



South Carolina's Current Developments

*Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation
Helping People Help the Land*

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

April/May 2006

From the Office of the
State Conservationist
Walter W. Douglas



Dear NRCSErs:

In early March, District Conservationists were asked to spend two days in Columbia with the State Leadership Team. The idea behind this meeting was twofold. First, we wanted to hear the concerns of field staff, and secondly, we asked for solutions on how to make their jobs run smoother and aid them in being more efficient. According to the participants, the meeting was a success. Many of you informed me that this one of the most valuable meetings you have attended, and requested similar sessions on a more regular basis. As a result of the feedback from the meeting, the State Leadership Team created an action plan based on the issues discussed and the solutions proposed.

It is important that we continue to hear from field staff, because communication is important to the work that we are faced with each day. I know that the field staff is faced with daily challenges and deadlines, but I am confident that you will continue to accomplish the impossible. I've seen the results of your work as I travel our beautiful state, and I'm extremely proud of your accomplishments. I hope that you are as well.

In this issue....

- ◆ **Partners for Trout Update...pgs. 2-3**
- ◆ **EQIP Success in SC.....pgs.4-5**
- ◆ **SC's Peach Capitalpg.6**
- ◆ **SWCS Maxwell Scholarship.....pg. 8**
- ◆ **SC Employee Recognized by NWTF.....pg.9**
- ◆ **New NRCS Employees.....pg. 10**
- ◆ **Photo Contestpg. 11**

photo by Lance Brewington, York County NRCS

Notes from the Field



NRCS Presents Young Farmer Award

John F. Cuttino of Cope, SC (Orangeburg County), was presented with the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association (SCYFAA) Conservation Award. He received the honor in January during the annual meeting of the SCYFAA in Hilton Head, SC. The award, sponsored by USDA-NRCS in cooperation with SCYFAA, was presented by NRCS Soil Conservationist Bethel DuRant. Cuttino was past president of SCYFAA and a member of the Edisto Chapter.



John F. Cuttino (left) received the 2006 SCYFAA Conservation Award from Bethel DuRant, NRCS Soil Conservationist.

SCYFAA is a state organization for out-of-school young people who are engaged in agriculture. It is also designed to aid interested adults through systematic and organized educational programs on agriculture and agribusiness.

For more information, contact John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with SC Future Farmers of America (FFA), at 803-771-0520.

Partners for Trout Reconstructs Floodplain to Protect Rare Trout Waters

Partners for Trout recently completed a half-mile of stream restoration on the Little Eastatoee in northern Pickens County, SC. According to NRCS Soil Conservationist Ross Stewart, "The flood plain was reconstructed utilizing a technique never before used in South Carolina."

The restored section of the Little Eastatoee was entrenched (the channel was degraded), meaning there was no out-of-bank flow. "When a creek is allowed to spill over its bank and out into the flood plain, the velocity of the water is slowed which amounts to a decrease in stream bank erosion," explained Stewart.

During the planning stages of this project, proposed flood plains were staked out at strategic locations. Then, during the construction phase, they were hollowed out to become functioning flood plains. The elevation of the new floodplains (also referred to as benches) was constructed such that during a one and a half year storm, the creek will be able to flow out onto the flood plains.



The downstream side of the newly constructed flood plain was planted to hardwood tree seedlings which are protected by plastic tubes that act like a greenhouse.

Hardwood tree seedlings will also be planted along both sides of the creek to establish a riparian area. The riparian area will slow down the water during storm events, and shade the water, thereby reducing thermal pollution (one of the biggest pollutants in trout waters).

NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Hollis Berry explained, "Whole tree revetments, root wads, rock hooks, rock cross vanes and in-stream boulders are additional stream restoration practices that were used for this project." He also said the project involved five landowners and cost \$139,000.

"Trout streams appear in only a small portion of a three county area in South Carolina. It's an important 17 million dollar fishery to the local economy," said Berry.

Partners for Trout is a coalition comprised of the Pickens, Greenville and Oconee Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's), US Fish and Wildlife Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, Trout Unlimited, landowners and the Foothills Resource Conservation & Development Council. The group is committed to restoring and enhancing the 250 miles of trout streams in South Carolina.

SC Businessman Donates \$100,000 to Partners for Trout

Pickens County businessman Jim Anthony, founder of the *The Cliffs Communities*, donated \$100,000 to the Foothills RC&D Council. The money is earmarked for a project on Lake Chilly Waters at Camp McCall, a boys camp for the South Carolina Southern Baptist Convention. The money will be used to enhance a *Partners for Trout* project intended to improve water quality in the Reddy Cove Creek below the lake.



Foothills RC&D Chairman Susan Guynn (left) presented Jim Anthony with a Partners for Trout hat. Anthony donated \$100,000 to the Foothills RC&D Council, which is earmarked for a project on Lake Chilly Waters at Camp McCall.

“This project will make a huge impact during the summer months when the sun heats the lake water temperature in excess of 70 degrees. Most trout can only survive in water below 70 degrees,” explained Dan Rankin, SCDNR fisheries biologist.

“This area has been very good to *The Cliffs*, and basically what we’re selling is clean water and a pristine lifestyle, so it’s only natural to that we should protect it,” said Anthony.

Foothills RC&D Chairman Susan Guynn said that because Lake Chilly Waters is shallow, there is very little stratification, or layers of water composed of different temperatures. “That’s why we were not able to use the typical bottom water release structures used on other lakes in the Upstate,” she explained.

NRCS Engineer Eddie Martin and Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Engineer Gene Dobbins (North Wind Consultants) devised a complex cold water discharge system. The system included an 18-inch pipe tied into the existing principle spillway and buried under ground. The buried pipe continues 1,600 feet under the lake and surfaces in the free flowing Reedy Cove Creek to pick up the cold water. This pipe will pass the cold

water mountain stream under the lake and release it downstream of the dam. Two other streams will be left untouched to feed the lake.

“Water conditions in Reedy Cove Creek will return closer to the natural conditions, and start the healing process,” said Rankin.

By late 2006, Reedy Cove Creek in the Jocassee Gorges in northern Pickens County is expected to be a prime waterway for trout, thanks to *Partners for Trout* and Anthony.

Plant Identification Training Session



May 16th

Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve
in McCormick County

May 18th

Mount Pleasant Plantation
in Georgetown County

*Both sessions are from
9:00 am-3:00pm*

Dr. Norman Melvin, NRCS Central National Technology Support Center Wetland Team Leader, along with South Carolina NRCS State Resource Conservation staff, will lead the sessions.

For more information, please contact
NRCS Wildlife Biologist
Dick Yetter at (803) 253-3948
or dick.yetter@sc.usda.gov



Catawba Indians Protect Acreage with EQIP

Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

The simplistic beauty of nature has inspired artists, poets and songwriters for centuries. Whether it's the smell of fresh earth or beautiful scenic views, avid nature lovers and hikers are busy year-round exploring the wonders of the great outdoors. While there is no doubt farming remains a necessary and beneficial use of the land, Mother Nature can be just as productive, when not altered, by providing tranquility, peace and recreation. With this in mind, Chief Gilbert Blue of the Catawba Indian Nation signed a six year Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract with NRCS to manage 308 acres of land received through a grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The acreage is to be used as a recreation area for members of the Catawba Indian Nation

The signing of the EQIP contract involved a team of players, including Cliff Eaddy, York County NRCS District Conservationist and Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM), John Hiott, Hiott Forestry Consultants, Inc., and C.W. Senn, York SWCD chairman.

Senn reviewed the EQIP application and approved the conservation plan. Hiott, who has worked with the Catawbas for a year as a forestry consultant, is responsible for designing and implementing a wildlife management plan. "I have truly enjoyed working with the Catawbas," said Hiott. "Everyone involved in the EQIP signing seems to have a common goal, and this has been a great cooperative effort."

As part of the wildlife management plan, Hiott plans to make the acreage more productive by attracting wildlife for the Catawbas to sightsee and hunt. The plan includes tree planting, including short leaf pines and hardwoods, native warm season grasses and shrubs, and development of food plots.

While the plan is funded through EQIP, it must also meet the specifications outlined in the land grant. This is where Eaddy steps in. He will work

with Hiott to ensure that the conservation practices meet both NRCS specifications, as well as the regulations governing how the land can be used according to the grant. "NRCS has a long standing written agreement with the Catawba Nation to help them with conservation issues," stated Eaddy. "We are looking forward to success with EQIP and hope to develop other contracts, like a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) agreement, in the future."

Chief Blue is excited about the EQIP contract and hopes the conservation practices will make the land more conducive to recreation, and give the Catawbas a place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. "The EQIP conservation plan will protect this land for the benefit of the Catawbas, as well as wildlife," explained Blue.

As Chief of the Catawbas for 33 years, Chief Blue has been a national advocate for the quality of life for the Catawba Indian Nation. He is also an active leader in the community, serving on several outreach committees, as well as participating in local cultural events, including NRCS' Cultural Awareness Day.

Blue is also committed to conservation. "I feel that the people of NRCS are really concerned about the Catawbas and how conservation can enhance our lives," stated Chief Blue. "I truly am thankful for their assistance."

For more information, please contact the York Field Office at (803) 984-3137.

"The EQIP conservation plan will protect this land for the benefit of the Catawbas, as well as wildlife."
-Catawba Chief Gilbert Blue



Front row, left to right: York County NRCS District Conservationist Cliff Eaddy, Catawba Chief Gilbert Blue, and SWCD Chairman C.W. Senn. Back row, left to right: Forestry Consultant John Hiott and NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Ellis Morrow.

EQIP Helps Darlington Farmer Improve Farm with Cross-Fencing

Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

Early spring breezes, wide open space and vibrant color are the first things that greet visitors at William Amerson's farm in Lamar, SC. Gazing over the rich, green pastureland lends an overall feeling of peace and solitude. Next, visitors are greeted by 25



NRCS Soil Technician John Bennett (left) and landowner William Amerson discuss the use of water troughs installed through EQIP.

very curious cows and finally, an easy-going, laidback farmer who is eager to talk, enjoys spending hours outdoors, and is fully committed to protecting his farm with conservation practices.

To address water quality and grazing concerns on his farm, Amerson enrolled his farm into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) under a ten-year contract. With technical assistance from NRCS District Conservationist Wayne Cowell and Soil Technician John Bennett, Amerson installed several conservation practices, including cross-fencing, heavy use area water troughs and grass planting.

Farming is nothing new to Amerson. He has raised cows for nearly 25 years--the past six years at his current farm. Comprised of a total of 40 acres, Amerson's farm is divided into 20 acres of pastureland for grazing, and 20 acres of woodland. The wooded area was fenced off to prevent the cows from getting bogged down and defecating into a spring that lead to Amerson's only water source, which was a 20-foot deep pond.

Prior to enrolling in EQIP, Amerson allowed his cows to graze his entire pasture at one time, causing areas of the pasture to be eaten regularly, without the chance to regrow. This required Amerson to supplement the cows' diet with hay, corn and oats. In addition, Amerson's pond didn't supply the cows with sufficient water.

Through the practice of cross-fencing, Amerson's 20-acre pasture was divided into five separate pastures. The cows are now allowed to

graze only one pasture at a time, rotating pastures about every ten days. "This practice allows each pasture a period of nearly two months to rejuvenate before grazing begins again," stated Cowell. "The cows are able to move on to greener pastures, maintaining their food supply." Amerson also planted coastal and rye grasses in his pastures to enhance the forage and make it a more productive source of food. This saves both time and money from the heavy use of supplements, such as hay. "Rotating the cows to different pastures has been a win-win situation," said Amerson. "It has been economical for me and provides better grazing for the animals."

Water troughs have also become a necessity at Amerson's farm. With a small pond as the only water source, he found that he needed an alternative. Two water troughs were installed, both surrounded by a 15 x 15 foot concrete pad accessible to all pastures. They are connected to the county water line through underground pipes, providing fresher, cleaner water to the cows. "Through the use of cross-fencing and water troughs, Mr. Amerson's farm has proven to be more productive," explained Bennett. "His commitment to conservation is beneficial to the health and growth of his livestock."

For now, Amerson feels his farming operation is right where he wants it, and has no plans for additional conservation practices in the foreseeable future. However, he does plan to continue his current conservation practices and enjoy the beauty of his farm from his hammock.



Amerson uses cross-fencing to rotate his livestock every ten days to allow grass a period of re-growth.

The Ridge--South Carolina's Peach Capital

Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

Think peaches. Several images may come to mind when thinking of this sweet, fuzzy fruit, such as warm, bubbling peach cobbler topped with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream. You may not think of South Carolina when it comes to peach production, but the Palmetto State is the second largest producer of peaches in the nation, out-ranked only by California.

At the center of South Carolina's peach productivity is "The Ridge," an area that spans Edgefield and Saluda Counties, encompassing four towns including Johnston, Ward, Ridge Spring and Monetta. This area produces more peaches than any other place in the state, and NRCS has been instrumental in providing financial and technical assistance to address conservation issues.

Saluda County NRCS District Conservationist Hugh Smith and Edgefield NRCS District Conservationist Shaun Worley have assisted many peach farmers in "The Ridge" with soil and water conservation. "This area has been the focus of several priority area funding efforts, which were aimed at improving natural resource management," explained Worley.

Between the two counties, there are over 7,000 acres of peach trees. Of this acreage, 2400 acres utilize conservation practices. These practices fall under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), usually with a contract of five years or less. Practices include grassed waterways, diversions, and filter strips to reduce soil erosion, and irrigation conversion for the conservation of water sources.

Soil type and topography of the area present unique challenges in reducing soil erosion in intensively managed orchards. "Sandy clay soil paired with the rolling hills of the land can lead to erosion," said Smith.

To protect the soil and water resources of this area, many farmers converted to a drip irrigation system which uses less water than older irrigation methods. Drip irrigation can also prevent further soil erosion caused by excess water, and it allows each tree to receive equal water distribution.

Compared to other irrigation methods (such as a high-volume irrigation gun), farmers can conserve a considerable amount of water with drip irrigation. For instance, it takes a high-volume gun 12 hours to cover ten acres of peaches using 650,000 gallons of water. The drip irrigation system can get the same net water effect per ten acres using only 328,000 gallons of water. "This method also reduces run-off because less water is used at a time, allowing the soil to soak more

of it up," said Smith.

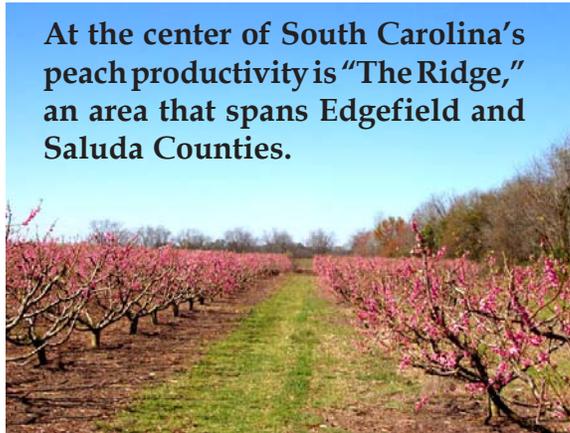
Farmers in "The Ridge" are also interested in managing vegetation for the enhancement of wildlife habitat. Wildlife openings, field borders and food plots are some of the practices installed.

Some also experiment with alternative crops, such as bell peppers, squash, cucumbers and apple trees.

Peach farmers take pride in their conservation ethics and are committed to protecting the land for future generations.

For more information, please contact Edgefield NRCS at (803)637-3220 or Saluda NRCS at (864) 445-8118.

At the center of South Carolina's peach productivity is "The Ridge," an area that spans Edgefield and Saluda Counties.



Saluda County NRCS District Conservationist Hugh Smith (right) and Edgefield NRCS District Conservationist Shaun Worley (left) have assisted many peach farmers in "The Ridge" with soil and water conservation.

NRCS Participates in Quail Management Seminars

Quail populations have declined significantly in South Carolina and across the Southeast, but an ongoing project of the SCDNR may help stabilize numbers of the bird often referred to as the “Prince of Gamebirds.”

Wild quail management seminars, sponsored by SCDNR and the SC State Committee of Quail Unlimited, have been held for the past 19 years at the Webb Wildlife Center in Hampton County. The seminars have provided a hands-on experience in improving habitat for bobwhite quail for more than 1,000 participants. The most recent seminars were held March 9-11, 2006.

“Modern agricultural and forestry practices have significantly changed the way we use the land and made an impact on suitable habitat for bobwhite quail,” said Judy Barnes, SCDNR small game biologist.



For nearly 20 years, wild quail management seminars have educated landowners about the importance of wildlife habitat for bobwhite quail.

The seminars teach participants how to create optimum, year-round bobwhite quail habitat using prescribed fire, disking to stimulate native quail foods, establishing suitable nesting and broodrearing habitat and planting wildlife food patches. NRCS participated in the seminars by educating participants about federal cost-share programs which assist landowners with wildlife habitat enhancement.

Plans are underway for the 20th annual wild quail management seminars in 2007. The registration fee covers overnight accommodations, meals and seminar materials at the Webb Wildlife Center. For more information, contact Barnes at (803) 734-4306 or barnesj@sc.dnr.gov.

Beaufort District Premier's Innovative Soil Tunnel

After almost a year of investigation, design, and construction, the Beaufort SWCD presented its *Soil Tunnel* during a visit to Whale Branch Elementary School in January. A soil tunnel is a unique contraption that allows Kindergarten through second graders to crawl thru “the earth” inside a model of a soil profile. This reveals a world of discovery for the children who can explore root systems, food that grows underground, decomposers, animals in the soil, and also wells and septic tanks.



A student enjoys investigating the world of soil in the Beaufort SWCD Soil Tunnel.

NRCS Resource Soil Scientist Bob Eppinette assisted the District in the development of the tunnel. “This is a great learning tool for the kids because it gives them an up close and personal look at the world of soil,” he says.

The portable model was created from tables and fabric and the device is a fun, interactive, and educational way to learn many aspects of Life and Earth Science.

Because soil science can be a difficult topic for teachers to bring to their students, the tunnel provides an interactive, hands-on approach which the students love. The tunnel also includes six lessons which are presented to students one week prior to exposing them to the tunnel. Most importantly, the program covers several SC Science Standards.

The tunnel cost approximately \$1,200, including \$700 in materials and staff time. It was funded by a grant from the Soil and Water Conservation Society and matched by Jasper, Hampton and Colleton SWCD’s, and Beaufort County Farm Bureau.

If you have any questions about the *Soil Tunnel*, want to create one, or would like to see how it works, contact the Beaufort SWCD at (843)522-8100 or email bswcd@islc.net.

SWCS Maxwell Scholarship Presented

The South Carolina Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) recently presented two recipients with the Allison Maxwell Memorial Scholarship for studies in natural resources. Newberry native Clay Cotney, a Clemson University Agricultural Education major, was one of the two recipients of a \$2,000 award. He plans to complete his degree and then go on to earn a Masters Degree in agriculture and applied economics. Cotney has been an active USDA Earth Team volunteer, and for the past five years served as a counselor for the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Camp Conservation.

The second recipient was Katharin S. Powers, a Lugoff-Elgin senior. Powers is currently deciding her college of choice, and plans to study Biosystems engineering with an emphasis on the environment. Powers is an honor roll student who serves as the Vice President of the National Art Honors Society and National Academic Honors Society at Lugoff-Elgin.

The scholarship was created by the SC Chapter of SWCS in memory of the infant daughter of Greg and Amy Maxwell. Born in March 2004, Allison Maxwell passed away due to complications from a rare heart condition. The scholarship was designed to help students further educational and career goals in the natural resources conservation and environmental fields. This is the first year that the scholarship was presented.

SWCS is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization founded in 1943 that serves as an advocate for conservation professionals and for science-based conservation practice, programs, and policy. SWCS has over 7,000 members around the world. They include researchers, administrators, planners, policymakers, technical advisors, teachers, students, farmers, and ranchers. For more information about SWCS, visit http://www.swcs.org/en/about_swcs.



Clay Cotney (center), a Clemson University student, was one of the recipients of the Allison Maxwell SWCS Scholarship. Amy and Greg Maxwell presented him the check in his hometown of Newberry.



Katharin Powers (center), a Lugoff-Elgin High School Senior, was one of the recipients of the Allison Maxwell SWCS Scholarship. Amy and Greg Maxwell presented her the check at the school.

USDA Hotline

Report Violations of Laws And Regulations Relating To USDA Programs

- Criminal Activity, such as: Bribery, Smuggling, Theft, Fraud, Endangerment of Public Health or Safety
- Mismanagement / Waste of Funds
- Workplace Violence
- Employee Misconduct
- Conflict of Interest

Call

(800) 424-9121

Online

www.usda.gov/oig

Cash rewards may be paid for information leading to the conviction of individuals involved in the commission of particular felonies. The identity of writers and callers is protected under the provisions of the Whistle Blowers Protection Act of 1989.

**NRCS District Conservationist
Recognized by National Wild Turkey
Federation**

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) presented Craig O'Dell, NRCS District Conservationist in Newberry County, with a special award during their 30th National Convention and Sports Show in Nashville, TN.

During the Chapter Leadership Luncheon, three awards were presented to NRCS employees that have accomplished major wildlife habitat improvement for wild turkeys and other wildlife. The nominations were made by the NWTF Regional Biologists and supported by local and state chapter volunteers. O'Dell received the award plaque from NRCS State Conservationist Walt Douglas at a March meeting of SC NRCS District Conservationist in Columbia, SC.

The award nomination cited his achievements with the Indian Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration Initiative. The project is a model for public and private lands partnerships to improve wildlife habitat enhancement at the landscape level. Private land and national forest within the project area total over 16,500 acres.



South Carolina NRCS State Conservationist Walt Douglas (left) presented Craig O'Dell with a National Wild Turkey Federation award for outstanding accomplishments in wildlife habitat improvement.

**National Volunteer Week
April 23-29, 2006**

Celebrate Earth Team Volunteers!



During the week of April 23rd show your Earth Team volunteers how much you appreciate their time and effort. Here are some fun facts about Earth Team Volunteers and just how special they are!

- ❖ 34,432 volunteers provided time to NRCS offices in 2005
- ❖ 938,631 hours were donated in 2005
- ❖ Value of volunteer time to the agency in 2005 = \$16.4 million.
- ❖ Volunteers donated 451 staff years to NRCS during FY05
- ❖ 62% of all NRCS offices used Earth Team volunteers during FY05



SC NRCS Personnel News

Welcome to new NRCS State Wildlife Biologist, Dick Yetter. A native of Massachusetts, he has been an NRCS employee for five years. He started with NRCS as a soil conservation technician in Massachusetts. He then served as district conservationist in Idaho, and then became an area biologist working western Idaho from the Canadian border south to the Nevada border, assisting seventeen NRCS field offices. He says, "I drove a lot!"



Prior to working with NRCS, he spent eighteen years working in the dairy business in Massachusetts, eventually working his way into ownership of a ninety cow Holstein dairy farm. He sold his

interest in the farm in 1994 and returned to college to complete his Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Massachusetts. He then worked for NOAA fisheries in Woods Hole Massachusetts doing acoustic research in the North Atlantic, and after two fun-filled hurricane seasons on the ocean, he accepted an NRCS position in October 1999 that launched his NRCS career.

Yetter enjoys sports, fish, salt water fly fishing, golf, bird watching, good food, wine, laughing and having fun. He also notes that he is a New England Patriot fan, and a Boston Red Sox fan. He is married to Diane Leone, the Hampton/Allendale NRCS District Conservationist.

He says, "In the short time Diane and I have been in South Carolina, the question we get asked the most is, "You're not from around here, are you?"

Welcome to new NRCS State Office Financial Assistant Vera Jackson. A native of Arkansas, Vera lived there during early childhood and then



relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, with her maternal grandmother. She attended Vashon High School and St. Louis University. She then joined the U.S. Army where she spent 23 and a half years. During this time, she was

afforded with the opportunity to travel and see much of the world and meet many interesting people. Upon retirement from the Army, she moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where she worked as a travel auditor for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

She moved to Columbia in December 2004, which she plans to make her home. She has one son and two grandchildren who live in Phoenix, Arizona.

New Employees

Vera Jackson, GS-0303-06, was selected as a Financial Assistant (for a one-year term) in the State Office, effective February 19, 2006.

Richard (Dick) Yetter, GS-0401-12, was selected as the Wildlife Biologist in the State Office, effective January 22, 2006.

Promotions

Pat Turner was promoted to Secretary (Office Automation), 0318-08, on the State Conservationist's Staff, State Office, effective December 25, 2005.

Marty Bright-Rivera was promoted to Human Resources Specialist, 0201-09, in the Human Resources Branch, State Office, effective February 19, 2006.

Reassignment

Vickie Thigpen was reassigned to Procurement Technician, GS1106-7, in the Administrative Services Branch, State Office, effective January 22, 2006.



Conservation Photo Contest Winners

First Place: Emory Holsonback, Soil Scientist, Greenwood County



Second Place: Lance Brewington
Soil Scientist, York County



Third Place: Lori Bataller
District Conservationist, Lee County
*Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) site
bordering Lynchess River.*