



Conservation News

Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

Vol. 31, No. 1

Winter 2014

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

Friday, February 14, 2014

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (while supplies last)

Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District Office

12238 Ashley Drive, Gulfport (Hwy 49, two miles north of I-10; turn east onto Ashley)

Oaks in 3-gallon containers (1 per household)

*Southern Magnolia in quart containers (1 per household)

Bare-root seedlings include: Sawtooth Oak, Nuttall Oak, Mayhaw, Red Maple

We will not reserve trees; first come, first served.

*Southern Magnolia seedlings donated by GreenForest Nursery in Perkinston.



Edie Dreher Commissioner Emeritus

Mrs. Edie Dreher served on the District Board of Commissioners for 25 years with honor and distinction. In July 2013, Mrs. Dreher became the first Commissioner Emeritus in Harrison County. Congratulations and thank you for your years of volunteer service to conserve our natural resources.

District Commissioners and staff have the pleasure of working with Mrs. Dreher in environmental education, notably her tireless work at the Clower-Thornton Nature Study Area; and her dedication to The Garden Clubs of MS, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists. We know that her dedication to the conservation of our natural resources is second to none, and she always works with a smile.

Conservation Education Field Days at Harrison County Farm

Nearly 800 fourth grade students from Harrison County took part September 25-26 in the District's annual Conservation Education Field Days to learn the importance of our natural resources. Students had hands-on presentations to learn about: This Land is Your Land, Urban Forestry, Wildlife Biology, Soils, Marine Biology, Water Cycle, Recycling, Snake Safety, Water Conservation, Boat Safety, and the Sheriff's Dept. B.R.A.V.E. anti-bully program.

The District is grateful to Sheriff Melvin Brisolaro for use of the Harrison County Farm. The beautiful acreage, ponds, and garden make it an ideal site to teach students about our natural resources. We also appreciate Deputy Bob Chandler and Deputy Kurtis Owen who work hard to keep the County Farm in great shape for everyone to enjoy. It is a real team effort to make these field days fun and educational for the students each year.



MS Dept. of Marine Resources Jill Zednick captivated the students' curiosity by showing various marine life.



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wayne Ornsbey taught students about urban forestry.

The District appreciates the efforts of NRCS, Commission and District personnel, our Earth Team Volunteers, MSU Extension Service, Master Gardeners, MS Dept. of Marine Resources, Sheriff's Dept. and Doris Kistler, who provides first aid each year.

District Receives Recognition at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts



Rep. Timmy Ladner, Commissioner Greg Crochet, Rep. Richard Bennett, Commissioner Paul McKay, Senator Tommy Gollott, and Commissioner Buck Johnson attend the MACD Banquet.



Commissioners Paul McKay, Buck Johnson and Greg Crochet welcome Rep. Greg Haney (center) and Rep. Carolyn Crawford to the MACD Banquet.

At this MACD Annual Meeting in Jackson, District Commissioners and staff receive training, attend concurrent sessions on various conservation issues, listen to success stories carried out by Districts, and attend an awards banquet, where we are honored to have members of the MS Senate and MS House of Representatives join us.



Paul McKay received the Outstanding District Commissioner state award for his many years of exemplary service at the local, area and state level.



MACD Past President Jim Harreld presents Commissioner Buck Johnson with a 35-year service pin, recognizing his years of service on the District Board.

District Provides Grants for Community Gardens

The District has continued providing grants to schools and non-profits to implement or enhance People's Gardens, better known as community gardens. The District has had the pleasure of working with: Woolmarket Elementary, West Harrison High School, Gulfport High Career Tech, Crossroads Elementary, Lyman Elementary, Bayou View Middle School, Coast Women for Change, Loaves & Fishes, St. Vincent de Paul Society-Long Beach, MS Renaissance Garden-Hiller Park, and the

Armed Forces Retirement Home. The District is currently advising Forest Heights Boys & Girls Club on their community garden. Earth Team Volunteer Dr. Christine Coker and Dr. Gary Bachman have been instrumental in touring and providing expert advice, along with Tyree Harrington, NRCS. If you have a school or non-profit that would benefit with a community garden grant, please contact Beth D'Aquila at 831-1647 or beth.daquila@ms.nacdn.net.



Lyman Elementary enhanced a fabulous outdoor classroom that is enjoyed by the students and teachers.



Loaves and Fishes created a People's Garden to provide fresh produce in the meals they provide at their soup kitchen.



Woolmarket Elementary has a beautiful garden patio area and make good use of their green-house.

District Becomes A Patron Sponsor for Pathways2Possibilities



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Area Conservationist Wesley Kerr talks to 8th grade students about considering a career in agriculture and natural resources.



Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC) Field Rep. Lance Middleton really got the attention of the 8th grade students attending the Pathways2Possibilities career days.

The District was fortunate to be a patron sponsor of the hugely successful Pathways2Possibilities career days, which was implemented to engage, educate, and empower the 7,000 eighth grade students who participated from the six coastal counties. The District coordinated with MSWCC, NRCS, and Mississippi State University (MSU) to participate in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources pathway.

This was a fascinating hands-on opportunity for students and was held at the Coast Coliseum in Biloxi.

District Sponsors Six Coastal Counties Cogongrass Forum



Commissioner Greg Crochet and MSU Dr. John Byrd talk with participants at the District-sponsored cogongrass forum.



The Lyman Community Center was the site of the well attended six coastal counties cogongrass forum.

The District organized this cogongrass forum to coordinate efforts among the agencies involved with cogongrass control. All agencies and counties were well-represented in this forum and the District appreciates having Supervisor Marlin Ladner and the Harrison County Road Department crew in attendance.



Cogongrass is highly invasive, very difficult to control, and a real problem for landowners.

A 20-gallon cogongrass sprayer is available to Harrison County landowners courtesy of the District. To lease the sprayer, a lease agreement and refundable equipment deposit must be in the District office prior to use. Rental fee is \$5 per day. Please contact the District office for more details, schedule use or to report infestations of cogongrass, at 831-1647.

Arbor Day 2013 A Huge Success for the District



NRCS Tyree Harrington helps Greenforest Nursery Dan Batson unload the live oaks for Arbor Day. Dan Batson donates hundreds of Southern Magnolia each year for the District to distribute to Harrison County landowners on Arbor Day.



Commissioner Robert Johnson distributes trees to long-time friend of the District, George Schloegel.



Edmond Boudreaux brought his darling granddaughter to her first Arbor Day tree giveaway.



Seed Grain Drill

A 7-foot seed grain drill is available to Harrison County landowners. To lease the grain drill, a lease agreement and refundable equipment deposit must be in the District office prior to use. Rental fee is \$5 per acre based on acre meter reading plus \$10 per day. Please contact the District office at 831-1647 for further details and to schedule use.

Recipe for Caramel Banana Pie

- 1 Can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 9-inch graham cracker crust
- 3 Bananas
- 12oz Cool whip
- 1 Heath candy bar, crushed

Pour condensed milk into an 8-inch glass pie plate.

Cover with foil and set into a shallow casserole dish filled with 1/4 inch water.

Bake at 425 for 1 hour 15 minutes (until thick)

Remove foil and set aside.

Slice bananas and set in bottom of graham cracker crust.

Spread caramelized milk over banana layer.

Cool for 30 minutes.

Spread cool whip over caramel layer.

Sprinkle with crushed candy bar.

Conservation Districts

Conservation Districts have been involved in delivering locally driven conservation across America for more than 70 years. Among other things, Districts help: implement farm, ranch, and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality, air quality and wildlife habitat; conserve and restore wetlands; protect groundwater resources; assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other vegetation; guide developers in controlling soil erosion; and provide technical expertise to landowners to identify, apply for, and participate in conservation programs.

ConservationNews

Published by

Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Commissioners

Buck Johnson, *Chairman*

Paul McKay, *Vice Chairman*

Gregory V. Crochet, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Robert Johnson

Paul Drake

Commissioner Emeritus

Edie Dreher

Deputy Commissioners

Leonard Nahlen

Ann Hudson

Staff Assisting the District

Beth D'Aquila, *Editor & District Coordinator*

Tyree Harrington, *District Conservationist*

Dan T. Longino, *Field Technician*

The Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District holds a regular monthly board meeting on the first Thursday of each month. This meeting is open to the public and held at the District Office, 12238 Ashley Dr., Gulfport, at 11:30 a.m. This board meets to administer the program of soil and water conservation in Harrison County. An equal opportunity employer.

Visit the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District website at <http://hcswcd.co.harrison.ms.us>