

# South Carolina's Current Developments

Home of the first soil conservation district plan...February 4, 1938

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

February/March 2004

**Dear NRCSers,**

From the Office of the  
State Conservationist  
*Walter W. Douglas*



In February I had the pleasure of attending the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in Hawaii. “*Coming Together to Care for Our Natural Resources*” was the theme of the week, and that was repeated time and time again as agency leaders addressed participants. I believe that the NACD leadership is committed to working together with NRCS in an effort to continue a long history of conservation successes. 2003 was a great year for conservation and a look at the numbers reveals that partnership really does work. Working together, conservation plans were implemented nationally on more than 17 million acres, serving nearly 3.8 million customers around the country. Your efforts to protect soil and water resources really do make a difference, and at the end of a hard day of work, remember the impact you have on the future of our state’s environmental health.

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Looking at the situation back at home regarding our budget, we received our discretionary funding just as this issue went to publication. A preliminary investigation of the numbers looks quite positive. South Carolina’s financial assistance is also in good shape, and that’s great news for South Carolina’s landusers. So, as it looks now, we are in good shape regarding our budget, and we will update you again as we calculate the numbers more closely.

I thank you for your enthusiasm and for your dedication to your jobs.



# Notes from the Field

## Awards Presented to Outstanding Conservationists at 2004 Partnership Conference

The South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), held its annual Partnership Conference and Awards Ceremony January 6-8, 2004. The event took place in Charleston, South Carolina, and nearly 300 attendees gathered to



*An awards ceremony honored outstanding conservationists throughout the state of SC.*

discuss current natural resource issues affecting the state. Conference sponsors included Progress Energy, Mead Westvaco, and BMW. BMW sponsored the “Excellence in Conservation” Award (Education/Public Service Project) to the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), as well as the “Conservation Teacher of the Year” Award to Helen Ellis of Manning Primary School in Clarendon County. Progress Energy sponsored three awards including the “Outstanding Conservation District” Award which went to the Lee SWCD. In addition, they awarded the “Outstanding Conservation District Employee” Award to Annette Davis of the Newberry SWCD, and the “Excellence in Conservation” (Public Outreach/Communication) Award to the Newberry SWCD.

The “Outstanding SWCD Commissioner of the Year” Award was presented to James F. Huggins of Marion County. The Conservation District Partnership Award went to Kingstree District Conservationist Reginald Hall, and a special partnership group award was presented to Florence NRCSers Roy Todd, Ron Morton, and Russell Anderson.

NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas said this year’s conference focused on the impor-

tance of partnership in the protection of South Carolina’s natural resources. “The topics and speakers at this year’s event really stressed the importance of the Conservation Partnership working together to combine our talents and knowledge as conservationists.” New SCACD President Charles Broadwell agreed. “It is going to take more than just one agency to protect our state’s soil and water resources, but I know that with our combined strength we can really make a difference.



*Merlin Bartz, USDA Special Assistant, Natural Resources and the Environment, was a guest speaker at the conference and addressed attendees on current issues affecting agriculture.*



*A large crowd of the Conservation Partnership and their family members enjoyed the awards ceremony and reception.*

*pictured at right and below: Two Conservation District Partnership Awards were presented to NRCS employees. The first award was given as a special group award to Florence NRCSers (pictured left to right) Ron Morton, Roy Todd, and Russell Anderson. They are pictured with NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas. Picture below is the second recipient, Kingstree NRCS District Conservationist Reginald Hall (center) with Williamsburg SWCD Chairman Claude McClary (left) and Douglas.*



*pictured at right: Newberry SWCD Chairman Wayne Satterwhite (left) accepted two "Excellence in Conservation" Awards on behalf of the Newberry district—one for an outstanding education/public service project (sponsored by BMW) and one for outstanding public outreach/communication (sponsored by Progress Energy). Newberry SWCD Education Coordinator Annette Davis received the 2003 "Outstanding Conservation District Employee" Award (sponsored by Progress Energy).*



*Don Grant, Lee SWCD Chairman, accepted the 2003 "Outstanding Conservation District" Award (sponsored by Progress Energy) on behalf of the Lee SWCD.*

## 2004 Conservation Partnership Awards Ceremony

## Residue Management—Benefiting SC Farmers

by Sabrenna Bennett, Public Affairs Assistant

While the ultimate purpose of farming is the production of crops, using conservation methods to ensure the health and vitality of the land should be a priority. Although farmers may use several different methods of conservation, residue management (RM) has proven to be successful. RM is usually a year-round process that involves several methods of conservation tillage to manage residue from previous crops on the field's surface. These methods provide several benefits, such as reducing wind and water erosion, conserving soil moisture, and increasing organic matter, which result in better soil structure and crop productivity.

RM includes all field operations that affect residue amounts, orientation and distribution throughout the year-round process. It usually begins with a selection of crops that produce sufficient amounts of residue, and may also include cover crops if the previous crops produce low residue. The amount of residue on cropland is usually measured by percentage, and most conservation tillage methods require 30 percent or more of the soil surface to be covered with crop residue. These methods, no-till and strip-till, consist of structural and management practices to maintain the productivity and condition of the soil, yet differ according to the amount of soil disturbance prior to planting.



*Cotton crops emerge from a field covered with wheat residue.*



*Corn plants thrive after being planted into crop residue.*

Like other conservation practices, RM has its advantages, as well as disadvantages. Crops grown using RM use water more efficiently, the water-holding capacity of the soil increases, and water losses from runoff and evaporation are reduced. These benefits are highly valued in drought-prone soils. In addition, soil organic matter and beneficial insects are maintained, soil and nutrients are less likely to be lost from the field, and less time and labor is required for planting.

However, potential problems with RM are compaction, flooding or poor drainage, delayed planting due to fields that are too cold or wet, and transfer of disease or pest into crop residue. The difficulty of controlling weeds in vegetable crops is also a disadvantage.

According to State Resource Conservationist Ronnie Feaster, RM has proven to be very successful in South Carolina. "Residue management methods are very beneficial in our state, especially when considering our diverse terrains and occasional battles with droughts," stated Feaster. "RM allows the soil to store moisture, prevents erosion on sloping cropland, and reduces the amount of runoff into streams and other water sources."

Overall, residue management has proven to be an effective conservation method for farmers that benefits the health and productivity of the soil, but also assist in environmental concerns, such as providing protection and food for wildlife and improving water quality. If farmers are looking to get the most out of their land, while ensuring its vitality for the future,

residue management practices may very well be the answer their looking for.

For more information on residue management and other conservation practices, please contact your local NRCS field office.

❖ **No-Till**—Residue is left undisturbed from harvest through planting except for narrow strips that cause minimal soil disturbance by tillage operations.

❖ **Strip-Till**—Residue is left undisturbed from harvest through planting. These strips are clear of residue or tilled for warming, drying, or deep tillage purposes. This practice is often used when soil conditions require deeper tillage in the row.

*continued on next page...*

## Top 8 Benefits of Conservation Tillage

- 1) **Reduces labor and saves time**-- Tillage operations require less time than using a tractor.
- 2) **Saves Fuel**-- Tillage operations save an average of 3.5 gallons an acre.
- 3) **Improves soil tilth**--Using the no-till system, soil particle aggregation increases, allowing plants to easier take root.
- 4) **Increases organic matter**--Through tillage, carbon trapped helps to build organic matter.
- 5) **Traps soil moisture to improve water availability**-- Residue traps water in the soil by providing shade, which reduces water evaporation, slowing down runoff and allowing water to soak into soil.
- 6) **Reduces soil erosion**--The shelter residue provides protects soil from erosion by wind and water.
- 7) **Increases wildlife**-- Crop residues provide shelter and food for wildlife, such as game birds and small animals.
- 8) **Improves air quality**-- Residue helps reduce the dust in the air, pollutants from tractors and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

### South Carolina Coalition for Soil Education Leads Effort to Recognize State Soil in National Exhibit

The South Carolina Coalition for Soil Education (SCCSE) is spearheading a fundraising mission for the *Smithsonian Soils Exhibit* slated for the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. This exhibit will include state soil monoliths for an exterior hallway in the museum, which will allow for their display long after the interactive multi-year exhibit travels to other museums around the country.

These soil monoliths highlight one soil from each state and illustrate to museum visitors the variety and make-up of soils in the United States. The monoliths will give visitors an "underground peek" at a real soil profile.

South Carolina's state soil, Lynchburg, will be represented in the display, provided enough funds can be raised by the 2006 deadline. NRCS Resource Soil Scientist Bob Eppinette says, "This is a great opportunity for our state to be recognized on a national level and the coalition hopes to raise the required money to get our monolith exhibited." State soil monoliths must receive \$10,000 of funding support in order to appear in the display. So far, the SCCSE has raised nearly \$2,000.

The monoliths and the entire soils exhibit will be near the Hope Diamond, the most visited museum exhibit in the world. If you would like more information or would like to help with this project, contact SCCSE member Eppinette at (843) 549-1821.



*SC's state soil, Lynchburg, would be the soil on display at the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit in Washington, DC, if enough funding is garnered to support the project.*

**South Carolina  
Coalition  
for Soil  
Education  
SCCSE**



# Personal Awareness

## Red Dress Day Celebrated February 6

By Ayana A. Brown (Compilation of Articles from Providence Heart Institute and Good Housekeeping Mag., October 2003)



Across South Carolina, women wore red dresses on *Red Dress Day* as part of Providence Heart Institute's *Red Dress Campaign* to alert women to the dangers of heart disease. The campaign used the visual of a red dress to help communicate that heart disease is not just a man's disease and is the #1 cause of death among women. While most women assume that breast cancer is their chief health threat, heart disease actually kills nearly 12 times as many women as breast cancer.

Some heart attacks come on swiftly and intensely, but many start slowly and are only mildly uncomfortable, which is why victims often postpone getting medical help. So what can set a heart attack apart? Experiencing shortness of breath; feeling nauseated or light-headed; breaking out in a cold sweat; or suffering from fatigue. If you suspect you or a loved one are having a heart attack, call your local emergency number immediately.

### For Your Health: Routine Blood Tests

**CHOLESTEROL** Starting at age 20, get your total cholesterol and triglycerides (a blood fat) measured every five years.

**BLOOD PRESSURE** Should be checked at least every two years; more frequently if it is high.

**DIABETES** Regular screening is not necessary, unless you have a family history of diabetes, are overweight, or developed diabetes during pregnancy.

**C-REACTIVE PROTEIN (CRP) TEST** Measures a protein that is a marker for inflammation, which may affect the coronary arteries, causing heart disease.

**HOMOCYSTEINE TEST** Measures levels of an amino acid that has been linked to heart problems.

**LIPOPROTEIN (A) TEST** Calculates levels of a substance in the blood that boosts heart disease risk.

**ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (EKG)** Baseline test that can detect heart damage.

**CARDIAC ENZYMES** Blood test that measures levels of enzymes that signal damage to the heart. Often used in conjunction with an EKG.

**EXERCISE STRESS TEST** An EKG performed during exercise, usually on a treadmill.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM** An ultrasound of the heart that shows the movement of the heart walls as well as the size of the heart and its chambers.

**NUCLEAR STRESS TEST** A radioactive substance is injected into a vein to show areas of the heart that are not getting an adequate blood supply.

**ANGIOGRAM (OR CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION)**. A catheter is threaded into a leg artery and up to the arteries of the heart, where it releases a dye that shows the location of a blocked artery.

## Having a Plan for Life Includes Believing in Yourself

By Dorothea Martinez, Black Emphasis Program Manager



Do you know what you want out of life? Do you know where you'd like to be career-wise within the next five years? Or are you merely existing? If you are unable to answer either of the

questions asked, then you probably are merely existing. To merely exist is not enough in today's society because it means that we do not have a plan for life. To accomplish anything in life, we must have a plan. We must have goals written down to refer to periodically. Having goals in writing allows us to assess where we are as opposed to where we'd like to be.

**Do you have a plan for life, or does life have a plan for you?**

There are times when life throws us a curve. Every now and then things happen that might set us back temporarily, but we can not be discouraged by temporary setbacks. I am a true believer that things happen to test our faith and our belief in ourselves. Setbacks are normally lessons that teach us how to be strong and to keep pushing forward. It should never be used as an excuse to give up. No one ever said that becoming successful would be an easy task. I truly believe that hard work, patience and endurance are the key ingredients that separate successful individuals from the not so successful ones.

Do you have a plan for life, or does life have a plan for you? You be the judge. I believe we are in control of our own destiny and can help to determine what happens to us in life. This means that we can do or be whatever we want to be if we only believe. We must continue to say to ourselves, "I think I can, I believe I can, I know I can."

## Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility- Making a Difference in Agriculture

By Ayana Brown, SC NRCS Federal Women's Program Manager

What does it take to become known as a "Lady in Red" on Capitol Hill and command the respect of an entire Congress? What is one subject that any parent stands ready to address at all times? What does it mean to become the first woman in the history of the state to be a South Carolina SWCD Commissioner of the Year (2003)? I do not know, but Newberry County Commissioner and Pecan Farmer, Barbara Baughman does.

She has been traveling to Washington, D.C., annually for over 20 years—and not just to see the cherry blossoms! Baughman makes her annual trip to represent the farmers of South Carolina and the United States in front of our elected officials on Capitol Hill, so that they can put a face to and know the real effects of their decisions and their votes. Baughman is one of the "ladies in red" [as congressional onlookers have dubbed them]. She is a past South Carolina Chapter member, subcommittee chair and lifelong supporter of WIFE-*Women Involved in Farm Economics*. WIFE members wear red whenever they attend a function to represent their group, because "that's where the family farm economics are—in the red."

Baughman actually became involved with WIFE through an interest in pesticides used on her family's farm, generated by a discussion over the fence with a neighbor. She wanted to know what kind of chemicals were in the pesticides sprayed on their pecans and if they were harmful to her children, the environment or anyone. After a few telephone discussions and meetings with local and state Extension Agents, her interest grew to include all chemicals used in and around the home. This led to a further digging into regulations associated with pesticides and household cleaning chemicals, which led her to organize meetings to explain products, their use and their dangers to various groups.

Two of the most amazing facts she learned from these endeavors were: 1) household cleaning products can be just as toxic to a child or the individual using

them as pesticides sprayed on crops can be for the person applying them and, 2) most people are very unaware of what kind of chemicals are in the cleaning products they use in their homes.

WIFE campaigns on Capitol Hill to preserve the family farm. "Women have been very important throughout the history of conservation and they are still committed to being true partners to the soil," says Baughman.

One of several good creeds in life, as stated by Baughman is, "Never try to be anyone but who you are and tell people what affects them where they live. State it plainly and be as factual as possible. Also, very importantly—Do your research!"

"WIFE members today realize the value of women working together with a common purpose."\* She has been an active member of WIFE for the past 22 years and a pecan farmer for over 24 years. She is also a Clemson Extension Service (CREES) State and County Advisory Committee Member and was Sigma Alpha's Woman of the Year in 1999. She attended Otterbein College, in Westerville, Ohio. Her interest in agriculture started at an

early age, quite naturally, as farming was her parents' lifelong occupation. When she was in high school, Future Farmers of America (FFA) was a male-only organization, however, Baughman still provided input as FFA Queen. She is the wife of Dick Baughman of Newberry, mother of four children and grandmother of eight.

WIFE members have always been a diverse group in "sizes and complexions, vocations and temperaments."\*\* "We are connected, you and I...through our land...through our stories...through our values and beliefs. Let me reach across to you, across the miles, across time and let us be together again."\*\*\*



Barbara Baughman, Newberry SWCD Commissioner.

\* Presentation given by S. Massey, WIFE National President, USDA-FSA's Women's History Month Program, 03/18/99

\*\* Journal of Agromedicine, V7(4) 2001, Addendum II to Graber DR and Jones WJ on Health Care for Family Farmers, by B. Baughman

\*\*\* WIFE 1993 North Dakota Convention, Keynote Speech, by Mary Helen Pelton

# RC&D in Action...

Foothills

## Gammel Street Community Watershed Project

The Foothills RC&D and the Oconee SWCD are coordinating an exciting watershed project in the Utica Mill Community of Seneca, South Carolina, in the Upstate. The mission of this partnership project is to enrich the quality of life of the residents that live in the 40-home historic neighborhood. Foothills RC&D Coordinator David Demarest said, "The project currently is in the beginning stages, but already has garnered financial and technical assistance from a number of partners, so we are off to a great start." Partners include USDA-NRCS, the City of Seneca, Oconee County, Oconee County SWCD, Keep Oconee Beautiful, the Clemson Extension Service and the Foothills RC&D.

Seneca is Oconee County's largest city, and Utica is an old mill village, recently making headlines because of the fact that presidential candidate John Edwards was raised in the Gammel Street area. Foothills RC&D Chair Susan Guynn wrote Senator Edwards asking for his support of the project which would improve the area where his boyhood home is still located. "We knew that Senator Edwards is proud of his hometown and may be able to help us get the conservation work on the ground," said Guynn.

The project began when long-time Utica Mill resident Broadus Thomas approached NRCS District Conservationist Heather Stephens about a drainage problem on his farm. A visit to the neighborhood by Demarest and Stephens revealed a larger problem that required treating the watershed as a whole. Demarest explained, "A holistic approach will be used in treating the problems in the watershed which include pollution as well as serious drainage problems." A best management conservation plan will be developed on Broadus' small vegetable farm, located at the lower end of the watershed. The plan will involve the design and installation of a drainage system to protect against urban runoff.

A major component of the initiative is a public awareness campaign to educate residents on best management practices (litter control; recycling; creation of

backyard gardens and wildlife habitat). Plans are in the works to develop a promotional brochure regarding urban best management practices, which will be hand-delivered to residents by members of the Keep Oconee Beautiful Association. "This literature will promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging residents to keep their community litter-free, as well as encourage them to recycle and to cultivate backyard gardens."

Already, in-kind donations of engineering services and culvert drainage pipe for the drainage system have been garnered. The council is currently searching for donors to fund the printing of brochures explaining the practices to area residents, as well as funds for culvert drainage pipe installation. "This project is off to a great start, and I believe once we educate the residents about the important role they will play in this watershed project, the Gammel Street Community will thrive from both natural resources protection and a newly instilled sense of pride," concluded Demarest.

**"A holistic approach will be used in treating the problems in the watershed which include pollution as well as serious drainage problems."**

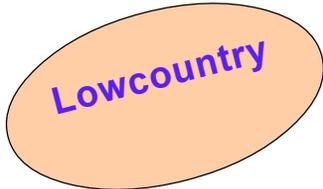
*-Dave Demarest  
Foothills RC&D Coordinator*



Homes in the Gammel Street Community, including the boyhood home of presidential candidate John Edwards (pictured at the far left in the bottom photo) are plagued by drainage problems. The inadequate drainage ditch in the picture to the left will be enhanced with the installation of drainage pipe.



# RC&D in Action...



## Blue Heron Learning Center Receives Grant

The Blue Heron Learning Center in Ridgeland, SC, received a \$1,750 grant from the SCANA Corporation to help with operation and maintenance. The center is comprised of a 4,200 square foot log cabin used for educational purposes



and a ¼ mile-walking trail with outdoor classrooms and observation decks. Over 200 school children are invited for classes at the center each month during the school year.

The classroom and trail are used as a general introduction to bird, plant and animal identification. The Lowcountry RC&D Council has been instrumental in acquiring over \$40,000 in grants for the Blue Heron Learning Center.

## Colleton Medical Center Walking Trail

Colleton Medical Center has plans to construct a walking trail with stations that will be used for rehabilitation purposes. The center received an \$85,000 Tourism Commission grant and technical assistance from NRCS and Lowcountry RC&D Council to construct the trail. Assistance was also given in planning the project and securing needed grants and easements from SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT), and power companies. Construction began in January.

## New Coordinator Selected for East Piedmont Area



Effective March 22, 2004, Kingstree District Conservationist Reginald Hall will be the new East Piedmont RC&D Coordinator. "I am thrilled about becoming a part of the RC&D team and look forward to beginning some new and exciting projects for the East Piedmont counties," said Hall.

## Power for Wildlife Seed Sell Soars

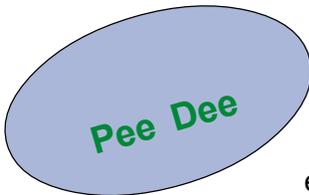
South Carolina's successful POWER (*Protecting Our Wildlife at Every Right Of Way*) for Wildlife Program now has 368 participants, who maintain over 2,200 acres of right-of-way in South Carolina.



Planting seed for wildlife is one way of managing this acreage. For the past few years, the Lowcountry RC&D has administered a popular seed sales program to provide POWER participants with a cost effective way to keep right-of-ways under control. The program offers year-old treated and certified seed in four different varieties: Corn, Sorghum, Soybean and Sunflower at a cost of \$3.50 per bag. This seed is available to all participants as well as partners and associates in POWER for Wildlife.

The POWER for Wildlife Spring 2004 seed program is currently under way. The council began with 5,000 bags of seed and is now down to 178! A portion of the proceeds from each bag sold will be used to establish a Youth Wildlife program. Thanks to all the partners and associates who contributed to the success of the sales.

## Cheraw Intermediate School Nature Center



The Pee Dee RC&D assisted the Cheraw Intermediate School PTO in obtaining an Urban and Community Forestry Grant from the South Carolina Forestry Commission and funding from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. These grants are being used to establish a nature center at the Cheraw Intermediate School.

Recent additions to the project include two pavilions which will be used for outdoor classes, trail construction, trail head fencing, a project brochure, website, and planting of additional trees native to South Carolina. Trail and tree identification signs have also been placed along the trail.

This project provides environmental education opportunities for over six hundred students at Cheraw Intermediate and is available to another 2,000 students at other nearby Cheraw public schools. The facility is also available for public use. For more information, visit [www.peedee.org/cheraw](http://www.peedee.org/cheraw).

# RC&D in Action...

*Pee Dee RC&D Update cont..*

## **Fork Creek Water Quality Study and Implementation**

This water quality study will assist in developing a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Fork Creek watershed in Chesterfield County. This project will evaluate the role of land use as a major factor in nonpoint source runoff. Once a detailed characterization and assessment of fecal coliform bacteria contributions to the Fork Creek watershed have been completed, an evaluation of land use management and nonpoint source allocations on fecal coliform bacteria trends will be conducted.

The project will then develop a stakeholder consensus on the watershed management and the TMDL for fecal coliform. This project is funded by a grant to the Pee Dee RC&D, in cooperation with other partners, and by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Clean Water Act Section 319.

## **Blakely Community Outreach**

The Hopewell Senior Day Care and the Santee-Wateree RC&D Council are working together in assisting the Blakely Community of Williamsburg County to implement a multiuse park designed for biking, walking, jogging, organized sports such as basketball, baseball, and softball, educational programs and community outreach. The park will have opportunities for all age groups within the community, from small children and youth through the older adults living in the community.

The Blakely community is a minority and economically disadvantaged rural community and this project will create an outside facility for physical and mental health and provide a safe area for community residents to exercise, play, and socialize.



**Santee-Wateree**

*Santee-Wateree RC&D Update cont..*

## **Unique Environmental Ed. Center to Showcase SC's Coastal Treasures**

The Santee-Wateree RC&D Council has partnered with the Horry Solid Waste Authority to plan and build a unique environmental educational center that will showcase South Carolina's coastal environmental treasures.

The center will be located in the heart of a 1,100 acre tract of land that adjoins Lewis Ocean Bay Natural Heritage Preserve in Horry County. The tract is largely undisturbed with a variety of coastal habitats, including Carolina bays, pond pine pocosin, longleaf pine, and black water swamp.

The center will focus on an educational program of water quality and aquatic studies, tree and plant identification, wildlife habitat management, soils, and forestry management.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **NRCS and the 1890 Extension Service Work Together to Provide Computer Access to Customers**

*By NRCS Outreach Coordinator Bethel DuRant*

NRCS and the 1890 Extension Service at South Carolina State University are teaming up for several initiatives. They will be of benefit to both agencies. However, the real winners will be the landowners served.

The 1890 Extension Service has ordered a motor home equipped with 12 individual personal computers and work stations with seats. Each will have internet access. The motor home will travel to different communities throughout the state. By doing so, landowners who do not own or have access to home computers will gain a valuable learning experience. The landowners will gain hands-on experience in operating the computers and using the internet to do business. The 1890 agents have requested that NRCS include farm bill info and other links on the system. NRCS will be able to show the landowners how to sign up online or self

*NRCS and 1890 cont..*

certify for conservation programs. The applicant can even get a hard copy if needed.

This exciting development will put NRCS field offices in the position to reach new customers. District Conservationists will have a schedule from the 1890 agent and know when the mobile unit is in his or her county. This small group setting will make outreach more personalized and meet our customers needs on a case-by-case basis.

NRCS and the extension service also plan to trade yearly calendars of training and events. That way the 1890 agents and NRCS field offices will be aware of each others plans, and it will be easy to connect to give assistance to landowners.

Delbert Foster of the 1890 Extension Service and NRCS Outreach Coordinator Bethel DuRant will meet monthly to keep each other in the loop.

Expectations are great as NRCS and the 1890 Extension Service embark on this partnership endeavor. By working together we can achieve wonderful results.



**Biology, Management, and Control of Wild Pigs: A Symposium for Land and Resource Managers  
April 21 - 22, 2004  
Ramada Plaza Hotel, Augusta, Georgia**

A two-day symposium focused on the biology and ecology of wild pigs, management and control of wild pigs, and wild pig management case studies. The purpose of this symposium is to better understand and control one of America's most successful invasive species. For wild pigs, it is better to "know thy enemy," especially if resource managers expect to control population numbers.

**Early registration ends on April 6, 2004.**

For more information, agenda, and registration forms, visit:  
<http://swcs.tripod.com/wildpig.html>

*Sponsored by: USDA Forest Service, Savannah River; U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations; Westinghouse Savannah River Company; and S.C. Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society.*

**The Patrick Madden Award for Sustainable Agriculture**

**The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program seeks a good farmer or rancher...**

*Do you know of a farmer or rancher who truly is outstanding in the field or at the farmers market?*

*Do you find yourself pointing to this person again and again when you need an example of a truly "sustainable" producer?*

The SARE program announces its second award for farmers and ranchers who raise food or fiber in ways that are profitable, good for families and communities, and beneficial to the environment.

Four winners will receive \$1,000 each and a travel scholarship to "Toward a Sustainable Food System," the SARE conference in Burlington, Vt., Oct. 19-21, 2004. All producers farming in the United States and its protectorates are eligible, except for previous winners and finalists.

**To nominate someone, visit [www.sare.org/madden](http://www.sare.org/madden)  
No self nominations, please.  
Nomination deadline:  
May 10, 2004**



# Conservation Partnership News



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild Quail Management Seminars: *March 4-6, 2004*

Bobwhite quail populations in South Carolina and the Southeast have been declining steadily over the past 45 years due to land use change and reduction in suitable habitat. The 17th Annual Wild Quail Management Seminars, sponsored by SCDNR and the S.C. State Committee of Quail Unlimited, are designed to instruct landowners and land managers in the proper techniques of creating habitat that will support native populations of bobwhite quail.



Two seminars will be conducted over a three-day period, March 4-6, at the Webb Wildlife Center in Hampton County. The registration fee is \$75 and includes meals, overnight accommodations and seminar materials. Space is limited, so register early to reserve a slot in one of the two sessions. For more information, call the SCDNR Small Game Project in Columbia at (803) 734-4306, or e-mail [jbarnes@scdnr.state.sc.us](mailto:jbarnes@scdnr.state.sc.us).

"Properties that consistently carry medium-to high-density wild quail populations are actively managed to provide quail with all the habitat components necessary throughout the year," said Judy Barnes, SCDNR small game biologist. "These seminars are designed to improve quail habitat management skills and the information is presented so that anyone with an interest can implement these practices on their property."

Field demonstrations and classroom instruction will focus on habitat practices including firebreak establishment, prescribed burning, timber management, brush control, discing for natural foods and supplemental food patch plantings. Presentations will be given on wild quail natural history, biology, diseases and parasites, predation and other factors that may be contributing to the population decline. An update on current research will also be presented. Speakers will include wildlife and forestry professionals from state and federal agencies.

About 700 people have attended the seminar since its inception in 1987. These sportsmen and sportswomen have positively affected thousands of acres across South Carolina by applying basic techniques to improve habitat on their lands.

## 2004 Legislative Banquet Emphasizes Power of Conservation Partnership

The 2004 Legislative Banquet was hosted on February 24, 2004, at Seawells in Columbia, SC. The annual event gives SC lawmakers and members of

the Conservation Partnership an opportunity to discuss current legislation affecting the future of conservation in the Palmetto State. This year, the districts, SCDNR, and NRCS brought in displays to tell the legislators about the soil and water conservation work that is done throughout the state. Newly elected SCACD President Charles Broadwell addressed the crowd and urged legislators to push for a recurring



*Newly elected SCACD President Charles Broadwell addressed attendees at the 2004 Legislative Banquet.*

state cost-share program for the state of South Carolina. "South Carolina's Soil and Water Conservation Districts could greatly increase the impact of conservation in the state and protect our state's soil and water resources to an even greater degree with a cost-share program," he explained. Broadwell also thanked SCACD Executive Director Linda Tansill for her outstanding service to the association and announced that she will be leaving SCACD to take another job in March.

## SC's *Wealth in Wetlands* Symposium

Despite the cold rain and threats of snow and ice, over 130 participants arrived at the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society (SC-SWCS) sponsored *the Wealth in SC's Wetlands* symposium. Held in Columbia on February 17th, the day-long event featured speakers from SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NRCS. The program concluded with a lawyer-led discussion on wetland tax incentives and a presentation by two Midlands developers who incorporated wetlands into local housing developments.

"The symposium was a great way to educate people on the importance of wetlands and what the regulations are as well as the incentives for protecting them," explained conference coordinator Jim Wilson. The diverse crowd included government officials, as well as employees of private and public agencies, in addition to private landowners. "I think that wetlands are a hot topic in the state, especially when it comes to the rules that govern them," said Wilson. The timely symposium also included guest speaker Brad Wyche, Upstate Forever executive director, and Yancey McLeod, owner of Yancey Environmental Solutions, who served as program moderator.

Presentations from the symposium are available for download at the SC SWCS website located at [swcs.tripod.com/wetland.html](http://swcs.tripod.com/wetland.html).

The symposium was also sponsored by USDA-NRCS with support from SCDNR, US Corps of Engineers, and SCDHEC.



Over 130 participants listened to a diverse program of speakers at the *Wealth in SC's Wetlands* symposium sponsored by the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society on February 17th.

## Personnel Update

### PROMOTIONS

*Darryl Johnson*, GS-0458-07, Soil Conservation Technician, Orangeburg, effective February 22, 2004.

*Reginald Hall*, GS-0401-12, RC&D Coordinator, Winnsboro, effective March 21, 2004.

*Shirley Easter*, GS-0560-09, Budget Analyst, Columbia, effective December 14, 2003.

### RESIGNATION

*Angela Major*, GS-0470-09, Soil Scientist, Bishopville/Lee, effective February 14, 2004.

### RETIREMENT

*Cleveland Mitchell*, GS-0301, Information Specialist, Columbia, effective January 10, 2004.

## NRCS Honored for 2nd Year by Midlands Federal Safety and Health Council

NRCS, along with USDA's Rural Development and the US Post Office, were recognized on October 23, 2003, by the Midlands Federal Safety and Health Council for their safety programs during 2003. Luke Nance, safety officer, accepted the award for NRCS. NRCS received the award for "Best Topical Safety Emphasis for 2003" and "Best Collateral Safety Program during 2002."

The Midlands Federal Safety and Health Council is a cooperative interagency organization chartered by the Secretary of Labor to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information about occupational safety and health.