

# Highlights from the Hills

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



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## Rolling Hills Welcomes New Staff!

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Rolling Hills RC&D would like to introduce our team! Two new staff members have been added within the last four months and are busy carrying out the business of the Council. Kevin Patterson joined us to assume the role of Project Administrator and to head up the Wheels to Work Program. Also, Ginger Watson is our new Community Forester. We are excited to have these two on board and look forward to a productive and successful year ahead!



Rolling Hills RC&D Office  
(L-R) Susan Pullen, Cindy Haygood, Ginger Watson, Kevin Patterson

## Sustainable Grower School

With funding from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rolling Hills RC&D is partnering with the Carroll County Extension Service and the University of West Georgia to develop curriculum and host a *Sustainable Growers School*. This school is designed to teach new and existing growers sustainable farm and land conservation practices.

The school will be located on the campus of the University of West Georgia, and will use classroom, lab and field work as practical elements in educating its students in sustainable and organic production management and marketing practices.

This school is designed to meet the needs of students



from all walks of life. From retired folks with a love for large scale gardening and the fun of selling their excess produce at a farmers market to land owners and entrepreneurs wanting to put their land into production, this series provides a practical guide to developing a sustainable operation.

The first series of classes begins March 3rd and afterwards will be held alternate Saturdays until finished. The cost is \$350/person for a total of seven courses including lunch.

For more information you can visit [www.thegrowersschool.org](http://www.thegrowersschool.org) or contact Mike Gilroy at 770-258-4048. Scholarships are available for Limited Resource Producers.

### Office Contact Information:

512 Main Street, Cedartown, GA 30125

Ph: 770-749-0444 Fax: 770-749-9444

## Wheels to Work Update

*By Kevin Patterson, Project Administrator*

Sonia Miller began a relationship with Rolling Hills RC&D November 19, 2004 by signing a Sales Contract for a Wheels to Work automobile. Sonia became a Wheels to Work client and successfully and officially completed the program on December 13, 2006. Sonia is shown receiving the Title to her car and a Certificate of Achievement from Carolyn Westbrook (a Wheels to Work Committee Member) for successfully paying her car off.

work but they do not have the means of a vehicle to go to and from work," states Kevin Patterson, the Project Administrator. In order to qualify, the participant must maintain employment, make low monthly interest free payments and keep full coverage insurance on the car and follow other specific guidelines of the program. Sonia demonstrated much responsibility making each monthly payment on time and without excuse. "We are very proud of Sonia. She exemplifies what a Wheels to Work client should be," states Patterson. For information about the Wheels to Work program or to make a tax-deductible vehicle donation, we may be contacted at (770)-749-0444.

Wheels to Work is a program administered by Rolling Hills RC&D which is designed to assist low-income individuals in obtaining a good used car in order to be capable of going back and forth to work. All monies received go back into the program. "Many people want jobs and want to



(L-R) Alicia Smith, Carolyn Westbrook, Sonia Miller



One of our goals this year is to work with as many communities as possible to assist with their acquisition of Tree City USA designation. I will be working closely with the Georgia Forestry Commission to achieve this goal. This prestigious designation ensures that a city or county has a program in place to properly manage their community forests.

We are currently assisting the City of Dallas to become a Tree City USA. I will be assisting with tree ordinances and discussing ideas about tree boards. I will be available to provide training to government staff involved with tree care,

## Arborist Services

*By Ginger Watson, Community Forester/Certified Arborist*



conduct Arbor Day observances, and assist with other community tree issues. I also hope to assist in identifying and recognizing Landmark and Historic Trees in the region.

Currently, I am involved with organizing upcoming Arbor Day events with Keep Polk Beautiful. Both Cedartown and Rockmart High Schools are participating in a *Story, Song or Poem Contest*. The winners will be announced at the Tree Planting Ceremony held on Arbor Day, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The students are holding a work day February 10<sup>th</sup> at the schools to prepare the planting sites for their future trees.

The Certified Arborist Course is in full swing. We have twenty eager participants and the majority of

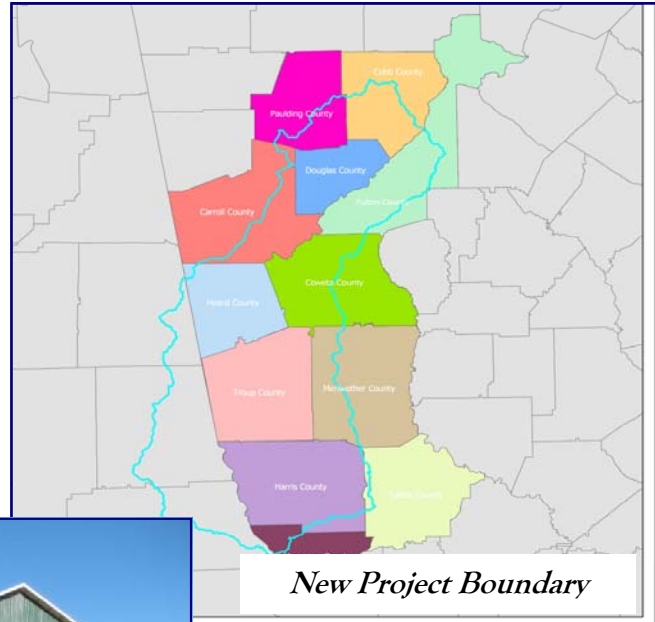
them are planning on taking the exam to become certified. The purpose of the course is to increase technical knowledge on the care and maintenance of trees to local county and city governments and individuals involved in tree care.

I am looking forward to working with you throughout this year. Please feel free to contact me with questions or to set an appointment. I am also available to make presentations on urban tree issues such as the value of community trees, proper tree management, tree selection and planting. This project is funded through the Georgia Forestry Commission's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.

## Poultry Waste Management: Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed

*by Susan Pullen, Program Manager*

The 4-year grant which began in September 2003, will finish up in August of this year. Funds from the Environmental Protection Division, 319(h) Non-Point Source Implementation Grant program awarded \$622,864 in grant funds, and charged the program with the task of assisting poultry farmers within the project area with water quality practices. We have assisted 17 farmers with the installation of dry litter stackhouses, compost sheds, and rotary composting machines. We've almost completed construction on all facilities, and are very excited to have been a part of this effort. We have exhausted funds for the current grant, but have submitted and received approval for another grant for \$431,050. We plan to begin the new grant in September 2007.



With the construction and installation phase of the grant almost completed, an Alternative Litter Management Techniques committee has been established. This group has been assigned the task of exploring innovative litter management strategies. It is our hope that through research and interaction with others, we can educate ourselves and the poultry farmers regarding litter management techniques that may be both easier on the farmer and the environment. We have chosen several alternative litter management techniques that will be published in



will be published in

an Alternative Litter Management Guide. This guide will be available to farmers and others to manage litter more effectively so that water quality will be improved. The committee will then research all of the methods in the published document and choose one that we feel will fit well into our geographical area. A feasibility study will be performed on that particular method.

## Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Program

Rolling Hills has been offering Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Courses throughout 2006 and will be continuing through 2007. These classes and exam are required for all individuals involved in land disturbance in Georgia. While the deadline for certification was December 31, 2006, there are still many individuals that have not completed the course. Anyone interested in taking this course and exam can visit our website at [www.rollinghillsrccd.org](http://www.rollinghillsrccd.org) for a registration application or contact the Council office. The cost for these courses is \$125/person which includes lunch.

To date, we have hosted 25 courses, trained 1055 individuals and certified 915. **Upcoming Classes**

Level 1A	February 17, 2007	Cedartown
Level 1A	March 6, 2007	Carrollton
Level 1A	March 22, 2007	Rome

For more information on these required courses, contact the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission at [www.gaswcc.org](http://www.gaswcc.org).

### Rolling Hills Membership

**Bartow County**

Clarence Brown  
Davis Nelson

**Carroll County**

Robert Barr  
Wendy Cragger

**Coweta County**

Sandra Parker  
Jim McGuffey

**Coosa River SWCD**

VACANT

**At Large Member**

Johnny Groover

**Douglas County**

David Lathem  
Carolyn Westbrook

**Floyd County**

John Mayes  
Thad Rush

**Haralson County**

Jimmy Smith  
Keith Golden

**West GA SWCD**

Claude Abercrombie

**Heard County**

Lee Boone  
Doug Craven

**Paulding County**

Don Powell  
Charles Rutland

**Polk County**

VACANT  
Jewell Tuck

**Coosa Valley RDC**

VACANT

**Chatt-Flint RDC**

Kimberly Dutton



### Council Staff

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

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

Susan Pullen, Poultry Waste Management Project Manager  
nspullen@bellsouth.net

Ginger Watson, Community Forester/Certified Arborist  
ginger@rollinghillsrcd.org

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**LOWER LITTLE TALLAPOOSA WATERSHED MTG**

February 22, 2007 9:30 a.m.

Carrollton Community Activities Center

**WEST REGION ENVIROTHON**

March 2, 2007

Newman Wetlands Center, Clayton County

**SUSTAINABLE GROWERS SCHOOL BEGINS**

March 3, 2007

University of West Georgia

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

March 21, 2007 9:00 a.m.

RC&D Office

**SPRING QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING**

April 12, 2007

Location TBA

### Office Address:

512 Main Street  
Cedartown, GA 30125

Ph: 770-749-0444

Fax: 770-749-9444

[www.rollinghillsrcd.org](http://www.rollinghillsrcd.org)

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