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2010 AACD Area Meetings

Three AACD Area meetings have been held with good attendance by conservation district directors and partners. They were:

- NE Area met on May 27, 2010 in Wynne, AR
- WC Area met on June 8, 2010 in Russellville, AR
- SE Area met on June 17, 2010 in Monticello, AR

District Director training focused on personnel issues and policies.

The conservation partners gave mid-year reports on their activities and projects which are of interest to the districts. Resolution committees met and will forward resolutions to AACD state office for discussion at the 2010 Annual Meeting.



(left) Martha Manley, Charles Glover and Tom Wimpy present the 2010 Scholarship to Matt Maddox (shown with his parents, Dan & Brenda) at the NE Area Meeting.

(below) Sonny Jones welcomes participants to the SE Area Meeting and Andrew Wargo III, AACD President and Wes Higginbotham, Rep. Mike Ross' staff member.

Area meetings schedule

- SW Area Meeting will be held on July 22, 2010 at DeQueen, AR.
- NW Area Meeting will be held on August 3, 2010 at Harrison, AR
- Central Area Meeting will be held on August 12, 2010 in Conway, AR
- EC Area Meeting will be held on August 26, 2010 in Batesville, AR

More information on these meetings will be sent to the appropriate districts.



Southern Regional Forestry Clinic

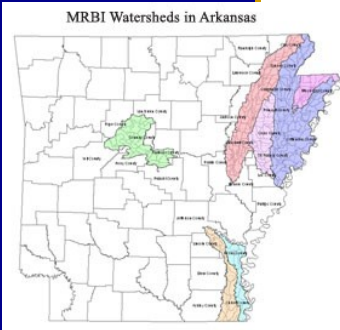
Arkansas hosted the 2010 Southern Regional Forestry Clinic on May 14th at the Arnie Moore Pavilion on Lake DeGray in Arkadelphia. Clark County Conservation District handled the on-site activities in conjunction with volunteers from NRCS, ANRC, AFC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and neighboring conservation

district employees and AACD staff. While Texas won the overall competition we were proud of Mena Team #2 which placed 2nd. The High Points Individual was Andy Gurley from Mena High School. Our thanks to everyone who helped with this four state competition. The region includes AR, OK, TX and LA.



Troy Odom, AACD Forestry Chair, thanks Sen. Percy Malone for welcoming the group to Arkansas.

Mississippi River Basin Initiative



Through this new Initiative, NRCS and its partners will help producers in selected watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin voluntarily implement conservation practices and systems that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

The Initiative will build on the past efforts of producers, NRCS, partners, and other State and Federal agencies in the 12-State Initiative area to address nutrient loading in the Mississippi River Basin. Nutrient loading contributes to both local water quality problems and the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Under MRBI-CCPI, NRCS enters into multi-year agreements with eligible partner organizations to use EQIP, WHIP, and/or CSP to address conservation priorities related to agriculture and nonindustrial private forest land. The MRBI-CCPI emphasizes a “systems approach” to address water quality resource concerns.

Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.
~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A cornerstone of this approach is to use screening and ranking systems to focus program support on participants who will implement a system of practices, that is, multiple practices and management techniques that work together to address the nitrogen and phosphorous generated from agricultural runoff. NRCS has approved a number of core and supporting conservation practices, which are recognized methods of avoiding, trapping and controlling pollutants.



AVOIDING—Cover Crops



CONTROLLING—No-Till



TRAPPING—Wetlands

Six MRBI Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiatives were approved in Arkansas. The sponsors are:

- Point Remove Irrigation & Drainage District
- NE AR AACD— Lower St. Francis
- NE AR AACD—Little River Ditches
- L’Anguille Watershed Coalition
- Lee County CD & St. Francis County CD
- The Nature Conservancy

Conservation Districts are involved in all but one.

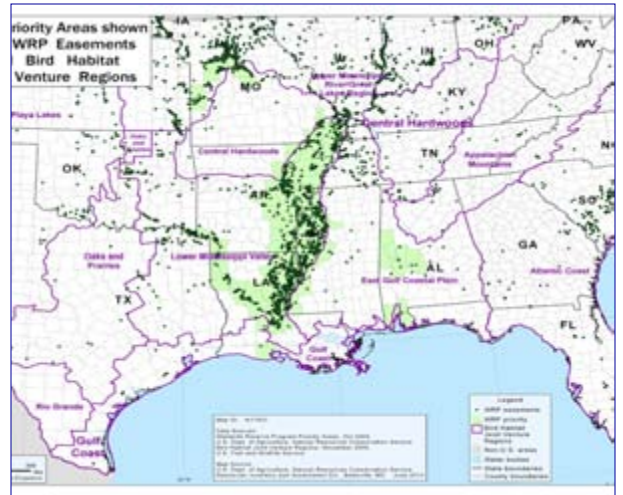
Migratory Birds Habitat Initiative

The Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to improve habitat conditions and food sources for migratory birds. Funding will be available to eligible landowners through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Key conservation practices are:

- Shallow Water Development and Management
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Early Successional Habitat Establishment and Management

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has received funding for the initiative. In Arkansas, funding is available in 27 counties in the Arkansas delta agricultural region. Applications may be obtained and filed with your local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.



Carroll County hosts Mississippi Directors



BERRYVILLE -- A group of 44 conservation directors from the state of Mississippi came to Carroll County to tour sites and see working farms in action. Included was a visit to the Brent Fry Farm along the Osage Creek in south Carroll County, and a tour of Dripping Springs Farm, situated alongside Dry Creek, also in the south part of the county. The primary focal points were grazing and nutrient management, cleanup after the ice storm and a visit to an organic farm. The Carroll County Conservation District enjoyed hosting their fellow conservationists.

Those who are unwilling to invest in the future haven't earned one.
H.W.Lewis

Herbicide Resistant Conference

Arkansas has been asked to coordinate a conference devoted to the issue of herbicide resistant weeds, such as pigweed, on August 9—11, 2010 at the Holiday Inn—Presidential Hotel in Little Rock. Scientists, NRCS and NACD staff will join to develop a “white paper” for use nationwide. This concern has the potential to negatively impact farming activities from row crop to pasture management. The conference will include a tour of the Lon Mann Experiment Station in Marianna and farms in east Arkansas to demonstrate the problem first hand. The second day will be spent reviewing current literature on this issue and discussion. Andrew Wargo III was asked by NACD to serve on the Herbicide Resistant Task Force. He will be joined by Dr. Ken Smith, weed scientist with the University of Arkansas at Monticello.



Scientists: zero tolerance target for resistant pigweed

**NRCS
75th Anniversary
Celebration**

AACD Board Members, Andrew Wargo III, Roy Reaves, Charles Glover, and James Mitchell, with Mike Sullivan NRCS State Conservationist at the Arkansas State Capitol. Governor Mike Beebe, Rep. Marion Berry and others Spoke in honor of the event. They have placed a display In the halls of the Capitol Depicting the history of Conservation in Arkansas. It is a wonderful exhibit and worth the trip to Little Rock.



AACD 2010 Youth Conservation Workshop

The Youth Conservation Workshop hosted 41 students from all over the state. The YCW Coordinators and volunteers kept them busy with a wide variety of activities, such as:

- A ride on a hay wagon
- Canoe trip
- Great food & games

The students had a great time but what was really going on was that they were learning about such issues



2010 YCW Students & Staff

as water quality, nutrient management, soil erosion, wildlife habitat, chainsaw safety, and much, much more.

Our thanks to the four YCW Coordinators, Gina Wilson, Brandy Gardner, Cindy Thornberry, Carolyn Holcomb and the 60+ volunteers from ANRC, NRCS, AFC, AGFC, RC&D and others. We could not hope to sponsor such a workshop without these other agencies and organizations.

AACD Youth Activities

AACD spends approximately \$28,000+ a year on the sponsorship of youth activities such as:

- **YCW**
- **Envirothon**
- **Forestry Clinic**
- **Scholarships**

Education is vital to our mission.

