

## Note From Michele



As we close out FY07, I encourage all of you to include your Earth Team activities in your accomplishment report. Earth Team volunteers are a valuable human resource to the agency. Your efforts in managing the program, training staff, recruiting and supervising volunteers is appreciated and assists our field staff in accomplishing their goals. I personally want to thank all of you for your work during the year and I look forward to working with you again in FY08.

The National Earth Team Office staff continues to work on the action items from our 2-year business plan. We will be looking for volunteers to assist us with various projects during FY08 and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Participating on a national work group will increase your knowledge, provide you with an opportunity to impact the program, and possibly meet some new people. We will notify you of these opportunities via a message to the National Earth Team E-List.

I am still optimistic that the new volunteer application form and the new volunteer tracking system will be available the first quarter of FY08. Our participation on the Federal Interagency Team for Volunteerism was very beneficial during FY07. By combining the resources of other Federal agencies that support a volunteer program we have been able to accomplish a great deal.

I want to remind you that October 15th is the deadline for the Earth Team Status Report and October 31st is the deadline for the National Earth Team Award nominations. Feel free to contact the National Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Once again, many thanks for all of your work during FY07!

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# Earth Team Volunteer Becomes Farm Service Agency Employee

By Christy Robinson, Volunteer Coordinator, Mississippi

Jessica and her fiancé, Skip, were visiting the Booneville USDA Service Center one day last fall getting a newly acquired farm put into their name. She was introduced to the staff in the Booneville NRCS office: Phil Purvis, District Conservationist, L. C. Taylor and Stephanie Douglas.

Jessica was finishing up her Master's degree in Agribusiness Management from Mississippi State University and needed a place to serve an internship. Jessica had earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science from Mississippi State University prior to working on her Master's degree. Jessica was new to Prentiss County and wanted to work in the area and meet people from the county. She also thought it would improve her chances of employment in the agricultural field. Soil Conservationist Stephanie Douglas told her she could sign up as an Earth Team volunteer in the Booneville office. Stephanie had been an Earth Team volunteer prior to landing a position with NRCS.

Jessica began her Earth Team volunteer experience in January 2007. While on the job, she learned about the history of NRCS, assembled folders for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, completed field visits with district technician Eddie Woodruff, called landowners to set up appointments to review their EQIP contracts and assisted with surveying ponds and grade stabilization structures.

She also assisted with water quality monitoring on Bear Creek in Tishomingo County and with sorting trees by species during a Tree Sale in Prentiss County Soil and Water Conservation District.



*Jessica receiving the 2007 Individual Earth Team Volunteer award from Area Conservationist Tom Heard*



*Jessica visits with a Tishomingo County Landowner*

Jessica was able to help district employees Betty Eaton and Emily Tanner prepare for the Annual Wildlife Supper held in Prentiss County. Jessica learned skills needed to operate ARC-GIS, a mapping system used in the NRCS office. She developed a power point presentation that she used during her dissertation. From Jessica's experience, she prepared a thirty minute presentation for six advisors; she passed with flying colors.

Another interesting fact about Jessica is that during this time, she was also planning a wedding. She was married to Skip Glidewell on May 19, 2007.

Jessica was nominated for the Area 1 Earth Team Volunteer Individual award and was selected as the winner.

From her work experience as an Earth Team volunteer, Jessica has been hired with the Farm Service Agency. She had hoped that her experience would help on her resume, and it did! The director said that not many people who apply have an agricultural background, much less experience with NRCS. Immediately, she was able to begin helping FSA with their mapping process.

Thanks, Jessica, for a great experience and we wish you much success in your new job!

# Soil Sampling for Arsenic Analysis Project

By Betty Stibbe, State Volunteer Coordinator, Wisconsin



*Chanc Vogel, Soil Scientist and Jenna Rhea, Earth Team Volunteer sampling the soil for arsenic*

Chanc Vogel, Soil Scientist at the Richland Center Office had the opportunity to take Volunteer Jenna Rhea to the field to do soil sampling for the Arsenic Analysis Project. While sampling the soil, Chanc was also able to teach Jenna about the necessary tools used for digging.

He used two different types of shovels and it wasn't long before

Jenna realized her tennis shoes were not the appropriate gear for a day's work in the field. Jenna says that the soil sampling was very interesting and a great experience which helped her learn about the different types of soil.



*For more information contact Bonnie Allely at 1-888-LANDCARE x 105 or [bonnie.allely@ia.usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.allely@ia.usda.gov)*

## Daughter of Budget Officer Serving as an Earth Team Volunteer

By Mary Hess, State Volunteer Coordinator, Illinois

There's a new fresh face around the State Office in Illinois these days.....

Her name is Viktoria Roemer. Viktoria's mom Lisa is the Budget Officer at the state office. Viktoria is a sophomore at Bement High School and is volunteering hours at the Champaign State Office. Viktoria is assisting Management Support Services with some filing maintenance, Public Affairs Staff with some laminating projects and the Ecological Sciences, Engineering and Soil staffs with administrative and clerical assistance.

Viktoria enjoys drawing, music (she plays the cello), cruising, photography and web design. She loves science - especially biology and genetics. When asked why she wanted to work for NRCS, she said, "To learn and explore new things."

So, if you're in the Illinois State Office, be sure to say, "hello" to their newest volunteer, Viktoria. We are glad to have her at NRCS!



*Viktoria Roemer*

# Earth Team Volunteers Make a Difference

By Bonnie Long, State Volunteer Coordinator, Idaho and Pauline Bassett, Caribou SWCD Administrative Assistant

On April 18, 2007, 28 Earth Team volunteers from the North Gem High School in Bancroft, Idaho worked side by side with professionals from the Natural Resources Conservation Service Soda Springs Field Office, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and the Caribou Soil Conservation District. The students and two advisors volunteered their time to help plant willows along a stretch of Twenty Four Mile Creek in Southeastern Idaho to help landowners restore beneficial uses of the Portneuf River and to conserve our natural resources.

The students were split up into four groups and rotated about every 20 minutes. They were taught about the geology in the area, how to cut and prepare willows for planting, run a water jet stinger and the history of the Chesterfield area.

These Earth Team volunteers made a decision to help make a difference. They volunteered their time and efforts to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality in their area.



*North Gem High School students getting ready to plant willows*

## Vegetative Restoration Project on Atsena Otie Key

By Keisha Brown, District Conservationist, Florida



*Bronson Service Center staff and Earth Team volunteers collect spartina grass transplants from the southwest coast of Atsena Otie Key*

After many years of hurricane damage, the shore of Atsena Otie Key, an island off the coast of Cedar Key, has been placed on the state of Florida's critical erosion list. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the island is rich in historical and cultural resources. Understanding the value of these resources, the Levy Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD) stepped in and sought the assistance of several conservation partners to address the problem.

With financial assistance from the Suwannee River Water Management District and technical assistance from DEP's Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve,

LSWCD coordinated a vegetative restoration project on the island. NRCS Earth Team volunteers from Cedar Key School collected salt-tolerant spartina grass and black mangrove slips from one side of the island and transplanted them on the northwestern beaches of Atsena Otie. The spartina and black mangroves put out dense systems of shallow roots that collect debris and hold the sandy soil together.

With nearly 50 volunteers working on the project for four days, Earth Team volunteers donated almost 800 hours to this project.



*Earth Team volunteer plants spartina grass on the northwest beach of the island*

# Volunteers Assist in Native Plant Initiative

By Gary Fine, Volunteer Coordinator, Louisiana and Vickie Fontenot, State Volunteer Coordinator, Louisiana

Native plant species occurring in Louisiana have evolved over thousands of years in response to local environmental influences including fire, drought, flooding, grazing, and mankind. The realization of accelerated land loss and need for restoration, remediation, and preservation of Louisiana's coastal wetlands became apparent in the late seventies. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita impacted the state coast-wide in 2005 and brought about national and international attention to Louisiana's coastal land dilemma.



*Gary Fine near gulf bluestem foundation plant materials*

The Louisiana Native Plant Initiative (LNPI) is a partnership between various federal and state agencies, universities, and private organizations throughout Louisiana. LNPI began in April 2004 with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRCS and McNeese State University (MSU). A partnership was formalized to develop a comprehensive plant materials program to collect, increase, test adaptation and performance, and release for commercial production locally adapted native plant materials for use in Louisiana. Nicholls State University (NSU) became a partner to advance LNPI in March 2006. NSU (southeast Louisiana, Thibodaux) and MSU (southwest Louisiana, Lake Charles) have provided property for assembling, planting, testing, and increasing Louisiana native plants.

Much of the work done at NSU is completed with Earth Team volunteer assistance. Gary Fine, retired NRCS Plant Materials Specialist and Earth Team volunteer, works with and recruits NSU students as Earth Team volunteers for the LNPI project. Most students work during fall and spring semesters. The Biology Department director has been assigning an undergraduate student to work at the Farm.

During this past semester, Shaun Harris, an employee with NRCS at the Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, LA. and current student at Nicholls State University, donates his time after classes to the LNPI at the University AG Farm. Another recruit is Trevis Olivier, a graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology with a marine concentration at Nicholls State University and an Earth



*Shaun Harris maintaining fencing for test plots of plants for a Timbalier Island Planting*

Team volunteer for the LNPI. His interest as a graduate student is learning the different components involved with coastal restoration and resource conservation in southern Louisiana. Trevis states that after he completes graduate school his ambition is to develop a career in coastal restoration or resource management. Shaun and Trevis, while working under the LNPI with NRCS and the Earth Team, have gained valuable experience and knowledge. Some of their duties with the LNPI include maintaining vegetation plots of different native grasses and the shade house, both located at the Nicholls AG farm. These tasks consist of planting, cutting grass, tilling, spraying, other weed control strategies, seed collection and other various tasks as needed.



*Trevis Olivier holding plant trays for transplanting young seedlings*

For more information on this project, please visit the PLANTS website: <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program website: <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.

# Natural Resources Day at Hackberry Flat

By Andrew Bennett, District Conservationist, Oklahoma

The Tillman County Conservation District and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service hosted a Natural Resources Day at Hackberry Flat for fifth grade students of Tillman County. All schools in Tillman County were invited to participate. A variety of activities were used to educate students about natural resources. Wildlife conservation and management was discussed by Bryant Farris of USDA-Wildlife Services and Kelvin Schoonover of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, while Earth Team volunteer Sharon Bennett discussed the migratory birds that travel through Oklahoma and the importance of wetlands to those species. Students also created plaster casts of wildlife tracks, assisted by Glenda Moore of the Tillman County Conservation District with help from the Earth Team volunteers of the Frederick FFA. Robin Pugh of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation discussed survival in the outdoors, while Matt Barnes and Andy Bennett of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service discussed the importance of water conservation and the use of prescribed fire to improve rangeland health. Aaron Henson, Micah Treadwell, and Tammy Stewart of OSU-Extension used a watershed model to demonstrate the effect of various changes in a watershed on water movement and erosion. LeRoy Sharp of the Tillman County Conservation District, Tony Schreiner of the NRCS, and members of the Frederick FFA helped coordinate activities. A total of 100 students from the Frederick and Grandfield schools attended.

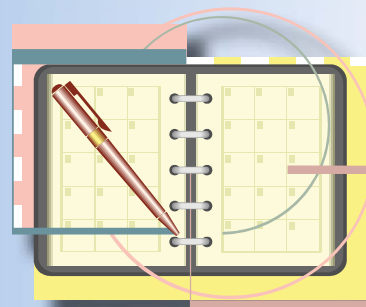


*Clay Salisbury, Oklahoma NRCS Soil Scientist, educating young people about soils in Tillman County*

“We feel it is an important part of our work to educate our young people about the natural resources we have in Tillman County, and how they can help protect them for the future,” said Andy Bennett, NRCS District Conservationist.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 15, 2007	Annual Earth Team Status Report Deadline
October 31, 2007	National Earth Team Awards Nomination Deadline
November 13, 2007	Earth Team Quarterly Teleconference 10:00 am & 1:30 pm Central Time
February 12, 2008	Earth Team Quarterly Teleconference 10:00 am & 1:30 pm Central Time
April 15, 2008	National Mid-Year Status Report Deadline
April 22, 2008	National Earth Day
April 27 – May 3, 2008	National Volunteer Week
May 13, 2008	Earth Team Quarterly Teleconference 10:00 am & 1:30 pm Central Time
August 12, 2008	Earth Team Quarterly Teleconference 10:00 am & 1:30 pm Central Time



# Earth Team Volunteers Lend a Helping Hand to Idaho Wetlands Project

By Dastina Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator, Idaho

“It was our largest wetlands planting project to date, and we owe much of our success to the volunteers,” stated-Cleve Bagley, Soil Conservation Technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He was referring to a special team of young adults from Upper Valley Options, a rehabilitation center for adults with physiological and mental disabilities, and students from Brigham Young University-Idaho majoring in agriculture. They teamed up to assist NRCS in the planting of thousands of native wetland plants on a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) project in Rexburg, Idaho.

The project surfaced when local landowner Byron Thomason contacted NRCS for assistance to convert his wet, marginal farmland into a permanent wetland. Thomason’s main priority was providing a home for wildlife habitat. Bagley assured him that the wetland would address wildlife habitat, filter out pollutants, control erosion and recharge ground water. However, to make it happen, they would need to plant 3,500 native plant species on 240 acres of wet agricultural land. After learning about the project’s benefits to the environment and community, both teams enthusiastically volunteered to help. Once on site, they hopped out of their vans and went to work.

“We worked the whole gamut. We planted trees, laid down a weed mat over the trees, cut holes in the mat where trees were planted, and pulled trees through,” said Scott Birkinbine, President of Upper Valley Options. “My clients thought it was one of the neatest opportunities that they’d ever had. They can look back at the project years from now, and know that they had a part in it.”

Although the weather was cold and stormy, 25 volunteers worked a total of 12 hours each over a three-day period to complete the planting project in May. Bagley was impressed. “These volunteers have proved that sometimes the only thing that is needed for success is a helping hand.”



*Volunteers lay weed barrier down to prevent weeds from growing around the trees and shrubs on the wetland.*



For additional information on this project, contact Cleve Bagley, 208-356-3218, extension 113, or Dastina Johnson, 208-378-6978.

*After the trees are planted, volunteers finish the wetlands planting by adjusting the weed barrier around the trees*

# My Summer Job

By Sherry Finkel, Earth Team Volunteer, West Virginia

The thought of working under three bosses and three government agencies appeared to be an overwhelming task for a simple summer job, particularly when that job was a volunteer job. Definitions, paperwork, and acronyms swarmed between my ears as a constant buzzing reminder of the confusing summer ahead of me. I envisioned the conflicting demands of three feuding bosses stretching my 5'2" arm span to NBA length proportions.



*Sherry Finkel takes a soil sample*

Fortunately, my preemptive nightmares were nullified on my first day of work. I was named an NRCS “Earth Team Volunteer” who worked in conjunction with the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) and the Monongahela Conservation District (MCD). Peg Reese, my official NRCS mentor, shared me with Patty Phillips and Brad Durst. I was assigned one boss to work for each day. The system took off without a glitch. Instead of stretching me into a pretzel, my three bosses worked to broaden my mind.

I was privileged enough to assist Peg on a trip to the “All Hands on Decker’s Creek” day camp where we spent the day educating children about the importance of soil management and watershed quality. Peg even allowed me to prepare lessons on topography and the water cycle. When we were not in the field, I assisted Peg in organizing paperwork for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. I was thrilled to know that I was contributing to such an important conservation measure. Peg’s knowledge about soils and environmental sciences seemed infinite, and it was a pleasure to converse with her on countless topics. She often spent the time to sit down and talk with me, despite her busy workload. Our conversations have strengthened my fervor for working in the environmental field.

I also accompanied Brad Durst into the field. We collected soil samples from various farms in the Monongahela Conservation District. As we traversed acre after acre, Brad taught me the complexities of soil sampling and nitrogen testing. After learning of my interest in marine studies, Brad took me to a Save Our Streams educational event. Visiting stream reclamation sites throughout Tucker County was by far the most incredible experiences of my summer. I was overwhelmed by the natural beauty, as well as the cooperative efforts of landowners and various agencies to maintain the streams.

My work with Patty Phillips exposed me to all sorts of administrative matters involving the Monongahela Conservation District. I was able to help Patty with filing and mailing paperwork along with many other odds and ends. One task was to help create a display highlighting District activities and accomplishments. Patty also introduced me to the District’s board of supervisors at the monthly board meeting. I was so fortunate to be able to work for such a generous and appreciative boss who went out of the way to make me feel comfortable.

After a summer of working for three cooperative, informative, appreciative bosses, my workplace qualms have disappeared. I never imagined that the alphabet soup of government acronyms would take on meaning in my brain. I never imagined that working for three bosses would run so efficiently. At the end of the summer, the only part of me that had been stretched was my mind. Too bad...I always liked basketball.



*“All Hands on Decker’s Creek” Day Camp*



# My Win-Win-Win-Win Summer

*By Peg Reese, State Volunteer Coordinator, West Virginia*

One of the primary business rules is that an employee/volunteer shouldn't have two supervisors as that can cause confusion, conflict and stress. So why was Sherry Finkel (see page 8) placed in the potentially difficult position of having not two, but three, bosses? And would I recommend that others take this action?

Sherry had just finished her first year as an environmental studies major at Bucknell University when she contacted us about volunteering. During our initial phone conversation, Sherry indicated that in exchange for volunteering four hours each day, she wanted to learn about conservation. Having just tried to place other volunteers with professionals, I knew that I wouldn't be able to place Sherry with one of the usual staff. I could use some help, but not four hours every day. Another complication is that I had many days out of the office.

As I work in the same building as Patty and Brad, I knew that they could also use some help. When approached, they both said their need for a volunteer was sporadic. That's when I decided to buck the "business rule" by having Sherry work for all three of us.

Having made the decision, we worked out an agreement that would work for all four of us. First, it was agreed that I was her primary supervisor. Next we posted a calendar on a bulletin board where we marked what days we needed Sherry. We also agreed to make Sherry's volunteer experience rewarding and educational.

It worked because:

- \* All four of us got along well and communicated with each other.
- \* One glance at the schedule let all of us know who Sherry would be working with on a specific day
- \* We were flexible. For instance, when Sherry worked with Brad out in the field, he would often work eight or more hours a day. If two of us wanted help on the same day, a simple discussion normally revealed whose need was greater.
- \* When none of us had a high priority/immediate task that needed Sherry's attention, we had a list of other less time specific tasks that Sherry could accomplish
- \* All of us appreciated being able to have Sherry work with another person when we needed to attend meetings.
- \* All four of us gained from this arrangement.

Would I repeat this experiment in breaking the rules? Yes, as long as the conditions were right to make it another win-win-win-win experience!

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## Did You Know About Volunteer.Gov/Gov?

The mission of the Volunteer.Gov/Gov Web portal is to connect people with public sector volunteer opportunities to help Build America's Communities of Service. Volunteer.Gov/Gov is a partnership among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, State of New York Division of Veterans Affairs, the Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S.A. Freedom Corps. Aimed at providing a single, easy-to-use web portal with information about volunteer opportunities, the site allows agencies to add volunteer opportunities and allows potential volunteers to search for opportunities by keyword, state, activity, partner, and/or date range. For more information on utilizing this recruiting resource, contact Alan Benge at (515) 289-0325, extension 104, or e-mail [alan.benge@ia.usda.gov](mailto:alan.benge@ia.usda.gov)



# SoilView CD Team

*By Jill Clothier, Iowa*

Cartographic Technician Michelle Wall, Secretary Jill Clothier and Earth Team Volunteer T.J. Burt have teamed up at the state office to send out 1,241 copies of SoilView computer software compact disks to field offices in the past six months. SoilView is a companion to a county's soil survey which includes aerial photos, soil types, Iowa corn suitability index, an Access database and a built in version of ArcView software. By the end of this year, all Iowa counties are expected to have their own digitized version of SoilView.

*Left to right: T.J. Burt, Michelle Wall and Jill Clothier at the Iowa State Office preparing to send out SoilView CDs*



## Splash, Seep, Drip and Dribble!

*By Mary Giles, Volunteer Coordinator, Missouri*

Giggles are heard in the young audience as Ima Drip and Yura Trickle enter the stage to the sounds of running water and the flush of a toilet. A chase ensues and the notorious water-wasters create havoc as they chase Andy across the stage and into the audience. Suddenly a voice is heard that stops them in their tracks, "Ah ha! So it's you two again! I should have known you were the cause of the distress call! Professor Saveitt's my name; conserving water's my game. And you must be the young man trying to get these two under control!"

Despite the antics of these hilarious characters, Professor Saveitt successfully teaches Andy why water is so important and how he can help conserve it at home. The audience, comprised primarily of three to ten year old children, erupts in spontaneous laughter as the conservation message is taught through entertaining drama and video. At the conclusion of the 30 minute program, a "Your Hometown Clean Water Tour" poster is given to every child as a reminder of the ways water can be conserved at home.

Splash, Seep, Drip and Dribble was the result of a partnership effort between the NRCS South Missouri Water Quality Project and the Springfield Greene County Library Summer Reading Program. The program was written by Brian Seagraves (Yura Trickle), an Earth Team volunteer with the NRCS South Missouri Water Quality Project in Ozark, MO.

Additional Earth Team volunteers in the cast were Denise Schriver (Professor Saveitt) and Lauren Schriver (Ima Drip). Caleb Bunselmeyer, a talented 12 year old middle school student, performed the part of Andy. The program was performed in July 2007 at multiple library locations in Springfield and Greene County. It was an outreach/education expansion of the South Missouri Water Quality Project's Early Childhood Education Program and reached over 500 individuals who attended the ten performances.

Parents and educators who attended were pleased with the creative techniques used to engage and inform the children. Lindsay Murnan said, "This program was an innovative way to teach young children the importance of water use and conservation. Thank you!" Sonja Jones followed with, "This was great! It reinforced what I have been trying to teach my children for months!" And finally, Julie Huyck offered, "Very informative and yet entertaining to a young crowd. I'll be scheduling a classroom visit for my kindergarten students."



*Left to right: Denise Schriver, Brian Seagraves, Lauren Schriver, Caleb Bunselmeyer*

# Delivers LANDCARE

NRCS National Publications & Forms Distribution Center

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

Looking for an NRCS Earth Team brochure? Need to order a display? Have a question about the Earth Team? Then you need to contact the National Earth Team and LANDCARE Office. The staff can answer your Earth Team questions; they keep inventory and process orders for NRCS publications, forms and displays for NRCS employees and the general public. Below is a listing of Earth Team items that are currently available from LANDCARE:

## Publications:

- Join the Earth Team Brochure (700 per box)
  - Student Volunteers Can Make a Difference Brochure (1,800 per box)
  - Earth Team Bookmark
  - Earth Team A Part Of The Team Fact Sheet (Print on Demand Item)
  - Earth Team – Definition of a Volunteer Fact Sheet (Print on Demand Item)
  - Instructions for Completing the Group Application Form Fact Sheet (Print on Demand Item)
  - Needs Assessment Fact Sheet (Print on Demand Item)
  - Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator Guide (available to state and area coordinators only)
  - Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator Binder (available to state and area coordinators only)
  - Earth Team Handbook for Volunteer Supervisors (available to NRCS employees only)
  - Earth Team Volunteer Orientation Guide (available to NRCS employees only)
  - Earth Team Identification Card (Print on Demand Item and available to NRCS employees only)
  - Earth Team Certificate (available to NRCS employees only)
  - Earth Team Thank You Card (available to NRCS employees only)
- Exhibits: (All available for NRCS employees only)
- Earth Team Vertical Banner Stand
  - Earth Team Floor Display
  - Earth Team Table Top
  - Earth Team Horizontal Banner



Orders may be placed by calling 1-888-LANDCARE (1-888-526-3227), or by visiting <http://landcare.nrcs.usda.gov/> To view all National Exhibits visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/exhibits/> For reservations, call Alan Bengé at 1-888-LANDCARE extension 104.

Earth Team and LANDCARE staff include Michele Eginoire-National Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Allely-Volunteer Liaison, Alan Bengé-Program Assistant and Venessa Alvarado-Office Assistant.

# Ordering National Publications and Forms Online

Visit our web page at <http://landcare.nrcs.usda.gov> where you can “View” all forms or publications, “Browse All” or “Search” for a specific item. If you are looking for a specific item or material on a specific topic, use the “Search” field.

Hint: you can type “Earth Team” to view all Earth Team items

It is recommended that you read the item descriptions carefully because several of our items are available:

- Only to NRCS Employees (can only be ordered by NRCS Offices).
- Only as “print on demand” (customers must e-mail [landcare@usda.gov](mailto:landcare@usda.gov)).
- Only as a PDF (can only be downloaded).
- May be restricted to limited quantities.

Enter the quantity that you wish to order in the “Copies Requested” field which represents “individual copies” unless noted in the item description. If an item has 500 copies per box and you wish to receive the entire box place “500” in the “Copies Requested” field.

You MUST select the “Update Basket” button each time you add an item to your basket or adjust the quantity. If you fail to “Update Basket” the “Copies Requested” field will default back to one copy. When your order is complete – select the “Checkout” button.

Once you have selected the “Checkout” button, you will be asked to enter your shipping information. Please provide a complete mailing address including Suite #'s, Room #'s and Apartment #'s (PO Boxes are not allowed). Select the “Next” button when you have entered your shipping information.

When you have successfully placed an order you will get a confirmation that reads “Your order has been received.”

If you see an error screen that reads “Page Cannot Be Displayed” you may have tried to order a PDF ONLY or a Print on Demand item. Just select the “Back” button on your browser and review your order for any of these items – adjust your order accordingly and select “Place Order” again.

All orders are shipped within 3-5 business days and NRCS material is provided to you at no charge!

## Submissions to VolunteerVoice

Articles and photos for publication should be e-mailed, via your State Volunteer Coordinator, to [venessa.alvarado@ia.usda.gov](mailto:venessa.alvarado@ia.usda.gov). Submissions can also be mailed or faxed to NRCS at 5140 Park Ave, Suite C, Des Moines, IA 50321, fax (515)-289-4561. Please include photographs to illustrate the article. JPEG images are preferred; slides and prints are accepted. If you are using a digital camera, remember to set the camera to the highest quality resolution. Please submit stories as Word files and limit to one page in length. Submission deadlines for 2008 Fiscal Year VolunteerVoice are:

- \* First Quarter 2008 - Distribution December 2007. Deadline to submit: 12/01/07
- \* Second Quarter 2008 - Distribution March 2008. Deadline to submit: 03/01/08
- \* Third Quarter 2008 - Distribution June 2008. Deadline to submit: 06/01/08
- \* Fourth Quarter 2008 - Distribution September 2008. Deadline to submit: 09/01/08

For more information on the Earth Team and the VolunteerVoice, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or call 1-888-LANDCARE.

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