



RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALABAMA

2006 ANNUAL REPORT





*We are not
a secret from
the majority
anymore,
however
with more
success comes
more responsibility.*

• Robert Harbison •

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year of 2007 has been and will be very challenging. In the years past we have fought two difficult battles. I am very grateful that we won the first battle a few years back to justify our existence and to become a permanent part of the law. Since our victory, the current administration has tried several times to eliminate the RC&D program that we have worked so hard to keep in existence. Thanks to all of your help writing letters to Congress and with the help of Roberta Jeanquart and her staff's wonderful leadership in the National Office, we have successfully deterred these attempts.

The second battle is the budget. Thanks again for the letters to Congress that have helped to maintain level funding in our adverse budget cycles. The budget is very challenging again this year. The President's current proposal only provides enough for one RC&D Coordinator in each state. This would bring to an end to our RC&D program. Our request is for Congress to provide \$56 million dollars so that all Coordinators could work full time in the RC&D program.

In addition, this year brings the 2007 Farm Bill. I challenge each of you to contact our Senators and Congressmen and show your support for our recommendations. They are as follows:

1. NRCS will provide a full time RC&D Coordinator, the local support, and resources to provide technical assistance to each RC&D Council.
2. Congress will reaffirm their role of local decision-making through the area-planning process. They will support RC&D as a USDA program that utilizes USDA resources in each of their communities.
3. Funding for RC&D will be made mandatory rather than subject to annual appropriations.

RC&D is a wonderful and successful program. We are not a secret from the majority anymore, however with more success comes more responsibility. It is imperative that we train our officers, staffs and councils to handle our program correctly. This will ensure that the program will continue to have great success in the future.

Sincerely,

Robert Harbison

Robert Harbison

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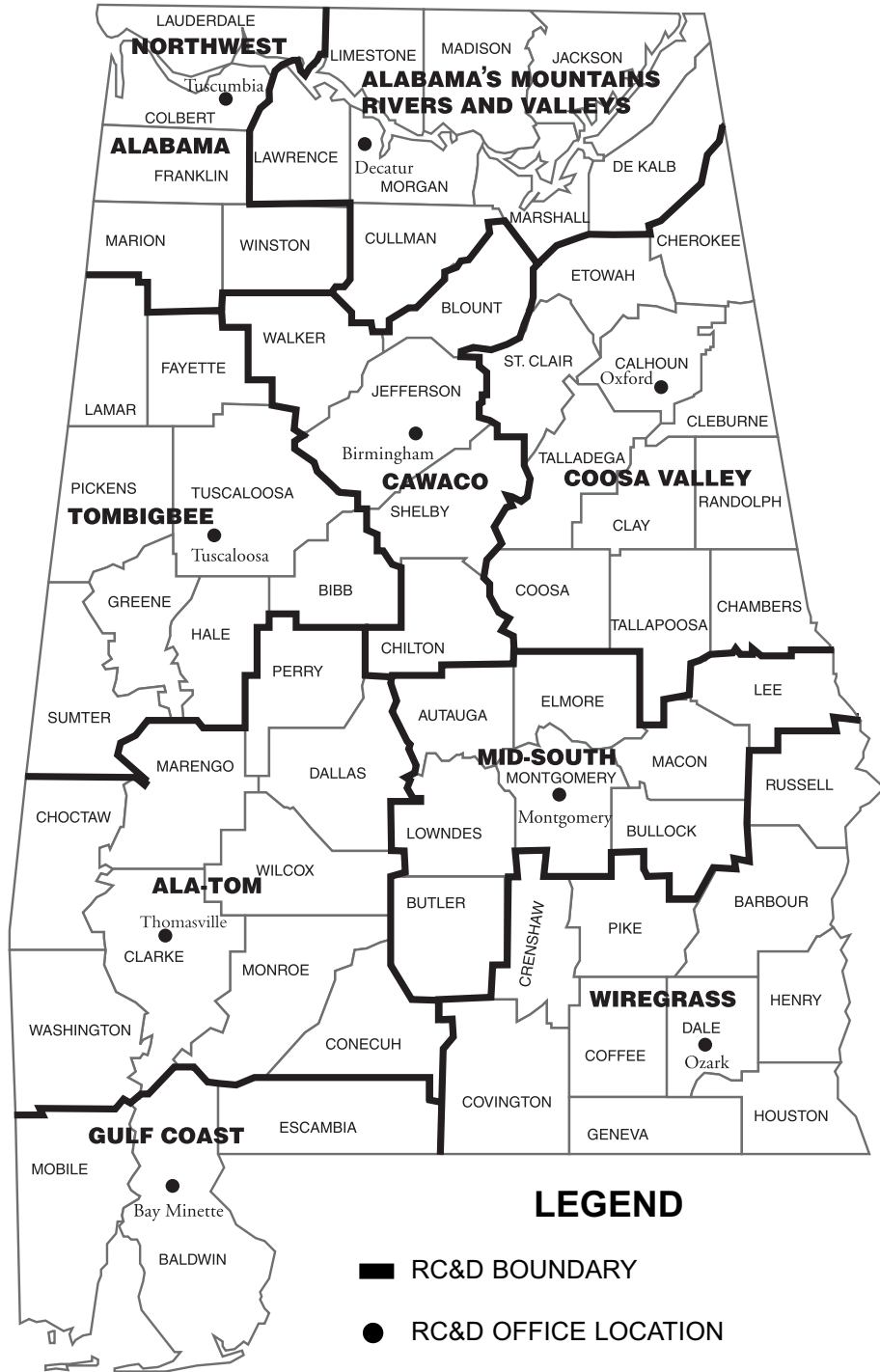
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RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS



INTRODUCTION

RC&D in Alabama depends on the leadership abilities and unique skills within the communities it serves. That is why so many worthwhile projects have been undertaken and accomplished throughout the state.

A significant accomplishment of RC&D is the rekindling of community spirit. There are so many ways to describe RC&D; however it is basically people doing things for other people.

In essence, it is local people identifying their problems and opportunities and dealing with them, with a little help from the government and from others.

The RC&D Councils in Alabama are proud of their accomplishments; but there is much yet that can be done to make our communities a better place to live.

The Association is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and developing the state's natural and human resources.

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River cleanup—Volunteers are the backbone of RC&D.

What is RC&D?

*Local people
identifying their problems
and opportunities
and dealing with them,
with a little help
from the
government and others.*



Accepting the award for Outstanding Performance by a Council: Cawaco RC&D.



Accepting the award for Outstanding RC&D Program Assistant: Michael Fowlkes.



One of the Association activities during 2006 was to promote, develop, and establish the film industry across the state.

2006 ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Activities accomplished in 2006 include:

2006 Funding:

- The Association was included in the General Fund Budget, receiving \$787,500 as a line item in the State Committee Budget. The Councils matched those funds with in-kind services valued at 1,952,692.
- The Association led the effort to offer Environmental Education with funding through Auburn University – ACES receiving \$445,000 and matching these funds with 1,254,228 in-kind services and other funding.

2006 Meetings:

- Ten council members from across the state attended the Leadership Forum held in Washington D.C. Personal visits were made to the Alabama Legislature on behalf of the National RC&D Program.
- Each of the Council was represented at the National Energy Forum sponsored by the Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council.
- The State Association was represented at the Cooperative Conservation Leadership Training Held in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Over 100 council members and supporters of the RC&D program attended the Alabama Association's Annual Meeting hosted by the Northwest RC&D Council in Florence, Alabama.

The 2006 Alabama Award Winners were as follows:

- Outstanding Project – Wiregrass RC&D Education Program
- Outstanding Supporting Organization – Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed
- Outstanding RC&D Program Assistant – Michael Fowlkes
- Outstanding Performance by a Council – Cawaco RC&D Council
- Outstanding Performance by a Coordinator – Paul Kennedy
- Outstanding Performance by a Council Member – Robert Harbison

Southeastern Awards in 2006 in Savannah Georgia

- Southeastern Program Assistant - Mr. Michael Fowlkes
- Outstanding Coordinators - Mr. Paul Kennedy

State Initiatives for 2006

- A \$5,000 grant was provided by the Association to the Alabama Filmmakers Association, Inc. a non-profit organization created to promote, develop, and establish the industry of filmmaking across the state of Alabama. This grant was matched with an additional \$25,000 that provided representation at the American Film Market.
- General support for Alabama Water Watch provided by local councils.
- Bookkeeping services were provided by the council for the Alabama Envirothon Program.

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL

The Alabama's Mountains and Rivers RC&D Council covers the following Alabama counties: DeKalb, Cullman, Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. The office is located in Decatur.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Madison County Phase II: This project provided presentations to the Madison County Water Department on *Sedimentation Erosion Control and Storm Water*. We also utilized the traveling billboard and existing water quality pamphlets to educate stakeholders in the area about water quality issues.

Legacy Septic Tank Program: This project created environmentally responsible citizens by educating them on their personal contribution and impact of non-point source pollution from improperly managed septic tank systems.

2006 Clean Water Partnership: The Tennessee Basin Clean Water Partnership conducted stakeholder public outreach concerning watershed water quality needs based on Alabama's Section 303d list.

Sand Mountain Lake Guntersville Water Quality: This project facilitated the coverage of environmental topics in classrooms of cooperating teachers in the Sand Mountain-Lake Guntersville Watershed.

Body Recall: Recall put forth a wellness program to benefit all people with a higher quality of life through responsible movement that is pain-free and possible.

Sportsman Lake Bike Trail: A 3.5 mile urban Mountain Bike trail with three experience levels; easy, moderate and experienced. The trail is open and flowing with minimal elevation grades. The trail crosses the creek on three bridges constructed of white oak to tie into the surroundings. A kiosk at the beginning of the trailhead displays a map of the levels.

Reading a Campus Forestry Plot: Approximately 1,500 students learned the importance of soil and how it sustains forests that benefit the environment. 100 students were given hands-on instruction in selective cutting, thinning, prescribed burning and timber stand improvement. Students were taught how pollutants contaminate water.

Linking Horticulture to Agricultural: This project offered a comprehensive program in horticulture that features exploration of career opportunities as well as specialized courses for such careers as landscape design and greenhouse management. Extensive hands-on training for sixty students was conducted.

continued



Legacy Septic Tank Program

2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

John Eason

Vice-Chair

Jeff Clark

Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Harville

RC&D Coordinator

Mike Roden

RC&D Secretary

Mary Elliott

2007 RC&D Project Manager

Blake Garner

2006 RC&D Project Manager

Brian Brown

RC&D Program Manager

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Jeff Clark, *Vice Chairman*
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Robert Harbison,
State RC&D President

Bill Latimer

James Long

Jerrell Smalley

Darren Blizzard

Ruthie Jones

Gordon Dunagan

Jay Grantland

Council Members

Morgan County

Ann Smith

C.A. Blevins

Brad Bole

Brenda McCann

Susan Nava

Foy Kirkland

DeKalb County

Sid Holcomb

Stanley McClendon

Cecil Gant

Vickie Goggans

Dewayne Hulgán

Billy Twilley

Deanna Wilks

Jerry Wisner

Lawrence County

Henrietta Taylor

Floyd Shankle

Harold Lou Allen

Billy Frost

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Repair of Homes for the Elderly in Jackson County: This project provided home repair and wheelchair ramps to elderly and disabled citizens. Local volunteers recruited by CASA of Jackson County provide the manpower.

Project Animals: The SPCA used RC&D funds to provide materials for humane education and public safety to Jackson County residents.

Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP): This program allowed low and moderate income Jackson County residents to have their family dogs sprayed or neutered by local veterinarians for a \$20 co-payment.

A Campus Garden: This project provided a garden at Section High School to teach students about food production, the food supply and give students experience producing food. Another objective was teaching soil conservation and protection.

Becoming the Best I can Become: This project addressed areas in the lives of rural Lawrence County residents that hinder them from becoming all they can be. The objective was to improve quality of life and coping skills of Courtland residents.

Caddo/East Lawrence Fire Station: The new fire station is a valuable asset to the Caddo/East Lawrence area because of the growing size of the community. With two fire stations in operation, response time for emergencies will be greatly enhanced.

Outdoor Classroom Courtyard/Garden: This outdoor classroom project provided an opportunity for students to utilize their individual skills and knowledge in the design and construction of the classroom as well as after construction.

Minor Home Repair: The direct benefit of this project to our clients is a sense of safety and independence. All CASA clients are 60 or older or homebound. Without a wheelchair ramp, these clients would not be able to make it out of their homes to go to medical appointments or other such appointments. All CASA services are provided by caring community volunteers and at no cost to the clients.

Sparkman Drainage: This project removes surface water from school grounds that cause safety/health concerns. The football field was unusable after rain until this project.

Restoration of Flamingo Park: This project ensures that there are sufficient parks and recreational facilities to serve community residents with creative expression and skill development.

Arboretum Installation: The horticulture class has cleared and constructed a trail, built a bridge, and purchased native plants and equipment. The group of about fifteen students had varied progress as they learned to work with their hands.

Morgan County Education Coordinator: This project provided for a person to go on request to the various public, private and home schools within Morgan County and present approved conservation education programs and materials.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

Jackson County

Laura Bowman
 Billy Stephenson
 Jim Frost

Madison County

Mike Gillespie
 Roger Jones
 Ann Anderson
 Kim Hammond
 Albert Butler
 Bob Culver
 Joe Howe
 Peggy Long
 Jeff Pruitt

Dr. Alexandrine Randriamahafa

Marshall County

Donald Smith
 Billy Cannon
 Ted Parker
 Stan Franklin

Cullman County

Wiley Kitchens
 Edwin Carter
 Jerry Parham
 E.C. Gibbs
 Cherrie Haney
 Earlene Johnson
 Gwen Purifoy
 Tammy Roden
 Sammie Danford
 Deborah Widner
 Murray Griffin

Limestone County

Jimmy Newby
 Brenda Wigginton
 Mark Swafford

Eva Outdoor Classroom: The project enabled students and teachers of Eva School, grades k-8 to build an outdoor classroom to provide hands-on outdoor learning opportunities and allow students of all ages to utilize multiple – disciplinary skills.

Logan Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Provided for fire station updates & training for rapid responders. This station can now be used as a voting place for the community.

Suitcase Lessons: This program encourages students to be environmentally aware of the quality of water in area streams and to promote efforts to reduce pollution. Students conducted checks of streams in their respective communities.

One Word One Deed: This project crashes through the language barrier one work, one deed at a time, by providing a non-embarrassing environment where Spanish speakers can learn to take care of daily needs in English and become better adjusted to life in the USA.

All Star Music Camp: This project provided a unique learning and performance opportunity for students from over 25 high school and middle schools in North Alabama. The camp also provided students the opportunity to increase their potential to get music scholarships from Alabama's two-year and four-year institutes.

Madison County Water Festival: The Council sits on the Madison County Water Festival Board and is accountant/treasurer of festival funds. The two-day event requires 50 to 75 volunteers to carry out four water quality activities.

Limestone County Water Festival: The main objective of the Water Festival is to educate youth on where our drinking water comes from and the importance of doing what we can do to help prevent pollution and protect our natural resources. Approximately 1,000 students participated in three hands-on learning activities.

West Point Outdoor Classroom: This project provided for the purchase of a portable outdoor classroom stocked with needed supplies to grow plants and establish various habitats for birds and insects around the classroom.

Cherokee Village Computer Lab: This project provides gainful employment for tribal members and helped purchase ancestral land and education opportunities for the public, tribal members and youth while establishing a cultural center and museum.

Tri State Rabbit Association: This project assisted the Tri-state Rabbit Growers Association in marketing rabbit meat in local grocery stores thru different meat distributors in the United States and working with UAB using blood for cancer research.

9th Annual Environmental Education Teacher Workshop: This project trains teachers and gets them excited about sharing ideas about protecting our water and natural resources. This week long annual event in Madison County allows local teachers to interact with specialists in the environmental field.

continued



Sportsman Lake Bike Trail

This 3.5 mile trail is designed to be open and flowing with minimal elevation grades. The trail crosses the creek on three bridges constructed of white oak to tie into the surroundings.



Conservation Innovation Grant

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

CASA of Madison County Wheelchair Ramps: CASA's objective for the Wheelchair Ramp Program is to provide materials and supplies to dedicated volunteers so that they can perform the necessary tasks, thus providing our clients access to the outside world and enabling them to remain safe and independent in their own homes.

Norcross Camera Project: To assist the AMRV in development and promotion of Wildlife Areas. Norcross Foundation provided the council with a digital camera.

Project Soccer: To provide the United States military troops in Afghanistan with soccer balls and stuffed animals to help establish good will. A retired Coordinator's requested councils across the country to contribute to this worthwhile project.

Legacy Earth Day Meeting: To promote Earth Day. The Tennessee Basin CWP and the ARMV Council met to share water quality issues and concerns. Presentations were given by local partners, watershed organizations and agency personnel.

Tennessee Tom Coloring Book: New coloring books for younger children were developed, translated, illustrated and printed to introduce children to the concept of preserving our water quality. We worked in conjunction with Madison County and the Clean Water Partnership to deliver information at the local boat shows.

Water Works Program: This council owns the Hartselle abandoned waterworks plant. Plans for the building eventually include operating the plant as a Riparian and Wetland Water Quality Education Center for teachers and children in North Alabama.

Conservation Innovation Grant: This project, funded by USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service explores lower cost ways of storing poultry litter to facilitate environmentally sound land application.

Lola Boyd Pavilion: This project establishes an extension of the outdoor education classroom by providing a pavilion and restroom. To be utilized for extended classes on environmental and water quality efforts through out the AMRV council area.

International Paper Teacher Education Project: These funds have been set aside to present water quality and environmental education activates as they arise in the Lawrence County area.

ADECA Poultry Energy: This project utilizes external oil burners to burn used cooking oil to heat poultry houses. The effort recycles a waste product cooking oil from restaurants as a fuel. The oil delivers 30% more BTUs per hour than propane.

Agri Plex: This project supports the efforts of the North Alabama Agri-plex board to establish an Agricultural Education Facility and activities in North Alabama.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council covers the following nine Southwest Alabama counties: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox.

The office is located in Thomasville. The Council completed 29 projects in 2006 for a total cost of \$2,777,137.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Black Belt Treasures: A regional (18 counties) marketing effort for arts, crafts, literature and food products was created. A gallery to display and sell items, as well as an internet marketing site was established. Over 220 artisans are involved, returning more than \$130,000 to them the first year. Visitors from 34 states and 5 foreign countries have visited the gallery. Arts educational events are also being conducted. This project received varied grants from different sources to total \$253,135.

Shady Grove Walking Trail: The Council assisted the Choctaw County Commission in preparing a successful Recreational Trails Grant proposal to ADECA. A \$9,700 grant was received to develop a trail in the Shady Grove, a rural African-American community. The Choctaw County Commission provided \$27,196, for a total project cost of \$38,896.

Plasticulture Implementation Program: The Council developed a plan and strategy to assist NRCS in implementing Plasticulture EQUIP payments, to help limited resource farmers purchase needed supplies. In addition, the Council made a bulk purchase of plasticulture supplies for re-sale to farmers. This is available statewide, but primarily aimed at producers in the southern portion of the state.

Collard Processing Project: The Council purchased a collard processing machine for use by Down South Foods. The owner of Down South Foods passed away, and the Council received proposals to use the machine to process collards purchased from farmers in the region. Use was granted to Jay Minter, and he expanded the operation and was awarded a contract by a major wholesale food supply company. He now purchases collards from farmers, processes them and delivers them to the food supply company. He also grows collards himself for the operation.

Essex School Based Community Health Program: The Council provided a \$10,000 state education grant to the Friends of Essex School to complete a health center at the school for the students and area residents.

Reaching Beyond the Skies Academically: The Council assisted the Castleberry Community Development Center with a \$7,500 state education grant to provide tutoring and life skill training for students, and basic computer classes for adults.

continued

Playground Safety Workshop



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Johnny L. Flowers,
Perry County Commission

Vice-Chairman

Jerry Davidson
Washington County Soil &
Water Conservation District

Secretary/Treasurer

Rhondel B. Rhone
Clarke County Commission

RC&D Coordinator

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ALA-TOM RC&D
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David Sparrow

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Steve James

Conecuh County

Leonard Millender
Bridget Cain
Lula Palmer

Dallas County

Curtis Williams
Lesa Craig
Billy Atchison

Marengo County

Max Joiner
Lex Parker
Gayle Etheridge

Monroe County

Joe McKissick
Tim Tucker
Kathy McCoy

Perry County

Johnny L. Flowers
Charles Holmes
Donald Cook

Washington County

John H. Armstrong
Jerry Davidson
Albert Ridgeway

Wilcox County

Michael R. Saulsberry
McDuffie Stallworth
Roberta Jordan

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Tri-County After School Program: The Council provided the Tri-County Community Organization a \$3,000 state education grant to conduct an after school tutoring program for students at Monroe Intermediate School in Monroe County. Students were helped with homework, as well as with standardized tests.

Archery in the Schools: Archery equipment was purchased to assist the Jackson Middle School Physical Education program. School attendance and student behavior improved because of added diversity to the PE program. The program also increased student interests in outdoor activities including bow hunting and hunter safety.

Wilcox Central High School Dual E Learning Program: The Wilcox Central High School, in cooperation with Wallace Community College-Selma conducted a program in which students can earn college credit while still in high school.

Lenox Community Center Repair: The Council assisted the Lenox Community Center with a \$7,136 state grant to replace the roof on the building, with matching funds and labor for a total project cost \$19,149.

Perry County Farmers Market: The Council obtained a grant from the Alabama Farmers Market Authority to construct a farmers market shed in Marion for local farmers to sell their fruits and vegetables.

Sumter / Marengo Water Festival-2005: The Council assisted the Sumter County Soil and Water Conservation District in co-sponsoring the 2005 Water Festival which brought in all fourth graders from Sumter and Marengo County Schools to a day long educational event to promote the conservation of water.

Washington County Public Library Adult Computer Classes: The council provided a \$2,500 State Education grant to the Washington County Public Library to conduct adult basic computer classes for county residents.

Alberta GED Training Program: The Council awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Faith Fellowship Community Outreach organization to conduct GED test preparation training and after school tutoring for the students in the Alberta (Wilcox and Dallas County) area.

Dedication of the Clarke County Association of Retarded Citizens horticulture training program for their mental health consumers



CCARC Horticulture Training Program: The Council assisted the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District who coordinated with the Clarke County Association of Retarded Citizens for the establishment of a horticulture training program for their mental health consumers with a State Educational grant.

Toxey-Skinner Park Bridge Repair: The Council assisted the Town of Toxey with repairs to a pedestrian bridge in the Skinner Park that was damaged by Hurricane Ivan with a State appropriations grant.

Commercial Rabbit Demonstration Project: The Council assisted Jeanette Grayson with a SARE grant she received to do a demonstration project for Limited Resource/ Small Scale Farmers in the commercial production marketing of rabbits.

Grove Hill Public Library Adult Computer Classes: The Council provided an educational grant to the Grove Hill Public Library to conduct basic computer classes for adults.

Southwest Alabama Mental Health Horticulture Training Program: The Council provided an education grant to the Southwest Alabama Mental Health program to start a horticulture training program for its clients in Evergreen. The program grows plants in a greenhouse for sale to the public and to the city of Evergreen. Mentally challenged adults are being trained in horticulture to provide income, as well as marketable skills.

Commercial Blackberry Production Demonstration: The Council used \$3,500 in State Appropriations to conduct On-Farm Demonstrations of commercial blackberry production on limited resource/minority farmers in the area

Clarke County Needs Assessment: The ALA-TOM RC&D Council provided the Clarke County Development Foundation a \$5,000 grant to develop a comprehensive needs assessment for the county to create a data management system for the pursuit of resources to address quality of life issues. The Foundation provided \$25,000 in matching funds for the project.

Urban Tree Planting 2004: The Council's Urban Forestry program secured a grant to plant trees in participating municipalities. Approximately 275 urban trees planted.

Thomasville Recycling Project: The Council helped establish a paper recycling program with the Alabama Coalition of Mental Health Consumers to provide supportive employment for persons with mental illness or other acquired disabilities.

Corps of Engineers Park Road Paving Project: The Council assisted the Clarke County Commission in preparing a grant proposal to pave 5.4 miles of access roads into the Silver Creek and Old Lock 1 Corps of Engineers Parks. The County Commission used the proposals to obtain \$1,600,583 in federal DOT funds.

continued



Southwest Alabama Mental Health Horticulture Training Program



Collard Processing Meeting



Alberta GED Training Program



Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission Director John Clyde Riggs at the Black Belt Treasures gallery in Camden Alabama.

Black Belt Treasures:

Over 220 artisans are involved, returning more than \$130,000 to them the first year.

Visitors from 34 states and 5 foreign countries have visited the gallery.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

ALA-TOM RC&D Office/Tourism Building: The Council Purchased and renovated a historic building in Thomasville for its office and for the Regional Tourism office.

Playground Safety Workshop: The Council assisted the Town of Pine Hill with a \$1,293 Education Grant to conduct a workshop for municipalities and schools on how to design, construct, and maintain playgrounds to meet national safety standards, using the town’s park as a demonstration site.

Meadowview Elementary Outdoor Classroom Project: The Council assisted Meadowview Elementary School in Selma with an Education grant to construct an outdoor classroom area on the school campus. It is part of an ongoing effort to turn the entire campus into an outdoor learning area. Trees were planted, a butterfly garden established, fountains, weather station, and a recycling center established.

Sweetwater Baseball Field Lighting Project: The Council assisted the Town of Sweetwater with a \$2,480 state grant to provide lights for the ball fields at the Town’s Park. The town provided \$57,500 in matching funds to complete the project.

Remediation Services for High School Students: The Council provided a \$1,795 educational grant to a local men’s organization called “Men making a Difference” to provide after school tutoring and mentoring for students at Clarke County High School. Emphasis was placed on students successfully passing the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. The organization provided matching funds in the amount of \$2,000.

Black Belt Treasures



CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL

Located in north central Alabama, the Cawaco RC&D Council serves five Counties: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker. Cawaco RC&D helps plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development and enhance the environment and standard of living in its Council area. The Council is actively involved in the management of multi county, cross-jurisdictional projects that address natural, financial, and/or human resource opportunities within Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. Many of these projects develop into partnerships between local businesses, governmental agencies and citizen volunteers. Aggressive grant management has enabled the Council to do a wide array of projects such as:

- Watershed Management
- Environmental Education
- Historic Preservation
- Community Development
- Quality of Life Enhancements
- Economic Development

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Challenge Grants: The Council offers small Challenge Grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to assist public and other 501(c)(3) agencies in their efforts to serve community needs in the CAWACO region. Projects funded support Council and USDA-NRCS Goals that promote the conservation and wise use of the areas resources.

ACES Educational Challenge Grants: Provided through the State's Educational Trust Fund, the ACES Educational Challenge Grant Program is a partnership between the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. These funds are set up for education of children and adults and must have a clearly defined educational objective.

Grants and Contracted Services: From time to time, Cawaco, in support of the stated goals, applies for and receives grant funding from federal, state, and local sources to perform specific tasks. These funds are used by the Council to address opportunities in the Council Area that address an issue within the scope of our mission. Priority is given to environmental issues linked to natural resources.

continued

*2006 Outstanding Project Coordinator
for the southeastern United States from the
National Association of RC&D Councils.*



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

President of the Board

Paul McCaleb

First Vice-President

Joe Love

Project Coordinator

Paul Kennedy

***Operations Manager/
Warrior River Facilitator***

Kellie Johnston

***Five Mile Creek Partnership
Coordinator***

Francesca Gross

Special Projects Coordinator

Patti Pennington

***DOI-OSM VISTA, Five Mile
Creek Partnership***

Rachel Corley

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David Standridge

Chilton County

Betty Benson
Betty Giles
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Glenda Strength

Jefferson County

Paul McCaleb
Vasha Rosenblum
Preston Scarber
Bruno Tropeano

Shelby County

Jamie Cates
Amy Feger
Allan Lowe
Jon Parker

Walker County

Dennis Cooper
Joe Love
Bruce Hamrick
Robin Reed Allen

Advisory Committee

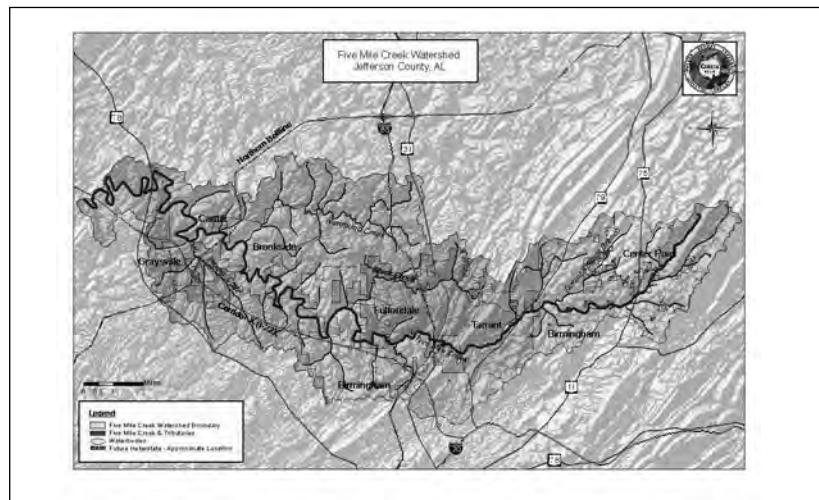
Dan Murchison
Robert Kelly
Robert Gilmore
Norm Davis
Joletta Martin
Robert Youngblood
David Cochran
Elwyn Thomas
Cathy Wright
Nisa Miranda

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Black Warrior & Cahaba Rivers Clean Water Partnerships: These Partnerships are funded by a State contract through the Alabama Clean Water Partnership and serve a 17 county area. Goals are to improve communication across, governmental, industrial, residential, and environmental boundaries and to promote programs that improve water quality.

Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership: The goal of the Partnership is to assist the 7 municipalities that boarder Five Mile Creek in the development of a 28 mile greenway. The greenway will not only serve the 7 participating municipalities, but also provide recreational opportunities throughout the greater Birmingham area.

Five Mile Creek Greenway extends from Center Point to the Locust Fork of the Warrior River west of Graysville, crossing under I-22, US 78, and several Rail Trail opportunities.



Students and local Academia play a large part in Cawaco's efforts to document past, present, and future environmental quality.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Council's and our Partnerships' efforts to heighten awareness and make a difference.



Woody Biomass Utilization on National Forest Service Lands to Achieve Unmet Management Needs: The purpose of this project is to establish viable harvesting techniques and sustainable markets for small diameter stems and un-merchantable woody material. This will enable the National Forest in Alabama to increase efficiencies in rehabilitating lands. Demonstration sites include Oakmulgee Ranger District and the Alabama Power Gadsden Steam Plant. Preliminary estimates indicate: the potential annual utilization of biomass from a minimum of 20,000 acres to augment pulverized coal-fired power generation in Alabama alone; and the possible creation of 400 new jobs in Alabama.

Firewise: The objective of the Firewise Community Development Project (FCDP) is to develop an organized outreach initiative at the grassroots level in Walker, Jefferson & Shelby counties to (1) educate homeowners living within the wild land urban interface of proactive steps that they can take on their own to reduce their vulnerability to wild land fires.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

*The Sumiton School
Nature Trail
Revitalization*

*Committee received a
\$5,000 grant from
Cawaco to revitalize
the trail, making it
more accessible
to the students
and facility.*

*Two bridges, an
amphitheater, and a student
workstation with
five lab tables are part
of this project.*

*A total of
387 volunteers
assisted in the project.*



Cawaco has helped communities like the Norwood Neighborhood to envision and implement better gateways and beautification as part of their environmental restoration.

Your Town Mentor Program: Small communities have limited resources to study options for community development, prioritize goals, seek existing programs and avenues of funding, and administer grant programs. The Mentor Program assists communities in implementing sound growth concepts and community revitalization.

Community Development Grants: Cawaco receives funds directed to community development projects. Through contact with local communities, Cawaco



is able to keep and work through an inventory of projects that are needed for community development. Cawaco provides due diligence, project management, and provides a final report back to the grant source.

continued

Community Planning is an Art. Cawaco has sponsored a variety of programs to model and improve the Quality of Life throughout the five county area.

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

When Pam Ousley looks out the window of her classroom at Maplesville High School, all she can see are brick walls. But she loves the view. Thanks to a \$4000 grant from Cawaco and the hard work of students, parents and teachers, one of the school's outdoor walls has been transformed from ordinary to extraordinary.



Coke Ovens at Fultondale are one piece of the Coal Heritage Trails under way in Cawaco's area. Eco-Tourism meets History and Art.

Historical Beehive Coke Ovens Park (Fultondale): Cawaco RC&D Council provides assistance to the City of Fultondale in the creation of a passive park at the site of the Mary Lee Mines historic beehive coke ovens. The park will include the restoration of the coke ovens and construction of walking trails, providing residents and tourists with a cultural and recreational amenity.

A \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts was approved for Sloss Metal Arts to create appropriate sculpture for the site. Additionally, a \$1,000 grant was received from the Kodak Greenways Project which was used for site design.

Technical Assistance: Drawing upon the expertise and experience of staff and board members, the Council provides assistance to communities or groups upon request. The projects must have a strong correlation with Council Goals.



People Helping People—Urban Farm, Bessemer. An experiment in Food Security, Plasticsulture, and Sustainable Agriculture in the heart of Alabama's largest Metro Area. Growing much more than food. www.bessemerfarm.org

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Coosa Valley RC&D Council covers the following counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega and Tallapoosa. The office is located in Oxford, Alabama.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

4TH Grade Natural Resource Program: 4th grade students throughout Calhoun County were taught about conserving natural resources. Soil Stewardship Week was used as the time frame to enter schools to reach this objective. Teachers were also given materials to use throughout the year. The Council provided \$1000.

Protective Vests: Assist the City of Lafayette, Alabama in purchasing bullet proof vests for their Police Department. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$4,000.

Project Life Saver: This project in Cherokee County is a nationwide program designed to keep track of people with mental deficiencies or Alzheimer's who have a tendency to wander or get lost. The Council provided \$2335. Total Cost: \$6,335.

Farm Field Days: The Cherokee County Farm Field Days is an annual educational event for students. This is a reflection on the county's agriculture, mainly a rural setting with both large and small operating farms. The current products consist of cotton, soybeans, corn, poultry, cattle/calf, nursery plants, and commercial fishing. The Council provided \$3500 in funds. Total Cost: \$6965.

4-H Forestry Program: A Clay County training program in forestry to teach 4-H youth tree identification, tree measurement, compass traverse, insect and disease identification, forest evaluation and leadership/teamwork skills. The Council provided \$200 in funds. Total Cost: \$300.

Multi-Handicap Class Recycling Program: A Clay County program to purchase a storage building for the multi-handicap class to use in their recycling program. The Council provided \$1800 in funds. Total Cost: \$3,600.

Diabetes Education: Randolph County Program to educate adults on topics related to diabetes, including "What is Type I and Type II Diabetes," "Understanding Diabetes," "Different Types of Medications," "Dietary Management," "Correlation Between Exercise and Diabetes," "Complications of Diabetes," and "Monitoring Diabetes." The Council provided \$500. Total Cost: \$5850.

Arts Camp: Clay County hands-on art experience for children, including painting, drawing, music, drama, pottery, dance and special one day visits from performers, storytellers and others. The Council provided \$2525. Total Cost: \$14,025.

continued

2nd Annual Meat Goat and Sheep Festival—Farmers are educated and made aware of the potential that this sustainable agriculture industry is offering.



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

H. Larry Raughton

Vice-Chairman

William E. Thomas

Secretary-Treasurer

Alton Hall

RC&D Coordinator

Heidi V. Richards

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Project Assistant

James Allen

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WSI Coordinator

Jeff Colvin

Coosa Basin Facilitator

Gail Russell

gail_russel@bellsouth.net

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Wayne White

Cherokee County

Melvyn Salter
John Garmon

Clay County

Ricky Burney
Earl Smith

Cleburne County

Ryan Robertson
Ashley Truett

Coosa County

Sally Holland
Terry Mitchell

Etowah County

Sharron Gross
Mike Naugher

Randolph County

Larry Raughton
Dean Wysner

St. Clair County

Stanley Batemon
Perry Poe

Talladega County

Tony Haynes
Archie Wesley

Tallapoosa County

Clifford Meigs
Frank Tapley

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Pleasant Grove Elementary School Walking Track: Cleburne County project to landscape the area surrounding the walking track with trees and signs for tree identification. The Council provided \$2000 in funds. Total Cost: \$12,000.

Just Move Alabama: Cleburne County project to teach youth through physical activity and nutrition lessons that exercise and proper nutrition are vital for good health. The “Just Move” kits teach skills such as jumping rope, volleyball and other recreational activities other than organized sports. The Council provided \$3500.

“Discovering Alabama” Videos: Coosa County project to provide the students and public with a knowledge and appreciation of the importance of our natural resources in Alabama. These videos have abundant information on soils, natural diversity, ecosystems, watersheds, forestry, and other great topics specific to certain areas in Alabama. The Council provided \$1974 in funds.

Etowah Bookmarkers for Water Festival: Etowah County project for the Water Festival event. Bookmarkers were custom designed as promotional materials in relation to the scheduled Water Festival event. The Council provided \$540 in funds and assistance to create and produce the bookmarkers.

Sardis City Public Library: Etowah County project to build a porch at the side entrance of Sardis City Public Library to serve as a safe fire escape passage, as well as a seated reading area. The Council provided \$1000. Total Cost: \$2,023.

NE Etowah Community Center: Etowah County project to plant and mulch areas to help reduce soil erosion, improve the aesthetic value of the building and grounds and improve the water quality downstream. The Council provided \$1000. General Funds provided \$7,000. Total Cost: \$13,000.

Eco-Golf-Environmental Education Stations: Etowah County exhibit with nine-holes of miniature golf; each hole has an “eco-theme” showing players how to protect the environment. The Council provided \$500. Total Cost: \$8,000.

Southern Union Promotional Bookmarkers: Randolph County project designed promotional materials to promote Southern Union State Community College as well as the Log Cabin for educational purposes. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$3,335.



Vision CRD (Community Resource Development), Inc.—The concession stand will allow the local community to become more self-sufficient by generating funds for future improvements and awareness programs.

SIFAT (Southern Institute for Agriculture and Technology): Randolph County project to raise the awareness of Alabama's children and youth in the areas of solar energy, wind based energy, hydraulic energy, alternative fuels, and alternative construction methods and to encourage student initiative in the pursuit of innovative problem solving. The Council provided \$3000. Total Cost: \$13,194.

Ragland City Hall Erosion Control Project: St. Clair County project to install sod around newly constructed Town of Ragland City Hall. The Council provided \$2000 in funds. Total Cost: \$6,611.

St. Clair Water Festival: St. Clair County project to educate all 4th grade students and their teachers about the effects of runoff on water quality and how to prevent it. The Council provided \$3500 in funds. Total Cost: \$9,000.

"Fishy Environment": St. Clair County project to establish a functional aquaculture program. This program will help students learn about water quality and what acceptable data readings are for each test parameter. The Council provided \$926.

Vision CRD-Phase II: Talladega County project to assist with the building of a concession stand. The facility will allow the local community to become more self-sufficient by generating funds for future improvements and awareness programs. The Council provided \$2000 in funds. Total Cost: \$8,000.

Meat Goat and Sheep Festival: Talladega County project to promote the goat and sheep industry as a viable long term source of income to farmers. Prospective farmers are educated and made aware of the potential that this sustainable agriculture industry is offering. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$5,380.

Kid One Transport Project: Tallapoosa County project to provide free transportation to any scheduled appointment that will better a child or expectant mother medically, mentally or physically. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$4,000.

Kuder Career Planning System: Tallapoosa County project to build a seamless integration of college and career planning resources into one system through an innovative on-line system. The Council provided \$2500. Total Cost: \$16,000.

"Discovering Alabama" Videos: Tallapoosa County project purchased 45 "Discovering Alabama" videos to assist in presenting the *Forest in the Classroom* Program. The Council provided \$500 in funds.

Clay County Diabetes Education: The educational objectives of this project taught health science students about diabetes, medications used, dietary management, as well as pre-gestational and gestational diabetes. The students use a life skill program that enables them to be involved in their community health fairs and other events. The Council provided \$975 in funds. Total Cost: \$1,475.

continued



*Southern Union State Community College—Promotional material
"Celebrating the past...
the present...the future."*



*"Hands On" Water Quality Education
Field Trip—Students learning 1
of 8 lessons taught at a nearby stream.*



*Sardis City Public Library—Side porch
serves as a fire escape as
well as an outdoor reading area.*



*Cherokee County Farm Field Days—
One of the many educational stations.*

The Cherokee County

Farm Field Days

*is an annual
educational event*

for students.

*This is a reflection
on the county's agriculture,*

mainly a rural setting

with both large

and small

operating farms.

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

“Hands On” Water Quality Education Field Trip: Tallapoosa County. 290 students from Radney School participated in 8 different learning lessons located in and near a local stream adjacent to their school. Students and teachers learned the effects that man has on a streams quality and what they can do to decrease the effect they have on their stream. The Council provided \$500. Total Cost: \$2,300.

Alabama Clean Water Partnership Facilitator: Area-wide project to maintain and restore the biological integrity of the Coosa River Basin. The Council provided \$13,080 in administrative assistance. Total Cost: \$32,520.

Tri-State Rabbit Association: Area-wide project to support and assist in the establishment of this organization. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$9,136.

Stream Restoration Training: Area-wide project to introduce basic concepts of stream restoration using natural channel design. Classroom and field work including project/data summaries and evening work sessions. The Council provided \$300. Total Cost: \$4,500.

Alabama Clean Water Partnership Notebooks: Area-wide project designed to reinforce concepts currently being introduced to 4th grade students at water festivals across the state. It is based on the “*Watershed in a Box*” activity included in Legacy’s Water Source Book. The Council provided \$4962. Total Cost: \$35,174.

Annual District Clerk Workshop: Area-wide project to train personnel to administer educational activities to school children as well as the adult sector on current issues pertaining to Alabama. The Council provided \$2000. Total Cost: \$3,725.



Water Quality Testing Workshop—Teachers learn how to use water quality monitoring test kits.

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL

The Gulf Coast RC&D Council area covers Escambia, Baldwin and Mobile Counties in Southwest Alabama and the Poarch Band of the Creek Indians. The office is located in Bay Minette.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Fourth Annual Baldwin County Water Festival: A project to teach fourth grade students the behavior of groundwater and its importance as the sole drinking water source for Baldwin County. Students learn about watershed protection and the relationship of ground water and surface water. The event is a fun filled activity based educational experience.

2006 Coastal Kids Quiz: A project designed to provide 5th grade students in Mobile and Baldwin Counties an opportunity to test their knowledge of natural resources in a competitive quiz bowl held at the University of South Alabama.

Augusta Evans Special School: A special project designed to help a very special group of handicapped students purchase materials needed for constructing bird houses, bat houses, butterfly houses, duck boxes and benches for their new greenhouse.

Baldwin Catfish Roundup for the Disabled: An annually supported project to provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to enjoy a day of fishing, games and eating. A very popular event with over 400 individuals attending.

Alba Middle School Greenhouse: Provide an opportunity for Ag. Science students to gain knowledge of nursery and vegetable crop production.

Elberta Middle School Rural Student Research Center: A project to construct the Rural Student Research Center to provide students in the Elberta Community with challenging standard based research opportunities.

Gulf Coast Grass Fed Society: Help local farmers introduce new genetics into our region that will produce better quality animals to sell in the local retail market. These animals will be all natural, grass fed and hormone and antibiotic free, organic grown, that will be of the highest quality for tenderness, flavor and a great eating experience.

Robertsdale High School Agriscience Learning Laboratory: A greenhouse for plant and aquaculture production and student experiments, specialty ornamental and food gardens and an area dedicated to retail sale of products.

continued

*Fourth Annual
Baldwin County
Water Festival*



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairperson
Kyle Baggett

Vice-Chairperson
Brenda Litchfield

Secretary
Otis French

Treasurer
Frank Nalty

RC&D Coordinator
Amy Bell

Office Manager
Elaine Whittington

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 Otis French
 Jack Morris
 Frank Trione

Escambia County

Theodore Dean
 Frank Nalty
 Larry White
 Nell Wiggins

Mobile County

Dr. Yvonne Kennedy
 Dr. Brenda Litchfield
 John Pafenbach
 David Sessions

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Billy Smith
 Robert Thrower

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

August Evans School: The School is located in Mobile County and is a special needs school. Gulf Coast RC&D Council funded equipment and materials for hands on developmental skills for special needs students. Special needs students produced bird, bat and duck houses that were donated to other organizations like Weeks Bay Reserve, Turtle Point Environmental Science Center, McDavid-Jones Elementary School Nature Center, Blakely State Park and Gulf Coast RC&D Council Annual Meeting.



Baker High School “A Room with a View”: Students using natural resources to create an outdoor classroom that will serve as an interdisciplinary learning environment. The classroom consists of a gazebo, benches, and a pier system providing access to the adjacent two-acre natural wetland area.

Sarah Finlay Outdoor Science Center Greenhouse at Pollard McCall School: Working greenhouse supports the schools horticulture and ecology curriculum and enhances the State of Alabama Science Course of Study in grades K-8.

Hutchens Elementary School, Agriculture Can you dig it?: Develop an appreciation and awareness of the vital role that agriculture plays in our daily lives. Introduce 800 K-5 students to vegetable gardening.

*Baldwin Catfish Roundup
 for the Disabled*



*Pollard McCall School-Sarah
 Finlay Outdoor Classroom*



Mobile County S&WCD, Mulching, Erosion and Sediment Control

Demonstration: Mulching leads to less ground disturbance, soil stabilization and improved vegetation regeneration.

Baker High School, To Eliminate and Protect: Established a mini-sports turf demonstration area by the elimination of erosion and the protection of adjoining wetland area.

Conservation Tillage Workshop: Gulf Coast & Wiregrass RC&D partnered in providing a 2-day conservation tillage workshop to provide information and education to area farmers regarding the most recent conservation tillage equipment, methodologies and technology.

Flomaton High School Aquaculture and Horticulture Laboratory: Teaching laboratory for research and community outreach. Support the school's aquaculture and horticulture program.

Escambia County S&WCD-Progressive Farmer Safety Day Camp: Students participate in several demonstrations to learn about safety in dealing with electricity, animal safety, chemical look-alikes, 911 awareness, sun safety and first aid, ambulance service and safety around tractors and other farm equipment.

Semmes Elementary School "Meg's Place": Outdoor pavilion and a play area that provides accessible equipment that will allow special needs children an opportunity to participate in outdoor activities.

Alma Bryant High School Aquaculture BGLPs (below ground lined ponds): Convert existing unlined indoor pond into two below ground lined ponds (BGLPs).

Mulching leads to less ground disturbance, soil stabilization and improved vegetation regeneration.

Escambia County S&WCD-Progressive Farmer Safety Day Camp



Gulf Coast Grass Fed Society-Red Devon Bull



continued

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

***Baldwin Catfish
Roundup for the Disabled***

*An annually supported
project to provide an
opportunity for people
with disabilities
to enjoy
a day of fishing,
games and eating.*



*Clockwise from top left:
Coastal Kids Quiz
Hutchens Elementary School
Conservation Tillage Workshop
Strawblower
Elberta Middle School*

MIDSOUTH RC&D COUNCIL

The Mid-South RC&D Council covers the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, and Montgomery. The office is located in Montgomery.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Computer Billing System (Bullock County): This project involved purchasing software and equipment for an ambulance service in Bullock County. This structure will allow the rural community service to have their own billing system which will increase collection rate and better service their patients. The council provided \$4,000. The total project cost \$8,443.

Convention & Visitors Bureau Preparation (Macon County): The Tuskegee Main Street Development Foundation (TMSDF) is transforming the long abandoned Johnston-Cutright Home into headquarters for the Tuskegee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, for a countywide nonprofit center, and for the Preservation Learning & Resource Center. The council provided \$2,500 to assist in the structure preparation. Total project cost \$3,210.

Convention & Visitors Bureau Signage (Macon County): To erect signage at the Johnston-Cutright House to promote community awareness of the future uses of this building as the Tuskegee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, as a countywide nonprofit center, and as home for the Preservation Learning & Resource Center. The council provided \$400. Total project cost \$505.

Braggs Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes County): The council provided \$1,000 in funds to assist the volunteer fire department to purchase needed equipment to make the existing building safe and secure. Total project cost \$20,000.

Collirene Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes County): Construction of a volunteer fire department building in the Collirene area located in Lowndes County, Alabama. The council provided \$1,000. Total project cost \$23,000.

SCADC SeniorRx: Partnership for Medication Access Program (Area): The Council continued to partner with the South Central Alabama Development Commission Area Agency on Aging to provide assistance to a senior prescription drug program. This program allows seniors to apply for free life-sustaining drug through pharmaceutical companies. The council provided \$5,000. Total project cost \$80,192.

Project Lifesaver (Lee County): Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program to locate missing persons with brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's, dementia, Down's syndrome and autism. This program attempts to locate individuals who

continued

114th Annual Farmers Conference



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Donnie Pierce

Vice Chairman

William Hodge

Secretary-Treasurer

Alma J. Bowen

RC&D Coordinator

Charlie McAlpine

Secretary

Sharon A. Redd

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MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Autauga County

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 Danny Chavers
 Yvonne Thomas

Bullock County

Ronald W. Smith
 Donnie Pierce
 Hawthorne Reed

Butler County

Lewis Crenshaw
 Jennifer Stringer
 Jerry Hartin
 Phyllis Dantzler

Elmore County

Terry Poague
 Gail Russell
 Jimmy Stubbs
 Ron Hilyer

Lee County

Clifford E. Jones
 Harris Ennis
 John Wild
 Anne Miller

Lowndes County

Billy McCurdy
 Charlie King, Jr.
 Robert A. Lane
 James Chambliss

Macon County

Kathryn Story
 Jessie Upshaw
 William Hodge
 Miles D. Robinson

Montgomery County

Raymond Boykin
 John A. Mitchell, Sr.
 Alma J. Bowen

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



Public Hearing for the Mid-South RC&D area wide plan Update

are unable to return safely on their own by providing them with a bracelet. The batter life of the bracelet is one month so the battery has to be changed monthly. This will be done by the sheriff's department. This contact also aids the client and the handler to become acquainted, which may be an aid in recovery. The Council provided \$3,000. Total project cost \$7,625.

Autauga Area Technology Center (Autauga County): The council provided \$1,200 to help purchase repair equipment needed to teach collision repair to approximately 280 area wide students at the vocational technology center. Total project cost \$5,499.

Mid-South Area Plan Revision (Area): Local RC&D Councils provide ways for people to plan and implement projects that will make their communities a better place to live. They bring together people, needs, concerns, opportunities and solutions. With assistance from the South Central Alabama Development Commission, this project proposes to aid the Council in addressing the needs and opportunities of the agency over the next five years, as required under Part 513: RC&D Program of the NRCS Conservation Programs Manual. The Council provided \$3,775. Total project cost \$7,589.68.

Alabama Filmmakers Association, Inc. (Area) - Alabama Filmmakers Association, Inc. (Area): The council continues to support this project which focuses on a statewide effort to attract production companies from the United States and the foreign market. Production guide will be developed containing photos from around the state, comparable with Tennessee and North Carolina business plan. Exhibits will be presented at the American Film Market and other trade shows. Mid-South contributed \$5,000. A total of \$30,000 was raised to send a delegation to film festivals in California.

Fleahop Community Center (Elmore County): The Fleahop Community Center is a place for the community to meet and have functions for youths and seniors. The Council provided \$2,500 in assistance for repairs. Total cost \$30,000.

Friendship-Industry-Welcome Volunteer Fire Department (Butler County): The Council provided \$1,000 to help purchase materials to make repairs to an existing fire department building. Total project cost \$3,784.

One Brick at a time (Macon County): This program will increase educational opportunities in historic preservation. Through the implementation of the junior ranger program, young visitors will have the opportunity to learn the fascinating and intrinsically linked history of the City of Tuskegee and the Tuskegee University. The Council provided \$7,500.00. Total project cost \$21,600.

Lee County Water Festival 2006 (Lee County): The Council assisted in the sponsoring a water festival for 1500 4th grade students in Lee county by providing a \$2,000 grant in educational funds. Total project cost \$21,600.

Youth/Senior Life Skills (Macon County): The Council provided \$5,000 grant in educational funds to sponsor a program to help educate young people and seniors in computer literacy. Total project cost \$23,000.

Career Shopping Mall (Montgomery): A project designed to conduct a career/job fair for ten (10) rural counties surrounding Montgomery for high school students, college students, educational institutions, both four year and post secondary institutions, state government, and private industry. This project will bring key players together in one room at a critical time in the career/decision making process, where students, teachers, and employers can share expectations, and clarify goals. The Council provided \$5,000 in educational funds. Total project cost \$16,168. Project is scheduled for completion in March 2007.

114th Annual Farmers' Conference (Macon County): The Council continues to support an annual farmers' conference by assisting with scholarships for economically disadvantaged farmers. The 2-day conference is hosted by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension. The Council provided \$5,000. Total project cost \$47,000.

Junior Master Gardener Program 4H (Lee County): The Council provided \$1,400 in educational funds to assist in educating youths about agriculture and conservation. Total project cost 2,512.50.

Inner Faith Summer Enrichment Program (Montgomery County): The Council provided \$7,000 in assistance to establish a summer enrichment program for students/youths in the Mount Meigs, Cecil, Waugh, and Pike Road Communities. Total project cost \$16,500.

Montgomery County Water Festival FY 2006 (Montgomery County): The Council provided \$1,000 in educational funds to assist in sponsoring a water festival for 2,800 third grade students in Montgomery County. Project cost \$20,000.

Barbour-Bullock Groundwater Festival (Bullock County): The Council assisted in sponsoring a water festival for 500 fourth grade students in Barbour and Bullock counties by providing \$500 in educational funds. Total cost \$5,000.

continued



*Check presentation for the Career Shopping Mall
Montgomery County*



The Lee County Community Garden



The Tuskegee Institute National Historic site for the Junior Ranger Program

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Edgewood Tutorial Plus-Tutorial Program (Lowndes County): The Council provided \$3,000 in educational funds to help provide tutorial assistance for youths K-12 in the Fort Deposit community and surrounding areas. Total project cost \$35,037.

Saugahatchee Beekeepers Association/Pollination (Lee County): The Council provided \$500 to assist in educating students about the importance of bees for pollination through educational demonstrations. Total project cost of \$1,000.

The Community Garden (Lee County): The Council provided \$2,500 to enhance knowledge of gardening and sustainable agriculture. This community garden will be used as a tool through the Lee County Extension to teach youth groups from Lee County Schools and other local groups where food comes from. Total project cost \$3,000.

South Highland Elementary School Basic Skills Program (Bullock County): This program targeted students who performed below grade level in reading and mathematics. Assistance to At-Risk students in grades 4-6 to enable them to be more proficient at the next level in an attempt to prevent failure and to provide mathematics skills. The Council provided \$4,100. Project cost \$4,900.

*The Council
assisted in
sponsoring
a water festival
for 1500
4th grade students
in Lee county.*



NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL

The Northwest Alabama RC&D Council consists of five counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, and Winston. The Council concentrates on four areas: rural job development, forestry, water quality, and community services.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Lauderdale County Water Festival: This educational event focuses on hands on water conservation learning opportunities for Lauderdale County students. The 2006 event, held at the Univ. of North Alabama campus, hosted over 900 students and has strong partnership with local, state and federal conservation agencies and organizations.

Pickwick Watershed Streambank Stabilization: The Fish America Foundation is the main funding source. The Lauderdale County Commission will also partner—the site impacts a county road and bridge. The Lauderdale County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Council will be major sponsors.

Trash and Recycle Shows: Funds were provided for ten shows in Lauderdale County schools. A partnership of the Council, Lauderdale County Education System, and nationally recognized magician & entertainer Steve Trash, the shows focus on environmental conservation and recycling aimed at elementary age students.

Waterloo Recreation Upgrades: The Town of Waterloo requested for funds to help stabilize erosion problems and to upgrade their recreational equipment.

Rogersville City Park and Lover's Lane Park Bulletin Boards: Funds were provided for bulletin boards to share information to address childhood safety issues.

Lexington Senior Citizens Center: The Town of Lexington received funds to provide assistance with renovations and maintenance for the Senior Citizens Center.

Center Star Park Upgrades: This project provides upgrades to the community park on Center Star, including recreational equipment and parking lot reconstruction.

Greenhill Senior Citizens Center: Funds were provided to buy equipment and furniture for their building.

Greenhill Dixie Youth Sports: Funds were provided to keep the program running.

Oka Kapassa Native American Festival: Over 850 students from three states (AL, MS and TN) attended, allowing cultural exchange and review of authentic story telling and dancing. Native American crafts were on display. Attendance was estimated at 2,500. Funding provided food and lodging of Native Americans and other program expenses.

continued

Michael Fowlkes assists Mike Henshaw, Winston County Extension Service, with the education program on GPS at the E.A.WN program in Houston, AL.



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chair: Roger Hayes

Vice-Chair: Howard Grissom

Secretary/Treasurer: Vacant

RC&D Coordinator: Charlie Meek

Special Projects Manager

Michael Fowlkes

Office Manager

Angela Malone

Senior Aid/NACOLG/

Office Assistant

Carolyn Whitten

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NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Colbert County

Alford & Dorothy Boyd
James Bingham
H.A. Blackburn
Town of Littleville
NW Shoals Community College
City of Muscle Shoals
Colbert County Commission
City of Sheffield
City of Tuscumbia
City of Florence
Colbert County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Franklin County

Mayor Freida Eubank
Howard Grissom
Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow
Clarence & Earlene Lucas
Judge Mike Green
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
Victoria Phillips
Mayor John Brown
James Wyatt
Franklin County Commission
Franklin County Soil and Water
Conservation District

Lauderdale County

H.A. Henderson
Joanna Henderson
Lauderdale County Commission
David Mays
Children's Museum of the Shoals
Town of Waterloo
D.C. Thornton
City of Florence
Lauderdale County Soil and Water
Conservation District

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Tri-State Meat Rabbit Demonstration Day: The Tri-State Rabbit Growers and partners participated in a food product demonstration of a new rabbit Bar-B-Q product developed by Tri-State in July 2006 at the Tuscumbia Spring Park Farmers Market. The Tri-State Rabbit Growers and partners such as RC&D, Extension and the AL Dept. of Agriculture presented the nutritional information of meat rabbits and the benefits of buying locally grown products. Over 160 people participated.

Natural Detoxification-Consciousness of Enlightenment Center (CORE):

This multi-county program focuses on preventative health care that addresses cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases with lifestyle modifications including safe and natural ways to detoxify the body with natural foods and to develop healthier lifestyles.

Colbert County Farm Safety Day: The Camp is an Annual Event that has strong community support. Core partners are the USDA Agencies, Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension, Local Utilities Companies, Local Hospital, Fire Departments and businesses. The one-day Camp normally educates 200 students.

Colbert County Water Festival: This educational event focuses on hands on learning opportunities for students in Colbert County. This event has a strong partnership of local, state and federal conservation agencies and organizations. The 2006 event, held at the Northwest Shoals College Campus in Muscle Shoals, hosted over 600 students. Numerous volunteers serve as instructors and guides.

Farm City Awareness: This annual event focuses on educational programs for Colbert County schools. Interested schools participate in a poster, essay and power point contest for an agriculture theme. The awards banquet recognizes contest winners.

Cherokee High School Ag Day: AG Day is a County-Wide competition for the Vo-AG Education Departments in Colbert County. Winners of each division move on to District or State level competitions. This project has strong support of the Colbert County Board of Education, Ag Agencies and local businesses.

LaGrange Living Historical Society: This group provides management of the Colbert County LaGrange College Site Park. The property is available for visitors to walk and view replica buildings. Funds provided for upgrades and maintenance.

Hawk Pride Water System: The Council provided funds for upgrades and maintenance to upgrade booster pumps and water line extensions that provide more reliable water pressure to residents in the Hawk Pride Community of Colbert County.

Maud Historical Cemetery: The Maud Community received funds to install a historical entrance sign at the front of the Maud Historical Cemetery.

Imagination Library: The project promotes preschool literacy, strengthens families, and provides free books to children enrolled in the Franklin County Imagination Library Program, and is affiliated with Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

Marion County

Don Barnwell

Charles Stone

Bill Kilpatrick

Virgil McGuire

Mayor Steve Logan

City of Hamilton

Marion County Commission

Marion County Soil and Water

Conservation District

Winston County

Mayor Larry Albright

Mayor Elmo Robinson

Alabama Power

City of Haleyville

Town of Double Springs

Winston County Commission

Winston County Soil and Water

Conservation District

Cool Runnings: Cool Runnings is a hands-on environmental education effort of the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. The event focuses on high school students visiting a stream to learn about water quality and aquatic life.

Show Your Pride “Cash for Trash”: This project addresses community pride and anti-litter programs with program leadership provided by the Optimist Club organizing a competition among schools to see who can pick up the most trash.

CITY Program: The program provides educational and mentoring programs to at-risk students with activities to develop life skills and educate about future choices.

Envirothon of Franklin County: Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation staff and Russellville NRCS staff do an excellent job organizing partners to host an Annual County Wide Envirothon. Each year, a training day is held to provide specialized training for students. Envirothon is the Nation’s largest environmental competition.

Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department: Funding to assist the new start-up Franklin County Frog Pond Volunteer Dept. was provided for upgrades and equipment buying. The funds will purchase equipment. Matching funds came from local fundraisers.

Franklin County Boy Scout Troop 39: Funds provided to the Russellville Scouting Program created scholarships and purchased uniforms, manuals, and field trips.

Frankfort Community Center: The Frankfort Community Center received funds from the Council to upgrade and maintain the heating system.

Foster Grandparent Program: This project provides funding for the Marion County School System program. Foster Grandparents help teachers in offering students individual and group training in areas of skill development and reading, and is crucial in helping schools comply with the AL Reading Initiative.

Winfield Park and Recreation: Funds were provided for renovations at Ivan K Hill Park. Handicap accessibility issues are a major focus, including a new pavilion.

Pea Ridge Volunteer Fire Dept. & Twin Fire and Rescue: State funds were provided to buy equipment for fire/rescue procedures.

Bear Creek Dixie Youth Program: The Council approved funds for the Bear Creek Dixie Youth sports League to provide major upgrades to their sports complex.

Byrd Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Funds were provided to assist with renovations to the fire hall and to build a fire fighting training facility.

Hackleburg High School: Funds were approved for renovations of the gym.

Phillips High School: Funds were approved for renovations of their baseball field.



*Kathy Gotcher
(District Conservationist, NRCS)
pictured with Charlie Meek
outside the Annual Meeting at
the Shoals Marriott Conference Center
in Florence, AL.*

continued



Student participating in the Cool Runnings Program identifying different fresh water species.



2006 Alabama State Meeting in Florence, AL. (starting from the left) Roger Hayes, Robert Harbison (AL RC&D Pres.), Alabama Senator Roger Bedford, Sharon Ruggi (National RC&D Pres.), Craig Sizemore (AL RC&D Vice Pres.)

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Science outside the Walls: An Outdoor Education Project: This project provides funding to Meek High School for an outdoor science classroom. The classroom enhances the environmental education program and will feature a strong community partnership utilizing donated materials, labor and local support.

Winston County High School/Double Springs Middle School: This project was to implement an outdoor classroom to be used by both schools.

Haleyville High School: Funds were approved for the program support of the Haleyville High School Baseball Field Complex. This area recently received significant storm damage from a tornado during the spring of 2006.

Winston County Fire Fighters Association: The Council provided financial support to the Winston County Fire Fighters Association. These funds will be utilized for equipment and other operational needs of the Association.

Helican Volunteer Fire Department: Funds were provided to the volunteer Fire Department for equipment. The main focus was to purchase GPS (Global Position Satellites) units to aid with fire fighting and rescue needs for their community.

Winston County Technical Center: Funds were provided to update educational facilities: to purchase a pedicure station for the Cosmetology Dept. of the center.

Nesmith Community Center: Funds were provided to assist the Center. Funds will be used for renovations to making the restrooms handicap accessible.

Addison High School: Funds provided for a batting cage for the baseball program.

Lynn High School: Funds provided for program support of the Lynn High School Sports Complex for renovations to their football and baseball fields.

Hunters Helping the Hungry: The Council provides brochures and works with potential partners. Deer meat is processed and sent to local food banks and organizations to distribute to families that live in poverty within our 5 county council area.

Coalfest: Tourism Funds were provided to the 4th Annual Coalfest in Brilliant, AL to promote tourism in Marion County. The festival includes arts, crafts, a coalmining exhibit, and more.

FAME Records Grand Opening Celebration: Tourism Funds were provided to Fame Records Re-Opening Celebration. This 3-day event showcased the hit recording studio in Muscle Shoals, and included musical showcases and other entertainment.

Conservation Innovation Grant: Low-Cost Chicken Litter Storage Alternatives: This program is authorized by the Farm Bill and uses special EQIP funds to explore new ways of implementing conservation practices, exploring low cost alternatives to the typical NRCS Dry Stack Litter Storage Barn.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL

The Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is part of a special program through USDA to conserve our natural resources and to improve the overall economic condition of our local citizens. The Council is composed of representatives from County Commissions, Soil Conservation Districts, and one member-at-large in each of the following eight counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter and Tuscaloosa.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

Sumter/Marengo County Water Festival 06: Students from Sumter and Marengo Counties attended a one day experience where the focus was on water quality and quantity. Students and teachers from UWA and resource professionals combined to provide a positive learning experience for over 500 students.

On-Site Wastewater Disposal Training Center 06, Area Wide: The Council continues to support the Training Center through technical and financial assistance. In 2005, the Training Center conducted classes in advanced on-site wastewater treatment and recertification training on basic and advanced installation. Additional on-site wastewater treatment systems were added to the Training Center field demonstration site. Project value was \$235,000.

Westside Community Project 06, Tuscaloosa County: Training and skill enhancement has been provided to more than 60 disadvantaged and at risk youth ages 14-21. The project has a \$50,000 value.

Greensboro Progressive Farm Safety Camp: This project was not implemented because of scheduling. It will be implemented in a future year.

Geiger Revitalization Project, Sumter County: The original school is being restored and used as a community center where education/training classes will be conducted by the Geiger Homemakers Club and extension personnel.

Landscaping/Erosion Control Demonstration, AL: Onsite Wastewater Training Center Areas where erosion is taking place are being treated by establishment of vegetation and woody plants. Species which enhance wildlife are being considered where choices are practical.

UWA Nature Trails 06: Development of the nature trails on campus continues as well as on adjacent properties.

continued

*Ag. and Industries Commissioner
Ron Sparks and JC Holt of
Tri-States Rabbit Growers Association
are interviewed on Fox 6
about progress of the
rabbit industry in Alabama*



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Micky Smith

Vice-Chairman

Tommy Martin

Secretary/Treasurer

Neil Hyche

Coordinator

Michael O. Cornett

Secretary

Wendy Brown

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TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bibb County
Gene Moreland
Dan James
Joe L. Owens

Fayette County
John Gordon
Owen Sweatt
Wayne Meherg

Greene County
Chris Beeker, Jr.
Willice Lashley
Earlean Isaac

Hale County
Leland Avery
Tommy Martin
Butch Mills

Lamar County
Johnny Rogers
Craig Sizemore
Harold Jordan

Pickens County
Willie Colvin
Eric Smith
Susan Wolfe

Sumter County
Anthony Crear
Micky Smith
Richard Holland

Tuscaloosa County
Hardy McCollum
Neil Hyché
Farrington Snipes

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

21st Century Mini Greenhouse, Fayette County: This project has been completed to develop a mini greenhouse for teaching hands-on activities that deal with soil, plants, animal life and conservation. The greenhouse will be used by elementary age students. The project is valued at \$10,000.

Forkland Activity Center, Greene County: This project is a renovation of an existing building in Forkland, Alabama, for the purpose of developing an activity center to be used as a community focal point for community meetings, children's after school learning center, citizens meetings and educational workshops as well as other learning activities. Project value is estimated at \$85,000. Development of the activity began in '06. Site development and building restoration are top priorities for FY '07.

Gordo Public Library Landscaping and Critical Area Treatment: Grasses and woody plant species have been established around the library to control water flow and erosion.

Old Stagecoach Inn Restoration: Site restoration has begun. Brush and trees have been removed to prevent further deterioration of the facilities. Roof and exterior work has slowed the deterioration process. Continued restoration will be a major focus of FY 07. Several state grants will be applied to the building redevelopment and preservation.

Coatopa Historic Center: The historic building has been partially preserved and as funds become available will have more restoration completed. The facility is partially usable for community events and functions and serves as a meeting place for community groups.



Holt Lake Cleanup yielded tons of garbage removed from the Warrior river. More than 100 participants took part in the event.

Lake Lurleen State Park Multi-Use Trail: This project has been continued into FY 07.

Rigorous Reading Readiness, Fayette County: Funding was secured to implement the special reading program in Fayette County.

Test Preparation—SAT 10, Fayette County: A program has been implemented to accelerate preparation for SAT Testing. Students have access to materials that improve their test taking skills.

Science Olympiad, Sumter County: This project developed teaching aids for “Hands-on science projects” to improve the learning experience for local students.

Black Belt Prairie Restoration ‘06, Sumter County: This project has re-established native plants and species found in the original prairie lands of Sumter County. Students at UWA and local citizens have access to the site. Activities include: site burn training, wildlife enhancement, native plant reestablishment, environmental education training and teacher training.

Brookwood High School Greenhouse: A greenhouse is being developed at Brookwood High School to serve the needs of the Agri-Business education department as well as special needs students.

Hillcrest Greenhouse Project, Tuscaloosa County: The second greenhouse installed with RC&D assistance will produce vegetation to be used around the campus for erosion control. This greenhouse has been designed for handicapped accessibility. Project value is \$70,000.

Westside Community Action Project, Tuscaloosa County: Students who have had difficulty in regular school environments are tutored and trained

*Bottom Left: Catopoa Historic Church Restoration: Historical church is being restored by local citizens.
Bottom Right: Old Stagecoach Inn Restoration in Pickens County is an example of local people working together to develop historical tourism sites within the area.*



continued



Hale County reading readiness program. Council member Tommy Martin presents check to school officials.



Sumter County Science Olympiad



Science Olympiad students participate in classroom demonstrations.

The Science Olympiad developed teaching aids for “Hands-on science projects” to improve the learning experience for local students.



State Senator Bobby Singleton presents check to council chairman Micky Smith for work at the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Training Center



Hillcrest High School Greenhouse project provides work experience for special needs students.

Students from Sumter and Marengo Counties attended a one day experience where the focus was on water quality and quantity.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

through this program. Job training is developed with local employers. Many of the students going through the program have taken advantage of the training internships and have received substantial employment offers.

Tenn-Tom Community Development “United Farmers Market”: More than 1,000 individuals took advantage of produce from local producers at this newly created farmers market in Greene County. Additional development was completed in 2006. This project is valued at \$15,000.

Tri-State Rabbit Cooperative Assistance 06: The Tri-State Rabbit Grower’s Association was formed and began assisting growers as well as seeking markets. A contract for 30,000 lbs. of rabbit meat was secured for delivery in FY ‘05. That contract and additional contracts were secured for FY ‘06. The Association is working with processors in Mississippi and Florida and is making plans to develop its own processing plant in Alabama. Grants totaling more than \$45,000 from, Tombigbee RC&D, Commissioner of Ag. And Industry, Alabama Legislature and AALGA were used for grower education, transportation, and business plan development. More than 420 individuals have joined the association. Total value of the project is estimates at \$500,000

Area Wide Rabbit Production 06: Tombigbee RC&D continued to provide bookkeeping and handle fulfillment request for Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association. A hauler is located in the TBRC&D area and a processing plant in Gordo, Alabama, is processing rabbits

Greensboro Downtown Tree Planting Demonstration: Planters were installed on downtown streets to improve the visual effects of city streets.

Below: 4th graders from Sumter and Marengo Counties participate in the Water Festival activities.



WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL

The Wiregrass RC&D Council serves the following counties in Southeast Alabama: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike and Russell. The office is located in Ozark.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2006

The Wiregrass Resource Conservation and Development (WRC&D) Council has adopted the following projects for inclusion in their 2006 Plan of Work.

BARBOUR COUNTY

Southeast Alabama Rehabilitation Center Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Southeast Alabama Rehabilitation Services, Inc. for the purpose of installing a handicap ramp, new heating & cooling equipment other improvements at their facility in Clayton. Educational programs held on-site include life skills training, counseling and GED training and testing.

Barbour County Poultry Producer Training: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Barbour County Soil & Water Conservation District for the purpose of providing training for the poultry producers in Barbour County.

COFFEE COUNTY

Vineyard Conservation Measures: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Vineyard Baptist Center for the purpose of providing an adequate water disposal system for an unpaved area used as a parking lot and installing erosion control measures along the unpaved entrance road to the center.

Elba Softball Fields Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the City of Elba Parks and Recreation Department for the purpose of making needed improvements and erosion control measures on and around the ball fields.

COVINGTON COUNTY

Opp Softball Fields Parking Area Improvement: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the City of Opp for the purpose of improving the parking area for the municipal softball field complex. Erosion control measures and drainage improvements will be implemented.

Bio-Retention Pond Demonstration: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Lurleen B. Wallace College to assist with installing a bio-retention pond to capture runoff from a parking lot at the campus, and will be used as a demonstration site for beneficial bio-retention systems.

continued

Forestry Field Days are part of Wiregrass RC&D Council's Education Program each year



2006 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chair

Estus Walker

Vice-Chair

Greg Glass

Secretary-Treasurer

James H. (Howell) Peebles

RC&D Coordinator

Richard Collier

Administrative Coordinator

Mara Balkcom

Assistant Secretary

Matha Maund

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WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Barbour County

Kenny Childree
Carol Threatt
Earl Gilmore
Gloria Hagler
Patrick McDougald

Coffee County

Gilmer Grant
Jackie Thompson
Larry Parker
Linda Westbrook
Bernest Brooks
Judie Hurley

Covington County

Bobby R. Jackson
Wayne Reynolds
Sandra Owens
Darren Capps
Bragg Carter

Crenshaw County

Walter B. (Barnett) King
Carl Sikes
Pat Folmar
Ronnie Hudson
Morris Tate

Dale County

James H. (Howell) Peebles
Doug Ward
Wilton Thompson
Herman Judah
Estus Walker
Michael A. Smith

Geneva County

T. Louis Register
Steve Dunn
Janie Howell
Larry Everett
Roy Powell
James M. Sullivan

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

CRENSHAW COUNTY

Vidette Community Center Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance in replacing the existing original slate roof with a metal roof and making a few minor repairs to the building structure of the Vidette Community Center, built in 1935, which was otherwise structurally sound and in good condition. It is used for a variety of community events, and as a county election polling place.

Jim Frank Weed Bridge Boat Ramp: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the City of Brantley for the purpose of installing a public boat ramp accessing the Conecuh River at the Jim Frank Weed Bridge on US Hwy 331. There was no public boat ramp access to the river in Crenshaw County, and accessing the river at this and other sites was causing erosion to the river banks and road right of ways adjacent to bridges as well as creating a safety hazard when entering and leaving the roadway.

Crenshaw County Fifth Grade Natural Resources Tour: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Crenshaw County Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of conducting a tour to educate fifth grade students and their families about forestry, wildlife management, natural resources and water quality.

DALE COUNTY

Ozark Industrial Park Streambank Stabilization: WRC&D provided financial and technical assistance to the City of Ozark Public Works Department to shape and stabilize approximately 250 feet of drainage ditch at the industrial park.

Carroll High School Water Disposal System: WRC&D provided financial and technical assistance to Carroll High School for the purpose of installing an adequate water disposal system to intercept groundwater seepage for areas adjacent to the football field and practice field which currently pond water.

Carroll High School Earth Savers Outdoor Classroom: WRC&D provided financial and technical assistance to Carroll High School's Environmental Science Department for the purpose of refurbishing an existing nature trail on the school campus, including planting of native species and purchasing educational materials to be used in conjunction with the outdoor classroom.

Mabson Community Education Forest: WRC&D provided financial and technical assistance to the Dale County Forest Planning Committee for the purpose of installing directional, identification and educational signs at the community forest site.

GENEVA COUNTY

Slocomb Recreation Park Bleacher Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the City of Slocomb to upgrade the bleachers at the city's recreational park, to be handicap accessible and meet current safety guidelines.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

Geneva County Agriculture in the Classroom: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Geneva County Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of providing an Ag in the Classroom activity for Geneva County fifth graders.

HENRY COUNTY

Renaissance Headland: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Renaissance Headland in the revitalization effort of downtown Headland. A scaled model of an existing water tower was created to show how the tower will be transformed into a work of art thereby transforming Headland's skyline.

Henry County Veteran's Memorial Park: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Henry County Veteran's Memorial Park, Inc. for the purpose of creating a memorial park to remember and honor veterans of America's armed forces.

HOUSTON COUNTY

Columbia Recreational Facilities Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Town of Columbia for the purpose of making improvements to their recreational facilities used for baseball and softball.

Gordon Outdoor Education Park: WRC&D provided funds to the Town of Gordon to create an outdoor classroom to be located at their community park.

Hidden Lake Outdoor Classroom: WRC&D provided funds to Hidden Lake Elementary School in Dothan for the purpose of creating an outdoor classroom.

PIKE COUNTY

Barbaree Loop Road Roadbank Stabilization: WRC&D provided funds to the Pike County Commission in partnership with the Pike Soil & Water Conservation District to stabilize a section of roadbank along Barbaree Loop Road.

Kelly Road Roadbank Stabilization: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Pike County Commission in partnership with the Pike Soil & Water Conservation District to stabilize a section of roadbank along Kelly Road.

4-H Resource Conservation and Education: WR&D provided financial assistance to Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District for the purpose of implementing units addressing the utilization and conservation of natural and human resources in existing 4-H club programs.

RUSSELL COUNTY

Phenix City Intermediate School Stage Improvements: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Russell County Board of Education in making improvements to an existing stage and sound equipment for use by the Falcon Players drama students, and by students and faculty for special events.

- Henry County**
 Samuel G. (Buddy) Platt
 Carolyn Riley
 S.A. Williams
 Charles Money
 Bill Parker
 Tommy Jones

- Houston County**
 Pat Raley
 William Holman
 Kim Prevatt
 Mark Culver
 Bobby Snellgrove
 Henry Ellis Johnston

- Pike County**
 Roy Kendrick
 Wilbur J. (Bill) King
 Lene Watson
 David B. Carpenter
 Herb Huner
 Charlie Harris

- Russell County**
 Ben Bowden
 Greg Glass
 Cherry Littleton
 Ronnie Reed
 J. W. Brannen



Bio Retention Pond Demonstration Project at LBW College

continued



Students work at the Phenix City Garden in Russell County

*The Phenix City Garden:
a community garden
to educate
socially disadvantaged
and troubled youth
about the benefits
of discipline and
a good work ethic.*



Conservation Tillage Workshop Held

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Planting Seeds Environmental Awareness: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Planting Seeds, Inc. in creating an environmental education curriculum to increase the awareness of inner city children to resource conservation, food production, and biological principles.

Community Education Garden: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Phenix City Board of Education in the creation of a community vegetable/flower garden to educate socially disadvantaged and troubled youth about the benefits of discipline and a good work ethic.

AREA-WIDE

Conservation Tillage Workshop: WRC&D, in partnership with Gulf Coast RC&D, implemented a conservation tillage workshop to provide information and education to area farmers regarding the most recent conservation tillage equipment, methodologies, and technology.

Education Outreach Program: WRC&D, with assistance from the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority, conducted eight workshops at no cost to teachers, educators and interested citizens to provide information and resources on environmental education and awareness. Workshop topics included Project WET, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Alabama Water Watch Basic Certification, Project Learning Tree, and Native Americans of Alabama.

Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association: WRC&D provided funds to the Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association for the purpose of continuing to provide educational support to their growers and potential growers within the 10 county council area.

Drum Devil Rotary Composting Promotion: WRC&D, in partnership with Industrial Piping, Inc., made plans to promote the Drum Devil Rotary Composter to area poultry producers.

Watershed Models: WRC&D provided funds to the Choctawhatchee, Pea, and Yellow Rivers Clean Water Partnership for the purpose of creating two watershed models to educate the public on the benefits of protecting our water quality.

Alternative Energy Demonstration: A feasibility study of converting poultry wastes to energy was conducted. Ideas for demonstration projects were sought and researched. Future funding is being sought for a viable project that may demonstrate practical uses of alternative energy. A detailed project plan will be developed and a grant request will be submitted to carry out this project in FY 2007.

County Groundwater Festivals: WRC&D provided funds and technical assistance to the Groundwater Festivals in Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale and Geneva counties.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS
IN COOPERATION WITH USDA—NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE