

ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2009

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Free Hills Community Club, Inc. receives LOWE'S National Trust Grant
- Upper Cumberland Quilt Trail receives two grants to aid expansion efforts
- Conservation Planning Course revived with USDA-NRCS and TTU partnership through HYL RC&D.

COORDINATOR CALLINGS TO OUR CONSERVATION FRIENDS

We hope you all have enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and are anticipating a prosperous New Year ahead!

Many changes have occurred this past year, most notably a new Cookeville Area Office being established in the Walnut Avenue building where we are located. We are all (almost) settled in and fully functional! This change should make things easier for the Field Offices to obtain the help and assistance they need in a more timely manner from the resource professionals.

We were able to assist many in find-

ing resources to meet their needs even though we may not have helped them directly ourselves such as the City of Monterey was directed to USDA-Rural Development's program for housing assistance.

Many projects were completed or are in their final stages of completion such as York Institute Baseball Tomorrow and Post Oak Creek Phase I BioAssessment.

This brings us to the new projects and on-going projects which you will find on these pages. These are just a few highlights of projects underway.

Most notably – MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!! NRCS will be conducting training for RC&D Coordinators and Council officers/members during the week of April 26-30th. The place is tentatively set for Fall Creek Falls State Park.

We hope you all enjoy this wrap-up of the year's activities. As always, please call on us if we can be of any assistance to you in any way...



Dolores Angelini, HYL RC&D Sec., visits at TN State Rep. Bart Gordon's Wash. Office



Kathy and Dimple, Your Office Staff

HYL RC&D AREA WIDE PLANNING SURVEY

Help the HYL RC&D Council in their planning efforts and let them know what is important to the Upper Cumberland area!

Results of the Survey will be compiled by the Council and used to determine

where our efforts should be

focused for the next five (5) years.

Please visit our website (www.hylrcd.org) or call the office (931.528.6472 Ext 4) for a copy of the survey.

Your input is greatly needed and appreciated!



FREE HILLS RECEIVES LOWE'S NTHP GRANT

In honor of Black History Month in 2009, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Lowe's announced the \$50,000 grant

from a joint initiative to restore iconic schools that represent an important chapter in United States history.

Free Hills is a unique rural black



community located 5 miles northeast of Celina, TN. Settled by slaves of Virginia Hill prior to the Civil War and granted their freedom and the surrounding land, they became a vibrant growing community of stores, clubs, and eateries. From 1929 to 1930, the Rosenwald School was

built at Free Hill on land donated by several families. It was one of 354 such schools built in Tennessee although only 30 remain today.

The grant will be administered through the HYL RC&D. Hopes are to utilize this grant as matching for a USDA-Rural Development (USDA-RD) \$275,000 Recovery Act Funding project completely restoring the structure.

REGIONAL ENVIROTHON HAS LARGE PARTICIPATION

Over 175 participants, coaches, NRCS employees, and Earth Team volunteers were in attendance at this year's Regional Envirothon. Held at beautiful Camp Discovery in Jackson County, the day was made for environmental study. Twenty-five teams from the 14-county area were registered to compete in the 5 categories which included Biodiversity. Ranking in the top three slots were York Institute No. 1 in First Place who went on to the State competition. Second Place went to Jackson County No. 1 and 3rd Place was the Putnam

County 4-H team. Several of the Earth Team Volunteers were interviewed by USDA-NRCS Public Affairs Specialist Perry Stevens for National Volunteer Week and their efforts were highlighted in news articles during the following weeks. Events such as these would not be possible without their efforts and input. We salute all the participants and our volunteers for making this event and others like it so successful. This year's monetary sponsors include Farm Credit Services of

Mid-America, First National Bank, BankEast of Jackson County, Clay County SCD, Cumberland County SCD, DeKalb County SCD, Putnam County SCD, Smith County SCD, and Warren County SCD.



USF&WS GRANT PROTECTS TREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The HYL RC&D will promote, implement, and monitor a threatened and endangered species habitat management program to be delivered with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Grant funds. HYL RC&D will utilize the Partners grant to enhance, restore, or protect habitats for Federally listed threatened and endangered species. Landowners and operators in the Upper Cumberland area can implement Best Management Practices

(BMPs) with the Partners grant and provide all grant money directly to protect these rare resources. The HYL RC&D received \$20,000 for fiscal year 2009-2010 Partners grant. This will be distributed to private landowners for equipment, materials, and labor needed to help protect habitats for Federally listed threatened or endangered species. Projects funded with this grant money will focus

on implementation of BMPs to help ensure long-term improvement and protection of these rare species habitats. HYL RC&D, USDA-NRCS, and Soil Conservation District personnel will maintain contact with landowners during project implementation and certify that practices are installed to USDA-NRCS standards and specifications. Follow-up on routine operations, maintenance and monitoring inspections will be conducted.

UPPER CUMBERLAND QUILT TRAIL EXPANDS



Original Committee has now grown to over 50.

The UCQT began in 2007 out of a desire of the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival to highlight the regions art and heritage of quilting by placing painted quilt squares on area barns. Now seeking to expand into the surrounding 14 counties as

a HYL RC&D project, they have received a \$2100 “The Arts Changing Lives” grant with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee’s Arts Builds Communities Program. This grant will be utilized to subsidize the cost of constructing and painting the quilt squares. A partnership has been formed in several of the counties between the quilt square committees and the schools and artists for the

construction of the quilt squares. Due to the increased student interest in the art of quilting, the UC Quilt Festival has decided to expand their show to include a student awards section next year. Most recently, HYL RC&D has received a Cookeville Arts Council \$1300 grant to expand and publicize a ‘Walking Quilt Trail’ for the City of Cookeville. HYL RC&D has applied for a USDA-RD Rural Business Enterprise grant which will revamp the website, publish new brochures and develop road signage.



CONSERVATION PLANNING COURSE BEGINS AGAIN !!!

The NRCS-Tennessee Conservation Planning Course is back! Initiated by the vision of State Conservationist Kevin Brown, HYL RC&D has organized the two week course in cooperation with TTU’s School of Agriculture. Utilizing each of the 3 TTU farms available gives the participants a chance to view unique perspectives all in one place.

Thirty-two students have been enrolled in the first class from across Tennessee and Kentucky. They are employed by SCDs, County governments, AmeriCorps, and NRCS. Training has taken place in the field and classroom on Conservation Planning, Wildlife, Threatened & Endangered Species, Cultural Resources,

Grazing, Water Quality, Soils, Organic Certification, and the planning tools necessary to do our jobs well. Each group will be assigned a real life planning scenario in which to develop a Resource Management System level plan with a ‘mock’ producer. That plan will be presented to the Resource Specialists in order to ‘pass’ the Course.

“...take what you learn here and use it to be even more effective as you help people help the land.” - Kevin Brown’s Welcome Letter to Participants

DILLON PARK RIPARIAN PROJECT RECEIVES TDA GRANT

The Stones River Watershed Association is partnering with HYL RC&D and TN Dept. of Agriculture on the Dillon Park Riparian Buffer Project. Working with community members and student groups, an expanded riparian buffer zone will be established along the East Fork of the Stones River as it passes

through downtown Woodbury along Dillon Park. The Riparian Buffer begins upstream at the Spring House Building where 1/3 of the City of Woodbury’s water supply originates. The buffer ends directly across from the City intake for their water supply. Increased filtration will result in increased water quality

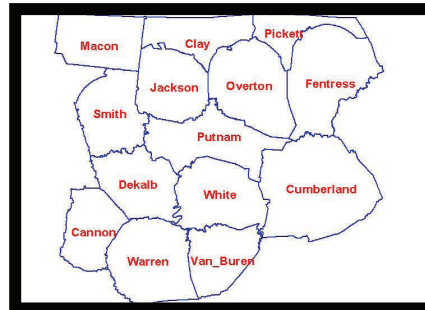
and an excellent educational opportunity. Plans are to establish an additional 50’ of native plantings, approximately 1300’ long consisting of a mixture of trees, shrubs, and grasses extending from the current riparian hedge of privet established on the steep bank slope. Cannon County High School students

will be growing part of the native plants for the project. Project will focus on community and student involvement with educational aspects in each phase of plan: eradication of fescue, planting of natives, and maintenance of current and future extended buffer. The amount of grant funding received for the project is \$4000.

We are on the web! ~ www.hylrcd.org

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Lynn Carey, Vice-Chair

Jan Lee, Chair

Dolores Angelini, Treasurer

Regina Danner, Secretary

“ M A K I N G T H I N G S H A P P E N ”

"All programs and assistance of the NRCS and RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

AGRI LEADERSHIP 20/20 BEGINS NEW CLASS IN 2010

Most of us eat at least one good meal a day so we should be interested in the future of agriculture in our state and our nation. Those involved in agriculture face constant challenges; whether they are an agricultural producer or work with an agribusiness or an organization, agency, or university supporting the agriculture industry. Regulatory requirements, supply-and-demand, finances and bio-security are all issues that come to the forefront. In order to be adequately prepared for the coming issues, leaders

must be developed in various sectors of the agricultural community. With this in mind, a course has been developed on agricultural leadership for the Upper Cumberland region by the various agricultural agencies and organizations. This course is titled "AgriLeadership 20/20". This leadership workshop identifies the quality of vision that must be instilled in our agricultural leaders to secure the future of

agriculture. This year participant applications will be accepted from the following counties: Cannon, Clay, DeKalb, Jackson, Macon, Putnam, Smith, Trousdale, and White County. The application fee is \$100 and covers one meal during each scheduled class session. For an application, please contact the Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Office at 931.528.6472 Ext 4 or visit us on the web at www.hylrcd.org.

Hull-York Lakeland Resource Conservation and Development Council is a non-profit 501c(3) organization that provides coordinated resource conservation and rural development assistance throughout rural America. For more than 40 years the Hull-York Lakeland RC & D Council has worked in the upper Cumberland area of middle Tennessee to put projects on the ground that help the environment, promote local tourism, and help provide educational opportunities.



AgriLeadership 20/20 Committee meets to finalize plans for the 2010 workshops.