



ConservationNews

Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

Vol. 33, No. 2

Fall 2016

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 over thirty gardens to date.

The District has recently worked with 34th Street Wholistic Garden in Gulfport and Gorenflo Elementary Garden in Biloxi.

ETV and Auxiliary member Dr. Christine Coker has 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.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net.

34th Street Garden Executive Director James Franklin and Gulfport Mayor Billy Hewes broke ground on Gulfport's newest community garden; the District is a proud sponsor.

Paul G. McKay, Rest in Peace

Husband. Father. Grandfather. Educator. Conservationist. Paul G. McKay was all of these and more. He served on the Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District board for 35 years, and 20 years on the MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission board. The District honored Paul's 35 years of service by inducting him into the MACD President's Club.

Paul served over a decade on the Southeast MS RC&D council before serving 15 years on the Coastal Plains RC&D council, and served most of those years on the Mississippi RC&D council.

At the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Southeast Region meeting this summer, Paul was inducted posthumously into the NACD Southeastern Hall of Fame. He faithfully served the state of Mississippi, as a good steward of the land.



Cogongrass - The Battle Continues



Contract sprayer working on a patch of cogongrass in Harrison County. Cogongrass is one of the worst weeds in the world.

Cogongrass is difficult to control due to its growth habits and spreading rhizomes. It has no natural enemies in the U.S. and has no nutritional value to livestock.

The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District spent \$20,000 on cogongrass control in Harrison County in 2016. The District determined that contract spraying is the most effective way to control cogongrass, and

continued servicing landowners who had signed up through the District in the past year.

The District has forms to sign-up for cogongrass control through the District's program, as well as MS Dept. of Agriculture and Coastal Plains RC&D cogongrass forms, in which they provide chemicals to landowners on a one-time basis. Call 831-1647 for details.

How Do I Get Rid of Cogongrass?

**Tyree Harrington,
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Cogongrass is a growing problem for many south Mississippi property owners. It may have started out as a small patch that you kept mowed. Last year you were not able to mow because your mower broke. Now you have a large patch that has gotten out of control....

What do you do? Get on a spraying program. Spraying is a very effective way to control cogongrass. The more popular active ingredients for cogongrass control are glyphosate and Imazapyr. Glyphosate is safe enough to use in most applications. Imazapyr is more aggressive and will damage/kill hardwood species.

How often do you spray? At least twice a year. In the spring before it starts to put on the seed head. Then in the fall before plant goes dormant. If using glyphosate, make sure to read the label and get at least 41% active ingredient. Follow label recommendations.

There is assistance for landowners through the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District, MS Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Coastal Plains RC&D. For additional information, contact our office at 228-831-0881 ext. 3.

HELP US BRING BACK THE LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM

WOULD YOU . . .

- Like professional recommendations on how to improve your land for timber and wildlife?
- Like financial assistance to help you create and/or manage longleaf pine on your land?
- Like to have more wildlife of all types on your land?
- Like to encourage more pollinator insects like native bees and butterflies on your land?
- Like help using prescribed fire to improve forest health and wildlife habitat on your land?

Contact:

Kacie Bauman
Southeast Mississippi
Wildlife Biologist
(228) 222-7463
kbauman@nwtf.net



PHOTO BY LONGLEAF ALLIANCE



The National Wild Turkey Federation and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have partnered to help restore the longleaf pine ecosystem in the southeast. We have 5 biologists and/or foresters in Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina ready to provide private landowner assistance to those within the historical range of longleaf pine. If you are interested in establishing new stands or managing current stands of longleaf pine on your land, please contact our staff listed on this flyer. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

4740416

District Receives Awards at MACD South Area Summer Meeting



The Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts' (MACD) South Area Summer Meeting was held in Monticello. The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District was well represented and was the proud recipient of the MACD South Area Outstanding Woodland Award. Commissioners Greg Crochet and Ann Hudson received the award from Jerry Smith, MACD 2nd Vice President and Gary Blair, MACD President, along with NRCS Tyree Harrington and Deputy Comm. Leonard Nahlen. Dr. Christine Coker received the MACD Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award at the MACD South Area Summer Meeting for her work and dedication to Harrison County's 30+ community and school gardens. Good job, team!

Another Successful Arbor Day



The District's Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, always the 2nd Friday of February, was a huge success in Harrison County. The District gave away thousands of hardwood seedlings to landowners, as well as schools and nature areas, such as Horticulture for Humanity.



ETV Christine Williams-White assists the District each year in distributing thousands of hardwood seedlings. The first 300 landowners to arrive also received a 3-gallon Live Oak. Greenforest Nursery was generous in supplying hundreds of Southern Magnolia to distribute to landowners.



NRCs Field Staff participated in Forestry and Wildlife Training illustrating upland wildlife habitat. Participants were given an opportunity to utilize a gopher tortoise burrow camera to determine if the burrows were active. As many as 300 species can live within a tortoise burrow. Several species were witnessed during the training. Several different age classes of pine timber and different management practices were observed during the training. Being able to understand and explain unique habitat types to landowners is a crucial role for NCRS employees.

Beef: It's What's For Dinner!

Mississippi Beef is "What's for Dinner!" Our family owned beef cattle farms provide safe beef not only for your family but ours as well.

In Mississippi in 2015 the value of the beef industry was \$448 million. Improvements in beef production technology have helped the beef industry use fewer resources to feed more people.

With approximately 16,000 cattle farms in Mississippi there is a lot of delicious and nutritious beef for you to try in your family meals. Check out our website at www.growingmississippi.org or follow us on Facebook by searching for Farm Families of Mississippi.

Easy Roast Dinner

3 lb.	chuck roast
1 lb	carrots
4-6	small red potatoes
1/3 cup	A1 steak sauce
1/3 cup	water
1 envelope	onion mushroom dry soup mix

Place roast, carrots and potatoes in a roasting pan. Mix together remaining ingredients. Pour over roast and vegetables. Cover with foil or pan lid or cook in an oven bag. Bake at 350 for about 2 hours.

*Information prepared by Nancy Freeman, Consultant, msunancyf@bellsouth.net
Information provided by Farm Families of Mississippi, www.growingmississippi.org*

National Wild Turkey Federation--Conserve. Hunt. Share.

Kacie Bauman, National Wild Turkey Federation

My name is Kacie Bauman and I am the new Wildlife Biologist for the National Wild Turkey Federation in southeast MS. My position is part of a 9 state agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). I work with NRCS and private landowners to help landowners receive financial assistance for habitat management (specifically Long Leaf Pine) on their properties.

I grew up on a small cattle farm in southern Missouri. I completed my B.S. in Biomedical Sciences from Maryville University in Saint Louis in 2010 and then decided to pursue a M.S. in Wildlife Biology & Management at Southeast Missouri State University. My Masters

work focused on the Efficiency of Feral Swine Removal Techniques in Southeast Missouri, specifically on the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in Puxico. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and the outdoors, and spend any extra free time wood working and hiking.

If you are interested in how to improve your land for timber and wildlife and would like financial assistance to help create or manage longleaf pine, I can be reached at: kbauman@nwtf.net or call 228-222-7463. I am stationed out of the NRCS office in Gulfport but work in 14 southeastern MS counties.



Seed Grain Drill

The District has a 7-foot Sunflower Seed Grain Drill for lease to Harrison County landowners. To lease the grain drill, a lease agreement and 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. The grain drill will be picked-up and dropped-off at Second Chance Farm, 16241 Northrup Cuevas Road, in Lizana.

Deer in the Home Landscape

Christian Stephenson, MSU Extension Service

Though they are appreciated by hunters and wildlife enthusiasts, deer can be a major nuisance for homeowners. Increasing populations and the development of new residential areas have led to more contact between deer and humans. Deer have also shown themselves to be adept at living in suburban and even urban areas. Deer feed on a wide variety of plants, many of which are food or ornamental plants grown in gardens. An adult deer can eat up to ten pounds of food in a single day.

There are a number of ways to discourage deer and prevent them from damaging the home landscape. The most effective long term solution is fencing. While fences are effective, an eight foot fence surrounding the property is not always practical.

A number of repellants are available that are designed to repel deer either by scent or by having a bad taste. These repellants include mothballs, hair, bloodmeal and many

others. Though most repellants sold are effective in the short term, they must be reapplied regularly. To remain effective, repellants will need to be applied to target plants every three or four weeks. In addition, deer will become accustomed to repellants, and so it is necessary to rotate through different products.

Though deer will eat almost anything when they are hungry, they do show a preference for some plants and a distaste for others. Plants such as pears, cedar and hydrangeas are particularly susceptible to deer feeding. The selection of plants that are less favored by deer can significantly reduce problems with damage to the landscape. Trees such as American holly, and honey locust, as well as shrubs such as boxwood, forsythia, and butterfly bush are rarely damaged by deer feeding. Coreopsis, daffodils, mint and bee balm, as well as snapdragons, begonias and marigolds are also resistant to damage by deer.



NCRS Soils Scientist Delaney Johnson held a basic soils training in Jefferson Davis County. Participants were given a chance to get in a soil pit and get their hands dirty while describing the soils. Several aspects of soil health were discussed and illustrated. The importance of soils and their function has always been a fundamental building block for planning conservation. Participants were challenged to understand how soils fit into all aspects of conservation.

Websites Useful To Landowners

www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov

www.msucares.com

<http://www.mswcc.state.ms.us>

<http://www.mcprcd.org>

<http://www.ltmcp.org>

www.fsa.usda.gov

<http://www.mfc.ms.gov>

<http://www.deq.state.ms.us>

www.dmr.state.ms.us

www.mdac.state.ms.us

<https://macdweb.org>

Natural Resources Conservation Service

MS State University Extension Service

MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission

MS Coastal Plains RC&D

Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain

Farm Service Agency

MS Forestry Commission

MS Dept. of Environmental Quality

Dept. of Marine Resources

MS Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce

MS Association of Conservation Districts

ConservationNews

Published by

Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District

12238 Ashley Drive • Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 831-1647

Commissioners

Gregory V. Crochet, *Chairman*
Robert Johnson, *Vice Chairman*
Paul Drake, *Treasurer*
Buck Johnson
Ann Hudson

Commissioner Emeritus

Edie Dreher

Deputy Commissioners

Leonard Nahlen
Joe Buckley
Thad Anderson

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.

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.

Harrison County Fair

Sept 7-11 • Harrison County Fairgrounds

For the first time in over 80 years, there will be a Harrison County Fair! The District is a proud sponsor of the Harrison County Fair, coming to the Harrison County Fairgrounds September 7-11.

Events will include 4-H Livestock Shows, Horse Shows, Arts & Crafts Exhibits, Robotics Exhibits, Antique Tractor Pulls and Restoration Exhibits, raffle drawings, live entertainment, midway carnival rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, Rodeo, Barrel Race, and BBQ Cook-Off.

www.harrisoncountymfair.com



Lime - Litter Spreader

The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District now has available to landowners a CL-HYD-PUL Adams 16-foot pull-type litter spreader with lime baffle and 4" center double bar kit. This equipment will be available to lease by Harrison County landowners by coming to the District office at 12238 Ashley Drive, Gulfport, to sign a lease agreement and make a deposit. Please contact the District office at 831-1647 or beth.daquilla@ms.nacd-net.net for further details and to schedule use. The spreader will be picked-up and dropped-off at Second Chance Farm, 16241 Northrup Cuevas Road, in Lizana.

For more information about the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District, or any District projects and services, please call us at 831-1647 or visit our website at <http://hcsxcd.co.harrison.ms.us>.