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Hall County Soil & Water
Conservation District is the first
district in Georgia to go online.
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www.hallswcd.org

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Conservation Association, Inc.
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Natural Resources Conservation Youth Workshop

High school students with an interest in our natural resources will have an opportunity to participate in the 2001 Natural Resources Conservation Workshop, June 10-15 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The Youth Camp is open to Georgia high school students ages 15 through 18 who have not graduated from high school at the time of the Workshop, or who have not previously attended the Workshop. Over 10,000 students have graduated and this is a unique opportunity for our youth to learn about natural resources.

The main objective of the workshop is to give students an opportunity to learn about Georgia's natural resources—soil, water, air, minerals, plants, and animals. The camp utilizes classroom and field trip activities to help interested young people learn the basic principles of the wise use of our natural resources. Students attending will also get a taste of college life while spending an entire week on the college campus. Students will be able to gain insight into careers through their counselors

and instructors consisting of professional personnel from the Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and private industry.

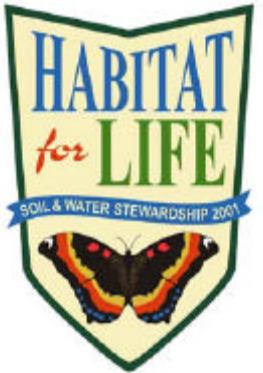
On the final day of the workshop, students will compete for over \$5,000 dollars in college scholarships and cash prizes based on test scores from the week's activities.

Tuition is \$150.00 per student plus \$20.00 for transportation. To be eligible for a scholarship, an application and \$170.00 will need to be returned to the Hall County Soil and Water Conservation Office at 734 East Crescent Drive, Suite 400, Gainesville, Georgia 30501-5002 by May 15, 2001. If chosen to receive a scholarship, students will be notified. Tuition and transportation costs will be refunded after attending the workshop. Students may attend without a scholarship by paying tuition and transportation costs.

Bus transportation will be provided from Gainesville to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and back. Students will be notified of the time and place of departure upon receipt of the application.

If you have any questions concerning the workshop and would like an application, please call 770-536-6981 ext. 3 or 770-531-6827 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP 2001



Increased community awareness of the need to care for natural resources that make up the habitat that sustains us all, is the goal of the 2001 Soil and Water Stewardship Week, set for April 29 to May 6. The focus of this year's

national observance is on the personal responsibility each citizen has to be a good steward of the land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources that enhance our quality of life.

The concept of habitat, which most of us think of in terms of wildlife, has been expanded to include human and other living things around us that make up the place where we live. The basic elements of habitat are food, water and shelter.

It is common to think about people losing their homes and the quality of their living environments as being something that happens to someone else, or in some other place. That may not always be the case. As we see sprawling growth take valuable farmland, read about a town's drinking water being polluted by a chemical spill, or watch helplessly as a flood wipes out farms and towns, we are witnessing a steady loss of the habitat for life that is needed by all people and other living things.

When an animal or plant species becomes extinct, we are all a little less because of that loss. If that extinction occurs because

we, as humans, were careless or thoughtless, we bear the responsibility.

To help improve the quality of the habitat you live in, consider doing the following. Plant a tree, make your backyard more friendly for wildlife, test your soil to make sure you put just the right amount of fertilizer on your lawn, or put in backyard terraces to help slow runoff from heavy rains.

The Hall County Soil and Water Conservation District wants each of us as neighbors to do our part to help make the habitat in our community a better place to live. To learn more about how you can help protect your habitat, contact the district office at (770) 531-6827.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 19, 2001
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

NE Georgia Health Expo
Habersham Central High School

April 29 – May 6, 2001
Soil and Water Stewardship Week
"Habitat for Life"

May 11, 2001 (Tentative)
Hall County Farmer's Market Opens
Open Tues. & Fri. through October

June 10 – 15, 2001
NRCS Youth Workshop
Abraham Baldwin College
Tifton, Georgia

Hall County's 2001 Agribusiness Awards

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce recognized area agricultural leaders for their contributions to the agricultural community on March 22, 2001.

The 2001 Agribusiness Hall of Fame recipients collectively represent more than 150 years of farming and agribusiness experience. Receiving this award were Rex Farmer, Elmer Truelove, and Juno Samples.

Rex Farmer, a long-time dairy farmer has been a community leader for over four decades. He served as chairman of the Hall County Parks and Recreation Board for 14 years and was instrumental in the development of Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center and River Fork's Park. He has served as member and chairman of the Farm Service Agency for over 30 years. Through his conservation efforts he was named Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1979.

Elmer Truelove has been a dairy farmer for more than 47 years. He has served his community in numerous capacities. He is a former Hall County Commissioner, an advocate in promoting legislation that has had a positive impact on agriculture and agribusiness. Through his conservation efforts he has received the Hall County Conservation of the Year award and was named the 1999 Farm Family of the Year by the Gainesville Rotary Club.

Juno Samples has been active in the North Georgia poultry industry for more than 50 years. He began his career with the Jesse Jewell Poultry Company and then for Fieldale Farms. His many contributions helped grow millions of broilers ranging from a few thousand to over 100,000 birds per farm. He has personally helped more North Georgia families get started in poultry production than any other individual over the past 52 years.

Todd and Sheila Chapman received the Farmer of the Year award. The Chapman's have developed a successful poultry farm that is becoming a model farm for soil and water conservation. They have developed and implemented many conservation practices that will protect their land and water for future generations. Through their conservation efforts they were named Conservation Farm Family of the Year in 2000.

Others receiving awards were Ed Brown-

Friend of Agriculture for his promotion of agriculture and agribusiness. He was instrumental in the development of the Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee. The Agribusiness of the Year was awarded to Southern States. Store manager Dave Beavers and staff have been very supportive of educational programs for livestock producers and supporters of youth livestock activities.



**Ray Haynes
1921-2001**

The Hall County Soil and Water Conservation District was saddened by the recent passing of Ray Haynes.

Ray has been an affiliate member of the district since it was founded in 1983 and became a district cooperator in 1949 when he began dairy farming. Ray was always committed to soil and water conservation. He looked for ways to improve the quality of life for the present and future generations with imagination, available resources, and hard work.

Gene Anderson, Hall County Extension Agent says, "We have lost a treasure. Ray left a legacy of leadership, conservation, farming excellence and a sharing and helping attitude. He leaves this world a significantly better place because he was here."