

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS

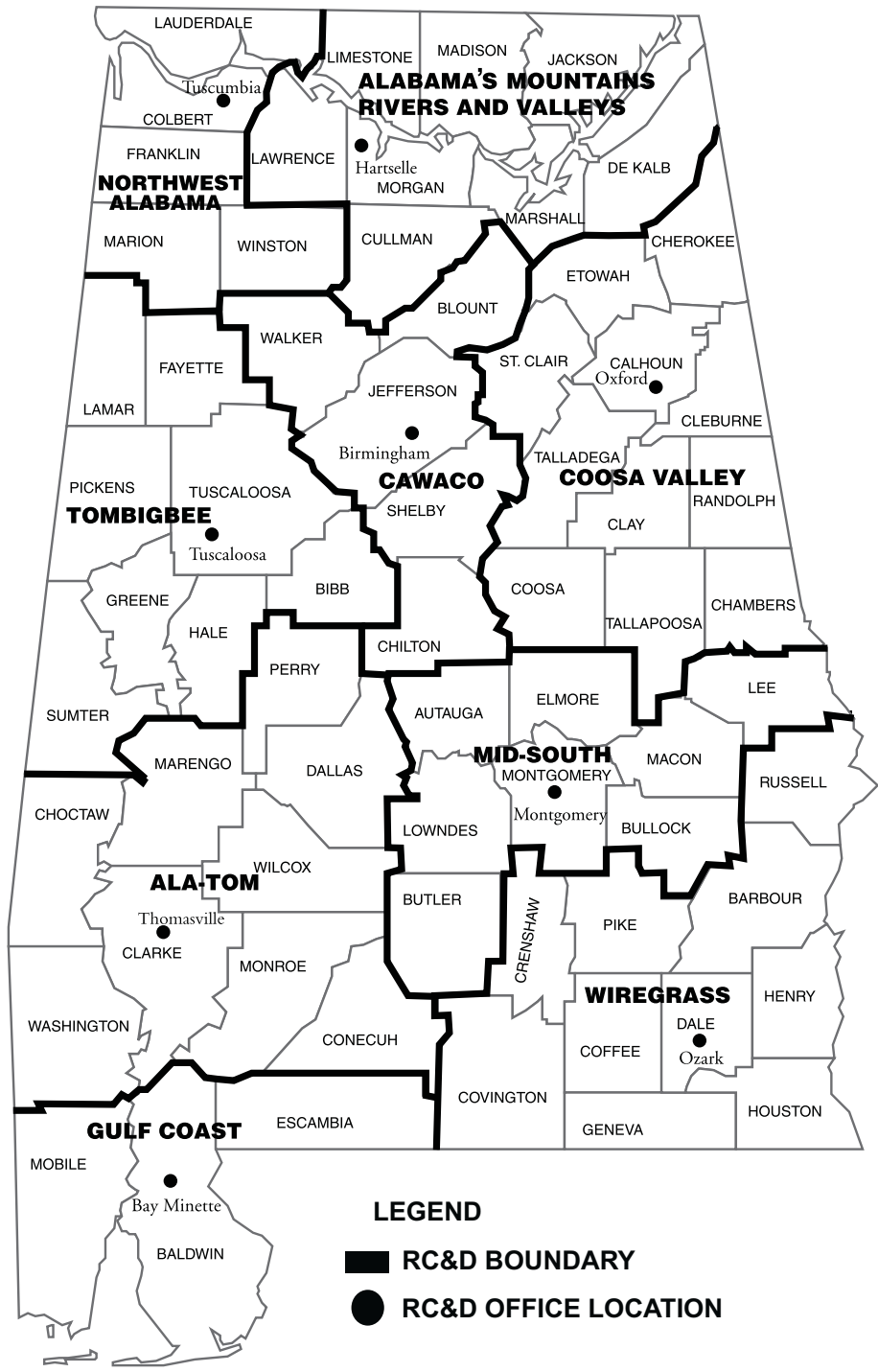


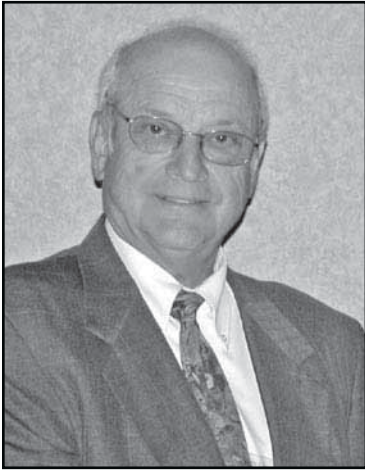
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and Development Councils
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I AM GRATEFUL.

It has been rewarding to see how our RC&D projects have improved the quality of life for many of its people.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2007-2008

As I think of the message I want to leave with you, gratitude and sadness come to mind.

First, I am grateful for the opportunities given me to observe our great State of Alabama. It has been rewarding to see how our RC&D projects have improved the quality of life for many of its people.

As I reflect on all our accomplishments, I want to say "Thank you" to each of you for the service you rendered to make RC&D what it is. If I skip someone, please forgive me. It is not intentional.

Thanks to NRCS for your efforts to manage our program, for each coordinator who worked and guided our councils.

Thanks to the State and National Legislatures who gave us the appropriations to operate our programs.

Thanks to our National Association who led the effort to keep our Federal funding and preserved our very existence.

And most of all, I thank my God for such a wonderful creation he allows us to work in, for His strength and guidance each day of our lives.

And now for the sadness I referred to in the beginning. I will miss the closeness I have had with each of you. I will sorely miss being your president; however, I stand ready to assist our new president Mr. Johnny Flowers and any of you to the fullest extent of my ability.

Lastly, even though it has been a pleasure trying to carry out the responsibilities as President of our association they have grown to the point I needed more time to spend doing so. It will be a pleasurable relief.

May God continue to bless the RC&D program and bless each of you in the future.

Robert Harbison

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2009

I am honored and privileged that the council thought enough of me to have chosen such a person to be its next President. This is a position I have great respect for and will always keep its goals and purpose in mind. This organization has been blessed with great leadership. Robert Harbinson has done an outstanding job, and I want to thank him for his dedicated service and hard work to this great organization.

It has been said that there are hard times ahead for our councils. That does not bother me, because hard time is something that I am familiar with, but I have learned that the best way to handle tough time is to "listen." This is going to be my motto during my time of service, which is "Leadership that listens." I will listen to the positive as well as the negative, because these two elements are greatly needed in order to make this association a success. The heart beat of this council will not continue to be successful without these two components. Not only will I listen to you, but I challenge each of you to continue to listen to each other within your local council.

It has been said that RC&D must defined its purpose and stick to it. I think this is going to be hard to do because as time changes, our purpose changes. No one wants to live in a community that does not change, and I believe that changing community is what Alabama RC&D is all about.

Johnny Flowers



LEADERSHIP THAT LISTENS.

I will listen to the positive as well as the negative, because these two elements are greatly needed in order to make this Association a success.



WHAT DOES RC&D REALLY DO?

This project, through the AWE, provided professional development opportunities to educators who play an active role in equipping students to be good stewards of our forests, wildlife and related natural resources.

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.

In 2007 the Alabama Association elected to change our reporting requirements from a calendar year to a fiscal year. This made it difficult to publish a 2007 Annual Report. There are references within this 2008 Annual report addressing some of these projects by name. If you would like additional information on any of the local projects conducted in your area, please feel free to contact the Alabama Association or your council directly.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS:

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS

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Ozark, AL 36360
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*Dekalb County students
learning about Horticulture.*



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

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

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008

Tribal Restrooms: Provide public restrooms in the Interpretive Center. \$5,000.

WaterWorks: Demolish old section of building reducing liabilities, preparing for renovation of wetland education center. \$18,000.

Forestry Planning Committee Tour Trailers: Build handicapped accessible trailers for use by the committee to showcase natural resource related events. \$3,960.

"Hands-On-Stewardship of Water Resources": Raise awareness to students of the different types of pollution occurring in community streams. \$3,650.

Used Fishing Line Recycling Initiative: Project to raise awareness of problems caused by improperly discarded fishing line. \$4,000.

Garden City Historical School House: Restore and update the Old School House to become a welcome center. \$4,600.

School Campus Beautification: FFA will take the lead in planting and maintaining the landscape at the school. \$2,700.

Speake Volunteer Fire Department: Purchase "Jaws-of-Life" \$4,700.

Owens Senior Center Walking Path: Construct a stable and level walking path for seniors. \$3,000.

Tire Recycling: Collect scrap tires and haul to a recycle center. \$2,700.

10th Annual Environmental Education Teacher Workshop: Provide workshop for teachers teaching new ways to integrate environmental issues into classes. \$2,000.

Lola Boyd Project: Develop educational opportunities. \$2,000.

Splash Pool: Establish an on-farm bio-security splash pool to disinfect all vehicles entering and exiting a poultry farm. \$2,700.

Wildlife Conservation Education Coordinator: Provide for classroom presentations to students. Topic covered will be wildlife habitat, what we need to do to protect our wildlife. \$4,700.

2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

John Eason

Vice-Chair

Jeff Clark

Secretary / Treasurer

Ruthie Jones

RC&D Coordinator

Mike Roden

RC&D Program Manager

Renona Seibert

RC&D Secretary

(Earth Team Volunteer)

Mary Elliott

RC&D Project Manager

Tennessee River Basin Clean Water

Partnership Facilitator

Blake Garner (½ year)

Jay Grantland

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Valley's RC&D

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continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CULLMAN

Robert Harbison
 Cherrie Haney
 Tammy Roden
 Earline Johnson
 Tim Scott
 Deborah Widner
 Gordon Dunagan
 Donnie Rice
 Billy Shaw
 Wiley Kitchens
 Sammie Danford
 Murray Griffin (Tech)

JACKSON

Billy Stephenson
 Laura Bowman
 Jim Frost (Tech)

DEKALB

John Eason
 Billy Twilley
 Stanley McClendon
 Sid Halcomb
 Cecil Gant
 Deanna Wilks
 DeWayne Hulgán
 Vickie Goggnas
 Jerry Wisener (Tech)

LAWRENCE

Ruthie Jones
 Henrietta Taylor
 Floyd Shankle
 Harold LouAllen
 Alma Whitlow
 Kathy Gotcher (Tech)

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

2008 STATE RC&D EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

Wheeler Wildlife 70th Anniversary: Event to highlight history and success as a natural resource management demonstration site. \$9,000.

Drought Mitigation: Provide training sessions on forages, winter small grains, supplements, and hay. Due to current drought conditions. \$7,000.

All Star Music Camp: The Camp provides a unique learning and performance opportunity for students from over 25 schools. \$8,000.

Sustainable Alternative Livestock Production: Hold workshops for the marketing cooperative educating about marketing strategies that will improve sustainability. \$5,000.

Newspaper Inserts for the TN Basin CWP: Inserts containing information about water quality issues including non-point pollution.

Limestone County Water Festival: Construct a wetland education station teaching students about water quality and ecological benefits of natural wetlands. \$3,000.

Junior Master Gardener: Project at Vinemont Elementary School teaching children about plants, soils, and the environment. \$2,000.

Cullman Caring for Kids: Provide education in the areas of abuse, parenting, and violence. \$2,100.

Cullman County 4-H Outdoor Sports Day: Workshop to teach youth proper handling of firearms, archery, and safe ATV operation. \$2,000.

Using Outside Resources to Make Horticulture Instruction More Job-Related: Internship program to give students a hands-on opportunity to develop and practice competencies helpful to prospective employers. \$8,850.



Left: Forestry Tour Trailer

Right: Southeastern Camp—Students practicing during All Star Music Camp week at Vinemont High School.



“Auntie Litter”: Campaign using the “Auntie Litter” encouraging a litter free environment. \$3,000.

Camp Kindergarten: Summer program to give at risk students the skills and knowledge to be successful in kindergarten. \$6,000.

Lawrence County Weather Stations: Install three Weather Bug Tracking Stations, collecting data. Reported to farmers and emergency management personnel. \$9,000.

Owens Senior Center Environmental Education: Instruct, install and maintain gardens at Senior Center. \$3,000.

Limestone County Water Festival: Defray cost of annual water education program. \$2,000.

Animal Tracking and Soil Erosion Demonstration Site: Construct an animal tracking station and soil erosion site educating students on different animals and soils. \$2,000.

Youth Health and Fitness: Summer program for children in Triana emphasizing health and nutrition. \$3,000.

Alabama-Using the Summer to find Our Resources: 4-H project to showcase AL heritage through a series of hands-on travel experiences. \$4,000.

Settler Stories: Chickens in the Burritt Barnyard: Using distance learning to encounter a settler from 1867, exploring the value of farm animals in the life of a family. \$5,000.

Lola Boyd Project: Developing stable walking trail for handicap accessibility. \$9,000.

Wetland Education Trail: Construct a walking trail at the wetland site. \$9,000.

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

LIMESTONE

Bill Latimer
Brenda Wigginton
Jimmy Newby
Mark Swafford (Tech)

MADISON

Phyllis Seymore
Mike Gillispie
Roger Jones
Karen Jones
Peggy Long
Dr. Alexandria Randriamahafa
Ann Anderson
Albert Butler
Anthony Hudson (Tech)

MARSHALL

Jerrell Smalley
Donald Smith
Ted Parker
Shawn Manning (Tech)

MORGAN

Jeff Clark
Brad Bole
Brian Brown
Ann Smith
C.A. Blevins
Susan Nava
Foy Kirkland (Tech)

BUSINESS

TARCOG: Bob Culver
ALFA: Jerry Newby



AQUACULTURE

SYSTEMS:

*Students from
East Lawrence High
School building
Aquaculture system.*

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

2008 OTHER FUNDERS

Goodsprings Senior Center: Replace existing roof. \$10,000.

Owens Community Center: Equipment repairs and purchase. \$5,000.

Salem Community Park: Equipment repairs and purchase. \$10,000.

Monrovia Parks and Recreation: Improve drainage and irrigation on recently purchased property. \$10,000.

Madison Senior Center: Furnish a tornado safe room. \$5,000.

Harvest Boys and Girls Club: Upgrading and servicing heating and air conditioning unit. \$5,000.

Tune Farm Project Management Assistance: To assist this community sustainable garden / organic farm with grant management.

Walkway and overlook into the wetlands at Camp Meadowbrook in Cullman County.



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 2008, at a total cost of \$1,023,621.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008

Monroeville Middle School and Monroe Intermediate School Outdoor Classrooms -#477: Outdoor classrooms were built at both schools to provide an educational setting to teach students about gardening while reinforcing the science and math state curriculum. ALA-TOM provided \$8,370 from Extension Educational funds, which were matched with \$10,074 in local funds and in-kind service, for a project valued at \$18,444.

Alberta Community Educational Outreach Program- #476: The Council provided a \$6,000 Extension Educational grant to the Faith Fellowship Community Outreach Organization to conduct GED Prep classes, after school tutoring, and a summer enrichment program for 60 students. The local organization provided \$12,112 in matching funds for a total project of \$18,112.

West Wilcox Park, Phase 2 -#430: The Council provided a \$3,500 grant to the park for drainage improvements and to repair hurricane damage. The Park Board provided \$5,119 in matching funds totaling \$8,619.

Valley Grande Public Service Building -#421: Newly incorporated city Valley Grande in Dallas County needed a building for police, fire and emergency services. The Council provided a \$5,000 grant towards the \$100,000 building.

Clarke County HIPPY- 2007- #496: HIPPY stands for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, a national program to help get youngsters ready to go to school. The program was started in Clarke County with the assistance of a \$5,000 grant from the Council, and reached 110 parents and children. It uses parent educators to train parents to teach kids fundamental skills. Matching grants and in-kind assistance brought the total program expense to \$55,367.

Flatwood Community Center Improvement – Phase 2 - #519: The Flatwood Community Development Organization completed a second phase of improvements to their park and community center with a \$10,000 grant from the Council. Improvements included the addition of a pavilion, restroom, and storage area. Matching funds included 21 volunteers working 750 hours valued at \$14,078, \$6,257 in equipment usage, \$3,083 in materials from the Marengo County

continued



Thomasville Mural Phase I

2008 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

Norman L. Burton

Office Manager

Peggy Pledger Hepstall

Urban Forester

Jack Rowe

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J. Trice Edgar

Kenneth Johnson

CLARKE COUNTY

Rhondel B. Rhone

Susie Kennedy

Steve James

CONECUH COUNTY

Leonard Millender

Bridget Cain

Lula Palmer

DALLAS COUNTY

Johnny Jones

Kristen Duke

MARENGO COUNTY

Max Joiner

Lex Parker

Cindy Neilson

MONROE COUNTY

Tim McKenzie

Tim Tucker

Jane Ellen Clark

PERRY COUNTY

Albert Turner

Charles Holmes

Johnny L. Flowers

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Commission, and \$5,210 in cash, bringing the total project to \$38,628.

Sumter/Marengo Water Festival 2008 -#509: The Council awarded a \$1,000 Extension Education grant to the Sumter County Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct a field day to teach students and teachers about groundwater and other natural resources. There was \$12,635 in matching funds for the project.

Clarke County Wireless Internet Feasibility Study -#498: The Clarke County Development Foundation sponsored a feasibility study to determine if broadband wireless internet services could be provided throughout the county. The study was completed and reported that it was feasible, with the Foundation moving ahead to try to implement the program. The Council provided \$5,000, which was matched by local governments and private business for the total cost of \$43,000.

Wilcox Central High School Dual Enrollment Program 2007 - #487: \$5,000 in grant funds from Alabama RC&D Community Development Program was provided to the High School to assist 25 students with expenses incurred while being in the Dual Enrollment Program which allowed them to receive college credits while in high school. Matching funds of \$5,000 was provided by the school.

Wilcox Central High School Dual Enrollment Program 2008 - #521: The second phase of assistance allowed 32 students to take classes for college credit while in high school. \$10,000 from Alabama RC&D Community Development grants, and a \$5,000 grant from Extension Education funds was provided. \$30,100 in matching funds from volunteers and teachers was provided, totaling \$45,100.

Dallas County Junior Master Gardeners Program -#445: The Dallas County Office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System conducted a program to introduce youngsters to gardening and elementary botany in four schools and a youth group home. About 273 students participated, learning about gardening, healthy eating, leadership, and using plants to bring about pride in their school. The Council provided a \$4,000 Extension Education grant, which was matched by local personnel valued at \$5,100, for a project cost of \$9,100.

Excel Walking Trail -# 417: The Council provided grant writing assistance for the Town of Excel for a successful Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of \$43,240. The town constructed a 3,465 ft. long asphalt walking trail at Murphy Park. Matching funds and services provided a total project value of \$54,050.

Fulton Walking Trail -#486: The Council assisted the Town of Fulton with a successful Recreational Trails Program grant of \$30,000. A 1,425 ft. long asphalt walking trail was constructed with the assistance of the Clarke County Commission, for a project valued at \$36,000.

Outreach to Limited Resource Farmers/Sustainable Agriculture Program -#467: The Council contracted with the Alabama State Office of the Natural

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Judge Charles Singleton

Jerry Davidson

Albert Ridgeway

WILCOX COUNTY

Mark Curl

McDuffie Stallworth

Roberta Jordan

Resources Conservation Service to conduct a program to increase awareness and accessibility of NRCS conservation programs to limited resource/minority/small scale farmers. The Council sub-contracted with seven community based organizations to deliver the program. About 2,460 farmers were reached and 95 workshops conducted. The project was valued at \$33,500.

Excel Playground Project -#512: The Town of Excel in Monroe County installed children's playground equipment at Murphy Park. The Council awarded \$11,000, which was matched by the town with \$11,008 for a total of \$22,008.

Plasticulture Program 2008- #520: The Council continued its program to provide supplies for producers involved in plasticulture. The program also assisted in the implementation of EQIP plasticulture program in the state.

Hispanic Workshop -#457: A workshop to assist local government officials and community leaders in understanding Hispanic culture and how to effectively communicate with Hispanic persons was held in conjunction with the University of Alabama and the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission. The workshop had 32 attendees at a estimated cost of \$1,750.

National Voting Rights Museum Enhancement -#508: The Council provided assistance to the museum in Selma to recover and preserve exhibits, displays, and its physical structure. A \$32,000 Community Development Grant from the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils was secured for the project, which was matched by the museum with \$134,000, for a total project value of \$166,000.

Pennington Playground Project -#513: The Town of Pennington in Choctaw County requested assistance from the Council to prepare an ADECA Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. A \$37,493 grant was received, and the town constructed the playground at its park. Matching funds in the amount of \$37,493 were provided, for a total project cost of \$74,986.

Thomasville High School Dual Enrollment -#479: The High School partnered with Alabama Southern Community College to allow students to take college coursework and earn both college and high school credits. The Council provided a \$5,000 grant from the Extension Education grant program, which was matched in the amount of \$43,631, for a total of \$48,631.

Hybart House Museum Improvements -#500: The Monroe County Heritage Museums owns the Hybart House which is used for community and civic events and to display art and history from the county. The house was not heated or cooled, severely limiting its use. The Council provided \$16,780 for the project, which was matched by \$26,942 in cash and in-kind services, for a project value of \$43,722.

Gilmore Elementary School Environmental Education Program -#532: The outdoor environmental education facilities at the school were in disrepair

continued

Perry County Farmers Market





ECI Horticulture Project in Washington County.

**TOURISM
TECHNOLOGY
INFRASTRUCTURE
TRAINING
PROGRAM:**

This project brought together everyone involved in tourism in the 11 county Southwest Alabama region for training, networking, and coordination.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

from hurricane damage. The Council assisted the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District in coordinating a program to repair the facilities and re-start the environmental education program by providing a \$3,553 Extension Education grant. The matching funds totaled \$7,195, for a total project cost of \$10,748.

Melvin Community Park Pavilion -#511: Assistance was provided to the Melvin Park Board in Choctaw County to develop a master plan for the park, and provide funds for a pavilion/restroom. A \$10,000 grant was provided to the board, which was matched with \$12,015, for a total project value of \$22,015.

Tourism Technology Infrastructure Training Program -#470: This project brought together everyone involved in tourism in the 11 county Southwest Alabama region for training, networking, and coordination of activities. The Council provided a \$11,500 Extension Education grant, which was matched by regional sources in the amount of \$56,339, for a total project cost of \$67,839.

Selmont After School Tutorial/Summer Enrichment Program -#491: A group of seven churches in the Sardis area of Dallas County formed an organization to assist youth and senior citizens in their community. The Council provided a \$5,000 Extension Education grant to provide after school tutoring and homework help, and to do a seven week summer program to maintain and improve academic skills. About 30 students participated after school, with over 125 in the summer program. Matching funds amounted to \$7,775, for a total project cost of \$12,775.

Jackson High School Beautification Project -#517: A \$1,000 grant was provided to the school for landscaping improvements around the campus. Matching funds and in-kind services brought the total project value to \$16,700.

Black Belt Environmental Science and Arts Program -#490: The Environmental Institute of Auburn University conducted eight field days for 210 seventh and eight grade students in Wilcox County. Emphasis was placed on hands-on environmental education in small groups resulting in a high level of interaction with instructors. A \$6,971 grant from the Council's Extension Education funds was matched with Auburn University contributing \$11,316; for a total of \$18,287.

Thomasville City Mural Project -#522: The Council provided a \$6,000 grant, matched by \$15,000 in grants from local sources to paint a mural on a wall in the downtown business district. The \$21,000 project provided a mural that depicts the city's railroad heritage, along with other local scenes painted by a Demopolis artist.



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.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008

Heliport Town of Locust Fork: April 9, 2008- The Town of Locust Fork held a special event to celebrate the new emergency heliport located next to town hall. The heliport was built with the help of a \$1,000 ADECA grant secured through Cawaco RC&D. Locust Fork received the Gold Risk Management Award from the Alabama League of Municipalities. The gold award is the highest award given, indicating a loss ratio below five percent. State Representative Elwyn Thomas was present at the ceremony.



Chronic Litter Media Campaign: This project will design and implement an innovative marketing program to educate the target audience (chronic litterers) and general public about litter and its environmental effects in their communities through print, film, broadcast, and internet media. (In support of the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership) Grant: \$5,000. Match: \$ 11,000. Total: \$16,000.



Photo: Students model www.whatislitter.com T-shirts that coincide with the media campaign that will run on TV, YouTube and other media venues. The back of the T-shirt gives a message—such as, “Plastic Bottle—I am litter. I am easily recycled, but I have 38 billion friends in landfills.”

continued

2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

President of the Board
Paul McCaleb

First Vice-President
Joe Love

Project Coordinator
Heidi Richards

*Operations Manager/
Black Warrior River CWP Facilitator*
Kellie Johnston

*Five Mile Creek Partnership
Coordinator*
Francesca Gross

Special Projects Coordinator
Patti Pennington

Administrative Assistant
Amy Feger

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 Jim Pitts

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Bruno Tropeano
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 Sheila Baker
 Vasha Rosenblum

SHELBY COUNTY

Allan Lowe
 Robert Kelley
 Jamie Cates
 Corley Ellis

WALKER COUNTY

Bruce Hamrick
 Dennis Cooper
 Joe Love
 Open Position

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Expanding the Boundaries of Knowledge Today: Developed Skilled Craftsmen for Tomorrow by Creative Problem Solving, Ingenuity and Teamwork: The Shop Rat Education Program/Southeast is an in-school, after-school and weekend class for middle and/or high school students, that teaches hands-on skills in a variety of industries, while completing projects. The students learn the importance of community service as they develop a Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV), an affordable transportation system that can be marketed in developing countries. The ultimate goal of the project is to enter the BUV in the Inventions and Innovations competition at state and national levels of Technical Student Association (TSA) competition and in the Institute for Affordable Transportation (IAT) in Indianapolis, Indiana. Grant: \$5,000. Match: \$ 13,390. Total: \$18,390.



Photo: Students from Chelsea Middle School win first and second place at the National Basic Utility Vehicle Competition, on April 18, 2008. The middle school students competed against eleven teams from throughout the Country to develop and build a BUV that runs on Alternative Fuel. The students competed against College students, including master- level students from the top engineering school in the Nation. For more information: www.shoprat.org.

Town Creek Revitalization: This project seeks to improve water and habitat quality in aprox 1,100 linear ft of Town Creek as it flows through Downtown Jasper. The project will also serve as a demonstration of natural channel design and innovative storm water management specific to urban streams in the southeast. A stormwater wetland was created and the area will be utilized by students for educational purposes. In support of the Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership. Grant: \$332,583. Match: \$ 225,277. Total: \$557,860.

Alabama Water Watch Training was held on July 24, 2008 on Town Creek at Maddox Middle School in Jasper, Alabama. Teachers, educators and citizens participated in a biological assessment, and learned how to monitor and evaluate physical and chemical features of water. Participants were certified to test pH, Temperature, Total Alkalinity, Total Hardness, Dissolved Oxygen, and Turbidity.



Photo: May 28, 2008- Volunteers, City Employees, students and teachers spend a morning planting the Stormwater wetland at Maddox Middle School.



Growing Entrepreneurs with Mentoring:

Growing Entrepreneurs with Mentoring (GEM) is a six-week gardening and mentoring program designed for 7 at-risk youth between the ages of 14-19. The objective is to improve math, reading, writing, and decision-making skills. Each participant who attends

New Horizons Alternative School for intervention services will apply what they learn to improve their behavior and social skills. In addition to gardening, the students learn life lessons in self-esteem, respect, setting goals, decision making, communication, and money management. When publicizing the market, students learn marketing strategies and various communication tools. Grantee: Youth with Purpose, Inc. Grant: \$5,000. Match: \$5,000. Total: \$10,000.

Take Back Our Kids Program: Arts Education Outreach for Youth at the Shelby County Regional Juvenile Detention Center: The Shelby County Arts Council is proud to begin a special project at the Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center in Columbiana this fall. With support of grants from CAWACO, Shelby County Commission and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the Arts Council will be providing unique art programs including but not limited to: photography & Adobe Photoshop, drawing, mixed media, and ceramics to juveniles at the Detention Center. The goal of this exciting program is to reach these children on a new level, building self-esteem, self-confidence, and the ability to work with others. Grant: \$5,000. Match: \$17,810. Total: \$22,810.

First Teachers @ Home: FIRST TEACHERS@home is a family centered literacy and preschool program that hires qualified local people to go into the homes of poor families with 3 or 4 year olds to train mothers how to teach their preschool children basic skills needed to prepare them for kindergarten. Without such help, most poor children enter kindergarten with the literacy skills of 3-year-olds, a handicap many never overcome. Using a rigorous 28-week curriculum, parents also learn about child development, effective discipline, and have their own literacy skills re-enforced. Grantee: RUSH Initiative. Grant: \$5,000, Match: \$174,440. Total: \$179,440.



TAKE BACK OUR KIDS PROGRAM:

Arts Education Outreach for Youth at the Shelby County Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

continued

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

FIVE MILE CREEK GREENWAY

PARTNERSHIP:

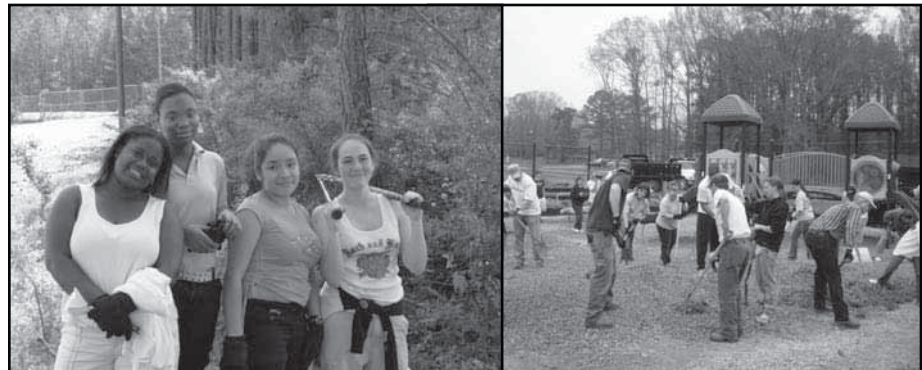
The Partnership continues to work together in the watershed to restore Five Mile Creek and build the parks on the greenway.



Thorsby Elementary School Renovation- Architectural Assessment: This project is the first step in preserving and restoring the 10,000 square-foot historic (1925) Thorsby Grammar School and transforming it into a Community Center that will offer employment opportunities, meeting space, education, recreation, and a sense of history and identity to Thorsby residents. The work performed with this grant will equip the town with the tools necessary to develop a plan for the complete restoration of the building. Grantee: Thorsby Historical Preservation Committee Grant Amount: \$5,000. Match: \$ 5,000. Total: \$10,000.

Photo: Micky Barton of the Natural Resources Conservation Service shoots grades at the Thorsby Grammar School.

Fivemile Creek Greenway Partnership: Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership continues to work together in the watershed to restore Five Mile Creek and build the parks on the greenway. The partnership provides facilitation through Francesca Gross, who actively works with the communities of Tarrant, Centerpoint, Fultondale, Brookside and Pinson. Grantee: Cawaco RC&D. Grant Amount: \$138,940. Match: \$150,000. Total: \$288,940.



IN SUPPORT OF THE FIVE MILE CREEK GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP.

Left: Science students from Huffman High School in Birmingham to clean up the school campus on Earth Day. Right: Volunteers help install a new playground at Harvey Reed Park in Center Point.

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 2008

Cane Creek Community Garden and Educational Program: Teaching concepts of community garden design, soil testing, flower production, and irrigation. The development of a community garden on the banks of Cane Creek on a brownfield site.

Geothermal Heating and Cooling Unit Drip Irrigation Demonstration: The installation of drip irrigation equipment to demonstrate wise water use in home and commercial gardens, using a geothermal heating and cooling unit.

Aquaculture Program at Chambers County Career Technical Center: A program utilizing aquaponics to improve students' math, science and technical skills.



“ALABAMA SCENIC RIVER TRAIL” Organizer-Fred Couch is shown receiving RC&D check from State Representative-Randy Wood.



WATERSHED STRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT: Jeff Colvin, WSI coordinator mows more than 103 watershed structures annually.

2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Larry Raughton

Vice Chairman

William E. Thomas

Secretary-Treasurer

Alton Hall

RC&D Coordinator

Eddie May

Project Assistant

Sharon Stone

Watershed Coordinator

Jeff Colvin

Coosa Basin Facilitator

Gail Russell

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Coosa Valley RC&D Council
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256.835.0774

continued

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CALHOUN

Robert Downing
Alton Hall

CHAMBERS

Wayne White
William E. Thomas

CHEROKEE

Melvyn Salter
John Garmon

CLAY

Ricky Burney
Earl Smith

CLEBURNE

Rex Nolan
Ashley Truett

COOSA

Terry Mitchell
James Rodgers

ETOWAH

Mike Naugher
Sharron Gross

RANDOLPH

Terry Lovvorn
Larry Raughton

ST CLAIR

Stanley Batemon
Perry Poe

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

TECHNOLOGY ASSEMBLIES AND IN-SERVICE MEETINGS

L-R: Representative-Richard Laird, SWCD member-Dr. Carol Knight, Randolph/Roanoke Career Tech Center instructor–Stanley Clark, RC&D Chairman-Larry Raughton, Senator Kim Benefield, and SWCD member –Terry Lovvorn. The school received a RC&D grant to purchase a computer.



Agriscience Outdoor Learning Facility: Environmental education to embrace study through observation and investigation.

Clay County Arts Camps for Kids: Art enrichment for all ages in a week long hands-on experience, including painting, drawing, music, drama, pottery, dance, and storytelling.

Disaster Supply Building: Construction of a climate controlled building to house disaster supplies and equipment for weather or sickness disasters.

Project LifeSaver: A two-day training course for law enforcement and public safety personnel, teaching the use of electronic tracking equipment in conjunction with an established proactive profile and monitoring program to locate missing persons suffering from dementia, and other mentally disabling diseases.

Environmental Stewardship Kids: The conversion of a pump house to a sheltered observation area for observing birds in their natural habitat.

Cherokee County Farm Field Day: An educational opportunity for Pre-Kindergarten, K-3 pupils to learn the history of agriculture in the county and the impact that agriculture has on the economy. Total project value: \$10,725.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

TALLADEGA

Tony Haynes
Archie Wesley

TALLAPOOSA

Frank Tapley
Clifford Meigs



L-R: State representative Richard Lindsay poses for a picture with Dewandee Neyman-project organizer, John Garmon-RC&D Executive Board Member, and Phillip Abney-District Conservationist at the ANNUAL CHEROKEE COUNTY FIELD DAY.

Coosa County Sheriff's Department Video Camera: A digital video camera system for a patrol car.

Central Middle School Grazing Gardens: An educational effort to promote the benefits of a healthy diet. This effort also includes the implementation of a fruit orchard and vegetable garden.

Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs: Supporting the education and training of responsible citizen anglers.

Roanoke Career and Technical Center: A computer system for use in the auditorium, for audio-visual presentations.

Goat and Sheep Producers Association: A field trip, convention, parasite workshop, and festival for small and limited resource farmers. Total project value: \$20,000.

Pell City Tennis Center: The addition of two tennis courts to accommodate mens and ladies leagues. Total project value: \$48,000.

Tallapoosa Cooper Center: Improvements on the park and recreational building. Total project value: \$8310

St Clair 4-H Archery Program: Teaching archery activities such as eye dominance, identifying parts of bows, and safe aiming.

Watershed Structure Improvement: Watershed structure improvement through mowing and debris removal. Total project value: \$50,000.

Tri-State Rabbit Association: Marketing efforts for small limited resource farmers.

Plasticulture Program: Providing seminars and demonstrations for potential plasticulture vegetable growers. Total project value: \$60,000.

Coosa Basin Facilitator: Identifying and addressing clean water issues. Total project value: \$35,000.

continued

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

**ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP**

KIDS: *The conversion of a pump house to a sheltered observation area for observing birds in their natural habitat.*

Cherokee County 4-H Canoeing Workshop: Educational and safety seminar.

In the Reading Garden: A gazebo to be used as an outdoor classroom.

Hope Clinic: A facility that serves uninsured, chronically diseased patients.



Above Left: COOSA CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM was installed as a wetlands teaching lab.

Above Right: GREENHOUSE BIOLOGY LAB constructed at Coosa Central High School will be used as a teaching lab at the Vocational Agricultural Department. State representative Barry Mask is shown presenting RC&D check to school personnel.



RENEW OUR RIVERS AND LAKES CLEANUP is a project that was funded by the Council. More than 120 citizens participated in this cleanup project.

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 2008

Alabama Clean Water Partnership-Educational Newspaper Inserts: The Alabama Clean Water Partnership Newspaper inserts provided public education regarding the value of Alabama's water resources and watersheds, the causes of and remedies for nonpoint source pollution (pollution runoff), and recruited new stakeholders to the watershed management process.

Alma Bryant High School-Juvenile Crawfish Production Ponds: The Alma Bryant High School Aquaculture Program was expanded to become a real aquaculture enterprise for students. Temperature-controlled ponds were constructed for production of juvenile redclaw crawfish. These are sold to local grow-out farmers and profits are used to further expand their enterprise in Mobile County.

Gulf Coast Grass Fed Society: The Council assisted the Gulf Coast Grass Fed Society in introducing new genetics to local cattle to produce better quality animals for the local market. These animals will be all natural, grass fed, hormone and antibiotic free, and organically grown. This beef is of highest quality for tenderness, flavor and offers a great eating experience.

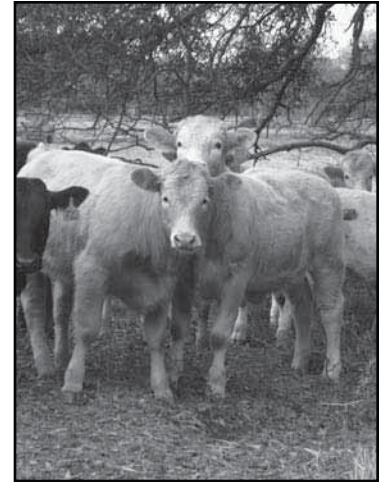
Pollard-McCall School-Sarah Finlay Outdoor Science Center: A nature trail and pavilion were constructed for teaching, research and community outreach. The nature trail and pavilion will support the school's horticulture and ecology curriculum and enhance the Alabama Science Course of Study in grades K-8.

Solar Greenhouse/Water Conservation: A solar greenhouse was constructed to demonstrate solar technology as a viable source of energy production. Water conservation and irrigation strategies are demonstrated through rain water collection. This project is a timely demonstration in the Gulf Coast region for solar energy and water conservation. Workshops and tours are a part of the educational effort.

W.S. Neal High School Aquaculture and Horticulture Laboratory: W.S. Neal Aquaculture class constructed a greenhouse, plant benches and fish tanks. Students will be involved in hands-on production of crayfish and horticultural plants. Production practices include learning the life cycles of plants and aquatic species and creating an environment that enhances the growth of these organisms.

continued

Baldwin County grass fed beef



2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Vice-Chairperson
Brenda Litchfield

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Otis French

Treasurer
Frank Nalty

RC&D Coordinator
Amy Bell

Office Manager
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 Otis French
 Randall Hastings
 Frank Trione

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Frank Nalty
 Nell Wiggins
 Theodore Dean
 Larry White

MOBILE COUNTY

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

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

Billy Smith
 Robert Thrower

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve Canoe Trail: Canoe landings were constructed at Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve to provide easy access to Big Escambia Creek for recreational activities such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing. This is the beginning of a larger canoe trail extending into North Florida, increasing tourism in the area, and was a project with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

Baldwin County Water Festival: An event was held for Baldwin County fourth grade students to learn about water and related natural resources, to instill in them a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic. Hands-on activities such as building an aquifer, constructing a model watershed and exploring erosion and its damaging impacts teach students about surface and ground water, their cycling through the environment, their relationship and overall importance.

Bayou La Batre Fire Control: The Bayou La Batre Fire Department in Mobile County obtained a vehicle equipped with brush/fire apparatus through an RC&D grant. After hurricanes devastated coastal forests, forest fires were on the rise. This vehicle enhances fire fighting capabilities for the city and nearby communities.

Beat the Wind: Landscaping & Erosion Control of Causey Middle School's Tiger Baseball Field: Students, faculty and the community surrounding Causey Middle School (Mobile County) installed sod and added necessary plants to prevent erosion on the newly constructed baseball field. Students assisted in gathering measurements to determine the quantity of sod needed, while learning the value of vegetation in preventing erosion and increasing soil quality.

Chainsaw Safety After Storms: A series of workshops were held in Baldwin, Escambia and Mobile counties to educate homeowners/landowners, city employees and tree care professionals on proper chainsaw use and precision tree felling. The course emphasized the safety concerns during the cleanup after major storm events such as hurricanes. There are over 30,000 chainsaw accidents every year in the U.S. Proper training could prevent most of these accidents.

Floodplain Management Workshop: The workshop was held at Alabama's Delta Resource Center for the first ever "Implementing No Adverse Impact in the Coastal Zone: A One-Day Workshop". The workshop educated participants to develop a framework for implementing better floodplain management strategies to help decrease the cost of natural disasters, increase community resiliency, and reduce negative impacts to local coastal resources.

Weeks Bay Interpretive Arboretum: An 80-acre parcel that is part of Weeks Bay Watershed became an Interpretive Arboretum. The Baldwin County Master Gardeners and Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Volunteers planted the arboretum using only native plants native and installed an irrigation system to ensure tree survival.

Baldwin Catfish Roundup for the Disabled: The Catfish Roundup is held annually giving persons with disabilities and the elderly a day of relaxation and diversion from their normal routine. Over 800 people attend the annual event, bringing together volunteers, children and the elderly for a fun-filled day of fishing.

McDavid-Jones Environmental Learning Center: The Council assisted this Mobile County school in making their nature trail and longleaf plantation handicap accessible. The school has over 1000 students and teachers who use the trail as part of their science curriculum. The trail is now accessible to all students.

Bryant Technical Center Horticulture / Forestry Grafting Lab: A learning lab was built in south Mobile County to teach technical students how to propagate fruit trees. Learning these skills can benefit students as they graduate and obtain jobs in the commercial horticulture industry that is predominant in the area.

Coastal Kids Quiz: The Council sponsored the exciting educational contest for all 5th grade students in coastal Alabama. The contest is designed to emphasize, introduce and test knowledge in coastal resources, conservation and the environment. The major objective of the Coastal Kids Quiz is to teach water quality and conservation to the students.

COOK: Creek Origin: A program will be created at the Poach Band of Creek Indians' Reservation that allows senior citizens to cook nutritious meals while focusing on health and wellness. Classes will be held to help seniors plan for economical and nutritious meals, addressing specific dietary needs. A significant component of this project is to instruct the seniors on nutritional cooking techniques and to teach them to shop and plan for meals that are economical and designed to address special dietary needs. Also, the project will teach Poarch youth cooking skills and canning methods. This is an RC&D project with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' SAIL (Senior Citizens) Center. There are 400 American Indian senior citizens that will benefit from this program.

Meadowlake Elementary School-On the Right Track...Promoting Health through Education: A walking track was constructed with two loops, an inward loop of 1/8 mile and an outward loop of 1/5 mile. The walking track will provide a resource and promote physical fitness. Utilization of the walking track will be integrated within the physical education curriculum.

Mobile County Water Festival: The Festival educates fourth grade students about all aspects of water and related natural resources and the responsibility that they and their families share in protecting water quality and quantity. Each class will participate in hands on learning activities focusing on water education.



DYAS CREEK CLEANUP:

*Above: Divers in
Dyas Creek use
lift bags to remove
debris.*

*Below: Dyas Creek
Cleanup Debris
removed from creek.*

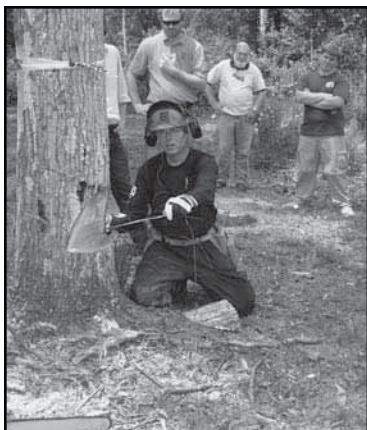


continued



**SOLAR
GREENHOUSE**
*installation of solar
panels*

**CHAINSAW SAFETY
AFTER STORMS**
*Tim Ard Husqvarna
Chainsaw expert*



GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Stockton Community Center: A grant was given to Stockton Community Center to create a place for recreational, educational and social events for all residents in the community. Objectives include providing senior citizen health education classes, hosting community informational meetings and school programs.

Planting in Concrete: To provide educational opportunities for public and private professionals involved in community growth and management, the project will demonstrate the most current technology used to support sidewalks and streetscapes while minimizing soil compaction and sustaining tree growth. A statewide multidisciplinary educational conference will be held in conjunction with this demonstration that partners Alabama Cooperative Extension Systems and the City of Fairhope.

Prescribed Burning Certification Course: The Prescribed Burning Certification Course was held in Baldwin and Escambia Counties to teach forest landowners, forestry vendors, and agency personnel correct prescribed burning methods to the level of obtaining Alabama State Prescribed Burn Manager. Prescribed burning professionals instructed 65 attendees on prescribed burning laws, interpreting weather conditions, proper burning techniques and safe burning practices.

Going Green – Semmes Library: A brand new public library will be opening in Semmes, a Mobile County community. An RC&D grant made possible the purchase of supplies, books and computer programs. The emphasis on “going green” will serve to educate citizens about environmental stewardship.

Tate Creek Partnership Center: This north Baldwin County center will provide a safe, productive, and wholesome educational and family environment and teach children lifelong examples of good citizenship. The center will also provide after school educational programs and tutoring for students K-12, provide basic food aid and nutritional counseling for citizens within the community.

Conservation Tillage Workshop: The Workshop was held for SW Alabama and NW Florida farmers, bringing them the latest in conservation tillage research and practices. The Council partnered with Wiregrass RC&D Council on this project.

Hardwoods for Atmore: This project was held to inform Atmore’s citizens about desirability of trees on private property. Citizens learned how to select, plant, place and care for well adapted and wind resistant trees on private property. The City of Atmore lost 75% of their urban forest during hurricanes Ivan and Dennis.

Dyas Creek Cleanup: The North Baldwin Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Team cleaned up an area of Dyas Creek. While using rescue equipment for training under water, the team identified objects to be removed from the creek and hauled the debris out. In addition to training the team for future rescues, water quality is being greatly improved in this Baldwin County water body. Several tons of debris was removed including tires, a payphone, street signs and a newspaper vending machine.

MID-SOUTH 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 2008

Mosses Community Outreach Program (Lowndes): To provide enrichment activities and develop a centralized communication system. This system will be used to inform citizens in rural and economically distressed areas 24 hours a day. The council provided \$3,650. Total cost \$7,500.

Project Smart Patrol (Lowndes): The Council provided \$3,150 to install video cameras in police cars and purchase security cameras to assist in the patrolling and monitoring of local businesses in Fort Deposit. Total cost \$13,450.

Snowdoun Community Park (Montgomery): To help construct a playground at the park. The Council provided \$5,000. Total cost \$269,632.

Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation, Inc. (Lowndes): To assist the Foundation in a construction project on the grounds of the historic C.M.E. Church, making an addition to the facility restroom and kitchen for community meetings, social events and tourism. Council provided \$3,500. Total cost \$19,700.

Alabama Filmmakers Association, Inc. – 08 (Area): The council continues to assist this project which focuses on promoting Alabama's growth in the Film Makers Society. The Alabama Filmmakers Association will exhibit at the American Film Market in California. Mid-South contributed \$10,000. Total cost \$44,083.

Town of Hayneville (software & Equipment) (Lowndes): The council provided \$3,000 to help purchase software and equipment for the municipal court system and police department. Total cost \$4,000.

Hayneville Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): The Council provided \$5,200 to help purchase turn out gear for fire fighter. Total cost \$6,000.

Braggs Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): The Council provided \$1,000 to help make repairs to existing fire department building. Total cost \$20,000.

Mosses Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department (Lowndes): Council provided \$2,500 to help replace fire truck engine. Total cost \$28,657.

Suburban West Ball League (Montgomery): To assist the League in purchasing and installing eight new bleachers at the Catoma ball field complex. The Council provided \$6,000. Total cost \$58,174.



Check presentation to the Clean Water Partnership for the Environmental Education Project in Elmore County

2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Donnie Pierce

Vice Chairman
William Hodge

Secretary/Treasurer
Alma Bowen

RC&D Coordinator
Charlie McAlpine

Secretary
Sharon A. Redd

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continued

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AUTAUGA

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 Chester O. Stephens
 Danny Chavers
 Yvonne D. Thomas

BULLOCK

Dina Mason Moore
 Donnie Pierce
 Ronald W. Smith
 John McGowan

BUTLER

Lewis Crenshaw
 Jennifer Stringer
 Phyllis Dantzer
 Jerry Hartin

ELMORE

Patty Lambrecht
 Gail Russell
 Jimmy Stubbs
 Ron Hilyer

LEE

Dana Sizemore
 Harry Ennis
 Clifford E. Jones
 John Wild

LOWNDES

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

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Hayneville Park and Recreation (Lowndes): The Council provided \$4,000 to help purchase equipment for the park. Total cost \$6,692.

Calhoun Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): Council provided \$5,200 to help purchase turn out gear for volunteer fire fighters. Total cost \$18,000.

Redland Volunteer Fire Department (Elmore): This project helps replace a portion of the obsolete 2-way communication radios needed to assist fire fighters in communicating with incident commander and the 911 communication center. The Council provided \$2,500. Total cost \$5,000.

Old Time Farm Day, Inc. (Butler): The 3rd old time farm day. Over 3,000 people are expected to attend this year. Educating the public on the historical value of old farming ways and the equipment used is the priority. Council provided \$5,000 to help build a concession stand/kitchen and storage area. Total \$11,388.

Community Garden Project (Bullock): The Council provided \$1,395 to help establish a community garden to assist low income families in improving quality of life by teaching them to grow fresh vegetables. Total cost \$1,674.

Productions at Red Door (Bullock): Council provided \$5,500 to help purchase supplies for this theatre and promote tourism. Total cost \$19,250.

Waugh-Mount Meigs Volunteer Fire Department (Montgomery): Council provided \$7,500 to help purchase turn out gear for fire fighters. Total cost \$8,250.

Bullock County Hydrant Project (Bullock): Helped purchase and install 55 fire hydrants, as well as 26,000 linear feet of six-inch water line. This improvement addressed the most significant fire protection needs in the county and improves residents' health, safety, and wellbeing. Council provided \$4,305. Total cost \$285,920.

Environmental Youth Leadership (Montgomery): This project involved 7th and 8th grade students at Dunbar-Ramer Elementary School learning about the natural resources around them and how they can make informed decisions about their use and protection. Council provided \$1,500. Total cost \$3,500.

Black Belt Environmental Science & Art Phase II (Macon/Bullock): A continual outreach program through Auburn University Environmental Institute (AUEI) supported by the Council is designed to bring appreciation for the natural environment to fifth and sixth-grade students by providing field days in a non-traditional outdoor classroom setting. Council provided \$6,000. Total cost \$12,000.

Edgewood Tutorial Plus Center (Lowndes): The Council provided \$6,000 to the only community-based, after school enrichment program in the Fort Deposit community. This program is designed to help K-9th grade students improve academically and socially through tutorial assistance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

MACON

Kathryn Story
 William Hodge
 Miles D. Robinson
 Jesse Fitzpatrick

MONTGOMERY

Raymond Boykin
 Teresa Smiley
 John A. Mitchell, Sr.
 Alma Bowen

The Learning Zone (Lowndes): The Council provided \$6,000 to help improve literacy and increase student achievement and social success through an extended day program/services. Total project cost \$39,290.

Macon County Youth Life Skills Project (Macon): To educate youths on computer literacy and sharpen their skills at accessing information to keep them on pace with the latest advances. Youths also learn financial management and youth entrepreneurship with emphasis on agricultural enterprises. Total cost \$40,100.

4H Educational Opportunities (Lee County): The Council provided \$4,000 to provide further education with the 4Her's through using 4H curriculum. Funds will be used for registration cost of 4H camp and Natural Science Camp. Also, to support a new 4H club for minorities to provide them with 4H and Youth Curriculum and supplies and supply a Robotics Kit to a local club. Total cost \$8,095.

Invasive to Native (Lee): This project will be carried out in three areas in Lee County: Auburn University Arboretum, Opelika Municipal Park, and Smith Station School Park. The project includes homeowner education and will be carried out within the resident homes in Lee County through seminars and they will experience the native plants growing in the landscape. Total cost \$35,500.

No Child Left Inside (Lee): This project will create two outdoor classrooms to educate hundreds of students each year about the natural resources found in Alabama. Students will learn through a variety of experiences and hand-on-activities. Council provided \$5,000. Total project cost \$44,850.

Adullum House Learning Center (Elmore): The Council provided \$6,000 to help purchase seven new computer learning stations for students to work independently on educational projects. The facility will be used for after school and extra-curricular learning on technology and natural resources. Total cost \$33,100.

Environmental Education (Elmore): Council provided \$6,000 to help purchase equipment for this program conducted at the Alabama Nature Center. The Center is used for Conservation Education for students from all over Alabama and teaches classes on water quality, soils, wildlife and forestry. Total cost \$6,656.

Youngblood Enterprise Inc. YEP (Montgomery): This youth enrichment program is designed to provide, promote and build self-esteem, character, respect, responsibility and empowerment for children ages 7-17 years who have been identified as "at risk" youth. The Council provided \$7,000. Total cost \$45,200.

Water for Me and My Community (Lee): Council provided \$10,000 to assist Opelika Middle School, Drake Middle School, and Trinity Christian School with the resources needed to teach the students about water quality and water quantity issues, using school grounds as an outdoor classroom. Total project cost \$43,610.

*Members of the
 Youth Leadership Autauga County
 participant in an
 economic development seminar
 to learn more about
 "the preferred community."*



continued



2008 SCOUT PROJECT

Lee County volunteer students and instructor come together to help clear brush and branches to build a crossing bridge during the 2008 Scout Project at Ogletree School.



Wayne Keith, demonstrates his wood chip burning truck during the Alabama Energy Revolution Summit hosted by Mid-South RC&D

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Water Quality Training (Montgomery): The Council provided \$1,500 to assist with water quality training targeted for children in the 4th-12th grade. The funds will be used to purchase needed supplies to teach the children how to test water for chemicals and pathogens. Total cost \$2,000.

Montgomery County Water Festival 2008 (Montgomery): The Council provided \$3,000 to help purchase supplies and T-shirts for the festival. More than 2800 students and teachers will attend the festival. Total cost 25,000.

5th Annual Lee County Water Festival 2008 (Lee): The Council provided \$3,000 to purchase material and supplies for the festival. The festival will educate students and their families through a hand on learning experience to learn the role of surface and groundwater in the water cycle. Total cost \$24,350.

1/64th Scale Model Farm Project (Elmore): This model farm will be used to educate children and adults about how farming has changed. The project's theme is "Disappearing Alabama Farmland" and will be constructed by Agriscience students at Holtville High School. The Council provided \$650.00. Total cost \$1,210.

Butler County Youth Workforce Development (Butler): This program provides training sessions as well as on the job training to youth between the ages of 14 and 18 in Butler County. The youth are placed at actual jobsites and have the incentive of earning a stipend. The Council provided \$21,358. Total cost \$56,898.

Alabama Energy Revolution Summit, 2008 (Area): Mid-South RC&D Council proposes to hold a two (2) day conference addressing the Alabama energy crisis through education by leaders in innovation, technology, information and advancement in the field of renewable energy sources. Demonstrations will be on hand to view, with facilitators to address concerns of practicality, environmental impact and required maintenance. The Council provided \$30,000. Total cost \$234,021.

Mid-South RC&D Council Website (Area): This project created a website for the Council to better inform clients within the service area and abroad of the activities, goals, objectives and progress Council provided \$842. Total cost \$14,697.36.

Developing Leadership thru Conservation (Area): The Council employed three interns over the length of two academic semesters to manage projects, oversee project activities, work directly with project sponsors, volunteers and implement administrative requirements of project management. Mid-South provided \$10,000 Community assistance funds. Total cost \$45,000.

Dunbar-Ramer Field of Dreams (Montgomery): The Montgomery County Commission and the Montgomery Public School Board are constructing a softball/baseball field at Dunbar-Ramer Elementary School. This project involves site preparation, constructing the bleachers, fencing, and sodding. The Council provided \$10,000 community assistance funds. Total cost \$70,389.

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 2008

AG-Ceptional Program & AG Careers: implement agriculture awareness for 4-H students in 12 schools.

Alabama Agricultural A+ Marketing Assn: assist with marketing opportunities for sheep, goat and meat rabbit producers.

Alabama Filmmakers Assn: promoting film industry in Alabama-tourism funds.

Area Plan Development: area plan development.

Assign-A-Highway: litter control.

Bear Creek VFD: purchase GPS equipment.

Belgreen Pre-K Attention Program: purchase playground equipment for special needs children.

Boy Scouts Franklin Co.: assist with fees and community development projects.

Byrd VFD-Community Develop: assist with construction of outdoor cooking area.

Byrd Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept: replaced metal roof on fire facility.

Center Star Community Park: park improvements.

Central Athletic Boosters: improvements to walking trail.

Cherokee High School Envirothon: environmental education.

Children's Museum of the Shoals: assist with development of conservation curriculum.

CITY Programs Smart Board: purchase interactive white board.

CLIP (Community Leadership Impacts People): recruit youth for community projects fostering life-coping skills.

Colbert Co Expanding Technology in Classroom: purchase of interactive white boards.

2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Roger Hayes

Vice Chairman
Howard Grissom

Secretary/Treasurer
Joel Pounders

Member
Don Barnwell

Member
Bill Taylor

Member
Jerry Mobley

Member
D. C. Thornton

NRCS Coordinator
Charlie Meek

Office Manager
Angela Malone

Special Projects Manager
Michael Fowlkes

Programs Assistant
Carolyn Whitten

Programs Assistant
Heath King

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RC&D Council
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Phone: 256.383.1446
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continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Colbert County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Lauderdale County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Winston County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Colbert County Commission
- Franklin County Commission
- Lauderdale County Commission
- Marion County Commission
- Winston County Commission

- City of Winfield
- City of Red Bay
- City of Russellville
- City of Muscle Shoals
- City of Hamilton
- City of Haleyville
- City of Florence

- Town of St. Florian
- Town of Hodges
- Town of Brilliant
- Town of Vina
- Town of Rogersville
- Town of Lexington
- Town of Addison
- Town of Double Springs
- Town of Lynn
- Town of Littleville
- Town of Cherokee
- Town of Phil Campbell
- Town of Hackleburg

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

- Colbert Co FFA-AG Day:** farm safety education: AG computers, livestock judging, building construction competition for high school students.
- Cool Runnings:** environmental education.
- Elgin Senior Citizens Center:** painting senior center.
- Envirothon – Franklin Co.:** environmental education.
- Farm City Awareness-Colbert Co.:** integrating rural and urban partnerships into everyday life.
- Foster Grandparents Program – Marion County:** mentoring students.
- Franklin County Fire & Rescue:** purchase safety equipment for department.
- Frog Pond VFD:** purchase equipment for fire trucks.
- Grassey Community Center:** purchase electrical and plumbing supplies.
- Greenhill Senior Citizens:** purchase cooler/refrigerator.
- Hackleburg Senior Citizens:** purchase equipment for center.
- Hackleburg VFD:** equipment upgrades for ISO evaluation.
- Haleyville Senior Center:** furnishings for senior center.
- Haleyville, City of-SMART Board:** purchase of interactive white board.
- Hodges, City of:** assist with construction of handicap walking trail.
- Imagination Library:** purchase books for pre-kindergarten children.
- Kids Making Better Choices:** preparation of DVD teaching benefits of better food choices and exercise to all Alabama elementary school children.

**COLBERT COUNTY
FFA-AG DAY –
FY 2008 AWARD
RECIPIENTS:**

AG computers, livestock judging, building construction competition for high school students



COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

J. C. Holt

Charlie Thompson

Victoria Phillips

Dr. and Mrs. Henderson

LaGrange Historical Society: relocating log cabin.

Lexington High School: construction of school campus greenhouse.

Little New River Watershed Project--(NRCS): provided financial assistance for safety upgrades for the Little New River Watershed Dam.

Lotus Eradication Project: removal/eradication of lotus plants (invasive species).

Lovers Lane Park: purchase playground equipment.

Marion County Smart Board: purchase interactive white board.

NACOLG--Meals Delivery: assist with delivery of meals to senior citizens.

NACOLG Senior Citizens Center: purchase of computer equipment and supplies for seven senior citizen centers.

Oka Kapassa Festival--Native American Festival: cultural exchange and education.

Oka Kapassa -- Native American Education in Classrooms: Native American education in Lauderdale County.

P.A.S.S. Lauderdale County Volunteer Fire Departments: fire extinguisher training.

Pea Ridge VFD: remodel kitchen at fire department.

Pebble Community Center Walking Trail: assist with construction of walking trail.

Phil Campbell Elementary School Smart Board: purchase of interactive white board.

Phillips High School: paving parking lot.

Red Bay, City of -- Founders Festival.

Red Bay Police Dept. Generator: purchase generator for police department.

Rogers High School: assist with construction of outdoor school sign.

Rolling Riders: therapeutic riding program for youth with special needs.

Roots of American Music Trail: assist with development of music trail.

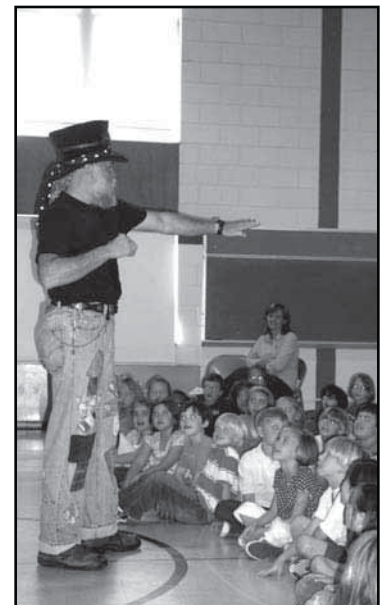
Rush Darter Project: protect and recovery of watershed in Winston County.

Russellville Fire Department: assist with construction of training facility.

Shottsville VFD: purchase of air conditioner.

Smith Lake Advocacy, Inc.: technical assistance.

*Special RC&D Friend Steve Trash.
KIDS MAKING BETTER
CHOICES DVD premier at Kilby
School, Florence, Alabama.*



continued



*Special Guests at
the FY 2008 Oka
Kapassa Native
American Festival*



NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

*Senator Roger Bedford, Howard Grissom and Michael Moomau,
FY 2008 Franklin County Firefighters Association*



Tharptown School Smart Board: purchase of interactive white board.

Underwood-Petersville Community Center: assist with construction of outdoor pavilion.

Vina, Town of – “Vina Day”: tourism funds–assist with festival activities.

W. C. Handy Festival: tourism funds to assist with annual music festival.

Water Festival, Colbert County: water quality and conservation.

Water Festival, Lauderdale County: water quality and conservation.

Wildwood Park Project: construct access at park for kayaks, canoes and small nonpowered watercraft.

Winfield, City of – Fire & Rescue: purchase of generator.

Winfield, City of – Park & Rec Bd: purchase of defibrillator.

Winston County – Enhancing Technology in the Classrooms: purchase of interactive white boards.

Winston County Firefighters Association: purchase of equipment and supplies.

Winston County Grays: historical sculpture/statue.

Winston County Sesquicentennial: 150 Year-celebration.



Hamilton High School Weather Station

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 2008

Sumter/Marengo County Water Festival 08 (Sumter): Students from Sumter and Marengo Counties attended a one-day experience focusing on water quality and quantity. Students and teachers from UWA and resource professionals combined to provide a learning experience for over 500 students. value - \$7,000.

On-Site Wastewater Disposal Training Center 08 (Area Wide): The Council continues to support the Training Center through technical and financial assistance. In 2008 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 for 2008 was \$180,000.

Six Mile Park 08 (Bibb): The park is being developed on the historical site of the school and trade district. Ball fields, walking trails and meeting areas are being phased in. Value of this 08 phase is \$32,000.

Fayette County Multi-purpose Facility 08 (Fayette): A facility has been developed for use as a livestock arena and exposition area. AV equipment for use in teaching/educating various groups has been planned. Value: \$360,000.

Your Town Alabama 08 (Area Wide): Scholarships were provided to 3 individuals to participate in training and bring the experience back to their area. \$2,000.

WQ Cahaba/Warrior River Newspaper Inserts (Area Wide): Newspaper inserts have been developed and placed in area papers to educate and inform the public on water issues in the Warrior and Cahaba watersheds. Value: \$10,000.

West Blockton Sidewalk (Bibb): A sidewalk connecting West Blockton High School to town for safe commute has been developed. Value- \$62,000.

continued

A greenhouse was developed with funds from Tombigbee RC&D, Representative Gerald Allen and many other sources. The greenhouse has been a developmental learning tool for special needs students.



2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Dr. Neil Hyche

Vice-Chairman

Don Sherrod

Secretary/Treasurer

Farrington Snipes

Coordinator

Michael O. Cornett

*Program Assistant and
Outreach Education Specialist*

Michelle Stephens

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BIBB COUNTY

Al Green
James Martin
Joe L. Owens

FAYETTE COUNTY

John Gordon
Owen Sweatt
Wayne Meherg

GREENE COUNTY

Tennyson Smith
Willice Lashley
Earlean Isaac

HALE COUNTY

Leland Avery
Tommy Martin
Open

LAMAR COUNTY

Johnny Rogers
Craig Sizemore
Harold Jordan

PICKENS COUNTY

Willie Colvin
Don Sherrod
Open

SUMTER COUNTY

Anthony Crear
Micky Smith
Richard Holland

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

COW- Computers on Wheels (Bibb): Computers were added to West Blockton Elementary. The wireless system allowed teachers in any classroom to connect to school children across the globe. Access to information and a more exciting learning environment have helped school test scores go up. Value - \$42,000.

Belk Community Outdoor Education Stages (Fayette): A community facility has been developed to provide an outdoor stage for community education and entertainment events. Economic development of the community has resulted in the use of the stage for community events. Project Benefits - \$25,000.

Discoveries in Nature – SMART – Fayette Co.: This after school program at Fayette elementary and middle schools seeks to give participants hands-on opportunities with homework, computers, recreation and more. More than 100 students have taken advantage of this program. Project Value \$6,000.

Fayette Co. 4-H Program (Fayette): This project paid for personnel to carry out the 4-H program in Fayette County schools. Project Value \$24,000.

Grazing Clinic- Grazing Management (Fayette): Cooperative Extension and NRCS conducted a workshop which involved more than 40 individuals from multiple counties across Alabama. Project Value - \$6,000.

Economic Development – Children’s Reading Resource Center – (Greene): An existing facility will be developed to accommodate a reading resource center for children in Greene County. This project was begun in FY 2008 and will be completed in FY 2009. Project Value \$65,000.

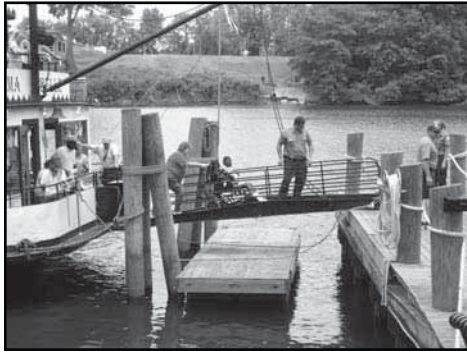
Lions Park Mechanical Gate (Hale): Auburn University School of Architecture’s Rural Studio students have taken the lead in designing and installing a gate at the entrance of Lion’s Park in Greensboro. More than 1800 volunteers were used on the Lion’s Park project. Project Value - \$18,000.

South Lamar Co. Playground Park (Lamar): Playground equipment and supplies were purchased to develop a park for area citizens. This addition to community services and facilities increased quality of life. Project Value \$15,000.

STARS Project (Lamar): This project involves Comprehensive Core Reading Program components to assist students improve their reading skills. More than 100 students will have access to this opportunity. Project Value \$163,000.

Pickens Co. Nature Trail, Arboretum and Outdoor Classroom 08 (Lamar): This project was begun in FY08. The partnership of local organizations has laid out trails, located a site for the pavilion, and selected areas for the tree identification. Project Value \$35,000.

Carrolton Outdoor Classroom and Schoolyard Habitat 08 (Pickens): More than 125 students and community volunteers have helped develop an outdoor



A group of special needs individuals were treated to a riverboat ride and outdoor experience by volunteer and professionals in Tuscaloosa County. The day included a trip on the Bama Belle, a true paddlewheel boat located on the Warrior River at Tuscaloosa.

classroom which includes a butterfly garden, arboretum, greenhouse and a large water feature complete with fish and aquatic plants. Project Value - \$65,000.

Sumter/Marengo Water Festival 08 (Sumter): More than 800 students and volunteers were involved in this learning experience. Water quality and quantity issues were taught. Value \$14,000.

Lake LU Nature Trail Initiative (Sumter): Brochures and supplies for trail development were purchased to improve and develop the trail. A board walk has been developed. Tourism days were generated by visitors and area citizens by using the trail to learn about landforms, wildlife and fitness issues. Value \$8,597.

Special Day for Special Kids 08 (Tuscaloosa): Approximately 30 special needs individuals and more than 50 volunteers participated in a riverboat ride to observe river front activities and be exposed to water issues. Project Value \$12,000.

Campbell House Restoration (Sumter): Relocation and restoration of the Campbell House to Livingston was a major part of this project. The restored historical building will house the Black Belt Initiative program. Value \$55,000.

Handicap Accessible Restrooms for Millport (Lamar): Access to restrooms for handicapped individuals was an identified need for Millport. This project serves local citizens and provides accessible facilities for tourists. Value \$25,000.

Television Studio Maxwell Elementary (Tuscaloosa): Installed a TV studio and infrastructure at Maxwell Elementary. Students produce and broadcast morning news to all students. Value \$38,000.

McGraw Center Horticulture Program (Tuscaloosa): A community garden was developed to assist in the life skill experiences of special needs individuals. The produce was used by the participants and local citizens. Value \$3,000.

Historic Northport Bridge Restoration 08 (Tuscaloosa): This historic bridge is 1 of only 2 in the Southeast. A coalition of public and private sources has begun restoring and relocating the bridge to a site in the Northport Historical Park. This is a multi phase project lasting for several years. FY 08 Value \$85,000.

Black Belt Heritage Development Institute Initiative 08 (Area Wide): An initiative to focus attention to the Black Belt. Committees have been organized and issues identified which will be addresses over time. A project manager has been identified and National designation is being sought. Project Value \$22,000.

Erosion, Water Quality & Property Loss- Tombigbee River (Area Wide): Funding was provided to assist in the facilitation of a working group of local land-

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Hardy McCollum

Neil Hyche

Farrington Snipes

MOUNDVILLE HISTORICAL PARK

Tombigbee RC&D hosted the 2008 Alabama RC&D Annual Meeting. Guests were treated to a private tour of the park and its historical Mounds. This photo is from the top of one of the larger mounds.



TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

owners, government agencies and professional experts to address issues associated with the stream bank erosion along the Tombigbee River. Project Value \$12,000.

Alternative Ag Development 08 (Area Wide): Development of an Agricultural Marketing Cooperative has been accomplished through a diverse partnership including Alabama Dept. of Ag. And Industry, AALGA, RC&D, Tri-States Rabbit Growers Association, ALFA, Tuskegee University, Alabama A&M, Cooperative Extension System of Alabama, and the Alabama State Legislature. Value \$28,000.

Alabama Forestry Camp (Sumter): Participants from across the area were educated in forest product issues and job opportunities. Project leadership was provided by partners including local and state industry forestry professionals. Alabama Forestry Commission officials as well as USFS personnel participated. Value \$6,000.

Goat Production 08 (Area Wide): Alabama Meat Goat Association has been provided assistance in formation and grower education. Initially, 44 individuals joined the association. Project Value \$3,000.

Science Olympiad 08 (Sumter): Students from throughout the county competed for slots on the Science Olympiad team. Teachers volunteered time and resources to teach and prepare students for competition. Project value - \$4,500.

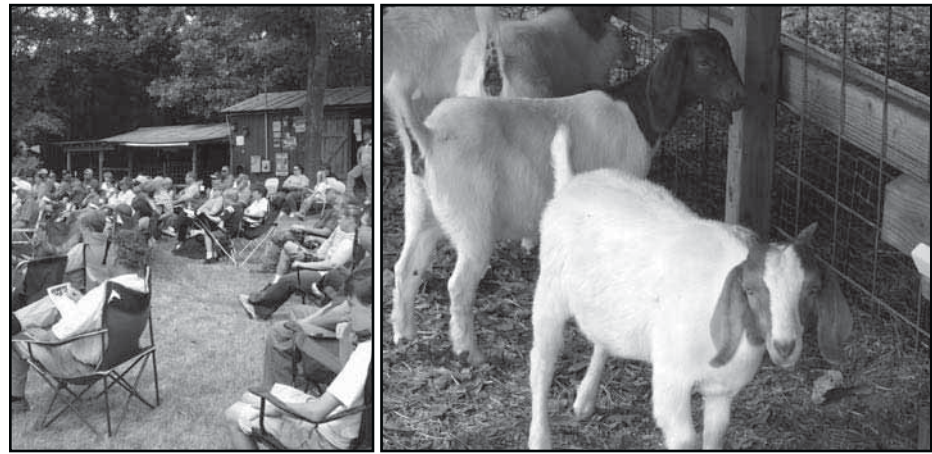
Rabbit Production 08 (Area Wide): Producers within the Tombigbee RC&D area were assisted with various aspects of rabbit production and processing and the processing plant was located within the area. Project value - \$34,000.

Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association Assistance 08 (Area Wide): The TSRGA was provided assistance with program development, grower development, processing, storage, and marketing. Project value - \$125,000.

Education Outreach 08 (Area Wide): Eight educational events received involvement by the Education Outreach Specialist. More than 600 students, educators, technical specialists and area citizens were involved. Value - \$55,000.

GOAT WORKSHOP

(right) Tombigbee RC&D worked with the Tuscaloosa Cooperative Extension System to conduct a workshop for more than 100 goat producers.



WIREFRASS 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 2008

Critters and Environments (Barbour): A to Z Animals was a wildlife education program that conducted classes on bats, birds, ducks and other animals. Total: \$13,927.

Kelley Drive Erosion Mitigation (Barbour): The City of Clio repaired erosion that affected an area along a city street making it dangerous for traffic. Total: \$8,000.

County Road 31 Ditch Stabilization (Barbour): Installed erosion control measures to prevent further erosion and damages to the rural water system in the future. Total: \$24,212.

Coffee County Groundwater Festival: Coffee County Groundwater Festival was held to conduct education activities focusing on water conservation. Total: \$5,000.

Coffee County Forest Landowners Meeting: A workshop to educate landowners on the latest research on conversion of forest biomass to fuels. Total: \$3,000.

Pipe Installation at Straughn School (Covington): A drainage pipe was extended to accommodate a parking area. Total: \$6,000.

Andalusia Farmer's Market (Covington): A historic building was renovated to establish a farmer's market. Total: \$64,000.

2008 Youth Environmental Day Camp (Covington): The Covington County Extension Office held an educational day in the Conecuh National Forest. Total: \$5,000.

Covington County Ground Water Festival (Covington): WRC&D provided funding to the Covington County Ground Water Festival Committee for materials to conduct educational activities with a focus on water conservation. Total \$9,000.

Planting Seeds of Stewardship (Covington): An outdoor classroom was constructed by the teacher and students, along with volunteers in the community to enhance studies in science and social studies. Total: \$13,000.

2008 4-H Program Activities (Covington): WRC&D provided funding to Covington Co. Extension Office to conduct 4-H activities. Total cost: \$34,676.

Representative Benjamin Lewis presents a check to Ashford Elementary School to repair a large gully that was a hazard to the students.



2008 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Estus Walker

Vice Chairman
Greg Glass

Secretary / Treasurer
James H. (Howell) Peebles

RC&D Coordinator (NRCS)
Randy Martin

Administrative Coordinator
Deborah Childree

Administrative Assistant
Judy Sheffield Crowe

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continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BARBOUR COUNTY

Kenny Childree
 Carol Threatt
 Earl Gilmore
 Gloria Hagler

COFFEE COUNTY

Gilmer Grant
 Mike Newman
 Linda Westbrook
 Bernest Brooks

COVINGTON COUNTY

Bobby Jackson
 Wayne Reynolds
 Darren Capps
 Bragg Carter

CRENSHAW COUNTY

Benjie Sanders
 Pat Folmar
 Ronnie Hudson

DALE COUNTY

Estus Walker
 Kurt McDaniel
 Thomas Kirkland
 Derek Brewer

GENEVA COUNTY

T. Louis Register
 Steve Dunn
 Larry Everett
 Roy Powell

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Covington County Soil & Water Education (Covington): Covington County Soil and Water Conservation District held several educational hands-on activities for the county's elementary schools. Total: \$9,500.

Turner Park Tennis Court Restoration (Crenshaw): WRC&D provided funding to the City of Luverne for the purpose of refurbishing an existing tennis court at the E. L. Turner Recreation Park. WRC&D funded \$7,000 of the \$27,556 estimated cost.

Crenshaw County Groundwater Festival (Crenshaw): WRC&D provided funding to the Crenshaw County Groundwater Festival Committee for materials used to conduct education activities on water conservation. Total cost: \$2,200.

Ozark Police Memorial Park (Dale): WRC&D provided funding to the City of Ozark to construct handicap access to the gymnasium and walking trail of the Police Memorial Park. Total: \$3400.

Vegetative Blind for the City of Ozark (Dale): WRC&D provided funding to the City of Ozark to assist with the enhancement of the Ozark Public Works Department. The blind consists of a hedge of evenly spaced trees and will help the building to better fit into the surroundings of Downtown Ozark. Total: \$4,000.

Pinckard Playground Refurbishment (Dale): WRC&D provided funding to the Town of Pinckard for the purpose of refurbishing the public playground. The playground improvements are again safe for citizens and will promote health and recreation. WRC&D funded \$1,750 of the \$5,000 estimated cost for this project.

County Road 200 (Dale): WRC&D provided funds to the Dale County Commission to stabilize County Road 200. Repairing the erosion will make it safe for public transportation. WRC&D funded \$2,200 of the \$100,400 cost.

Dale County Forestry Field Days (Dale): WRC&D provided funding to the Dale County Chapter of Alabama Treasured Forests to hold an outdoor field day to educate fifth grade students on forestry. Total cost: \$9,300.

Samson Sidewalk Improvement (Geneva): WRC&D provided funding to the City of Samson to make needed repairs to the existing sidewalks. WRC&D funded \$7,200 of the \$14,400 estimated cost of making these improvements.

Geneva County Agriculture in the Classroom (Geneva): WRC&D provided funding to Geneva County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide an Ag in the Classroom activity for Geneva County fifth graders. The program included agriculture education in the classroom and a farm visit to increase awareness and promote the importance of farming. Total cost: \$4,720.

Geneva County Groundwater Festival (Geneva): WRC&D provided funding to the Geneva County Groundwater Festival Committee to purchase

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

HENRY COUNTY

Samuel G. (Buddy) Platt
 Carolyn Riley
 Bill Parker
 Billy Barnes

HOUSTON COUNTY

Pat Raley
 William Holman
 Mark Culver
 Bobby Snellgrove

PIKE COUNTY

Roy Kendrick
 Herb Huner
 Russell Oliver
 Homer C. Wright

RUSSELL COUNTY

Ben Bowden
 Greg Glass
 Johnny Robinson
 J. W. Brannen

materials used for education activities focusing on water conservation. WRC&D funded \$1,500 of the \$4,700 estimated cost of the groundwater festival.

Henry County Sheriff's Dept Cameras (Henry): WRC&D provided funding to the Henry County Sheriff's Department for camera installation in patrol cars. The cameras serve as a method of visual evidence collection to streamline the judicial prosecution of criminals and aid with permanent video surveillance data. WRC&D funded \$25,600 of the estimated \$55,193 cost of the project.

Blueberry Education (Henry): WRC&D provided funding to the Wiregrass Blueberry Growers Association to create an outlet of blueberry production and further conservation efforts through blueberry production. Total cost: \$24,000.

Ashford Elementary Grounds Improvement (Houston): WRC&D provided funding to Ashford Elementary School for the purpose of making improvements to their grounds and facility. WRC&D funded \$7,200 of the \$30,000 estimated cost.

Clayhill Outdoor Restrooms (Pike): WRC&D provided funding to Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District for construction of needed restroom facilities at Clayhill Farms. These facilities are located at the site of an outdoor education facility used for demonstrations, tours, trainings and natural resource education. WRC&D allocated \$3,000 of the \$6,000 estimated cost for the improvements.

Goodhope Road Bank Stabilization (Pike): WRC&D provided funding to the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District to stabilize the road banks of the Goodhope Community. Repairing the erosion made it safe again for public transportation. WRC&D funded \$4,200 of the \$29,500 estimated repair cost.

Pike County Conservation Poster Contest (Pike): WRC&D provided funding to the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct a natural resource conservation themed poster contest for 2nd and 3rd graders in the county. WRC&D funded \$1,000 of the \$2,050 estimated cost.

4-H Resource Conservation and Education (Pike): WRC&D provided funding to Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement units addressing the utilization and conservation of natural and human resources in existing 4-H club programs. WRC&D funded \$9,303 of the \$18,606 estimated cost.

Raised Beds for Gardening (Russell): WRC&D provided \$1229 to Phenix City to develop an outdoor area for raised beds to be utilized by senior citizens education, as well as conservation related recreation and physical activities. Total cost: \$2,525.

continued



A TO Z ANIMALS

Wiregrass RC&D provided financial assistance to A to Z Animals to assist with wildlife education programs, including classes on bats, birds, ducks and other animals.

Representative Steve Clouse presents a check to Wiregrass RC&D Coordinator, Randy Martin, for the refurbishing of the playground for the citizens of the Town of Pinckard. The playground will promote health and recreation for the citizens.



WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Outdoor Garden and Plant Science Center (Russell): WRC&D provided funding to Phenix City Housing Authority to develop bed gardens that will be planned, planted, cared for and harvested by tenants. The program will offer multiple hands-on experiences; teach life skills including gardening, landscaping and physical labor in an urban environment. WRC&D funded \$2,771 of the \$5,542 estimated cost.

Growing Future Gardeners (Russell): WRC&D provided funding to Lakewood Elementary to teach students gardening through hands-on activities. By teaching students the benefits of plants and the ecosystem students will be aware of conservation and natural resources in their community. \$6,000.

Teacher Education Workshops (Area-Wide): WRC&D will be providing Wiregrass area school teachers the opportunity to learn and educate students on environmental issues and natural resource preservation methods. WRC&D funded \$15,000.

Unnamed Tributary to Harrant Creek Stream Assessment (Area-Wide): WRC&D partnered with ADEM, US Fish & Wildlife, Enterprise, and Robinson Ecological Resources, Inc. to conduct a stream assessment of a tributary in Enterprise listed on ADEM's 303(d) list. WRC&D administered the \$14,080 contract funded by ADEM.

Public Education Workshops and Seminars (Area-Wide): WRC&D conducted a series of public forum workshops to educate the public on natural resource matters including forestry and water. WRC&D funded this project at \$10,000.

Organic Farming Festival (Area-Wide): The festival was a showcase for organic farms to exhibit products, farmers to learn more about organic management and serve as a conduit for organic markets. WRC&D provided \$1,500.

Positive Water Management Practices Display (Area-Wide): WRC&D partnered with Troy University Dept. of Biology to build a scaled model of the local water ways and construct a demonstration of positive water management to benefit area elementary, secondary and post-secondary students. WRC&D funded \$6,500.

ON-GOING AREA-WIDE PROJECTS

The following projects were adopted for inclusion in the 2008 Plan of Work and scheduled to either be completed during fiscal year 2008 or to continue through 2009. Conservation Tillage Workshop; Alternative Energy Education Initiative; Choctawhatchee River Restoration.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils prohibits discriminate in all of its programs against race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Association will take affirmative action to ensure that its programs are delivered without regard to their race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs and marital or family status. For additional information or to file a discrimination complaint write to:

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils
P.O. Box 5810
Decatur, Alabama 35601-0810.

