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USDA AmeriCorps



"Getting Things Done"

1994-95



USDA/AmeriCorps

Soil Conservation Service
Louisiana

USDA/Americorps invites you to . . .

Attend an orientation and interview for the USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Projects in Louisiana at the Holiday Inn, 2716 North MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana, on August 26, 1994.

We have reviewed your referral and/or application form, and we are very interested in talking to you about a USDA/Americorps position.

Registration for the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the orientation session will begin at 10:00 a.m.

We will provide lunch, and you will be invited to participate in interviews after lunch.

Please confirm your attendance on the attached postage-paid card, and return this card to me as soon as possible. Someone will also be calling you to confirm your attendance and answer any questions.

An application form and draft agenda are attached for your use. Please complete the application form and bring it with you to the orientation.

I am looking forward to meeting you and talking about the AmeriCorps program!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billy R. Moore".

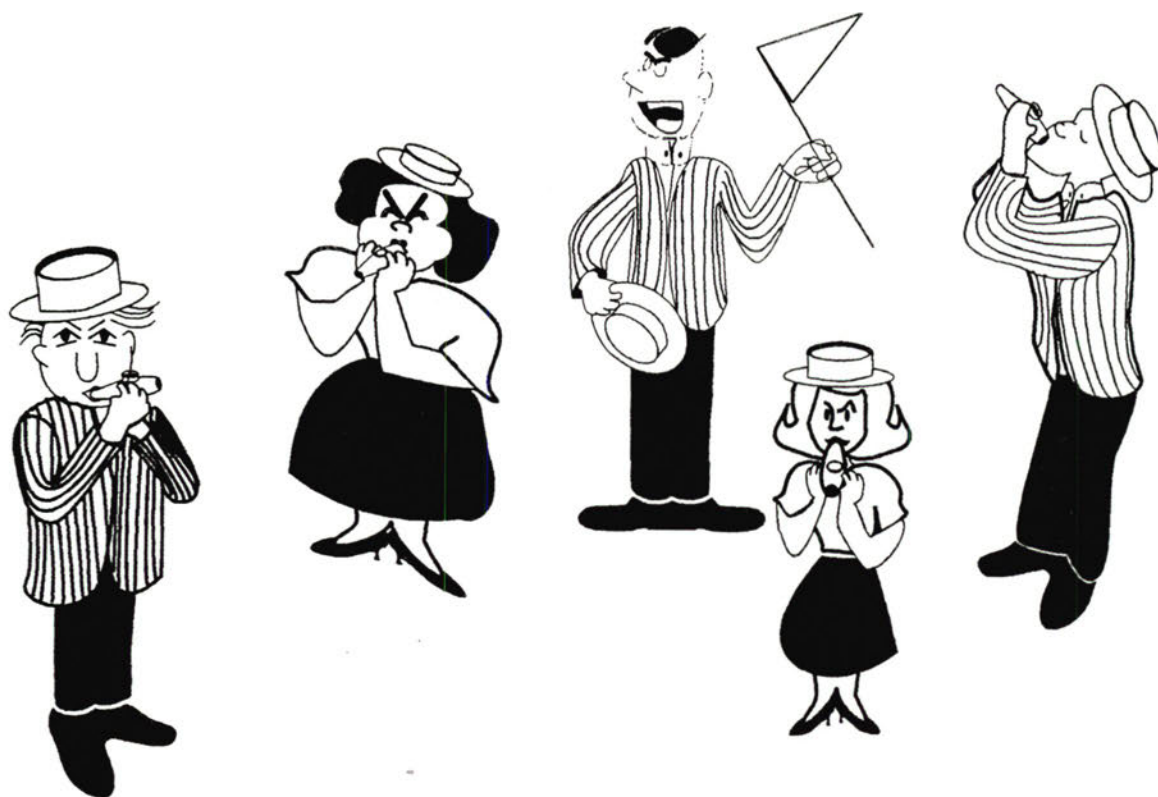
Billy R. Moore
Agency Project Director

Attachments



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AMERICORPS KICK-OFF IN NEW ORLEANS



AMERICORPS PLEDGE

I will get things done for America--to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps Member. And I'm going to get things done.



AmeriCorps passes muster

Clinton to swear in first service recruits

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press writer

ABERDEEN, Md. — President Clinton, worshipping in a military chapel here Sunday, thanked the first recruits to his national service program for fulfilling "our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings."

The president and Hillary Rodham Clinton attended services at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a weapons facility in central Maryland. The visit was designed to promote the president's AmeriCorps initiative, a sweeping collection of old and new community service programs offering college education to its workers.

The program formally commences today, when Clinton plans to swear in nearly 15,000 AmeriCorps recruits, capping his 2-year-old campaign for the service.

Clinton spoke from the pulpit to a congregation of about 300.

"This is a special service that reaffirms our relationship to our God, and our God-given responsibility to serve our fellow human beings," he said.

With health care reform in jeopardy and his popularity wan-

ing in the polls, the president returned from his summer vacation hammering on the all-American themes of family values, personal responsibility and public service.

"Service to others is something everyone can do, and something everyone should do because of our relationship to our God, our responsibility to others, and our responsibility to ourselves," he said Sunday.

The national service program, which fulfills a cornerstone pledge of Clinton's presidential campaign, is a \$360 million effort to put 20,000 mostly young Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety.

The workers will receive minimum-wage pay, free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The \$4,725 can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans. They can work up to two years.

If Congress extends the program, the White House hopes to spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Attending church with Clinton were about 30 members of the National Civilian Community Corp., a branch of AmeriCorps that trained East Coast recruits at the Aberdeen base to fight forest fires in the West.

Clinton shook their hands on the way out of church.



TOP PHOTO

RECD AmeriCorps Team
Front Row: Lee Wooldridge, Marjorie Bethea, Zelma Powell, Sandi Eley, Naomi Boley, Bobbie Ignont.
Back Row: Wydette Williams & Henry Rosenthal.

BOTTOM PHOTO

AmeriCorps Kickoff in New Orleans on Sept. 12, 1994.
Front Row: Judy Ned, Alicia Trissler, Robin Torrence. Back Row: Hope Beggan, Dominic Beggan, Tressa Lantz, Aminul Mahfuz, Angie Norsworthy, Carl Collins, Christie LeBleu, Susie Mullins.



Welcome to USDA/AmeriCorps

When President Lincoln signed into law the act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture on May 15, 1862, he did so with a vision of USDA as the "People's Department." With the purpose as stated by Congress, "to acquire among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture...and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants," one clerk, four assistants and a gardener set out to bring their services to the farmers of America.¹

As America has changed in over one hundred years since, so has the USDA, which now reaches the lives of 260 million Americans. Today, the Department continues to provide assistance to the nation's 2 million farmers while helping 69 million rural residents, protecting the environment, ensuring better nutrition for women and infants, managing 191 million acres of national forest and grassland, and ensuring healthy school lunches for 25 million children.²

As a new member of AmeriCorps® — you are joining an entity which is based on a principle of American society that is as old as the republic itself: the idea that, not only does the democracy have the duty to protect and nourish the well-being of its citizens, but that citizens have an equal duty to protect and nourish the well-being of democracy.

It is most fitting then, that the "People's Department" is leading the effort to bring the President's national service program to fruition. USDA/ AmeriCorps members will be planting the seeds in America for a future built upon volunteerism and community. Working together, we have the opportunity to help Americans more than ever before. As President Clinton stated:

"Working together we can ensure that the world we leave to the future holds the same promise and opportunity as the one we inherited from the past."

President Clinton, April 14, 1994

Welcome to USDA/AmeriCorps.

¹ *Century of Service*, Gladys L. Baker et al. pg. 1, (1963)

² "A New Attitude" 1993 Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, pgs. iii-vii.

USDA/AmeriCorps New Member Orientation

Mission

The purpose of the AmeriCorps program is to "get things done"™ using the concept of national service as a vehicle. It offers opportunities to Americans to serve their country and earn education awards in return. It is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation.

AmeriCorps Ethic

The AmeriCorps Ethic is:

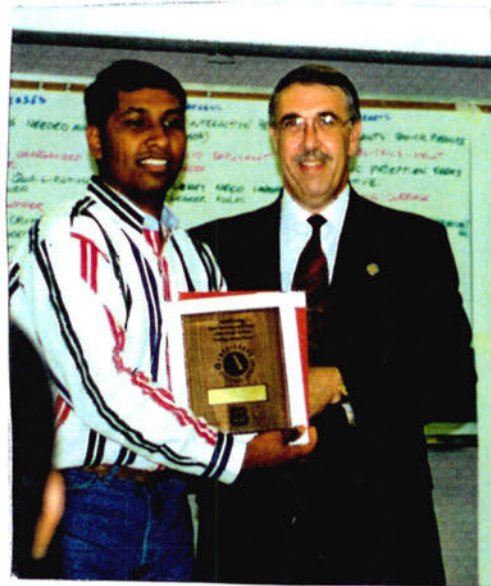
- *Getting things done.* Our primary goal is to improve communities by meeting their educational, nutritional, human, and environmental needs.
- *Strengthening communities.* AmeriCorps brings together individuals from different backgrounds and incomes, with different missions and cultures, in the common effort to improve our communities.
- *Encouraging responsibility.* AmeriCorps encourages members to explore and exercise their responsibilities toward their communities, themselves and their families — in their service experience and throughout their lives.
- *Expanding opportunity.* AmeriCorps members receive awards to further their education or pay back student loans, as well as valuable job experience, specialized training, and life skills.



Don Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist, addresses the new AmeriCorps members during orientation activities held at the U.S. Forest Service office in Pineville.

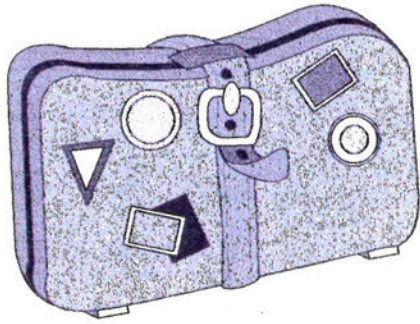


TIMBER BRIDGE PROJECT



Aminul Mahfuz is working in a 17-parish area to assist local communities to provide the technical assistance necessary to promote timber bridges as one solution to transportation problems in economically depressed areas.





TOURISM & COMMUNITY PLANNING





Article Printed In The
WINN PARISH ENTERPRISE
October 19, 1994



Alicia Trissler is serving as liason for promotion of tourism in Winn Parish. She is with Americorps and will be working closely with the museum, chamber of commerce and other groups. She is seen here with Bill Poe, director of volunteers at the museum and George Harrel.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southern
Region

1720 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

File Code:3610

Date: February 28, 1995

Route To: Americorps Forest Coordinators

Subject: Token of Appreciation

To: Forest Supervisors- Daniel Boone, Chatt/Ocone, Cherokee, Kisatchie, Mississippi, Ozark-St.Francis, North Carolina, Francis Marion, Jefferson.

This first year of the Forest Service's involvement in the AmeriCorps Rural Development has been very challenging and exciting. The fast pace efforts to establish the sites; develop positions and objectives; recruit, interview and enroll members; set up offices, vehicles and equipment; train members and monitor working situations; and most of all following all the daily directions that were and still are unfolding deserves a big thank you to the Coordinators, Supervisors and all other staff that helped put this program together.

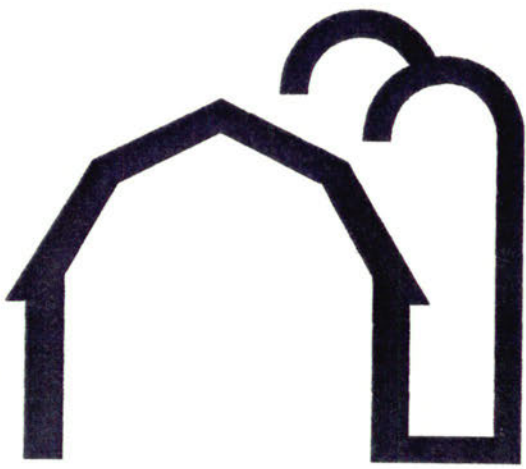
I am so proud of the great work the Forest Service Members are doing in their communities. Starting "cold" on rural development is a big challenge all by itself with all the rural economic problems that have been persistent for years. Trying to make a difference in a short amount of time is pretty ambitious, but the members are getting things done. Success is hard to measure in this type of work. A positive attitude, team work and a willingness to help makes all the difference in the world.

As a token of my appreciation for the great job you are doing and will continue to do, please accept this AmeriCorps belt buckle and wear it proudly. We will be sending lapel pins as soon as they arrive.

Enclosed is a list of recommended Coordinators, Supervisors and Members who should receive these buckles. Please pass on my appreciation for a job well done.


ROBERT C. JOSLIN
Regional Forester

Enclosures



FARM*A*SYST PROGRAM



Farm*A*Syst is a voluntary program designed to educate rural residents on well water about potential sources of groundwater contamination. AmeriCorps members Carl Collins, Christie LeBleu, and Sobrena Lewis introduced this program to approximately 700 people in nine Louisiana parishes.





DRY FIRE HYDRANTS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Participants

Trailblazer RC&D: Angela Norrworthy
Twin Valley RC&D: Tressa Lantz
Capital RC&D: Robin Torrence
Imperial Calcasieu
RC&D: Dominic Beggan



Pond hydrants contribute to rural protection

Louisiana's rural population and local government agencies have received good news about rural road maintenance and fire protection.

Jack McClanahan, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has announced the approval of \$998,984 in oil over-charge funds for the implementation of a statewide dry hydrant project to be coordinated by Trailblazer Inc. of Ruston. The project will demonstrate energy savings through improved rural fire protection and road maintenance with the installation of 2,000 dry hydrants throughout the state.

As primary contractor for the statewide dry hydrant project, Trailblazer brings three years of qualified experience to the project for their successful pilot program

completed in 1992. Approval of the current project resulted in the combined efforts of Trailblazer and DNR and in cooperation with the Northeast Delta, Capital, Twin Valley and Imperial Calcasieu RC&D councils and parish police juries.

Twin Valley is a non-profit organization supported by federal, state and foundation grants. The RC&D program is designed to help volunteers at a local level identify and work toward solving the problems unique to their individual communities. Twin Valley RC&D area serves eight parishes area including Caddo, DeSoto, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine and Vernon.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently

installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams.

Properly installed, dry hydrants can solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use. The multiple benefits awarded by dry hydrants include energy savings to consumers and road maintenance departments, and improving rural fire protection and lower fire insurance ratings.

Improved rural fire protection is achieved with the use of dry hydrants by providing water from existing sources.

Fire department tanker trucks can tap these water supplies to fight rural fires and reduce the amount of time a water tanker would spend travelling back and forth from the site of the fire to the originating

water source. This reduction in the amount of time taken to supply water to rural fire fighting efforts can reduce insurance rates in those areas.

Water is also a key ingredient to maintaining gravel roads.

Using water to compact new layers of dirt or gravel makes a smoother surface on which vehicles can travel and increases the mileage vehicles using the road can achieve.

Having water available for extraction on-site resulted in a 50 percent reduction of driving time for road maintenance trucks in the pilot project.

With water trucks averaging approximately four miles per gallon in fuel efficiency, the use of dry hydrants reflects substantial savings in fuel costs.



Dominic Beggan and Angela Norsworthy, from left, view a dry fire hydrant in Natchitoches Parish. Every parish in Louisiana will be given the opportunity to install 35 hydrants.



Rural areas may get fire hydrants

By Kari Belvin
Staff reporter

A Rapides Parish Police Jury committee took preliminary steps Tuesday to join a program designed to bring fire hydrants to rural areas.

Through the program, materials for 35 dry hydrants would be provided at no cost to the parish by Twin Valley Resource Conservation and Development District in Natchitoches.

The Police Jury would be responsible for providing equipment and labor for installing the hydrants.

Tressa K. Lantz, an AmeriCorps participant repre-

senting the district, told jurors that a dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system which is permanently installed in a lake, pond or stream in areas not serviced by other hydrants.

These hydrants can be used as alternate water sources for volunteer fire departments in rural areas and also for road maintenance work, she said.

If the jury agrees to take part in the program, Twin Valley would provide pipes, hydrant heads and strainers for 35 sites around the parish, Ms. Lantz said.

Money for the materials is to be provided by a grant from the

state Department of Natural Resources, she said, although the contract for this funding is still being finalized. Because the contract has yet to be completed, Ms. Lantz could not comment on the amount of funding the state will provide.

Once finalized, however, the money would be allocated to Trailblazer Conservation and Development District in Ruston, which is coordinating the project statewide.

Twin Valley is handling the program in 26 parishes, including Rapides, Ms. Lantz said.

The jury's Fire, Rural Development and Agricultural Affairs Committee passed a resolution in support of the project and named Juror Richard Billings, committee chairman, as coordinator of the project for the parish.

Billings said he would be putting together a committee of rural and VFD fire chiefs in the parish to come up with plans for the program.

He also said that the parish has been pursuing a system of dry hydrants for rural areas since

1992 when a map of potential locations was put together.

Ms. Lantz explained that the 1992 program was contracted with a different coordinator and that the program has now been changed to Trailblazer.

In other matters, the Federal Programs Committee heard a proposal from Jury President Myron Lawson for a grass-roots, letter-writing campaign in opposition to proposed cuts in federal funding to Job Training Partnership Act programs and food and nutrition programs.

Lawson said these proposed cuts in social programs would most hurt "the young, the poor and the needy."

Terry Bounds, parish director of JTPA programs, said the newly elected Congress has launched a "feeding frenzy" on social programs.

With the cuts, the JTPA's summer program could lose 500 to 600 jobs for young people, Bounds told jurors.

He also pointed out that federal funding for JTPA programs 15 years ago was \$6 million. That sum is now down to \$2 million, and with the proposed cuts, could fall to just over \$1 million.

In light of the detrimental impact the cuts could have to the parish, Lawson urged other jurors and the public to take part

in the letter-writing campaign.

In environmental matters, the Grant Coordinating, Personnel and Civil Service Committee heard a report on parish recycling from coordinator Randal Moore.

Mrs. Moore said the city of Pineville is in its fourth week of a new curbside recycling program and is averaging 11 tons per week. This amount could double once commercial businesses begin adding their recyclable materials to the program, she said.

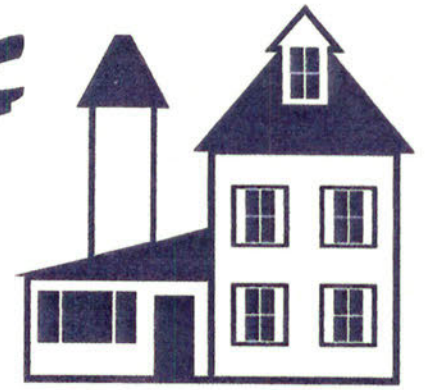
In another environmental concern, Albertia Roshto of the Tioga Environmental Action Committee read a proclamation from her organization before the Public Health and Liaison Committee.

The proclamation stated that the organization is not anti-business or anti-industry, but that it is against any commercial enterprise that seeks to treat, store or dispose of hazardous materials or that has to be permitted by the state Department of Environmental Quality from locating in Tioga.

In other matters, the committees discussed creating a new Police Jury logo, giving the president authority to issue proclamations for historical events and to recognize outstanding citizens.

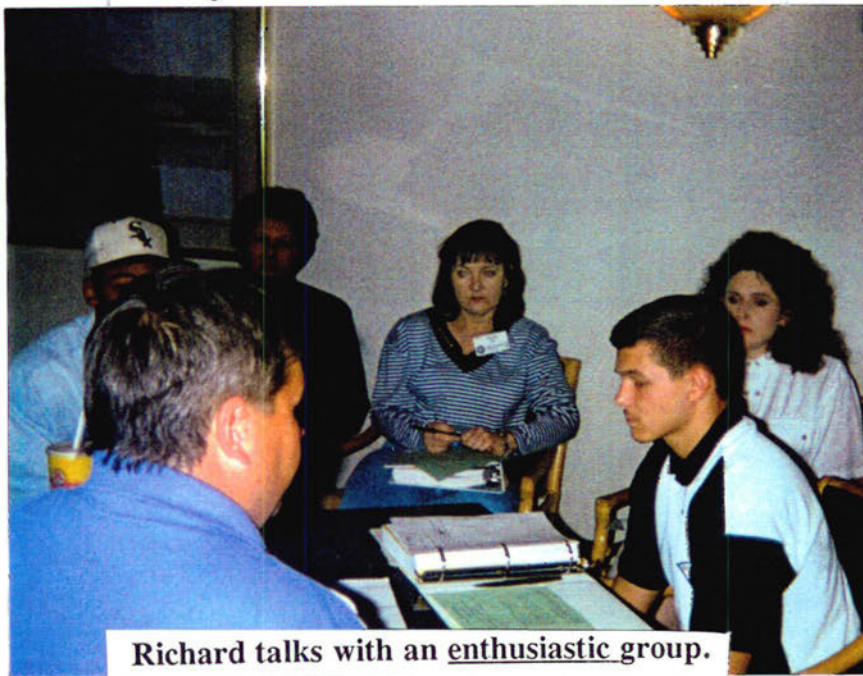


RURAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





Marjorie Bethea talks to a local 4-H Club.



Richard talks with an enthusiastic group.



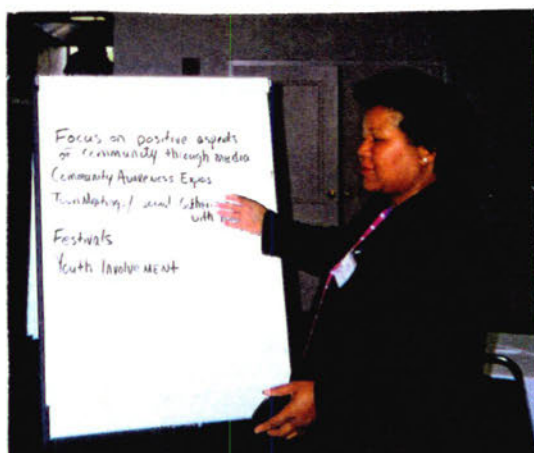
Clean up your desk, Zelma!



Wooldridge with a 504 Grant Applicant and Joel



Sandi is hard at work, or good at faking!



Naomi Boley points out her ideas for communities.



Bobbie Ignont with the Council on Aging.



Americorp member in Bastrop

Photo by Doug Armstrong

Marjorie Bethea is Bastrop's only current RECD AmeriCorps member. Bethea helps assist local residents fill out governmental grant and loan applications, respond to housing complaints, and distributes flyers for the RECD's monthly home-buyers seminar, a service provided by the RECD to educate people concerning home financing.

Americorps active in parish

National service program looking into housing problems

by Doug Armstrong
Enterprise Staff Writer

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a large supporter of Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps program, a national service initiative that allows diverse groups of people to perform services to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs.

Hometown

The program takes its inspiration from the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which put thousands of young people to work restoring our natural environment.

The new program retains the CCC's focus on the environment, but recognizes that, as the challenges we face have become more diverse and more complex, so must our solutions.

The Forest Service, Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD), and Natural Resources Conservation Service are three USDA agencies supporting the AmeriCorps program in Louisiana. There are currently 21 USDA AmeriCorps members with diverse educational backgrounds giving a season of service to the people of rural Louisiana.

The RECD agency in Bastrop is one of nine RECD agency offices in Louisiana participating in the AmeriCorps program.

"(The program) is new in Bastrop," stated Marjorie Bethea, Bastrop's current RECD AmeriCorps member.

According to Bruce Norwood, county supervisor for the local USDA RECD office, this is the first year of the program and it has been a "learning experience for all of us."

Bethea began her service in September of 1994. Her duties have included assisting individuals fill out governmental grant and loan applications, responding to housing complaints, and distributing flyers for the

"In the future, (AmeriCorps) wants to expand to cover Morehouse Parish and Ouachita Parish. If there are adjoining parishes (in need), they can also assist those other parishes."

— Bruce Norwood
Local USDA office

RECD's monthly home-buyers seminar, a service provided by the RECD to educate people concerning home financing.

AmeriCorps members are hired for an 11-month service, which is renewable for a second term, but not to exceed two years of service. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members are given a modest liv-

See SERVICE on Pg. 2

ing allowance, room and board, limited health care benefits, and an education award to help pay for college, graduate school, or training programs.

RECD AmeriCorps members are actively involved in a variety of outreach efforts designed to improve the overall quality of life for rural residents.

"It is supposed to be a service-oriented program, whereby our AmeriCorps representative could do service in the community," stated Norwood.

"If somebody has a problem with housing, I am supposed to go out and check it out and get

the 504 Housing Program.

In order to qualify for the 502 Program and the 504 Housing Program, the applicant must be over the age of 18, with a good credit history, and an income sufficient enough to repay the loan. Persons 62 years of age or older, with no repayment abilities, may be eligible to qualify for governmental housing grants of up to \$5,000.

The RECD also offers two farm loan programs: the Farm Operating Program and the Farm Ownership Program. The programs are available to farm-

direct funds and guaranteed funds. Direct funds are administered through the local RECD office. The guaranteed funds are initiated through local banks.

All farming funds must be used strictly for the operation of the farm.

Anyone in need of a housing or farming loan is encouraged to contact the local RECD office at (318) 281-1653 for more information concerning applications and qualifications.

So far, the RECD AmeriCorps program has been a successful one.

wants to expand to cover Morehouse Parish and Ouachita Parish," Norwood added. "If there are adjoining parishes (in need), they can also assist those other parishes."

Anyone 18 years of age or older and a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. interested in the AmeriCorps program may request an application by calling 1-800-94-ACORPS, or write to: AmeriCorps*NCCC, Office of Recruitment, 9th Floor, 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20525.

January 11, 1995

Enterprise Community topic at Rotary

Program benefits could arrive this spring

By Hugh Matthews
Staff Writer

Farmers Home Administration Rural Coordinator Mike Taylor was in Ferriday Thursday speaking about the Enterprise Community (EC) which includes Clayton and Ferriday.

"We're quite fortunate that one of these Enterprise Community designations includes Concordia," Taylor told members of the Rotary Club.

Taylor said the Macon Ridge area should begin receiving benefits of the EC by spring.

"I would hope that money will begin to flow in this process with the next 90 days. I'll be disappointed if it doesn't," he said.

Areas included in the Enterprise Community are eligible for \$3 million in federal block grants for social services.

Taylor said this area was a natural to be recognized due to its poverty and high unemployment.

"Unfortunately those are the things we excel at," Taylor said. "We lead the country in everyone of those terrible categories."

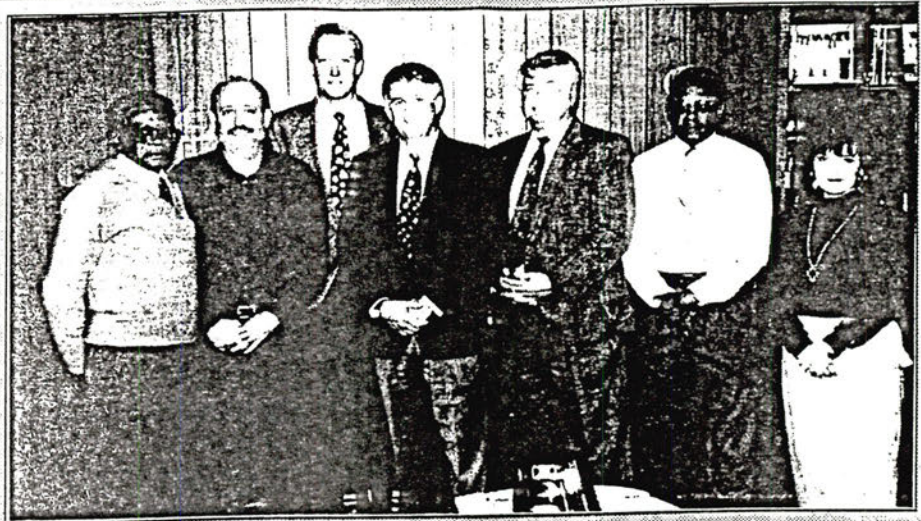
Taylor said the Macon Ridge Economic Development Region's application offered answers to the problems.

He said those responses were critical in the USDA's selection process.

"Emphasis was to be on unique solutions to those problems," Taylor said.

He said the EC funds can lead to additional funding and economic development from a variety of sources.

"If this is handled properly, and I have every reason to believe it will be, \$3 million is just



MIKE TAYLOR (center) spoke to the Ferriday Rotary Club on Thursday. Taylor is the coordinator of the Farmers Home Administration Office of Rural Development. Taylor said the Macon Ridge area should see benefits of the \$3 million Enterprise Community by March. Seen here with Taylor from left to right are Sam Williams Jr., Ferriday Mayor Glen McGlothlin, Rep. Bryant Hammett, Taylor, Buddy Spillers of Macon Ridge Economic Development District, Clayton Mayor Wilbert Washington and Americorps Representative Sandy Eley. (Sentinel photo)

the tip of the ice berg," Taylor said.

He also urged Macon Ridge officials not to view the EC as temporary relief.

"We want this to be something that returns this area to economic prosperity," he said.

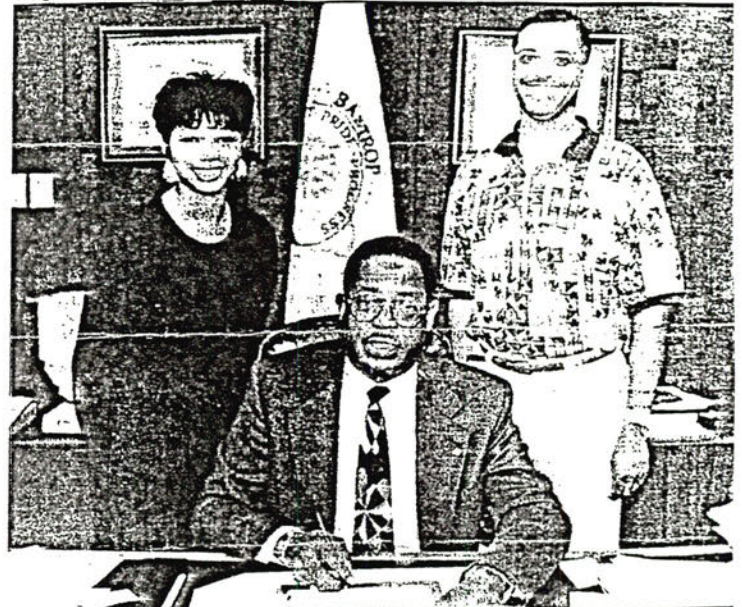
"I don't know that this is an opportunity that will ever come back around," Taylor said, noting the present budget cutting mood in Washington.

A number of Macon Ridge officials attended the meeting in-

cluding Buddy Spillers, executive director, Glen McGlothlin and Wilbert Washington, Macon

Ridge board members and Sam Williams, chairman of the advisory council.

Page 8 - The Bastrop (LA) Daily Enterprise - Wednesday, April 26, 1995



Proclamation signed by mayor

Photo by P.J. Jones

Bastrop Mayor Clarence Hawkins signed a proclamation declaring Tuesday, April 2 at National Day of Service. Pictured at the signing are Marjorie Bethea and Bruce Norwood, representing the Rural Economic Community Development, formerly known as Home Administration.

TRAINING SESSIONS

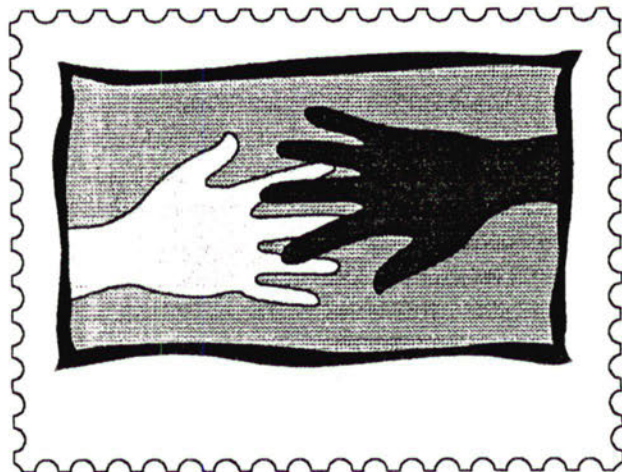


Grant Writing
Defensive Driving
Photography

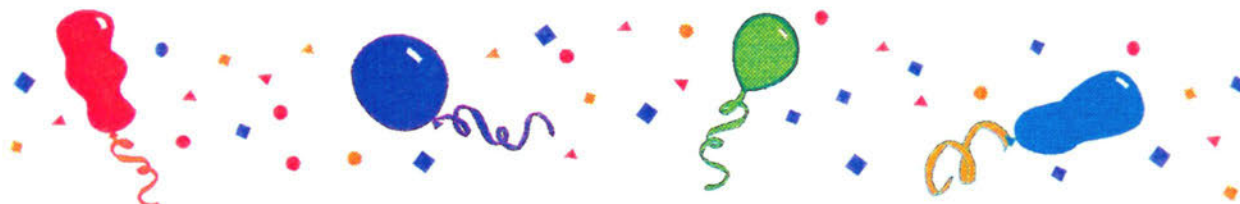
First Aid/CPR
Self-Esteem
Ethics

Sexual Harassment Prevention
Effective Presentations
HIV/Aids Awareness

COMMUNITY



SERVICE

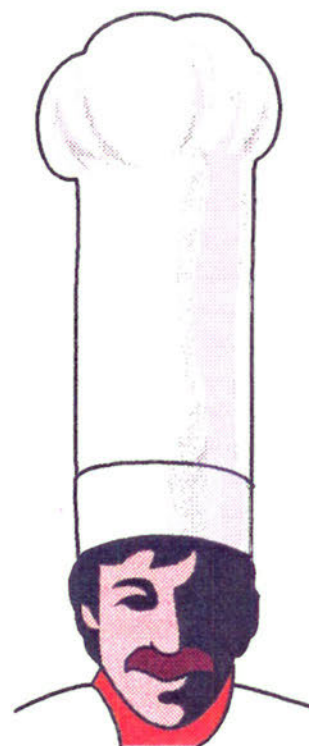


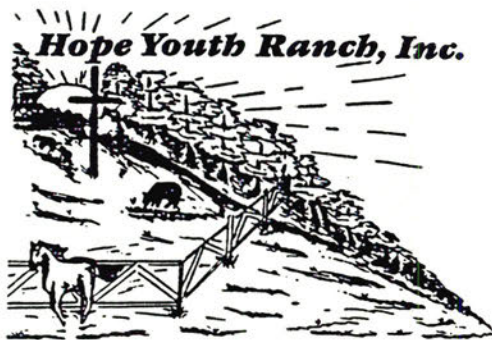
GRAND OPENING HOPE YOUTH RANCH



Angela Norsworthy, Carl Collins, Judy Ned, Susie Mullins,
Lt. Governor Melinda Schwegmann, Aminul Mahfuz, Alicia
Trissler, Tressa Lantz, Dominic Beggan.

February 21
Organized by Angela Norsworthy





HOPE YOUTH RANCH MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Carlos Irizarry, M.D.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ruston, La.

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Shreveport, La.

HOPE YOUTH RANCH, INC.

The Board of Directors and Staff of Hope Youth Ranch would like to give special thanks and acknowledge the generous contributions of the following:

Schumpert Medical Center	Minden and South Webster Chamber of Commerce
TC's Nursery/Landscape Lawn Care	Minden Bank & Trust, Co.
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Minden	Specialty Oil of Shreveport
Conco Food Service	Glaze and Gardener Landscaping
Minden Market	Remington Suites
Harvest Foods	LL Brenton Lumber Co.
OJ Super Foods	Oak Hill Bar-B-Q Sauce
Cathey Construction	Anonymous Contributors
Town & Country Nursing Center	The Extra Mile
Americorps	Hill Country Youth Ranch

GRAND OPENING

FEBRUARY 21, 1995

*For I know the plans I have for you,
"declares the Lord," Plans to prosper
you and not to harm you. Plans to give
you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV





AmeriCorps members volunteer their services at the opening of the Hope Youth Ranch near Minden. Duties include decorating, greeting guests, preparing & serving lunch, and leading tours of the facilities.



TREE PLANTING IN TALLULAH



Carl Collins, Alicia Trissler, and Anthony Bridgewater (District Conservationist, Tallulah).

March 3
Organized by Carl Collins

AmeriCorp planting in city park

By Scott Cummins
Staff writer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program of AmeriCorp has a concern for Madison Parish and it plans to help the community as best it can, officials said.

AmeriCorp members are in Tallulah for their Area One Cluster meeting and were at the city park Friday to plant some trees to help improve the park.

"We are planting River Birches around the park. They are in a dormant state right now," said Anthony Bridgewater of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Bridgewater said now is the best time to plant trees.

The trees planted were donated by the Madison Soil and

Water Conservation District.

Alysia Trisseler, an AmeriCorp member from Winnfield, said AmeriCorp was started by President Clinton on Sept. 12, 1994, as an alternative to the Peace Corp.

"The main difference between the Peace Corp and AmeriCorp is AmeriCorp was developed to help communities in the United States, while the Peace Corp was developed to help communities in the Third World countries," she said.

Trisseler said the program allows students and graduates to help communities grow and to put the community spirit back into the community.

Anyone 17 or older can participate in the AmeriCorp program. The program offers up to \$4,725 for tuition or loan forgiveness, a living stipend during service, basic health insurance and a child care allowance. People who join AmeriCorp can work with a variety of services including education, public safety, human services and the environment.



Planting trees

AmeriCorps is having it's Area One Cluster meeting in Madison Parish this month. On Friday, March 3, the AmeriCorps members planted River Birches at the city park. Pictured from left to right are Alicia Trissler, AmeriCorps; Anthony Bridgewater, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Stan Livingston, director of Tallulah Housing Authority; Tallulah Mayor Theodore Lindsey; Carl Collins, AmeriCorps; Angela Norsworthy, AmeriCorps; and Susan Mullins, AmeriCorps. (Madison Journal, March 8, 1995)

JOEL BERG'S VISIT



March 30 - 31



"AmeriCorps is going to live or die, not based on lofty speeches from people like me from Washington, or really because of anything we do in Washington. It's going to live or die based on what you do."

-Joel Berg,
Director of National
Service for USDA



USDA/AmeriCorps Site Visit - Louisiana

Joel Berg, Director of National Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

March 30-31, 1995

Itinerary

Wednesday, March 29, 1995 - Overnight in Natchez, Mississippi

Thursday, March 30, 1995

6:00 a.m. Depart Natchez, Mississippi for Winnsboro, Louisiana

8:00 a.m. Arrive Winnsboro Town Hall - Winnsboro, Louisiana

8:00 - 8:15 Welcome and Introductions - Alan Dorian (FS)

AmeriCorps Members:

Community Planning (FS):	Judith Ned
	Alicia Trissler
Tourism (FS):	Susan Mullins
Dry Fire Hydrants (RECD):	Angela Norsworthy
	Tressa Lantz
	Dominic Beggan
	Robin Torrence
RECD:	Bobbie Ignont
	Marcus Spencer
	Marjorie Bethea
	Lee Wooldridge
	Zelma Powell
	Wydetta Williams
	Naomi Boley
	Kimberly Kitterlin

Agency Personnel:

FS:	Alan Dorian, AmeriCorps Coordinator
	Liz Crane, Regional AmeriCorps Coordinator
NRCS:	Donna Remides, RC&D Coordinator
	Holly Martien, AmeriCorps Program Assistant
RECD:	Richard Hoffpauir, AmeriCorps Coordinator

Local Dignitaries

Thursday, March 30, 1995 (Continued)

8:15 - 9:00	Cluster 1 Site Project Presentations - Community Planning, Tourism Planning, Dry Fire Hydrants (site visit later in morning), RECD (site visit later in day)
9:00 - 9:45	AmeriCorps Orientation by Joel Berg for Cluster Group 1
9:45 - 10:15	Travel to dry hydrant site
10:15 - 11:00	Site Visit - Dry hydrant demonstration by Assistant Chief Gary Piro - Mangham Fire Protection District NRCS AmeriCorps Members: Angela Norsworthy Tressa Lantz Dominic Beggan Robin Torrence
11:00 - 11:30	Travel back to Winnsboro
11:30 - 12:15	Lunch
12:15 - 1:15	Site Visit - Winnsboro County Office: 504 Loan Grant Recipient RECD AmeriCorps Member: Lee Woolridge RECD Personnel: Paul Eiland, District Director Steve Ferrell, County Supervisor
1:15 - 3:15	Travel to Winnfield
3:15 - 4:00	Site Visit - Winnfield Political Musuem FS AmeriCorps Member: Alicia Trissler Community Representatives
4:00 - 5:30	Travel to Alexandria

Friday, March 31, 1995

8:00 - 9:00 Meet in USDA Conference Room, NRCS State Office with
Agency Representatives of FS, NRCS, and RECD

Alan Dorian, FS AmeriCorps Coordinator
Dean McAlister, FS Forest Supervisor's Representative
Donald W. Gohmert, NRCS State Conservationist
Billy Moore, NRCS AmeriCorps Coordinator
Holly Martien, NRCS AmeriCorps Program Assistant
Richard Hoffpauir, RECD AmeriCorps Coordinator
John Harpe, RECD Chief, Administrative Programs

9:00 - 10:00 Cluster 2 Site Project Presentations - Farm*A*Syst (site visit
later in day), Timber Bridge Project

NRCS AmeriCorps Members: Christie LeBleu
Carl Collins
Sobrena Lewis

FS AmeriCorps Member: Aminul Mahfuz

RECD AmeriCorps Member: Henry Rosenthal
Sandi Eley

10:00 - 11:00 AmeriCorps Orientation by Joel Berg for Cluster Group 2

11:00 - 12:00 Lunch

12:00 - 1:45 Travel to Crowley, Louisiana

1:45 - 3:00 Site Visit - Farm*A*Syst Assessment with Landowner
Landowner - Vaughn LeJeune, Crowley, Louisiana

3:00 Travel to Baton Rouge

AmeriCorps program making a difference

By Mark Watson
Staff reporter

AmeriCorps — a voluntary service organization that has been called the domestic version of the Peace Corps — should not be a liberal or a conservative issue, Joel Berg said Friday.

"Is it liberal or conservative to improve rural fire protection?" asked Berg, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Service director. "Is it left wing or right wing to improve the water supply for farmers?"

One USDA AmeriCorps program is designed to build 35 dry fire hydrants in each parish of Louisiana. A dry fire hydrant makes it easier for fire engines to pump water out of surface ponds.

Another program actively pursued in central Louisiana is Farm-A-Syst, in which farmers learn how to avoid risks to well water caused by various agricultural practices.

In exchange for providing this service, each AmeriCorps volunteer receives about \$12,000 a year, plus about \$4,700 toward college tuition — or has that much lopped off his student loans.

Berg delivered a pep talk to Louisiana AmeriCorps members Friday at the federal department's state headquarters in Alexandria.

"This is not just another big government giveaway," he said. "This is part of a big movement. You are proving the doubters wrong."

"The Washington press corps is used to the old ways of pork, large government programs, and not expecting much from citizens, and this is a program that only works with citizen involvement."

"People don't trust government, and because people are so cynical, that is precisely why you are so important. You are the link to bring government back to the people."

The program is fighting for its fiscal life, as Republican congressmen call for cuts in various domestic programs.

"AmeriCorps is going to live or die, not based on lofty speeches from people like me from Washington, or really because of anything we really do in



Joel Berg: AmeriCorps is not "another big government giveaway. This is part of a big movement."

Washington," Berg told the AmeriCorps members. "It's going to live or die based on what you do."

AmeriCorps has made a difference in Louisiana and the South, said Don Gohmert, the USDA's state conservationist for Louisiana.

"They've brought a different dimension than we were able to provide through our ongoing programs," Gohmert said.

"For instance, we are assisting with the statewide dry hydrant project. We can provide the technical engineering support, but we don't have the resources to work directly with all the police jurisdictions, volunteer fire departments and local people to tell them about what they need to do to bring dry hydrants to their communities."

"It's a real assistance to a state like Louisiana, where we have high fire insurance costs, because we don't have fire hydrants."

Reducing the spread of fire further Gohmert's mission to conserve soil. Burned forests result in more soil erosion.

In another program, AmeriCorps member Aminul Mahfuz, based in Pineville, helps communities build timber

■ Please see PROGRAM, D-2

Alexandria Daily Town Talk

City

■ Continued from D-1
bridges in rural areas. Projects are complete or under way in Oklahoma and Mississippi.

Not only does each bridge improve transportation, it helps build the timber industry, Mahfuz said.

In another program, Boyce resident Henry Rosenthal helps organize rural economic development.

He is working to bring a Dallas high-tech firm into the Boyce area, creating as many as 70 jobs. He is also helping a Cheneyville family establish a small rest home for veterans without families.

Rosenthal said he plans to use the college benefit to finish a degree in criminal justice at Grambling State University.

Sobrena Lewis, an AmeriCorps member based in Natchitoches, said people she has contacted about the Farm-A-Syst program were wary of government.

"Some people, I felt, were kind of skeptical, because it's government," she said. "They weren't very comfortable that it was a government program."

When it was over, "they were satisfied with the program itself,

but they were still a little hesitant."

Ms. Lewis earned her degree in animal science in 1994 at Southern University.

Dominic Beggan of Jennings said AmeriCorps is designed to instill a sense of civic duty, and his pride in his participation centers on that idea.

An immigrant to Louisiana from Northern Ireland, Beggan works to install dry fire hydrants in Beauregard, Allen, Calcasieu, Jeff Davis and Cameron parishes.

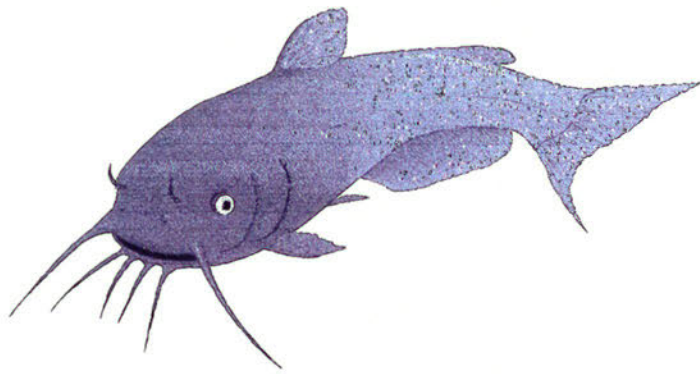
"The reason I joined AmeriCorps is to try to help things get done," Beggan said. "People are always complaining. We're getting off our rear ends and doing something about it."

"We're trying to rekindle a sense of civic duty. Ten years from now, I hope I can drive past a dry fire hydrant and say I did that, and maybe it saved a life."

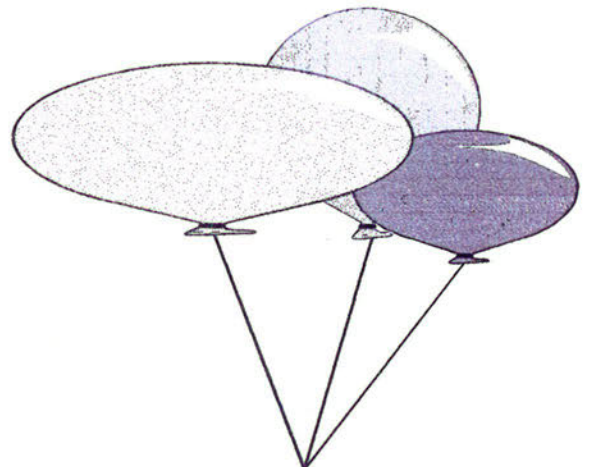


After delivering a pep talk to Louisiana AmeriCorps members, Berg visits project sites to view the tangible results of their efforts. **Above photo:** Joel Berg and Lee Wooldridge visit with a recipient of a 504 Loan which provides funding for necessary home improvements. **Right & Below:** Joel watches a dry hydrant demonstration while AmeriCorps members update him on the program's progress.

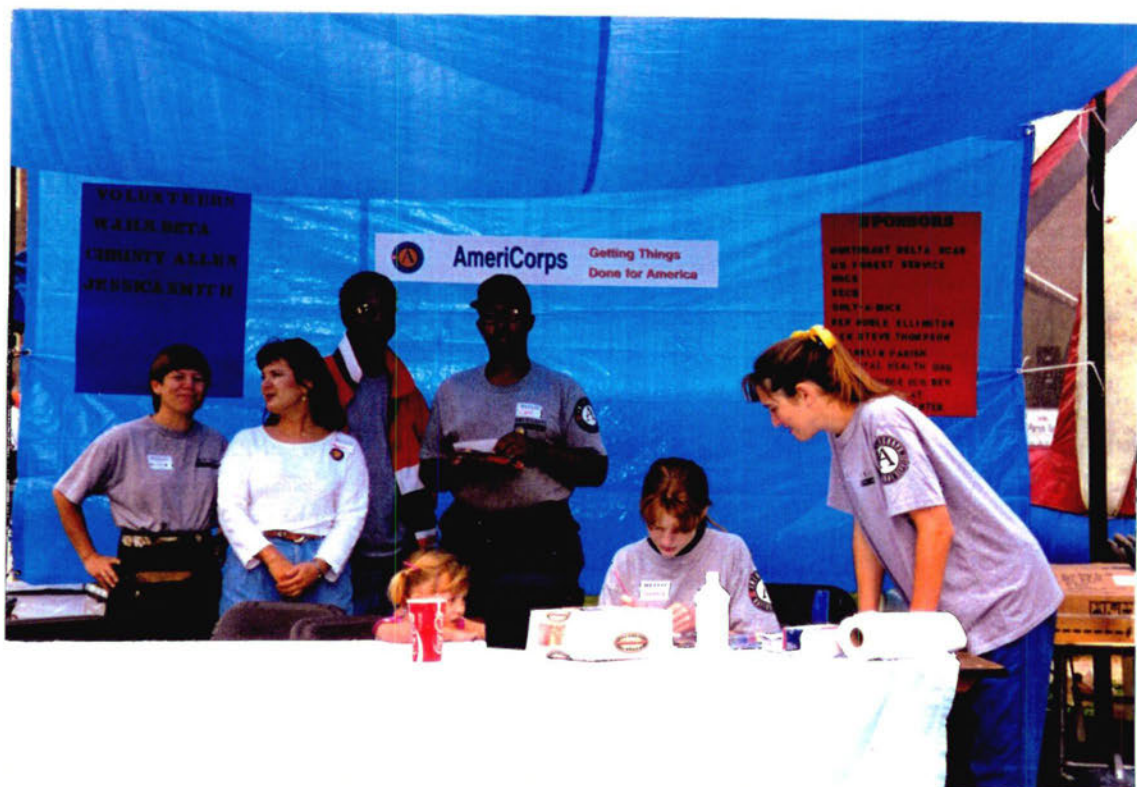




FRANKLIN PARISH CATFISH FESTIVAL



April 8
Organized by:
Judy Ned & Sandi Eley





APRIL 25 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



Organized by Dominic Beggan & Angela Norrsworthy

Crime and violence

AmeriCorps' objective is to help prevent crime, violence in U.S.

Dear Ann Landers: A few months back, you got a letter about crime and violence from someone who was "Burned Up in Connecticut." You asked your readers for suggestions. I'd like to suggest national service.

AmeriCorps, the new "domestic Peace Corps," began less than a year ago. Already, 20,000 young Americans have committed to serve full-time for a year, meeting challenges in communities across America. Among their many objectives, none is more important than preventing crime and violence.

One group of AmeriCorps members patrolled parks and recreation areas in New York City last summer. The New York Police Department reports that, for the first time in memory, there were no assaults in these areas. Another group of AmeriCorps members in Pittsburgh helped a community survive the death of a high school student caught in a crossfire. According to school officials, the members prevented a likely retaliation that would have had monumental impact on the entire east side of the city. A third group of AmeriCorps members in Atlanta is teaching middle school children how to resolve their conflicts without resorting to violence.

We can't stop crime and violence unless we address related problems that are just as big and troubling. In addition to their work to prevent and control crime, the first 20,000 AmeriCorps members are also building homes for and with working families, making

"What a splendid idea. Thank you for passing it on."

Ann Landers
Creators' Syndicate



sure that mothers in under-served communities get prenatal care, and teaching grade school children to read. They are joined by half a million seniors giving their experience and energies to communities through the National Senior Service Corps. Thousands of school-age and college students in Learn and Serve America are making service a part of their learning experience.

Today, April 25, these three federally administered national service programs — AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America — are coming together to participate in a National Day of Service. They'll do community service projects alongside members of Congress, civic leaders, university presidents and millions of ordinary people who volunteer their time because they want to help make communities safer and stronger. For those who have never served, April 25 is a

perfect day to begin. — Eli J. Segal, Corporation for National Service, Assistant to the President, Washington

Dear Eli Segal: What a splendid Thank you for passing it on. For more information, readers can write to: Eli Corporation for National Service, 120 York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 2052

National Day of Service Observed

Both Farmerville and Downsview mayors Willie Davis, Jr. and Reggie Skains proclaimed Tuesday, April 25, as National Day of Service for their towns.

That proclamation came through a request from Angela Norsworthy, AmeriCorps/USDA member serving Union Parish and seven other parishes.

Norsworthy said that across the nation, AmeriCorps members joined with other organizations and communities to perform joint community service projects on that day.

Sixteen AmeriCorps/USDA members in north Louisiana visited schools to provide a day of service by helping in the classroom.

The Louisiana Tech University graduate was assigned to Trailblazer RC&D in Ruston to assist with the Statewide Dry Hydrant Program which will install 2,015 dry hydrants across the state.

(The Gazette, May 1, 1995)



Photo by Sandra Brown

Angela Norsworthy (left) and AmeriCorps/USDA member serving Webster and seven other parishes, has asked Minden Mayor Bill Robertson (right) to proclaim today as National Day of Service for Minden. Norsworthy, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, was assigned to Trailblazer RC&D in Ruston to assist with the Statewide Dry Hydrant Program which will install more than 2,000 dry hydrants across the state. According to R. O. Machen Jr., Webster Parish Dry Hydrant chairman, Norsworthy is a real asset to Trailblazer in her help with the statewide Dry Hydrant Project in Webster Parish.





Leader photo by CARLA PAMPE

Day of Service

Across the nation, AmeriCorps members joined with other organizations and communities to perform joint community service projects on the Day on National Service, April 25. sixteen USDA AmeriCorps members in north Louisiana visited schools to provide a day of service by helping in the classroom.

AmeriCorps members Angela Norsworthy, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, and Alicia Trissler, a graduate of Northwestern State University spent the day at Choudrant Elementary School helping out in whatever areas they were needed. They alphabetized card catalog material, ran errands and listened to children read their favorite stories in the library.

Here, Trissler (second from left) reads a book to 6th grade student Jennifer Hogan, 11, while Norsworthy (second from right) calls out vocabulary words to 6th grade student Chris Rozelle, 12.

Ruston Mayor Hilda Taylor Peritt proclaimed April 25 at the Day for National Service in Ruston to recognize the efforts of volunteers. (Ruston Daily Leader, April 30, 1995)

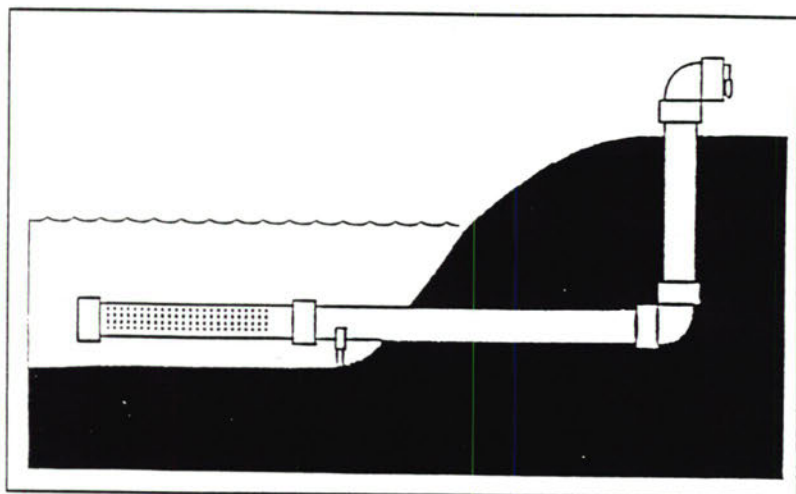


DRY HYDRANTS KICK-OFF

The Statewide Dry Hydrants Program

April 28, 1995

Winnfield, LA.



Alexandria Daily Town Talk

Briefs

Dry hydrant field day

WINNFIELD — The kick off meeting for the statewide Dry Hydrants Program will be next Friday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The field day will be held in the Forestry Building located at the Winn Parish Fairgrounds.

The field day is a chance for local officials to gain a better understanding about the installation and importance of dry hydrants in rural Louisiana.

Parish project coordinators, fire protection personnel, police jurors, road supervisors and others have been invited to attend.

Trailblazer RC&D of Ruston was awarded a \$998,984 contract from the Department of Natural Resources to install 2,015 dry hydrants throughout the state. They are the primary contractor for the project, which is estimated to cost \$1.8 million. The additional money will come from in-kind donations.

Dry hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds or streams. They solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use.

They may improve rural fire protection by reducing the time a water tanker would spend traveling. The reduction could reduce insurance rates in those areas.

Organized by Angela Norrworthy



Trailblazers head project

\$998,000 to fund dry hydrants in Louisiana

Staff Report

Louisiana's rural population and local government agencies have received good news about rural road maintenance and fire protection with the announcement of the approval of \$998,984 for the implementation of a statewide dry hydrant project.

The announcement came from Jack McClanahan, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, for the funds which are oil overcharge money.

The dry hydrant project will be coordinated by Trailblazer Inc. of Ruston and will improve the state's rural fire

protection system through the installation of 2,000 dry hydrants all over the state.

As primary contractor for the project, Trailblazer brings three years of experience to the effort, following the organizations successful pilot program that was completed in 1992.

According to Trailblazer officials, approval for this current project came about through the combined efforts of Trailblazer, DNR, area RC&D councils as well as parish police juries.

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds or streams.

Properly installed, dry hydrants can

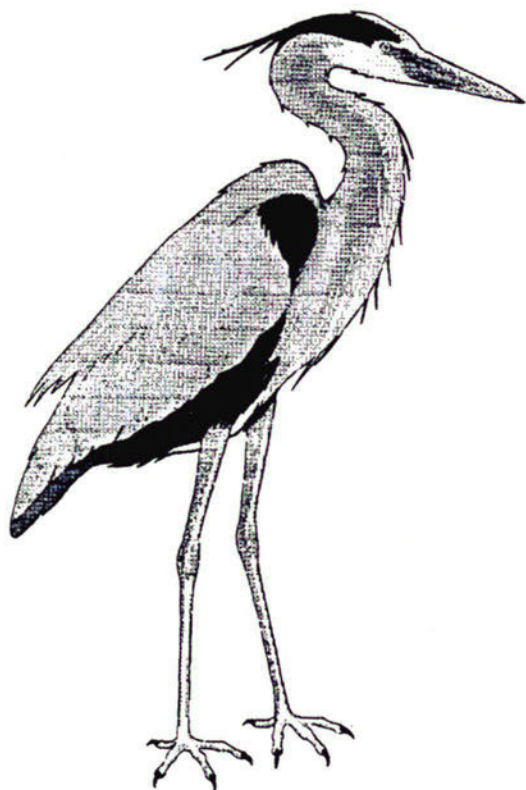
solve the problem of hauling water over long distances by providing natural, unprocessed water for use.

Trailblazer Coordinator P. Ellzey Simmons pointed out that the multiple benefits awarded by dry hydrants include energy savings to consumers and road maintenance departments and improving rural fire protection and lower of fire insurance ratings.

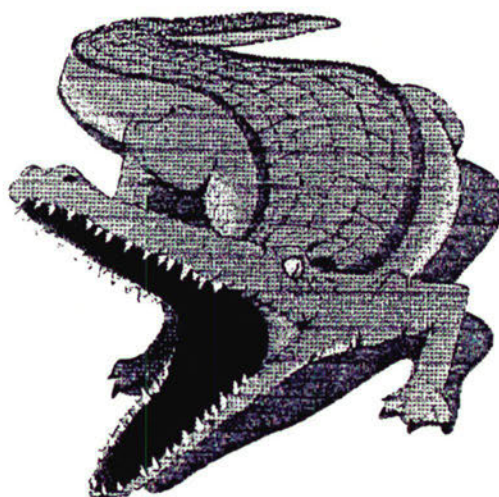
Tanker trucks can tap these water supplies to fight rural fires and reduce the amount of time to supply water for rural fire-fighting efforts.

Water is also key to helping to maintain the numerous gravel roads in some rural parishes, Simmons said.





COASTAL RESTORATION IN GALLIANO



USDA/AmeriCorps
Getting Things Done at the
Plant Materials Center

Galliano, Louisiana

Schedule of Service

Monday, May 8

3:00 p.m.

Travel Day

PMC Orientation & Tour

4:00 p.m.

Reflections on Service

Tuesday, May 9

7:30 a.m.

Load Plants

Marshhay Cordgrass Layout

Wednesday, May 10

7:30 a.m.

Travel to Timbalier Island

Initiate Planting

Thursday, May 11

7:30 a.m.

Spartina alterniflora

Seeding Establishment

Friday, May 12

7:30 a.m.

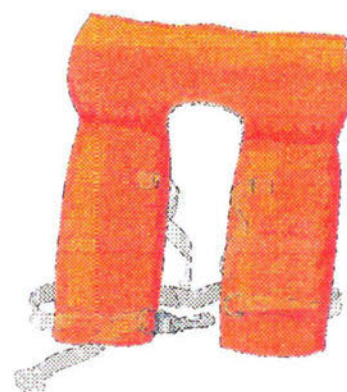
Group Discussions

8:30 a.m.

Closing

Travel day





FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS IN NEW ORLEANS



Front Row: Dominic Beggan, Mrs. LaChappelle (flood victim), Kim Kitterlin, Naomi Boley, Sandi Eley. **Back Row:** Henry Rosenthal, Wydette Williams, Carl Collins.

May 30 - June 2
Organized by Robin Torrence
Team Leader: Henry Rosenthal



STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MELINDA SCHWEGMANN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
AND
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE,
RECREATION AND TOURISM

P. O. BOX 44243
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
(504) 342-7009
FAX (504) 342-1949

July 7, 1995

Mr. Richard B. Hoffpauir
RECD
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Mr. Hoffpauir:

On behalf of the Louisiana Serve Commission and AmeriCorps, I would like to extend my thanks for your assistance with helping the victims of floods in the New Orleans area. Your contribution to the flood recovery efforts was invaluable.

I trust your experience with helping all those in need was as rewarding for you as it was to the victims you assisted. You are truly an example of AmeriCorps' pledge of "getting things done."

Thank you for your continued dedicated service to our country and state.

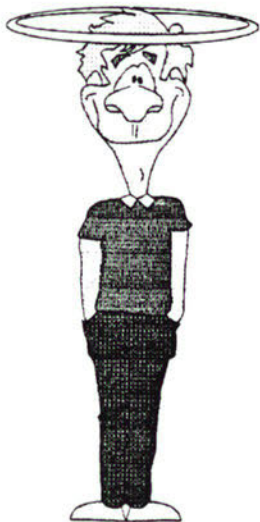
Very sincerely,

MELINDA SCHWEGMANN
Lieutenant Governor





Helen Alexis
223 Hickory Ave
Hawthorne, La 70123



Mr. Austin J. Cormier
State Director EMHA
3727 Government St
Alexandria, La. 71302

Dear Mr. Cormier,

No words can ever express how grateful I am for the wonderful help I received from Richard Hoffbauer and his workers. To know that there are people who still care when others can not help themselves is something you can never forget. They were like Guardian Angels.

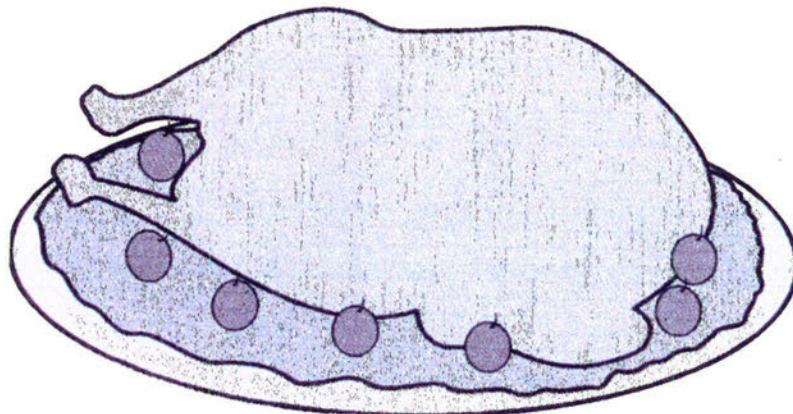
Again thank you from my heart and may God Bless each one of you

Thank you
Ruth Jarlene
Henry Rosenthal
Earl W. Collins
Kincheely Kettlerie
Dominac Beggar
Wendette Williams
Sandy L.
Marvin K.
Richard

Thank
You

Helen Alexis

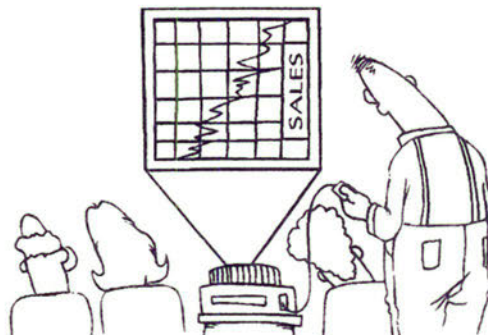
"MILES FOR MEALS"



June 16
Concordia Council on Aging
Ferriday, Louisiana



PUBLIC AWARENESS



USDA Americorps: Getting things done for rural Louisiana

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a big supporter of the AmeriCorps program. President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of people to perform critical services to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs. The Forest Service, Rural Economic and Community Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service are three USDA agencies supporting the AmeriCorps program in Louisiana.

AmeriCorps has been called the President's domestic version of the Peace Corps. There are 21 USDA AmeriCorps members with diverse education backgrounds giving a season of service to the people of rural Louisiana. These members are assisting with tourism development, community planning, rural fire protection, groundwater protection, timber bridge replacement, farm safety and USDA loan and grant programs.

Four USDA Forest Service (FS) AmeriCorps members are involved in various projects across Louisiana. Aminul Mahfuz is working in a 17-parish area to assist local communities to prepare grant proposals for future timber bridge funding and to provide the technical engineering assistance necessary to promote timber bridges as one solution to transportation problems in economically depressed areas. Judith Ned and Susan Mullins are helping northeast delta communities prepare grant

proposals and brochures to increase tourism in the delta region. They are also helping the local school boards with projects to increase ACT scores and establish tutoring programs to help students prepare for the GED exam. Alica Trissler is working with Winn Parish officials to prepare grant proposals for a Head-Start program and a program in folk art education. She is also assisting the Winnfield Forestry Museum in meeting the certification guidelines of the American Association of Museums.

Seven USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) AmeriCorps volunteers are working to increase rural fire protection and helping to develop individual groundwater protection action plans for landowners in various rural areas of the state.

To help in rural fire protection, four USDA NRCS AmeriCorps participants are assisting in the planning and installation of over 2,000 dry fire hydrants in Louisiana. The hydrants are structures located at ponds or reservoirs that provide a source of water for rural fire districts when no regular fire hydrants are available. USDA NRCS AmeriCorps members working to increase rural fire protection are Angela Norsworthy, Ruston; Tressa Lantz, Natchitoches; Dominic Beggan, Jennings; and Robin Torrence, Denham Spring.

With NRCS AmeriCorps members assistance, many rural families

have an opportunity to develop voluntary groundwater protection action plans through the Farm *A* Syst program, a program designed to help rural landowners protect their drinking water supplies. NRCS AmeriCorps members conduct assessment surveys, create an awareness of farmstead activities, promote an understanding of groundwater protection, identify sources of technical and financial assistance and aid in developing personal voluntary action plans. USDA NRCS AmeriCorps members working on this project are Carl Collins, Tallulah; Sobrena Lewis, Natchitoches; and Christie LeBleu, Crowley.

Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) AmeriCorps members are actively involved in a variety of outreach efforts designed to improve the overall quality of life for rural residents. RECD AmeriCorps members have taken a very active role in promoting the availability of various RECD loan and grant programs for both agricultural and residential interests. Members have also been very active in efforts related to recent Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) designations.

They have also been involved in promoting the Business and Industry (B & I) programs with lenders in their respective areas. RECD AmeriCorps members will be taking a role in promoting "Farm Safety 4

Just Kids" and "AgrAbility" projects designed to assist rural America. USDA RECD AmeriCorps members are Bobbie Ignat, Ferriday; Marcus Spencer, Tallulah; Marjorie Bethea, Bastrop; Lee Wooldridge, Winnsboro; Zelma Powell, Lake Providence; Wydette Williams, Lake Providence; Henry Rosenthal, Alexandria; Naomi Boley, Rayville; Sandi Eley, Winnsboro; and Kimberly Kitterling, Jonesville.

In addition to their specific assignments, USDA AmeriCorps members also help with various

community activities. Some of the more recent activities which involved USDA AmeriCorps members include volunteering their services at local fairs and exhibitions, the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in New Orleans and the grand opening of the Hope Youth Ranch in the Minden area. Members have also assisted local Chambers of Commerce, Councils on Aging, commodity distribution centers, and other non-profit agencies in their respective activities. In the coming months, USDA AmeriCorps mem-

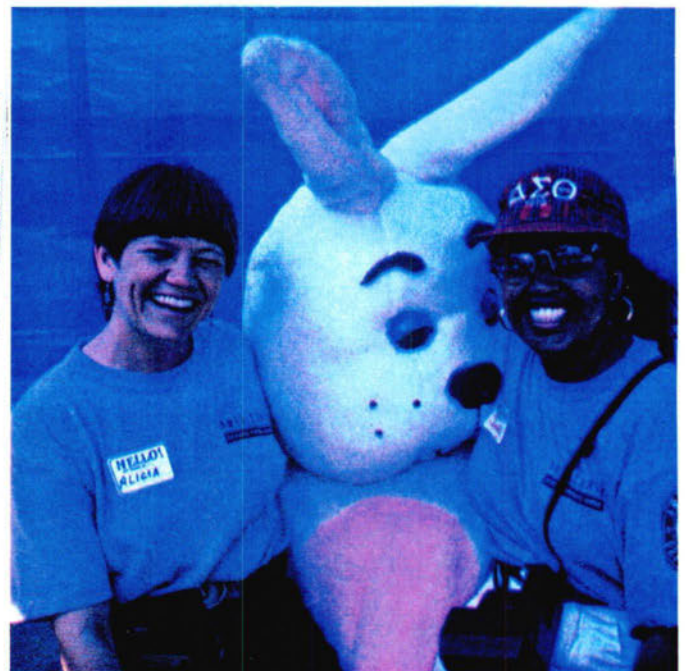
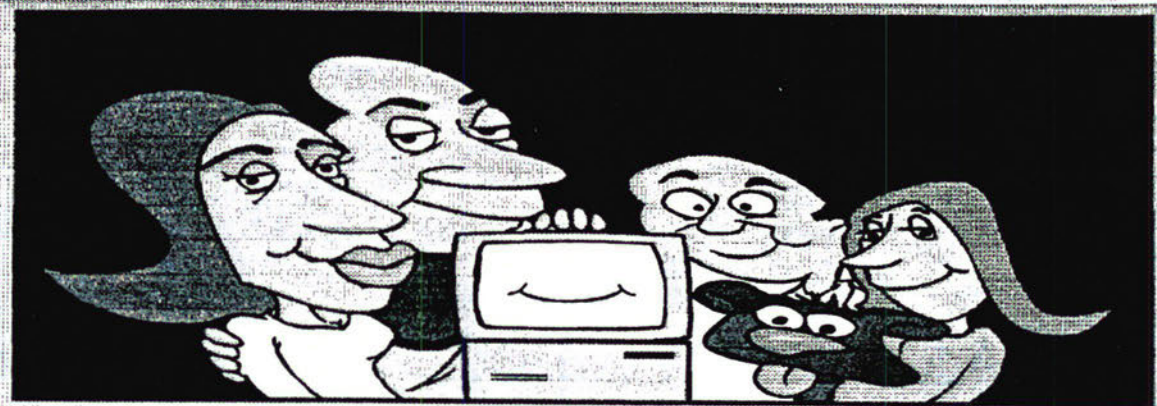
bers will be involved in the Franklin Parish Catfish Festival, Southern University's Livestock and Poultry Show and a shoreline stabilization planting effort in Galliano.

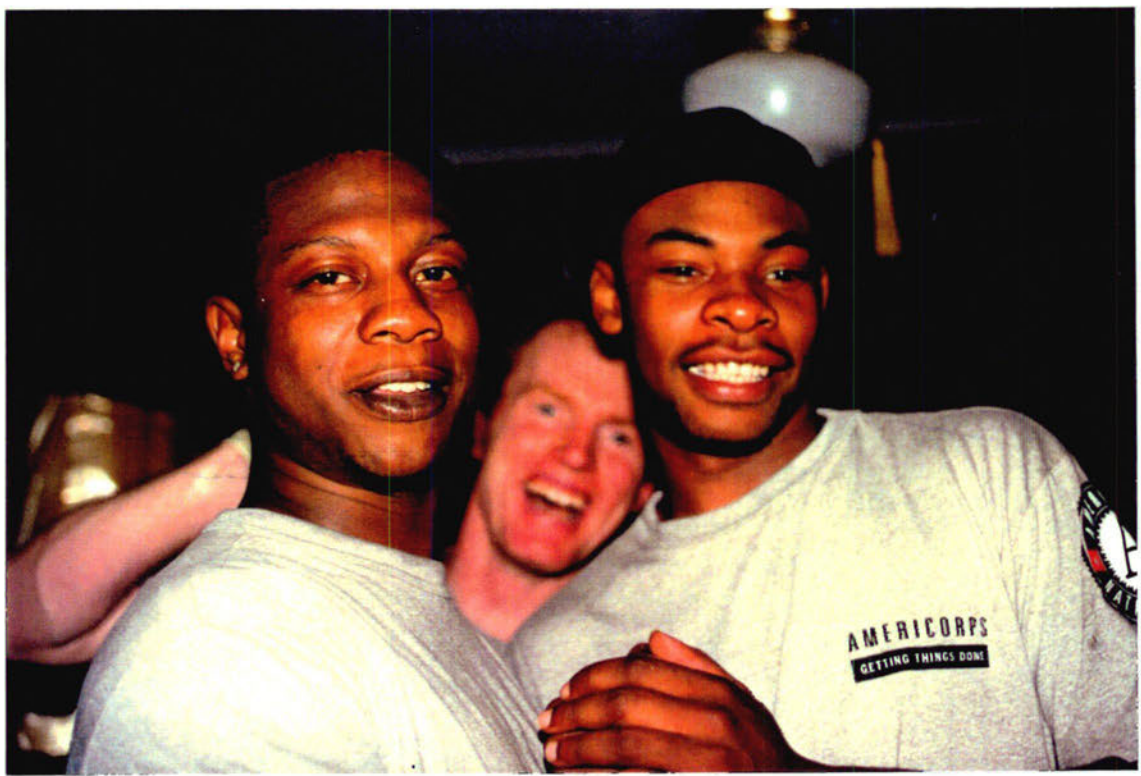
USDA policy ensures participation by all persons in USDA programs and activities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap. For more information about the USDA AmeriCorps programs contact Alan Dorian, AmeriCorps Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, at 318-473-7177 or Billy Moore at 318-473-7768.



Lt. Governor Melinda Schwegmann addressed the AmeriCorps members during her speech at the grand opening of the Hope Youth Ranch. Shown with the Lt. Governor are Angela Norsworthy, Carl Collins, Judith Ned, Susan Mullins, Aminul Mahfuz, Tressa Lantz, Alica Trissler and Dominic Beggan.

CANDIDS













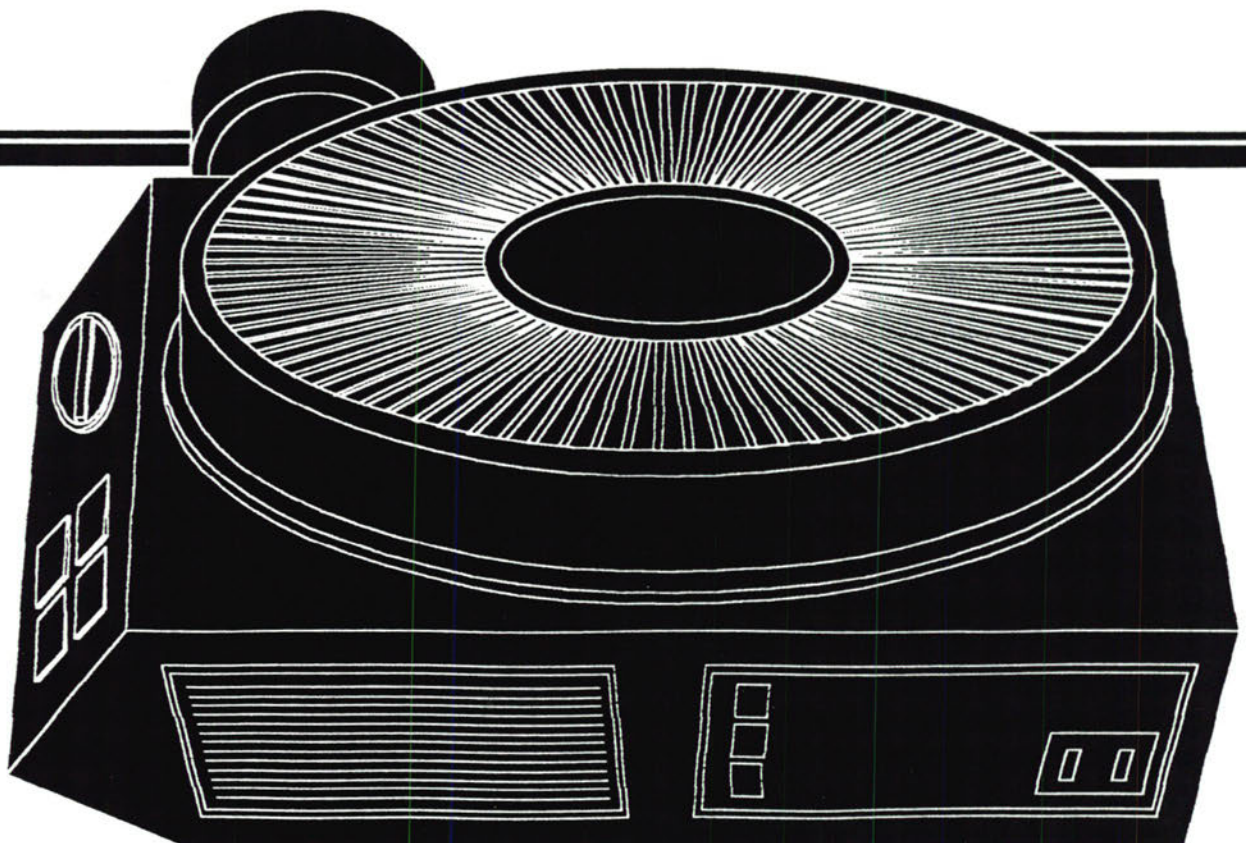
SCRAPBOOK COMMITTEE:

ANGELA NORSWORTHY

ALICIA TRISSLER

TRESSA LANTZ

KIMBERLY KITTERLIN



Site by Site Accomplishments in Environmental Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

NRCS Kansas, statewide

Members worked at reservoirs severely damaged by the floods of 1993.

At Webster, Members fixed 2 miles of fence, cleaned 5 miles of shoreline, removed 160 damaged trees, and dug footing for Boy Scout cabin.

At Kannapolis, Members cleared 3 miles of trails, dug and replanted 40 trees, wired and weighted 40 tires to create fish habitat, tied together, weighted, and dumped into lake 60 trees to create fish habitat, captured prairie dogs and relocated them in flood damaged area, built two nesting structures, and cleared park area from debris from ice storm.

At Perry, Members repaired 50 picnic tables, restored four restrooms, repaired one bridge, maintained several miles of road, cleaned up ice storm damage in nearby Valley Falls, created five brushpiles for habitat, trimmed 3 miles of trees on dikes, and built and sunk three fish habitats.

At Milford, Members cleaned outdoor learning classroom for Wakefield School, District, cleaned debris from 2 miles of wildlife and park roads, posted signs on 15 miles of roads, salvaged seven tons of fish, stocked trout at Tuttle Creek, cleaned storm damage at Pottawatomie State Park, and completed deer surveys.

At Glen Elder, Members placed 40 cedar trees in the lake for fish habitat, fixed 15 gates, fixed 290 miles of fence, built three back drops for hunter target shooting, conducted two wildlife surveys, posted 300 signs on 75 miles of park roads, repaired five vehicles, rebuilt a toilet, and filled 25 bags with grass seed.

In Western Kansas, Members began repairing, rehabilitating, and re-planting windbreaks created by the original Civilian Conservation Corps.

NRCS Western Oklahoma

Restored 15 windbreaks on 7.5 miles of land in five counties. Four of the windbreaks have already been responsible for decreasing soil erosion. Held educational seminars on windbreaks to six different groups. One quarter of the counties in Western Oklahoma have now received requests for windbreak restoration.

NRCS Texas Coast (Baytown)

Members cleaned and mowed five, 10-meter by 75-meter ponds, vegetated two acres of marsh demonstration projects, harvested and threshed by hand 4 acres of smooth cordgrass seed, harvested by hand and then planted 800 mangrove seeds, harvested and planted 2,000 *Scirpus robustus* seeds, harvested, threshed, and planted 1,000 *Scirpus californicus* seeds. Members also repaired 1,000 feet of fence at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Members also assisted the Red Cross in flood relief efforts in the Houston area by loading and unloading trucks and delivering supplies to local flood victims.

NRCS Metropolitan Atlanta, GA

Members conducted water quality monitoring at thirty locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed. Stenciled ten percent of the drains the City of Alpharetta with no dumping signs. In one neighborhood, Members benefitted 400 residents by cleaning eight acres, mulching 1,000 feet of walking trails, placing three waterbars into trails, seeded 1/2 acre, and carried away six dump trucks of trash. They cleaned two city parks, removing two dump trucks full of trash; performed streambank stabilization work on a 100 feet by 50 feet section of the Chattahoochee River; built a greenhouse for use as a plant materials center and began constructing a nature trail at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth.

Boston, MA

Members were recruited and selected for a program that began on December 5, 1994. In December, members performed maintenance work on three acres on city parks, and planted trees on two, 1-acre sites.

New Jersey, state-wide

Completed stream walks on four streams to categorize and map potential non-point pollution in the South Branch Raritan River watershed. Desnagged and reestablished stone reflectors in two streams to improve fish habitat and removed debris and reseeded 375 feet of streambank to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Designed and flagged 500 feet of trail in the Muscecong watershed. Erected a playground set at Lake Hopatcong state park.

District of Columbia/Beltsville

Members worked with the Izaak Walton League in Charles County, Maryland to complete four erosion control structures on a site that will be open to the public. They pulled plants and completed field work in greenhouse and conducted landscaping activities at the Beltsville National Plant materials Center. Members cleaned-up Lake Atemesia and completed site assessment.

District of Columbia - National Arboretum

The members completed the first two stages of restoring the Azalea overlook, cut to the ground and removed the above-ground sections of the Boxwood collection, cleared weeds and vines to restore 150 yards of Juniper hedge, weeded around Crabapple trees, removed weed trees and vines from existing trees on the mall.

Chicago

Member spent 10 days at Lathrop Homes maintaining and beautifying streambanks, preparing and seeding berm seedbed, and serving meals to the homeless on Thanksgiving. Member served the remainder of the quarter at eight different locations creating a safe-haven lot, cleaning-up a lagoon in Washington Park, landscaping at a public high school, remodeling and preparing a play lot at Kennicott Park, helping organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence - Day of Dead Memorial," remodeling the Donelly Youth Center, and planting bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

Pittsfield, Illinois

In areas generally damaged by the floods of 1993, Members developed 1.3 miles of hiking trails, improved 5 acres of camp sites, and pruned 5 acres of evergreen trees at a Pittsfield City park. Members also removed about 15 tons of debris (tires, appliances, automobiles, etc.) from half a mile of a stream that outlets into a city owned recreation lake for the city of Rushville. In Kampsville, Members replaced 75 feet of sidewalks damaged during the flood. members also renovated a building used by Calhoun County for storage and removed brush and weeds from public property. In Quincy, Members removed vines, brush, and weeds from city owned property and assisted in renovating a building as part of revitalizing uptown Quincy. Members in Quincy also removed bricks from an historic alley, reshaped the alley, and replaced the bricks.

NRCS East St. Louis, IL

Members have established nurseries at East St. Louis Senior High School, Lovejoy High School, and Gains Park, removed debris and broken materials from the greenhouse at East St. Louis Senior High, cleaned out a fountain in Jones Park, assisted Operation NewSpirit in planting bulbs throughout East St. Louis. To prepare for vacant lot renovations next quarter, they have solicited over 30 applications for lot renovation, conducted on-site analysis of the lots, and prepared detailed stenciled drawings for all the sites selected.

NRCS, Portland, OR

Members at the Whitaker Pond Restoration improved 150 feet of bank along the east pond by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea; the area was revegetated with a variety of native species, and compost was spread over the entire planting site to improve growing conditions. Trash such as tires and lumber was removed from the pond. Members also canvassed neighborhoods adjacent to the ponds to distribute flyers about the first workshop to solicit public input and involvement in the planning process.

Members also revegetated 3 acres on the northern portion of Fairview Creek, and mentored 20 high school students who removed blackberries and canary grass and revegetated the banks along another 200 feet of the Creek. They also relocated geese from a Metro park to a Humane Society Pond site. They also worked on a project in St. Johns with the non-profit organization Friends of Trees, removing 50 diseased trees and replacing them with 80 trees more appropriate for the area. The Members worked side-by-side with 80 different community volunteers who served 450 hours.

NRCS, Goldendale, Washington

Member rebuilt a half-mile stretch of fence that protects a key riparian area along the Little Kickitat River. Protected water quality on one mile of stream by treating 300 acres with log check dams across steep slopes and installed eight sediment retention dams. Protected Pine Creek by installing eight log check dams. Built a new playground at a Head Start School sponsored by the Yakima Indian Reservation. Removed dozens of pick-up loads of dead and dying trees and public lands and provided as firewood for low-income families.

San Bernardino NF, Southern CA

Members rehabilitated 12,000 acres of the area burned by fire on the Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts on the forest. This fire stripped the hills of essential vegetation. Preventing erosion was the primary goal of the rehabilitation work.

Six Rivers NF, Northern CA

Members rehabilitated 3.5 miles of trails to be used by hikers and horse riders. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs. Members reforested 10 acres of an old gold mine waste area in order to restore riparian vegetation, increase wildlife habitat, and control erosion on Red Cap Creek. They collected and processed 15,000 willow cuttings for propagation in future riparian revegetation projects. One crew participated in service-learning project in which they received credit from local college for an anadromous fisheries class and then rehabilitated a half a mile of stream by building 16 in-stream structures composed of large woody debris and boulders.

One Member working in a Rural Development Team-type "Internship" completed a lobby display for a Forest office, created a display for the Eureka Chamber of Commerce's Pride of Humboldt room, and reformed three different Recreational Opportunity Guides for public use. Members also performed selected service projects in Humboldt County such as tutoring children, helping senior citizens, and contributing to a blood drive. One Member has been selected through state-wide competition to serve on the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service "AmeriCorps Member Ad-Hoc Committee." Congressman Dan Hamburg sent a representative to the project's launch.

FS, Rouge River, OR

Member planted 2,390 trees in several campgrounds to restore overused areas. Another Member completely restored kitchen shelter at the McKee Bridge picnic area that was originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. In order to both enhance fish habitat and clear out manzanita bushes to help timber stands better grow, Members pruned 4000 manzanita bushes and anchored them in the Applegate Reservoir to improve native fish habitat. They pruned second growth trees to improve forest health on 55 acres of land; and built a nature trail -- complete with an outdoor classroom and bench areas along the route -- for a local school. Members rehabilitated and expanded their dormitory and their dining hall for their own use and that of all future AmeriCorps programs.

FS, Olympic, WA

Members have maintained 4 miles of trails, rehabilitated campground sites, completed handicapped access in six developed recreation sites, completed restoration on two historic sites, survey Threatened and Endangered Species habitat on 700 acres, installed 1,500 feet of fence, and hand-pruned 120 acres of timber stands. Members replaced the roofs on two county-owned recreational centers originally built by Civilian Conservation Corps Members.

Arizona National Forests

Members maintained 15 miles of trails, rehabilitated 10 campground sites, performed maintenance at three campgrounds, protected and improved wildlife habitat on 300 acres, built half a mile of range fence, removed 2.5 miles of fence, rehabilitated two range waterlots, and obliterated two miles of road and returned to natural state.

Bienville NF, MS

Member brushed 1.8 miles of footpaths on the Bienville Scenic Pine Trail. The Members completed 19 miles of heavy brushing and adding clay-gravel to the Shockaloe Trail low areas. The Members are constantly performing regular road maintenance. The Members have made numerous repair to water leaks and filled dirt around outdoor Sweet-Smelling toilets. The Members developed food plots by seeding and planting desirable grasses on approximately five acres of wildlife habitat.

Green Mountain NF, VT

The AmeriCorps team starts in January, 1995. Staff is actively recruiting Corps Members during this preparational first quarter. Currently, there are 14 Corps Member offers - 12 accepted, one declined, and one is trying to work out an apartment lease situation. The Corps Members range in age from 18-to-53 years old, and education levels range from high school to master's degree.

White Mountain NF, NH

The White Mountain AmeriCorps program begins on January 14, 1995. The project is gearing up, hiring crew leaders and AmeriCorps Members.

NRCS South Dakota

Members based in Huron helped conduct 10 sessions in elementary classrooms during American Indian Heritage Month in the City of Clark. Members also utilized new Geographical Information System technology to electronically map soil surveys, section numbers, town names, creek names, farmstead locations, range and township values in order to improve local land use decisions and speed the application of conservation methods.

Members are developing exhibit to demonstrate to cattlemen the benefits of managing

riparian and upland vegetation areas along waterways, including during period of flooding. Prepared a twelve-page report, a two-page fact sheet, and color overhead transparencies to help with presentations to explain to farmers how they can economically use sustainable agriculture techniques.

Members in Brookings, Mitchell, and Huron completed Natural Resource Inventory maps for 12 counties and are engaged in a wide variety of mapping, communications, and database collection tasks to accelerate information outreach and technical help to farmers in three of South Dakota's flood-impacted counties.

Members in Brookings and Mitchell completed an inventory of 198 riparian sites.

Members are also volunteering with the local Salvation Army and coaching a team of the city's volunteer-based hockey program.

NRCS Nebraska

Based in Omaha, Members provided markers for 400 acres and provided timber marking for 160 acres owned by the Winnebago Tribe. Designed three recreation trails, mulched and maintained a heavily used urban nature trail, cleaned up an urban wetland "Heron Haven" owned by the local Audubon Club, and started a "Cans for Corps" recycling project.

Based in Lincoln, Members revitalized the Lincoln Normal historical project, improved 20 miles of recreation trails, and publicly promoted the Shop Smart (Saving Money and Reducing Trash) recycling program.

Based in Tecumseh, Members assisted in the assessment and debris removal from 14 suites at the National Arbor Day Foundation headquarters damaged by the 1993 floods. Helped prepare an inspection and maintenance report of flood control and public recreation areas impacted by the 1993 flood. Members maintained and improved historical sites at the Captain Bailey Museum in Brownville and the Merriweather Lewis Dredge recreation area.

Based in Norfolk, Members performed recreation and conservation work in Lower Elkhorn River area, maintenance and improvements at the Willow Creek Recreation area and the Norfolk public parks, and promotional assistance to the "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" public project.

Site by Site Accomplishments in Rural Development Projects

Projects are managed by the Forest Service (FS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the combined agencies of Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD).

NEW ENGLAND

Maine

Members based in Portland visited and conducted seminars on water quality in five local schools, edited and finalized a Casco Bay Watershed Land Use Inventory report.

Based in Edgecomb, Member sorted 78 samples of ichthoplankton, identifying eggs and larvae in the samples, in order to aid in the transportation of striped bass through located and protecting spawning areas in the Kennebec and Eastern Rivers. Transferred 20,000 individual shads from grow-out ponds into a re-stocking truck.

In Houlton, Member completed sanitary survey on Shin Pound to help community residents make future decisions about how to best protect the health of their lake.

In Machias, Member received funding from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission to set-up a statewide series of best management practices for blueberry growers; began implementation of workshops. Member also working to assist local towns to fund septic system replacements/installations. Member completed shoreline survey of Beals Island/Great Wass Island.

In Presque Isle, Member located and identified stream suitable for streamside installation of boxes for salmonoid spawning, rearing, and staging,

In Presque Isle, Members worked with 12 teachers to begin implementing an "Adopt-a-Stream curriculum in their classrooms.

In Carribou, Member helped supervised a Youth Community Action Crew in creating an All Terrain Vehicle Trail by building a bridge, clearing trees blown down over the route, re-decking two existing bridges, and cleaning culverts that beavers had dammed. Member also worked to improve a snowmobile trail by building a bridge and by adding railings to an existing bridge.

In Cumberland County, Member promoted an Envirothon natural resources competition by

visiting 18 schools that did not participate in the previous year's competition. Member developed Adopt-a-Stream programs with YMCA school groups, engaging 80 students grades K-5 in activities ranging from building their own model watershed to visiting the actual stream to monitor for water quality and pollution. Member has provided water quality presentations to 37 students and six teachers. In Waldoboro, the Mid-Coast Fisheries Team completed a shoreline survey for Merry Cove and Beals Island and documented several sources of pollution, instituted a contingency sampling program in Waldoboro and Islesboro for their area shellfish management plan by doing storm-drain event monitoring, began sampling the West Branch of the Medomak River. Member also provided environmental training and technical assistance to the Portland Youth Conservation Corps, York High School, Boothbay Regional High School, Lincoln Academy, Camden-Rockport High School, Wiscasset High School, and Medomak Valley High School and conducted classroom presentations on wetlands and water quality to 160 students for the Maine Children's Water Festival.

In Cherryfield, Member assisted in the establishment of a pilot Integrated Pest Management Program for cranberry growers to help the growers economically reduce the amount of pesticides that end up in the groundwater, assisted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's upland cranberry bed demonstration project, and has visited lands of 13 cranberry growers to provide personal assistance.

In Framington, Member collected, revised, adapted, copied, and distributed a 20-page packet of educational materials including lessons plans on water quality, the water cycle, water conservation, and preventing surface and groundwater pollution to 16 Soil and Water Conservation District.

At Beals Island Hatchery and Education Center, the Member facilitated three cooperative agreements between University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine Orono Cooperative Extension, and Maine Department of Environmental Resources in order to integrate hands-on water quality testing and shoreline sampling experience into the Environmental Chemistry and Special Topics in Environmental Sciences courses. Helped facilitate workshop for loggers on how they can improve water quality.

Vermont

Members on the Vermont Fire Protection project contacted 48 fire Departments in Vermont, installed one dry fire hydrant, performed 30 dry fire-hydrant site surveys, and initiated and participated in meetings with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Fire Safety Association, Vermont Fire Chiefs Association, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Members on the Winooski River Project conducted a 21-mile reconnaissance survey from Jonesville to Essex Junction Vermont to evaluate the state of erosion control and bioengineering measures installed in the late 1930's in order to improve current conservation measures.

APPALACHIA

WEST VIRGINIA

Members developed a survey for the technical assistance, technology, and training needs for the West Virginia University Appalachia Hardwood Center; assisted with implementation of a business retention and expansion program including the production and distribution of a monthly newsletter that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities; developed a computer program for West Virginia Division of Forestry that allows small business owners to calculate costs of producing various materials for long-term investment strategies.

The Barbour County Economic Development Authority is using their Members time to implement a business retention and expansion program. Nine presentations have been made to industry/business/community groups describing program objectives. The Member is taking the lead on the production and distribution of a monthly letter that is distributed to business, government, and community leaders throughout the county that is intended to improve dialogue, link communities together, and provide funding opportunities, etc. Two issues have been published to date.

RECD West Virginia

One Member contacted 32 local businesses to participate in a business retention and expansion survey. In Logan County, Member assisted the organization of nine local rural communities so they can bring resources together to effectively reduce certain criminal activities. Another Member served on the organization and implementation committee for Tug River Health Clinic and sent surveys to all employers, child care providers, parents to collect data to apply for a grant to establish a clinic. Another Member handled coordination of the county-wide clean up campaign, and make regular progress notes on the action pursued by the county in their EZ/EC implementation plans. In Fairmont, Member organized a Community Service Day for the all Northern West Virginia AmeriCorps members in which they worked at the Union Mission of Fairmont to help decorate for the youth holiday party, tape plastic to windows in the homeless shelter, and prepare information packets for a fundraising event. In Wilcoe, Member also sent surveys to prominent businesses in McDowell County that employ 25 people or more, in-home day care providers, private day care owners, and parents of Head Start children to collect data to include in grant applications to obtain funding for local day care programs. In Williamson, member assisted in helping 30 families apply for rental housing assistance.

NRCS West Virginia

In Middlebourne, the Member worked to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis. He also began forming an organization of warm water fish producers in the area. He also organized a dry fire hydrant in the area by working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection.

Based in Morgantown, the Member performed an archaeologist inventory on five major sites in economically depressed sites around the state in order to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and documentation of sites. At one site, he discovered three historic and one pre-historic sites that he will be documenting. He also worked with another AmeriCorps member to develop Fort Randolph -- a Civil War fort in Point Pleasant -- for public use.

In Huntington, the member is delineating wetlands and helping design conservation plans for those wetlands.

In Kingwood, the Member performed soil nutrient content analysis and animal manure nutrient analysis in order to improve local water quality. In Morefield, the Member performed nutrient and pesticide management activities to improve the local water quality. The two members have provided assistance on a combined total of 1,000 acres.

RECD Virginia

Member in Virginia has been conducting outreach on home ownership and home repair programs.

FS Virginia

Member developed a video program showing natural resources on the National Forest, State and private lands to promote recreation resources, and tourism in the region and worked with fire departments on dry hydrant (drafting hydrants at ponds) program in VA.

NRCS Virginia

Members in Keysville conducted inventory of local dry fire hydrants, started developing a forestry product marketing plan, prepared site plan for a local greenway trail, began inventory of the site for the Staunton River Battlefield Park, and searched for artifacts to use in a visitors center.

Members in New River-Highlands have begun implementing an outdoor education center.

RECD North Carolina

In Jefferson, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, she established working relationships with the Ashe County Council on Aging and Allegheny County Senior Center to determine how FmHA programs could better serve the elderly residents in the counties.

In Hendersonville, Member is helping finance home improvements for very low-income families in Ashe County. To do so, he established relationships with the Housing Assistance Corporation and the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission so that they will now package applications for FmHA housing loans. He also met with several individuals to educate them about the USDA programs, and processed two loans to make repairs to low-income individuals.

In Waynesville, the Member is working towards establishing a good, trusting relationship with the Cherokee Indian Reservation and to make the residents aware of various USDA home ownership and repair programs.

In Boone, the member is working with the Enterprise Community (EC) applicant of Boone to implement their strategic plan. Working in cooperation with the Boone Housing Authority, she is organizing and making functional a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist the low-income residents of Boone. To date, over \$1.8 million has been awarded for water and sewer infrastructure and housing assistance as a result of her help.

In Marshall, Member works with the Enterprise Community applicant of Madison County, through the Madison Department of Social Services. In this capacity, she helps with in-home serves to assist individuals and families with home management tasks to enable them to maintain self-sufficiency and avoid out of home placement. Regina has increased the number of families served by the county by even. In addition, she serves 13 other families by assessing the client's functional abilities in the areas of physical health, mental health, social support, activities of daily living, environmental conditions, and finances. She also assessed 15 families and placed the families on waiting lists for services and/or referred them to other agencies.

FS North Carolina

Members completed a needs analysis of parks and recreation centers; worked with city of Asheville on Adaptive Programs; completed an inventory of parks and recreation facilities and developed a Parks and Recreation Department proposal on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

RECD Tennessee

Member in Jonesborough has begun a survey of local housing needs.

Members in Oneida, Tazewell, and Campbell County have begun researching and writing grants for critical services for their counties.

Member in Hancock County has begun implementing the Empowerment Zone strategic plan throughout the region.

Member in Greene County has been assisting low-income citizens to apply for grants and loans to repair their homes for health and safety standards.

Member in Johnson County is helping the county install and regulate an 911 emergency response system.

NRCS Tennessee

In Rutledge, Members working on the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative interviewed 43 federal, state, and local tourism professionals, six independent consultants, and 64 local citizens to initially assess project feasibility, community attitudes, tourism development processes, and sources of funding or technical assistance. Established the first-ever tourism advisory board in the region. Began a community-based initiative in Hancock and Grainger Counties to provide technical assistance and "hands-on" service in the establishment and renovation of county museums.

In Cookeville, Members have created a database to track the status of solid waste/recycling progress in each of 14 counties. Members also began a 14-county poster contest in local schools with the theme "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Successfully convinced 16 schools to start on-site recycling programs. Members have also presented eight environmental education programs to 400 students.

Based in Waverly, Members have significantly improved and expanded the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District environmental center, also known as the Blue Creek Nature Center. Members developed one new trail and improved existing trails. Members conducted six nature tours involving 199 students and 63 adults.

Members based in the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D Council in Jackson have dewatered 2.5 million gallons of waste from the storage facilities of five local landowners, and collected soil samples at those sites to ensure safe discharge. Members also created a curriculum on environmental education, including 20 lesson plans and 10 separate activity sheets, and delivered the program, to 20 students.

In Whitley County, Member worked with the Whitley County Communities for Children to provide five cows and two bulls to low-income farm families; the first calf will be given back after mating in order to be delivered to another farm family. Member also delivered 10 Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families.

In Morristown, the Member has conducted conservation outreach to local landowners, installed conservation measures, and has significantly increased the number of local landowners expressing interest in conservation practices. She also began biological studies of local streams to assess their impact upon the watershed.

FS Tennessee

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

Member developed a marketing program for recyclable materials; a program called "Garbage Busters" was developed for second graders; grants were written for various proposals and one was approved for a "Learn and Service America" program that focuses on recycling management for elementary students in a five-county area; prepared articles for local newspapers entitled "Trashy Talk"; and completed a presentation for a public education program on oil recycling in Tennessee.

RECD Kentucky

In Magoffin County, the Member is developing, organizing, and implementing a community-based recreational program for teenagers.

In Owsley County, Member created and help obtain grant for East Kentucky Goat Producers Association to focus on agricultural diversification. Member also had photograph taken with the Governor in recognition of his service helping obtain a school-to-work grant for the area.

In Frankfort, the Member completed a survey to determine how local service agencies can better help at-risk families.

In Bell County, Member helped the local Industrial Foundation obtain a \$201,000 grant.

Another Member produced a brochure to help increase tourism to the nearby Kentucky Craft Village. Member is also planning instruction workshops for 15 local craft producers.

In Cumberland Valley, Member assisted in the creation of a Family Preservation Program in eight counties.

Member in Prestonburg helped six low-income families obtain loans.

Member in Barbourville helped four low-income families obtain loans/grants to repair their homes.

Member in Somerset/London helped five low-income families obtain loans.

FS Kentucky

Member developed an infrastructure database; served as project manager for the historic Stearns building renovation project; and administered the Folk Life Study on historical buildings, people, and local folklore in Kentucky.

FS Georgia

Member developed a recreation opportunity guide for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest; conducted wilderness rehabilitation activities; and completed environmental education in the Blood Mountain Wilderness and local communities.

SOUTH CAROLINA

RECD South Carolina

Member in Denmark established an after-school tutorial project.

In Allendale/Blackville, Member established a downtown redevelopment effort concentrating on a historical abandoned hotel.

In Marion County, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Williamsburg, Member began attempting to locate land for a future state park.

In Santee-Luynches, Member has been working to statistically document and then reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

In Eastern Orangeburg, Member began outreach to improve local housing conditions for low-income residents.

In Greater Orangeburg, Member is seek to reduce the number of vacant buildings used for illegal activities by helping identify those premises and working with the city to demolish or improve those buildings.

In Penn Center, Member is completing a survey of community land ownership to stabilize development and establish a plan for a cooperative effort for agriculture processing and development.

FS

Members conducted one Junior Palmetto Leadership training course for 30 high school students; conducted Arbor Day tree planting demonstrations; worked with Head Start program; worked on the Greelyville Nature trail reconstruction project; worked on the Black River Bridge Beautification Project and a 12-mile highway beautification project; worked with NRCS on a flood prevention project; initiated a wetland delineation project for NRCS; and researched background information for the Pocotaligo Swamp restoration project.

NRCS South Carolina

Members conducted waste water sampling of waste management facilities (lagoons) and prepared detailed summary reports for 16 individual farm systems; this testing procedure was the first in South Carolina and will serve as a model for other conservation activities. Tested 600 different soil samples to determine croplands with high levels of phosphorus and acidity and prepared on report on their findings to local farmers. Members expanded inventory on data on farm grasslands to reflect 40,000 acres in order to reduce erosion and improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes. Members built a new front entrance gate and a mile's worth of nature trails at the Adair Outdoor Learning Center in Laurens, which is visited by 3,000 students each year.

Members helped local officials improve emergency response procedures by conducting a county-wide road survey in Edgefield County to inventory and update names and locations, as the first base procedure to reduce delays in 911 emergency responses. Over 600 miles of roads were recorded on base maps and entered into local computer software in order to maintain accurate files. The entire effort saved the county approximately \$20,000, and each AmeriCorps Member was presented a certificate of achievement from county officials.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA

NRCS Mississippi

Members in Hattiesburg began an inventory of tourism resources in an 18-county area of Southeast Missouri.

Members in Brookhaven conducted a large scale communications campaign to solicit volunteers for the "Adopt-A-Stream" program.

Members in Monticello were responsible for pumping out one lagoon, and placing seven on waiting list. Members in Monticello also sponsored a regional meeting, attended by 11 of the 13 counties in the area, to improve rural fire protection services.

Members in Tupelo and Grenada have generated maps and used them in meetings with local fire coordinators to plan dry fire hydrants that will increase local fire protection.

Member in Mississippi has started work on improving local waste management systems.

Member in Pearl nearly completed two outdoor classrooms and a nature trail at Madison Elementary School.

RECD Mississippi

In Cleveland, Member recruited new and emerging leaders in Bolivar County for a community and economic development leadership seminar. Conducted survey of 18-county area as an integral part of the regional strategic plan.

Member in Natchez is working to reduce teenage pregnancy; she spoke personally about her efforts with Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott and "promised to support (her) efforts in Natchez and declared he would be in Natchez in any events that take place if his schedule permits." The Member has also formed a task force to work on reestablishing a YMCA center in Natchez. Another member in Natchez helped two different families obtain funds to repair their home. In her "free time" this member is volunteering for the Illiteracy Program at a local United Methodist Church.

In RECD District IV (Bolivar, Sharkey, Issaquene, Sunflower, and Washington Counties, Member helped five families with poor credit history turn their credit around so they could obtain housing loans.

Member in Madison County recruited 46 local high school students and two teachers to participate in a series of money management workshops.

Member in Madison and Jefferson Counties conducted financial management classes in six senior high school classes reaching 135 students.

Member is working in Jackson to create a "Peer Helpers' group to reduce crimes committed by teenagers. Another Member is working in Jackson to help low-income families obtain loans to purchase their first homes.

In Washington County, member has produced a comprehensive report of available buildings, the labor supply, financial options, cost of utilities, etc. in an 18-county region in order to expand local businesses or attract new businesses.

In Webb, Member helped six low-income citizens obtain single self-help housing units. Member has also provided counseling to the families that have homes under construction to acquaint them with the responsibilities that go along with home ownership.

In Indianola, Member began providing a "Home Buyer's Education Program" for 932 individuals.

Member in Holmes County devised a plan to reduce employee turnover at the Durant Electric Corporation, the largest employer in the county with 600 employees and a payroll of \$8 million. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to hire 400 new employees. Thus, the one USDA AmeriCorps member directly saved or created 1,100 jobs.

The member also held two town meetings, attended by 80 local senior citizens, to inform them of common consumer fraud scams targeted at the elderly.

Member in Yazoo City created a brochure for a new program to create small businesses in the area. This member also coordinated a program in which the MS State Health Educator talked to 900 high school students about teenage pregnancy and abstinence.

FS Mississippi

Member completed one timber bridge application; assisted 21 people in joining and developing a Rural Water Association; distributed recycling literature to individuals and schools; and assisted two small communities with two leadership programs in Mississippi.

RECD Arkansas

One Member works with the Mid-Delta Community Services to help implement the Mid-Delta EC proposal and the East Arkansas EZ proposal. A contact list was developed and will be updated. A list was developed showing MDEC activities that might be undertaken using other funding sources.

One Member works with Crowley & Ridge D.C.A. to train low-income families in child care and has aided two families in receiving help in paying utility bills and receiving food from area churches.

In Forrest City, one Member successfully organized one community meeting to explain to the community and housing programs available through the USDA and completed 10 borrower interviews for housing assistance loans and grants. Another Member helped improve the standard living for 950 low-income families, helping to obtain Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) and to provide assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP).

In Jonesboro, Member began conducting outreach on USDA housing repair and ownership programs.

In Blytheville, Member is working to implement the Mississippi County Enterprise Community Strategic Plan.

In Mariana, Member began implementing the strategic plan of the Arkansas Mississippi Tri-County EZ, Crittenden County EC, Forrest City Marianna EC, Mid Delta EC, and the Tri State Delta EZ.

In Brinkley, Member began implementing the Eastern Arkansas Empowerment Zone strategic plan by Empowerment Zone Enterprise Community Initiative to implement the strategic plan.

FS Arkansas

Member motivated volunteers to assist with the "Educate the Children Project" which distributes educational material to school districts and some non-profit organizations; completed an inventory of families willing to move out of a flood plain; compiled a list of organizations that could provide assistance to communities in Arkansas.

NRCS Arkansas

Members in Batesville made significant progress towards helping create a local woodland owners association.

Members in Holy Grove began work to help community residents move out of a flood zone. Members have also worked on helping start a "Dads Program," to focus attention on young boys without fathers in the home.

Member in Marion assembled information for area tourism guide.

Another Member in Marion helped provide a rural waterline that will provide seven households -- with 22 residents -- with running water for the first time.

Member in North Little Rock prepared report on state's threatened and endangered species and presented information to representative of city and county governments, Conservation District officials, members of other governmental agencies, leaders of local financial institutions, and local landowners.

Another Member in North Little Rock has identified 10 sites for Pellet Stove Demonstration Projects to stimulate demand for a new product that will boost industry in the region.

A Member in Brinkley provided information on alternative crops to limited resource farmers.

One of the Members in Pine Bluff developed farm and home plans for small and disadvantaged farmers to help them obtain loans to stay on their land.

Member in Helen conducted comprehensive needs survey on Monroe, Phillips, and Lee Counties.

NRCS Louisiana

Made significant progress towards installing 35 dry fire hydrants per parish in order to aid rural fire protection. Performed over 100 pre-assessment surveys that benefited over 100 rural families by identifying threats water quality on their home and farmsteads. Made presentations on the water quality program to 240 high school students.

RECD Louisiana

In Jonesville, Member provided outreach to senior citizens to help them apply for the 504 grant housing program.

In Tallulah, one Member posted loan payments and performed loan servicing and another member helped the Madison Parish Police Jury begin implementing their strategic plan.

In Winsboro, one Member helped citizen fill out 25 applications for the 504 grant housing program and another Member assisted the Macon Ridge Economic Development Region in implementing their strategic plan and participated in the local Head Start Center's "Literacy Week."

In Alexandria, Member provided outreach on USDA and Small Business Administration loans for new businesses, helped organize a Mayor's Adult and Youth Council, helped organize a community clean-up day, and attended public meetings on behalf of the mayor.

In Rayville, Member providing outreach to citizens to obtain rural housing loans.

In Ferriday, Member performed outreach for rural housing, rehabilitations, and guaranteed loan programs.

In Lake Providence, one Member attended local events to promote outreach of local housing and farmer loan programs and another member worked to obtain home repair loans for senior citizens.

In Bastrop, member began proving outreach activities to promote rural housing programs.

FS Louisiana

Member worked with parishes to develop an Area Festival Brochure for Northeast Louisiana; worked on a tourism project with Rymans Library; assisted with a Grant Writing Workshop; contributed to the RC&D's "Rural Community Giving" project; worked on an Elder Care project for senior citizens; worked on a beautification project for roads and highways in one parish; developed a draft tourism

brochure for another parish; assumed responsibility on the Area Demonstration Project on Shitake Mushrooms; assisted with the development of a children's playground; worked with the Outreach Project in Lake Providence; assisted with the development of a tutoring program for individuals to obtain their GED and improve ACT test scores and an education program for adults; and worked on a bridge information summary for Mississippi Delta counties to prepare a bridge infrastructure report for possible timber bridge construction projects in Louisiana.

GREAT LAKES

NRCS Ohio

Member completed a field map of Pickaway County to help protect the Darby Creek watershed. Completed survey and design work to implement Best Management Practices in rural areas, identified local landowners who want trees to be planted on riparian areas; began identifying places on the Big and Little Darby Creeks where point and non-point pollution enters the stream system.

NRCS Michigan

Members conducted quality assessments and provided water quality protection plans to 29 farm families.

NRCS New York

Members have helped digitalize soil surveys and make that information accessible and practice to surrounding communities, including the Seneca Nation of Indians. Members have also assisted with the planning, survey, and design of three wetland restoration projects, two runoff management projects, and three manure management projects.

MINNESOTA

NRCS

Members based in Twin Valley working on the Agassie Recreational Trail Project and designed a tourism brochure along with a logo created through a local contest, worked with the Ada City Council to integrate the trail project with community development, completed a grant proposal for the Heritage & Information Center, and judged at the Norman County East Science Fair for students grades K through 6.

Members based in Twin Valley working on the conservation outreach project recruited local volunteers to jointly clean-up downtown Crookston.

Members based in Cloquet developed a public participation plan for the Nemadji River Basin Project and completed a watershed roadside erosion inventory.

Members based in Lewiston created and implemented a public participation plan for the Whitewater Joint Powers Board and conducted outreach on the Water Quality Incentive Program. Members also helped develop an "enchanted trail" to be a safe haven for children trick-or-treating on Halloween and picked-up trash and brush around the historical Elba Fire Tower.

Members based in Hiawatha began work to improve forage/grassland conditions to the good or excellent category on 5,000 acres, affecting 50 farmers in 11 counties.

Members based in Thief River Falls began work to improve water quality and reduce producer fertilizer input costs by developing and implementing animal waste nutrient utilization and management plans on 120 livestock operations.

FS

Member developed a public access TV show that explains a project being conducted by the RC&Ds to promote the development of a bio-fuels program in cooperation with the US Dept. of Energy; and worked with the Central Minnesota Initiative Fund and two regional economic development groups to assess what must be done by foundations, state/local/federal governments and educational institutions, industry, and financial institutions to encourage the sustainable development of Minnesota's forest products industry.

COLONIAS

RECD Texas

One Member with the Middle Rio Grande Development Council has begun grant applications to attempt to start a revolving loan fund to fund new small businesses locally.

Another Member is helping create a community crime watch program.

Member in Devian, Texas made significant progress towards creating a 5,000 acre Regional Environmental Enterprise Zone to build an innovative and comprehensive facility to meet the solid waste needs of the region for the next 75 to 100 years. The member is also helping establish a magnet high school with emphasis on environmental concerns. Member began implementing project to build 20 Equal Community Housing Opportunity (ECHO) homes for elderly and/or handicapped citizens.

Member in Brownsville helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing renovate unsanitary and unsafe bathroom and kitchen plumbing facilities. Member helped 16 families remodel their homes to remove health hazards such as broken windows, old roofs, insulation, etc. Member helped two families obtain new homes that are now under construction.

Member in Laredo make significant progress towards rehabilitating 42 housing units.

Member is working to obtain funds to complete a water feasibility study and is working with three school districts to increase the percentage of high school drop-outs obtaining GEDS.

Member in El Paso helped two elderly women obtain funds to repair their homes, and for a third women ineligible for government loans, recruited a volunteer plumber to repair bathroom and volunteers through the Salvation Army to winterize home.

Member conducted needs surveys in all the sub-zones of the Empowerment Zone.

Members in Hidalgo County have been responsible for construction of nine bathrooms at homes previously without indoor plumbing; three more were finalized, but not yet built, at the end of the quarter.

Member in San Benito is working to provide indoor plumbing to 153 families without such plumbing.

Member in Raymondville worked to provide indoor plumbing to 30 families without such plumbing.

RECD New Mexico

Members in Columbus Colonias began working on a community water project to improve running water in the area.

In Las Cruces, Members held a workshop for 40 residents of local colonias to inform them of available housing programs and how to apply for aid.

In Sunland Park, member made presentations at a local elementary school on Disability Awareness week.

RECD Arizona

Four members are working in EZ/EC applicant communities on a broad range of economic development activities including the creation of a revolving loan fund for small and emerging businesses, recruitment of businesses, surveys of local needs and challenges.

Three members began outreach on 502 and 504 housing programs to targeted areas.

RECD California

Two Members in El Centro have been conducting outreach to expand usage of the 504 programs to provide grants and loans for low income families to repair their homes; by the end of the first quarter, two applications for repairs had been approved and the work was completed, two more had just been approved, and four more were in the process of being approved. The other Member is working for the County Community Economic Development Office and helped Spanish-speaking citizens fill-out their forms in English, obtain 50 donated Christmas trees for low-income residents and helped plan crime prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, and economic development assistance.

FOUR CORNERS

NRCS Arizona/

Members in Holbrook, Arizona began an assessment of small-scale agriculture needs on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations.

Members have also begun socioeconomic and infrastructure survey in selected communities.

NRCS New Mexico

Members based in Albuquerque began their service after the end of the first quarter.

In San Juan, Members have begun to inventory private woodlands and started to conduct a resource and rangeland inventory on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

NRCS/FS Utah

Members have begun service conducting an analysis of the potential for local resource-based, value-added industries in the region and assist limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises.

FS Arizona/New Mexico, Colorado

Members primarily training, obtaining facilities, and establishing relationships in communities and with other participating agencies. One Community Action Plan completed in Colorado.

RECD New Mexico

In Grants, Member has recruited 2-3 individuals in each of eight communities to form community councils to make housing programs more available to low-income individuals.

In San Juan County, Member made presentation to senior citizens group on how to apply for funds to repair their homes.

Member in Gallup conducted a training on loan packaging for 19 community residents including representatives from local non-profit groups, church leaders, and Native American Community leaders.

In Baker City, Member has recruited three property owners who have agreed to use their properties as pilot locations for historic renovations.

In Oakridge, Member drafted a new land use ordinance of the City that was presented to a planning commission in December 1994. The member also drafted an update of a local Strategic Economic Development Plan.

In Coquille, Member promoted the Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program by creating a brochure she is distributing throughout town, writing an article for the local newspaper, and assisted community members in the application process.

In Cave Junction, Member is acting as Community Development Coordinator for the Illinois Valley 2010 Community Response Team.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RECD Oregon

In Pendleton, Member helped two low-income individuals receive a loan and one individual to receive a grant to repair their homes.

In Elgin, Member assisted HELP, Inc. in a Housing Preservation Grant that allowed 11 low-income and very low-income families to repair and rehabilitate their homes. The Member verified eligibility, determined preservation needs, identified environmental effects, and awarded bids to housing contractors.

In Roseburg, Member has been assisting the Umpqua Action Network to promote their home repair program and find housing for the homeless.

In Ontario, Member helped family whose home had been damaged by a fire obtain a loan to pay for

repairs of the house.

FS Oregon

Member researched and disseminated information and examples of strategic planning for a Strategic Planning Task Force; developed a data base for funding sources; completed preliminary planning stages for a riparian regulation workshop, water quality projects, and preliminary research on a nitrate project; established a grant writing team; updated a comprehensive plan; and promoted a recycling effort for the holidays.

NRCS Oregon (Grant's Pass)

Members are working to explain riparian projects to local landowners and are encouraging their participation in stream enhancement program.

RECD Washington

In Grant County, Member began developing and implementing a comprehensive community needs survey.

Based in Yakima County, Members are working to implement EZ/EC economic plan and to develop a statewide, regional, and local inventory of housing resources.

Based in Wenatchee County, Members have begun a comprehensive inventory of community resources.

MIDWEST FLOOD STATES

Missouri

In Columbia, Member began preparing guide sheets and a handbook to aid reclamation of two smaller tributaries of the Missouri River.

In Charles County, Member obtained existing floodplain management data to begin developing a Decision Support System computer model for floodplain management.

In Howard County, Member produced an informational memo on flood recovery that was distributed by the Extension Service and also began collecting hydrologic and agronomic data in order to propose land-use alternatives for the area.

In Columbia, Member completed seven basin reports to aid watershed protection.

In St. Charles County, Member provided emergency program assistance to 32 landusers.

In Jefferson City, Member completed data collection for pasture and hayland management booklet and developed soil and water conservation lesson plan for eventual presentation at 23 local schools.

In Troy, Member investigated local floodwater retarding dams to determine workload.

In Higginsville Member, who started work December 12, 1994, is working to assist sponsors to complete five dam safety reports and perform maintenance on 15 floodwater retarding dams.

In Warrensburg, Member provided assistance to landowners concerning EWP and ECP flood recovery work.

In Butler, Member prepared watershed soils planning map for the Miami Creek Water Quality project and provided assistance to 450 landusers.

In Marshal, Member completed maps on five farms of the sands deposits created by the floods of 1993.

In Fayette, Member assisted five sponsors and 15 landowners to provide flood protection recovery through the Emergency Watershed Program.

Iowa

Member conducted outreach to increase the number of farmers in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program. Have prepared maps and written materials to assist County Conservation Boards in Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, and Woodbury counties in locating areas for potential in recreation, tourism, economic development, and wildlife areas. Member revised brochure for Western Iowa and worked to develop bicycle loops for area cycling clubs; scheduled pasture walks and seminars with local farmers to promote and develop rotational grazing systems; updating tourism guides, writing scripts for tours, restoring a farmer's market, and taking an inventory of resources in the African-American community to create an agricultural heritage area in Northeast Iowa.

Illinois

In Pittsfield, Members completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and are helping update the town's Overall economic development plan. Members have also begun to identify and promote alternative uses of land in the Conservation Reserve Program by surveying farmers currently enrolled in the program.

North Dakota

Member completed scope and effect determinations on 57 wetland tracts in areas most at risk of future flooding; began measuring and sealing abandoned wells; helping clean up trailer park damaged by flooding in 1993.

Kansas

Based in Topeka, Members completed 15% of riparian work in Douglas County and completed 2% of transects.

Based in Hays, Members completed off-site review in eight townships, identified all wetlands in two townships, completing 40% of riparian mapping in 30 townships, and finished six riparian transects.

Based in Dodge City, Members completed remote sensing work --- using satellite technology to identify status of land ---- in six townships.

Based in Hutchinson, Members completed 308% of remote sensing for wetlands inventory in 15 townships.

Based in Lyon County, Member completed riparian mapping of six townships, completed remote sensing on six townships, completed one field visit to township to verify wetland signature.

Basin in Manhattan, Members mapped 20% of Riley County for riparian work, completed 12 transects, and made site checks for potential wetlands on 60,000 acres.

Based in Salina, Member stenciled 200 United States Geological Survey maps.

Based in Abilene, Members worked with five agricultural producers to discuss systems and designs for agricultural waste management. Worked with 5th graders in explaining soil conservation and non-point source pollution.

Wisconsin

Members began digitalizing soil surveys in preparation for providing outreach to the communities on these topics.

CALIFORNIA

In Apple valley, Members have been working with local agencies to streamline the permit process for soil scientists to be able to analyze the soil for mapping. Members also prepared a curriculum on soil for a local high school.

In Auburn, Members have made significant progress creating and implementing fuel reduction plans to reduce forest and other fires in the area.

In Lancaster and Somis, Members have focused on areas previously impacted by fires and by flooding and have completed a mitigation plan for the Kinneola area and have completed field work for the Laguna mitigation plan. In Petaluma, the Member has begun water quality sampling on three adjacent dairies and has completed one conservation plan.

In Santa Rosa, the Member has trained one dairy operator to use a water quality test kit, is developing plans to provide such assistance to members of four different local organizations, and has completed inventory work for a watershed group. In Ukiah, the Member has formed client partnerships to aid two severely eroded streams, has helped the Round Valley Tribal Community treated 2 miles of stream, and signed up four local growers for a cost share program to convert to the water-saving drip irrigation program.

In Redlands, Members have surveyed three dairies totaling 130 acres, eventually leading to recycling or eliminating 6,867 tons of waste once practices have been implemented. Each farmers saved an average of about \$9,000 by having the service performed by AmeriCorps members instead of private contractors. The members also completed a survey of a 5-acre ranch which will eventually lead to the recycling of 26.5 tons of waste a year. One of the members helps coordinate and teach and Nature Discovery Program that benefited 690 local elementary students. Members also staked and surveyed almost a mile's length of the Big Rathbone Creek in order to begin reducing the risk of flooding to area residents.

Accomplishments of the Northwest Service Academy:

While the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps was not specifically part of USDA's direct grant from the Corporation for National Service, the USDA Forest Service played a leading role in creating and managing the program. Forest Service employees have provided significant and continuing planning and technical assistance, and much of the service has been performed on Forest Service Lands. In addition, it is likely that the Northwest Service Academy will be tied to this year's USDA's direct application to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Therefore, this reports includes the Academy's first quarter accomplishments on Forest Service lands:

Cascade Streamwatch: The objective was to maintain 2 miles of interpretive trail and harden six riverside sites while providing on-site education to 300 students. The Members maintained 3 miles of trail, constructed another quarter mile of trail, hardened 8 sites and provided on-site education to over 300 students.

Road Restoration: The objective was to seed, fertilize and mulch 9 miles of abandoned roads and skid trails. All objectives were met.

Wildlife Cutting: The objective was to collect 30,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings for wildlife plantings this coming spring. All objectives were met.

Huckleberry Field Restoration: The objective was to restore 82 acres of sacred tribal huckleberry fields on National Forest Lands for the Warm Springs and Yakima Tribal nations. 12 acres of huckleberry fields were burned and another 70 acres of conifer trees were hand girdled and pruned.

Snag Surveys: The objective was to survey 1,200 acres of snag habitat to determine critical habitat needs for a variety endangered species including the Northern Spotted Owl. Two hundred acres were completed before the winter snows forced the teams out.

Roadbank Restoration: The objective was to ang erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbanks. All the objectives were met by Members.

Elk Forage Enhancement: The objective was to restore 40 acres of critical elk habitat. Members helped burn 40 acres for forage enhancement.

Fisheries Projects: 1) The objective was to build salmon smolt rearing channels along 1/4 mile of the Clackamas River and install nine fish protective structures in the channel. Members met all objectives.

Bull Run Watershed Monitoring: The objective was to open all roads to critical water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm. Members helped clear 15 miles of road that were critical in maintaining consistent records stretching back over half a century.

White Pine Blister Rust Control: The objective was to prune 20 acres of plantation. Members completed 22 acres of pruning.

Plantation Enhancement: The objective was to prune 80 acres of Douglas Fir plantations to enhance the final quality of timber produced. Members completed 80 acres.

Glacier Springs: The objective was to construct 2,800 feet of fence around Glacier Springs,

Trout Lake's municipal watershed. Members completed 1,000 feet before the winter snows.

Wells Island: The objective was to clear five acres of brush and noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat for Canadian geese, herons and bald eagles. Members met all objectives.

Rho Ridge, Buck Creek and Whistle Punk Trails: The objective was to complete 5.6 miles of trails, 1.2 miles of which was designed for the physically challenged trail. Members met all objectives.

Primary challenges

In order to meet President Clinton's vision for bringing this exciting new program to the American people rapidly, USDA faced great difficulties in starting such a large and complex program with only a few months between approval of our application and the launch. While we have had our share of relatively minor start-up problems, we are dealing them with a process of continuous improvement based on constant consultation and site visits with local project managers.

National identity activities this quarter

USDA has woven the national AmeriCorps identity and philosophy into every steps of our program. Most sites participated in either launch activities on September 12, 1994 or subsequently. All USDA members are required to wear at least one article of uniform identifying them as AmeriCorps Members. All our press releases and informational materials are now required to have at least two standard paragraphs on AmeriCorps. Since the start of the program, USDA/AmeriCorps members have met with President Clinton in California, Vice-President Gore in Kentucky, Senators Leahy and Jeffords in Vermont, Secretary Espy in Mississippi, Acting Secretary Rominger in California, Missouri, and Maine, and CNCS Eli Segal in Vermont, Texas, and Iowa. The Chief of the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Paul Johnson, a former Peace Corps volunteer, also visited sites around the country and explained his especially-relevant view of national service.

USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg has visited sites, worked alongside Members, and explained the AmeriCorps vision in Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Georgia, Vermont, and the District of Columbia. USDA agency AmeriCorps coordinators David Gibson, Paula Cole Jones, and Lou Woltering have also made numerous site visits throughout the country in order to spread the AmeriCorps message.