationist Dr. William Puckett learned of the River Cane Restoration Project, he pledged to partner with the Tribe to make it a success. At his request, the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Coffeeville, MS, produced River Cane plants. David Elliott, NRCS Tribal Liaison, picked up and delivered the donated plants to the PBCI Reservation.

The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council helped plant the 100 three-month-old plants that will be ready to harvest in 10 years. They plan to continue the restoration project around other locations on Tribal property. Because of the River Cane Restoration Project, the tribe will have access to this sacred plant for generations to come.

Wiregrass Farmers Coop Youth Field Day

The Wiregrass Farmers Coop garden held a field day that was attended by 27 youth and 19 adults from across southeast Alabama. They met to pull weeds, harvest vegetables, and to participate in a Youth Field Day featuring presentations on different programs.

The Geneva Co. SWCD/NRCS works closely with the Wiregrass Farmers Coop to develop programs and learning opportunities for the citizens of Geneva and surrounding counties.



(l-r) Judy Hill, ASTC-FO (North); Merry Buford, Blount Co. DC; NRCS State Conservationist Dr. Bill Puckett; and producer Pat Whitley discuss the benefits associated with a residue management system in cotton.

River Cane - Sacred Roots for Poarch

The Poarch Creek Tribal Youth Council planted River Cane, considered a sacred plant, through a project called Sacred Roots.

The Poarch Creek Cultural Education program began in 2006 with one goal--to bring culture back to the community and ensure its presence for years to come. Language, stickball, traditional gospel hymns, dancing, finger-weaving, basket-weaving, and patchwork are part of the community once again.



The students and adults at the Wiregrass Farmers Coop Field Day got firsthand experience in the garden as the youth gathered vegetables for sale from the Coop garden.

Speakers for the Youth Day were NRCS DC James Currington, Geneva Co. SWCD DAC Janie Howell, and demonstrator Melissa Baxley. Dr. Samuel and Marcia Scott, from the North-South Institute, in Davies, FL, presented programs on producing vegetables and marketing strategies.

Dr. Scott encouraged youth to explore careers in agriculture. He said there are many rewarding careers in agriculture that are often not considered. Marcia Scott brought ingredients and gave fun programs on making homemade butter and ice cream. The youth worked in teams and made their own butter and ice cream and then got to sample the products they made.

There are always lots of activities and events going on at the Coop. Everyone is invited to come and be a part of the Wiregrass Farmers Coop.



Dale Folmar and Ted Vignola demonstrated the planting of pine trees at the Coffee Co. Forestry and Wildlife Field Day.

Coffee County Field Day

In October 2009, the Coffee Co. SWCD with Education Specialist Sue Leverett hosted a Forestry and Wildlife Field Day for Zion Chapel and Elba Elementary 5th graders at the National Security Recreation Area. Students were introduced to beneficial forestry practices such as prescribed burn and thinning. They also saw a demonstration on pine tree planting and took home a pine seedling to plant.

Students viewed an Enviroscope demonstration and wildlife exhibits of live snakes and owls and bones and skulls of animals. After the activities, students enjoyed a sack lunch and some great time in the outdoors.

This event was supported by the Coffee Co. Forestry Advisory Committee, the AL Forestry Commission, the AL Department of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, ACES, and NRCS. A special thanks is extended to the volunteers for donating their time and to the National Security Recreation Area for the use of their property.

Walker County SWCD/NRCS Participates in Career Day

In November 2009, Walker County SWCD/NRCS participated in the Curry Elementary Career Day. SWCD DAC Katherine Patton and NRCS retiree Margaret Vandiver with the Agricultural Conservation Experienced Services Program (ACES), visited with students and informed them about different careers available through SWCD/NRCS.

At the SWCD/NRCS table, students either received wildflower seeds or "I Respect My Environment" tattoos. They learned about landowner conservation programs and actions that students can take to conserve our natural resources.



About 500 K-4th graders visited tables staffed by agencies to learn about available careers. Vandiver talks with students.

A Warm Christmas to All--and to All a Good Night

Everyone thinks of spreading good will at Christmas, but in December 2009, Joshua Elliott, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Mobile/Washington Cos., said that an idea was sparked at the Mobile Co. field office to do something a little bit different. The staff combined efforts to make fleece blankets to give away to a group in need.

The word spread quickly. At the NRCS West Team meeting in September, employees gave donations that covered a large portion of the fabric cost.

The staff decided a local orphanage named Wilmer Hall (<http://www.wilmerhall.org/>), located near the field office, would be a perfect place to distribute the blankets.

The orphanage staff were thrilled and were waiting with open arms to accept the blankets. There were enough blankets for all 29 residents, with a few to spare.

The project was a great success and proves that no task is too big when you work as a team for the betterment of our fellow man.



(l-r) NRCS retiree Grant Mattox, Soil Conservation Technician Marshall Colburn, Executive Assistant for Wilmer Hall Margaret Scarborough, Mobile Co. DC Joyce Nicholas, and Soil Conservationist Joshua Elliott display some of the blankets that were donated to a local orphanage.

TREASURE Forest Field Day Held

The Cullman Co. SWCD/NRCS helped host a TREASURE Forest Field Day at Jones Chapel Farm owned by Ruben Williams. Other partners included the Cullman Co. Forestry Planning Committee, Natural Resource Councils of AL and Winston Co., AL Forestry Commission, ACES, AL Tree Farm Committee, AL TREASURE Forest, and AL Forest Forever Foundation.

Presenters included Dr. Richard Brinker, Nancy Loewenstein, Jim Jeter, Ruben Williams, Glenn Glover, Jim Schrenkel, and Bob Keefe. Eighteen vendors setup to welcome the 130 attendees. Forestry, hay/barn areas, invasive species, Whetstone Creek, and wildlife loop tours were conducted.

After lunch, a Forestry Stewardship Award was given to Ruben Williams for the hard work on his farm. The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award was given to Raymond Jones from Jackson Co.



Murray Griffin, Cullman Co. DC, staffed an NRCS exhibit about Wildlife and Forestry at the field day.

Silvopasture Field Day



Franklin McAliley, Registered Forester, explains thinning timber for silvopasture to a local landowner on Freddy Hays Farm.

A Silvopasture Field Day was held in Dale Co. on the Hays Farm. Information about timber and pasture management was presented to landowners and conservationists.

Freddy Hays, Dale Co. landowner, said he learned how to better manage his farm. He has about 20 acres in silvopasture with the potential to add an additional 40 acres. His first timber thinning was in 2000 followed by a 2008 thinning to convert a natural pine stand to silvopasture. Hays uses his silvopasture for neglected horses that he rescued.

Montgomery County NRCS Hosts Tour

The Montgomery Co. SWCD/NRCS hosted an Educational Farm Tour for legislative officials. More than 30 people attended including legislators from Montgomery and members of the Alabama House of Representatives. The tour was held to let legislative officials see some of the practices installed through the Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission Program (AACDCP) and USDA Farm Bill programs.

Tour stops at Terese Goodson's cow/calf operation included feeding pellets to the cattle and a hayride. Another stop was at Michael Moseley's Farm, a poultry producer, where the group went inside one of the poultry production houses.

The tour visited three other producers in the county who had been helped by state cost-share funds or Farm Bill programs. The tour stopped briefly by the Snowdown Community Park which received funding through Mid-South RC&D to help build the park.

The tour ended with a working lunch at Red's Little School House in Ramer where Dr. Will Smith gave a presentation on the Water Quality Study Bacterial Source Tracking in the Catoma Creek Watershed. Montgomery Co. SWCD partnered with Auburn University, Montgomery Water Works and Sewer Board, and the Montgomery Co. Commission to complete the study. Comments were made by David Grimes, Thad McClammy, Kristen Rector, Jeff Downs, Dr. William Puckett, J. O. Norris, and Noopie Cosby.

led a 3-day technical surveying course. Soil Technicians and Conservationists from across Alabama attended the training to gain a basic knowledge of engineering surveying.

The workshop had several competitive elements built into the curriculum. Trainees participated in a number of hands-on competitions as well as written exams. The competitions taught trainees the proper use of surveying equipment, the best equipment to use in different circumstances, and helped students develop a level of confidence in their surveying skills. According to Oakes, students learned skills "from ground zero to satellites" encompassing all types and areas of surveying. The skills that trainees developed during this training will prove beneficial in their home counties as they work with landowners to put conservation on the ground.



Oakes said the group made several perfect scores and there was a 100 on the pre-test. Students worked with surveying tools and equipment ranging from hand levels to survey grade GPS.



Landowner talks with attendees at the field day.

Engineering Training for FY2010

Proper surveying and measurement is essential to developing quality conservation plans and there is always a need for training. State Conservation Engineer Perry Oakes, along with Resource Engineers Tim Williams, Shane King, Leon Wages, and Bruce Boswell



The Alabama Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show was held February 2010, in Huntsville, AL. Dr. Bill Puckett, NRCS State Conservationist (standing) and Randall Hastings, Baldwin Co. SWCD Supervisor and cattleman (seated), talks with exhibit visitors about NRCS assistance available for livestock producers through NRCS programs and the publicized "Organic Farming Initiative."

2009 Alabama Forage Conference

Eddie Jolley, State Agronomist, attended the Alabama Forage and Grassland Coalition (AF&GC) biannual "Alabama Forage Conference" in Livingston on the campus of the University of West Alabama.

This was the first time the conference has been held in this part of the state and on this campus. Based on participant responses and attendance, the conference was an overwhelming success. Approximately 300 people attended from as far away as Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

The conference speakers included Drs. Susan Duckett and John Andrea, Clemson University; Dr. Gerald Evers, Texas A&M University; Drs. Tom Keene and Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky; Dr. Joe Bouton, The Noble Foundation; Drs. Jimmy Ray Parrish and John Bird, Mississippi State University; Drs. Mary Goodman, Steve Enloe, Kathy Flanders Betsy Wagner, and Don Ball, Auburn University.

This year the conference highlighted a local producer panel consisting of Eric Smith (Pickens Co.) and Jim Lavender (Tuscaloosa Co.). Also, break-out sessions were held for the first time to answer questions and give information on many subjects.

This area of interest continues to grow which encouraged many vendors to display their products.

The AF&GC is sponsored by the AL Farmers Federation, the AL Cattlemen's Association, the AL Poultry and Egg Association, the AL Association of Conservation Districts, ACES, and NRCS. Assistance for this event was provided by the University of West Alabama, ACES, the Sumter Co. SWCD, and NRCS employees.



The 2009 Alabama Forage Conference offered the three hundred attendees options to attend one of three, concurrent sessions on the use of clovers, equine management and pest management. Attendance was high for all sessions.



The Walker Co. SWCD was recognized at the Alabama Clean Water Partnership 5th Annual Watershed Conference in Clanton, AL. Each agency represented in the photo was awarded a limited edition print for their efforts in assisting the Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership.

The numbered nature prints are the 5th in a series by local artist Keith Smith. (l-r) Danny Hensley, US Army Corps of Engineers; Patti Pennington, Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership; Johnnie Johnston, Southeast Sewer Systems; Abner Patton, Patton Geologics; Ann Wynn, Geological Survey of Alabama; Katherine Patton, Walker Co. SWCD; and Barbara Newman, Jefferson Co. Health Department.



Randolph Co. Holds Annual Land Judging Contest

A land judging contest was held in January 2010 in Randolph Co. and was hosted by Mr. Dean Wysner, Chairman of the Randolph Co. SWCD. Clay and Randolph Cos. hold annual competitions each year and the location alternates between the two counties.

This year's competition was a huge success and participation increased. Randolph Co.'s first place winner was the Career Technology Center and second place was Wadley High School. First place winner for Clay Co. was Clay Co. High School and second place was Lineville High School. These schools advanced to the district competition. Land judging is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about the land and its capabilities.

Up-Coming Meetings

Silvopasture Workshop

The Tuskegee University Extension Service is sponsoring a Silvopasture Workshop on May 8, 2010, at the Macon Co. Commission Chamber, 205 N Main Street, Tuskegee, AL, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop will cover establishing, managing, and using a silvopasture system. Contact: Dr. Uma Karki, karkiu@tuskegee.edu, (334) 727-8336; Ms. Yvonne Wright, wright@tuskegee.edu, (334) 724-4440; or T.U. County Agents in your area.

The Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Annual Meeting

The SWCS annual meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Research Park (256) 830-0600 in Huntsville, AL, June 9-11, 2010. *Managing Our Soil and Water Resources* is the theme of meeting. The conference will focus on sustaining soil and water resources so we can make better choices in protecting and improving them.

Contact Kathy.Gotcher@al.usda.gov (256) 974-1174 or Earl.Norton@yahoo.com (334) 728-4107.

Field Day at Red Root Farm

A field day featuring organic conservation-tillage in vegetable production will be held April 29, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Red Root Farm in Banks, AL. The field day will feature demonstrations of cover crop termination, strip tillage, and vegetable transplanting. Contact Jan Garrett, garrecj@auburn.edu, (334) 844-2124, or Kirk Iversen, kiversen@auburn.edu.

Grazing Clinics to Be Held

Two Grazing Clinics have been scheduled: Mobile, AL, June 7-8, 2010, and August 9-12, 2010, (location TBA). For more information contact Eddie.Jolley@al.usda.gov, (334) 887-4564.

Wildlife School for Forest Landowners

A Wildlife School for Forest Landowners has been scheduled for Cherokee Co., AL, August 26-27, 2010. Watch the [Alabama NRCS website](http://AlabamaNRCSwebsite) for additional information or contact Tim.Albritton@al.usda.gov, (334) 887-4560.

Agencies Conduct Food Drives

Madison County

Eleven boxes of food items were collected during the annual food drive at the USDA Charles Stone Center. Every agency in the center participates. The Kiwanis of Huntsville West picks up the boxes of food; prescreens the applicants to assure that families are not receiving from multiple agencies; purchases fresh meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetables; completes the boxes; and delivers them to families.

Kathy Walker, who started this food drive her first year of working with the Madison Co. SWCD, says, "This is our way of giving back to the community for being so blessed. We thank all of the employees who participated."



Lawrence County

NRCS, FSA, and ACES employees in Lawrence Co. collected food items for the WAFF 48 Heart of the Valley Can-a-thon. Twelve counties in north Alabama participate in the annual event. The donations go to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Moulton who provide free food, clothing, and household items for children, adults, and senior citizens. But mostly, they provide a message of hope to those in need.



Doyle Dutton, FSA; Kathy Gotcher, NRCS; Paul Lott, Good Samaritan; Amy Moncus, NRCS; Don Beauchamp, Lawrence Co. SWCD; B.C. Terry and Matt Copeland, NRCS; Gloria Hall, ACES; and Jim Jarrett, Good Samaritan.

RC&D - Making Things Happen

Cawaco RC&D

Grant Helps Purchase Water Monitoring Kits

The Walker Co. SWCD was awarded a grant from the Cawaco RC&D to purchase 15 water chemistry monitoring kits to be used by about 400 Maddox Middle School and Walker High School students annually.

The students will monitor temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, oxygen saturation, alkalinity, hardness, and turbidity in Town Creek and Doctor's Branch.

Each month the students will go online to the Alabama Water Watch website and record their data. These kits provide students a hands-on activity and the opportunity to participate in the field work of a long-term study.



The students learn how everyday activities impact water quality as well as the surrounding environment.

Little Shades Creek Enhancement Project

The Little Shades Creek Enhancement Project in Vestavia Hills, AL, was funded by a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and Cawaco RC&D. The goals are to improve water quality, habitat, and stream stability in 1,500 linear feet of the Creek and provide a demonstration of urban natural channel design, stream enhancement, and stormwater management. The watershed has a drainage area of almost 8 square miles and is more than 35 percent developed.

The existing conditions of the stream's reach were found to be impaired due to severe streambank erosion,



Left - Before work began. Right - In the process of correcting problems.

mid-channel sediment bars in areas of overwide channel bottom, lack of deep-rooted native riparian vegetation on some streambanks, non-native invasive plants, lack of in-stream habitats, and stormwater discharges from adjacent parking lots and streets. Cawaco RC&D partnered with 13 participants to ensure the complete funding and success for this large project. Supporters include State Sen. J. T. "Jabo" Waggoner, and State Reps. Greg Canfield and Jack Williams.

AMRV RC&D

Nutrient Recycling Project Unveiled

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville unveiled a new nutrient recycling project located at the school's Agricultural Production/Horticulture facility. AMRV RC&D, ACES, Cullman Co. SWCD/NRCS, Cullman Co. Commission-East Side Road Department, City of Cullman, and American Proteins provided grant money, project oversight, and engineering and design. American Proteins provided the pond liner and instillation. East Side Road Department provided excavation and dirt work.

The project is designed to collect excess run-off water and nutrients from the elevated plant beds used to grow seedlings. Approximately 8,000 gallons of water per day is used during growing season. Collecting the run-off water and nutrients saves the cost of additional fertilizer and about 3,000 gallons of water per day. The project will provide a backup source of water for the plants in case of a disruption in the normal water supply and captures the nutrient enriched runoff before it enters local streams. The project will also be used to teach water and nutrient testing.



Nutrient Recycling Project Unveiled at Wallace State.

(l-r) James Graves, Chairman Cullman Co. Commission; Roy Ball, retired Wallace State Horticulture Department Head; Rep. James Fields, District 12; Elaine Cole, Cullman Co. Coordinator ACES; Dr. Philip Cleveland, Wallace State Dean of Technical Education; Dr. Vicki Hawsey, President Wallace State; Murray Griffin, Cullman Co. NRCS DC; Robert Harbison, Cullman Co. SWCD; Renona Seibert, Projects Manager AMRV RC&D; Martha Netherton, Wallace State Agricultural Production/Horticulture Department Head; Representative Jeremy Oden, District 11; Max Townsend, Cullman Mayor; Doug Williams; Eastside Road Commissioner; Tim Scott, Cullman Co. SWCD; and Fred Cespedes, American Proteins.

May Apple, For Food -- Ripe fruit was eaten and dried for winter by the Cherokee. Culturally, the root juice was used to soak corn seed in prior to planting as an insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide. Medicinally selected parts of the plants were used for intestinal worms, constipation, earaches, and to remove warts.



The Tribe located and secured an authentic Cherokee 1800's log cabin. AMRV RC&D provided funds to help move and reconstruct the cabin. A pavilion for all weather Pow Wows and teaching is planned with a grant through AMRV RC&D.

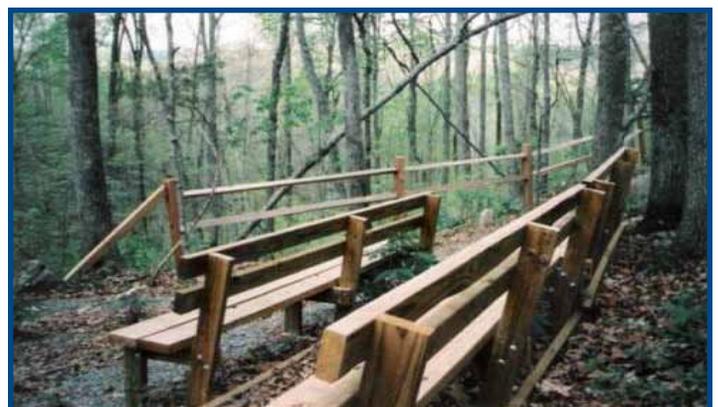
Assisting the Echota Cherokee

AMRV RC&D Board embarked on a journey with the Deer Clan of the Echota Cherokee in north Alabama, to establish a presence on Lacon Mountain in Cullman Co. They helped develop and map-out a cultural trail featuring bluff shelters and identifiers for native plants that the Cherokee used in everyday life for medicinal, cultural rituals, spiritual, and food uses. AMRV RC&D funded the trail construction and provided technical assistance for the plant identification.

AMRV RC&D secured a source of Native American maize (corn) seed from the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Georgia to re-establish a seed source for the Tribe.

AMRV RC&D provided a grant to construct additional bathroom facilities for the Tribe.

For more information on the Echota Cherokee: <http://echotacherokeetribe.homestead.com/about.html>.



Teaching stations funded by AMRV RC&D were strategically located to provide scenic vistas where Native American culture can be taught.

Coosa Valley RC&D

“Pond for Kids”

The Oxford Elementary School community in Calhoun Co. is proud of the “Pond for Kids” recently installed on their campus. The self-sustaining pond was constructed in one day by the students, teachers, parents, and over 300 community volunteers.

Doyle Keasal (ACES) provided on-site directions to the excited workers and assisted the teachers in creating a lesson plan for the pond to study aquatic ecosystem management.

The effort was led and sponsored by the Coosa Valley RC&D and the Oxford City School Education Foundation (OCSEF). Special thanks to Cristy Humphries, Executive Director of the OCSEF; Dr. Jeff Goodwin, Oxford City School Superintendent; State Rep. Barbara Boyd; and all of the volunteers who made this interactive outdoor classroom a success.



Students from Oxford Elementary stock a fish pond installed on their school grounds to study aquatic ecosystem management.

Ohatchee Elementary School receives funding for Playground

Ohatchee Elementary School playground was awarded funds through a program called “Be Our Playground Hero,” with the assistance of State Sen. Del Marsh and the late State Rep. Lea Fite through Coosa Valley RC&D. The pine mulch will be replaced with rubber mulch and a drain system installed to alleviate standing water. The school uses the playground not only for recreation and physical exercise, but recycling demonstrations, exhibits, and classes on different types of ground covering by 4-H groups.

The Calhoun Co. ACES and 4-H were instrumental in helping with this playground improvement project.



Adult attendees (l-r) Alton Hall, Chairman, Calhoun Co. SWCD; Jimmy Cheatwood, Calhoun Co. SWCD Supervisor; Sharon Stone, Coosa Valley RC&D Project Manager; Julie Hood, Ohatchee Elementary School Asst. Principal; and Sen. Del Marsh pose with children excited about the new playground.

Outreach Computer Lab Expansion

The Diversity Christian Center (DCC) has expanded their computer lab thanks to a grant from the Coosa Valley RC&D, State Sen. Jim Preuitt, and Rep. Steve Hurst. Talladega Co. SWCD Supervisor Jay Watson and NRCS DC Thomas McDaniel also helped with the grant.

The grant will be used to purchase and install six new computer stations in the DCC computer lab. The expanding computer lab will be used by students and the Outreach Program. DCC also plans to extend the computer lab to adult learners to provide the computer knowledge and job skills necessary for the current and future job market and for a DCC after-school tutoring program.



(l-r) State Sen. Jim Preuitt, State Rep. Steve Hurst, Jay Watson Coosa Valley RC&D member, and Diversity Christian Outreach co-founders Gwen and Sherman Green.

Fund Helps Lake Martin Project

Lake Martin Assessment Project funding was acquired through Coosa Valley RC&D, with the assistance of State Sen. Ted Little and State Rep. Betty Carol Graham. The project will assess the current and future economic impact of Lake Martin on the surrounding counties, cities, and the state of Alabama, to help decision makers with long range plans for infrastructure and water quality issues.

Additional sponsors for the project are the Middle Tallapoosa Clean Water Partnership (MTCWP), Tallapoosa and Coosa Cos. SWCDs, and the Tallapoosa Co. ACES. County ACES Coordinator Tommy Futral contributed technical assistance by linking the different partners together and writing the grant for the funds.



Sen. Little and Rep. Graham indicated that it was a pleasure to see this type of work being done to help community expansion. (l-r) Rep. Betty Carroll Graham; Eddie May, Coosa Valley RC&D; Terry Martin, SWCD; Frank Tapley, County Commission Chairman; Tommy Futral, MTCWP Board Chairman; Sen. Ted Little; and Elijah Moore, NRCS Tallapoosa Co. retired DC.

New Life for Women

With a grant from Coosa Valley RC&D, and assistance from State Rep. Blaine Galliher, New Life for Women constructed a retaining wall and added additional landscaping at their newly constructed building. Rep. Galliher stated, "It is a pleasure to see this type of work being done in our county and to see our state funds assisting with this program." For more information about New Life for Women – call 256-547-4407.



North West Alabama RC&D

Kids Making Better Choices DVD Earns National Spotlight at RC&D Meeting

From among 375 RC&D Councils nation-wide, the Northwest Alabama (NW AL) RC&D was asked to present a successful statewide project at the 2009 National RC&D Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. The project they showcased was an educational DVD "Kids Making Better Choices" that was written and produced in northwest Alabama and distributed to over 900 schools statewide. Funding for the project was provided by the NW AL RC&D and ACES.

The project was the brain child of Steve Richerson of Frog Pond, AL, who has a successful career as an eco-entertainer and has traveled the globe sharing an environmental message using magic tricks as the character "Steve Trash" (www.stevetrash.com). The DVD was developed to help kids make better eating and exercise choices. From the reaction of the elementary age children at the premier and other viewings, the DVD is a resounding success!

Steve worked the crowd in New Mexico and the Council has received numerous inquiries about the DVD since the meeting. NW AL RC&D has also shared several copies of the DVD with people in Australia and Ghana, Africa.

The DVD will have unlimited future use thanks to *Creative Common Licensing* that allows people to copy and share the entire video legally, as long as credit is given to the copyright holders, and the content is not changed or sold.

The *Kids Making Better Choices* DVD has been officially endorsed by the national kid friendly vetting organization "Kids First."

Steve is a previous state-level RC&D Award winner for his live "Trash and Recycle" magic shows. The energy and passion of Steve Richerson is truly amazing.



The *Kids Making Better Choices* DVD Project has been a magic carpet ride for the NW AL RC&D Council, staff, and partners.

Rep. Tammy Irons with Steve "Trash" Richerson.

Art Mural Project in Colbert County

It has been said that, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Heath King, with the NW AL RC&D, asks, "What if a thousand words doesn't even begin to describe that picture?" Such is the case with the educational murals that were painted on the side wall of the Colbert Co. Board of Education (BOE) building through funding provided by NW AL RC&D and ACES.

The west wall of the BOE building where the Council is located was a peeling eyesore. A decision was made to turn the drab wall into a beautiful work of art that the whole community, and even tourists, could enjoy.

A talented, fresh out of college artist named Anna Richey, and a handful of high school art students, made the vision a reality.

The NW AL RC&D staff believed that the mural's theme should display the rich history of Colbert Co. and some of the cultural icons that heavily influenced the flavor of the area such as agriculture, music, Helen Keller, the Tennessee River, Native Americans, and the Coon Dog Cemetery.

The murals have created a media buzz and have been recognized by local papers, as well as two regional television stations. The murals were featured during an event to promote National Tourism Week that showcased the spirit of cooperation, partnership, and community pride needed to complete such an important community project.

The NW AL RC&D is confident that these murals will encourage the creation of additional educational murals in the region. But most importantly, the project has fostered pride among students and the community as a whole, and has sparked a fresh interest in the history of this great county.



Wiregrass RC&D

Merle Wallace Purvis Center Receives Grant

In November 2009, Wiregrass RC&D presented a grant to the Merle Wallace Purvis Center near Geneva to upgrade facilities in the main building and construct a nature trail and outdoor classroom behind the main facility.

Sen. Harri Anne Smith and the late Rep. Warren Beck were instrumental in securing funds and were both present to congratulate the Purvis Center. Probate Judge Fred Hamic, Geneva Co. Engineer Roy Powell, Commissioners Ray Minshew, and Larry Everett, along with Geneva Co. Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) members Barbara Adkison (President), Bert Robinson, Pam Fleming, Donna Logan, and Annette Kervin received the grant. Barbara Adkison and ARC will work with Geneva Co. SWCS/NRCS DC James Currington, and DAC Janie Howell to complete the work on the project.

The most excited group was the Center's clients who showed their enthusiasm for the renovations to their school.

This is a prime example of how the conservation partnership in Geneva Co. and the Wiregrass RC&D offices are reaching out to the community in using RC&D funds. Thanks to the Conservation Partnership they are "Making it Happen!"



The Purvis Center in Geneva Co. provides adult training services with emphasis on habilitation as related to skill acquisition in developmental areas including training in economic self-sufficiency, self-care, self-direction, receptive/expressive language, learning and capacity for independent living. The focus of training is intended to assist the individual to reach his/her goals in allowing movement to the most independent setting. (Info per [Merle Wallace Purvis Center website](#).)

Celebrating National Red Day

National Wear Red Day - February 5, 2010

Alabama SWCD/NRCS offices celebrated National Wear Red Day sponsored by the American Heart Association.

In 2004, the American Heart Association (AHA) faced a challenge. Cardiovascular disease claimed the lives of nearly 500,000 American women each year, yet women were not paying attention. In fact, many even dismissed it as an “older man’s disease.” To dispel the myths and raise awareness of heart disease as the number one killer of women, the AHA created the initiative, *Go Red For Women*, designed to empower women to take charge of their heart health.

USDA/SWCD office employees across the state wore red to show their participation in the event. *Note: The Moulton Field Office wore many shades of red on National Wear Red Day, but a photo was not available.*



Franklin County SWCD/NRCS: Robert Clement, Sharon Andress, Pam Skidmore (FWP Manager), and Emmy Hovater.



Northwest Alabama RC&D: Heath King, Donna King, Angela Malone, and Charlie Meek.



Macon County SWCD/NRCS: Gwen Lewis, Kathryn Story, and Khalia Giles.



Pam Skidmore’s mother, Margaret Seal, got friends and family to participate in Wear Red Day at their “cousin’s” monthly gathering.



Blount County SWCD/NRCS and FSA employees: Jimmy Tucker, Janice Otinger, Gina Harris, Polly Morris, and Merry Buford.



NRCS State Office in Auburn: Rick Zellmer, Bob Beaty, Zona Beaty, John Burns, Sue Daniel, Bill Puckett, Sarah Walker, Lawrence McGhee, Betty Walker, Charles Love, Shirley Hall-Cole, Kim Pridgen, Evelyn Bostick, Rita Johnson, and Lynn Thomas.

Employees in the News



Retirement Seminars were held across the state to help NRCS employees eligible for retirement within the next five years to prepare. The training included both the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and Civilian Service Retirement Program (CSRS).



Alabama NRCS employees attended the 2010 NRCS Joint Professional Employee Organizations and Special Emphasis Program Managers Training Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting offered a broad array of training opportunities. (l-r) President of AL NOPBNRCSE Craig Johnson, SE Reg. Rep of NOPHNRCS Carolyn King, American Indian/Alaska Native SEPM Randall East, Veterans SEPM Greg Brannon, Asian American/Pacific Islander SEPM Drew Wright, Federal Women's Program Manager Pam Fleming, Chairman of the AL NRCS CRAC Ben Malone, and Hispanic SEPM Michael Gunn. Not pictured: Black SEPM Herbert Ross and Disability SEPM Pam Skidmore.



Zona Beaty, ASTC-Operations, NRCS, in Auburn, AL, participated in a Capitol Hill Workshop. She said the workshop was very beneficial and helped her better understand the process that OMB uses to make Department and Agency allocations.

The workshop helps sharpen understanding of interrelated issues and to broaden abilities to operate in the political arena defining the mission of Federal senior managers and executives. The attendees gain a clear understanding of the institutional dynamics of the Congress and how future legislative policies will shape and define public policy. Beaty (3rd from left) and the group visit with NRCS Chief White (4th from right).

Carolyn King, NRCS Soil Conservation Tech from Baldwin Co. was elected National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCS) Southeast Regional Rep.



In October 1996, Carolyn began working with NRCS as a Technician in Baldwin County. She was raised in the little village of Jemez Springs, New Mexico, but has lived in Alabama for the past 29 years. She joined the NOPHNRCS in 1999 after she became the Hispanic Special Emphasis Program Manager for Alabama NRCS where she served for seven years.

Congratulations NRCS Retirees January 2010



Winford Andrews, District Conservationist, Eutaw



Mike Cornett, Tombigbee RC&D Coordinator, Tuscaloosa



Elijah Moore, District Conservationist, Alexander City



Craig Peters, District Conservationist, Ozark

Outreach News from Alice Love



June 2009: AL NRCS and ALA-TOM RC&D met to outline a potential Cooperative Agreement that was implemented in Dec. 2009, targeting outreach activities for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, and Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers.



Nov. 2009: Barbara Shipman of the Cottage House (l), and Earl Snell of Snell Farms (r) talk with Dr. Bill Puckett, AL NRCS State Conservationist, during an outreach site visit with local organization leaders to discuss program delivery in their specific area.



Nov. 2009: Conservation partners from Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville and NRCS (Auburn State Office and Madison Co.) met with the AL NRCS 2009 Small Farmer of the Year, Mr. John Clay (c). The Clay family farm originated from what is now the Redstone Arsenal. He assisted with discovery of some of historical data relating to the archaeology of the area.



Dec. 2009: Pearlie S. Reed, USDA-Assistant Secretary for Agriculture, was the Keynote Speaker at Tuskegee University's 67th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference. Alice Love, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Auburn, AL (r).



Nov. 2009: Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network hosted their 2009 Alabama Food Summit in Birmingham, AL. AL NRCS employees met with partners involved in organics to discuss the implementation of organic practices funded through EQIP.



Dec. 2009: At the 41st Anniversary of the Forestry and Natural Resources Program at Tuskegee University, Gwen Lewis, NRCS DC in Macon Co. (r), presents a gift basket donated by "The Cottage House," a local community-based organization.



Jan. 2010: The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group hosted a Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference in Chattanooga, TN. (l) Steve Musser, ASTC-Programs presented USDA-NRCS program information.



Feb. 2010: At the Tuskegee Farmers Conference, Ms. Daisy Carter, a local producer and community leader from west Alabama, displays products made from locally grown agricultural produce during a tasting event at the conference.



Feb. 2010: Donald Nelson, NRCS Barbour Co. DC, participates in a local community-based organization's information meeting hosted by "The Cottage House" in Ariton, AL.



Feb. 2010: Tuskegee University faculty and staff presented research data to NRCS staff relating to seasonal high tunnels or hoop houses. This is an excellent display of conservation partners working together to implement the practice thru a pilot program offered through FY10 EQIP.



Mar. 2010: Leonard Jordan, NRCS Regional Conservationist, East Region (l), was the guest speaker at Winston Co. Self-Help Cooperative's 3rd Saving Rural America and Youth Conference in Louisville, MS. Mr. Jordan encouraged participants to participate in USDA programs and to continue to build and implement strong conservation partnerships within their communities and USDA offices.

Outreach Meetings Held

Landowners/users across southeast Alabama received information at Outreach Meetings targeting Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, and Beginning Farmers. James Currington, NRCS Geneva Co. DC/ East Team Outreach Coordinator, spoke at each meeting.

Other presenters included staff from Tuskegee University (TU), Rural Development (RD), FSA, the Wiregrass RC&D, ACES, and other county NRCS employees who discussed opportunities and current programs and practices offered by their agency. NRCS staff discussed new initiatives such as seasonal high tunnels (or hoop houses), feral hog traps, and micro-irrigation. ACES presenters discussed their services and upcoming workshops and conferences. TU staff discussed programs offered by the University. Other agencies discussed programs and services provided by their agency. At the end of each meeting, the staff answered questions from the audience.



Dale County - The Southeastern Local Growers Cooperative and The Cottage House, Inc., hosted a meeting at Autrey Recreation Center in Ozark on 1/9/10. John Pruitt, President of Southeastern Local Grower's Coop, and Barbara Shipman, President of Cottage House, Inc., coordinated the meeting of more than 20 attendees. James Currington, and Wiregrass RC&D Coordinator Randy Martin presented. Shipman (r) speaks to the attendees.



Barbour County - The Cooperative of Agricultural Producers (COAP) hosted a meeting at Clayton City Hall on 1/7/10. COAP President Joe Newton and Vice President Rhonda Benton coordinated the meeting of 27 attendees. Presenters included James Currington; Don Nelson, NRCS Barbour Co. DC; Laniece Jackson, Program Coordinator, TU; and Jeffrey Moore, ACES.



Geneva County - The Wiregrass Farmers Coop hosted a meeting at Westside Methodist Church in Geneva on 1/16/10. Frank Petty, President of the Coop, and Olivia McCray coordinated the meeting of more than 35 people. Presenters included James Currington; Jason Padgett, CED with Geneva Co. FSA; and Claude Reeves, with Headland ACES.



Coffee County - A meeting was held at Bernest Brooks Farm in Enterprise, on 1/22/10. Mr. Bernest Brooks coordinated the meeting. Presenters included James Currington and Mike Harris, NRCS Coffee Co. DC.



Houston County - A meeting was held at Crossroads Baptist Church in Gordan on 1/23/10. Mr. Thomas Turner coordinated the meeting with Reverend Claude Holded. James Currington presented.

Black History and Women's History Celebrated

Lawrence County Celebrates Black History Month and Women's History

In March 2010, the Lawrence Co. USDA Service Center had a fish fry luncheon for NRCS, ACES, FSA, and FSA committee members to celebrate Black History Month and National Women's History Month.

Rita Hayes with FSA presented the program for National Women's History Month. Rita read President Barack Obama's proclamation declaring March as National Women's History Month. The theme is "Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet." She also gave some facts about women.



Kathy Gotcher (l), Lawrence Co. NRCS DC, read a poem entitled "Life without Black People" (author unknown) in honor of Black History Month. The poem provided facts about items used in our daily life that were invented by African-Americans.

Alabama NRCS State Office Holds Black History Month Celebration

Dr. Don-Terry Veal spoke at the Black History Month program at the NRCS state office in Auburn. Veal, AU Director of the Center for Governmental Services, spoke about the economy and the importance of transparency in government. He touched on the obstacles, struggles, progress, and successes of African-Americans.

"Dr. Veal's program gave insight into African-American history, the American economy, and the importance of transparency in government," said Charles Love, State Soil Scientist/MO15 Team Leader. Love also thanked Black Emphasis Program Manager Herbert Ross for organizing the program and the luncheon that followed.



Charles Love (l) and Herbert Ross (r) present Veal with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

Welcome New State Office Employees



Eric Schwab

Conservation
Agronomist,
Technology Staff

Jessica Mills

Engineering Aid,
Engineering Staff



Edie Hester

Legal Instrument
Examiner, Programs
Staff



**Codie
Yelverton**

Soil Conservation Aid,
Technology Staff



Jillian Stephens

Communications
Specialist, CMO Staff



Personnel

Accessions

Luis Cruz-Arroyo, Soil Conservationist, Bay Minette, AL
Eric Schwab, Agronomist, Agricultural Research Service, Auburn, AL to Conservation Agronomist, Auburn, AL
Adam Threatt, Soil Conservation Technician, Troy, AL

Promotions

Amanda Baldonado, Human Resources Assistant, Auburn, AL
Suzanne Baucom, District Administrative Coordinator, Decatur, AL
William Bodiford, Soil Conservation Technician, Monroeville, AL
Evelyn Bostick, Human Resources Assistant to Human Resources Specialist, Auburn, AL
Cortez Brundage, Contract Specialist, Auburn, AL
Shirley Hall-Cole, Budget Officer, Auburn, AL
Matt Copeland, Soil Conservationist, Moulton, AL
Sue Daniel, Secretary, Auburn, AL
Brandon Edmonds, Soil Conservationist, Scottsboro, AL
Joseph Forrest, Agricultural Engineer, Bessemer, AL
Mike Flynt, Soil Conservation Technician, Centre, AL
Khalia Giles, Soil Conservation Technician, Tuskegee, AL
Daniel Goins, Soil Conservationist, Cullman, AL
Rita Johnson, Budget Technician, to Budget Analyst, Auburn, AL
Brandon McCray, Soil Conservationist, Athens, AL to Soil Conservationist, Florence, AL
Kim Pridgen, Secretary, Auburn, AL
Adam Sconyers, Soil Conservationist, Auburn, AL
Jean Sparks, Procurement Technician, Auburn, AL
Rory Stephens, Soil Conservation Technician, Montgomery, AL
Kent St John, Soil Conservation Technician, Gadsden, AL
Joshua Tilley, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS, Columbus, MS to Soil Conservationist, Vernon, AL
Alex Vaughan, Soil Conservationist, NRCS, Bonifay, FL to District Conservationist, Ozark, AL
Betty Walker, Secretary, Auburn, AL
Sarah Walker, Secretary, Auburn, AL

Reassignments

Matt Copeland, Soil Conservationist, Moulton, AL to District Conservationist, Fayette, AL
Joshua Elliott, Soil Conservationist, Mobile, AL to District Conservationist, Monroeville, AL
Daniel Goins, Soil Conservationist, Cullman, AL to District Conservationist, Jasper, AL
Amber Johnson, District Conservationist, Jasper, AL to District Conservationist, Madisonville, TN
Steve Stone, Soil Conservationist, Oxford, AL to Soil Conservationist, Anniston, AL
Drew Wright, District Conservationist, Jackson, AL to Soil Conservationist, Rainsville, AL

Resignations

Matt Collins, Communications Specialist, Auburn, AL
Mike Flynt, Soil Conservation Technician, Centre, AL

Retirements

Winford Andrews, District Conservationist, Eutaw, AL
Mike Cornett, RC&D Coordinator, Tuscaloosa

Elijah Moore, District Conservationist, Alexander City, AL
Craig Peters, District Conservationist, Ozark

Summer Internships

Joshua Halpin, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Auburn, AL
Danae Hopkins, Student Trainee (Soil Scientist), Auburn, AL
Jonjala Jackson, Student Trainee (Soil Scientist), Normal, AL
Demetris Johnson, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Eutaw, AL
Clay Jones, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Montgomery, AL
Jamie Keith, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Alexander City, AL
Jessica Mills, Student Trainee (Engineer), Guntersville, AL
Brittany Simmons, Student Trainee (Engineer), Bessemer, AL

In Sympathy

Mr. Woodrow Rains, District Supervisor and Chairman of the Cherokee County SWCD passed away. His wife's address is: Venice Rains, 175 Lakeside Drive, Centre, AL 35960

J. D. White, Sr., age 91 of Northport, AL, passed away. He was the Area Engineer in the Tuscaloosa Area Office until he retired in 1985. His wife's the address is: Mrs. J.D. (Eva) White, 1900 Eagle Lake Street, Northport, AL 35473

W.J. "Dub" Reed, former Conecuh Co. WAE Aide and Supervisor, passed away after an extended illness. He served as WAE for SCS for a number of years prior to the mid 1970's. He served as a District Supervisor from 1982 until he was no longer able to serve in 2004. His son's address is: Danny Reed, 11 Red Wine Road, Castleberry, AL 36432

• Next Issue

Submissions for the Current Developments newsletter, potential success stories, and news releases are welcomed, and appreciated anytime.

Contact the Communications, Marketing, and Outreach (CMO) staff with questions or submissions by email at AL-nrcs-publicinfo@one.usda.gov.



ALABAMA

Dr. William Puckett
State Conservationist

Julie Yates
Director of Communications, Marketing, and Outreach

Fay Garner
Public Affairs Assistant

Alice Love
Agricultural Outreach Liaison

Jillian Stephens
Communications Specialist

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