



Cawaco News

Cawaco Resource, Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
Serving Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama

"Leading Central Alabama in the Wise Use of Human and Natural Resources"

SUMMER 2013

Project Updates:

PARNELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY EROSION MITIGATION

Project Director: Libbie Rodgers



Before: Area directly behind the Library.



Before: Drainage ditch flowing towards Orr Park Brigde.



After: The area behind the Library facing Orr Park after construction of the bioswale and installation of the rainwater harvesting system.

Problem: Since the opening of the Library in 2007, increase in the volume of stormwater had resulted in serious, unsightly erosion in the area parallel to the Island Street side of the library building and flooding at the lower end of the library grounds.

Solution:

- Redesign and rework the drainage system.
- Develop a bioswale (or sustainable rain garden) to slow and infiltrate rainwater to replenish the groundwater supply.
- Install a rainwater harvesting system that collects rainwater from the roof of the library for use in irrigating the garden, thereby reducing the need for City water.
- Educate the community and those upstream and downstream of Montevallo's Shoal Creek about conservation principles modeled in the project, including sustainable landscape design and water conservation practices.

Cawaco RC&D provided a \$5,000 grant that was used as a downpayment on the rainwater harvesting system that was purchased from Natures Tap in Birmingham, AL.

Other Partners:

- The City of Montevallo contributed funds toward the design phase of the project, the site of which is on City property.
- The Shelby County landscape architect and a County engineer tweaked the existing project drawings.
- The Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$10,000)
- Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation (\$10,000)
- The Coca-Cola Company & World Wildlife Fund Southeast Rivers and Streams Partnership, facilitated by the Cahaba River Society (\$9,000)
- Other donations (\$111,625.)



RenewOur Rivers Bankhead Lake Cleanup took place June 1.

BANKHEAD LAKE CLEANUP- QUINN'S LANDING

Project Director: Kellie Johnston

The 2013 Bankhead Lake Cleanup took place on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at Quinn's Landing on Bankhead Lake. 75 volunteers removed two full large dumpsters of trash and debris from Bankhead Lake. The clean up is organized by the Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership (Which is sponsored by Cawaco RC&D) and includes support from local citizens and businesses, County, State and Federal agencies. Heavy items were removed by Alabama Power, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a contingent of volunteers on Tuesday, May 28th. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the Walker County Search & Rescue Unit was on site to ensure the safety of the volunteers. Walker County Commission District #3 provided equipment to assist in loading heavy items and Republic Services-Pineview Landfill provided dumpsters and waived landfill fees. The day's events closed with a volunteer lunch provided by Piggly Wiggly-Dora and served by Alabama Power Service Organization.



Ron Sparks, Director of Alabama's Rural Development Agency meets with teacher Brian Copes at Calera High School. In the background: electric cars built by students to compete at Barbers Motorsports racing event and funded through a grant from Cawaco RC&D.

EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS- ALDRIDGE GARDENS

Project Director: Audrey Ann Wilson



Students from South Shades Crest Elementary learn about trees at Aldridge Gardens in Hoover. Cawaco funded a series of educational field trips and summer camps focused on grades 5k-3rd grade. These field trips provide children with an outdoors hands-on learning experience that enhances their interest in science and nature.



Teacher Brian Copes describes to Ron Sparks how students have designed a prosthetic leg using motor mounts. Limbs designed at Calera High School are being used by amputees in Honduras.

ELECTROTHON RACE AT BARBERS MOTORSPORTS PARK

Project Director: Brian Copes

On April 22, over 100 students participated in a race at Barbers Motorsports Park. Four area schools participated thanks to a grant from Cawaco RC&D to help purchase electric car kits. Zoom Racing and Barbers Motorsports donate use of their facility to host this event that grows yearly. All of the vehicles in the race are built entirely by students, and each is a one-of-a-kind creation.



A Basic Utility Vehicle designed by students will be sent to another country to be used as an ambulance. A single grant from Cawaco years ago has made a worldwide impact.



In April, Cawaco and Coosa Valley RC&D councils partnered to provide technical assistance and funding to the Guiding Light Church community garden which is located on John Rogers Parkway in Irondale, AL. Cawaco provided the funding and Coosa Valley's assistance included formulating a plan to increase production of the garden using micro-irrigation and installing best management practices in order to control soil erosion on steep slopes.



News, Meetings, and Happenings...

SMITH LAKE CLEAN UP

June 19 and 20 beginning at 9 AM

Carl Godsey's launch spot at the END OF COUNTY ROAD 61 in Houston Winston Co. Smith Lake Advocacy, Bankhead National Forest & Alabama Power Company) will be conducting a Renew Our Rivers lake clean-up effort in Winston County. We'll focus our efforts around Yellow Creek, Sipsey and Brushy where we had several tornado/wind events this year.

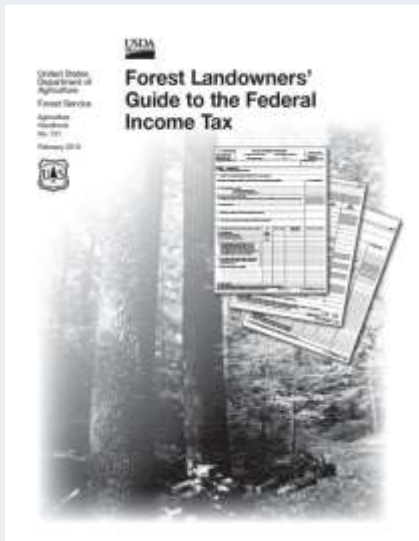
Bring your lunch, water and sunscreen! We'll have gloves, bags and trash grabbers. As usual, we will not be accepting household garbage. And we will be targeting small debris and hand trash. We will NOT be able to accept piers/boat houses etc.

WILDLIFE SCHOOL FOR LANDOWNERS

August 22-23

The annual Wildlife School for Landowners, a land management training seminar, will be held in Coffee County at the Heritage United Methodist Church on August 22-23. The training is targeted at landowners and land managers interested in improving wildlife habitat and population management. Topics include feral hog control, timber management, prescribed burning, wildlife openings, deer management, where to obtain technical and financial assistance and much more.

The event is hosted by the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts Forestry and Wildlife Standing Committee, along with several sponsors. The



cost for registration before July 31 is \$50, with a discounted registration of \$30 for a spouse. Late registration will be \$60. Registered foresters who attend will receive continuing education credit for each day in attendance.

For an agenda and registration form, visit www.swcc.alabama.gov. Click on "calendar" then scroll down to "AACD Forestry & Wildlife Committee Wildlife School." For more information contact Katherine Patton, district administrative coordinator of Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District at 205-387-1879.

FOREST LANDOWNERS GUIDE TO FEDERAL INCOME TAX NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Written by U.S. Forest Service emeritus research forester John Greene with co-authors William Siegel, William Hoover and Mark Koontz, the guide updates and takes the place of a previous publication of the same name, incorporating new tax laws and changes through September 30, 2012.

For more information visit

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2013/03/12/just-in-time-updated-forest-landowners-guide-to-the-federal-income-tax/> or you can download the publication from the Alabama Forestry Commission website at http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/PDFs/ah_srs731.pdf



Montevallo's downtown core that includes parts of Main, Middle and Valley streets has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. (Martin J. Reed / mreed@al.com)

MONTEVALLO DOWNTOWN ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

MONTEVALLO, Alabama -- Members of the Montevallo Historical Commission have helped cement the city's place as an important landmark in Alabama by getting the downtown core on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places included the Downtown Montevallo Historic District on the list as of April 23, according to the [program's website](#).

"Although the city was established in 1814, the present commercial core dates primarily from a period of downtown commercial development and municipal improvements that occurred after the establishment of the Alabama Girls' Industrial School (now the University of Montevallo) in 1896," according to the website.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARD WINNERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — June 1, 2013 – The National Association of RC&D Councils has made a concerted effort to increase the capacity of local RC&D Councils and foster communication between local residents and State and local government officials that lie within RC&D Council areas.

The NARC&DC and the US Forest Service have the common goal to ensure that rural residents and communities, in RC&D Areas, have the opportunity to meet



CONTACT US!

Staff:

Kellie Johnston

*Executive Director;
Black Warrior Clean Water
Partnership Facilitator*

Patti Pennington

*Programs Manager;
Grants Administrator*

We are on the web!

www.cawaco.org

Address:

2112 11th Ave. South
Suite 541
Birmingham AL 35126
Phone:
205-623-0457
Email: grantfunds@live.com

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with government officials and non-government officials involved in Forest Action Plans in order to help with implementation efforts.

To help facilitate these discussions, the US Forest Service has provided the NARC&DC with funding to assist 6 RC&D Council Areas. Many RC&D Councils submitted proposals outlining their involvement in their State's Forest Action Plan. After a competitive review process, we are pleased to announce that the following RC&D Councils have been selected to receive funding:

- **Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. of Alabama**
- Chestatee/Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. of Georgia
- Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) of Iowa
- Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. of Montana
- Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council of Minnesota
- Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development Inc. of Iowa

In the tradition of the RC&D Program, these RC&D Councils have agreed to make a concerted effort to ensure people from under-served or traditionally under-represented populations are present at their meetings. "These meetings are timely and will help advance efforts to promote healthy forests throughout the nation" stated Andrew Gordon of NARC&DC. We are looking forward to highlighting the outcomes of these meetings in January 2014.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCE AWARD TO CAWACO RC&D

The National Association of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Councils is pleased to announce that Cawaco RC&D Council of Birmingham, Alabama has been reauthorized as a member of the national RC&D Circle of Diamonds.

As a standing member of the Circle of Diamonds, Cawaco RC&D Council continually demonstrates its positive impact on the quality of life within its local area and its accountability to the community it serves through its organizational structure, the processes it uses, and the outcomes it attains.

In earning reauthorization of its Circle of Diamonds membership, the Cawaco RC&D Council promises to continue to maintain the specific benchmarks set forth in program guidelines. This mark of excellence shows its honesty, integrity, and strong commitment to the RC&D mission.

Cawaco RC&D programs and activities are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.