

Resource Conservation and Development in Alabama

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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



RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS

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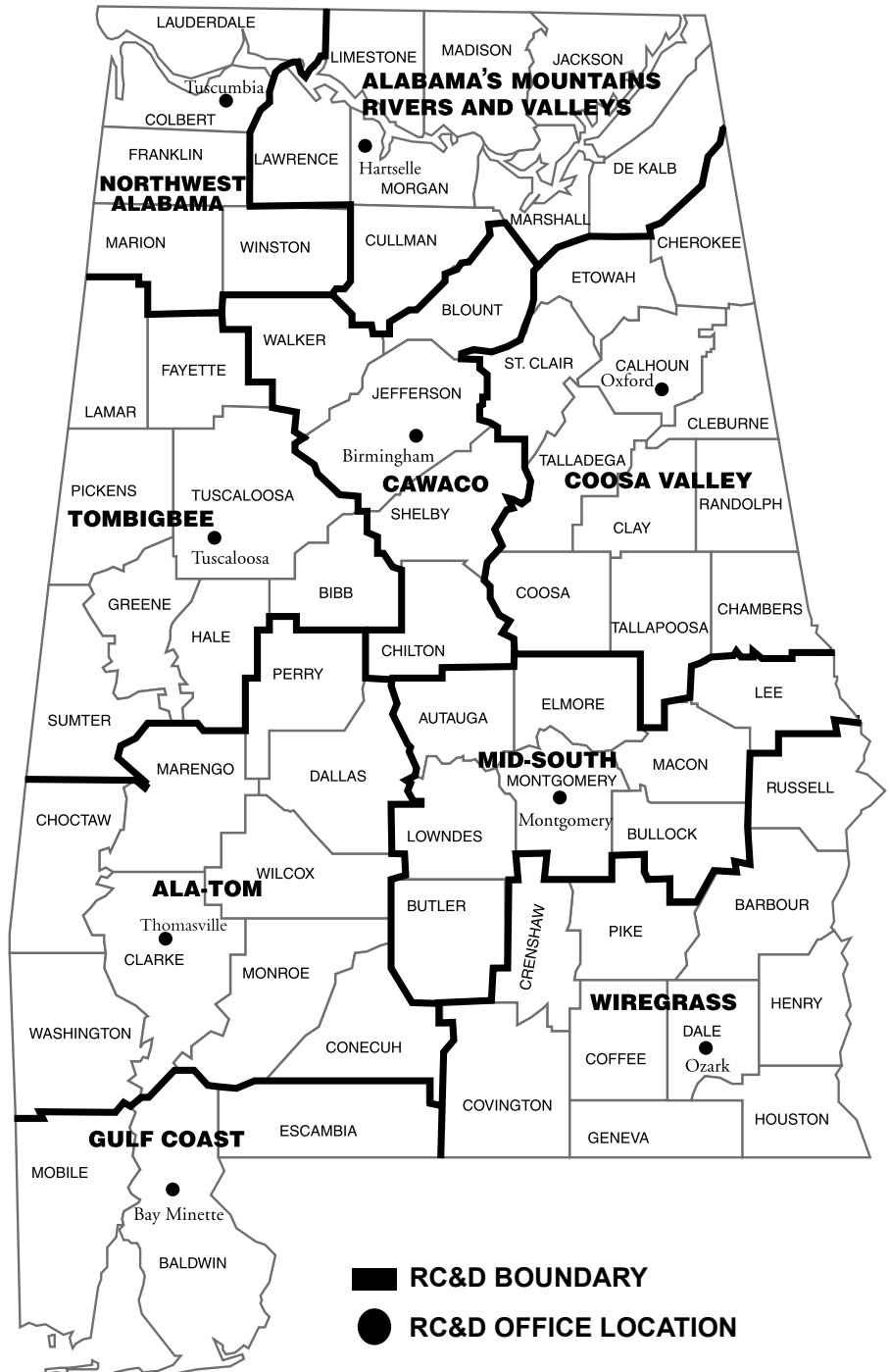
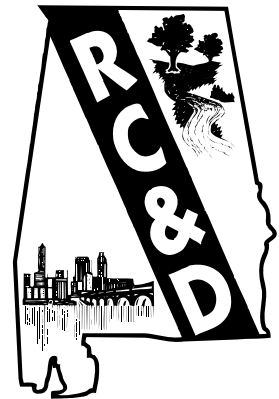


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and Development Councils*

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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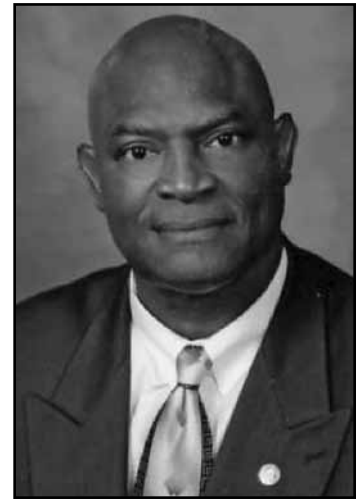
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year is going to be a very challenging one, but we have been in a position of this magnitude before. We will need every member to become involved in the process to make sure that our people in Washington, D.C. understand the need to make sure our budget is restored. Yes, RC&D in the State of Alabama is meeting each challenge it has before it. When we look at the projects that our councils have completed, we can see the hard work and dedication that has taken place in our communities. We, as RC&D members must continue to work even harder in the future to let our Congressmen know that without the one grain of corn, we will not be able to plant the seed to grow the stalk, to get the ear of corn so we can have the kernels to take to the market.

Nationally, we turn each dollar almost six times over; even more in the State of Alabama. It does not make sense for us to fight each year to get funding restored to a budget that does so much for its people. I want each of us to work to **make RC&D a Line Item in the United States Budget** so we can spend more of our time working on our projects. Regardless of what happens in Washington, I can see in the State of Alabama, council members getting the job done – one project at a time.

As your president, I am excited about the work that lies ahead -- for I know, we as Alabamians, we will not stop until we reach each goal we have set for our communities.

Johnny Flowers, Chairman



Nationally, we turn each dollar almost six times over; even more in the State of Alabama.

2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Johnny Flowers

Vice Chairman

Greg Glass

Secretary/Treasurer

Craig Sizemore

Program Manager

Vicky Mitchell



Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Accepting National Award for Council of the Year in Washington DC

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ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS 2009 PROJECTS

Alabama A+ Agricultural Biological - This project developed a biological collection and marketing component within Alabama A+ Agricultural Marketing Association in and around UAB at Birmingham, and Wallace State Community College at Hanceville. By addressing the potential market, expansion for by-products - i.e. blood, bone and soft-tissue - new life can be injected into farming communities and co-ops.

Cave Rescue Training - This project developed cave rescue training curriculum in coordination with the Alabama Fire College to educate a target audience of firefighters, other emergency responders and the general public. The educational activities include a single rope technique and basic cave rescue.

Inside Out Dropout Rate - The objective is to introduce rural Alabama students grades 6-12 to the realities of becoming a dropout; increasing awareness and stimulate discussion about life choices and consequences.

State Training for RC&D - The Association provided staff, coordinators and board members with financial strategies, non-profit management and insurance requirements for non-profits. The training covered QuickBooks, project documentation procedures, understanding financial statements, board member responsibilities, insurance and Roberts Rules of order.

Teachers Conservation Workshops for Continuing Education - This project consisted of two workshops' the first in Tuscaloosa and again in Auburn. Approximately 100 Alabama teachers participated in the summer workshops. Teachers learned about forest ecology, management and products through guest lectures, field trips and hands-on activities.

Coosa Valley RC&D won the national earth team award for the most volunteer hours. This picture was taken in Washington DC.



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 2009

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rodentown Community Center: Repairs to local community center. \$2,500. Completed.

Skirum Community Center: Repairs and maintenance to outside of community center. \$2,500. In Progress.

Mount Hope Weatherbug: Install a weatherbug at Mt. Hope School. \$4,100. In Progress.

Veterans Park: Install sod and bleachers at community park. \$15,000. In Progress.

Star Theater: Assist with renovations to historic theater. \$15,000. In Progress.

City of Courtland Museum: Assist with purchase of security system. \$15,000. In Progress.

City of Hillsboro Playground: Build a community park. \$30,000. Completed.

Arab High Welding Booth: Remove old asbestos welding booths and build new booths. \$10,000. Completed.

Sewer Upgrade Ider and Geraldine: Assist in the construction of sewage treatment facilities at local schools. \$30,000. Completed.

Wallace State Nutrient Recycle: Build a retention pond for recycling runoff at a nursery site. \$15,180. Completed.

GENERAL FUNDS

WaterWorks Infrastructure: Assist in the construction of WaterWorks building. \$3,500. In Progress.

Community Greenhouse: Build a greenhouse in Hartselle at community center to educate children and adults on raising plants. \$4,600. In Progress.

North Sand Mountain Park: Assist with construction of pavillion and facilities. \$2,400. Completed.

Meat Goat Demonstration: Establish a meat goat demo site. \$2,000. Completed.



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Vice-Chair
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Ruthie Jones

NRCS Coordinator
Mike Roden

Programs Manager
Renona Seibert

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Jay Grantland

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 Deanna Wilks

JACKSON

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 Kim Hammond
 Joe Howe
 Karen Jones
 Roger Jones
 Neil Long
 Peggy Long
 Jeff Pruitt

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



2009 Limestone County Waterfest students participate in 3 activities on water quality

Rope Rescue: Assist with the purchase of equipment used in rope rescues. \$4,600. Completed.

CASA Ramps: Assist with the building of wheelchair ramps for those in need. \$2,000. Completed

Lola Boyd Maintenance: Assist with the maintenance and utilities associated with the Lola Boyd property. \$2,000. Completed.

Cowford Campsite Sewer Project: Assist with the installation of a sewage system at Cowford Campground. \$2,000. Completed.

Newby Road Ditch Stabilization: Build check dams with rip-rap to slow water and mitigate erosion. \$2,600. Completed.

Mosquito Eradication: Eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitoes in rural Madison County. \$2,300. Completed.

Water Quality Monitoring: Assist in purchasing equipment used in monitoring streams. \$4,600. Completed.

Pavilion Echota Cherokee Tribe: Built to have a place for tribal meetings and classes on heritage. \$10,000. Completed.

Agriplex Building: Assist with the relocation and retrofitting of a donated building. \$14,000. Completed.

WaterWorks: Assist in construction of WaterWorks building. \$10,000. Completed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

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MORGAN

C.A. Blevins

Mary Elliot

Charlotte Hallmark

Doug Wigginton

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John Eason, Dekalb

Billy Stephenson, Jackson

Alma Whitlow, Lawrence

Jerrel Smalley, Marshall

Phyllis Seymore, Madison

Scottie Bolden, Small Towns

Brian Brown, Small Business

EDUCATION

Meat Goat Demonstration: Establish a meat goat demonstration project. \$3,000. Completed.

Wallace State Community College: Enhance curriculum of agricultural equipment maintenance. \$5,000. Completed.

Woodville Library pre-school: Program to prepare children for kindergarten. \$2,000. Completed.

Hands-On Environmental Science: Extend an advanced science curriculum to include environmental issues and to pilot the revised course of study. \$2,400. Completed.

Welding Class: Upgrade equipment in welding shop at the Arab High School. \$5,000. Completed.

FIRST Robotics: Purchase CAD/Modeling software and material for Robotics team. \$2,400. Completed.

Limestone Water Festival: Water quality program for 4th graders. \$2,000. Completed.

Community Greenhouse: Build a greenhouse at community center in Hartselle to educate children and adults on raising plants. \$4,400. In Progress.



Tim Scott conducting water quality monitoring

continued



Fischer Rope Rescue

ROPE RESCUE:

Assist with the purchase of equipment used in rope rescues. \$4,600.



2009 Teacher Workshop

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

Inner City Kids Meet the Outdoors: Increase student awareness of environmental science & environment. \$2,000. Completed.

Madison Co Drinking Water Festival: Hands-on educational initiative for 4th graders teaching importance of water quality. \$2,400. Completed.

Workplace Spanish: To prepare teachers and administrators to work more effectively with limited English speaking students. \$2,300. Completed.

Conservation Education: 3 part initiative to teach children the importance of agriculture and conservation in Cullman. \$4,400. Completed.

Gypsum Effects on Poultry Litter: Provide producers with information about BMP's that use gypsum as an amendment to improve soil quality. \$5,000. Completed.

Forestland Resource Users Education Program: Provide landowners with seminars on contract process of selling timber. \$10,000. Completed.

WaterWorks Wetlands: Construct outside wetland demonstration site to educate students on the benefits of Riparian zones and wetlands. \$15,000. Completed.



Hillsboro Community Park providing kids with activities that will relieve obesity and inactivity in a safe and secure atmosphere

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.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

The Council completed 35 projects in 2009, at a cost of \$1,375,025.

Butterflies for the Black Belt #515: The ALA-TOM RC&D Council provided \$6,885 from Educational funds, which were matched \$14,972 in local funds and in-kind service, for a total project valued at \$21,857.

Monroeville Outdoor Classroom Phase II #526: The Council provided a \$5,292 Educational grant to the Monroe County Extension Office for the Monroeville Intermediate School. The local organization provided \$5,300 in matching funds for a total project of \$10,592.

Water Resource Management Project # 548: The Council provided a \$10,000 grant to the Black Belt Research and Extension Center for research the proper use of tile drainage in relation to the producers of the black belt area. The partnership provided over \$21,590 in matching funds totaling \$31,590.

“Auntie Litter” Program #540: The council provided a \$1,500 grant for this live anti-litter presentation. The ALA-TOM, Choctaw County School Systems, and Choctaw County Extension Partnership provided \$5,255 in matching funds for a total project of \$6,755.

Clarke County HIPPIY Phase II #534: The Council provided a \$3,000 grant to HIPPIY, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters. This program uses parent educators to train the parents to teach kids fundamental skills. Matching grants and in-kind assistance brought the total program expense to \$230,457.

Monroe County Forestry Continuing Education Project #542: The Council provided a \$3,740 grant to help provide equipment for public education concerning forestry related activities. There was matching funds for \$21,087.69. The total project included over 60 instructors for a period of a week, during the FAWN (Forestry Awareness Week Now) Program for the schools in Monroe County. This project reached over 750 people for a total project amount of \$24,828.

Staples Bridge Canoe Access (Sepulga River) #485: The Council awarded a \$8,700 General Fund grant to the Conecuh County Commission to construct a concrete boat ramp providing good river access for small boats and canoes. There was \$18,197 in matching funds for the project.



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Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

Jerry Davidson

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Rhondel B. Rhone

RC&D Coordinator

Greg Dansby

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continued

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 Kenneth Johnson

CLARKE

Rhondel B. Rhone
 Charles M. Rotch
 Steve James

CONECUH

Leonard Millender
 Bridget Cain
 Lula Palmer

DALLAS

Johnny Jones
 Kristen Duke

MARENGO

Max Joiner
 Lex Parker
 Cindy Neilson

MONROE

Tim McKenzie
 Shannon Hall-Jones
 Jane Ellen Clark

PERRY

Albert Turner
 Charles Holmes
 Johnny L. Flowers

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Radford Bridge Canoe Access (Cahaba River) #442: The Council provided \$2,000 for a canoe ramp, matched by Perry County Commission. Total cost: \$42,488.

Pineywoods Birding Trail #469: \$5,000 was provided to the Southwest Alabama Regional Tourism & Film Office to establish a birding trail for Southwest Alabama connecting the Northern and Gulf Coast Birding Trails. Matching funds of \$126,500 were provided by Alabama Power, University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, and Southwest Alabama Regional Tourism & Film Office.

Gees Bend Quilt Mural Trail #506: The Southwest Alabama Regional Tourism and Film Office was awarded \$13,500 to construct a trail of the Gees Bend Quilts in Boykin. The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development partnered with the Council with a of \$25,000 making the total project \$38,500.

Heritage Tourism & Eco-Tourism Education/Development Project #535: The council provided a \$5,175 education grant to Perry County Chamber of Commerce. The City of Marion, University of Alabama, Perry County Chamber of Commerce and Vista Partnership provided \$9,770 to match. Total project \$14,945.

Grove Hill Pocket Park #474: The Council provided a \$5,000 grant to the Town of Grove Hill to help provide the citizens an open air (green space) non-smoking area to use during court sessions or as a place to enjoy lunch. The Town of Grove Hill provided \$7,240 in matching funds for a total project of \$12,240.

Alabama Scenic River Trail (ASRT) #499: The Council partnered with several other Alabama Councils to help promote the 365 miles of scenic water ways along the Alabama River. The Council awarded a \$4,925 grant to help with signs, brochures, guidebooks and other forms of communication to encourage tourism and recreation for the Alabama Scenic River Trail. This project helped to create one full time and 1 part-time job. The partnerships formed help raise over \$47,160 in matching funds for this project bringing the total of this project to \$52,085.

Outreach to Limited Resource Farmers/Sustainable Agriculture Program #467: The Council continued its contract with the Alabama State Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to conduct a program to increase awareness and accessibility of NRCS conservation programs to limited resource/ minority/small scale farmers in Alabama. The Council sub-contracted with seven community based, grass root organizations to deliver the program. About 1,694 farmers were reached and 43 workshops conducted. Project value: \$23,500.

Perry County Farmers Market #501: The Council awarded Perry County a \$5,700 grant for bathroom facilities, which was matched by the Commission with \$5,700 for a total project cost of \$11,400.

Arts, Culture, and Heritage Education Program #503: The Council partnered with Alabama Tombigbee Region and Black Belt Treasures to promote

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

WASHINGTON

Judge Charles Singleton
 Jerry Davidson
 Carl Simpson

WILCOX

Mark Curl
 McDuffie Stallworth
 Roberta Jordan

tourism as an economic medium. The Council provided a grant in the amount of \$5,000 and it was matched with in-kind for a total project of \$24,888.

Excel Skating Park Phase I # 555: The Town of Excel added a skating park for youth at Murphy Park. The council awarded a grant to the town for \$7,500. The town matched the grant and the total project was valued at \$15,000.

Black Belt Research & Extension Center Ag Activities Building #538: A \$50,000 Community Development Grant from the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils was secured, and matched by the Black Belt Research and Extension Center in the amount of \$52,112, for a total project value of \$102,112.

6 Hurricane Ivan Tree Replacement Grants #440, 449, 450, 451, 452, & 483: The Council and the Community Forester in cooperation with Auburn Extension Service help obtain and facilitate grants in the amount of \$64,821 for the cities of Excel, Evergreen, Jackson, Monroeville and Pine Hill to replant trees that had been lost after the hurricanes. The cities matched the grant with \$ 44,177 in donated or in-kind services. Approximately 563 trees were planted.

City of Selma Tree Assessment and Remediation #453: The Councils Community Forester Program wrote and facilitated a grant for the City of Selma for tree assessment and remediation. The total grant allowed for 1,649 trees to be assessed and 378 trees to be pruned. Grant total (including match) was \$62,514.56.

City of Monroeville Tree Assessment and Remediation #633: The Councils Community Forester Program wrote and facilitated a grant for the City of Monroeville for tree assessment and remediation. The total grant allowed for 73 trees to be pruned. The total funding of this grant (including match) was \$28,845.

Intergenerational Oral History Educational Project #528: The Council provided a \$4,000 educational grant to help collect oral histories of farm life in Wilcox County in the 1800-1905 eras. The grant was matched by the Southwest Regional Tourism and Film Office and by the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development with \$13,700 making the total project \$17,700.

Black Belt Treasures Arts Education Series (Art Alive) #523: The Council provided a \$9,695 education grant to promote Black Belt Treasures. The partnership of the Council, Black Belt Treasures, University of Alabama, and University of West Alabama provided \$13,520 in match for a project total of \$23,215.

Sardis After-School Tutorial/Summer Enrichment Program – Phase II #527: The Council provided a \$5,000 Education second phase grant for after school tutoring, homework help, and a seven week summer program. 30 students participated after school, and over 125 were in the summer program. Matching funds: \$11,106. Total Cost: \$16,106.



Opine Tallahatta Springs VED Phase I



Radford Bridge Cahaba canoe access

continued

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



Dallas County H.S, Read and Recover Project



Monroe County Forestry Continuing Education Project



Monroeville Outdoor Education Project Phase II

The Innovation Centre Entrepreneurial Training #528: The Council provided a \$12,000 grant which was matched by \$173,405 in grants from local sources to help develop a small business incubator and an entrepreneurial resource center. The \$185,405 project helped better the capabilities of the Center.

Washington County Public Library Adult Computer Education Classes #531: A \$4,000 grant was provided to the library to conduct free basic computer classes. Total project cost including matching funds and in-kind services: \$11,200.

Marion-Perry County Library Literacy Project –Phase I #536: The Council awarded the Marion-Perry County Library a \$5,000 grant to equip the library with assistant coordinators for Literacy. There were 57 children and adult participants in the Literacy program. The total of the project funds was \$10,693.77.

Wellness, A Choice for Healthy Living #539: The Council provided a \$5,000 grant, which was matched by \$5,110 from local sources, to help a community understand and stay healthy. Classes focused on improving health through changes in nutrition, physical activities and behavior. The total of this project was \$10,110.

Sowing Seeds of Hope Job Training Center Job Development Program #541: The Council helped the Sowing Seeds of Hope Organization with a \$10,000 grant to provide supplies to a job development center for the local citizens of Perry County. This grant helped over 65 minorities. Total project cost: \$12,028.

Community Outreach and Education for Black Belt Residents #546: The Alabama Rural Heritage Center was awarded a \$20,385 grant to provide diverse workshops and seminars to provide enrichment and education.

Wilcox Central Dual “E” College Prep Program #552: The Council awarded Wilcox Central High School a \$10,000 grant that allowed students to enroll in college prep classes during Junior and Senior high school. Total value: \$15,408.

Alabama Power Tree Funding Grant #553: The Community Forester helped three municipalities with projects to receive trees. The award was \$2,100 for the trees and local labor helped install the trees. The combined value is \$6,353.

Hurricane Katrina Tree Replacement Project #613: The Community Forester helped Thomasville, Chatom, Grove Hill, Jackson, and Thomaston with grants to receive trees to replace those destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The project was awarded \$72,279 in Federal assistance. The cities provided labor to plant the trees, a match of \$13,992 making the total project valued at \$86,271.

Monroe County Heritage Museum Education Outreach Program #556: This project helped educate students from Clarke, Choctaw, Conecuh, Butler, Baldwin, Escambia, Monroe and Wilcox Counties about the earlier lifestyles of the Native Americans on the Alabama River. The Council provided an award of \$9,000.

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL

Located in north central Alabama, the Cawaco RC&D Council serves the five following counties: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

First Teachers @ Home: First Teachers@Home was created to boost adult literacy through training parents to teach their children. Local “Parent Coaches”, high school graduates, are hired to teach parents (usually moms) a rigorous 28-week curriculum. They go into the homes of their families for an hour each week, and now also conduct weekly classes at partner centers. Project Total: \$21,001.



P.L.A.N.T: Preparing, Learning, Acquiring, Networking, Training:

Students from Life Skill Academy at Hewitt-Trussville High School, with physical, psychological, emotional and developmental limitations, were paired with older adults from the Assisted Living facility Oaks at Parkwood. Fifteen older adults between the ages of 60-90 interacted with thirteen

students (ages 14-21) throughout the course of the school year. Raised beds were constructed by the students at Life Skills Academy, and provide easy access for wheelchair-bound clients as well as seating for those who are unable to stand for long periods of time. Total Project: \$38,241.

Little Shades Creek Stream Stabilization: Little Shades Creek is located in a highly urbanized area in Vestavia Hills, Jefferson County Alabama. For over a decade the creek eroded at a rate of approximately 13 linear feet of soil per



Senator Jabo Wagoner, Representative Jack Williams and Representative Greg Canfield with Mayor Zargosa and the Ashleywood homeowners who live along Little Shades.

continued



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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First Vice-President

Joe Love

USDA Project Coordinator

Heidi Richards

Operations Director/

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- Paul McCaleb
- Sheila Baker
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- Robert Kelley
- Jamie Cates
- Corley Ellis

WALKER

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- Dennis Cooper
- Joe Love
- Keith Pike

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

year, taking soil, trees, and precious property downstream into the Cahaba River. With the help of Cawaco RC&D, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the City of Vestavia, Senator Jabo Wagoner, Representative Jack Williams, Representative Greg Canfield, The Nature Conservancy, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and others, approximately 1900 linear feet of eroded streambank is being restored, using the Rosgen method of Natural Channel Design. The vertical banks have been graded and will be planted with native plants to hold the soil. Additionally, rain gardens and bioswales are being designed to filter the stormwater runoff from the street and slowly release it back into the stream. Total Project: \$679,258.



Seed to Feed! Chelsea High School:

The greenhouse serves as a training area for the special education department, science department, economics classes and business classes. Special ed students grow a variety of hydroponic fruits and vegetables, as well as flowers. Objectives include all phases of plant propagation/production, salesmanship, financing, recordkeeping, organizing and supply ordering. Groups work on specific projects designed to make the greenhouse an economically sustainable project. Total Project: 16,780.18.



Oak Grove Memorial Park Walking

Track: To improve a public facility and increase community resources by constructing a walking track at Oak Grove Memorial Park. Total Project: \$24,419.18

Dallas-Selville V.F.D. Community

Activity Building: Volunteers from the Fire Department, the community at-large and Boy Scout Troop 159 will construct a 20'x40' open building with concrete floors furnished with picnic tables. The building will function as a public facility at the Dallas-Selville VFD. Total Project: \$10,000



Seed to Feed! Chelsea High School

Athletic Field Storm Water Drainage

Solution: SCHS Students and Faculty will design and construct a stormwater drainage solution for the SCHS football field. The project will provide technical training to students regarding storm water

runoff solutions and conservation management techniques. Total Project: \$10,000.

Royal Community Park Walking Track Restoration: Restore the Royal Community Park walking track in the rural community of Blountsville, AL by partnering with the Blount County Commission and hiring a private contractor to complete the work. Total Project: \$11,200.00

Brookside Campground Plan: Develop a primitive campground into a multi-use campground along Five-Mile Creek in Brookside, AL by sub-contracting to design and map the 23 acre park which is located in a floodplain and subject to ADA complaint facilities. Total Project: \$10,000.00

Nehemiah's Quest: Support the Nehemiah's Quest program to revitalize an area, teach community service and gardening by employing 50 youth to work with staff and volunteers to construct and maintain three gardens on vacant lots in the Rosedale Community. Total Project: \$87,500.00

Five Mile Creek Writing Contest: A writing contest on the subject of the natural and cultural history of the area for 3rd - 12th graders in the 5 Mile Creek Watershed will be conducted and a collection of the entries printed. Prizes and certificates will be awarded to participants. Total Project: \$2,655.00

Industrial Archeologists Field Guide To Coke Ovens: Produce the first draft of a 45 page book titled "Industrial Archeologists Field Guide to Coke Ovens and Steel Work of Central Alabama" with maps and graphics. Total Project: \$13,000.00

Water Chemistry Monitoring Kits: Purchase 14 water chemistry monitoring kits for students at Maddox Middle School and Walker High School to be used monthly in 6 outdoor science classes at Town Creek. Students will record the data for 9 months on the AL Water Watch Webpage. Total Project: \$55,590.00

Leeds Elementary Re-Leaf: Students, volunteers, city employees, and partner-agency staff will plan and implement the reforestation and landscaping of Leeds Elementary School including a classroom curriculum focusing on plant growth and the importance of trees. Total Project: \$14,000.00

Cawaco Agricultural & Science Enrichment Program: Conduct agricultural & science enrichment activities to elementary school students in 20 Birmingham, Jefferson County, Leeds, Fairfield, & Tarrant public schools by offering a selection of four programs and the student materials at no cost to the school. Total Project: \$18,000.

Pottery & Creative Writing In Walker County: Conduct pottery & cultural heritage courses with Jasper City & Walker County 4th Graders and conduct creative writing and story telling courses with Walker County 5th Graders. Total Project: \$16,175.



Above: Little Shades Creek before construction: Vertical, undercut banks.

Below: Little Shades Creek during construction. Same location as figure 1.

The banks have been graded and will be planted with native plants.



LITTLE SHADES CREEK:

Rain gardens and bioswales are being designed to filter stormwater runoff.

continued



*Minooka Park Lakeside
Learning*

MINOOKA PARK LAKESIDE

LEARNING:

*Youth and adults
learned of fishing
and the lake
eco-system.*

Biodiesel Powers Education At Calera High School: Teach students at Calera HS about current events, energy sources, biodiesel engines, how to make biodiesel fuel and test fuel quality and effectiveness; then apply their knowledge by requiring them to create presentations & test their fuel in competition. Total Project: \$15,375.00

Hire- Help In Reaching Through Aware: Establish a Shelby County AWARE office to develop resources for the aging workforce including: counseling, financial management education, employment database and market the availability of AWARE to clients and employers, educate employers and host a job fair. Total Project: \$42,950.00

City of Carbon Hill Playground Equipment: Old playground equipment will be removed, new playground equipment will be ordered and installed. Total Project: \$20,000.00

Town of Parrish 2009 Charger Police Vehicle: Purchase one new Dodge Charger Police Vehicle for the Town of Parrish Police Department. Total Project: \$20,611.00

City of Cordova -Police Department: Purchase a new police vehicle and computer equipment for the Cordova Police Department. Total Project: \$30,000.00

City of Oakman Baseball Complex Improvement Grant: Improve the safety and drainage at Oakman Little League Baseball Park by purchasing and installing new backstops and fences for the fields and a crushed red rock surface for the infield. Total Project: \$20,000.00

Town of Nauvoo Playground: Playground site preparation, purchase and install playground equipment for a public park facility. Total Project: \$20,000.00

Eldridge Town Hall and Community Center Project: Hire a contractor to restore the Junior High School Building as a Town Hall & Community Center by lowering the ceiling in the gym, painting the walls, and repairing the flooring, repairing the roof in the lunchroom and replacing the awning at the front walk. Total Project: \$20,000.00

Town of Kansas Playground Equipment: To purchase and install playground equipment as a public resource. Total Project: \$10,000.00

Minooka Park Lakeside Learning: Youth and adults learned of fishing and the lake eco-system. The participant developed an appreciation of aquatic recreation, learned the structure of the fish community, were taught the predator-prey relationship in the food web and learned to identify the various fish species inhabiting the lake. Total Project: \$11,938.52.

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Coosa Valley RC&D Council covers an eleven county area located in east central Alabama which includes 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 2009

Pleasant Grove Elementary School Physical Education Program:

Playground equipment improvement.

Pleasant Grove Elementary School Pre-K Program: The purchase of Pre-K teaching software.

West End High School Bank Stabilization: Critical area treatment for school grounds.

Carlisle Elementary School Walking Track: The installation of a walking track to help develop healthy habits and environmental awareness investigation.

Saving Our Environment One Schoolyard at a Time: The implementation of an outdoor classroom.

Woodland Little League Field: Improvements to the softball field.

Coosa Basin Facilitator: Identifying and addressing clean water issues.

Healthy U: An after school program that focuses on the development of physical activity and healthy lifestyle.

Nichols Walkway: Improvement of the walkway.



Oxford Elementary School received a \$3500 grant from the council to install a pond for kids which will be used as an outdoor lab. The self sustaining ecosystem was constructed in one day by the students, teachers, and over 300 parents and community volunteers

continued

2009 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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CHEROKEE

Melvyn Salter
John Garmon
Dewandee Neymann

CLAY

Ricky Burney
Earl Smith

CLEBURNE

Rex Nolan
Ashley Truett

COOSA

Anthony Thorton
Pete Rodgers

ETOWAH

Perry Gwin
Sharron Gross

RANDOLPH

Terry Lovvorn
Dean Wysner
Larry Raughton

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



L-R: Gerald Willis-Council Advisor, State Senator Marsh, Council Members-Ashley Truitt, Larry Raughton and Alton Hall are shown discussing the

FORT MCCLELLAN AGRICULTURE/CONVENTION CENTER PROJECT.

Hope Clinic: Assistance with the purchase of medical supplies, office supplies, and personnel for clinic.

Lake Martin Assessment: Assessment of the tourism potential for the area.

Alabama Conservation District Employees Association Training Conference: Assistance with the expenses for a training conference covering 67 counties.

Ponds for Kids: Installation of an outdoor ecosystem for outdoor education.

Ft McClellan Development Plan: Development of an agricultural center.

Talladega Community Gardening: The implementation of a plasticulture garden to teach children how to plant, tend, grow, harvest, and sell the produce.

Lineville Community Center: Improvements on the community center.

Boy Scout Camp Merit Badge Program: Teaching youth activities to scouts not able to attend otherwise.

Watershed Structure Improvement: Watershed structure improvement through mowing and debris removal.

Kids Kollege: Teaching a variety of cultural arts to youth such as drama, art, and dance providing them with the opportunity to explore and develop their skills.

Plasticulture Program: Providing seminars and demonstrations for potential plasticulture vegetable growers.

Pell City High School Archery Program: Identifying safe archery techniques.

Flagg Mountain CCC Cabin Restoration: The restoration of a cabin at the historical CCC park.

Alabama Scenic River Trail: Teaching safe canoeing techniques.

Sylacauga Grows: Implementation of a plasticulture garden that helps feed residents of a housing development.

Talladega Diversity Christian Center Receives \$3000 Grant To Expand Their Computer Lab. The Lab Will Be Used Teach Computer Classes To Adults And Students.



L-R front row: Rep. Steve Hurst, Diversity Christian Center Co-founders- Gwen and Sherman Green, and Sen. Jim Preuitt, Back Row: Eddie May-Coosa Valley RC&D Coordinator, Chris Simpson-computer tech, Tekeila Wood- computer science teacher; Thomas McDaniel- USDA District Conservationist; and Jay Watson-council member.

New Life for Women: Renovation of a building used for abused women's program.

State Land Career Development Event: Purchase of t-shirts for this agricultural event.

Teachers Conservation Workshop: To sponsor a teachers' attendance to provide continuing education in environmental education.

Growing Green: The development of an outdoor classroom.

Etowah County Baseball Field: The improvement and enlargement of a dugout.

Quality of Life Health Services: Building improvements.

Choccolocco Agricultural Field Day: Quilting, costume design, pie-making, poster contest and other activities focusing on the history of the Choccolocco community.

St Clair County 4-H Clover Classroom: One day workshop for kids ages 9-14 covering vermiculture, archery, sport fishing, GPS and geocaching.

Munford High School Outdoor Classroom: Installation of an outdoor classroom.

Clay County Arts Camp: Provides art experiences and formal instruction in painting, drama, dance, music, pottery and literature.

Children Advocacy Center Project: Renovations to structure to provide a facility for providing counseling and forensic investigations.

Forest Trees and Plants of Calhoun County: Establishment of a trail and placement of identification signs at base of common trees and shrubs in the forest.

Cherokee County Farm Field Days: Grades K-3 are presented with demonstration and farm animals with specific instructions from local farmers in an education with a hands-on affair.

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

ST CLAIR

Stanley Batemon
Perry Poe

TALLADEGA

Tony Haynes
Jay Watson

TALLAPOOSA

Frank Tapley
Clifford Meigs

Ft McClellan Agricultural Center: the Council seals the deal in acquiring property ownership from the Calhoun County Commission which will become the site of the new Agricultural Center which will feature a Botanical Garden, Museum, Learning Center and a USDA Service Center.





Randolph County Animal Shelter Soil Erosion Control Project: *The shelter received a grant from to stabilize gully and rill erosion around its newly constructed Animal Shelter in Wedowee. Pictured with the group State Representative Richard Laird and State Senator Kim Benefield.*

PLASTIC CULTURE PROJECTS

The council was successful in installing 21 plastic culture projects for students and small scale farmers.

Hokes Bluff Vocational Agriculture students install plastic culture with assistance from Jeff Colvin, Sharon Gross and Ken Howell.



COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Wedowee Walking Track: The establishment of a walking track to be used for leisure, recreation, physical fitness, education, bird watchers, and scouts.

Sardis High School Baseball Field Drainage: Critical area treatment for the ballfield.

Agriscience Program at Five Points Middle School: Teaching horticultural skills to students.

J.P. Powell Middle School Garden: Teaching students practical experience in the areas of soil and plant sciences.

Coosa Science and Technology Center: Critical area treatment.

Charles T. Porch Center Improvements: Construction of an outdoor stone patio.

Guide to Hatvchet and Weogufka Creeks of Coosa County: Development of a brochure that provides information about these creeks.

Williams Intermediate School Conservation Education Project: Development of a weather station to provide cross curricular activities for 6th grade students.

Ohatchee Elementary School: Schoolyard safety improvements.



Coldwater Elementary School Pond for Kids: *Students, teachers, community volunteers, PTO members and local merchants installed a Pond for Kids project that will be used as an outdoor classroom by the science classes. Shown are State Representative Steve Hurst, and council members Larry Raughton and Alton Hall along with students and teachers from the school.*

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 2009

Castlen Outdoor Learning Center: The Mobile County outdoor learning center will offer interactive environmental opportunities for students in grades K-5, literally at their “backdoor”. Addressing state course of study standards as well as complementing AMSTI unit activities, research and data collection, hands-on explorations and investigations will be supported by a thriving physical environment.

Water Conservation using Rain Catchment Systems: Mobile County landowners/homeowners will be aware of the environmental and economic importance of rain water harvesting system; including how to save money due to the reduction in the use of city water, reduce soil erosion and leaching of valuable minerals, maintain a supply of stored water that can be used in the dry season for irrigation.

Teachers Conservation Workshops: Provide Teachers from all over the state with continuing education and environmental education. University faculty, industry professionals and other workshop partners provide educators with the knowledge and materials they need to return to their classrooms prepared to teach students about topics ranging from forests and wildlife to water and fire.

Goodwill Easter Seals

Recycling Regattas: Monthly “Recycling Regattas” offer a convenient site for disposing of recyclable goods. This will make citizens of Mobile County aware of the importance of preserving our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Sixth Annual Baldwin County Water Festival: There are hands-on activities to teach students about coastal surface water resources and the effects of pollution on watersheds and the ecology. Students build a model watershed and explore different land uses and the potential pollutants which can result from storm water runoff. The Water Festival targets fourth grade students and teachers in Baldwin County.

Easter Seals Recycling Project



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Vice-Chairperson
Brenda Litchfield

Secretary
Otis French

Treasurer
Frank Nalty

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continued

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Randall Hastings
Frank Trione

ESCAMBIA

Frank Nalty
Nell Wiggins
Raymond Wiggins
Larry White

MOBILE

David Sessions
John Pafenbach
Darnisha McCants
Dr. Brenda Litchfield

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

Billy Smith
Tracy Sells

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Baldwin Catfish Roundup for the disabled



Baldwin Catfish Roundup for the Disabled: Persons with disabilities and the elderly confined to wheelchairs and/or homes enjoyed a day of relaxation and diversion from normal daily routine and enjoyed the great outdoors.

“High Tech Meets the Wetland”:

Baker High School (Mobile County) students use the latest technology to evaluate endangered ecosystem (isolated wetland). Students use Vernier Handheld Interface to study various parameters of the isolated wetland on campus, adjacent pond, and rainwater collection area.

Summer Aquaculture Camp: The Aquaculture program at Bryant High School (Mobile County) will conduct a summer aquaculture camp where student interns perform routine operations and new construction activities, conduct scientific studies and go on related field trips.

Trees for Atmore-A Community Tree Recovery: The citizens of Atmore, Alabama will be educated on the desirability of trees on private property in the community. The program will teach residents how to select, plant, place and care for well adapted and wind resistant trees on private property. There was a massive loss of the community’s trees during recent hurricanes.



Council Members

City of Creola Park Renovation: A community park was restored and enhanced in the city of Creola, AL. This will increase the opportunity for people to learn about fish in a stream, birds in their local area, or how to float a canoe on a creek. The site will be listed on the Birding Trails of Alabama—a site to enjoy peace and tranquility. Community residents can join their families and neighbors for outdoor physical activities.

EWP Workshop: EWP is a federal program for municipalities to receive cost-share assistance for protecting watersheds after rain or storm events. The workshop trained local officials on the EWP program guidelines.

Youth and Senior Fishing Day: This event provided an opportunity for young people to have an interaction with a caring adult, increase their knowledge and appreciation of outdoor activities, and lower their anxiety associated with an unfamiliar activity. Additionally, this event gives senior citizens a fun activity in Escambia County.

Odyssey's Shipwreck! Treasures from the SS Republic: This exhibit showcases artifacts from the wreck of the SS Republic, a Civil War-era steamship that played a major role in the Battle of Mobile Bay. It is a time capsule of our own rich heritage that will help promote tourism and support the educational curriculum of southwest Alabama.

Brewton Area YMCA Environmental Science Center: The center will re-forest trees and plantings lost due to past hurricanes and increase the educational and recreational benefits of the YMCA programs to the community. It will increase the accessibility of the Nature Trail for educational and recreational benefits to the community. This project will conserve the soil and water present on the property and conserve the indigenous species of plants and animals.

Mobile County Beach Restoration: This project will educate students on the role of beach vegetation helping prevent erosion. Students take field trips to Dauphin Island and plant sea oats on the public beach. Students gain first-hand appreciation of beach vegetation.



Castlen Outdoor Learning Center



Mobile County Beach Restoration

MOBILE COUNTY BEACH RESTORATION:

This project will educate students on the role of beach vegetation helping prevent erosion. Students take field trips to Dauphin Island and plant sea oats on the public beach. Students gain first-hand appreciation of beach vegetation.

continued

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



**ODYSSEY'S
SHIPWRECK!
TREASURES
FROM THE SS**

REPUBLIC: *This exhibit showcases artifacts from the wreck of the SS Republic, a Civil War-era steamship that played a major role in the Battle of Mobile Bay*

Outdoor Classroom Enhancement and Bioblitz: A one-day class was held to identify the plants and animals in the Outdoor Classroom. Students will learn how scientists work, how to handle plants and animals without damaging them or getting hurt, how many different organisms come together to create an ecosystem, how even the smallest form of life is unique and irreplaceable.

Celebrating 10 Years of Environmental Education: Turtle Point Environmental Science Center will celebrate their 10th anniversary on October 31, 2009. In keeping with the environmental education theme, invited presenters were Steve Trash, Eco-Illusionist and Kid Comedian; Reno's Reptiles; and Vicky Smith's Bats. Each of presenters engages the audience with educational and entertaining shows.

Water Quality Protection Education in Theatres: An animated educational message that will broadcast to theatre patrons in Baldwin County and will provide factual information about storm water, the damage to water quality and natural resources caused by polluted runoff and actions that citizens can take to prevent pollution. This message ran in Baldwin County RAVE theaters reaching thousands of moviegoers.

Wetland Management Seminar: The workshop addressed the complications that arise when managing and developing wetlands. Whether it is pond building, clear cutting or developing your land there are some serious regulations that land-owners need to be aware of when wetlands are involved.

Rosinton Elementary School Horticulture Lab and Composting System: This Baldwin County project provides an opportunity for the school to expand their gardens and grow their own plants. They will sell plants for funds to enhance the outdoor classroom and encourage community involvement.



*Rosinton School
Zakutney Kindergarten Class*

Suburban West Ball League is shown receiving RC&D check from Representative James Thomas



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

William A. Hodge

Vice Chairman

Jennifer Stringer

Secretary/Treasurer

Alma A. Bowen

RC&D Coordinator

Charlie McAlpine

Program Manager

Sharon A. Redd

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 2009

HIV & AIDS Education Program (Lowndes): To educate and train youths, 5th through 12th grade and adults about HIV/AIDS in the community. The council provided \$2,067.

Edgewood Tutorial Plus: Tutorial Program (Lowndes): To help improve academic achievement and social functioning for youths, K-12th grade in the Fort Deposit Community and surrounding areas. The council provided \$6,000.

Youth Leadership (Butler): The council provided \$9,100 in funds to provide youths between the ages of 14 to 18 the opportunity to develop on the job training skills.

Lee County Water Festival (Lee): To educate students and their families about all aspects of surface water and groundwater and its relationship with other related natural resources. The council provided \$1,500.

Autaugaville School E-Tech Initiative (Autauga): The council provided \$10,000 in funds to purchase computers to assist in teaching technology skills and increasing academic performance in the areas of reading and math of students K-12.

Fresh Start Youth Leadership Academy (Montgomery): The council provided \$6,500 in funds to assist a leadership program to bring together high school sophomores and juniors who represent the diversity of the population within Montgomery County and who share concerns for improving the quality of life in Montgomery County.

Healthy Children, Healthy Choices, Healthy Living (Autauga): To improve health and well-being of children while addressing the issue of childhood obesity. The council provided \$5,099.

Autauga County Farm City Week Youth Tour (Autauga): The council provided \$832 to assist with this event that help make youths become aware of the rich agriculture heritage of Autauga County.

Butler County Youth Workforce Development (Butler): The council provided \$18,726 in funds to assist with providing youths grade 9th through

continued

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 Sid Thompson
 Yvonne D. Thomas

BULLOCK

Dina Mason Moore
 David Padgett
 Ronald W. Smith
 John McGowan

BUTLER

Lewis Crenshaw
 Jennifer Stringer
 Phyllis Dantzler
 Jerry Hartin

ELMORE

Patty Lambrecht
 Gail Russell
 Ron Hilyer
 Earl Reeves

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



Residents of rural Alabama participate in eye screening. The program provides eye care, referrals and education in rural communities through a comprehensive intervention model.

12th with the opportunity to become leaders through training, volunteering, and development.

Lowndes County Youth Forestry & Safety (Lowndes): To inform fourth graders of the contributions forests make to the environmental quality. This project will also inform students about the economy of Alabama by the use of presentations and hands-on training during a field trip. The council provided \$1,500.

Elmore County 4-H Geocaching (Elmore): This project introduces students, age 9 to 19, to the many uses and benefits of Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The council provided \$2,900.

Town of Autaugaville Volunteer Fire Department (Autauga): The council provided \$4,800 in funds to assist with the purchasing of a generator for Autaugaville Volunteer Fire Department.

Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Department (Butler): The council provided \$4,855 to replace old radios and purchase a generator.

Searcy Volunteer Fire Department (Butler): The council provided \$2,035 in funds to assist in purchasing needed equipment.

Greenville Area Community Tennis Association (Butler): The council assisted the association in purchasing bleachers for the Beeland Park Tennis Facility in the amount of \$5,400.

Alabama A+ Marketing (SW Goat District): The council provided \$2,000 in funds to assist with holding pens for the farm raised animals produced by small farmers.

Fort Deposit Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): The council provided \$4,222 in funds to assist with the purchase of needed equipment for the fire department.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

MACON

Kathryn Story
 William Hodge
 Miles D. Robinson
 Jesse Fitzpatrick

MONTGOMERY

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

Restoring Green Infrastructure (Montgomery): The council provided \$10,000 in funds for the use of green infrastructure by installing 960 new street trees in the downtown area of Montgomery.

Redland Volunteer Fire Department (Elmore): To purchase a thermal imaging device that would save valuable minutes in locating victims and reducing the amount of time the firefighter is exposed to danger while searching for a victim. The council provided \$10,995.

Mid-South Website (Area): The council continues to update its website by providing \$1,800 in funds to better inform clients within the service area and abroad of the activities, goals, objectives and progress.

Butler County E-911 (Butler): The council provided \$2,000 in funds to help sustain the Butler County E-911 service.

Shiloh Computer Lab (Macon): The historic Rosendale School was provided \$4,222 in funds to assist with the installment of a heating and air system.

Alabama Energy Revolution Summit 2009 (Area): To assist with a one day conference addressing the Alabama energy crisis through education by leaders in innovation, technology, information and advancement in the field of renewable energy sources. The council provided \$5,000.

Repair Water Well #3 on Enon Road (Bullock): This community assistant grant assisted with the repair of well # 3 so that the 273 customers will be assured clean, fresh, quality water. The council provided \$20,000.



River Region Honor Flight



Autauga County Farm Week

continued

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

**DEVELOPING
LEADERSHIP
THROUGH
CONSERVATION**

The council employed two 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.

Return on Investment Study for the Alabama Network of Family (Area):

This community assistance grant measured the impact of resources leveraged to the community. The council provided \$10,000.

Alabama Sports Festival 27th Anniversary (Bullock): The council assisted with \$30,000 to provide community assistance funds to execute the opening ceremonies and related event activities.

Developing Leadership through Conversation (Area): The council employed two 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. Grant amount \$10,000.

Waugh Mt. Meighs Volunteer Fire Protection Authority (Montgomery): The council provided \$16,000 in community assistance funds to assist in purchasing needed equipment and insurance.

Adallum House Learning Center project in Elmore County – Christian home of children of incarcerated men and women.



Greenville Area Community Tennis Association receives grant to install new bleachers at Beeland Park

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL

The Northwest Alabama RC&D Council consists of five counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, and Winston. The Council is located in Tuscumbia.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

- Killen Fire Dept:** communication (radios) \$1,125.00.
- Hackleburg High School:** girls basketball program (workout area) \$1,000.00.
- Addison High School:** baseball facility improvements \$3,000.00.
- NACOLG Meal Delivery Program:** Meal Delivery program assistance \$12,740.00.
- Cherokee High School Envirothon:** Envirothon team competition assistance \$850.00.
- Rolling Riders:** Therapy for special needs through horseback riding \$2,000.00.
- Sweetheart Chestnut Tree planting:** Tree planting in memory of Shelby Grissom and Brad Barnwell \$57.00.
- Weather Radio Project:** Provided weather radios to the elderly and the disadvantaged in Franklin County \$9,760.00.
- Lovers Lane Public Park:** Equipment and improvements for park \$4,000.00.
- Town of Lexington:** Walking trail paving \$5,000.00.
- Colbert County Comm. Vector control:** Providing funding for control of mosquitos \$2,500.00.
- Double Springs Public Library:** Technology equipment for library \$3,000.00.
- Winston County Firefighters Assoc.:** Equipment for fire departments in Winston County Association \$8,000.00.
- LaGrange Living Historical Society:** Equipment for maintenance of LaGrange Park facility. \$1,200.00.
- Town of Twin (Twin Oaks Park):** Park improvements \$3,098.00.
- Franklin Co. Enviroth. & Cool Runnings:** Environmental education \$2,000.00.
- Russellville Head Start:** Upgrade to equipment \$6,000.00.



Andrea Gonzalez Domestic Violence Memorial

2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Roger Hayes
- Vice Chairman*
Howard Grissom
- Secretary/Treasurer*
Joel Pounders
- Member*
Don Barnwell
- Member*
Bill Taylor
- Member*
D. C. Thornton
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continued

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- 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

Art Mural Phase I: Working with students at the Colbert County Schools to draw education murals on Board of Education building \$6,400.00.

Kids Making Better Choices: Steve Richerson attendance to National RC&D meeting to present the Kids Making Better Choices DVD \$4,223.87.

AL A+ Marketing Association: Assist with food demonstrations at the local farmers market \$5,000.00.

Colbert county FFA AG Day: Colbert County schools AG Day \$1,919.00.

Imagination Library: Providing funding for books for pre-school children and teaching parents the importance of reading to small children \$5,000.00.

Assign-A-Highway: Program designed to use probationers for roadside litter removal in Winston Co. \$30,000.00.

Andrea Gonzalez Education Memorial: Memorial educating on domestic violence and a tribute to A. Gonzalez (small child never found) \$1,000.00.

Tractor Warning Signs FC Extension: Provided funding for tractor warning signs to be placed in rural areas in Franklin County \$1,600.00.

Art Mural Phase II: Working with local artist to design a mural of the 4-H 100th year celebration \$2,081.38.



Sweetheart Chestnut tree planting: In memory of Shelby Grissom, Franklin County

Senator Bedford Assign A Highway Press Conference



COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

- J. C. and Pat Holt
- Charlie Thompson
- George and Carla Hutto
- Donald Ezzell
- Dennis Davis
- Spruell Grissom
- James Bingham
- Gene Graham
- Bill Morrison
- Bill Kilpatrick
- Jimmy Gardner

Town of Arley: Provide funding for construction of a community baseball field \$10,000.00.

Town of Lynn: Provide funding for public restrooms at the City Park \$10,000.00

Red Bay High School: Provide funding for the community sign for the school \$10,000.00.

Red Bay High School: Provided funding for batting facility for softball team \$6,100.00.

Marion Co. Water Authority: Provide funding for extending water line in a rural area of Marion Co. \$15,000.00.

Winston County Commission: Provide a sound system in the courtroom at the Winston County Courthouse \$12,700.00.

Riverton Rose Trail: Provide funding for the construction of the park pavilion \$5,000.00.

Mills Shavings & Mulch: Provide technical assistance to review options for rural business expansion N/A.

ALAG A+ Cooking Demo

J. C. Holt and Charlie Meek



continued

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

**OKAKAPASSA
FESTIVAL:**

*Provided funding for
the annual Native
American Festival
held in Colbert Co.
\$5,000.00.*

Okakapassa Festival: Provide funding for the annual Native American Festival held in Colbert County. \$5,000.00.

Town of Hodges: Provide funding for the Spirit of Hodges Festival \$5,000.00.

Killen Livestock: Provide technical assistance to plan an On-Farm composting system and rainwater collection N/A .



Okapassa Festival

Envirothon 09



TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL

The Tombigbee Council covers the following eight counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter and Tuscaloosa and is located in Tuscaloosa.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2009

On-Site Wastewater Disposal Training Center 08 (Area Wide): The Council continues to support the Training Center through technical and financial assistance. In 2009 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 2009 was \$160,000.

Nature Trail, Arboretum and Outdoor Classroom 08-09 (Pickens): Started 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 \$55,000.

Historic Northport Bridge Restoration 09 (Tuscaloosa): This historic bridge is 1 of only 2 in the Southeast. A coalition of partners including public and private sources has begun the process of restoring, moving and relocating the bridge to a site in the Northport Historical Park. This is a multi-phased project which will last for several years. FY 09 Project Value \$70,000.

Black Belt Heritage Development Institute Initiative 09 (Area Wide): This is an initiative to focus attention to Alabama's Black Belt. Committees have organized, issues identified to be addressed 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 a working group consisting of local landowners, 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 09 (Area Wide): Continued development of an Agricultural Marketing Cooperative through a diverse partnership including Alabama Department 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. Project Value \$50,000.

Alabama Forestry Camp 09 (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.

This historic, dog-trot house was moved onto the campus of the University of West Alabama in Livingston. This home represents an opportunity to recognize a unique style of architecture while providing an expansion of the Black Belt Center, adding additional classroom space and an outdoor educational space that focuses on the native plants of the Black Belt.



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Don Sherrod

Vice-Chairman
Craig Sizemore

Secretary/Treasurer
Farrington Snipes

Coordinator
Vacant

Program Assistant
Susan Wesson

OFFICE LOCATION
Tuscaloosa County
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Phone: 205.469.6463
Fax: 205.345.9580
www.tombigbeercd.com

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BIBB

Al Green
James Martin
Joe L. Owings

FAYETTE

John Gordon
Owen Sweatt
Wayne Meherg

GREENE

Tennyson Smith
Willice Lashley
Earlean Isaac

HALE

Leland Avery
Tommy Martin
Open

LAMAR

Johnny Rogers
Craig Sizemore
Harold Jordan

PICKENS

Willie Colvin
Don Sherrod
Dr. Linda Forte

SUMTER

Anthony Crear
Micky Smith
Richard Holland

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Science Olympiad 09 (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.

Tri-State Rabbit Growers Association Assistance 09 (Area Wide): The TSRGA was provided assistance with program development, grower development, processing, storage, and marketing. Project value \$100,000.

Greene County Economic Development (Greene): Greene County continues to develop a center for students and citizens to utilize for job searches and job skill development. Project value \$45,000.

Auntie Litter 09 (Bibb): Provided litter education to students in Bibb County schools. More than 300 students and faculty were impacted. Project value \$3,000.

Succeed – Hubbertville School (Fayette): The school used funds to purchase online subscriptions printable books, purchased computer supplies, and materials for elementary school students to enhance their reading skills. These materials were used by special education teachers to assist special needs children. Other advanced teaching materials were purchased and an additional 200 K-12 students were involved in the program. More than \$35,000 in cash and in-kind donations were added to the grant to give a total project value of \$42,000.

HEARTS (Helping Each Achiever Read to Succeed) (Fayette): Funding allowed the program to purchase 437 books and encyclopedias. This project helped 285 K-12 students who currently read below their class reading level. Value \$18,000.

Technology is the Way – Moundville Elementary (Hale): Moundville Elementary has implemented a program to improve the utilization of technology in the classroom. Students are exposed to new technologies and get hands on experience in their use. Project value \$22,000.

Clean Water Partnership 09 (Area Wide): Tombigbee RC&D has provided area wide leadership to the clean water partnership by funding a facilitator for the Tombigbee River bank erosion task force and hosting public forum meetings to assure public input and involvement. Project value \$125,000.

Carrolton Outdoor Classroom and Schoolyard Habitat 09 (Pickens): The outdoor classroom was designated as a Certified Alabama Outdoor Classroom. It involved more than 225 students and teachers in outdoor education, aquatic ecosystem development and educational plantings. Project value \$85,000.

Sumter/Marengo Water Festival 09: More than 600 students, faculty and volunteers participated in the one day event at UWA. Students learned about the earth's ecosystems and how to protect it. Project value \$8,000.



More than 125 students and community volunteers have helped develop an outdoor classroom which includes a butterfly garden, arboretum, greenhouse and a large water feature complete with fish and aquatic plants.

Six Mile Community Park Health and Wellness Facility (Bibb): The Park's board of directors added facilities and equipment to expand the health and wellness opportunities of the park for area citizens. Exercise equipment was purchased and installed to provide greater opportunities for the aging population of the area to maintain optimum fitness levels. Project value \$18,000.

Historical Preservation – Stewart Community House (Hale): The Stewart Community House is being relocated to Greensboro as a historical building for use by area historians. The facility will be replaced by a new pavilion for use as a community center. Total project value \$125,000.

Lamar County Courthouse Square – Seat Wall Rehab. (Lamar): The Lamar County Courthouse has a historical wall around the square which has served as a gathering place for decades. The sitting wall, as it is known, is where area citizens wait to enter the courthouse to “do business” and rest during long summers. Funding was provided to the Lamar County Commission to repair the wall. Many other areas of the courthouse were repaired and updated, too. Project value \$85,000.

Sapps Community Center Recreational Program (Pickens): Funds were used to construct handicapped accessible sidewalks with ramps. Project value \$10,000.

Taylorville Baseball Program Field Improvement Project (Tuscaloosa): Funds were provided to improve the Taylorville baseball field and upgrade equipment. Project value \$16,000.

Hillcrest A.S.A. Improvement Project (Tuscaloosa): Funding was provided to upgrade and improve the softball program. Project value \$4,500.

Hurricane Creek Park 09 (Tuscaloosa): Tuscaloosa County Commission has purchased a 250 ac. Tract of land on Hurricane Creek and asked Tombigbee to serve on the task force to develop it as an environmentally friendly recreation area. The area has significant aquatic and historical attributes. Project value \$450,000.

Special Day for Special Kids 09 (Tuscaloosa): Approximately 30 special needs individuals and over 50 volunteers participated in a riverboat ride on the Warrior River to observe river front activities and be exposed to water issues. Value \$15,000.

Black Belt Heritage Dev. Institute Workshop 09 (Area Wide): The Black Belt Heritage Development Institute developed a citizen input training program to promote conservation and preservation of historical resources in the Black Belt region. The University of West Alabama houses the Institute. Project value \$90,000.

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

TUSCALOOSA

Hardy McCollum

Neil Hyche

Farrington Snipes



Approximately 30 special needs individuals and more than 50 volunteers participated in a riverboat ride on the Warrior River to observe river front activities and be exposed to water issues.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

**BLACK BELT
HERITAGE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE:**

*Developed a citizen
input training program
to promote conservation
and preservation of
historical resources in
the Black Belt region.*

4-H Program (Fayette): Funds provided helped conduct 4H club meetings in 3 county schools. Youth were taught about wind and solar power, aerospace, entomology, natural resources, physical fitness, arts and crafts. Students were encouraged to use this knowledge to develop skills to compete in contests such as public speaking, bicycle skills, food demos, woodworking, etc. This project serves approximately 700 youth each month through in-school 4H programs. Project value \$22,000.

Brent/Centerville Public Library Improvement (Bibb): Improvements to facilities were funded through a general fund grant. The funds were used to update portions of the library to provide better and safer access. Project value \$18,000.

Biodiesel Display at Frog Level Festival (Fayette): This classroom on wheels display was used to educate farmers and ranchers on alternative fuel solutions that might offset current high fuel cost and help protect the environment. Value \$1,000.

FCMP Complex – Sound System Enhancement (Fayette): The sound system at the Fayette County Multi Purpose facility was upgraded to a level usable by groups for events requiring better sound quality. This upgrade will allow more use for educational and community events as well as increase the ability of the county to rent the facility to interested individuals and groups for community events. Project value \$43,000.

Agri-science Video Library (Lamar): Additions were made to the educational video library of the Lamar County Agri-science department. These videos will be used to better educate and prepare students for the working world. Value \$17,000.

Sapps Technology Enhancement (Pickens): Six laptop computers were purchased for use by underserved students in the Sapps community. Value \$8,000.

Englewood Technology Initiative (Tuscaloosa): Englewood school used funds provided by Tombigbee RC&D to improve their reading program through increased technology. Wireless interactive White Boards, DLP projectors, cameras and interactive wireless student response systems were components of the teaching enhancement system developed. Project value \$95,000.

Black Belt Gardens (Sumter): The city of York used these funds to develop an index garden that acts as a hub for project activity, satellite gardens for individual residents and edible townscapes are all components of this project. Value \$5,000.



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 2009

Barbour County Youth Leadership (Barbour): WRC&D provided a grant of \$2,500 to the Barbour County School System to provide selected students with training in the operation of local and state government and economic development. Students will be exposed to information which will prepare them for leadership positions. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$5,000.

Clayton Playground and Nature Trail (Barbour): WRC&D provided a grant of \$2,700 to the town of Clayton to develop an area behind city hall to be used as a playground and nature trail. Conservation and community development objectives were met and the aesthetic appeal of Clayton was improved.

Shorter Mansion Conversion (Barbour): WRC&D provided funds to the Eufaula Heritage Association to convert an old plant house into restroom facilities. This historic building hosts over 15,000 visitors per year and was in desperate need of additional restrooms for tourists. WRC&D allocated \$5,400 toward this project.

First Love Community Park (Barbour): WRC&D provided funds to the First Love Community Outreach Ministries Heritage Association to improve their existing park. These improvements were needed to enhance the recreational opportunities for the community. WRC&D provided \$2,700 toward this project.

Coffee County Soil & Water Education (Coffee): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Coffee County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist with the District's various educational hands-on activities for the county's elementary schools. These activities emphasize the importance of agriculture and conservation of our natural resources. WRC&D allocated \$3,600 for this project.

Handicapped Walkway (Coffee): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the town of Kinston for the purpose of constructing a handicapped walkway at the city's baseball fields. This walkway has opened the fields to the disabled. WRC&D allocated \$1,800 toward the cost for the project.

Coffee County Classroom in the Forest (Coffee): WRC&D provided funds to the Coffee County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist two programs to increase the participants' understanding and appreciation of private land ownership and the role landowners play in the economic and environmental

Lakewood Elementary was given a grant to add an aquaponic system to their campus and hydroponics system to the greenhouse.



2009 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Greg Glass

Vice Chairman
Gilmer Grant

Secretary/ Treasurer
William Parker

RC&D Coordinator
Randy Martin

Administrative Coordinator
Deborah Childree

Administrative Assistant
Judy Sheffield Crowe

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Wiregrass RC&D Council
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Ozark, AL 36360
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Cell 334.380.2094
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continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BARBOUR

Anne Adams
 Earl Gilmore
 Patrick McDougald
 Carol Threatt

COFFEE

Al Britt
 Gilmer Grant
 Mike Newman
 Dean Smith

COVINGTON

Darren Capps
 Bragg Carter
 Bobby Jackson
 Wayne Reynolds

CRENSHAW

Pat Folmar
 Ronnie Hudson
 Benjie Sanders
 Troy Hudson

DALE

Derek Brewer
 Thomas Kirkland
 Kurt McDaniel
 Estus Walker

GENEVA

Steve Dunn
 Larry Everett
 Roy Powell
 T. Louis Register

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

future of Alabama. WRC&D allocated \$900 for this project.

Opp City Schools Softball Field (Covington): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Opp City School System for the purpose of constructing a new softball field. This facility provided female athletes with equitable access to recreational activities. WRC&D allocated \$5,400 toward the cost for field.

Covington County Expanded Outreach Program (Covington): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Covington County SWCD to present a series of programs on the importance of water to fourth grade students. WRC&D allocated \$3,902 toward the cost of these programs.

Crenshaw County 4-H Program (Crenshaw): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Crenshaw County Extension Office for the purpose of funding a part time 4-H Agent Assistant. The 4-H program helps develop skills in leadership, conservation and natural resources for students ages 9 through 18. WRC&D allocated \$6,000 toward the cost of this program.

Crenshaw Courthouse Lawn Renovation (Crenshaw): WRC&D provided a grant of \$7,703 to the Crenshaw County Commission to renovate the courthouse lawn. This project reduced erosion and maintenance costs.

House Demolition – Ozark (Dale): WRC&D provided \$1,800 to the City of Ozark for the purpose of demolishing dangerous and unsightly houses. This grant benefited the citizens by making Ozark more pleasant and a safer place to live.

Echo Fire Department (Dale): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Echo Fire Department to plant shrubs, flowers and other grasses and sod to stabilize their property. WRC&D allocated \$1,800 toward the cost of this project.

Recycling Bins (Dale): WRC&D provided a grant of \$945 to the City of Ozark for the purchase of additional recycling bins. The objective of the project is to increase participation in the city’s curbside recycling program.

New Hope Cemetery (Dale): WRC&D provided a grant of \$2,475 to the New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery Committee to install an erosion control structure. This structure stabilized an area at the lower side of the cemetery which was eroding from runoff from the cemetery.

Well For Life (Dale): WRC&D provided a grant of \$4,500 to the Dale County High School FFA to install a well. The well will be used to furnish water for hog shows and sales. The water will also be used to irrigate blueberry trees, Satsuma oranges and other plants for horticulture activities.

2009 Dale County Ground Water Festival (Dale): WRC&D provided funds to the Dale County Extension System to present a Ground Water Festival to area students and teachers. The festival helps to educate fourth graders on ground

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

HENRY

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

HOUSTON

Mark Culver
 William Holman
 Jared Forrester
 Bobby Snellgrove

PIKE

Herb Huner
 Roy Kendrick
 Russell Oliver
 Homer C. Wright

RUSSELL

Ben Bowden
 J. W. Brannen
 Greg Glass
 Johnny Robinson

water, by holding a field day to expose, educate and demonstrate water quality management. WRC&D allocated \$900 toward the cost of the event.

Geneva Erosion and Drainage (Geneva): WRC&D provided \$5,400 to City of Geneva for a drainage project in a residential section of the city. The project enhances community safety by alleviating road hazards caused by water runoff from commercial development.

Henry County Ground Water Festival (Henry): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Dale County Extension System to present a Ground Water Festival to area students and teachers. The festival helps to educate fourth graders on ground water, by holding a field day to expose, educate and demonstrate water quality management. WRC&D allocated \$900 toward the cost of the event.

Henry County 4-H Program (Henry): WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Henry County Extension Office for the purpose of funding a part time 4-H Agent Assistant. The 4-H program helps develop skills in leadership, conservation and natural resources for students ages 9 through 18. WRC&D allocated \$1,800 toward the cost of this program.

Community Crime Watchers Program (Henry): WRC&D provided a grant of \$25,000 to Headland Police Department to equip patrol cars with video recording equipment. These cameras will help insure the safety and professionalism of the officers and help with prosecution of criminals.

Environmental Club (Houston): WRC&D provided financial assistance to Landmark Park to sponsor a new environmental club. This club will meet monthly after school at the park for some type of science or nature related speaker or activity. WRC&D allocated \$1,800 toward the cost of this project.

Road Improvements (Houston): WRC&D provided funds to Landmark Park to renovate the entrance to their park. WRC&D allocated \$2,700.

Dig It, Secrets of Soil Poster Contest (Pike): WRC&D provided a grant of \$540 to the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District to sponsor a poster contest for students. The project enables children to become more aware of the important role soil plays in their daily lives.

Road Ditch Stabilization (Pike): WRC&D provided funds to the Pike County Commission to stabilize ditch banks in Pike County. By repairing the erosion on the road it will again be safe for general public transportation. WRC&D allocated \$7,933 toward the cost of these improvements.

Pike Cattleman Complex Projector Screen (Pike): WRC&D provided funds to the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase a projector screen for the Pike County Cattlemen's Complex. The screen will be

continued



Headland Police Dept. was awarded a \$25,000.00 grant to install cameras in all police cars. These cameras will help insure the safety and professionalism of the officers and also help with prosecution of criminals.



The Dale County Extension System presented a Ground Water Festival to schools in the Dale County and City school systems. The festival helps to educate and demonstrate water quality management.



Recycling bins were provided to Lisenby Elementary school to encourage students to recycle at school and home.

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

used to educate youth and adults on livestock, agriculture and energy subjects. WRC&D allocated \$540 toward the cost for the screen.

4-H: 100 Years of Conservation Education (Pike): WR&D provided financial assistance to Pike County Extension Office for presenting programs in conservation of natural and human resources to 4-H club members. WRC&D allocated \$4,320 toward the cost of implementing these programs.

Beyond the Soil (Russell): WRC&D provided financial assistance to Lakewood Elementary to add an aquaponic system to their campus and a hydroponics system to the greenhouse. Students will have the opportunity to compare the growth of plants inside the greenhouse, outside the greenhouse, plants grown with aquaponics, hydroponics and those with soil enriched by worm casings. WRC&D allocated \$1,800 toward the cost of the project.

Capacity Building (Area-Wide): This project helped to educate volunteer members in the basic management principles of a non-profit RC&D Council. WRC&D hosted the 2009 Alabama Association of RC&D Councils annual meeting. Quarterly meetings and other workshops were provided to council staff and members to increase the productivity of the Wiregrass RC&D Council. WRC&D allocated \$12,150 toward the cost of this project.

Public Education Workshops and Seminars (Area-Wide): WRC&D conducted a series of public forum workshops to educate the general public on natural resource matters including, but not limited too, forestry and water. WRC&D funded this project at \$5,130.

Choctawhatchee River Restoration (Ongoing Area-Wide): WRC&D partnered with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and local landowners to restore stream banks along the Choctawhatchee River where stream bank erosion has negatively impacted spawning sites of the gulf sturgeon. Funding for this project has been provided by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program as administered by the USF&WS.

Conservation Innovation Grant (Ongoing Area-Wide): WRC&D has partnered with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama Cotton Commission, Cotton, Inc. and local landowners to demonstrate the effects and incentives of high residue and legume cover crop conservation tillage systems within the Wiregrass area. Funding for this project has been provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils prohibits discrimination 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
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Decatur, AL 35601-0810

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

