2011- 2012 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Our District sincerely appreciates the outstanding support we receive from our many fine Affiliate Members. We could not continue our conservation efforts without them. Thank you for your support.

Neal Byrd Real Estate	***Walton EMC***	***Mr. Jim Brown Edward D. Jones Investments***
Mr. Don Shedd	***Dr. Henry Wall***	***Mr. and Mrs. Hal Brady***
Mr. Donald Poss	***McClellan Homes, LLC***	***Sims Paving Company***
Coldwell Banker Jackson Realty	***Agsouth Farm Credit***	***Cator and Jim Hartley***
Mr. Preston Breedlove	***Monroe Auto Supply***	***Mr. Clay Sims***
Stonebridge Enterprises, LLLP	***Dr. Thomas McGarity***	***Mrs. Grace J. Clower***
Ashland Farm Inc.	***C & D Landfill***	***Athens First Bank and Trust***
Billy Ray and Margaret Williams		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Walton County District gratefully acknowledges the work of professional conservationists, foresters, extension agents, and others who assist the District in making services available to Walton County landowners. We appreciate the professionalism and experience these agencies and their personnel provide the District.

***Brent Dykes*……Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
***Keegan Malone and David Hall*.....Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
***Paula Dillard*……...Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission**
***Jose' Pagan and Carolyn Staffins*……....Natural Resources Conservation Service**
***Jim Wren, Luther Jones, and Jacqueline Mack*……..…Oconee River RC&D Council**
***John Redding*……*WCSWC* District Employee**
***Judy Ashley and William Carlan*…..……....UGA Cooperative Extension Service**
***Jeff Kastle*……...Georgia Forestry Commission**

WALTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2011- 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Of Accomplishments

WALTON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Dan Bennett, Chairman
Crista Carrell, Vice Chairman
G. Nathan Malcom, Secretary/Treasurer
Dale Wiley
Nathan Malcom
Howard E. Turner

2011-12 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **Natural Resource Conservation Workshop**

- 2011- Taylor Morris; Social Circle HS., Cord Billings; Walnut Grove FFA; and Maggie Polson; Monroe Area FFA attended.
- 2012- Cheyenne Cox and John Dempsey from Walnut Grove FFA.

Selecting the **Conservationist-of-the Year**. This year's recipients are Ina, Tal, and Trey Thompson, of Thompson Tree Farm in Good Hope.

Thompson Tree Farm, LLC
Conservationists of the Year

The 2011 **Julian Brown Scholarship Recipient**

- Timothy Shelnutt Jr. 2011, attending Gainesville College in Watkinsville.
- Luke Johnson, from Monroe has been selected for the 2012 year and will be attending ABAC.

The District continues to make improvements at the **Julian Brown Study Area**.

- The wildlife plots were again planted in 2011 and will not be replanted in 2012 as the pig weed infestation will require us to mow the plots for a couple of years before replanting.
- Walton County has constructed a new bathroom facility and installed a "Frisbee Golf" course.
- The district is continuing to seek funds from the Monroe City Council to cut and spray undesirable plant species. Various tree species have been replanted as the district works on the restoration of the study area.

The District is actively involved in **Community** forestry activities in Monroe.

- Funding was secured in partnership with the Oconee River Resource Conservation and Development Council to plant trees in late 2010 and provide one year of tree maintenance (2011) at Childers Park and Mathews Park.
- The District assisted the Monroe Tree Board with the 2011 Arbor Day Celebration at Childers Park to focus on the benefits of community forestry and recognize students' achievements in the art and poetry contests.
- Forestry Field Day training was held in September in conjunction with Oconee River RC&D, Ga. Forestry, and USDA with approximately 20 people attending.

The District continues to devote a great deal of time and effort in partnerships with many like minded local, state, and federal **Governmental Agencies**.

- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- NRCS
- Oconee River RC&D
- Walton County Planning and Development Department along with their support staff. Thirteen erosion and sediment plan reviews were completed this year (2011). Seven E&S plans have been submitted in 2012 to date, six approved, one denied.

The District supports several **Educational Activities**.

- Atha Road Elementary School, primarily working with Pam Arnold's fifth grade class in the outdoor classroom, her students and other classes studied topics such as how to transplant perennials, plant/maintain/harvest vegetables, and mulch to conserve water. (20 students)
- The Jr. Beta Club's pollinator habitat lesson, (20 attendees). Girl Scouts also (2 students, 2 mothers)
- Renewable energy sources by Crista and Rick (90 students, 4&6 graders)
- Work of the Conservation District by district employee to Lions Club (15 attendees)
- The Georgia Forestry Commission's Sustainable Community Forester, Beryl Budd, educated Arbor Day Celebration attendees about pruning and caring for trees, using those planted on campus in the Making the Shade project in the demonstration.
- Estate Planning and Farm Land Trusts, (45 attendees).
- Co-sponsored with Piedmont District, an Issuing Authority Class at Farm Bureau, Madison. (Approx. 40, present)
- Farm to School Meeting, (75 attendees).
- Farmers Market kick-off meeting, (45 present)
- Enviroscape, NPS pollution, (90 middle school students)
- Weekly distribution of education materials at Monroe Farmers Market, (average 200 attending)
- Wheels to work program at Youth Elementary School, (275 students, grades k – 3rd)
- Alfalfa Field Day in conjunction with Oconee River, (Approx. 30 in attendance).

District supervisors are actively involved in **Professional Organizations**

- 3 Supervisors attended the Group III meeting at Smarr in August, with the District and WEMC supplying refreshments.
- 3 Supervisors attended the GACDS annual meeting in January 2012.
- 3 Supervisors attended the Group III supervisor training meeting held in August, at Young Harris
- 2 Supervisors and district employee attended the Monroe Farmers Market Kick-off on May 19th. At least one supervisor will have a presence each week through the season with educational materials to pass out.
- **District employee and former chairman John Redding was selected as Distinguished Service Award Winner for NACD and received recognition for the award in January.**

Partnering with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the district continues to set priorities for the approval of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications. Nine new EQIP applications totaling $77,524.58 (142 acres) were contracted in 2011. Other contract practices paid out in Walton County totaled $92,783.09.

Predominant EQIP practices:

Prescribed Grazing	318.8 ac	$3,290.63
Nutrient Management	431.8ac	$8,755.81
Pest Management	755.3ac	$23,452.95
Pasture/ Hay land Management	45.5ac	$12,407.50
Micro-irrigation systems	2 systems	$17,837.55

Other NRCS programs supported are WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program), CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), and GRP (Grassland Reserve Program). Total acres under contract are 4083.8 with matching incentives to participants from these programs totaling almost $60,000.00.