



Cawaco News

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

SPRING 2013

Project Updates:

CHILTON COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL

Project Director: Glenn Littleton, Chilton County Water Festival Committee Chairman

With help of a small grant from Cawaco RC&D, the Chilton County Soil & Water Conservation District was able to hold the First Annual Chilton County Water Festival. Held on March 15, 2013, the festival educated over 650 students about the importance of water quality and conservation. Seventy volunteers signed the registration Friday morning to help. The planning for 2014 begins very soon!



Students learn about filtration at the first annual Chilton County Water Festival

REED HARVEY PARK TRAIL

Project Director: Francesca Gross, Five Mile Creek Partnership Facilitator

Cawaco recently completed a **5 Star Restoration grant with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**. Location: Center Point, Alabama. T 16 South R 1 West Section 18 between 22nd Ave NE and Polly Reed Road
This Five Star Restoration project enhances stream habitat using natural channel design. The rock vane structure also doubles as a crossing to the nature trail. Once you cross the water on the stepping stones, follow the crushed rock trail along Five Mile Creek to find six different kinds of trees. Enjoy this wooded nature trail and learn about walnut, willow oak, sycamore, black willow, sweet gum and box elder and how people use the wood. These trees once filled central Alabama's broad floodplains along creeks and rivers.



Crossing Five Mile Creek over a constructed rock vane.

Project Highlights:

- Partnered with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Engineering and Jefferson County Department of Health for community education and outreach.
- The project area was the focus of a UAB senior engineering school seminar study
- Engineering study concluded with public meetings and an area-wide stormwater workshop for municipal officials.
- An in-stream structure for water quality improvement was installed in Five Mile Creek





A group touring Reed Harvey Trail on March 14, 2013



Bankhead Lake Cleanup at Quinns Landing on June 1.



The "Water Runs Down Hill" Public Service Announcement is free to download and distribute. This PSA targets the general public and addresses common threats to our fresh water supply.

- Invasive species were removed from the floodplain and a low-impact walking, and tree identification trail was constructed.
- Early in the project, Cawaco RC&D partnered with the engineering Department at University of Alabama Birmingham and the Jefferson County Health Department to educate the community on alternatives such as bio-retention and stream restoration. The education portion of the project was very successful.

News, Meetings, and Happenings...

BANKHEAD LAKE CLEANUP

It's time to plan for the Bankhead Lake Renew Our Rivers Clean Up! The cleanup is scheduled for the week of **May 28th** with the citizen volunteer clean up on June 1st. Quinn's Landing has agreed to be the site host again this year. General information about the cleanup has been posted to the Alabama Power website at <http://www.alabamapower.com/community/lakes/2013-schedule.asp#>

CAHABA BASIN STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

of the Alabama Clean Water Partnership will be meeting **Tuesday April 2, 2013** from **1:00 until 3:00 pm**. The meeting will be held at the Jefferson County Environmental Services Training Facility located at 1331 Oak Grove Road, Birmingham, Alabama. Guest presenter for the meeting will be *Andrew Baril, the Regional Extension Agent for Forestry, Wildlife, & Natural Resources with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System*, speaking about ecotourism in Alabama and its connection with the water and hiking trails systems in the state.

WATER RUNS DOWN HILL PSA

Below is a link to the *Water Runs Downhill* **public service announcement**. The project was developed by the Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership and produced by Discovering Alabama with funds from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. If your group has a need for broad public education, feel free to work with your contacts to air it your local television markets **as-is, NO CHARGE**. Just send an email to Kellie Johnston at warriorcwp@hotmail.com requesting the file and where it will be placed (for tracking purposes.)LINK:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2ysP6R4EpQ>



Hobson City residents converted an abandoned playground to a thriving community garden. Come to the Outreach meeting on April 4 to learn how your community can do the same!

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:

211211th Ave. South
Suite 541
Birmingham AL 35126

Phone:
205-623-0457

Email: grantfunds@live.com

Would you like to help us develop our five-year area plan? Would you like to have a say in what our goals and objectives will be for the next five years? Contact us and request a survey! This brief survey will help the Council determine the needs in our five-county area.

USDA-NRCS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE (EQIP) OUTREACH PROGRAM/WORKSHOP

Thursday-APRIL 4, 2013

6:00 P.M.

1800 JOHN ROGERS DRIVE
IRONDALE, ALABAMA 35210

Light refreshments will be served.

The program is designed to reach out to nontraditional farmers in order to make them aware of the grants, programs and services offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Drip irrigation and community gardening will also be discussed.

WHO ARE WE?

Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council plans and supports activities that increase conservation of natural resources, encourage economic development and enhance the environment and standard of living within the Council area.

The Cawaco RC&D Council is actively involved in the management of multi-county, cross-jurisdictional projects that address natural, financial, and/or human resource opportunities within Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. Many of these projects involve partnerships between local businesses, governmental agencies and citizen volunteers.

OUR GRANT PROGRAM

Under the terms of its charter, Cawaco RC&D can distribute grants to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama. The Council does not lend or grant money to individuals or for-profit institutions. All applying organizations must supply proof of tax-exempt status showing specific Internal Revenue Service qualification.

ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors of Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. is comprised of a representative from each County Commission and Soil & Water Conservation District within the program area, and two at-large members approved by the Commission and District. In order provide input to the Staff regarding direction and goals of the Council, members of the Board of Directors serve on working committees which include Grants, Finance, Executive and Personnel Committee. Working Committees meet periodically as necessary to conduct business. The Council conducts quarterly meetings in order to discuss the status of the RC&D program and to identify opportunities for cooperative projects.

We deeply appreciate the legislators who support us!

If you are a recipient of a Cawaco grant, please remember to thank your local legislators!