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The *Council Connection* is a monthly newsletter providing information on local activities, technology transfer, up

## Conference Highlights

The Southwest States RC&D Association recently held its annual meeting. Council members and staff attended the event and returned with insights into their project goals. In addition to tours and presentations, planned concurrent sessions showed how various organizations can make a difference in their communities by doing more with less. At the conference attendees learned that Federal funding for RC&D could no longer be provided office space, equipment and the services of consultants will appear imminent. Councils will face an unprecedented challenge to implement projects that address the resource concerns of their communities. Councils represented at the conference had always been self-sufficient. They did not rely on office space or government-appointed personnel. Their activities were supported by committed council members and project partners. In anticipation of the future, we are exploring options for the future, and considering ways to fulfill its mission: ***culture and stimulate economic opportunities, while emphasizing sustainability.*** If you would like to join our efforts, please contact us at [acadianarc@hotmail.com](mailto:acadianarc@hotmail.com)



## Where “Green is Brown”

... and where “POOYIE” is not just another Cajun expletive... The story of trees thriving in the middle of a swamp. Ken and Phyllis Arceneaux have planted forty acres, Ken and his st

**oak Heart**

# LOCAL CONNECTION

*for a Changing Environment*

newsletter that provides current information on Acadiana RC&D Council upcoming events, conservation news and highlights from projects.

national conference in Dodge City, Kansas. Acadiana RC&D Council members met and a better understanding of how other councils achieve their goals. During sessions, keynote speakers emphasized how individuals and organizations are doing what they love and believe in. Coincidentally, during the conference, funding for RC&D Councils nationwide may be cut. Thus, RC&D Councils will no longer have a Federal coordinator. At this writing, those funding cuts will force councils to become self-sufficient while continuing to develop and protect their regions. It was encouraging to also learn that a few councils are truly self-directed, and relied on the volunteer efforts of their members. In the face of sweeping change, Acadiana RC&D Council members are committed to their mission: ***“To create partnerships that support local conservation and the increasing protection of the natural environment.”*** If you would like to learn more, visit [www.acadianaconnection.com](http://www.acadianaconnection.com).



The place is known as Oak Heart Farms because of two old oak trees that form a heart-shaped driveway. Once his father's family land, the farm is now owned and operated by a thriving business venture there. On the farm, they produce a natural soil amendment being sold as the



trademarked "POOYIE". (hay, straw, manure, rice h conditions. Ken emphasize philosophy because it rem soil-restoring commodity. Healthy soils also retain gr greenhouse gas emissions a second product, "Cajun (pepper, etc.) clippings and raw material render a rich, moisture retention and soil

consistently greater crop and garden yields with less artificial fe POOYIE territory on the web at [www.OakHeart.info](http://www.OakHeart.info).

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## Council Member Success

Mike Huval serves on this council as a representative of St. Ma now, however, serving his parish in a whole, new capacity. He election, becoming the state representative from District 46, tak finish out the legislative term of Fred Mills, Jr.

Mike has exhibited a long-time commitment to his community. I St. Martin Parish government since 1995 as Vice president of t then as Chairman of the parish council, a post he held for ten ye served, usually in a leadership capacity on numerous church ar organizations. He owns a small business and is a life-long resic

Huval says he owes his victory to all the people he serves. "I'm but the people helped me become their next state representativ another election in the fall after new districts are drawn, Mike vc "a representative for all the people in the new district."

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## Student Success

Every year Acadiana RC&D 2011 at ULL's Model Sustainable Agriculture Complex at the C& from around the state competed on Saturday, April 2 for the opp the largest high school environmental education competition in Math, Science and the Arts - Blue Team, will travel to New Brur

Among the ten teams that competed were local school teams fr Teams 1 and 2 from Arnaudville. After months of instruction and forestry and this year's current issue. Students are additionally fresh and salt water estuaries.

Louisiana Envirothon sponsors include Entergy; ExxonMobil Ba Agriculture and Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Environme Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts; Acadiana RC& Louisiana Section; Louisiana Environmental Health Association Association. To learn more, visit the Louisiana Envirothon web:







Students from across the state gather early in the day to start the competition.



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## Get Involved! (reminder of upcoming events)



**April 23, 2011 starting at 9:00 a.m.** — Especially needed. Otherwise, organizers are stocked with water and trash bags. Bring Bayou Teche and partners of The Teche Arnaudville boat launch, and work will end



**May 12, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm** — This training is at the Parks and Recreation Center. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer or need equipment can contact Woody Martin at [woody@teche.org](mailto:woody@teche.org)

## Quotable

The very process of the restoration which we become attuned to



Questions or Comments? Call 337-8  
To

Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. and economical concerns of south central Louisiana. Our resources in Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafa

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First Place: LSMSA—Blue  
News Brunswick – bound!



Live Oak H.S. #3 works as a team  
at the Soils testing site.

## its where your efforts are needed!)

Dayou Teche Clean-up Day. Volunteers with boats are  
s will do their best to place you on one, and keep volunteers  
y your own boots, work gloves and muscles to help Cajuns for  
Project with another clean-up effort. The starting point is the  
d around 3:00 p.m.

Training for citizens in water quality monitoring. Location for  
n Oak Room, 300 Parkview Drive in New Iberia. Persons  
or helping with funding support for sampling and safety  
[rmartin2sc@gmail.com](mailto:rmartin2sc@gmail.com) or 337-298-8380.

ng the land to health is the process through  
Nature and, through Nature, with ourselves.

~Chris Maser, *Forest Primeval*

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ur primary focus is on the conservation, development and utilization of natural  
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