

Highlights from the Hills

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



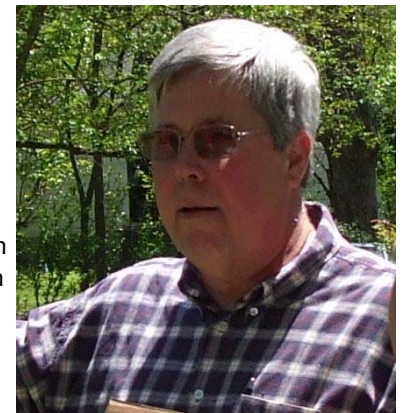
Issue 18, Spring 2009

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Rolling Hills RC&D is proud to welcome John Hendrickson as our newest Council employee. John will be taking over for Ginger Watson as the Council's Community Forester and Arborist. John holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of Florida with post graduate work in Forest Genetics. His professional background is in industrial forestry, specializing in genetics research and development. He's finding the transition from acres of forest to individual trees in the landscape quite intriguing.



John recently acquired his ISA Certified Arborist certification. He will be busy this summer with

providing training on urban forestry related subjects and working with communities on their tree needs.

If your community would like to have John come and provide some training or assistance, please give him a call at the Council office. He is also available for speaking engagements at civic organizations.

COUNCIL RETREAT AND PLANNING SESSION

On June 4, 2009 Rolling Hills RC&D will be hosting their regular quarterly Council meeting in conjunction with a **Council Board Retreat and Planning Session**. All Council Members are highly encouraged to attend. We have secured a trained meeting facilitator from Georgia EMC to assist with the meeting and we expect to come away from the meeting with some fresh direction for the RC&D Council.

During the retreat, we will be setting some long range goals for our organization and discussing how we plan to achieve these goals. If you are a Council Member, your input and participation is imperative. Partnering organizations are invited to attend and participate as well. We will also be having our regular quarterly Council meeting during the retreat.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2009 and end by 3:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the Carroll County EMC auditorium located on Hwy 113 in Carrollton. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to the Council office by May 29th so we can plan for lunch.



WHEELS TO WORK RECEIVES GRANT FROM GREYSTONE POWER

by Kevin Patterson, Wheels to Work Project Manager

This past March, Wheels to Work received a grant from Greystone Power Corporation in Douglas County for the amount of \$20,000 through their Operation Round Up Program. This grant will have a significant impact and benefit individuals and families needing transportation in Douglas County. Many thanks go to the Greystone Grant Board, Vicki Harshbarger (Greystone Power Corp.) and Charles Rutland (RH RC&D Executive Comm. VP) for helping us receive this grant. Most of the grant will be used in Douglas County. However, a portion will go toward starting a Wheels program in Coweta County with the help of the Kiwanis Club in Newnan, which has adopted Wheels to Work as one of their projects for 2009.

Since August 2008, Wheels to Work has received three grants totaling \$37,000! We are excited that other organizations see the impact of this program!

This year 4 clients have been placed in vehicles and two more are scheduled to be placed by the end of April. Our goal is to place 15 families or individuals in vehicles this year. Including existing clients, we estimate Wheels to Work will directly impact over 100 people this year.



CERTIFIED ARBORIST COURSE

by Cindy Haygood, RC&D Coordinator

Rolling Hills RC&D began a **Certified Arborist Course** on Friday, April 17th. The class consists of five days of instruction, all held on Fridays (April 17, May 1, May 8, May 15, and May 22) and will be held in Cartersville. A total of 18 individuals are registered to take the series.

This class series is being taught in cooperation with local Cooperative Extension offices. We want to offer a special thanks to the Extension Coordinators that will be assisting with instruction as well as Terry Paige, Rome City Arborist. Topics include soils, water management, tree identification, pruning, fertilization, tree selection, disease management, hazard trees, etc. CEUs will also be offered to existing Certified Arborists wishing to take a one day class.

This class is designed for local government staff, tree care companies, and landscaping companies, as well as individuals. If you are involved in a business or organization that is responsible for tree care in any way, having a Certified Arborist on staff will add credibility to your company. We strongly encourage local governments to send appropriate staff to this course as a way to continue to add to their knowledge of tree care.

For those individuals interested (and eligible) to take the ISA Certified Arborist Exam, the exam will be proctored immediately following the final class. Please note that the class is only in preparation for the ISA Certified Arborist Exam and does not make the attendee Certified. Also, ISA has prerequisites for eligibility for Certification.

There is still time to sign up for CEU classes! Call the Council office for a registration form or for any questions!



Extension Coordinator, Mary Carol Sheffield, taking the class on a "Tree Walk".

SEPTIC TANK PROJECTS IN BIG CEDAR AND LOWER LITTLE TALLAPOOSA

by Cindy Haygood, RC&D Coordinator

We are excited to announce that two new watershed projects began in January 2009. The *Big Cedar* and *Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed* projects, funded through EPD 319h grants, will work for the next three years to address fecal coliform and sediment issues in the region. In addition to providing funding to local agricultural landowners for agricultural practices, Rolling Hills will be working with landowners to correct septic tank failures as well.

By working in partnership with local Environmental Health Departments, we will address failing septic systems and related issues that may be contributing to the impaired water quality in the region. To date, two training workshops have been held with septic tank companies in the region to prepare them for the project and ensure they understand how the project will work. Over 40 companies attended these sessions and expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to bid on the projects. Landowners who wish to participate (that are located within the eligible watersheds) must obtain a permit from their local Environmental Health Department and can sign up for assistance at that time. After a bid and selection process, the landowner will be reimbursed for a percentage of the repair expenses. We will be able to financially assist on repairing failing systems as well as full system replacements if required.

The Carroll County Environmental Health Department has undertaken a door to door septic system assessment within the Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed. The results will provide the county with GPS coordinates of all septic systems as well as an assessment of the health of the systems. The assessments will be free to landowners and completely voluntary.

Rolling Hills will also assist with septic system pumpouts through a voucher system that will be underway soon. For more info, call the Council office!



LOCALLY GROWN FOOD– COTTON MILL FARMERS MARKET

by Wendy Crager, Council Member

LOC*A*VORE = a person who eats primarily locally grown food

(The New Oxford American Dictionary's 2007 word of the year!)

Back in 2002, a little fledgling farmers market started in Carrollton with the help of Rolling Hills RC&D. Now, the Cotton Mill Farmers Market opens April 25th, commencing its eighth successful year. Hundreds of locavores (folks who prefer to buy and eat local food) are anticipating the beginning of the new season. The market, which is open on Saturdays from



8 a.m. to 12 noon, features local food from farmers and backyard growers in Carroll County and adjacent counties including Randolph and Cleburne counties in Alabama. It's a festive atmosphere in the parking lot on Bradley Street in Carrollton, across from City Hall.

Anyone wishing to sell at the market may call the market manager, Janet Holbrook at 770/258-1365. For additional information check the website www.cottonmillfarmersmarket.org

Are you a locavore?!!!

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

Irwin Bagwell
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

Larry Reynolds
Jewell Tuck, Secretary

Coosa Valley RDC

David Howerin



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CERTIFIED ARBORIST CLASS BEGINS

Friday, April 17, 2009
Cartersville, GA

BIG CEDAR CREEK WATERSHED- AG PRODUCERS MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2009
Cedartown, GA
6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

ROLLING HILLS COUNCIL RETREAT and SECOND QUARTER MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2009
Carroll EMC Auditorium
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)

NATIONAL RC&D CONFERENCE

Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 14-17, 2009

COUNCIL STAFF

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