

De-Go-La RC&D News



Building a Better World Through Partnerships

June, 2005

Board of Directors

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

Directors

Bee County -
Frank Montez
Calhoun County -
Roger Galvan
DeWitt County -
Curtis Afflerbach
Fayette County -
Lawrence Friedrich
Goliad County -
vacant
Gonzales County -
Bud Wuest
Jackson County -
Larry Deyton
Karnes County -
Darrell Blaschke
Lavaca County -
Charles Netardus
Live Oak County -
Richard Lee
McMullen County -
Linda Henry
Nueces County -
Edward Jungmann
Refugio County -
John Reyna
San Patricio County -
Fred Nardini
Victoria County -
Gary Burns
At Large -
Marshall Holybee
Rhonda Stastny
Coordinator -
Jerry Pearce
Executive Assistant -
Joyce May
Administrative Assistant -
Mary L. Green

OFFICE LOCATION:

De-Go-La RC&D
2601 Azalea, Ste. 6
Victoria, Texas 77901
Phone 361-570-7138
Fax 361-570-7139
E-mail degola@tisd.net

"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."

Revolving Loan Fund

De-Go-La RC&D has received a grant from the USDA-Rural Development Agency for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This proactive approach to relieving depressed economic situations has been successful in many areas of the United States.

The RLF will provide opportunities by creating a community driven, cost effective, credit delivery system for self employed business owners in our rural area and small towns.

There are many individuals who possess skills that would enable them to become self employed if offered training, short term financing and professional follow up assistance. Many of these talented and skilled individuals are unemployed or they are employed in low wage seasonal occupations. However, with sufficient opportunity, they can start a small business that will provide them with an improved standard of living. The majority of such individuals have little or no savings, a nonexistent credit history, and no access to capital or credit. Women, minorities and low to moderate income individuals have added difficulty obtaining credit.

The RLF will provide gap financing, up to 50%, not to exceed \$25,000 to leverage traditional financing. The key to success for this project lies within an innovative screening process. Only those individuals who agree to attend training sessions and develop an approved business plan or individuals that are successfully operating a small business will qualify for loan funds.

Our decision to develop this project has been promoted by the long term depressed economy in our project area, a recent capital market analysis and the success of similar projects areas of the state.

De-Go-La is initially funded for \$100,000 to begin this project.

Summer Destinations -

This summer is sure to be a hot one, here are a few places in the De-Go-La area where the entire family can enjoy some quality time together.

Lavaca County

Splashway Water Park located in Sheridan of Highway 90-A provides a cool opportunity for everyone in the family to relax and have fun. The park covers 4.5 acres of land and boasts a 3.5 foot deep 900 foot river for your floating enjoyment. For more information visit their website: www.splashway.org

Nueces County

Goose Island, located on Aransas Bay north of Rockport offers camping, birding, fishing, picnicking, boating and wildlife study and observation. Less than 45 minuets from Corpus Christi or Rockport, it proves an excellent stop on any family outing itinerary. Website: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/goose/

Also in Nueces County are over 100 miles of coast. Beginning at Corpus Christi and stretching outward to the Padre island National Seashore. Padre Island has garnered federal seashore status. Beach goers will delight in the natural , untouched state of the beach. For visitor information check out the website: www.nps.gov/pais
Located in Corpus, is the lovely Corpus Christi Botanical Garden. Boasting more than 2500 orchids, 70 different hibiscus and over 300 rose varieties this will be an interesting stop during the summer road trip.
www.ccbotanicalgardens.org

Goliad County

A visit into history will lead the family to a trek of the Presidio Labahia, the Goliad State Park and the Mission Espiritu Santo State Historic Park. At these sites, battles took place which were precursors to the war that took place at the Alamo. Visit the web site for more information on camping and attractions.

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/goliad/

DeWitt County

Cuero offers the DeWitt County Historical Museum located inside the Bates Sheppard House. Enjoy the old fashioned styled garden and take a walk back through time. Cuero also has several antique shops and sports a wonderful coffee shop on Main Street. Visit the Cuero Chamber of Commerce website at www.cuero.org/thingstodo.shtml for more information.

Live Oak County

Located in the South Texas Brush Country, George West is known for its native habitat and hunting. Situated between Choke Canyon Reservoir and State Park and Lake Corpus Christi State Park, if hunting, fishing, boating and swimming are your pleasure you will find it here. www.georgewest.org/ for more information on this town rich in the culture of Texas.

Bee County

Beeville also offers the antique lover a variety of shops. The Skidmore Museum is sure to be a treat. Beeville is also known for its hunting and salt or fresh water fishing. With plenty of parks and historical things to see, this is a good place to stop and stretch the legs. www.txcoastalbend.org/beeville.html for more information.

Calhoun County

Matagorda Island State Park, located in Port O'Connor and accessible only by boat, is a worthwhile visit for the wildlife enthusiast. 38 miles of undeveloped island is ideal for beachcombers and nature lovers to watch wildlife in its' natural habitat. Many threatened/endangered species such as, the whooping crane, peregrine falcon, brown pelican and Kemps Ridley sea turtle call the island home. Camping and day trips are available. For more information go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/matagisl/

Jackson County

Lake Texana State Park in Edna is 575 acres of family fun. Camping, boating, fishing, birding, skiing, sailing, hiking, picnicking, is there anything you can't do here? www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/laketexa/ for more information.

HAVE FUN !!!!!!!

RC&D Budget

The House agriculture appropriations subcommittee has passed their budget for FY06.

RC&D has been funded for \$51,641,000 million more than the Presidents budget request.

The Presidents proposed FY06 budget for RC&D's would have cut funding from 53 million to 26 million nationwide.

For more information on efforts to promote funding for RC&D, visit <http://savered.blogspot.com>

This years matching grant recipients:

Helping Hands of Jackson County – Jackson County

Calhoun SWCD – Calhoun County

Copano Bay SWCD – Refugio County

Boys and Girls Club of Beeville – Bee County

Pride of Taft and City of Taft – San Patricio County

Moulton Fire Department and Vysehrad I.S.D. – Lavaca County

Completed Projects

Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach , provided surplus computer, Victoria County.

Hazardous Household Waste Collection, San Patricio County.

Ag in the Classroom Educational Field Day, Calhoun County.

State Association

Frank Montez, of Bee County, has been elected to the State Association Executive Board as the Director representing NRCS zone 3.

2005 Principles of Grantmanship

Tuesday, June 21 the University of Houston-Victoria Center for Nonprofit Leadership will be hosting the 2005 Leadership Institute Series on the Principles of Grantmanship. This series will address organizational concerns for funding and sustainability through training that strengthens marketing, fundraising and financial management skills. A three day advanced grant writing workshop will be held July 19-21 in cooperation with the University of Houston. Participants will spend the entire course on developing a finished grant proposal to send to funders.

For more information contact Suzanne Clodfelter at 570-4296 or 1-877-970-4848, ext. 296 (toll-free).

De-Go-La Resource Conservation and Development Project, Inc.

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.*



*De-Go-La RC&D
2601 Azalea, Ste. 6
Victoria, TX. 77901*

Marshall Holybee
1919 Jackson
Port Lavaca, TX. 77979

The Texas Association of RC&D has a new website:
www.texasrcd.org

Next De-Go-La RC&D Board of Directors quarterly meeting will be held on:
August 18, 2005 9:30 am at the
Guadalupe Valley Electric Coop. in Cuero (DeWitt County)

NRCS has surplus computers that your organization may qualify for. To register go to www.cfl.gov

USDA's Rural Development Agency is hosting forums to inform the public and community leaders of the programs that are available for community development. A forum will be held on June 7th in Victoria. If you are interested in attending, please call the office at 570-7138.

Coordinators Corner...By: Jerry Pearce

I'm really excited about the opportunities that are developing in the De-Go-La area. The fact that the council will soon be able to stimulate small business development through a revolving loan program demonstrates the commitment that the board of directors and our many partners have to make rural communities better places to live.

We have just completed a contract with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program to restore important Riparian Habitats in Aransas, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties. In reviewing the sites, I became very aware of the many benefits and sometimes drastic changes for the better that can come about through changes in management of these areas alone. Bare eroding areas are now vegetated and overall water quality and wildlife habitat are improved. As we continue to pursue this program in Victoria, Calhoun and Jackson Counties, I hope that we will be able to form even stronger partnerships with agencies that may be able to provide additional funding for these benefits.

On a personal note, it is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mr. Ronnie Boston. Ronnie served as coordinator for De-Go-La from 1990 until 1992. He had spent the last 13 years of his career as coordinator for the Leon-Bosque RC&D Area in Glen Rose, Texas. He will be missed by his many friends and his family.

Summer is here and the board of directors will soon be planning for the next year. A few items to look forward to include: an internet/computer training course for farmers and ranchers; a series of small business training workshops, implementation of a revolving loan fund, and more community assessments. Until our next newsletter, have a safe and fun filled summer!!!