

NOPBNRCSE



"The Alabama Link"

April 2006

NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from the President of the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE!

First, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone for all of their hard work and participation in the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE. Because of you, the Black History Luncheon Celebration was a success. I would like to personally thank all of the members of Alabama Chapter for their efforts in this celebration. As displayed at the Black History Luncheon Celebration, we have an abundance of talent within Alabama and in the Alabama Chapter. In 2006, the Alabama Chapter will continue to focus on upcoming projects and events that will utilize everyone's skills.

Currently, we are preparing for our annual meeting. The Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE Annual Meeting will be held in Clanton, Alabama, in July. The Executive Board is working diligently to obtain keynote speakers, plan special events, and prepare field tours, so this event will be another success story. Over the next few months, members can expect more information concerning this event and future venues.

In addition to our upcoming activities during this year, there are certain goals that I would like for the Alabama Chapter to achieve. These goals include doubling the current membership, presenting an Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE Small Farmer Award for subsequent submission to the National Organization, and increasing attendance to the NOPBNRCSE Annual Meeting. I would also like to continue to submit tri-annual newsletters and maybe even present two scholarship awards per calendar year. It is my sincere hope that all of these goals can be obtained over the course of the next two years.

As president, I know the Alabama Chapter can also achieve better networking and professional growth, which is very important to me. "Practice Continued Networking," is an obtainable and imperative goal that involves working with each other. Our members are more than just professionals with NRCS.

Above all, "The Organization" is about fellowship, networking, and increasing the professional development of its members. Let us continue to move forward and stay on one accord.

Christopher Ford
Alabama Chapter President

QUOTES:

"Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever."

"Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set."



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MEETINGS

NOPBNRCSE Annual Training Conference

The 13th Annual Training Conference of the NOPBNRCSE was held December 12-16, 2005, in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Conference was held at the Peabody Hotel with more than 300 registrants eager for a week of training and networking. The theme for the week was *"Regeneration of the Environment: The Natural State's Commitment to Conservation."* Those in attendance from Alabama were Chris Ford, Lawrence Mc Ghee, and Johnny Trayvick, who was officially selected to represent the Southeast Region.

Training offered at the Conference were classes on Customer Toolkit, Financial Planning, Civil Rights, Thrift Saving Plan, Nutrient Management, Electronic Delivery of the Soil Survey, and GPS, Digital Camera and PDA's.

There were several new events added to the agenda for the Conference. The members and other participants were introduced to the 1st Annual Lloyd Wright Black Farmer Award Luncheon, the 1st Annual Pearlie Reed Recognition and Award Banquet, and the Fashion and Talent Show. Once again, the live auction was a great success. As usual, Ed Thompson did an outstanding job in keeping the auction very lively and enjoyable for those in attendance.

Submitted by:
Johnny Trayvick
Project Leader, Auburn State Office

FEBRUARY 2006

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Alabama NRCS Black Emphasis Program Manager (BEPM) Johnny Trayvick, the Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPBNRCSE), and the State Office Hospitality Committee sponsored an observance day and luncheon at the State Office Large Conference Room in Auburn, Alabama, on February 16, 2006 beginning at 11:00 A.M.

This year's Black History Month theme was ***"Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions."***



Lawrence McGhee,
keynote speaker.

The program was moderated by Milton Tuck, Resource Soil Scientist, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The keynote speaker was Lawrence McGhee, Soil Survey Project Leader for Bibb County, Alabama. Lawrence highlighted the small town of Marion, Alabama located in west Alabama. He brought attention to the rich history of that community highlighting the Lincoln Normal School which was founded in 1867 by freed slaves and later ran by the American Missionary Association. McGhee noted prominent graduates from this school. Some graduates mentioned were Mrs. Correta Scott King, Jimmy Lee Jackson (slain Civil

Rights marcher in Marion Alabama), and Jean Childs Young (wife of Andrew Young, former ambassador to the United Nations). McGhee traced the legacy of this great school and community to NRCS. McGhee highlighted his presentation by recognizing Christopher Z. Ford, Resource Soil Scientist, Decatur, Alabama who is a native of Marion, Alabama. Christopher's mother and father were graduates of the historical Lincoln Normal School.



Joyce receives plaque
from Christopher Ford,
AL Chapter President.

The Alabama Chapter presented a plaque to Joyce Nichols for the Sessions Family. Our Chapter's summer meeting was hosted by the Sessions Family Farm located in Grand Bay, Alabama. We toured the family farm and the evening was highlighted with a delicious seafood and barbecue networking dinner at the Sessions home. Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Joyce and her family for their southern hospitality.



State Conservationist,
Gary Kobylski gave
closing remarks.

Immediately following the Black History Celebration, a delicious southern lunch was served to include: barbecue ribs, southern fried chicken, collard greens, peas and okra, succotash, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, pole beans, sliced tomatoes, green onions, corn bread, various deserts, and sweet tea.

FACTS ABOUT BLACKS IN NRCS IN ALABAMA

1st Black Employee in AL

Willie C. Tuck – 1964 - Talladega County

1st Black Female Employee in AL

Deloris Jones - 1967- Auburn State Office

1st Black District Conservationist in AL

Winford Andrews – 1975 - Lamar County

1st Black Female District Conservationist in AL

Sylvia Long – 1992 - Bullock County

1st Black Soil Survey Project leader in AL

Cleo Stubbs - Shelby County

1st Black Resource Soil Scientist in AL

Milton Tuck –Tallapoosa County

1st Black Soil Conservation Technician in AL

Charlie J. Staten – 1979 - Limestone County

1st Black State Soil Scientist in AL

Charles Love - 2002- Auburn State Office

1st Black Deputy State Conservationist in AL

Earl Cosby - Auburn State Office

Submitted by:

Lawrence McGhee

Soil Survey Project Leader, Bibb County

ALABAMA CHAPTER NOPBNRCSE

FEATURE EMPLOYEE



Charles L. Love, MO-15 Team Leader and Alabama State Soil Scientist.

Charles Love

State Soil Scientist/MLRA Team Leader

This Quarter featured employee is Charles L. Love. Charles is the State Soil Scientist for Alabama and the MLRA Team Leader for the Southeast Coastal Plain and Caribbean Soil Survey Region (MO 15) headquartered in Auburn, Alabama. Mr. Love has served in this position since 2002. He is responsible for the direction and management of the soil survey quality assurance efforts for MO-15 region (in portions of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana Mississippi, Tennessee and Caribbean areas), and technical leadership for the Alabama Soil Survey Program. Prior to this position, Charles served as Soil Data Quality Specialist on the Region 11 MLRA Team in Indianapolis, Indiana. He provided technical

leadership for five Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) within Region 11 (Lower Peninsula of Michigan and which he was responsible for providing technical northern portion of Indiana -- serving 85 counties), quality assurance for correlation, manuscript preparation, SSURGO Certification, and Training. Love has held numerous positions with NRCS. He began his career with NRCS (formerly SCS) in 1977 as a Soil Conservationist trainee in Tennessee. As a Soil Scientist, he has served in six different locations in Central and Western Illinois (1979-1987). In 1987, he served as the Soil Survey Project Leader in Bowling Green, Missouri. He also served in one of the first MLRA Soil Survey Project Leader positions in the state of Illinois (Springfield, Illinois; 1991-1996).

Also, he served as Forester Technician Aid with the U.S. Forest Service in the States of Washington, Oregon and Wyoming (1974-1976) while a student at Tennessee State University.

Love is a native of Jackson, Tennessee, where Charles grew up in a farming community. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from Tennessee State University at Nashville Tennessee in 1979.

Charles has achieved many accomplishments throughout his career, including Charter member and Life member of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPBNRCSE). Also to his credit, he completed of the Midwest Leadership Development Program (a one-year training commitment). He completed the Soil Science Institute training at Cornell University. Charles is a Certified Professional Soil Classifier through ARCPACS. Additionally, a member of the Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees, Professional Soil Classifier Association of Alabama (PSCAA), Illinois Soil Classifiers Association (ISCA), and National Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and other Natural Resources related organizations.

He and his wife, Alice have one lovely daughter, Princess Mildred Love. Additionally, his wife, Alice serves as Farm Bill Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alabama.

Charles L. Love is an experienced, inspirational, and motivated leader that has proven to very successful in the implementation of the MLRA approach to moving the soil survey program in to the next generation. The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees salutes you for your numerous accomplishments.

Submitted by:

Lawrence McGhee

Soil Survey Project Leader, Bibb County

MEMBERSHIP

The Alabama Chapter is extending an invitation for you to become a member of our State Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE.

Remember – membership is open to all persons.

You must be a member of the National Organization to become a member of the State Chapter. National dues are \$45 and State dues are \$35.

SPECIAL

New Employees and First-Time Members Only
One time deal - State membership dues for \$10.

Membership applications are available online under the Alabama Chapter's web site or you may contact:

Herbert L. Ross
Chairman, Membership Committee
USDA-NRCS, State Office
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4585

THE LES HILLIARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Scholarship Committee awarded a \$500 Les Hilliard Scholarship to Keshia D. Williams. Keshia is a senior at Tuskegee University, majoring in Biology.



Pictured L-R: Andrew Williams, Outreach Coordinator, NRCS; Shirley Hall-Cole, Scholarship Chairperson, Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE; Keshia Williams, Scholarship Recipient, and Lenora Hayes, Liaison at Tuskegee University.

Applications for the 2006 scholarship will be forwarded to liaisons soon.

Donations for the Les Hilliard Scholarship are appreciated. Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact:

Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program
USDA-NRCS, State Office
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4546

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAYS!!!

Alabama Chapter Members

November 2005 – February 2006

November

14th Sebastian Thoma

23rd Andrew Williams

24th Anthony Hudson

December

15th Sarah Walker

February

24th Charles Love



NEWSLETTER

If anyone has articles of interest you want in the next newsletter, send articles to Deloris.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Deloris Jones
Winford Andrews