

February, 2001

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De-Go-La HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL RETREAT FOR DIRECTORS

The De-Go-La RC&D Board of Directors held their first Retreat and Strategic Planning Session October 25-26, 2000 in the Harry Hafernick Recreation Center at Brackenridge Park on Lake Texana. Sponsored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, the session included training on the RC&D Program, Marketing RC&D, Financial Empowerment, and Grass Roots Lobbying. Dr. Joe McFarland, with the Leon-Bosque RC&D led the group in a strategic planning exercise to set direction for the council in coming years. Judy McAda, District Director for Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, spoke to the group about working with rural communities. Directors who attended the workshop came away with a much greater knowledge of how the council should operate and suggested making this an annual event.

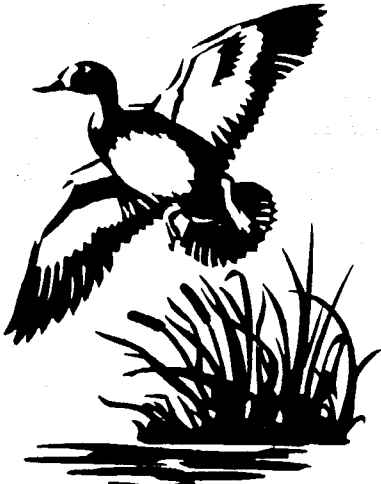
STATE ASSOCIATION HIRES LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT

The Texas Association of RC&Ds Executive Board met in Nacogdoches in October and voted to hire former State Representative, Steve Holzheuser, as legislative consultant to the Association. Steve will be working with Marshall Holybee, at large director from Bayside, as well as other members of the state legislative committee to promote the cause of RC&D with the legislature. Efforts will be aimed toward securing funding from the state for RC&D through the Texas Department of Agriculture. TDA is very involved in many of the same program areas and concerns that RC&Ds are. It is hoped that this partnership will allow the RC&D Councils to expand services to their clients and sponsors.

RC&D APPROPRIATIONS INCREASED !!!

Washington DC... The U.S. Senate and House of Rep. passed the conf. report for Agriculture Appropriations, which includes a nearly \$7 million increase to the RC&D Program. The Fiscal 2001 Conf. report for Agriculture Appropriations passed the House by 340 to 75 and the Senate by 86 to 8. This bill included \$42.015 million for the RC&D Program. This is a \$6.75 million increase over the current level, and \$5.75 million over the President's request. Reggie Skains NARC&DC President stated, "The coun-

cils are to be congratulated for all their efforts in helping achieve this goal. This increase, which was higher than both the House and Senate passed levels, is further evidence of the strength of the RC&D councils and the commitment of its volunteers. This increase goes a long way to bring us closer to our goal of nation-wide coverage of RC&D by 2005. NARC&DC recently contacted Chief Pearlre Reed to split the increase in funding. The goal is to increase funds by \$10,000 for each council. The Pres. signed the bill on 10-28-00.



RC&D...."Making Things
Happen"

**De-Go-La RC&D is sponsoring a grant writing seminar April 24-25.
For information call 361-570-7138**

De-Go-La RC&D NEWS

Projects, etc. by: Jerry Pearce, Coordinator

The De-Go-La RC&D Board of Directors meets quarterly to conduct business. Anyone wishing to attend these meetings is welcome and encouraged to attend. Your input is appreciated!



Secretary Hired for De-Go-La
Mary Green has been hired as a secretary to assist with operations of the De-Go-La RC&D office. Mary assists in the office every afternoon.

The De-Go-La RC&D just completed a 3-year project in partnership with the Lavaca SWCD and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station to demonstrate proper application of poultry litter on the land to maintain water quality. Results indicate that phosphorus can build up in the soil as a result of the way plants (bermudagrass) utilize nutrients contained in the litter. In addition, phosphorus in its organic form is mobile and can move downward in the soil.

I believe this project is a perfect example of the way RC&D helps local communities identify and find solutions to problems that may apply to other areas. The proof in this is the amount of interest in the project from RC&Ds in other states that are working on the same problem. By sharing our concerns, we are able to find solutions we all face.