



COBB COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT *2013*

BOARD MEMBERS

Woody Snell, PE — *Chairman*

Don Ayres, PE

Alan Bowling, PE

Alice Champagne, CPESC, CFM

Jim Lanier, CPESC



HISTORY



Following the 1930s Dust Bowl disaster, Congress passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. In 1937 President Roosevelt wrote to state governors recommending legislation that would allow for the formation of Soil Conservation Districts.

As a consequence, the Cobb County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was formed from the Atlanta District established in 1940, was organized on September 11, 1981.

The District provides cost-efficient assistance in the areas of erosion control, conservation, education and outreach, as well as public awareness and planning for citizens and local governments in Cobb County. In addition, the District Board interacts with local, state and federal agencies to assist in the conservation of soil and water resources.

Five District Supervisors serve on the Board; three elected Supervisors serve 4-year terms and two appointed Supervisors serve 2-year terms.

Assisting the District are the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The GSWCC, established by the General Assembly in 1937, is charged with and empowered to provide guidance, coordination and assistance to the District. Their primary goal is to provide protection to Georgia's soil and water resources.

By written agreement with and at the request of the District, NRCS provides professional conservationists to help implement the District's long-range conservation programs. The District channels the services of NRCS and sets priorities for the implementation of conservation practices.

For additional information concerning cost share programs, erosion and sediment control assistance or District activities, contact a District Supervisor, the GSWCC or the NRCS.

"Take care of the land and the land will take care of you." Hugh Hammond Bennett

ACTIVITIES

- Provide monthly assistance to all seven of Cobb County SWCD's local issuing authorities (LIAs) for land disturbance permits including complaint resolution and technical assistance.
- Review monthly information provided by LIAs indicating Erosion & Sediment Control (E&SC) permitting activity, notices of non-compliance, stop work orders, etc.
- Review E&SC plans as required by state law for Marietta, Powder Springs and Austell.
- Conduct overviews of LIAs E&SC program including administration and record keeping; site inspection and enforcement. Conducted Overviews of LIAs E&SC program including administration and record keeping; site inspection and enforcement.
- Host E&SC workshops in Cobb County for local government, builders, contractors, and landscape designers.
- Assist in amending Georgia's E&SC law to include the certification of E&SC inspectors and E&SC plan designers and plan reviewers.
- All Cobb District Supervisors are Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Level 2 Certified plan designers and reviewers.



SPECIAL PROJECTS



Repairs at Shaw Park

- The Cobb SWCD supervisors worked with City of Austell, NRCS, GSWCC, and other corporate sponsors to complete the IT and Lodemia Terrell Community Gardens in Austell.
- Throughout the year the CCSWCD has advised and consulted with the NRCS for conservation programs including CCRP, EQIP, and EWP.
- The CCSWCD website is maintained in order to provide conservation resources and materials including the District's Guideline for Native Vegetation and Stream Bank Restoration.
- The Cobb SWCD supervisors coordinated with Group 1 to host the 2013 GACDS Annual Meeting and the Legislative Luncheon at the GA Capitol.
- The Cobb SWCD hosted a Farm Bill Workshop on June 17 in Marietta to educate farmers in the county about the US Farm Bill.



The District website can be found at www.cobbswcd.org

IT and Lodemia Terrell Community Gardens



WATERSHED DAM STRUCTURES

Pictured below:
Noonday No. 17
before, during, and
after repair.



WATERSHED DAMS



Noonday No. 16

The District partnered with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Safe Dam Program and Cobb County to inspect four District sponsored dams.



Noonday No. 16

NRCS/COBB COUNTY ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In conjunction with NRCS and GSWCC, the Cobb SWCD hosted a Local Work Group meeting to set priorities and resource concerns for the EQIP program.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, EQIP are NRCS programs implemented in Cobb County in recent years.



Completed debris removal at EWP site in Cobb County.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

NRCS High Tunnel Pilot

The Marietta Field Office funded 2 out of 10 applications for the pilot EQIP High Tunnel practice. One participant from Cobb County was chosen based on their application ranking. We look forward to working with them and seeing what their research shows as the benefits of high tunnels and how they can extend the crop growing seasons.

Conservation practices funded in Cobb County by the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program included:

Crop Rotation

Nutrient Management

Fencing

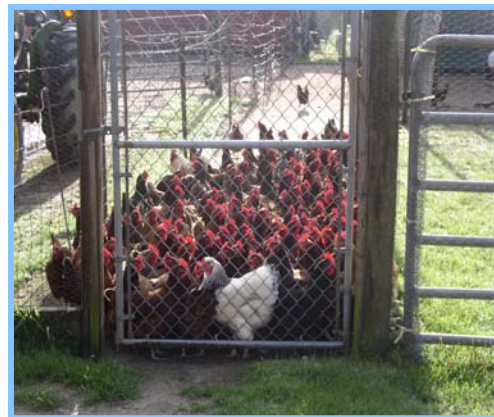
Prescribed Grazing

Forage and Biomass Planting

Seasonal Residue Management

Heavy Use Area Protection

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management



Photos taken at Bray Family Farms in Cobb County.

PUBLICATIONS

Cobb County

Cobb County Stream Buffer Revegetation Guidelines
March 2006



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NRCS

Backyard Conservation

Bringing
Conservation
From the
Countryside to
Your Backyard



A cooperative project of
NRCS National Conservation Service
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Wildlife Refuge System
National Audubon Society

SMALL SCALE SMALL FIELD CONSERVATION



NRCS
National Conservation Service

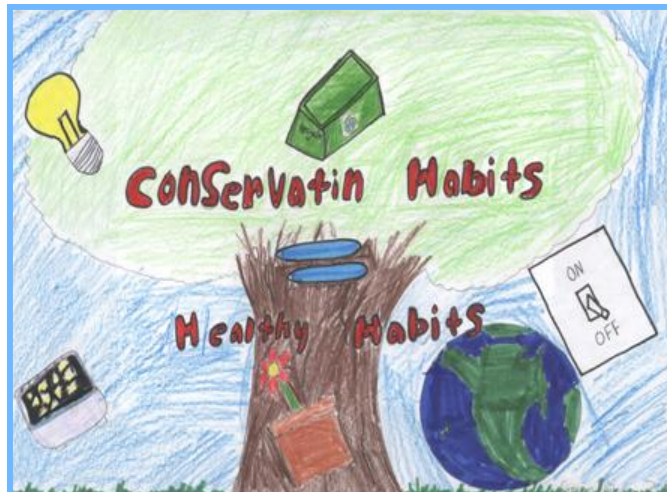
EDUCATION



- Sponsor and promote soil and water stewardship poster contest for fifth and sixth graders in Cobb County schools.
- Sponsor students to the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton.

NACD POSTER CONTEST

- 2013 National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest. The theme was "Where does your water shed?"
- The NRCS Marietta Field Office coordinated the contest this year with participants Cobb County Elementary schools, Blackwell and Nicholson. The 1st place winners will be presented at the state level competition in late August.



PARTNERSHIPS

- Maintain Memoranda of Understanding with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide technical guidance and support for conservation programs.
- Membership in Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors (GACDS) and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to support conservation efforts on the state and national level.

Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission
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Rome, GA 30161
706-295-6131

Regional Representative: John Loughridge
Administrative Assistant: Joan Lam
Agricultural Project Specialist: Leigh Rush

www.gaswcc.org

NRCS Marietta Field Office
678 South Cobb Drive SE, Suite 150
Marietta, GA 30060
770-792-0594

District Conservationist: Valerie Pickard
Administrative Assistant: Anne Thompson

www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov





The mission of the Cobb County Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide educational and technical assistance to conserve soil, improve water quality, and enhance the natural resources in Cobb County.

The District could not successfully accomplish our mission without the partnership with local governments including Cobb County, Marietta, Acworth, Powder Springs, Smyrna, Kennesaw and Austell. Our partners provide the foundation to help us accomplish our conservation programs. We are especially grateful for their support and assistance to the District.

