Students learn to ‘Trash Bash’ at energy event

JACKSON – Utilizing clothes baskets as containers with labels for Recycling, Reusable, Biodegradable or Landfill, MSWCC Education Specialist Chelsey Gazaway and MSWCC Branch Director Clay Burns conduct a game of “Trash Bash” at the Mississippi Development Authority’s Energy & Natural Resources Division Annual Energy Awareness Day.

According to event planner Lisa Campbell, 1,067 Mississippi students in grades 4-12 attended the event, held on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive.

In celebration of October’s Energy Awareness Month, Energy Awareness Day featured 23 interactive stations covering the full range of energy production, from fossil fuels and nuclear power to renewable energy. Presentations included solar and wind power, biomass, recycling, composting and other learning-based activities and games.

At MSWCC’s station, Burns and Gazaway taught students how to separate refuse into proper categories.

Energy Awareness Day supports energy education while enhancing the Mississippi energy workforce. Participating teachers received a packet of educational and curriculum materials on the science of energy. “Our goal is that each presentation captures the attention of the students, gets them involved and excited about what they are learning and highlights the many opportunities available to them in the energy sector,” Campbell stated.

Sponsors included the U.S. Department of Energy, Chevron-USA, Entergy Mississippi, Waste Management and Nissan USA.

INSIDE:

- Smith promoted ......................................2
- Scholarship applicants needed .............2
- Leake Co. holds Carnival ..................2
- MSWCC at FARMtastic ..........................3
- Delta Bear Affair Oct. 27 ......................3
- 319 Project update ...............................4
- Wildlife seminar Oct. 11 ......................4
- News Briefs ........................................4
Lee Smith promoted to Environmental Administrator

Lee Smith, the former Natural Resource Specialist IV and Field Representative for the Northeast and East Central counties in Mississippi, has been promoted to the position of Environmental Administrator I at Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission in Jackson.

A native of Raymond, MS, Smith is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics. He has worked for the Commission for 24 years

A Major in the Mississippi Army National Guard, Smith was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

He and his wife, Jayme, have two sons, Walker and Chase. They attend Wynndale Baptist Church in Raymond.

Smith enjoys hunting, fishing, coaching his sons’ baseball teams, and MSU sports.

MCDEA, MACDA seek applicants for scholarship

The Mississippi Conservation Districts Employee Association and the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary announces its annual call for applications for a $500 scholarship to be awarded in January 2019. *The deadline to apply is Dec. 1, 2018.*

The scholarship is available to the child or grandchild of a member in the MCDEA/MACDA, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, or the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

The applicant must be a Mississippi high school graduating senior with plans to attend a Mississippi college or university, or a student presently enrolled in a Mississippi college or university.

For an application, email celia.miller@ms.nacdnnet.net or visit mswwc.ms.gov, and click Current Events.

MSWCC at Leake County Conservation Carnival

Approximately 340 students gathered at the Carthage Coliseum on Sept. 9, 2018, for the Leake County Conservation Carnival.

*At right,* students participated in the Incredible Journey, presented by MSWCC Education Specialist Chelsey Gazaway. Leake County SWCD presented MSWCC’s Sam E. Soil at the event.

NACD seeks stories about successful district, state projects

NACD is seeking examples of long-lasting, successful district or state association projects that have positively impacted the local landscape and community.

If your district or state association has led the way in conservation since it was founded, please let NACD know by emailing NACD Communications Manager Sara Kangas at sara-kangas@nacdnnet.org with your district name, state and examples of how your project(s) made a difference on your landscape.
MSWCC Field Reps inform, educate at FARMtastic

STARKVILLE — MSWCC Field Reps Lee Smith and Robin Tisdale brought MSWCC’s Soil Tunnel and conservation education expertise to FARMtastic, an agriculture experimental learning activity hosted by the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

The program is designed to involve students in grades 2-4 in hands-on learning about the agricultural industry in Mississippi.

Walk-through exhibits, such as MSWCC’s Soil Tunnel as well as a Barnyard Bonanza,

Mighty Crops, Wonder Plants, Something Fishy, an Enchanted Forest and FARM Toys focused on the educational experience of students and provided resources to teachers to take to the classroom.

Sponsors included Monsanto and Farm Bureau-Mississippi.

For more information about the FARMtastic experience, contact Julie White at 662-325-8195 or email j.white@msstate.edu.

Great Delta Bear Affair to be held Oct. 27 in Rolling Fork, MS

ROLLING FORK — The Great Delta Bear Affair, an event named in the top 20 by the Southeast Tourism Society, will take place on Oct. 27, 2018, in Rolling Fork.

The event, which started as a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear, has grown into a celebration of the Delta and its history.

Activities include Teddy Bear Color Run, music, food, Selfie Scavenger Hunt, a Chuckburger Eating Contest, Chainsaw Woodcarver Demonstrations, Snakes of MS, arts and crafts, Indian mound tours, seminars, activities for children and youth, and fireworks. Call 662.873.6261 or visit www.greatedeltabearaffair.org.

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Mark E. Gilbert, CPM, Executive Director

Buddy Allen
Chairman
Tunica, MS

Gary Blair
Brookhaven, MS

Anita Cowan
Lamar, MS

Paul Myrick
Stringer, MS

Nick Elmore
Luvedale, MS

Pat Ragsdale
Walnut, MS

Charlie W. Morgan
State Forester
Jackson, MS

Andy Gipson
Commissioner of Agriculture
Jackson, MS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. Gary Jackson
Director, MSU-ES
Mississippi State, MS

Dr. George Hopper
Director, M.A.F.E.S.
Mississippi State, MS

www.mswcc.ms.gov

Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission
680 Monroe Street, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39202
Office: 601-354-7645
Fax: 601-354-6628
website: www.mswcc.ms.gov
Kathy Dougan, MSWCC
Public Relations Director
kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov
MSWCC announces implementation of three non-point source pollution projects

The MS Soil and Water Conservation Commission is currently administering three Nonpoint Source Grant programs in five Mississippi counties.

Through an agreement with the MS Department of Environmental Quality, MSWCC is implementing Best Management Practices, or BMP’s, within watersheds listed on the National 303-D list for impaired waterways, which are waterways that fail to meet one or more water quality standards.

In partnership with the MDEQ Basin and Nonpoint source branch, local branches of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Soil and Water Conservation districts, the projects are Jasper Creek in Union and Tippah counties; Little Topashaw Creek in Webster and Chickasaw counties; and Dry Creek in Covington county.

Primary goals are:

- To improve and protect water quality by demonstrating economic benefits and effectiveness of selected BMP’s;
- To reduce annual erosion to the greatest extent possible;
- To apply BMP’s to agricultural lands in the demonstration project area to reach desired outcome of reduced runoff and sedimentation, and;
- To inform and educate the public about BMP’s to benefit water quality.

Examples of BMP’s in these project areas include:

- **Grade Stabilization Structures** to stabilize the grade or control head cutting in natural or artificial channels;
- **Critical Area Planting** to establish permanent vegetation on highly erodible land or critically eroding land;
- **Establishment of Permanent Vegetation** to establish long-term stands of adapted perennial plants;
- **Streambank and Shoreline Protection**, which uses vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and erosion.
- **Heavy Use Protection Areas** to protect areas heavily used areas by livestock and farming operations by establishing vegetative cover, surfaces with suitable material, or installing needed structures;
- **Fencing**, when needed, to restrict livestock access to sensitive areas of land and water, as well as cross-fencing, and;
- **Tank or Trough** to provide suitable drinking water for livestock, and to properly distribute grazing to protect vegetative cover.

Examples of Best Management Practices implemented for impaired non-point source pollution waterways.

Landowners within these project areas are encouraged to contact the MSWCC at (601) 354-7645, or their local NRCS field office for more information.

### IN BRIEF

**Jeff Davis Co. Wildlife Seminar set for Oct. 11**

The Jefferson Davis County SWCD will host its annual Wildlife Seminar on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, at 6:30 PM at the Ezra Garner Memorial Building. The guest speaker is Drew Turner of Turner Brothers Taxidermy.

Admission is free, however, we ask you to bring your favorite wildlife dish, vegetable or dessert for admission.

Please call Hope Daley at 601-792-8601, ext. 101, to reserve your seat.

**Fall Flower & Garden Fest to be held Oct 12-13**

The Fall Flower & Garden Fest will be held Oct. 12-13 at the Truck Crops Experiment Station in Crystal Springs, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. Vendors will have food and drinks available for purchase. For more information, contact a MS County Extension Service office, or call (601) 892-3731.

**Great Delta Bear Affair on Oct. 27 in Rolling Fork**

The Great Delta Bear Affair will take place on Oct. 27 in Rolling Fork. For more information, call (662) 873-6261 or visit www.greatdeltabearaffair.org.

**Copiah Co. Wildlife Jamboree scheduled for Nov. 15**

Copiah Co. Wildlife Jamboree will be held on at 6 PM Nov. 16, 2018, at the Copiah County Extension Building in Gallman.

Guest speaker this year is Drew Turner, a taxidermist from Hattiesburg, who will entertain with stories about rural life in Amite County. The evening includes a wildlife game supper and door prizes.

**Urban Forestry Conference to take place Nov. 1-2**

The 31st Urban Forestry Conference & Awards will be held Nov. 1-2 at the MS Craft Center in Ridgeland. Email Donna Yowell, dyowell@msurbanforest.com to register.