



GREENSBORO ECHO

THE VOICE OF RURAL AMERICA

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The Official Newsletter of Winston County Self Help Cooperative, Louisville, MS

WCSHC.com



2009 Christmas Gala, Pg. 3

2010 SRAC in 72 Hours



WCSHC member Thomas Coleman will be the presenter at the 2010 Saving Rural America & Youth Conference

Winston County Self Help Cooperative Saving Rural America and Youth Conference (SRAC) will occur this week January 8-10, 2010 at the Louisville Coliseum in Louisville, MS. Weather conditions are unpredictable, and nevertheless, WCSHC is pushing forward for a grand celebration to help save rural America. The collard greens are pre-cooked with smoked ham-hocks. The catfish is cleaned, and chicken will be marinated in spices on Wednesday afternoon according to Mary A. Coleman. We are preparing cornbread muffins and making southern sweet tea for consumption. We are ready with fire in our bellies for this yearly gathering. The conference will start on Friday 10:55am at the Louisville Coliseum 201 Ivy Avenue Louisville, MS. Friday's

activities includes, workshops, fashion show, fish-fry and gospel singing. Saturday event starts 6:00am breakfast consisting of sausages, eggs, biscuits, grits and juice. As individuals consume breakfast Frank Taylor-Winston County Self Help Cooperative Team Leader will deliver a fire in your belly session at 6:25am. Conference workshops will start 6:55am. Mr. Pearlie Reed USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration will deliver the luncheon address at 11:35am. The youth conference will start Friday 1:00pm at the Imperial Palace 5710 Hwy 14 West Louisville, MS. To view conference agenda and lodging information visit www.wcshc.com.

*** Please Wear Warm Clothing ***

Taylor Speaks

7th Annual Community Outreach Conference, Huntsville, Alabama



Community Outreach Conference participants

By E'licia L. Chaverest, Program and Marketing Specialist, Small Farms Research Center (AAMU)

On November 19-20, 2009, the Small Farms Research Center at Alabama A&M University hosted its 7th Annual Community Outreach Conference, in Downtown Huntsville, Alabama. This year's conference theme was "Revitalizing Communities through Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Agriculture."

Before the sessions began, the Center kicked-off the conference with a farm field day which was held at the Winfred Thomas Research Station, in Hazel Green, Alabama. During this time, participants learned about raising small ruminants, value-added agriculture products, soil management, shiitake mushrooms production, water catchment system, and fruit tree production. Following the farm field day, the two day sessions began with specialists and extension agents focusing on agricultural risk management

Taylor Speaks,
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PLEASE RSVP if you are planning to attend 2010 Saving Rural America & Youth Conference's Saturday trip to Philadelphia, MS (In 1964, the Slaying of the Three Young Civil Rights Workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner took place here.

Contact Frank Taylor email: ftaylor@bellsouth.net or by phone: 601-291-2704

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SAVING RURAL AMERICA

Announcements

- **(SAVE THIS DATE)** Saving Rural America Conference January 8-10, 2010, at the Louisville Coliseum-Louisville, MS. Visit **WCSHC.com** for more information.

LODGING INFORMATION

Homegate Inn

851 Metts Street
Louisville, MS 39339
662-773-4005

Lake Tiak-O'khata

213 Smyth Road
Louisville, MS 39339
662-773-7853

Quality Inn, Louisville

201 Highway 15
N. Louisville, MS 39339
662-773-9090
866-538-0187

WCSHC OFFICERS

Frank Taylor

President

ftaylor@bellsouth.net
601-291-2704

Hubert Nicholson

Vice President

hubertnicholson@bellsouth.net
662-736-0497

Dorothy Harper

Youth Director

jeanh29@bellsouth.net
662-312-8004

Omerio Dotson

Treasurer

Carol Williams

Secretary

Gloria Moore

Finance Secretary

Co-op mailing address:

P O Box 23813
Jackson, MS 39225
Phone: 601-291-2704
E-mail ftaylor@bellsouth.net

Taylor Speaks,

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M- Taylor with conference participants

strategies and business development issues. Both days were long, intense and in-depth, and provided a great wealth of information to all participants. The audience consisted of 115 participants who included adults, professionals, entrepreneurs, producers, landowners, community leaders, and extension agents. The majority of participants were from various cities around the state of Alabama, as well as representation was from Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma.

Opening the conference was Mr. Carl Butler, Chief Office of Early Resolution and Conciliation Division our keynote speaker. Followed by Dr. Laurence Crane, Vice-President of Education and Communication of National Crop Insurance Service and Dr. Paul Brown, Associate Director for Rural and Traditional Program, Alabama Cooperative Extension System were our luncheon speakers. Our banquet speaker Mr. Frank Taylor, President of Winston Self-Help Cooperative Inc. graced our audience by speaking from his heart about being a farmer, highlighting the common problems and solutions, and making the best of what you have. Many participants were inspired by Mr. Taylor. He motivated participants to desire more, seek more, and achieve more to propel their farm operation and community. There is always great passion and love for farming when Mr. Taylor speaks.

Overall, the conference was a huge success and this was due to the many resource speakers and our audience. If you would like to attend our upcoming conferences, seminars, or receive our newsletters please feel free in contacting us at 256-372-4970 Small Farms Research Center or by email elicia.chaverest@aamu.edu. We want to hear from you!

WCSHC's 2010 Kick-off Meeting



Peggy and Alonzo Miller

By Frank Taylor

On December 29, 2009 people continued to celebrate the holiday season by canvassing shopping malls for discount sales. Some individuals developed plans for a year's end grandiose celebrations while others finished-off collard greens and candy yams from Christmas dinner. However, the Winston County Self Help Cooperative's

fervor commitment to help save rural America propelled 35 members to assemble at Louisville Coliseum for WCSHC's 2010 kick-off meeting. "We are here on the last Tuesday of this decade to boost off WCSHC's 2010 work-plan according to co-op member Larry Miller. The kick-off meeting presents an opportunity for broad participation because of the holiday season. Our members and supporters are not working; therefore, we seized this moment to augment our meeting strategies".

The kick-off meeting centered on finalizing preparations for 2010 Saving Rural America and Youth Conference January 8-10, at the Louisville Coliseum in Louisville, MS. Jean Harper WCSH Youth Director, stated "we are ready and revealed an extensive agenda of planned activities. We are working in conjunction with Dennis Murray, Alcorn and Mississippi State Extension Programs to

WCSHC's 2010 Kick-off Meeting,

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WCSHC Going Green in 2010



By Frank Taylor

The Winston County Self Help Cooperative going green in 2010 to reduce humankind's carbon foot prints and preserve Mother Earth's natural resources through a shared community's commitment. The co-op will work collectively with local utilities

associations, conservation districts, universities, private foundations, National Wildlife Federation and Mississippi Wildlife Federation to formalize a carbon reduction strategy. WCSHC will help famers design and implement strategies to reduce carbon emissions from their farm practices. WCSHC will work in conjunction with Alcorn State and Mississippi State Extension Programs to calculate methane gas emissions released by members' cattle herds. Additionally, WCSHC will seek research partners to utilize excess farm waste and fashion long-term farm plans to incorporate solar and wind energy which will help reduce farm operating expenses.

Winston County Self Help Youth Group will engage in recycling and green workshops to stimulate interest in the 2010 going green effort. Youth members will craft individual family's plan to serve as a model projects in their communities to energize other families to participate in WCSHC's 2010 going green effort.

2009 Christmas Gala



Robin Matthews

Winston County Self Help Cooperative Annual Christmas Gala occurred on Saturday morning December 5, at extension office in Louisville, MS. Members and supporters dressed in crimson and black signifying the arrival of the Christmas holiday season. Robin Matthews and team decorated the walls and tables with beautiful Christmas ornaments. Robin stated, "We started preparing for this event in October because this is a special time of the year for our members to reflect on 2009's achievements and give thanks for being alive".

The co-op held their year's end meeting prior to the start of the gala. Issues discussed, fire safety workshop December 16, at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Noxapater, MS, kick-off meeting December 29, at coliseum and saving rural America & youth conference January 8-10, 2010.

The Winston Self Help Youth Group delivered words of welcome and serenaded participants with Christmas melodies. Elder George Miller espoused words of encouragement and hope for 2010. The gala ended with a sumptuous meal prepared by WCSHC supporters and youth members served as waiters.



Youth Members Serenaded

WCSHC's 2010 Kick-off Meeting,

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create a successful youth conference". Gloria Moore accentuated the working theme by saying, "we are ready to display our southern hospitality and generate hope for the next generation of farmers through shared experiences". New member Roy Brookshire informed members of several opportunities to purchase vegetable seeds and supplies collectively. Brookshire highlighted Vidalia Onions and fruit trees as the first project to pursue in 2010. Also baby chicks are projected for distribution in the second week of January for members and project partners. The meeting concluded with WCSHC members contributing funds to the families victimized by fire in Starkville, MS.



New Member Roy Brookshire



Larry and Dean Miller Grandchildren

WCSHC JANUARY 2010 CANDID SHOTS

Winston County Self Help Cooperative members participated in Tuskegee's Professional Workers Agriculture Conference December 6-8, 2009 in Tuskegee, Alabama



~2009 Christmas Gala Photo Gallery~



Gloria Moore and Lynette Coleman



Dean Miller Hums Joy



Thomas Coleman and Bobby Hardin

Winston County Self Help Cooperative Presents the 3rd Annual **Saving Rural America & Youth Conference** *“Opportunities in Changing Times”*

January 8, 9, & 10, 2010
Louisville Coliseum-Louisville, MS

Come home and reconnect with Mother Earth's natural resources by learning from experienced farmers, landowners and resource providers. WCSHC will provide an atmosphere of learning, networking and strengthening family values to help save rural communities. Right here and right now is your opportunity to bring your entire family and obtain skills needed to make a positive impact in where you live and work.

Friday's Workshops:

- Tips on Purchasing and Financing Land
- Quilting and Canning Demonstrations
- Carbon Sequestration
- Herd Management
- Youth Conference

Fun Activities:

- Modeling your Farm Clothes
- Storytelling Hour
- Fish Fry
- Gospel Singing

Saturday's Workshops:

- Small Fruits Maintenance
- Backyard Gardening Techniques
- Managing Small Animals (Goats and Sheep)
- Hands on Demonstrations with Animals
- USDA Update
- Marketing Vegetables

Saturday's Special Event:

- Tour of Philadelphia, MS – In 1964; the Slaying of the Three Young Civil Rights Workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner took place here.

Sunday's Workshop-Policy Forum:

- Creating Legislation for the 2012 Farm Bill

Leave the 2010 Conference with
FIRE IN YOUR BELLY



SRAC'S 2010 PARTNERS

- Alabama A & M University Center for Forestry and Ecology
- Alcorn State University Extension Program
- Black Belt Foundation
- Federation of Southern Cooperatives
- Heifer International
- Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
- MS-Farm Service Agency
- MS-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- MS-Rural Development
- Mississippi State Extension Service and College of Veterinary Medicine
- National Network of Forest Practitioners
- National Wildlife Federation
- Southern Echo Incorporation
- U.S. Forest Service
- YDABCINC

LODGING INFORMATION

Homegate Inn
 851 Metts Street
 Louisville, MS 39339
 662-773-4005

Lake Tiak-O'khata
 213 Smyth Road
 Louisville, MS 39339
 662-773-7853

Quality Inn, Louisville
 201 Highway 15
 N. Louisville, MS 39339
 662-773-9090
 866-538-0187

ENTRY REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Number _____

Name of your Organization _____

Check all that apply: Farm Enterprise _____ Cattle _____ Timber _____ Poultry _____ Sheep _____ Bees _____

Vegetables _____ Swine _____ Orchard _____ Berries _____ Goats _____ Other (Please describe) _____

\$10.00 registration fee for farmers includes meals and materials. USDA, extension, non-profits and foundation personnel \$20.00. Registration deadline December 20, 2009. Visit our website for more conference information www.wcshc.com or contact **Frank Taylor 601-291-2704**.

PLEASE WEAR WARM CASUAL CLOTHES

Complete this Form & Mail along with a Check Payable to:
Winston County Self Help Cooperative
 P.O. Box 23813
 Jackson, MS 39225

