

# Highlights from the Hills

## ROLLING HILLS MEMBERSHIP

**Bartow County**  
Clarence Brown  
Davis Nelson

**Carroll County**  
Bill Chappell  
Wendy Crager, Treasurer

**Coweta County**  
Sandra Parker  
Jim McGuffey

**Coosa River SWCD**  
VACANT

**At Large Member**  
Johnny Groover, President

**Douglas County**  
David Lathem  
Carolyn Westbrook

**Floyd County**  
Eddie Lumsden  
Thad Rush

**Haralson County**  
Allen Poole  
Keith Golden

**West GA SWCD**  
Claude Abercrombie, Vice Pres.

**Chatt-Flint RDC**  
Kimberly Dutton

**Heard County**  
Denney Rogers  
Doug Craven

**Paulding County**  
Bruce Coyle  
Charles Rutland, Past Pres.

**Polk County**  
Frank Lott  
Jewell Tuck, Secretary

**Coosa Valley RDC**  
David Howerin



A NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROLLING HILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC



Issue 17, Fall 2008

## SOUTHEASTERN RC&D CONFERENCE Wendy Crager Honored as Outstanding Council Member!

Members of Rolling Hills RC&D recently attended the SE RC&D Conference in Wytheville, Virginia. At this meeting, our own Wendy Crager was recognized as Outstanding Council Member for the Southeast due to her long-standing commitment to the RC&D Program and hard work with Rolling Hills! Wendy's nomination will now be competing for national recognition against Council Members across the country.

Rolling Hills RC&D also presented a success story during the SE Conference on the Certified Arborists Training project. Johnny Groover and Cindy Haygood made the presentation entitled "Expanding Local Businesses through Arborist Training" to other Councils, highlighting the benefit to local businesses as a result of these courses. Rolling Hills has been offering the Arborist Training courses since 2000.

We are also pleased to announce that Rolling Hills RC&D has been accepted into the National RC&D "Circle of Diamonds". This designation indicates that Rolling Hills has shown excellence in program management, ethics, and accountability of our programs!



National RC&D President, Joan Smith Freeman, presenting Wendy Crager with her award

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

FOREST WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
Friday, October 24, 2008—Dallas, GA  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

GEORGIA RC&D MEETING  
October 16-17, 2008  
Thomson, GA

ROLLING HILLS ANNUAL MEETING  
Friday, November 7, 2008 —Dallas, GA  
11:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

NATIONAL RC&D CONFERENCE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
June 14-17, 2009

## COUNCIL STAFF

Cindy Haygood, NRCS RC&D Coordinator  
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Kevin Patterson, Project Administrator  
Wheels to Work Program Manager  
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Susan Pullen, Watershed Project Manager  
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Ginger Watson, Community Forester  
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## Note to Council Members

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council  
2007 Annual Financial Audit is complete.  
If you would like a copy, please contact the Council office.

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## ROLLING HILLS ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE!!!

Friday, November 7, 2008  
11:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Location:  
White Oak Park, Dallas (Paulding County)

We will have a luncheon and entertainment!

Be sure and save the date for great food and fellowship!

To RSVP please contact the Council office at 770-749-0444.

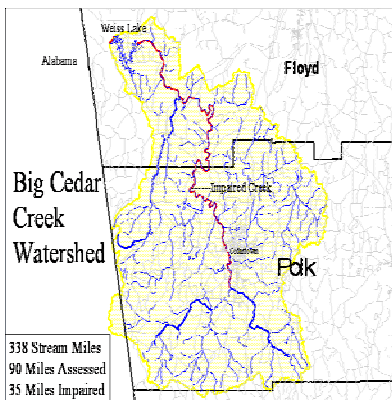
Office Contact Information:  
512 Main Street, Cedartown, GA 30125 Ph: 770-749-0444 Fax: 770-749-9444

### NEW WATERSHED PROJECTS APPROVED

Two new watershed projects have been contracted to begin in the fall of 2008! Rolling Hills recently entered into a contract with the GA Environmental Protection Division to implement watershed projects on the Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed (Carroll, Haralson, and Heard Counties) and the Big Cedar Creek Watershed (Polk and Floyd).

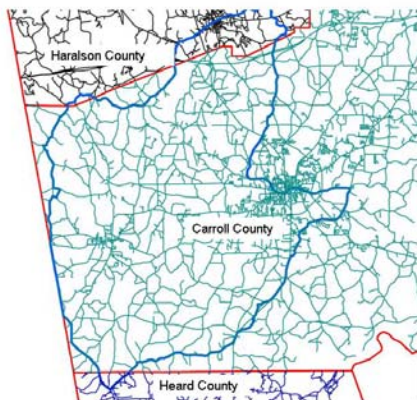
The projects will bring almost \$1.4 million dollars into these watersheds in cost share funds and be in operation for three years. The objective of both projects is to install Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) to address water quality concerns that have been detected within both watersheds.

Our goal is to work towards removal of the stream segments from the impaired waters list. We will continue to utilize our established relationship with the farm community in our council area to install agricultural practices, and will partner with local health departments and utilities to carry out project wide septic system assessments, replacements and repairs. Cost share assistance for installed practices (agricultural & non-agricultural) will be provided.



by Susan Pullen, Project Manager

Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed Map



Non-Agricultural practices to be implemented through this project may include septic system repairs and replacement, correcting gray water problems, replacing fill lines in septic systems, septic tank maintenance, and decommissioning wells too close to septic systems or home foundations.

Agricultural Best Management Practices to be implemented through this project may include:

- Dry litter stackhouses and poultry composting facilities
- Diversion
- Fencing for livestock exclusion from water sources
- Critical Area Planting
- Planned grazing systems
- Roof runoff management (for poultry systems)
- Heavy use areas
- Stream Protection
- Nutrient Management
- Tree Planting for buffers
- Water Troughs or wells for alternative water sources
- Waste utilization

For additional information, or to sign up to participate in this project, please contact Project Manager, Susan Pullen.

More info to come!

### FREE TREE CARE WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Date: Friday, October 24th, 2008  
Location: White Oak Park, Dallas

A free workshop will be offered in cooperation with the Paulding County Extension Service and Georgia Forestry Commission on Friday, October 24th at White Oak Park in Dallas, GA. This class will be limited to local government staff and tree board members. Lunch will be provided. The class will last from 9:30 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Topics will include basic tree biology, planting, mulching, pruning techniques, tree protection, and evaluating trees for hazard conditions.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Council office to sign up at 770-749-0444.



### WHEELS TO WORK RECEIVES GRANT FROM CARROLL EMC

by Kevin Patterson, Wheels to Work Project Administrator

We are excited to announce Wheels to Work received a \$4500 grant from the Carroll EMC Operation Roundup Program. This grant will be used in Carroll County to help purchase two vehicles. We are very thankful for the support of Carroll EMC.

In other news, a new "Green" Program is in development stages to teach Wheels to Work clients fuel and energy conservation techniques and tips on preserving the environment. All current and future clients will participate in the class.

Year to date, 9 clients and 62 family members have been directly impacted by Wheels to Work.

Wheels to Work had an active quarter placing three clients in vehicles. Mary Brown (pictured in middle) is a Security Guard who supports her entire family and desperately needed transportation to travel to and from work. Mary depended on co-workers and neighbors to carry her to work. On 9/3/08 Mary received a 1999 Saturn SL2. She and her family are very grateful to Rolling Hills RC&D.



### SUSTAINABLE GROWERS SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2008, Rolling Hills RC&D sponsored two series of classes designed to assist small acreage farmers and farmers wanting to begin a sustainable farming operation. An eight week series was held in Carroll County in early 2008. These courses were developed and taught by local sustainable farmers under the coordination of Mike Gilroy. The classes were offered on alternate Saturdays and consisted of in depth instruction on topics such as soils, insect and weed management, disease management, water management, tractors and equipment, marketing, vegetable and fruit production, and sustainable livestock. Twelve individuals attended this class.



A "short course" was held in Bartow County in August at Holt Heritage Farm. There were eighteen individuals in attendance for this class. Many of the individuals from both courses are beginning new sustainable farming operations or expanding their current businesses.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided matching funding to develop and host these courses. As a result, a curriculum has been developed that can be duplicated in other regions!

The next course will be offered to begin in January 2009! For more information, contact the RC&D office.