



# Conservation News

Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Summer/Fall 2017

## Soil Health Rainfall Simulator

*Karl Simon, NRCS Area 3 Resource Soil Scientist*

Mississippi NRCS has acquired a rainfall simulator to present educational demonstrations on soil health and water management. This unit demonstrates, with the help of a soil scientist, the effectiveness of water infiltration on different land management systems. Through the use of this unit we exhibit the benefits of restoring healthy soils through the use of conservation practices.

The rainfall simulator dispenses rain on up to five different land management systems, both cropland and pasture. Clear jars collect the runoff and infiltration showing the effect of the rainfall on each system. This highlights which systems, like keeping residue on the land, reduces sediment loss from erosion and increases water infiltration. The rainfall simulator trailer also includes a table top model for smaller indoor demonstrations. Included is also a water infiltration demonstration useful for demonstrating how water moves through the soil and how all soils are not the same.



*The rainfall simulator in action.*

## District Provides Grants for Community Gardens



*The joys of picking fresh vegetables at the Pass Christian Library.*

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 40 gardens to date. In the Fall, we will tour several of these gardens to see how they are coming along and give advice on what they may need to be successful.

Some of the gardens the District has worked with recently include Gorenflo Elementary, Back Bay Mission, 34th Street Wholistic Gardens, Harrison Central High School Greenhouse, and Pass Christian Library Junior Garden Club.

For more information, contact the District office at 831-1647 or [beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net](mailto:beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net)

## Dan T. Longino - 30 Years of Service

Dan Longino retired after a combined 30 years with the Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. His three decades of tireless service to Harrison County and the community are greatly appreciated.

He will be missed by his colleagues, farmers, and landowners who had the pleasure of working with him over the years.

Lucky for us, he signed up to be an Earth Team Volunteer, so we will be able to reel him in for school programs, field days, and maybe even Arbor Day.

At Dan's retirement reception, it was evident just how many people admire him, by the number of former colleagues and old friends who came to wish him well. Dan, a man truly outstanding in his field.



*Dan Longino, here with his brother Ed Longino (r), an Earth Team Volunteer.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:beth.daquilla@ms.nacdnet.net)

# Harold Brock's Contribution To Agriculture

*Joseph Buckley, Deputy Commissioner*

I would like to tell you a little bit about a man who has greatly influenced the food production for the entire nation and world. If you eat vegetables, meat, dairy or poultry products, or any other farm produced foods, your life has also been affected by this man. His name is Harold Brock.

Harold was born in 1914 and began working for Henry Ford in 1929. He became a design engineer and in 1938 came up with a new tractor, the 9N. This machine was a combined effort using the Ferguson 3 point hitch (which is still used today) and the Ford manufacturing capabilities. This little tractor was an instant success and gave new utility to the farm tractor. The criteria for the tractor was to design a machine that would cost no more than a team of plow animals, their harness, and the ten acres of land that it took to support them. The price was about \$585. The immediate affect was that the farmer could use the 10 acres to grow food for sale instead of supporting work animals. In the long winter months the little tractor could sit without eating. It spelled the end of the work life for most of the 19 million animals used to work farms in this country.

During World War II, Harold concentrated his talents on the war effort designing armor for the Sherman Tank and engineering the design of a new vehicle called the Jeep. After the war, he returned to refine the original design of his earlier tractor. The finished result was the Ford 8N. So popular was this little grey and red tractor that during its production run, from 1947 until 1952, it was one out of every 4 tractors sold. My father bought an 8N and used it to farm his 240 acres. It was tough and could go anywhere. No wonder, it had its roots in a Sherman Tank and a Jeep. My 8N is a 1947 model which puts it around 70 years old. I have no plans to retire it any time soon.

Everything was going well for Ford Motor Co. and Harold Brock until 1959. When asked to sign off on a badly engineered gearbox, Brock refused and was fired. This was not the end of his contribution to agriculture tough.



*Joe Buckley's 8N is a 1947 model tractor that he still uses today.*

Brock did not stay unemployed for very long. He was soon hired by another farm equipment company. He became world-wide director of engineering for that company and would be instrumental with it becoming almost synonymous with the word tractor, John Deere. While at Deere, Brock designed a totally new tractor that would put John Deere on the cutting edge of modern agriculture, the 4020 tractor. With its powerful diesel engine and full hydraulics, it became an instant success. So durable was this machine that most are still in use today and they still demand a high price when resold.

During his career at Deere, Harold Brock helped to found a college at Waterloo, Iowa called The Hawkeye Institute of Technical Learning. In 2008, a building was named in his honor and dedicated to his achievements.

Education was very important to Brock. He knew that it would open doors to many young people. In 2010, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the Iowa State University for his contributions to agriculture and education. He was 95 years old.

In January of 2011, Dr. Harold Brock, passed away, leaving a great legacy to the agricultural world. The truly amazing part of this story is that his honorary degree would be the only degree that he would ever receive in his life. The Great Depression had deprived him of even a high school diploma. That is the rest of the story.

## Cogongrass Control in Sensitive Habitats

South Mississippi is home to a number of rare plant and animal species. This assistance will be focused upon providing herbicide product to control cogongrass in and immediately adjacent to these sensitive areas. These areas would include pitcher plant bogs, mature to near-mature long-leaf pine, gopher tortoise habitat, or similar sensitive sites. This will require careful application

of product to avoid contacting rare species or other desirable species in these habitats. Chemicals will be distributed before September 30. For more information contact Keith Pouncey with MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce at 228-990-9962 or email [keithpouncey@hotmail.com](mailto:keithpouncey@hotmail.com)

# Monarch Butterflies and Native Mississippi Milkweed



*A. tuberosa*: at the southeast branch experiment station.

Pat Drackett, Director, The Crosby Arboretum  
Mississippi State University Extension Service

Recently, there has been an explosion of information focusing on how to offset declining monarch butterfly populations by providing milkweed (*Asclepias*) for these migrating insects. Responses range from concerned gardeners planting this monarch host plant in their home landscapes, to large-scale community planting projects establishing native milkweed.

At the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, we often receive questions from people asking why they are not seeing caterpillars on their milkweed. It's important to understand that in Mississippi, these caterpillars generally will feed on milkweed in springtime during their migration further northward, although some may be spotted during the summer months. (See maps illustrating when the butterflies will be in our area at: <https://www.learner.org/jnorth/maps/monarch.html>.)

To provide for monarchs, a spring garden needs to include both nectar plants and milkweed, their obligate host plant. However, during fall migration, adult monarchs are only seeking nectar to fuel their upcoming journey to Mexico. For the Crosby Arboretum, and coastal Mississippi, that period is usually around the third week in October. During this time, monarchs will not be laying eggs because their reproduction development is "on hold". Provide fall-blooming nectar species for the butterflies in your garden, such as Asters

(*Symphytotrichum* spp.), Wild Ageratum, AKA Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), and Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)

While gardeners are urged to plant native milkweed, few sources are available in garden centers. The most commonly available milkweed is an attractive tropical variety, *A. curassavica*, with deep orange and yellow blooms. Although tropical milkweed is easy to grow, it unfortunately can harbor a disease crippling to butterflies. Research also suggests tropical milkweed is having a detrimental effect on monarch migration patterns by causing the butterflies to remain in coastal areas during the fall months and laying eggs, rather than migrating to Mexico. The Arboretum receives calls from frantic gardeners reporting monarch chrysalises on their tropical milkweed, when freezing weather is forecast. Until native milkweeds are readily available, tropical milkweed will continue to be the "go to" monarch host plant. Gardeners are advised to simply cut back tropical milkweed to stubble in early October, ahead of the monarch's fall migration. But, always use caution when pruning milkweed. If the sap is wiped into the eyes, it can cause severe pain and temporary blindness.

To determine the species of Mississippi milkweed best suited to home gardens, seed trials are currently being conducted at the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station. Results will be presented at the 44th Annual Ornamental Horticulture Field Day on Thursday,



*MAFES research: Planting native milkweed at the southeast branch experiment station.*

October 5, 2017 at the Experiment Station in Poplarville, Mississippi. So far, the species showing the most promise for the garden are: Swamp Milkweed (*A. incarnata*), Aquatic Milkweed (*A. perennis*), Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*), Green Antelopehorn (*A. viridis*), and Whorled Milkweed (*A. verticillata*).

At the Crosby Arboretum, we've learned that seed obtained from sources within our own ecoregion (No. 232, the Outer Coastal Plain Mixed Forest Province, on the map compiled by Robert G. Bailey) is better suited than seed from sources outside our ecoregion. (See Bailey's "Ecoregions of the United States" map on the USDA



*A.Verticilla: Monarch caterpillar feeding on leaves.*

Forest Service website, along with information about these ecosystems, at <https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ecoregions/products/map-ecoregions-united-states/#>.)

The Crosby Arboretum has recently established a Mississippi Milkweeds Facebook page to promote the public exchange of information about the state's native milkweed species. If you have a source of native milkweed seed from southern Mississippi, please consider submitting it for our 2018 trials. For more information on Mississippi State University's Crosby Arboretum in Picaune, see [www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu](http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu).

## District Welcomes Commissioner Ann Hudson



Margaret Ann Hudson is a business owner, an author, motivational speaker, Life Style Product consultant, Certified Family Herbalist, and a National Registered EMT. She is currently in her last semester pursuing two degrees, Social Science and Health and Wellness from Tulane University. She is honored to be a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda's National Honors Society.

As a military spouse, Ann believes in serving her community. Her passion is teaching others about wellness through clean eating. In 2011, she opened Ann's Organic Market, the first totally organic health food store on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The store's mission is to educate and inform the public about organics, the benefits of eating a clean diet free of chemicals and to make organics more affordable.

# Another Successful Arbor Day Tree Giveaway



*Deputy Commissioner Thad Anderson assists landowners with their Arbor Day trees. Mississippi's Arbor Day is always the second Friday in February.*



*NWTF Southeast MS Wildlife Biologist Kacie Bauman and Commissioner Paul Drake, DVM, assist landowners with their live oak selection.*



*Even the younger generation likes to select their favorite Arbor Day trees to plant.*

# MS Association of Conservation Districts Endowment Fund

by Greg Crochet,  
Commissioner and MACD South Area Vice President

Mississippi sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students currently enrolled in college may apply. The scholarship may be used at a two-year community college or a four-year college in Mississippi. A student can defer the MACD Endowment Fund Scholarship to be used at a later date. Scholarships: 1st place—\$5,000; 2nd place—\$5,000; 3rd place—\$5,000; 4th place—\$3,000; 5th place—\$3,000. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college.

The scholarship is open to any field of study. A Natural Resources field of study may receive up to the total 20 points. A Natural Resources field of study may include, but is not limited to: Agribusiness, Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business, Agriculture Information Science and Education, Agricultural Pest Management, Agricultural Science, Agronomy, Animal and Dairy Sciences, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biological Engineering, Food Science and Technology, Forestry, Human Sciences, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Landscape Contracting and Management, and Poultry

Science. All requested information MUST be attached to the application. The Scholarship deadline is October 1, 2017. For more information go to: [www.macdweb.org](http://www.macdweb.org)

The Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts' Endowment Fund, Inc. (Endowment) is an independent entity established by MACD to solicit and accept funding to promote educational and informational activities focused on natural resource conservation. The Endowment is a nonprofit corporation granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service with all contributions thereto being fully tax deductible.

The MACD Endowment Fund Drawdown will be Jan. 17, 2018, you do not need to be present to win. If you or your business would like to purchase a \$100 drawdown ticket for a chance to win \$10,000 please contact our office in Gulfport at 228-831-1647. Only 300 tickets will be sold! Multiple people can go in on a ticket. Also, if you or your business have items to donate to the silent or live MACD Endowment Auction, please contact us.

## Healthy Soils are Full of Life Stewardship Posters

The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District recently held their annual Stewardship Poster Contest for students in grades 2nd-6th. This year's national theme is, "Healthy Soils are Full of Life". Our Earth Team Volunteers had their work cut out for them when judging these creative posters.

This year's winners, selected in May 2017, in Harrison County for the 2nd/3rd grade category: 1st Place Aubrey Canzoneri with St. Vincent de Paul; 2nd Place Kimber Pennell with St. Vincent de Paul; 3rd Place Olivia Courillon with St. Vincent de Paul. Winners in Harrison County for the 4th-6th grade category: 1st Place Maddie Hansen with St. Vincent de Paul; 2nd Place Aubrey Banks with Orange Grove Elem.; 3rd Place Ava Schelp with Orange Grove Elem.

Both of our 1st Place winners, Aubrey Canzoneri and Maddie Hansen, also won 1st Place in the South Area Stewardship Poster Contest! Their posters are now being sent to be judged in the state-wide competition. Congratulations and job well done!



Maddie Hansen, with her, "Healthy Soils are Full of Life" poster.

# ConservationNews

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**Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District**

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## **Commissioners**

Gregory V. Crochet, *Chairman*

Paul Drake, *Treasurer*

Buck Johnson

Ann Hudson

## **Commissioner Emeritus**

Edie Dreher

## **Deputy Commissioners**

Leonard Nahlen

Thad Anderson

Joe Buckley

Patrick Chubb

## **Staff Assisting the District**

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.

## 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.

**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>.**

## Sign Up Now For Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help Mississippi producers, farmers and ranchers implement conservation practices.

NRCS strives to help producers and landowners enact environmentally friendly activities such as improving water and air quality, building healthier soils, improving grazing and forest lands, enhancing organic operations and conserving energy. EQIP provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation programs, which include irrigation water management, tree/shrub planting, field buffers, rotational grazing systems and erosion control practices. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

"The Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers producers a variety of options to conserve natural resources on their properties", stated Kurt Readus, NRCS state conservationist for Mississippi. "This conservation investment helps to improve environmental health and the economy of Mississippi's communities."

To qualify for EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation that meets eligibility criteria.

Applications for EQIP and all NRCS financial assistance programs are accepted on a continuous basis with specific sign-up deadlines being established to rank contract and fund qualified tracts of land. The deadline to sign-up to be considered in the EQIP first ranking period is October 1, 2017.

Applicants can sign up at our local NRCS office at 12238 Ashley Drive, Gulfport, MS 39503.

For more information about EQIP, visit our website: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District