

## NOPBNRCSE



*"The Alabama Link"*

February 2003

## NEWSLETTER

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### The Law of Process

From the book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership"

We all seek to become better leaders on our jobs, with our families and in our communities. Becoming a leader is a lot like investing successfully in the stock market. If your hope is to make a fortune in a day, you're not going to be successful. What matters most over the long haul is what you do day by day. If you continually invest in your leadership development, letting your "assets" compound, the inevitable result is growth over time.

The age-old question is whether leadership is something a person either possesses or doesn't. Although it is true that some people are born with greater natural gifts than others, the ability to lead is really a collection of skills nearly all of which can be learned and improved. But that process doesn't happen overnight. Leadership is complicated. It has many facets: respect, experience, emotional strength, people skills, discipline, vision, momentum, timing and the list goes on. The many factors that come into play in leadership are intangible. This is why leaders require so much seasoning to be effective. Leadership is developed daily, not in a day. Benjamin Disraeli asserted, "The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his time when it comes". What a person does on a disciplined, consistent basis gets him ready, no matter what the goal.

The good news is that your leadership ability is not static. No matter where you're starting from, you can get better. So what is the next step: take inventory of where you are

now and think of ways to improve on everything you do privately and publicly. Make goals and follow up on them. Whether you like it or not you are a leader on your job at home or in your community and no matter what level from the president down to the mailroom we are LEADERS.

#### Quote of the Day:

***"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."***- Galatians 6:9

*Anthony Hudson*

*President, Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE*

### QUOTES:

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

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.



***"If we don't stand for something, we may fall for anything."***



Malcolm X

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## **MEETINGS**

### **NOPBNRCSE 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference Arlington, TX**

The NOPBNRCSE 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference was held on December 2-6, 2002, in Arlington, TX. The theme for the conference was ***“Building Our Future Through Educational Opportunities... Tomorrow is Now.”*** Conference was attended by more than 350 participants and guests. Among the guests that welcomed everyone to the conference was Bruce Knight, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The National President Bill Hunt, the planning committee and the host Texas Chapter coordinated an outstanding agenda for the conference with the focus on “Educational Opportunities”.

Some of the courses offered were: Soil Conditioning Index, Electronic-FOTG, Civil Rights – Titles VI and VII, TechPros, GIS/GPS, Customer Service Toolkit, Wetland Restoration and RUSLE 2.

The Life Members Award Luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2003. Alabama members receiving Life Membership were Deloris Jones, Sarah Walker, Chandra Berry, Lawrence McGhee, and Andrew Williams. Johnny Trayvick was recognized at the Annual Banquet for Life Sustaining Charter Members. Others in attendance from Alabama were Anthony Hudson and Russell Morgan. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO in 2003.

## **NRCS PERSONNEL**

Russell Morgan will be moving to Georgia.

Our Chapter’s Recording Secretary and Soil Survey Project Leader, Lawrence McGhee, was deployed on February 12, 2003. Our prayers are with Lawrence and his family during this difficult time.

Also, we would like to send our prayers to Greg Dansby and his family. Greg is a District Conservationist in Alabama that has been called to active duty, but is presently still in Fort Benning, GA.. (Greg’s wife recently gave birth to a 5 lbs. baby girl and Greg was able to be there with her.)

IF anyone would like to send Lawrence and Greg wives cards – their addresses are:

Mrs. Lawrence McGhee  
P. O. Box 763  
Sylacauga, AL 35150

Mrs. Greg Dansby  
P. O. Box 247  
Faunsdale, AL 36738

**REMEMBER** – Let’s keep all our military personnel and their families in prayer.

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

The official theme for this year’s celebration is ***“The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflection.”***

USDA-NRCS, State Office, sponsored a “Black History Month Celebration” February 13, 2003. Clifford Jones (NRCS Retired) was the keynote speaker. The Chapter presented a plaque to Mr. Willie Tuck, the first African American to be employed by NRCS (formerly SCS). The presentation was made by his brother, Milton Tuck, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, Alexander City, AL..

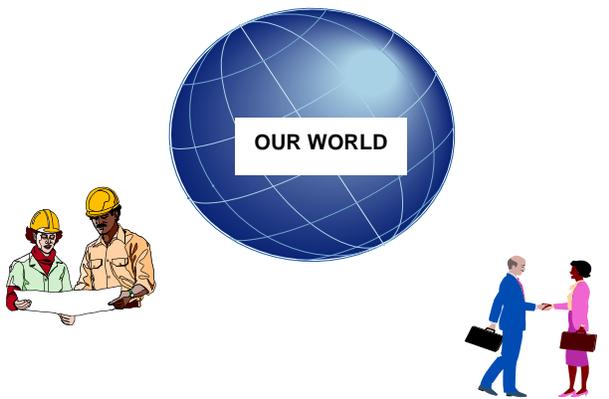


**L-R: Willie Tuck (recipient) with brother, Milton.**

Following the program, everyone was treated to an African American Cuisine meal. The menu was: BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken, Smoked Turkey, Fat Back, Jambalaya, Collard Greens, Candied Yams, Succotash, Potato Salad, Peas, Corn, Pole Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn Bread, Sliced Tomatoes & Green Onions, Sweet Potato Pie, Banana Pudding, Peach Cobbler, Egg Custard, Rice Pudding Sour Cream Pound Cake, and T-Cakes.

Below are Black History Displays in the State Office.





This is a story of a little boy named Theo who woke up one morning and asked his mother, "Mom, what if there were no Black people in the world?"

Well, his mother thought about that for a moment, and then said "Son, follow me around today and let's just see what it would be like if there were no Black people in the world. Now go get dressed and we will get started."

Theo ran to his room to put on his clothes and shoes. His mother took one look at him and said, "Theo, where are your shoes, and those clothes are all wrinkled son, I must iron them." But when she reached for the ironing board it was no longer there. You see **SARAH BOONE**, a black woman invented the ironing board and **JAN E. MATZELINGER**, a black man, invented the shoe lasting machine.

"Oh well," she said, "please go and do something to your hair." Theo ran in his room to comb his hair, but the comb was not there. "You see, **WALTER SAMMONS**, a black man, invented the comb." Theo decided to just brush his hair, but the brush was gone. "That's because **LYDIA O. NEWMAN**, a black female, invented the brush.

Well, this was a sight, no shoes, wrinkled clothes, hair a mess, even Mom's hair, without the hair care inventions of **MADAM C. J. WALKER**, well you get the picture.

Mom told Theo, "let's do our chores around the house and then take a trip to the grocery store." Theo's job was to sweep the floor. He swept and swept and swept. When he reached for the dust-pan, it was not there. You see, **LLOYD P. RAY**, a black man, invented the dustpan. So he swept his pile of dirt over in the corner and left it there. He then decided to mop the floor, but the mop was gone. You see, **THOMAS W. STEWART**, a black man, invented the mop. Theo yelled to his Mom, "Mom, I'm not having any luck."

"Well son," she said, let me finish washing these clothes and we will prepare a list for the grocery store." When she was finished, she went to place the clothes in the dryer but it was not there. You see, **GEORGE T. SAMPSON**, a black man, invented the clothes dryer.

Mom asked Theo to go get a pencil and some paper to prepare their list for the market. So Theo ran for the paper and pencil but noticed the pencil lead was broken. Well he was out of luck because **JOHN LOVE**, a black man, invented the pencil sharpener. Mom reached for a pen, but it was not there because **WILLIAM PURVIS**, a black man, invented the fountain pen. As a matter of fact, **LEE BURRIDGE** invented the type writing machine, and **W. A. LOVETTE**, the advanced printing press.

Theo and his mother decided to head out to the market. Well when Theo opened the door he noticed the grass was as high as he was tall. You see, the lawn mower was invented by **JOHN BURR**, a black man. They made their way over to the car, and found that it just wouldn't go. You see, **RICHARD SPIKES**, a black man, invented the automatic gearshift and **JOSEPH GAMMEL** invented the supercharge system for internal combustion engines. They noticed that the few cars that were moving were running into each other and having wrecks because there were no traffic signals. You see, **GARRET A. MORGAN**, a black man invented the traffic light.

Well, it was getting late, so they walked to the market, got their groceries and returned home. Just when they were about to put away the milk, eggs, and butter, they noticed the refrigerator was gone. You see **JOHN STANDARD**, a black man, invented the refrigerator. So they just left the food on the counter. By this time, Theo noticed he was getting mighty cold. Mom went to turn up the heat, and what do you know. **ALICE PARKER**, a black female, invented the heating furnace. Even in the summer time they would have been out of luck because **FREDERICK JONES**, a black man, invented the air conditioner.

It was almost time for Theo's father to arrive home. He usually takes the bus. But there was no bus, because it's precursor was the electric trolley, invented by another black man, **ELBERT R. ROBINSON**. He usually takes the elevator from his office on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor, but there was no elevator because **ALEXANDER MILES**, a black man, invented the elevator. He also usually dropped off the office mail at a nearby mailbox, but it was no longer there because **PHILIP DOWNING**, a black man, invented the letter drop mailbox and **WILLIAM BARRY** invented the postmarking and canceling machine.

Theo and his mother sat at the kitchen table with their head in their hands. When the father arrived he asked, "Why are you sitting in the dark?" Why? Because **LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER**, a black man, invented the filament within the light bulb. Theo quickly learned what it would be like if there were no black people in the world. Not to mention if he were ever sick and needed blood. **CHARLES DREW**, a black scientist, found a way to preserve and store blood, which led to his starting the world's first blood bank. And what if a family member had to have heart surgery. This would not have been possible without **DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS**, a black doctor, who performed the first open-heart surgery.

So if you ever wonder, like Theo, where would we be without *US*? Well, it's pretty plain to see. We would still be in the **DARK!!!!**

**BLACK INVENTORS** are too numerous to list. For persons interested in inventions by black people, a few websites are listed.

[www.inventors.about.com/library/blblackinventors.htm](http://www.inventors.about.com/library/blblackinventors.htm)  
[www.swagga.com/inventors.htm](http://www.swagga.com/inventors.htm)  
[www.blackinventor.com/](http://www.blackinventor.com/)  
[www.black-collegian.com/african/inventors.shtml](http://www.black-collegian.com/african/inventors.shtml)  
[www.ehhs.cmich.edu/~rlandrum/aawomen.htm](http://www.ehhs.cmich.edu/~rlandrum/aawomen.htm)  
[www.uwm.edu/StudentOrg/NSBE/bie.html](http://www.uwm.edu/StudentOrg/NSBE/bie.html)  
[www.purposefullintro.com/inventors.html](http://www.purposefullintro.com/inventors.html)

**Submitted by:**  
**Deloris Jones**  
**Office Management Assistant, Auburn, AL**

## **OUTREACH**

### **Partnership Approach To Outreach**

The NRCS in the state of Alabama has approached from a holistic standpoint. A holistic outreach approach looks at the total needs of the community utilizing partnerships to help solve problems and address opportunities at the community level.

The State Food and Agricultural Council (FAC) was approached in an effort to form a working group that foster partnership effort to address the needs of the under served clients from an outreach perspective.

The working group consists of the following:

- Tuskegee University – Alabama Small Farm and Rural Economic Development Center (ASFAREDC)
- Alabama A&M – Small Farm and Outreach Technical Assistance Program
- Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
- NRCS – Outreach Liaison, American Indian, Hispanic, and Farm Bill Managers
- Farm Service Agency
- USDA
- Alabama Indian Affairs Commission
- Rural Development
- Heifer International
- APHIS
- DownSouth Foods – A small farm product distribution unit.

This working group meets primarily on a bi-monthly basis to discuss outreach concerns and opportunities across the state and designs possible solutions utilizing programs and services that are available within their respective agency or institutions.

**Andrew Williams**  
**State Outreach Liaison, Auburn, AL**

## **CHAPTER WEB SITE**

The Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE web site has been established. Christopher Ford and Chandra Berry will maintain the web site.

The Chapter's web site is:  
[www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/NOPBNRCSE/wel.htm](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/NOPBNRCSE/wel.htm)

If there are any questions and/or comments regarding the web site, contact either Chris or Chandra at:  
[chris.ford@al.usda.gov](mailto:chris.ford@al.usda.gov) or [chandra.berry@al.usda.gov](mailto:chandra.berry@al.usda.gov)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our Chapter is reaching out for you and you to become a member of The Organization.

Membership drive for 2003 will be the last week of February. Remember – membership is open to all.

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

Sarah M. Walker  
Chairperson, Membership Committee  
USDA-NRCS, 3381 Skyway Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830  
Phone: 334-887-4580

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The 2002 Les Hilliard Scholarship was awarded to Antonio Grate of Alabama A&M University, majoring in Agricultural Economics. We would like to congratulate the recipient of this year's award.

Applicants for the FY 2003 Scholarship will be forwarded to University liaisons soon.

Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact:  
Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson  
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program  
USDA-NRCS, 3381 Skyway Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830  
Phone: 334-887-4546

### **NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Deloris Jones  
Chris Ford  
Lawrence McGhee