

Accomplishments

- Assisted the River Valley Regional Commission with securing \$240,000 in 319 Water Quality Funding for the Mountain Oak Creek Watershed. The grant monies will be used to reduce fecal coliform from livestock operations in Harris County. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) in collaboration with NRCS is ongoing.



- Two Rivers contracted with Georgia Soil Water Conservation Commission to conduct field tests using blended cover crops. The project will address and expand upon an important agronomic tool of using cover crops for soil health in agricultural production systems.



- Secured funding from Georgia Environmental Finance Authority to support No-till program and assist with purchase of new no-till drill.

- Continued the No-till Rent-A-Drill Program with member Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Area farmers took advantage of the nine (9) rental drills offered by Two Rivers and improved soil health on 1,655 acres.

- Provided \$6,500 to partner organizations to fund environmental education events that served nearly one thousand individuals.

- In partnership with GSWCC, completed rehabilitation work on six watershed dams to provide a safe environment for residents and landowners who immediately surround or live in close proximity to the dam.

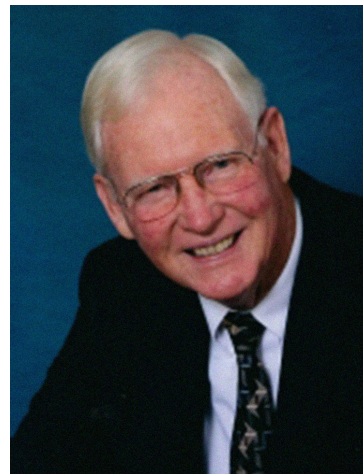


- In collaboration with Golden Triangle RC&D, Two Rivers conducted an Endangered Species workshop. Subject matter experts from Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Auburn University and Golden Triangle presented topics including sustainability of mussels, pollinator gardens and preservation of natural habitats.

VISION:

Vibrant Communities in Harmony with the Environment

In Memoriam



Mr. Harold Fallin

Mr. Harold Fallin, a longtime member of the Two Rivers RC&D board, passed away in January 2020 after a long and distinguished career of service to the agricultural community. A resident of Upson County, Mr. Fallin served as chair of the Georgia State Soil & Water Conservation and was a member of the Towaliga SWCD Board for over 3 decades. He also served on the Upson County Farm Bureau Board and other service organizations. Farmers throughout the state of Georgia are the beneficiaries of his commitment and service to agriculture.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Two Rivers RC&D Council, Inc.

Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a member-based, non-profit (IRS 501(c)(3)) that works in partnership with the private and public sector to develop and implement locally led environmental and economic projects throughout the 14-county membership area. Two Rivers serves residents of Butts, Chattahoochee, Fayette, Harris, Lamar, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Muscogee, Pike, Spalding, Talbot, Troup and Upson Counties, and the Lamar, Pine Mountain, Roosevelt and Towaliga Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Membership Services



EXPANDING WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES

Project WINGS (Wildlife Incentives for Non-game & Game Species) collaborates with utility partners and field representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist landowners and leaseholders interested in converting utility right-of-ways into wildlife habitat. In the 2020 registration cycle, there were 91 approved contracts with landowners across Georgia. Payments from partners Georgia Power, MEAG Power, Georgia Transmission and Atlanta Gas Light, to landowners increased to \$75 per qualified acre. Since 1998, WINGS has earned several national awards and provided nearly \$3.4 million dollars in corporate grants to individuals, creating 31,440 acres of new wildlife habitat.



SUSTAINING HEALTHY SOILS

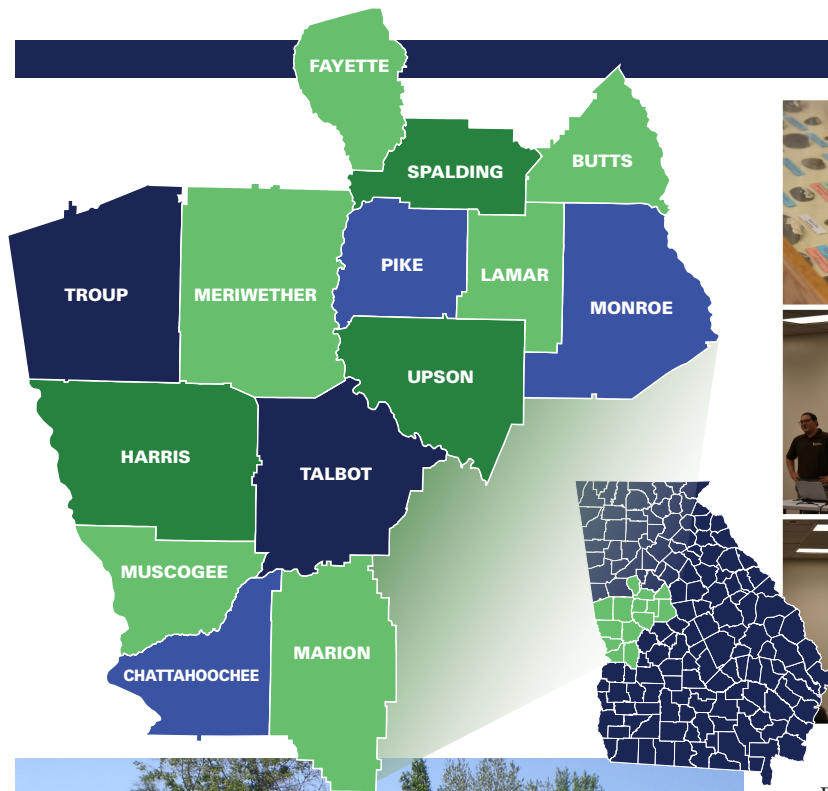
According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), use of no-till drills generates positive economic and environmental benefits for farmers who have adopted the method to manage their fields. The No-till Rent-a-Drill program offers landowners a way to plant with minimal soil disturbance. As part of its mission to serve the natural resource needs of West Central Georgia, Two Rivers has six and ten foot drills available for rental by farmers across the 14 county membership area. In 2020, Two Rivers demonstrated its commitment to serving producers by purchasing a new 7-foot Duratech drill for use by farmers in the Towaliga SWCD.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Serve the Human and Natural Resource Needs of West Central Georgia

For more details, contact Two Rivers at (706) 885-0101 or tworiversrcd@hotmail.com

TwoRiversRCD.org



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education is an essential component of Two Rivers' contributions to the communities served. During FY2020, Two Rivers, in conjunction with the SWCD's, sponsored these educational events: Lamar SWCD - Beef Cattle 101; Pine Mountain SWCD - Forestry Field Day; Roosevelt SWCD - Nature Field Day and Ag Fair, Towaliga SWCD - Feral Hog Trapping workshop and Golden Triangle RC&D - Endangered Species workshop.

FY 2020 TWO RIVERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Butts County
<i>Tommy Presley</i>
<i>Kip Washington</i> | Marion County
<i>George Neal, Jr.</i>
<i>Jody Grimsley</i> | Roosevelt SWCD
<i>Morris Jones, III</i>
<i>Vacancy</i> |
| Chattahoochee County
<i>Thomas Bickel</i>
<i>Jim Lawrence</i> | Meriwether County
<i>Tyrell Johnson</i>
<i>Alfred McCoy</i> | Spalding County
<i>Donald Hawbaker</i>
<i>Michelle Irizarry</i> |
| Fayette County
<i>Travis Hardy</i>
<i>Pete Frisina</i> | Monroe County
<i>Greg Tapley</i>
<i>Ira Watts</i> | Talbot County
<i>Ken Chapman</i>
<i>Carol Ison</i> |
| Harris County
<i>Susan Andrews</i>
<i>Red Beall</i> | Muscogee County
<i>Skip Henderson</i>
<i>Donna Newman</i> | Towaliga SWCD
<i>Danny Meadows</i>
<i>Vacant</i> |
| Lamar County
<i>James Rigdon</i>
<i>Sean Townsend</i> | Pike County
<i>Rodney Hilley</i>
<i>Todd Goolsby</i> | Troup County
<i>Richard English</i>
<i>Lewis Davis</i> |
| Lamar SWCD
<i>Andy Bush</i>
<i>Russ Walters</i> | Pine Mt. SWCD
<i>Frank Jordan, Jr.</i>
<i>Harvey Milner</i> | Upson County
<i>James Ellington</i>
<i>Gene Hammond</i> |

ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY

The Rural Road Stripe program offers county governments an affordable alternative for painting highway center and edge lines and installation of raised pavement marker service at a cost lower than the industry standard. Training in ATSSA traffic control certification for road department staff is also available.

Two Rivers Board of Directors



(l-r) Harvey Milner, Danny Meadows, Ken Chapman, Tommy Presley, Morris Jones III, Frank Jordan (not pictured, Richard English)

Environmental Stewardship



Through a collaborative effort with Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC), working under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Two Rivers has entered into contracts to manage performance of site preparation and rehabilitation work at watershed dams across Georgia. Work includes heavy clearing, tree and stump removal, mulching, seeding and other tasks necessary to provide a safe environment for residents and landowners who immediately surround or live in close proximity to the dam.



SOIL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION PLANTINGS & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Two Rivers completed one NRCS grant and received approval for another that will provide additional funding for a five year period to promote soil health on cattle farms. Best Management Practices primarily focused on overseeding pastures with various winter annual plants and legumes. Educational outreach is also being provided through 24 statewide field days, pasture walks and workshops; two forage conferences; four multi-session Grass Masters courses; two advanced grazing courses and an intensive grazing management course.