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# West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
February 2007

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Xavier Montoya was Acting State Conservationist of West Virginia from November 26, 2006 to January 20, 2007.

[...More Info](#)

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## [From the Field](#)

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### [Johanns Unveils 2007 Farm Bill Proposals](#)

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has unveiled the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2007 Farm Bill proposals (USDA news release).

[...More Info](#)

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### [Chief Lancaster Visits WV](#)



Arlen Lancaster (NRCS Chief), Bill Puckett (Deputy Chief), and Michael Golden (Director of the Soil Survey Division) visited WV on December 18.

[...More Info](#)

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### [Fall Engineering and Technology Symposium \(FEATS\)](#)



WV hosted the annual Fall Engineering and Technology Symposium (FEATS) for the North East.

[...More Info](#)

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### [Our Future Flies on the Wings of Pollinators](#)



The posters build awareness of the importance of pollinators to our survival and to provide information for access to additional information concerning pollinators.

[...More Info](#)

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### [The National Ash Seed Collection Initiative](#)



The loss of all of America's ash trees is a real possibility. An effort is underway to gather seed from populations of native ash tree species nationwide—the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative.

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### [Bits and Pieces](#)

2007 Appalachian Grazing Conference, 2007 Environthon, *New Emergency Watershed Protection Program* brochure

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### [Useful Web Links](#)

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### [Civil Rights](#)

Random Acts of Kindness Week, Black History Awareness Month and Women's History Awareness Month

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## Retirements



Roger Boyer retired from the Potomac Headwaters RC&D office after 16 years.

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## Meet

Jude Jardine, Tammy Egerstrom, and Jackie (Stewart) Byar.

[...More Info](#)


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## Personnel News

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## Upcoming Events

The WV Master Calendar is now a shared calendar in Outlook for all employees to view. This calendar will be updated daily, weekly and/or monthly as the editors add information.

See WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV330-6-9 at  [http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/archive\\_bulletins/fy-06/330-6-9-MasterCalendar.pdf](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/archive_bulletins/fy-06/330-6-9-MasterCalendar.pdf) (231 KB) for instructions to access the master calendar.

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To submit news items for the May *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to [Carol Lagodich](#)

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office

75 High Street Room, 301, Morgantown, WV 26505

304-284-7540 | fax 304-284-4839

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Kevin Wickey, West Virginia State Conservationist

NRCS field offices are located throughout West Virginia

Visit <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/> for addresses and phone numbers.

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## Message from Kevin Wickey

*By now all of you probably know where I've been in my career with NRCS, but I'll just review a few highlights.*

- *I've got a degree in Forestry from Michigan Technological University (MTU) which is about as far north as one can get in MI•about 275 inches of snow a year, the record is over 400 inches.*
- *I started out as a GS-4 Student Trainee in 1984, and was a District Conservationist (DC) during the height of the 85 Farm Bill implementation period. I did lots of Highly Erodible Land (HEL) plans and wetland determinations.*
- *Next I was a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist and later a Resource Inventory specialist in the MI state office.*
- *From there, I had the opportunity to work in Fort Collins, CO at what is now the NRCS Information Technology Center (ITC). I was a Project Manager for several projects, all involving GIS. Probably my biggest contributions included developing the standard for the Common Land Unit with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and leading a few prototypes including the development of the soil data viewer and the mobile planner. You know those products now as the Web Soil Survey and the Customer Service Toolkit.*
- *Next, I went to Washington DC and led the Service Center Implementation Team effort on Business Process Reengineering (BPR). There were many BPR projects•some you're familiar with now include SCIMS, CAMS, CST.*
- *And then I went home. Back to MI where I was the Asst. State Conservationist for Technology for the last 8 years.*

*I grew up on a farm in southern MI and have very deep roots in farming. I am an urgent person, but I like to think of myself as fair. I put a lot of trust in people who*

*work for me. I expect them to tell me when I'm wrong, and I expect them to support a decision once it is made.*

*I'm not here to make a big changes, but changes are probably going to be forced on us. Some of these changes may be painful at times. We'll get through them together.*

*I don't know anyone here really well. I'm terrible at names (including my kids), so don't take it personal if I can't say your name sometime in a meeting in front of everybody.*

*I have four rules I want to give you:*

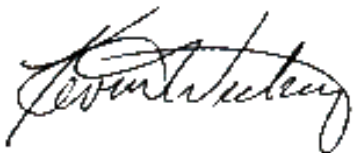
- *Achieve every goal*
- *Meet every deadline*
- *Spend every dollar*
- *Be fair to everybody*

*I want to say something about our partners. We can't do this job alone. We need their help as well. We have to find ways to work together.*

*Our customers want more than cost share dollars. NRCS has a long history of providing high quality conservation plans and technical assistance and I believe our customers want our technical assistance. We're in danger of losing that if we don't continually improve the technical capacity of our employees. So I will expect that of each of you.*

*I have an open door policy. Feel free to stop in at any time. But if you need more than a few minutes, for the consideration of others, please schedule an appointment.*

*Thank you for making me feel welcome. Thank you also for the good work you did last year. It is summarized in the [2006 Annual Report](#).*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Wickey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kevin Wickey

State Conservationist



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## West Virginia Farewell



Xavier Montoya was Acting State Conservationist of West Virginia from November 26, 2006 to January 20, 2007. Bill O'Donnell presented a going away gift. He returned to Indiana where he is now serving as the Acting State Conservationist. Below is his farewell note.

*Wow it is amazing how quickly two months goes by. I feel like I have known many of you for years and I thank you for your friendship and guidance and for making my tenure here, short as it may have been, a memorable and fulfilling experience. I did not know what to expect when I was asked to come to West Virginia as acting State Conservationist, and I am sure you all did not know what to expect when you first heard my name. But we all made it through together, and I think, or at least hope, that we are all better for it, I know I am.*

*I have talked with your new State Conservationist Kevin Wickey many times and I have let him know that he is in very good hands with a group of dedicated and hard working employees. I have told him many times that he does not know how lucky he is, but he will soon find out. Please make Kevin feel welcome, as I know you all will, but also make him see just how good he has it in West Virginia.*

*And so it is with very mixed emotions that I bid you all a fond farewell and for those of you in the South Area a fond "See Y'all Later", as now I am one. You all have truly made an impact in my career but most importantly in my life. I know that you all will make Kevin feel at home but I ask you to please show him the dignity and respect that you have honored me with in the past few months and I know that he will help you and the agency take conservation to the next level in West Virginia.*

*Farewell and good luck and I am sure that I will see many of you in our travels through life with this wonderful agency.*





J. Xavier Montoya

Indiana NRCS

317.290.3200 ext 351 - Phone

317.290.3399 - Fax

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## From the Field

### Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Area

#### Show me the money

Mountain RC&D and WV NRCS earned over \$9,000 the first quarter of this year working on the Elk River Mitigation project. The money was earned by doing what we do best-- writing conservation plans that will help protect water quality in the Elk River Watershed. By the end of this fiscal year, these earning are expected to quadruple which will help ease this year's annual budget deficit.

Mountain RC&D, working with the Paint Creek Watershed and a local consulting firm, are developing a Stream Restoration Plan that will positively impact over 8000 feet of impaired Paint Creek. Natural stream restoration projects are planned from the community of Mahan north to Standard (were the Lower Paint Creek Watershed office) is located.

Mountain RC&D, partnering with Little Kanawha RC&D, Dell Corporation and Gift In Kind International were able to improve a hand-full of communities by acquiring 80 top of the line Dell printers for use by community non-profits. Non-profit organizations such as libraries, fire departments, title 1 schools, and other community service groups were eligibility.

For more information contact [Mike Gasper](#) at the [Mountain RC&D Office](#).

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### Mount Clare Service Center



#### Watersheds 4-H Conservation Topic

In December, Harrison County 4-H Leaders Association approached the Mount Clare Field Office about giving a presentation on watersheds. They had decided to choose, "Watersheds: What are they and why should we care?" as their annual conservation topic. LaRae Baker, Soil Conservationist, set up a PowerPoint presentation on the basics of watersheds, information about the West Fork River watershed, and how organizations like 4-H clubs can help protect and conserve our watersheds. She also handed out activities such as word searches, crossword puzzles and "how to make your own hydrologic cycle". The "Why should we care?" question was answered by teaching the leaders that everyone lives in a watershed and everyone lives downstream of someone else. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was given to the 4-H extension agent for use at local meetings. LaRae also offered to give the presentation to individual clubs. She will be with the Shinnston Lighthouse Club sharing information about watersheds on January 22, 2007. It is bring a friend night so there may be up to 15 4-H'ers plus many others in attendance. The 4-H Leaders Association learned there were so many important things about watersheds that they have decided to make this a two year topic.

For more information, contact [LaRae Baker](#) at the [Mount Clare Service Center](#).

### **Farm Bill Program Outreach**

Jeff Griffith did a Farm Bill Programs presentation at a Producer Group meeting held at the Harrison County 4-H Center. Approximately 20 producers were in attendance at the meeting.

For more information, contact [Jeff Griffith](#) at the [Mount Clare Service Center](#).

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## Johanns Unveils 2007 Farm Bill Proposals



The USDA news release is at [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/01/0020.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/01/0020.xml)

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### Fact Sheet: A Commitment to Rural America

The Administration's 2007 farm bill proposals represent a reform-minded and fiscally responsible approach to supporting America's farmers and ranchers. While the current law has served its purpose, the time has come to move forward with a farm program that is market-oriented and considers more than commodity prices alone when determining the appropriate level of government support. The proposals continue this Administration's commitment to increase conservation programs that protect our natural resources and focus support on renewable energy that will help to lead us to the President's goal of reducing annual gasoline use by 20 percent in ten years. Read more at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/01/0019.xml>

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### General Farm Bill Information



[Get the latest info on the Farm Bill](#)

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## Chief Lancaster Visits WV

Arlen Lancaster (NRCS Chief), Bill Puckett (Deputy Chief), and Michael Golden (Director of the Soil Survey Division) visited WV on December 18. A tour of Potomac River Watershed Flood projects was on the morning agenda.



John Wagoner, Potomac Valley Conservation District Chairman), Pat Bowen, Bill Puckett, Truman Wolfe (WV State Conservation Agency Executive Director), Mike Sykes (WVCA Watershed Management Director), Don Biller (Potomac Valley Conservation District Vice-Chairman), J. Xavier Montoya, Chief Lancaster, and Ed Kesecker met at Lost River Site 4.



Don Biller, J. Xavier Montoya, Chief Lancaster, and Ed Kesecker are pictured again along with Bill O'Donnell, Louis Aspey, Jonathan Hempel (Director, National Geospatial Development Center), and Bill Puckett. The flood control dam was completed in 1996.



Chief Lancaster, Ed Kesecker and Louis Aspey discuss Lost River Site 10.



The importance of WV partnerships is emphasized.



Ed Kesecker, Chief Lancaster, Christi Hicks, Pam Lupton, and Jared Beard at the Moorefield Service Center.



Chief Lancaster visited the WV State office in the afternoon. He discusses Farm Bill programs with JR Wolfe, Diana Doerr, and Herb Andrick.

The afternoon concluded with the Leadership Team hearing about Chief Lancasters three goals:

- Meet new challenges
- Make conservation easier
- Be accountable for the benefits of our practices

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The Future Flies on the Wings of  
**POLLINATORS**

## Our Future Flies on the Wings of Pollinators

The purpose of the posters is to build awareness of the importance of pollinators to our survival and to provide information for access to additional information concerning pollinators. These posters will be particularly useful for special activities in which we and/or our partners might be involved during National Pollinator Week, June 24-30, 2007. (The latest poster includes the cooperator logos: USDA, FS, NRCS, FWLS, DOI, US Botanic Garden, North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), and Plant Conservation Alliance.)

Additional copies will be available through LANDCARE, 1-888-LANDCARE, [landcare@usda.gov](mailto:landcare@usda.gov), <http://landcare.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Background: NRCS has been an active participant in partnership with a number of other Federal agencies and non-governmental parties in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) (<http://www.napcc.org/> or <http://www.pollinator.org/>). This involvement has provided NRCS the opportunity to become more informed about issues related to pollinator population declines being faced by Federal land management agencies and to discuss actions we may take, in a collaborative manner, to reduce any negative impacts of our activities upon pollinator populations.

In October 2006, NRCS and Forest Service hosted a one-day Pollinator Symposium followed by the two-day annual international meeting of the NAPPC membership. The Pollinator Symposium featured the release of a National Academy of Sciences report on the "Status of Pollinators in North America" ([http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt\\_briefs/pollinators\\_brief\\_final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/pollinators_brief_final.pdf)), the unveiling of a new pollinator stamp series that will be available in June 2007, and the signing of a proclamation by USDA Secretary Johanns in support of National Pollinator Week, June 24-30, 2007.

Contact: For further information, contact Doug Holy, National Invasive Species Specialist, (202)720-9096, [doug.holy@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:doug.holy@wdc.usda.gov).

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### U.S. Postal Service Unveils Pollinator Stamp



#### [U.S. Postal Service Unveils Pollinator Stamp](#)

The U.S. Postal Service recently unveiled four Pollination stamps at the North American [Pollinator Protection Campaign Symposium](#). The stamps, which will be released in summer, consist of four images arranged in two alternate and interlocking patterns.

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## National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative



The loss of all of America's ash trees is a real possibility. An effort is underway to gather seed from populations of native ash tree species nationwide—**The National Ash Seed Collection Initiative**.



In the event that the emerald ash borer cannot be contained, the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) is taking steps to see that the ash tree doesn't vanish forever. The Rose Lake PMC has initiated the National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative. An agreement has been established to store ash tree seed at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. The U.S. Forest Service has agreed to x-ray the collected ash seed to determine sound seed for storage. If the ash tree populations are completely decimated by the ash borer, the stored seeds can be used as the genetic base for work to re-establish ash trees for future generations.

The Rose Lake PMC is seeking volunteers to collect seed from ash trees throughout the U.S. in the growing regions of ash trees. Additional information on the initiative along with identifying and collecting ash seed is contained in the documents linked below.

<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc.html>

For more information contact [Barbara McWhorter](#) at the [WV State Office](#).



This item requires  [Adobe Acrobat](#)

 [WV NRCS emerald ash borer National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative poster](#) (386 KB).

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**Bits and Pieces****2007 Appalachian Grazing Conference**

The 2007 Appalachian Grazing Conference is scheduled for March 9-10 at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. Experts in livestock grazing will be presenting information to help cattle, horse, sheep, and goat producers increase profitability. The Conference is targeted for producers in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

The conference organizing committee is made up of volunteers and staff of the Ohio State University Extension Service, University of Maryland Extension Service, USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (Ohio and West Virginia), West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the West Virginia University Extension Service.

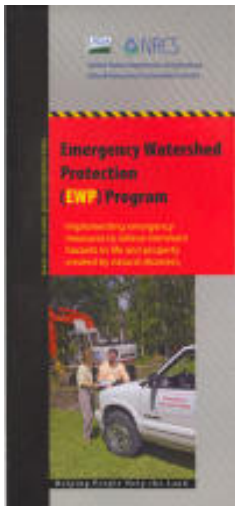
For more information contact Becky Casteel at West Virginia University Extension Service at 304-293-6131 ext. 4231 or [Becky.Casteel@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Becky.Casteel@mail.wvu.edu).

Conference brochure at [http://www.wvca.us/news/upload/wvca\\_publications/624.pdf](http://www.wvca.us/news/upload/wvca_publications/624.pdf)

**2007 Environthon**

This year's Environthon is April 26-27, 2007. This year the location is Canaan Valley. For more information go to <http://www.wvca.us/envirothon/>

***New Emergency Watershed Protection Program brochure***



A new *Emergency Watershed Protection Program* brochure is available. NRCS Field offices received a few in the mail. Additional copies may be ordered through <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov>, or by calling 1-888-526-3227.

[Emergency Watershed Protection Program brochure \(front\)](#)

(jpeg, 156 KB)

[Emergency Watershed Protection Program brochure \(back\)](#)

(jpeg, 165 KB)

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## Clarke new MA State Conservationist

Submitted by Peg Reese

A Former WV NRCS employee, Christine S. Clarke, has been selected to serve as state conservationist for Massachusetts.

[http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/news/news\\_Clarke\\_STC.html](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/news/news_Clarke_STC.html)

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## Useful Links

### WV Rural Development Newsletter

Find out what Rural Development is doing. See the January *Almost Heaven WV Mountain State Rural Express*.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wv/default.html>

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### Office of Personnel Management Pandemic Influenza Guide for Federal Employees

[http://www.opm.gov/pandemic/pandemic\\_guide/Pandemic\\_FedEmpGuide.pdf](http://www.opm.gov/pandemic/pandemic_guide/Pandemic_FedEmpGuide.pdf)

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**The West Virginia Conservation Agency** <http://www.wvca.us/index.cfm>

**The West Virginia Division of Forestry** <http://www.wvforestry.com/>

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## West Virginia's Civil Rights

*Life's most urgent question is: what are you doing for others?*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

### February 12-18 2007 is Random Acts of Kindness Week

A random act of kindness is a selfless act performed by someone for no reason other than to make people happier. An act of kindness can be large or small, but doing something is better than doing nothing at all.

"If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much, and most of all yourself."

Author: A. Neilen

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."

Author: Aesop

"Only a life lived for others is worth living."

Author: Albert Einstein

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate."

Author: Albert Schweitzer

"To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own."

Author: Anne Morrow Lindbergh

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Author: Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"Wise sayings often fall on barren ground; but a kind word is never

thrown away."

Author: Sir Arthur Helps

"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Author: Benjamin Franklin

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much."

Author: Blaise Pascal

More Acts of Kindness quotes at <http://www.actsofkindness.org/inspiration/quotes.asp>

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**February is Black History Awareness Month.** It started as Black History Week in 1926 because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the Black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Later on in 1976, as the nation reached its bicentennial, the week was expanded into an entire month. See <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html> for more information on Black History.

Like the quote at the top of the page, the following are by Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies - or else? The chain reaction of evil - hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really

cooperating with it.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

I have a dream that one day the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

More Martin Luther King, Jr. Quotes at

[http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/martin\\_luther\\_king\\_jr.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/martin_luther_king_jr.html)

Leonard L. Jackson is the Black Emphasis Program Manager. He may be contacted by phone at 304-284-7550 304 or e-mail at [Leonard.Jackson@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Leonard.Jackson@wv.usda.gov)

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### **March is Women's History Awareness Month**

Women's History Month is an annual declared month in the United States that highlights contributions of women to events in history. The annual event traces its beginnings to the first International Women's Day in 1911. In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of the event, Congress passed a resolution making Women's History Week a national designation. Congress legally expanded the focus to a whole month in 1987.

See <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html> for more information on Women's History.

Carol Lagodich is Federal Women's Program Manager. She may be contacted by phone at 304-284-4826 304 or e-mail at [carol.lagodich@wv.usda.gov](mailto:carol.lagodich@wv.usda.gov)

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## Retirements

### Roger Boyer

Roger Boyer retired from the Potomac Headwaters RC&D office after 16 years. *The Journal*, on their editorial page, summed up the success of Roger Boyers RC&D career.

Boyer has been one of the hardest working government employees to serve this area ever. He seemed to be everywhere and involved in everything. Always helpful, offering incomparable expertise and resources in so many diverse fields.

But he never sought the spotlight, never sought center stage. Because the whole idea of the RC&Ds is to involve local volunteers in the solutions, Boyer always pushed the volunteers to the forefront for the notoriety and publicity.

There is no doubt, and Boyer would be the first to say so, that none of the numerous projects undertaken by the PHRC&D would be possible without involvement of local volunteers, but we think the volunteers would say that their goals would not have been reached without the steady, guiding hand of Boyer.

One gets the feeling that Boyer truly and deeply believed in what he was doing and enjoyed doing it. The community will miss Roger Boyer, but we will have many reminders of his time here through the many projects he shepherded through of fruition.





The [DuPont Soccer Complex Green Parking Area](#), a PH RC&D project supported by the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD), a National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Conservation Fund grant, and the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Parks and Recreation Council was one of Roger's many successful projects. (From left to right: Rebecca MacLeod, Steve Catlett, Howard Butts and Roger Boyer).



Bill O'Donnell presents the traditional Fenton Glass retirement gift.

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## Meet . . .



**Jude Jardine,  
Soil Conservationist  
Point Pleasant FO**

Although my name is Judith, I'd rather you call me Jude.

I started working for NRCS in April 2004 as a Soil Conservation Technician in Hamburg, Arkansas. I wasn't totally sure what to expect when I accepted the position, but I did know I would be doing conservation and that's what I wanted. I studied biology and plant ecology in college, and had become involved in ecological research that taught me a lot, but left me feeling that I wasn't doing much to address the problems I was learning about. The hands-on work with NRCS is more satisfying because it is more direct. I guess I'm an action person.

I earned a B.S. and M.S. from what used to be called the Botany Department at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. During my tenure as a student, I accepted numerous part-time and temporary positions that provided field and lab experience in ecology and conservation. I conducted crop and soil research in Costa Rica, worked on a riparian corridor project in Missouri, worked on stream bank and mine reclamation projects in Ohio, and various forest ecology projects in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Later I accepted a Research Assistantship at the University of Georgia, and decided to work on a Ph.D. while there. I found out that I am not suited to the academic life and left for a position as Science Advisor to a watershed planning group in New York. While at UGA I conducted ecophysiology research in Tennessee, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. Since then my encounters with academia have been short term.

My parents were both raised on farms, but my farm experience as a child was limited to weekend and summer work as a farm hand for a variety of chores on family farms in central Ohio. I was a Small Animal and Garden Extensionist in the Peace Corp, and

started my own small diversified farm in southern Ohio when I returned from the Dominican Republic. My other farm experience includes a stint as Program Assistant with the Ohio State University Extension Service in Athens County, Ohio; farm hand on sheep and dairy farms; and research with a precision farming group at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.



**Tammy Egerstrom**  
**Supervisory Contract Specialist**  
**State Office, Morgantown, WV**

My name is Tammy Egerstrom, and I've only been an Egerstrom since July 25, 2005, when I married my husband Sean at the Chapel of Love in the Mall of America, in Bloomington, Minnesota (Minneapolis/St. Paul) area. Our "big" secret is that we were legally married a few weeks before the wedding with only a few people knowing since I couldn't keep a secret. Sean's dad is a pastor and has done many weddings, so we photocopied our Marriage Certificate before it was signed and we were going to sign the fake blank one at the ceremony. With all the craziness of the wedding ---I don't think anyone knew so we didn't have to do the fake signing. We have two children that we support: Alex from the Ukraine and Jennifer from the Philippines. When God decides it is time for us to have our own child/children, we will be excited.

Sean has two brothers and his one sister is expected to graduate from high school next year. His two brothers also got married in 2005, and his brother Steve's wife delivered their first child Abigail Faith in November 2006. My husband's family is in Minnesota and he has always been around his family so this move to WV was very sacrificial for him. Sean is a huge Minnesota Twins fan, so we'll see when/if loyalty changes. I'm sure you'll see our baseball jerseys come baseball season! Unlike Sean who grew up around his family, I have never really lived close to my family, so I'm excited to now be close to both sides of my family. Most of my mother's and father's side of the family are in Beauty, KY. I have an aunt and uncle, and cousins in Zanesville, Ohio and surrounding area. My sister Tina, her husband and three bulldogs live in Topeka, KS. Currently, my father and half brother and sisters are in Mt. Home, Idaho. My mother is retired and lives in KY. My father is retired Air Force, so yes....I'm a brat.

From my senior year of High School in 1986 until September 2001, I lived in Portland, Oregon. I was working for the Corps of Engineers, Contracting Office for several years when I accepted a promotion in 2001 and moved to St. Paul, MN. In June 2005, I accepted a position as a Contract Specialist with NRCS, in St. Paul, MN as a lateral because I was more interested in gaining different experience. I'm very happy to be here in Morgantown, WV and have zero desire to go to Washington, DC for a promotion...in other words...I plan to be here a while.



**Jackie (Stewart) Byars**  
**Great Kanawha RC&D Coordinator**  
**Cross Lanes, WV**

My name is Jackie (Stewart) Byars and many of you remember me from working in WV previously. But for those that don't or want an update, here is the scoop. I was born and raised in Walton, Roane County, WV on a 200 acre farm. We had a cow -calf herd of 20 and I raised truck crops during the summer for my FFA project. I attended WVU and earned a degree in Resource Management, with a major in Ag Education and minors in Agronomy and Animal Science.

I was recruited to the agency by Sam Sheets and Valerie Hannon. In FFA I was on a national land judging team. Sam saw my picture in the paper and called my family out of the blue to encourage me to look at SCS as a career. Thanks to Valerie I was able to get a WAE position in Huntington, and thus it began. I worked in Huntington for 2 summers. Following that, I worked for Steve Carpenter in the State Office Soils section for almost 2 years. NRCS then had a hiring freeze and I went to work for the WV Department of Agriculture in Charleston as a Marketing Specialist for Livestock for 2 years. When I did return to NRCS as a full-time employee, I worked in Martinsburg, Moorefield, and spent several months in Franklin as a soil conservationist. When I left WV, I went to work in VA as a DC and have spent the last 7 years there.

I married the month before I started in VA (that is why most of you remember me as Stewart), to a wonderful man named Scott. He was the Kanawha County Extension

Agent here in WV and worked in VA in the same capacity. He will be working for WV State University at Institute as an administrator for their revived Agriculture Extension Program. We have two children. Lily is 6 and Jack is 1 year.

We are very excited about being back in WV to be near family and friends. I look forward to getting reacquainted with all of you and working on projects for the Great Kanawha RC&D.

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**Personnel Updates**

(as of Feb 1, 2007)

Name	Action	Location	Change
Boyer, Roger	Retirement 01/03/2007	Potomac Headwaters RC&D	-
Darnell, David	Reassignment 01/21/2007	Beckley Field Office	Beckley Area Office
Davis, Laura	Reassignment 01/21/2007	Beckley Field Office	Summersville Field Office
Egerstrom, Tammy	Transfer/Promotion 01/21/2007	St. Paul, MN	Contracting Officer State Office
Lewis, Cherry	Name change	-	Formerly Cherry Dawson
MacLeod Rebecca	Reassignment 01/21/2007	Martinsburg Field Office	Potomac Headwaters RC&D
Van Lear, Mark	Reassignment 12/10/2006	Soil Survey State Office	Richmond, VA
Wickey, Kevin	Transfer/Promotion 01/21/2007	East Lansing, MI	WV State Conservationist

**West Virginia NRCS Employees Assisting Across the Nation**

Name	Home Unit	Location	Agency	Assignment	Date
Hamilton, Ray	Keyser Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	01/14-02/08/07
Allen, James	Kingwood Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	01/14-03/17/07
Allen, Michael	Petersburg Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	01/14-03/17/07

Butts, Howard	Martinsburg Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	02/11-03/10/07
Gardner, Rex	Mount Clare Service Center	LA	NRCS	EWP	02/11-03/10/07
Mitchell, Patricia	Parkersburg - West Area Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	01/21-02/17/07
Pyle, Matt	Philippi-East Area Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	02/04-04/07/07
Tamasco, Tom	Morgantown State Office	LA	NRCS	EWP	02/11-03/10/07

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