



Conservation News

Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Winter/Spring 2018

Harrison County Farm2Table Program



The District and NRCS are working together with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department to enhance gardening, test the soil health, and getting the ponds and lake in good balance with bass and bream at the Harrison County Farm.



This school year, Long Beach, Harrison Central, West Harrison, D'Iberville, and Pass Christian High Schools have students coming every other week to the Harrison County Farm, to learn more about the concept of farming.

County Farm Manager Kurtis Owen is excited to have this opportunity to instill in the students the connection that farms have with fresh and local produce. This is a hands-on learning experience that Sheriff Troy Peterson welcomes at the County Farm.

It takes a village, and we look forward to working with NRCS, Harrison County Beautification, MSU Extension Service, and others as the County Farm becomes more active in gardening/farming.

NRCS Wildlife Biologist Barry Pessoney and NRCS Soil Scientist Karl Simon at the Harrison County Farm.

South Area Envirothon Teams Compete



Envirothon teams rotate stations to include wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils, and current environmental issues.

The Mississippi Envirothon, a program of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, is a hands-on natural resource competition designed to challenge students in grades 9 through 12 to explore the natural world around them. Competitors are tested in the categories of: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and current environmental issues.

Through local soil and water conservation districts, volunteers and resource personnel from state and federal natural resource agencies and organizations work with educators, sharing environmental expertise to prepare the teams for this competition. A teacher sponsors a 5-member team and helps them prepare for the south area competition.

Students receive hands-on assistance from the experts, who test and judge area competitions, and assist at the statewide competition. Winners from each area compete at the state competition, with the winning team competing in the national competition. The south area Envirothon competition will be held in Vancleave on March 22.

The Mississippi Envirothon is funded through grants from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. For more information, go to www.mswcc.ms.gov or contact the Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District at 831-1647, ext. 3 or beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net

Every Day Is Earth Day



Envirothon teams compete at the South Area Envirothon in Vancleave, to qualify for the Mississippi Envirothon.

Seed Grain Drill Available For Lease

The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District has available 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 made. Rental fee is \$5 per acre. For further details, contact Commissioner Paul Drake, DVM at 234-1779 to schedule use. The grain drill will be picked-up and dropped-off at Second Chance Farm, 16241 Northrup Cuevas Road, in Lizana. Lease agreement form is on our website <http://hcsxcd.co.harrison.ms.us> or email beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net



Lime - Litter Spreader Available For Lease



The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District has available a CL-HYD-PUL Adams 16-foot pull type Lime/Litter Spreader with lime baffle and 4" center double bar kit for lease. This equipment will be available to lease by Harrison County landowners by filling out a lease agreement and making an equipment deposit. Rental fee is \$5 per acre. Contact Commissioner Paul Drake, DVM at 234-1779 to schedule use. The spreader will be picked-up and dropped-off at Second Chance Farm, 16241 Northrup Cuevas Road, in Lizana. Lease agreement form is on our website <http://hcsxcd.co.harrison.ms.us> or email beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net

District Works with Community Gardens



Gorenflo Elementary Community Garden.



Gaston Point Feed the Seed Community Garden.



Gaston Point Elementary Community Garden.



Back Bay Mission Community Garden.

Survey of Bee and Honey Operations

In January 2018, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reached out to Bee and Honey producers across the United States to collect information for its Annual Bee and Honey surveys. NASS will conduct three concurrent surveys in the Delta Region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Bee and Honey Inquiry and January Colony Loss questionnaires queries Bee and Honey operations with five or more colonies while the Bee and Honey Production and Loss questionnaire queries operations with less than five colonies. These surveys calculate statewide quantities of colonies and monitor health of those hives.

“With this information, NASS can better determine an official estimate of Bee and Honey inventory production in each state and set benchmarks for Bee and Honey industry analysts.” said Esmerelda Dickson, State Statistician, Mississippi Field Office, “Continual monitoring of Bee population will help identify early any possible effects of Colony Collapse Disorder. Mississippi economy depends greatly on bee pollination and honey production.”

In Mississippi, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) enumerators will survey approximately 107 Beekeepers for NASS. By participating, these beekeepers ensure NASS provides timely, accurate and objective data which all sectors of U.S. Bee and Honey industry can depend on to help make sound business decisions. Accurate information helps reduce uncertainty and provides more reliable facts on bee colony health.

Information provided by respondents for all NASS surveys is confidential by law. NASS safeguards privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish survey results in its annual Honey report on March 28, 2018 and the Honey Bee Colonies report August 7, 2018. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov For more information, please call NASS Delta Regional Office at (800) 327-2970.

District Welcomes Deputy Commissioner Patrick Chubb



Patrick is a graduate of Texas Tech University (1991, BS, Range & Wildlife Management). He has had a diverse background working for State, Federal, and private environmental firms. He currently works for Mississippi Power in the Corporate Environmental Affairs office as an Environmental Specialist.

He is responsible for natural resources related projects including wetlands and protected species interactions, as well as other environmental programs including underground storage tanks, asbestos, and non-hazardous injection wells.

Patrick is part of the Southern Company Environmental Stewardship team which works closely with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in administering various grants across southeast Mississippi.

Next Generation of Conservationists

Thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with Haliburton and the U.S. Forest Service, the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain is conducting a program to teach the Next Generation of Conservationists at Harrison Central High School. This program partners with local Environmental Scientists from organizations such as 3Point Ecological, LLC, Mississippi Power, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fish-

eries, and Parks, and Tidelands Nursery to train 20 youth in such topics as plant identification, wetland ecology, invasive plant species, GPS/GIS technology, and various restoration projects. Using a combination of lectures and fieldwork, this program encourages youth to explore the natural world and consider environmental career opportunities. This program began in early March 2017 and is expected to finish up in the Spring of 2018.

District's Conservation Education Field Day



NRCS District Conservationist Tyree Harrington teaches 4th grade students about Wildlife Biology at the Harrison County Farm. Special thanks to Sheriff Troy Peterson and County Farm Manager Kurtis Owen for working with us to host the Conservation Education Field Day. The students, teachers, and parents always look forward to spending time on the County Farm.



Supervisor Angel Middleton watches MSWCC Lance Middleton teach Snake Safety. She was interested in many of our talks: Watershed & Me A-Z, Wildlife Biology, Enviroscope, Bees, Fisheries, This Land is Your Land, Forestry, Soils, Sheriff's Dept. B.R.A.V.E., Recycle Relay, Marine Debris, and Earth As An Apple.



The District was honored to have our Seabee volunteers again this year to serve as tour guides at the District's Conservation Education Field Day. The students really enjoy having the Seabees as leaders, as many of them have family members in the military.



Deputy Commissioner Patrick Chubb is the fearless leader of 4th grade students at the Harrison County Farm for the District's Conservation Education Field Day.



Stone County SWCD's Jennifer Rikard teaches 4th grade students about bees and pollination at the District's Conservation Education Field Day.

Mississippi Master Gardeners: Learning, Sharing and Growing Together

What is the Master Gardener Program?

The Master Gardener volunteer program is a great way to gain horticultural expertise at a low cost, meet other avid gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to the community, and belong to a well-respected educational organization.

It is an educational exchange program offered through county offices of the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Through this program, individuals are trained and certified in horticulture and related areas. In exchange for educational training, individuals are asked to volunteer their time to help county Extension offices with horticulture projects that benefit the local community.

Master Gardeners help extend the educational arm of the university to the public by providing horticultural information based on university research and recommendations.

What does the Master Gardener program provide?

The Master Gardener training program provides more than 40 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas. Class instructors include Extension specialists, agents, and other horticulture professionals.

Class topics include botany, soils, vegetables, ornamentals, insects and diseases, and lawn care, among others. Curriculum material will be provided to support the classroom instruction.

What does the Master Gardener program require?

In exchange for 40-plus hours of educational training, individuals are required to return 40 hours of volunteer service within 1 year of their training. After the first year, volunteers are required to return 20 hours of volunteer service and to attend 12 hours of educational training to remain certified as Master Gardeners.

There is a one-time \$100 fee for entry into the Master Gardener program. This fee covers the cost of refreshments, supplies, curriculum, a name badge, and a 1-year membership in the state Master Gardener association. It also provides funding for the future development and growth of the county and statewide program.

For More Information: Contact Tim Ray, MSU Extension Service, 2315 17th Street, Gulfport or call 865-4227. www.msucares.com

What are some sample projects I can do as a Master Gardener?

- Conduct plant clinics
- Answer home horticulture questions
- Develop demonstration/teaching gardens
- Assist with research projects
- Provide leadership to county or state organizations
- Participate in 4-H Junior Master Gardener or other 4-H gardening projects
- Act as a new class coordinator
- Participate in community beautification/landscape projects.

ConservationNews

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Beth D'Aquila, *Editor & District Coordinator*

Tyree Harrington, *District Conservationist*

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.

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://hcswcd.co.harrison.ms.us>.



Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District

How Much Water Does It Take?

By Joe Buckley, Deputy Commissioner

Over the last couple of years, I have taken on a new interest. That interest is steam locomotives of the past. One of the largest was known as the "Big Boy." This giant could pull a train that was up to five miles long. It used coal by the ton. What most people do not realize was that the tender, the car that carried the fuel behind the locomotive was filled with more than coal. It had a large tank for water. Why? Because the locomotive used about 24,000 gallons of water per hour! That is more water than fills most residential in ground pools.

Let us fast forward to today: How much water does it take for each of us to live as we do in today's world? If you remember, the weather man advised all of us to set aside one gallon of water for each of us per day during storm season. The truth is that one gallon is only sufficient to hydrate a person and perhaps brush teeth and maybe wash your face. Most people use about one hundred gallons of water per day in the average household to bath, wash clothes, and prepare food, wash dishes, water lawns, and drink. This still does not constitute all the water that a person uses in their lives. Here are a few hidden water uses that most of us do not even think about:

Automobiles: The average automobile takes about 80,000 gallons of water to produce. Steel is a major user of water.

Beef: One pound of beef uses about 1,799 gallons of water.

Chicken: One pound of chicken, 500 gallons of water is needed.

Bread: Loaf of bread, 193 gallons of water is consumed.

A Potato needs 100 gallons of water to grow.

An Egg will need 50 gallons of water.

An Orange will use 13 gallons of water to reach harvest.

Other uses of water for the home include about 3 times as much. If you turn off the faucet during teeth brushing you can cut that gallon of water down to about a quart.

These figures came from the USGS website on water. I hope that it will give you something to consider. There are lots of ways to conserve water. Recycling plastics, paper, and metals cuts down on processing costs and water consumption. Text messaging cuts down on paper. Oh yes, to make that sheet of copy paper takes about 3 gallons of water!