

SOIL & WATER NEWS



October 2009

Brent Dykes, Executive Director

Bud Whitmire, Editor

A Word From the Director

Remembering David Bennett

Over the course of a lifetime, we have the opportunity to meet many people and be influenced in some small or large way by those people. At the time, we as individuals may not realize the imprint that these people are making on us.

One such individual that greatly influenced my life was former Commission Director David Bennett. From the day that I graduated college to the day David retired, he was my direct supervisor. He and I spent countless hours traveling this great state and talked about many subjects, some work related and some not. David's passion was seeing conservation practices implemented on the ground to the benefit of Georgia's agricultural producers. He was a big picture, visionary type of person, and he had more ideas than I had paper to write them down. For those of us that worked with him closely, we came to appreciate his sense of humor, his ability to make the right decision in a timely manner, and his efforts to guide the Conservation Commission through the ever-changing world of government and conservation. I am a better person today having known and worked with David Bennett. The Conservation Commission is a better agency because of his leadership.



Governor's 2010 Conservation Award

Nominees are currently being sought for the Fifth Annual Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award. For the past four years, Governor Sonny Perdue has recognized those that are not only making a living from their lands, but also using the latest, innovative techniques to protect it for future generations. Applications are available at www.agawareness.com and on the [GSWCC website](http://www.gswcc.org). Five district winners are selected for the award each year. Judges will visit each district winner's farm. Based on their recommendation, Governor Perdue will announce the state winner March 16, 2010 in Atlanta during the sixth annual Agricultural Awareness Week.

To be considered for this award, applications must be mailed or electronically submitted to the Gover-

nor's Agriculture Advisory Commission no later than Noon, December 10, 2009. Past district winners are encouraged to apply.

Fowler Honored by UGA CAES

Carrie Fowler received the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association Young Alumni Achievement Award at the 55th Annual CAES Awards Banquet on September 25th. Fowler graduated from UGA with a Bachelor's in Animal & Dairy Science and a Master's in Environmental Economics. She has been with GSWCC since 2004.



Edsel Nix Inducted Into Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame


Edsel Nix, an Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor from Cleveland, was inducted into the Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame at the 2009 Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts Meeting in Charleston, S.C. The Hall of Fame was established to recognize individuals who have donated much of their life and have made major contributions to conservation at the state, regional and national levels. Conservation district supervisors work with landowners in their communities to protect and conserve natural resources.



Nix has been a cooperater with his conservation district since he began farming. He and his wife, Audrey, won the first of their two Soil Conservation Farm Family awards in 1965. He began his service as a district supervisor for White County in 1973 and was elected district Chairman in 1995. He is an active member of the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors.

A tireless advocate of soil and water conservation, Nix has been the first to try new conservation practices and has hosted field days to prove the benefits of conservation to other farmers. He has always been a strong supporter of conservation education, securing funding for outdoor classrooms, promoting partnerships to benefit education, and implementing a scholarship program for deserving students in every county in the district. Under Nix's leadership, the district sponsors a stewardship meeting for local pastors, recognizing their service and providing soil and water stewardship materials for their use in local churches.

Nix was instrumental in the development of Testatee #11, a watershed lake that is the water supply for White County. He was one of the founding board members of the White County Water Authority and helped to plan the infrastructure needed to deliver the water to residents. Nix is Vice President of the Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation & Development Council, which works with communities to conserve natural resources and promote economic development.

Nix is a Shoal Creek Baptist Church deacon and has been Chairman of the White County Baptist Association for over 25 years. He has been a Farm Bureau Board Member, a White County Farmers Exchange Board Member, and a founding member of the White County Sportsmen Club, where he promoted the value of conservation in establishing and protecting wildlife habitat. 

NRCS Reports Storm Impacts to Flood Control Dams

Georgia experienced significant flooding between 9/21/09 – 9/23/09 leading to a request for a federal disaster declaration over 17-counties in north and central Georgia. Over 24 inches of rain fell in some parts of the state, most intensely in Douglas and Paulding Counties.

There are 120 NRCS assisted watershed dams in the 17-county disaster area. These dams are designed to store floodwaters and, in most cases, the emergency spillway is designed to activate approximately 9 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.


Georgia has 18 counties that sustained flood damage in the wake of the September 2009 flood event. Most of these counties are in the northern part of the state.

Bartow Cobb Fulton Rockdale
Carroll Coweta Gwinnet Stephens
Catoosa Crawford Heard Walker
Chattooga DeKalb Newton
Cherokee Douglas Paulding

About 120 watershed dams were in the affected counties and all of them have had an initial inspection. Of these 120 dams, about 34 of them activated their emergency spillways. None of the dams breached even though they were not designed to withstand a 500 year storm.

A more formal inspection is now underway to assess damages and repairs that may be needed. This inspection will be completed by the end of the week. We know that at least 3 of them sustained significant damage in Paulding, Fulton, and Cobb counties.

The damage occurred in 10 of Georgia's 13 Congressional districts. District 1 and District 12 did not have any damage. We have significant damage in Walker County. Roads are still closed and several streams have been rerouted.

There were several roads under cut due to stream erosion and topping. We have sediment from streams in farm fields and covering roads. Field offices are reporting debris in streams and bridges with erosion at the bridge abutments. EQIP structures and stream crossings have been blown out or damaged. We are beginning to get phone calls from landowners about erosion and fencing help needed. 



Region V News

- The GACDS Summer Group IV Meeting was held on August 18th at the Banquet Hall of the Terrell County Commissioners Office. There were over 50 people in attendance. The welcome and introduction was provided by the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD Chairman, Art Johns. A tour of the National Peanut Research Laboratory was provided by Marshall Lamb and staff. The tour was both educational and beneficial to all in attendance. We were fortunate to have local news channel WFXL provide [coverage of this event](#).

- Region V participated in the [Water Festival](#) on September 30th, October 1st, and October 2nd. The festival was at the Flint River Aquarium in Albany. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Region V office to work with 5th grade students from local schools in a fun and educational environment!


- We would like to give a special thanks to Technical Specialist Ben Ruzowicz for his assistance with the Level IA Certification and Re-Certification courses held in Tifton on August 4th and 5th. We had a great turnout!

- The Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD will be hosting a Level IA Re-Certification Course on October 21st at the Hooks Hanner Environmental Resource Center in Dawson. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Pam Nichols at 229-995-6001.

- The Ocmulgee River SWCD will hold their annual Christmas Party on December 3rd at 7 p.m. at the Peach County Farm Bureau.

- The Middle South Georgia SWCD will hold their annual Conservationist of the Year Awards Banquet on November 6th at 7 p.m. at the Agrirama in Tifton.


- Tony Black, Irrigator Pro Coordinator, reported that the finalized list from the recent MIL sign up should be ready by October 7th.

- Jake Fleming, Technical Services Manager, reported that the Metering Program will begin installing flow meters in the Lower Ocmulgee Sub Basin around the middle of October. Coastal Meter site readings will begin in October as well. 

Senate Aid Takes Conservation Tour

GSWCC held a tour for Bridges Sinyard, Senate Agriculture Committee aid to Saxby Chambliss, on Monday August 31st. The tour visited two irrigation reservoirs, one irrigation system (all built and repaired by the Ag Water Conservation Initiative), and attended the Altamaha District Meeting and Fish Fry. Both ponds visited were in Coffee County, one owned by Ronnie Lott and the other owned by Kerry Van Moore. The irrigation system visited was owned by Carey Knowles of Telfair County.

The ponds were constructed for the purpose of utilizing surface water and conserving ground water resources. The irrigation system was retrofitted to conserve water by removing non-uniform sprinklers and installing new sprinklers and end-gun shut-off. As an added bonus, most farmers like Mr. Knowles are installing drops and converting to low pressure systems that conserve water and energy. A sign up was held in August for the Ag-Water Conservation Initiative. The rankings for recipients of these programs should be taking place within the next month.

At the Knowles Farm, Sinyard was also briefed on the Ag Metering Program and shown how important the meters are to the farmers as well as the state as a whole. Those who had a part in the demonstrations were Brent Dykes, Dave Eigenberg, Ben Mosely, Anthony Black, David Hall, Chris Conner and Jason Mallard from **GSWCC** and David Ferrell and Zack Ralley from NRCS. Sinyard left the tour with a detailed working knowledge of the irrigation and conservation programs available through **GSWCC**. 



Carl Brack inducted into Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame

from press release

Carl Brack, a West Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, was inducted into the Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame at the 2009 Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

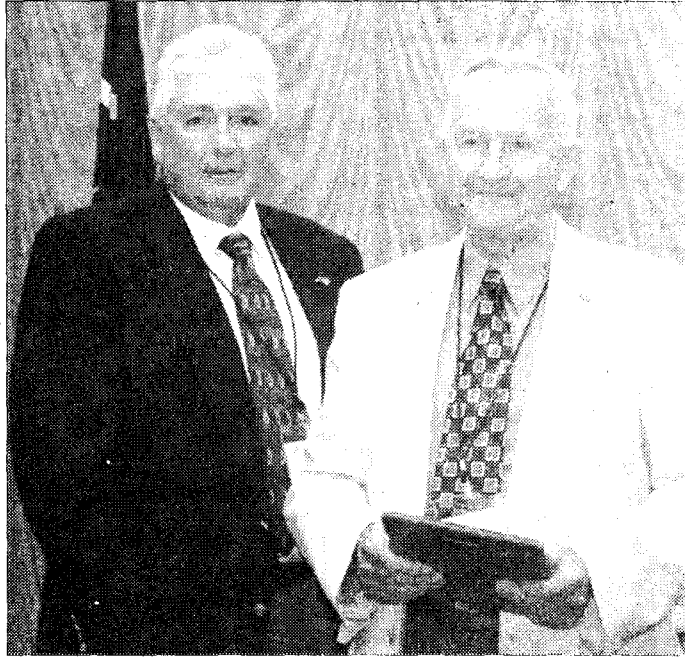
The Hall of Fame was established to recognize individuals who have donated much of their life and have made major contributions to conservation at the state, regional and national levels. Conservation district supervisors work with landowners in their communities to protect and conserve natural resources.

Brack retired from a thirty year career in the Cooperative Extension Service in 1991 after working in Fulton, Butts, and Carroll Counties.

The majority of that time was spent in Carroll County, where Brack was instrumental in the establishment of the Timber Growers Association and the Poultry Association, as well as the expansion of the Carroll County Cattleman's Association. He led the effort to develop the Carroll County Ag Center.

For 29 years, Brack's weekly newspaper articles and radio interviews conveyed to residents the importance of the conservation of natural resources.

Since 1991, Brack has been a Southern States employee, pro-



Carl Brack is shown above right.

viding advice on conservation practices to farmers and backyard conservation tips to homeowners. As a West Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor for the past sixteen years, Brack has proven his commitment to conservation education.

In addition to his support of the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Georgia's high school students, he has worked to secure funding for conservation education and has organized events in the district.

Brack has been a Georgia Soil and Water Conservation

Commission Board Member since being appointed by Governor Zell Miller in 1993. He served as President of the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors in 2000-2001 and was honored for his contributions with the 2006 GACDS Supervisor of the Year Award.

Brack said he believes in taking every opportunity to share the value of conservation with the public. He stated, "God has a plan for our lives. His plan was for me to spend my life in helping to care for his creation. He made all of us stewards of the Earth."

18th Annual Taste of Carrollton will be

2009 AGRITOURISM SYMPOSIUM

Expanding the Business Side of AgriTourism thru Regionalism

SAVE THE DATE

NORTH GEORGIA

November 5-6

Dillard House

Dillard, GA

(Rabun County)

MIDDLE GEORGIA

December 2-3

Oakhurst Farm

West Point, GA

(Harris County)

SOUTH GEORGIA

Spring 2010

Dates TBD

Convenient regional locations. Learn how to Build an Effective, Affordable Website; Social Media Marketing; Financial Analysis, Taxes & Labor; Regulations & Zoning; Making Marketing Magic; and more.

For more information visit www.areg.caes.uga.edu





FALL WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 5, 2009

TEAM AGRICULTURE GEORGIA (TAG) is hosting a

FREE ONE-DAY WORKSHOP/FIELD DAY

FOR SMALL, BEGINNING, AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

Mike Nugent Farm
4614 Mora Road
Willacoochee, GA

Workshop Topics

- Conservation Tillage soil quality
- Water Management & Energy Efficiencies
- Water Quality
- Financing Small Farms

Directions

From Douglas take 158 west approximately 8 miles to Hebron Church Road. Take left and go approximately 2.5 miles to Mora Road. Take another left, Mike Nugent Farm on left. Signs will be posted

Schedule

Registration & Exhibits	8:30 am – 9:00 am
General Session	9:00 am – 9:30 am
Workshop Session 1	9:30 am – 10:00 am
Workshop Session 2	10:00 am – 10:30 am
Workshop Session 3	10:30 am – 11:00 am
Workshop Session 4	11:00 am – 11:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Visit www.teamaggeorgia.com for more information



To attend Workshop for Small, Beginning, and Limited Resource Farmers,
Please register by Friday, October 30, 2009

By Mail: Georgia Forestry Commission • c/o Lauren Bush • 187 Corinth Road • Newnan, GA 30263
Call: 770-254-7374 • Fax: 770-254-7371 • E-mail: Lbush@gfc.state.ga.us • Register online: www.teamaggeorgia.com

Luncheon and all sessions are free
Registration is limited to 100 participants

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Farmer: No Yes Please List Crops/Livestock: _____

OPTIONAL: Race/Ethnic Origin _____ Male Female