

Highlights from the Hills

A Newsletter of the
Rolling Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc



Issue 20, Winter 2009/2010



The Southern Quilt Trail

Quilts are such a big part of everyone's life! Many of us can remember our mothers or grandmothers sitting around quilting. Most people have at least one quilt that was made by a family member... they may not have heirlooms or antiques in their homes, but they do love the old quilts. The Southern Quilt Trail is an initiative that captures the imagination of many generations for endless reasons!

The mission of the Southern Quilt Trail is to promote and preserve the history of traditional Folk Art quilt patterns that have been handed down for generations, by displaying this unique art form on historical barns and buildings in our communities and the rural countryside. This initiative promotes tourism by getting visitors off of the main roads and into our small communities.

Currently the quilt trail is established in the City of Powder Springs and is beginning to expand into the west Georgia region. "Trail" routes are being planned to highlight our unique communities, locally owned businesses, cultural and heritage resources, natural areas, and rural landscapes. Cities that have quilt blocks already displayed include Roopville, Bowdon, Bremen, and Hiram in addition to the 11 sites in Powder Springs.



Rolling Hills adopted this project at the last Council meeting and will be working with the Quilt Trail Committee to assist in promoting our rural communities.

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If you have an idea for a great location for a quilt block, please give us a call!





NATIVE GRASS MANAGEMENT FARM FIELD DAY

On October 2nd, Rolling Hills RC&D cosponsored a farm field day on Riverside Cattle Farm in Floyd County. Landowner, Dan Norton, graciously hosted the attendees on his farm to showcase his incorporation of native grasses into his grazing management system. Even though the day was wet, over 50 individuals came to the field day including FFA students from Pepperell High School.

Speakers included; Al Hubbard and Dennis Chessman, NRCS Grazing Lands Specialists; Josh Schrecengost, NRCS Technician; Dan Wallace, NRCS Soil Scientist; and Mike Watson, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations.

Rolling Hills also had our native grass no-till planter on dis-



Al Hubbard and Dennis Chessman at Indiangrass field.

play during the field day. Carey Harris, no-till custodian made a brief presentation on the drill and its' use in native grass planting.

Dan Norton shared his management system for grazing and cattle management and field day attendees had the opportunity to hear about his use of Indiangrass in this system.

The field day was sponsored by the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and Rolling Hills RC&D.



Landowner, Dan Norton, discussing his grazing management system.

COUNCIL RECEIVES RMA GRANT

Rolling Hills received a \$100,000 grant from the USDA, Risk Management Agency to assist Georgia landowners with planning for the future of their farms. This project will offer outreach programs and educational information to assist farming families with estate planning and farm succession issues.

The future of our family farms (as well as our food and fiber production) relies upon active and informed planning to encourage generational transfer of our agricultural enterprises and protection of productive farmland. Information provided through the workshops will include land preservation, transfer of assets to the next generation, legal and tax liabilities, financial management, retirement issues, etc. The project will also develop a *Georgia Farm Transition Guide* workbook for landowners to assist with setting their priorities and working within their families to make decisions about the family farm.

Finally, training will be provided to estate planners, accountants and attorneys on agricultural farm transition issues.

If anyone is interested in serving on this project, please call the Council office. The project will last for one year and we are seeking interested volunteers to assist. More information will be coming soon as we move forward!

URBAN FORESTRY NEWS

by John Hendrickson, Community Forester

DOUGLAS COUNTY NATURE TRAIL WORKDAY

Tree planting season got off to a great start this year when Rolling Hills provided 16 trees to the Douglas County Master Gardeners! On Saturday, October 10th, 21 volunteers gathered for a workday to plant 16 new native trees along the Douglas County Master Gardeners Nature Trail located behind the county courthouse. Rolling Hills provided the planting stock in 3 gallon containers that were grown over the summer at the Rome City nursery. Sugar maples, redbud trees, and a Nuttall oak now grace the trail head while five bald cypress trees were planted along the banks of Slater Mill Creek.



UPCOMING CERTIFIED ARBORIST COURSE

A series of four workshops in community forest management will be offered starting January 15, 2010 at the Carroll County Cooperative Extension office in Carrollton, GA. The course is designed to help students prepare for ISA testing and Arborist Certification, although anyone involved with urban tree maintenance and management decisions will benefit from the program. Course topics range from the fundamentals of tree biology and identification, to the arboricultural arts of pruning and tree climbing & rigging. CEUs are available for Certified Arborists wishing to maintain their skills and ISA certification. Registration details are available on the RC&D website: www.rollinghillsrcd.org or call John Hendrickson at 770-749-0444.

Certified Arborist Training Agenda:			
January 15, 2010	January 22, 2010	January 29, 2010	February 5, 2010
<i>Tree Biology</i>	<i>Water Management</i>	<i>Pruning</i>	<i>Climbing & Working in Trees</i>
<i>Tree Identification</i>	<i>Tree Nutrition & Fertilization</i>	<i>Tree Support & Protection</i>	<i>Tree Assessment & Risk Management</i>
<i>Tree/Soil Relations</i>	<i>Tree Selection</i>	<i>Trees and Construction</i>	<i>Diagnosis & Plant Disorders</i>
<i>ISA Certification exam requirements</i>	<i>Installation & Establishment</i>	<i>Safety</i>	<i>Plant Health Care</i>

WHEELS TO WORK UPDATE

BY Kevin Patterson, Wheels to Work Program Manager

Congratulations to Rochelle Martin for paying her loan off in August 2009. Rochelle works at Sharehouse, a non-profit organization that assists women in domestic violence cases by providing temporary housing, job placement, counseling and assistance with legal matters. Rochelle is a great example of what a Wheels to Work client should be. She made her payments on time, communicated with the Program Manager, told others about the program and followed through on all her responsibilities. She is interested in the Wheels to Work program and stated she would like to volunteer to help when needed. We are very proud of Rochelle!

In other news, five vehicles have been paid off in 2009. (Unfortunately, four were paid off because the client's vehicle was totaled.) Year-to-date eleven clients have been placed in vehicles impacting thirty immediate family members. Two more clients will be placed by the end of 2009.

Even though the economy has been tough, only one client lost their job this year. (However they recently obtained new employment.) Two clients were able to obtain higher paying jobs because of reliable transportation. For the year, Wheels to Work has served a total of twenty clients (new and existing) impacting sixty-four immediate family members. Thanks to everyone's hard work—2009 has been a good year for Wheels to Work!



ROLLING HILLS MEMBERSHIP

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Carroll County

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Wendy Crager, Treasurer

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Larry Reynolds
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Coosa Valley RDC

David Howerin



UPCOMING EVENTS!

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 12, 2009
11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
Little Hawaiian Restaurant, Carrollton, GA

LOWER LITTLE TALLAPOOSA WATERSHED SEPTIC MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP FOR LANDOWNERS

Tuesday, December 8, 2009
6:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.
Location: Carroll County Ag Center

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Johnny Groover House, Cedartown

FIRST QUARTER COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 14, 2010
Location: TBA

CERTIFIED ARBORIST COURSE

begins Friday, January 15, 2010
Location: Carroll County Ag Center

GACDS Annual Conference

January 22-24, 2010
Location: Athens, GA

BEGINNER FARMER COURSE

Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Location: Bartow County

WEST REGION ENVIROTHON COMPETITION

Friday, March 5, 2010
Clayton County Wetlands Center

COUNCIL STAFF

Cindy Haygood, NRCS RC&D Coordinator
cindy.haygood@ga.usda.gov

Kevin Patterson, Project Administrator
Wheels to Work Program Manager
ksp512@rollinghillsrcd.org

Susan Pullen, Watershed Project Manager
spullen@rollinghillsrcd.org

John Hendrickson, Community Forester
jhendrickson@rollinghillsrcd.org

ATTENTION!

In order to more effectively watch our budget, we will be offering the Council newsletter electronically to individuals that make that request. If you would like to receive your copy of the Rolling Hills RC&D newsletter Highlights from the Hills electronically, please let us know at admin@rollinghillsrcd.org or call the Council office at 770-749-0444 and leave us your e-mail address.

Also, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know also. You may also e-mail us at admin@rollinghillsrcd.org.

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