



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

East National Technology Support Center

FY2011 ~ 3rd Quarter Newsletter

Director's Comments

Last night, I assisted 20 kindergarten - 6th graders make garden stones. There is no feeling in the world like having plaster squished between your toes; but the foot prints in stone were a great visual to talk to the children about their carbon footprint. Almost every activity of our daily lives contributes to our carbon footprint and has an impact on our earth's resources.

NRCS has a story to tell about conserving, sustainability and reasonable use. It's time to renew the enthusiasm for conservation of all natural resources! (It's hard not be enthusiastic about our resources, surrounded by East NTSC staff!)

Each one of us in NRCS has a responsibility to carry the torch started by Hugh Hammond Bennett to inspire the nation to protect its soil and water. This agency is fortunate to have program dollars to put towards our mission of protecting the land; however, our pride and reputation comes from the ability to apply those dollars to accomplish tried and true (sometimes, innovative) scientific-based conservation practices.

How can the East National Technology Support Center provide assistance to you to ensure that you have the knowledge and tools to continue the story that Mr. Bennett started so many years ago? Please let us know!

Mary Podoll, Director

"Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil."

--Hugh Hammond Bennett

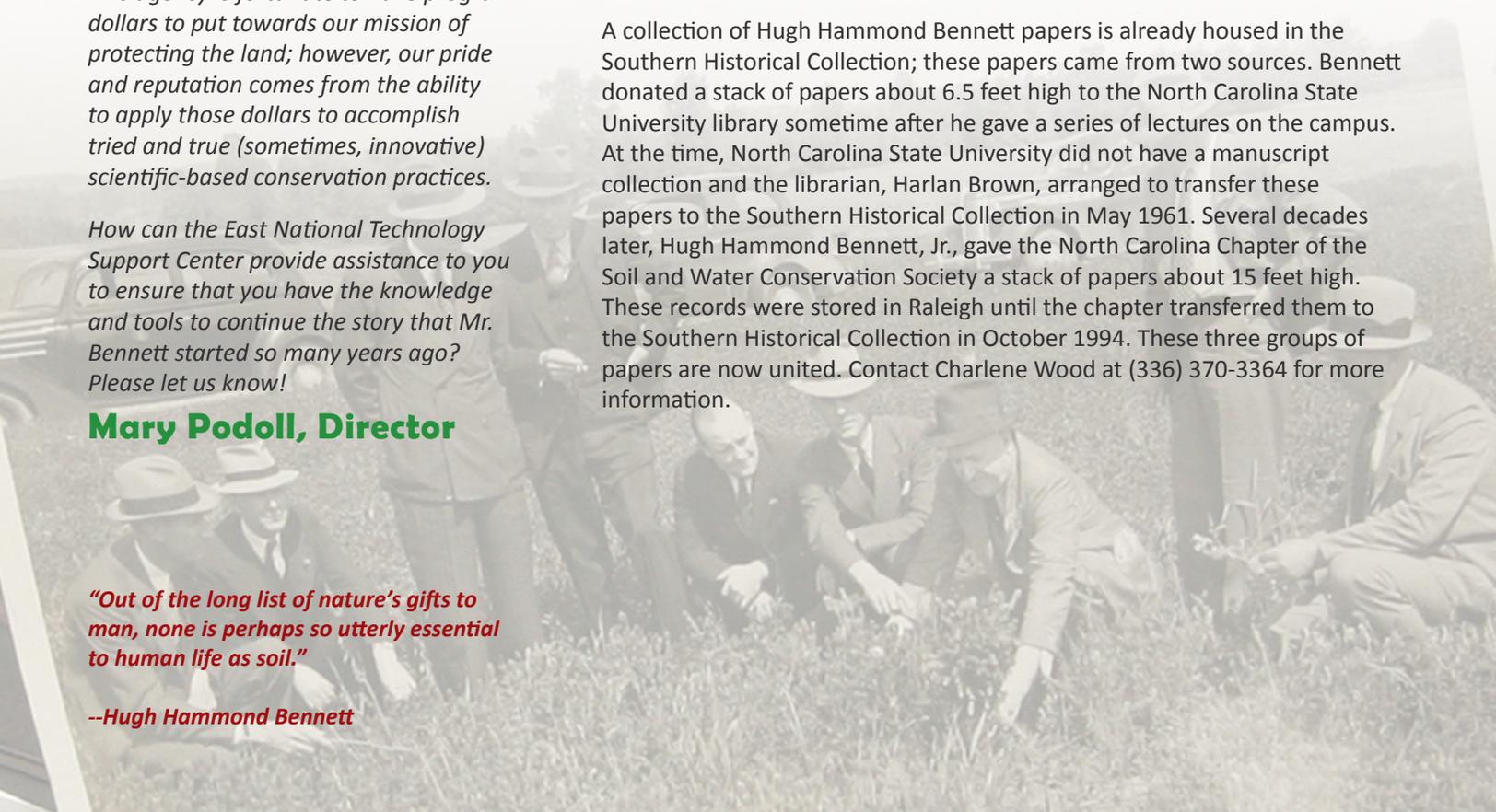
Preserving Conservation

Carolyn Weckstrom, granddaughter of founding Chief of the Soil Conservation Service Hugh Hammond Bennett, and Douglas Helms, NRCS National Historian, were our guests at the East NTSC August 1 – 3, where they were busy sorting through Chief Bennett's remaining papers and photographs. Within the last year, Chief Bennett's son and daughter-in-law of Burlington, NC passed away. Hugh Hammond Bennett, Jr., owned and operated the Carousel Theatre in Greensboro, NC, from which Douglas and Carolyn moved Bennett's remaining papers and photographs to our conference room. Carolyn also brought with her from Denver, CO, early correspondence of her grandfather's communication with his Wadesboro, NC relatives.



On the first day, Tim Lewis, Director of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, traveled to the East NTSC to transport manuscripts and correspondence back to Chapel Hill for preservation. The following day, Douglas and Carolyn wrote identifying information on the backs of photographs, which will also be maintained at the Southern Historical Collection.

A collection of Hugh Hammond Bennett papers is already housed in the Southern Historical Collection; these papers came from two sources. Bennett donated a stack of papers about 6.5 feet high to the North Carolina State University library sometime after he gave a series of lectures on the campus. At the time, North Carolina State University did not have a manuscript collection and the librarian, Harlan Brown, arranged to transfer these papers to the Southern Historical Collection in May 1961. Several decades later, Hugh Hammond Bennett, Jr., gave the North Carolina Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society a stack of papers about 15 feet high. These records were stored in Raleigh until the chapter transferred them to the Southern Historical Collection in October 1994. These three groups of papers are now united. Contact Charlene Wood at (336) 370-3364 for more information.



Technology Transfer & Development

Click for Training..

Science and Technology Training Library

As a result of his inaugural tour of the National Technology Support Centers, and being appropriately impressed with training we offer, Dr. Wayne Honeycutt, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, requested the Centers develop a library of Science and Technology training resources to make existing training materials readily available to the States from one centralized e-site. Under the leadership of Bruce Newton, Director, West National Technology Support Center, the Science and Technology Training Library was developed by the team of Holli Kuykendall, Ecologist, Cheryl Simmons, National Technology Specialist, and Russ Hatz, National Technology Specialist from the East, Central, and West National Technology Support Center, respectively. The site is offered to NRCS employees via SharePoint, but this is no ordinary SharePoint site!

The Science and Technology Training Library contains an ever-growing number of training titles, 80 currently, that are categorized under 25 major topic areas and presented to site users through a SWAPA+H+E navigation system. The site's search function also reveals sought-after training based on keywords entered by site users. Training materials are available as recorded webinars, scripted PowerPoint presentations, and workshop materials needed to conduct facilitated training sessions. A Request Training form allows library users to request training with a specific focus; and a webinar calendar alerts users to upcoming events.

Click **Science and Technology Training Library** (https://nrcs.sc.egov.usda.gov/st/ntsc_training/default.aspx) to visit the site. Click a Title, see what it's about, click Download to receive the training.

Contact Holli Kuykendall at (336) 370-3341 for more information.

Title	Overview	Training Type	Link	File Size	Units
Introduction to Environmental Compliance	View this presentation to increase your understanding of environmental compliance.	Presentation	Download	332 KB	
Soil Plant Air Water Hydrologic Analysis Model	Learn to use the Soil Plant Air Water (SPAW) hydrologic analysis model to conduct water budget of farm fields and simulate hydrologic performance of existing or planned ponds, waste storage facilities, and wetlands.	Presentation	Download	16 KB	
MRE: Agriculture's Role in Water Quality Issues in the Mississippi River Basin	This Mississippi River Basin Initiative webinar provides a review of the results from the Upper Mississippi CIGR study and how the information can be used to estimate conservation	Webinar	Download	278 KB	

Contact a National Technology Support Center

East National Technology Support Center
Greensboro, NC
Mary Podoll, Director

Central National Technology Support Center
Ft. Worth, TX
Emil Horvath, Acting Director

West National Technology Support Center
Portland, OR
Bruce Newton, Director

Enter Your NRCS Gateway to Technical Training

Tip: Library Alerts

A few hints to set up Training Library Alerts are provided below. Specific settings are the user's choice. Users can modify their settings after initial set up, as needed.

The individual training records that display the descriptive information for a specific training title (viewed as orange tables when the training title is clicked) are not likely to change once they are posted, so an alert generated from these specific records might never occur, however...

The Training Library database that houses all of these records and the Training Calendar used to promote upcoming webinars will change... frequently!

Therefore...

For Training Library Alerts – click on Actions in the “Just In” table on the Home page (or any table that lists training on the SWAPA+ pages). You'll see several options, start with:

- ❖ Only send me alerts when: New items are added
- ❖ Send me an alert when: Anything changes
- ❖ When to Send Alerts: make your selection

For Training Calendar Alerts – click on Actions in the “Webinar Calendar – Join Us!” table on the Home page. Again, you'll see several options, start with:

- ❖ Only send me alerts when: All changes (since dial-in/join information may be updated after the initial posting of the webinar to the calendar)
- ❖ Send me an alert when: Anything changes (since time and location won't generate an alert if dial-in/join information is updated)
- ❖ When to Send Alerts: make your selection

Technology Transfer & Development

Island Technology: Meeting Unique Needs

Compared to the states in the East Region, Puerto Rico presents some unique conservation issues. The island is small in size, only Rhode Island and Delaware are smaller, but home to about four million people. The climate is tropical, but the rugged mountains in the center of the island cause the weather to vary significantly from one location to the next. Parts of the northern side of the island have rainforest conditions, while the southern coast is very dry for 6 – 8 months of the year. The year round growing season allows a wide variety of crops to be grown including coffee in the mountains and fruits and vegetables in the foothills and coastal plain.

To help address some of these challenges, the East NTSC worked with Puerto Rico NRCS to hold a technology workshop on-site in Puerto Rico. Workshop topics included energy conservation, manure management, cover crops, crop diversity, ecological site descriptions, streambank stabilization and conservation practice standards writing. Each of these topics was approached with a focus on the unique conservation issues found in Puerto Rico.

One day of the workshop was devoted to field trips. One field trip had an engineering focus with stops at a potential streambank restoration site and a dairy farm. The other trip focused on agronomic issues with a discussion of ecological site descriptions. Both groups came together at a coffee farm

(photo at right) to hear about some innovative work to compost coffee bean processing waste and to see firsthand how one farmer has met some of the challenges of coffee farming by maintaining high residue levels and rotating crops.

In addition to the training, the workshop provided Puerto Rico employees from the field and state office to meet East NTSC technical specialists. This networking opportunity gave all of us the chance to develop working relationships that will help us solve problems in the future. As always, the highlight of the trip was the chance to enjoy the warm hospitality of Puerto Rico. Contact Phil McCloud at (336) 370-3354 for more information.



1890's Universities Agroforestry Workshop

The 1890 Land-Grant System includes 18 historically Black state-assisted universities in 17 states, from Alcorn State in Lorman, MS to Delaware State in Dover, DE. Designated as Black land-grant institutions by the Second Morrill Act of 1890, their mission is teaching, research, extension, and public service. Over the years, the strength of the 1890 Land Grant Institutions has been to develop agricultural and natural resources programs targeting underserved and limited resources audiences. Under the umbrella of the NRCS and US Forest Service, these institutions have adopted agroforestry

and the concept of “Working Trees for Agriculture” to make agricultural systems more attractive and sustainable to the targeted audience.

Agroforestry is the strategic use of trees and shrubs in agricultural settings to diversify a farming enterprise, both ecologically and economically. The 1890's Agroforestry Consortium, made up of representatives of several 1890's Universities, NRCS and the US Forest Service, planned and carried out a 3-day workshop May 17 - 19 at the East NTSC funded by a grant from the Forest Service. Faculty members and graduate students from each 1890's university were invited to the workshop and asked to bring with them to Greensboro a plan for developing an agroforestry demonstration area on their campus. The classroom sessions and field trips provided needed information to establish an agroforestry demonstration area, from grant writing to tree planting. The 37 workshop participants went home equipped to show others how agroforestry can provide environmental and economic benefits to local farmers. Specifically, how working trees can protect crops, livestock, conserving natural resources, improving human environments, and proving sources of income. Contact Tom Ward at (336) 370-3351 for more information.

Participants learn about establishing an agroforestry demonstration during a tour of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, Goldsboro, NC.



East NTSC Webinars

We'll soon be developing a list of topics to consider for our FY2012 East NTSC monthly webinar series. As we did for FY2011, we'll let our participants be the judge... A SharePoint survey is coming soon so you can help us determine the scheduled topics. Have a topic to include in the survey? Please provide potential topics to Holli Kuykendall, holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov or Kristin Smith, kristin.smith@gnb.usda.gov.

Assistance Highlights

In the third quarter of FY2011, the Center provided assistance on 110 requests, of which 53 were direct assistance to states, 17 were regional, and 40 were national activities. In addition to direct assistance to the states, the Center supported 47 training events to a combined audience of approximately 1570 participants.

2011 WEBINAR SCHEDULE	
Date	Topic
August 31	Low-Water Crossings for Livestock and Equipment: Planning for Aquatic Organism Passage
September 7	Mississippi River Basin Initiative: Managing Cover Crops for Nutrient Management
September 13	Understanding Organic Agriculture: Organic Grain Production
September 28	East NTSC Monthly Series: Crop Diversity, Rotations, Systems for Soil Health
October 26	East NTSC Monthly Series: Crop Tree Management for Forest Stand Improvement
November 30	East NTSC Monthly Series: Nutrient Management in an Organic System
December 6	Understanding Organic Agriculture: Pest Management in Organic Production Systems

East Service Area FY2011 3rd Quarter Assistance

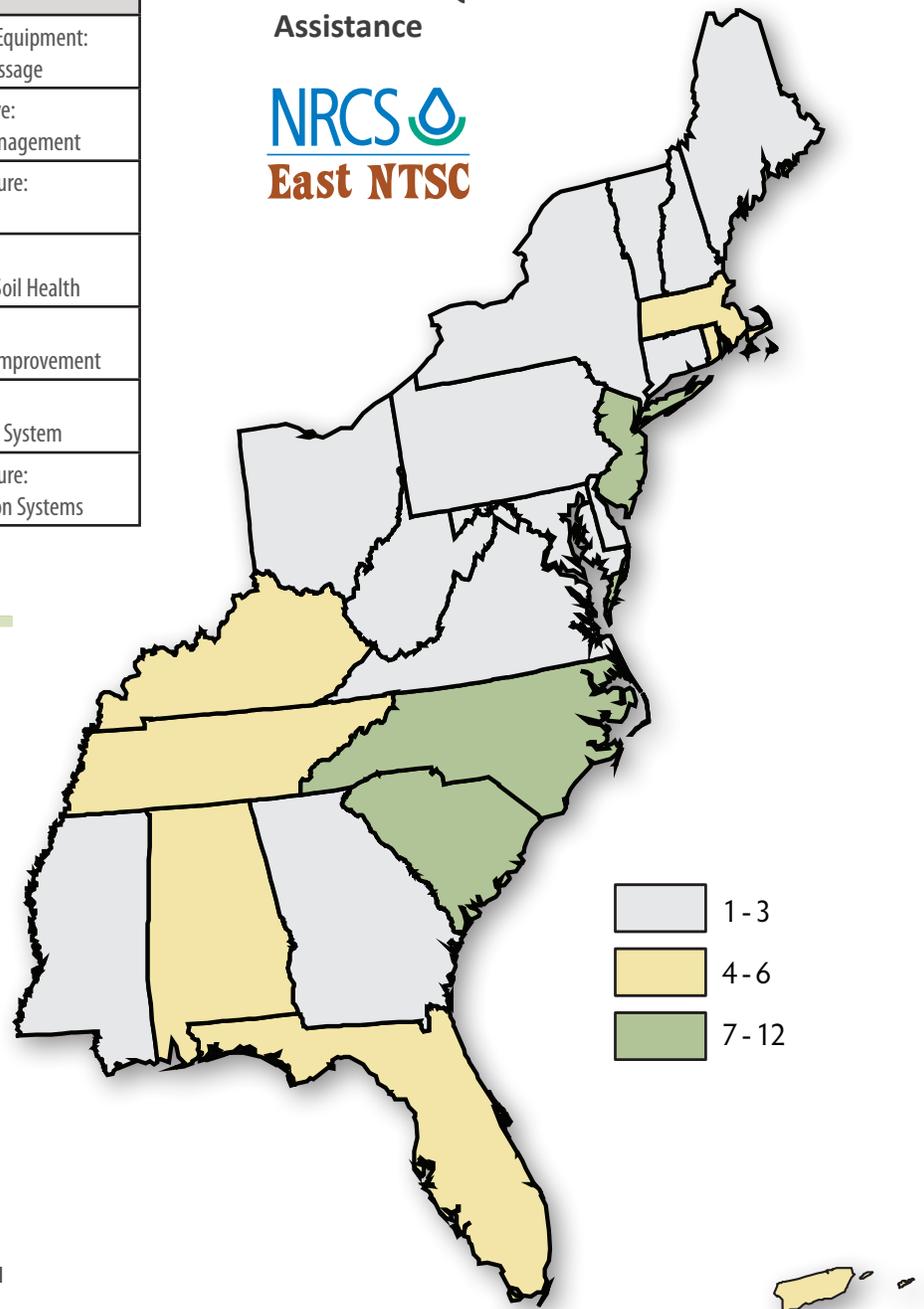


Photo of the Quarter

Organically grown heirloom tomatoes for sale at a local farmer's market

Click the photo to download a high resolution file.