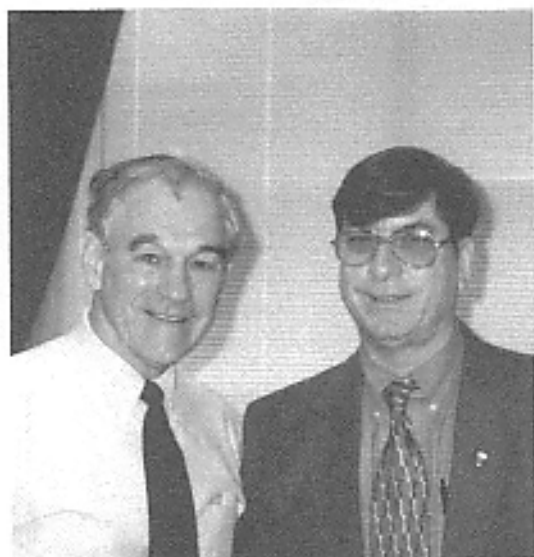


*Building a Better World Through Partnerships*



June, 2002



## HAPPENINGS IN D.C.

Chairman of the Board of Directors for De-Go-La, Marshall Holybee and US Congressman Ron Paul. Holybee was in D.C. for the National Association of RC&D Councils Legislative Forum. Holybee also met with US Representative Charles Stenholm (D TX), US Congressman Henry Bonilla (R, TX), US Congressman Rubén Hinojosa (D, TX) and US Congressman Solomon Ortiz (D, TX).

## MATCHING GRANT

During the month of May, De-Go-La sponsored a matching grant program twelve organizations applied and eleven of those met all the requirements of eligibility for receiving a grant through the program.

The organizations which applied ranged from community awareness programs to rural-volunteer fire departments.

Choosing which organization would receive one of the grants was close. Jerry Pearce, Larry Deyton, Wallace Beck and Gordon Porter were up for the task.

Receiving organizations were: the Yoakum Volunteer Fire Department, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, American Red Cross at Jackson County, Cupano Bay Soil and Water Conservation District, Shoreline Enhancement Association, Neptune Harbor Canal Owners Association, Blanconia Volunteer Fire Department, Refugio Community Development Foundation, Hallettsville Volunteer Fire Department, Lavaca Medical Center and the Skidmore Volunteer Fire Department.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marshall Holybee

### Vice Chairman

Kenneth Finster  
Calhoun County

### Secretary/Treasurer

Darrell Blaschke  
Karnes County

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Darrell Blaschke-Karnes  
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Richard Lee-Live Oak  
Larry L. Milcs-McMullen  
Richard Martinez-Refugio  
Gordon Porter-San Patricio  
Chris Rivera-Victoria  
Hernan Jaso-at large  
Marshall Holybee-at large

### Coordinator

Jerry Pearce  
Executive Assistant  
Joyce May  
Administrative Assistant  
Mary L. Green

## OFFICE LOCATION:

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## FARM SECURITY & RURAL INVESTMENT ACT

The Farm Bill has given RC&D's permanent authorization. USDA has launched a web site exclusively for the Farm Bill. [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill)



**DE-GO-LA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the RC&D area is to provide leadership and coordination,  
to provide a quality life and a quality environment for people living in  
rural communities**

**Visit with the Senate**

Mary Green, US Senator Tom Harkin (D, Iowa) and Marshall Holybee. Holybee and Green had the opportunity to meet Senator Harkin while he was visiting in the South Texas area. Senator Harkin was in Corpus Christi on June 2. Senator Harkin is the Chairman for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, he is a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Harkin also chairs the Senate committee that funds education. Recently in Iowa two new RC&D's were announced. Harkin said RC&D's have been invaluable to rural counties in Iowa and the country for years and they are a tremendous resource to local community efforts which enhance rural economics and rural resources. "Through the help of RC&D's; USDA, the government can help build opportunities in rural communities by providing some of the resources and assistance they need to succeed," said Harkin.



**State Association Conference**

Attending the conference from De-Go-La were: Jerry Pearce, Frank Montez and Lawrence Friedrich. According to De-Go-La representatives the conference was well planned with several informative sessions as well as entertaining events. A few of the scheduled sessions attended by De-Go-La rep's were: Non-profit Bookkeeping Basics, About GIS and Homeland Security, ORCA & Community Development Block Grants and Food Protection Management Legislation.

GIS (Geographic Information System) software changes the way RC&D's and other agencies do business. Geographic Information System has a website; GIS.COM, also Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) has a website. They offer free online courses. Another site for GIS information; [geographynetwork.com](http://geographynetwork.com).

The Texas Cooperative Extension made available via an information session, points on food protection legislation. When this goes into effect all food service managers and anyone responsible for the safe handling of food will have to be certified to do so, from restaurants to mobile food vendors. Sanitation, food flow, facilities and equipment are some of the subjects covered in the certification class.

Jerry especially enjoyed the Cowboy Artists of America Museum.



## Photos Taken During the State Association Meeting In Kerrville



Photos from top left clockwise: Tx. Assoc. recognized Lou Bridges, Joe Cantu, Renee Miller and Honey Dowdy for their service to the RC&D program (receiving for Bridges and Dowdy are Ernest Melton and Grace Skibra). Joe LaBarbera, Jimmy Apel, Ronnie Boston and Ken Awtrey were also recognized for their outstanding leadership abilities (receiving for Awtrey is Kanand Brooks). Registration table for the general session. Joe Cantu delivers the National Presidents report during the opening session. Participants at the general session. Judy Fort greets local dignitaries.

De-Go-La RC&D  
568 Big Bend Drive  
Victoria, Texas 77904



RC&D "Making  
Things Happen"



Does your fire dept. need an upgrade?

Marshall at his other job; fireman for the city by the sea.

The Corpus Christi Fire Dept. was demonstrating fire safety techniques to an area church.

Afterwards, guess they had time to horse around!!!

### Jerry's Corner

The current drought conditions create a great deal of concern about wild-fires in rural areas. One of the biggest problems fire fighters encounter in rural areas is lack of adequate water supply. The dry hydrant program sponsored by the De-Go-La RC&D provides assistance in securing funds and equipment to install dry hydrants in ponds, lakes and streams to provide an alternative source of water for fighting fires in rural areas. Having a ready source of water nearby can make the difference in fighting a structural or range fire by saving precious time it would take to transport water from town. The De-Go-la RC&D also provides assistance in securing other equipment needed by rural fire departments

I have received a number of requests for assistance in obtaining computers for organizations in the area. We have been fortunate in securing a number of good, used computers to place on loan to youth organizations, libraries, soil and water conservation districts, and senior citizens centers. These machines are normally useable, but have been replaced with new high capacity computers. In most cases, the computers we obtain are perfect for the intended use. In addition to computers, we are also able to obtain, at no cost; some furniture and miscellaneous equipment for use by qualifying organizations

I had the opportunity to spend three days in Live Oak County participating in the Community Resource Team that visited on May 14-16. This was a well-organized event, and the team members listened to comments from over 250 Live Oak County residents. I plan to get a finished report with recommendations back to the community by the end of June so they can continue with a strategic planning process. The whole effort is directed toward building their county into a better place to live, work and play. If you are interested in having a Resource Team visit your community, you can contact me at 361-570-7138 or e-mail: [degola@tisd.net](mailto:degola@tisd.net).

The next scheduled meeting for the De-Go-La Board of Directors : August 22, 2002 at 9:30 am, DeWitt County Electric Coop. building in Cuero.