

# De-Go-La RC&D News

*Building a Better World Through Partnerships....*



*March 2006*

## National Leadership Forum

### Board of Directors

Frank Montez—Bee County  
Neil Fritsch—Calhoun County  
Curtis Afflerbach—DeWitt County  
Lawrence Friedrich—Fayette County  
Bill Janacek—Goliad County  
Bud Wuest—Gonzales County  
Larry Deyton—Jackson County  
Darrell Blaschke—Karnes County  
Charles Netardus—Lavaca County  
Richard Lee—Live Oak County  
Linda Henry—McMullen County  
Edward Jungmann—Nueces County  
John Reyna—Refugio County  
Fred Nardini—San Patricio County  
Gary Burns—Victoria County  
Marshall Holybee—At large  
Rhonda Stastny—At large

### Officers

Chairman, Marshall Holybee  
Vice-Chairman, Charles Netardus  
Secretary/Treasurer, Darrell Blaschke

Coordinator, Jerry Pearce  
Executive Assistant, Joyce May  
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Pictured in photo from l to r are: De-Go-La Chairman, Marshall Holybee; Congressman Ruben Hinojosa; Director, Bee County, Frank Montez and President of TARC&D Councils, Marva Beck.

The Administrations original proposed cuts to the RC&D budget would have eliminated funding for 189 RC&D Councils.

Throughout the United States the response to this proposition was clear, local governments depend on RC&D's and work together in their communities helping local organizations.

At the request of the National RC&D office, local leaders wrote letters to Congress. This campaign helped the National Association of RC&D leaders strengthen the argument for RC&D's.

All 375 RC&D Councils will remain funded for the 2006 year.

"All De-Go-La RC&D programs and services are offered on a nondiscrimination basis without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status, political beliefs, parental status or protected genetic information."

**Partnership: De-Go-La, Texas General Land Office and Texas Nature Conservancy**  
With a grant from the Texas General Land Office, De-Go-La was able to purchase a Truax no till grass seed drill. The drill will be stored and maintained at the Texas Nature Conservancy office in Victoria and may be used by farmers and ranchers in the Victoria, Goliad, Calhoun and Refugio counties.

The 10 foot wide drill is used for planting fluffy native grass seeds, as-well-as small slick seeds like legumes.

Those interested in using the drill may contact the Texas Nature Conservancy office at: 361-572-8711



### ***SURPLUS PROPERTY***



***CARL VOSKAMP AND CHRIS RAMIREZ WITH THE VICTORIA COLLEGE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BE USING 7, LIFEPAK 10 DEFIBRILLATORS FOR TRAINING PURPOSES WHICH DE-GO-LA LOCATED THROUGH SURPLUS PROPERTY AT FORT SAM HOUSTON IN SAN ANTONIO.***

***THE DEFIBRILLATORS WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN CORONARY RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES TO EMS PERSONNEL.***

## **Computer, Internet Training For Farmers & Ranchers**

The De-Go-La RC&D Council will be offering a series of workshops geared toward teaching farmers and ranchers how to use computers and internet resources to better manage their operations. The effort is being undertaken through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and has been designated as the FARMER Initiative (Farm And Ranch Management Electronic Resources). The day-long course will provide hands-on instruction in basic computer and internet skills with an emphasis on using Egov to access government programs. Marshall Holybee, Chairman for De-Go-La, stated "We have undertaken this effort to increase the ability of ag producers in our area to use available technology in making decisions and accessing information." The trend in agriculture today is to use computer and internet resources for everything from planning for the coming crop year to accessing market information and government producers use the internet to buy and sell commodities on the future market to increase their profitability.

"We hope that these workshops will provide an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to gain some valuable knowledge and skills that will actually help them remain economically viable in today's world of advanced technology", adds Holybee. "We will be scheduling workshops at various times and in locations across our sixteen county area and we hope folks will take advantage and sign up for one that suits them."

Farmers and ranchers interested in attending a workshop will need to contact the De-Go-La office at 361-570-7138 to find out where and when the courses will be offered.

The De-Go-La RC&D Council is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is an equal opportunity employer and provider.





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#### **Jerry's Corner...**

We have completed the second portion of the Private Lands Riparian Habitat Restoration Initiative which was funded by the Texas General Land Office. Combined with the acreage enrolled under our initial effort, we have now assisted landowners in developing and implementing restoration plans on almost 200 acres of degraded riparian habitat.

I have been assisting one landowner in Calhoun County in applying for an alternative energy grant through Rural Development. He is planning to install a small wind turbine to generate electricity that will be used on his farm with excess electricity to be sold to the local electric coop. The program he is applying for provides a guaranteed loan for up to 50% of the project and 25% for the grant.

Marshall, Fred Nardini and I recently attended a planning meeting with city officials with the City of Gregory and other partners to determine the best course of action to clean up an abandoned trash dump within the city limits. There is a large amount of debris including scrap metal, tires, concrete, brick and wood that must be removed to make the area attractive and reduce local health hazards.

Suzanne Clodfelter and I are planning an advanced grantsmanship class in Cuero, April 4-6. Larry Lancaster will be the principal instructor for the 3 day course. Cost will be \$175 early registration per person and \$199 at the door. Class size limited to 20.

I am planning to attend the Annual Conference of the TARC&D Councils in Wichita Falls. This will be a good opportunity for excellent training for directors across the state.

I am working with the City of Edna to implement a community resource assessment. This time we will use an abbreviated process which focuses on projects and takes one day of listening sessions to implement. Slated for March or early April. During past quarter I have provided assistance to 10 groups and 20 individuals for: surplus property, economic development, rural fire protection, grant writing, SEP projects and community assessments.