

# Highlights from the Hills

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



Issue 21, Spring 2010

## *Rolling Hills Welcomes Georgia Councils to Spring Meeting at Berry College*



Rolling Hills RC&D would like to welcome the GA RC&D Councils to Rome, Georgia on April 28-29, 2010. The *GA RC&D Spring Meeting* is being held on **Berry College** campus at the **WinShape Retreat**. Representatives from all 11 RC&D Councils in Georgia are gathering to meet for two days.

The meeting will be held at the facility that previously served as the Berry Dairy barns. The facility is now operated by the **WinShape Foundation** and serves as a marriage retreat. Occasionally they open this facility to groups like ours and we are privileged to be able to host the meeting at this location. During the two day meeting, the group will tour the agricultural operations at Berry and visit the “*House of Dreams*” atop Lavender Mountain. Meals are served in the old milking parlor and guest rooms are located in the old barns!



*WinShape Retreat Center, Berry College*

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## GEORGIA'S GROWING GREEN PROGRAM GROWS JOBS AND GETS TREES IN THE GROUND

by John Hendrickson, Community Forester

**Rolling Hills** is collaborating with **Limestone Valley RC&D** in *Georgia's Growing Green Program*. This local tree planting initiative is administered by the **Georgia Forestry Commission** and is funded by the 2009 *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA).

The program targets North Georgia counties where our local green industry has been hit hard both by the recession and by several years of drought conditions. It's designed to create green jobs and help to restore local ecosystems by planting trees. Projects benefit the region by supporting local nurseries, landscape contractors and designers, and equipment sales and rentals. Additionally, the trees will offer lasting benefits by providing shade and reducing energy consumption, reducing storm water runoff and soil erosion, improving water quality, and contributing to the aesthetic appeal of the landscape.

One hundred-eighty 2-3" caliper trees were planted this spring at sixteen project sites in our Council area. These trees will enhance schools, parks, public buildings, and municipal rights-of-way in **Bartow, Floyd, Heard, and Polk** counties for decades to come. An additional forty projects are planned for next planting season, beginning in the fall.



Tree planting at Van Wert Elementary in Rockmart

## SOUTHERN QUILT TRAIL EXPANDS!

**Rolling Hills RC&D** is partnering with the *Southern Quilt Trail* to expand the trail throughout northwest Georgia! Rolling Hills acquired a *Tourism Product Development Grant* from the **Georgia Department of Economic Development** for \$5,943. These funds have allowed additional quilt squares to be installed on historic buildings and barns throughout the RC&D Area. New quilt squares are installed in **Powder Springs, Bowdon, Bremen, Tallapoosa, and Hiram**.

This program will assist our small communities by increasing tourism. Diane Reese and Gloria Hilderbrand began the *Southern Quilt Trail* in 2007 with a goal of highlighting traditional folk art quilts and the historical significance of old buildings in the region.



Roopville Quilt Square

“We’re trying to get tourists into the small mom and pop stores and small towns,” said Diane Reese, co-founder of the *Southern Quilt Trail*. Since then, **Rolling Hills** has become a partner to assist this group with the project.

Funding will also expand and update the quilt trail website. The expanded website will not only highlight each quilt pattern and historic location, it will identify local businesses and tourist opportunities for visitors. GPS coordinates will identify each location. Also, signage will be placed at strategic locations to direct trail visitors to the quilt squares and communities in the region. The website is [www.southernquilttrail.com](http://www.southernquilttrail.com).

An additional grant has been secured for Heard County from the **Georgia Family Connection Partnership Georgia Council for the Arts** in the amount of \$1,500.



## UPPER MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE WATERSHED PROJECT EXTENSION

by Susan Pullen, Watershed Project Manager

The **Rolling Hills RC&D Council** is pleased to announce the extension of the *Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed Project*. Originally slated to end April 30, 2010, the council applied for an extension so that the remaining \$220,000 in project funds could be spent within the watershed. This project initially began from a desire to service poultry producers within the area, and offered cost share assistance to producers who wished to install a dry litter stackhouse or composting facility on their farm.

In an effort to make sure all possible funds were offered to landowners in the region, we applied for and received approval to extend the project an additional year, through April 2011, and have expanded our scope of service to include septic system repair/replacement and well decommissioning. Under this new feature of our program, we will be able to offer cost share assistance to residential landowners with a need to repair or replace their existing septic system. This service is available to landowners with existing, residential systems only; new construction is not allowed.

Additionally, we are able to offer cost share assistance towards the cost of pumping out septic tanks. Landowners in **Paulding, Douglas, Coweta, Carroll, and Heard Counties** that fall within the *Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed* will be eligible to participate in this program. We will be working closely with the respective Environmental Health Offices in these counties to make this a success.

If you are interested in participating in this program, or if you would like more information, please contact Program Manager, Susan Pullen, at 770.490.5916 or [spullen@rollinghillsrcd.org](mailto:spullen@rollinghillsrcd.org), or RC&D Coordinator Cindy Haygood, at 770.749.0444 or [cindy.haygood@ga.usda.gov](mailto:cindy.haygood@ga.usda.gov).

This project is funded through a 319h grant from the **Georgia Environmental Protection Division**.

## GEORGIA BETTER BACKROADS– DIRT AND GRAVEL ROAD WORKSHOP

A *Dirt and Gravel Road Workshop* will be held on Thursday, May 13th in Bartow County at the **Komatsu Training Facility** located off of I-75 at exit 288. This workshop is for county and city road departments, county administrators, public works directors, and other local government staff responsible for road management. The workshop is co-sponsored by **Georgia RC&D Council, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, EPA, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.**



The workshop is free of charge and lunch will be provided. During the meeting, all attendees will receive the newly printed *GA Better Backroads Field Manual*.

To register, visit our website at [www.rollinghillsrcd.org](http://www.rollinghillsrcd.org).

### 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**

Jewell Tuck, Secretary

**At Large Member**

Johnny Groover, President\*

\*Executive Committee Members

**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, At-Large\*  
Doug Craven

**Paulding County**

Bruce Coyle  
Charles Rutland, Past Pres.\*

**Polk County**

Larry Reynolds  
David Jackson

**Coosa Valley RDC**

David Howerin



### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**GA RC&D COUNCIL MEETING**

April 28-29, 2010  
Location: WinShape Retreat Center, Berry College (Rome, GA)

**BIG CEDAR CREEK SEPTIC MAINTENANCE CLASS**

May 10, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
Cedartown Library

**DIRT AND GRAVEL ROAD WORKSHOP (pre-registration required)**

Thursday, May 13, 2010  
Location: Komatsu Training Center, Bartow County

**RMA PROJECT MEETING/ ESTATE PLANNING AND FARM TRANSITION**

Thursday, May 20, 2010  
Location: TBD

**NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION- JAKES DAY**

"Take Kids Fishing Event"  
Saturday, June 5, 2010  
JL Lester Wildlife Management Area (Polk County)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, June 16, 2010  
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
RC&D Council Office

**THIRD QUARTER COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, July 8, 2010  
Location: Bartow County

**SE RC&D TRAINING CONFERENCE**

September 22-25, 2010  
Location: Biloxi, MS

### COUNCIL STAFF

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@rollinghillsrcd.org).

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