



2022

Annual Report

Lower Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation District



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A BRIEF SUMMARY DETAILING OUR ACTIVITES ACCOUMPLISHMENTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2022. (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

WHO WE ARE

THE LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONSIST OF NINE COUNTIES, IN WHICH THERE IS A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. ONE ELECTED AND ONE APPOINTED PER COUNTY. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 12 SUPERVISORS WITH 6 SEATS AVAILABLE. THE DISTRICT HAS ONE PROGRAM ASSISTANT WHO SUPPORTS ALL NINE COUNTIES.

CONSERVATION

AT THE LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE AND PROMOTE AGRICULURAL CONSERVATION PRATICES TO ENHANCE AND SUSTAIN OUR MOST VALUBLE RESOURCE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2022

LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER Year in Review

We would like to share with you what the Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District has been doing during the past year and what impacts we have made with our partners at

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Golden Triangle RC&D and Georgia Soil and Water Commission.

Our District and Golden Triangle RC&D had partnered last year with Randolph and Terrell Counties on a Better Back Road project. This year we are also working with the Golden Triangle RC&D on another project as it relates to the Better Back Road this time with Steward County. This is the Grassy Creek Roads project to repair two sites with damaged/crushed culvert pipes.

2022 Terrell County Cover Crop Field Day, we have been excited to join with UGA Extension, The Golden Triangle, and NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Material Center in partnership with Bellflower Farms to participate in a 70-acre cover crop demonstration with 4 field length plots featuring Ry, Crimson Clover, Vetch and Triticale in various configurations.

This is the second year we have join with UGA Extension, The Golden Triangle and NRCS in this field day and it has been a huge success. There were over 25 local farmers/producers in attendance.

Our District has promoted GACD with the second phase of the Pollinator Initiative by partnering Terrell County High School.

Georgia Soil and Water Commission in partnership with the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD, have worked with farmers in the Chickasawhatchee Watershed and has helped fund a Best Management Project in Terrell County.

This cost share project was for multi species cover crops in the fall of 2021, 326 acres were planted. The total value in those cover crops was \$27,159.00 in cost share within the Chickasawhatchee Watershed.

This partnership between Georgia Soil and Water Commission has produced a total value of \$34,830.00, for the last two years.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2022

continued

LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER Year in Review

Annually the National Association of Conservation District has a NACD 2021 Poster Contest.

This poster contest is open to all public, private and homeschool students in grades K-12. The Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD select the top three posters that are submitted, then send them on to the State competition, if they place in the State competition, they will be eligible to move up to NACD's National Poster Contest.

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop is another program that the District supports by sponsoring students within our district to take advantage of this 5-day Workshop. Students take part in lectures and hands-on activities to boost their knowledge of Georgia's vital natural resources. It also provides them with a taste of college life while delivering valuable insight into careers in agriculture and natural resources through their counselors and instructors. This year the Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District is happy that they were able to sponsor one motivative student from Terrell County to attend this year's workshop.

Lower Chattahoochee River District Supervisors

Left to right:

- Patrick Shivers
- Jack Hufstetler, Treasurer
- Brian Goolsby
- Thomas Sumners
- Bill Bowen
- Hiram Bo(Guy) Beard, Chairman
- Gerald Isler

Supervisor's not in photo:

- George Cathrall
- Ry McRee
- Andrew Payne
- Frankie Sauls
- Ralph Balkcom, Jr.
- Mark Masters, Vice Chairman



Lower Chattahoochee Program Assistant - Judith Rulison-Northcutt

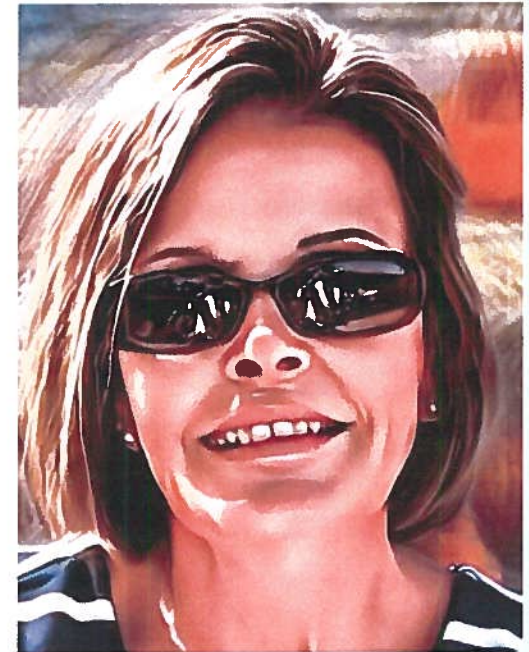
Judy has served as the face of our District for the last five years networking and serving as liaison with our local school systems to develop and execute stewardship programs, and other District initiatives involving local students.

She also help support their local NRCS office by providing customer service and technical assistance to farmers and landowners by helping with the implementation of the Farm Bill Programs. She assist with contract development and management, contract planning, application processing, eligibility determination, and other written correspondences as needed.

GACD AWARD FOR 2022

Superior Professional Support

Each year, GACD presents an award to an individual recognized as providing superior support to soil and water Conservation Districts in Georgia. This year the GACD Superior Professional Support recipient is Judy Northcutt. Judy is the Program Assistant for the Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District, and the Golden Triangle RC&D. Judy has been the Program Assistant for 5 years. Judy rose above and beyond her position of Program Assistant and excelled in serving the Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District and Golden Triangle RC&D. Her dedication and service in this position has truly benefited not only the surrounding community but also everyone with whom she has worked. Thank you and congratulations to Judy Northcutt for her dedicated service!





59th Annual Conservationist of the Year

The Lower Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District

annually awards local farmers/businesses within the nine-county district its highest award,

“Conservationist of the Year”

This year’s banquet honoring these individuals was held on February 21st at the Goolsby Farm Center in Dawson Georgia and was a huge success.

Second District Congressman Sanford Bishop made a special appearance this year to honor these special awardees.

Representative Bishop is currently serving on the House Committee on Agriculture and as Chair of the Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD Supervisors Extend a special Thank You

To all the present and past Conservationist for their continued efforts and commitment to the preservation of our land.

Because of their efforts they have helped to ensure that future generations will be able to have the same abundance of resources that we benefit from today.

Congratulations to this year’s Recipients

Conservationist of the Year

Lower Chattahoochee
Supervisor/**Jack Hufstetler**,

- **Erik Pace**/Stewart County,
- **Renee McDonald**/Lee County,
- **Seth McAllister**/Terrell County,

2nd District Congressman/**Sanford Bishop**,

- **Danny Blackmon**/Ancient Oaks Farm/Quitman County,
- **Billy Minick**/Minick Farms/Webster County,
- **Thomas (Rocky) Mountain**/3 Strand Farm/Clay County,
- **Peavy Pittman**/Randolph County.



Special Recognition Robbie Faust and Mark Masters

- ▶ Second District Congressman Sanford Bishop attended the 59th annual Conservationist of the Year Banquet. This special appearance was not only to honor the District's Conservationist but to give special recognition to:
- ▶ Robbie Faust for being named the 2021 Friend of Conservation by the National Association of Conservation District (NACD) and the 2021 Conservationist of the Year by the Georgia Association of Conservation District (GACD)
- ▶ Mark Master who serves as president of GACD and Vice Chairman of the Lower Chattahoochee River SWCD. Master is the Director of the Georgia Water Policy & Planning Center Located in Albany Georgia. He has recently graduated from the Next Generation Leadership Institute.
- ▶ Rep Bishop thanked them for there leadership and strong representation of Southwest Georgia.



NACD 2022 Poster Contest

Lower Chattahoochee River wants to
Recognize this year's top three winners

➤ 1st Place

Paige Clark

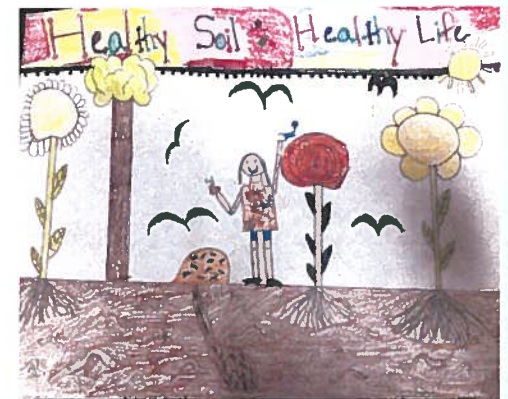
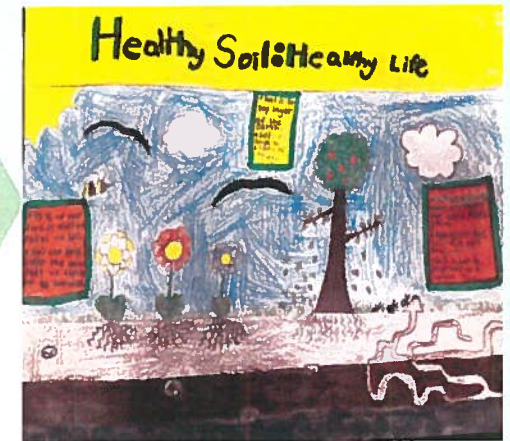
➤ 2nd Place

Katelyn Ly

➤ 3rd Place

Madyson Bailey

➤ 1st place winner Paige Clark's poster will now be entered
in the State competition.



2022 Terrell County Cover Crop Field Day



2022 Terrell County Cover Crop Field Day



UGA Extension, The Golden Triangle, The Lower Chattahoochee River Conservation District, and NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Partnered with Bellflower Farms to bring you a 70 acre cover crop demonstration with 4 field length plots featuring Rye, Crimson Clover, Vetch, and Triticale in various configurations.

May 4, 2022

10AM-Noon-Terrell County 4-H Pavilion

After lunch in the field 1-2P.M.

RSVP to Terrell County Extension (229)995-2165 by April 30th.

Event Starts at Terrell County 4-H Pavilion (2674 Albany Hwy, Dawson, GA 39842), After Lunch Field Visit to See Strip Till in Action. Field Across from 5896 Herod Dover Rd, Dawson Ga.

