

Sue Adams Is Named National RC&D Program Assistant of the Year



Sue Adams, second from the right, accepts RC&D Program Assistant honors from National RC&D President Sharon Ruggi. Pictured also are Awards Chairman Robert Harbison, on left, and OD Chairman George Ingram.

It has been an amazing year for Sue Adams, veteran program assistant for the Old Dominion RC&D Council. After being named Virginia's Assistant of the Year, followed by the Southeast Region winner, Mrs. Adams traveled to Washington DC in February of 2006, and was awarded national honors for being the 2005 Outstanding Program Assistant by the National Association of RC&D Councils. She received her award during the awards luncheon of the National Leadership Forum. As an employee of USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Mrs. Adams has assisted the RC&D Council for the past 15 years. George Ingram, chairman of Old Dominion RC&D Council accompanied Mrs. Adams to Washington DC and stated, "We are extremely proud of Mrs. Adams for receiving national recognition for the outstanding job that she always does." According to Mrs. Adams, "Getting a national award was a joy beyond any expectation I ever had." In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Adams offered extra thanks to key individuals she felt had helped her most in her career.

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OLD DOMINION

Resource Conservation & Development



Annual Report 2006

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Our Mission

The Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit organization with a mission to initiate and coordinate resource development and conservation programs that enhance the social, economic and environmental quality of the region.

Our Vision

A locally driven organization with a diverse and talented council empowered to work cooperatively within the region to improve the environment and quality of life of its citizenry.

Farm Safety Camp Enters Second Year

Old Dominion RC&D Council was a sponsor to two agriculture safety days this year—one in the northern portion of the council’s area and the other in the south. The Farmville Fairgrounds was the location of the safety day held in the north. A Farm Safety Day was held here the previous year. The other was held at Southside Virginia Community College, Alberta Campus in Brunswick County.

Patrick Murphy of Virginia Department of Forestry first approached the council two years ago with the idea to hold a safety day. There was strong interest to include all the counties within the RC&D area. Focusing on the youth of rural areas, this program is designed to increase their awareness of the potential dangers and safe techniques when using farm equipment,



Campers learn about medical evacuation by helicopter.



A demonstration using a mannekin and a power take off unit makes a big impression on the campers.

pesticides, ATVs and firearms to mention a few. This is the second year the Council has provided help with this event when at that time the event was entitled Farm Safety Day Camp. This past spring, at the National Association of RC&D Councils Conference, Chair George Ingram gave a presentation to people from all over the nation explaining the event and how to get involved in developing a safety day in their state. Plans are in the works for another event next year.

“We are so grateful to our local sponsors who recognize the benefits of this camp for our youth and have supported us with their donations.”

Patrick Murphy

West Point Cadets Learn Military Tactics from Wilson-Kautz Raid

Over 140 years ago, during the final days of the Civil War, Union General Ulysses S. Grant ordered Generals James Wilson and August Kautz to tear up the railroad line from Petersburg to the North Carolina border, and to burn the train depots along the way. This section of railroad was the vital supply lines to Confederate General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia which lay under siege in Petersburg. The Union Army’s three day march through Southside Virginia has become known as the Wilson-Kautz Raid. The raid had only minor short term success for the Union forces with a high loss in soldiers’ lives. Six years ago the Council highlighted this historical raid by developing the Wilson-Kautz Driving Trail

retracing the footsteps of these soldiers taken nearly a century and a half ago. Motorist visiting the trail are able to drive the region’s back roads through nine counties and the City of Petersburg. The Trail offers 26 roadside pull-offs with large metal interpretation signs recounting the battles and major skirmishes which unfolded during this raid. The concept for the council developing this trail and others like it was to provide a economic stimulus to local communities by attracting visitors to our area. The gas these visitors purchase, the restaurants they dine in, the shops they visit and the hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts they patronize all provide additional money to the local economy. It is estimated that thousands of people have come to Southside Virginia to visit. Now, for the second consecutive year, cadets of the

Cavalry and Scout Club at West Point Military Academy have traveled to Southside Virginia to study the military tactics used by both the Union and Confederate forces. West Point is using them as a field exercise for cadets to learn strategies that are still of excellent value in today’s military. The cadets develop their own tactical theories and then compare them to the actual ones used during the raid. So vital is this staff ride to study raids to the education of cadets at the Academy that with an endowment created by the family of Captain Andy Houghton, a West Point graduate who died in Iraq in 2004, future West Point cadets will be able to travel to Southside Virginia each year and learn from past successes and failures. The ride has been designated the Captain Andy Houghton Memorial Staff Ride in his honor.

Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail Looking for New Sites

Results from a feasibility study conducted by Dr. Larissa Smith are back and there are enough historical sites with unique connections to early education in the region for the trail to be expanded. Over the past year, Dr. Smith, a history professor with Longwood University, has been searching for sites which were not listed as potential sites considered when the trail was first established.

The next step will be for her to develop an in-depth research of the region to find as many additional sites as possible. Then another committee will be developed to determine which sites to include on the expansion of the Trail. There are several items to consider when selecting the additional sites.



Dr. Larissa Smith talks to the council about additional sites for the Trail.

First, is how is the site related to education and was this education unique enough to warrant adding to the trail? Next item to consider is there enough information and early photographs available to develop an

interpretative sign? And lastly, owner permission to place a sign at the site is vital also.

Adding these sites is a major undertaking. The brochures will need to be redesigned to include the additional sites, the interpretative signs at each of the existing sites will need to be redesigned and new signs will need to be developed and designed. The timeline for this to happen is approximately five to ten years, when the existing interpretative signs are weathered and in need of being replaced. This is the logical and most cost effective time to make these changes.

Edmunds Park Wetland

A wetland was developed at the Edmunds Memorial Park across the highway from the South Boston Speedway. An old farm pond from before the land was converted from a dairy farm to the present day county park was used.

By installing a water control structure so the water level can be adjusted and repairing the pond’s dam, the wetland was created. By next summer, wetland plants, some of which were already present, will start growing. Insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds will be attracted to the area and soon call this place home. The idea, which started with Ward Burton and The Ward Burton

Wildlife Foundation, was to establish a wetland for people to visit and see the beauty of wetlands and to learn the benefits they have.

Old Dominion RC&D Council had several partners involved for this to happen. In addition to The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, Halifax County, the owner of the park, agreed to the idea of developing the wetland. They supplied a backhoe and other equipment, workers and materials to build a walkway and observation deck within the wetland. The Halifax Soil and Water Conservation District surveyed the area and installed the control structure for which US Fish and Wildlife Service provided the

funding. Old Dominion RC&D Council searched and found the funding, coordinated with the partners to arrange meetings, coordinated with the various partners to see the project through. In the future, when funds are available, interpretation signs will be installed explaining the benefits to us of wetland and the plants and animals that live there.

We hope through this project and others like it, the stigma that wetlands are mosquito-infested swamp filled with trash will fade way and the true benefits of wetlands will start to be known.

Council Members Attend National Extension Conference on Tourism

In September, the council was invited to give a presentation at the National Extension Tourism Conference held in Burlington, Vermont. Council members Stephanie Heintzleman, Sherry Swinson and Sarah Puckett, along with Michelle Olgers, executive director of Virginia's Retreat, presented "Heritage Trails in Southern Virginia: Stimulating Regional Tourism" to an audience from all over the United States and Canada. This partnership between the Council and Virginia's Retreat, a marketing consortium, has led to the development of four driving tours - the Civil War Trails, Wilson-Kautz Raid, Lee's Retreat and the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail. By combining the region's vast and unique history with tourism, visitors stimulate the economy of our rural counties and a city, yet allow the counties to maintain their rural character. Using Civil War events and civil rights struggles for equal education, visitors can retrace the history that helped shape our country. One of these trails has grown into a three-state initiative. The driving trails provide visitors with the information needed to identify and locate historic sites; interpretation signs describe the



From left are Stephanie Heintzleman, Michelle Olgers, Sarah Puckett and Sherry Swinson.

historical and cultural significance of each site. The signs provide the visitors with a wealth of information and photographs to learn from and make the trails very appealing.

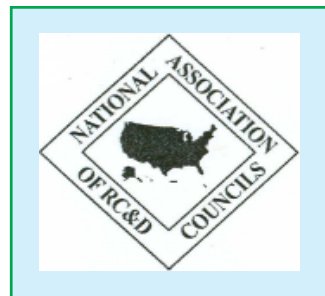
The spin off is that while they are leisurely traveling through Southern Virginia following these trails, visitors stop to purchase fuel, dine at our local restaurants, and shop at local stores. What tourists take home with them are memorable experiences and items they purchased during their visit; what they leave behind is money which drives the local economy.

While at the conference, they were able to listen to other speakers give their presentations gathering ideas and learning concepts of how communities from all over the nation and several in other countries have developed tourism. Some of the topics focused on agro-tourism and ecotourism, historic preservation, environmental education and nature trails. The council members returned with a wealth of information and new ideas to share with their communities.

Circle of Diamonds Status Awarded by National Association of RC&D Councils

The National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils announced that the Old Dominion RC&D Council in Virginia has been awarded a membership in the National Circle of Diamonds Program.

As a member of the Circle, the Old Dominion RC&D Council has demonstrated its impact on the quality of life within its local area. Circle members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly



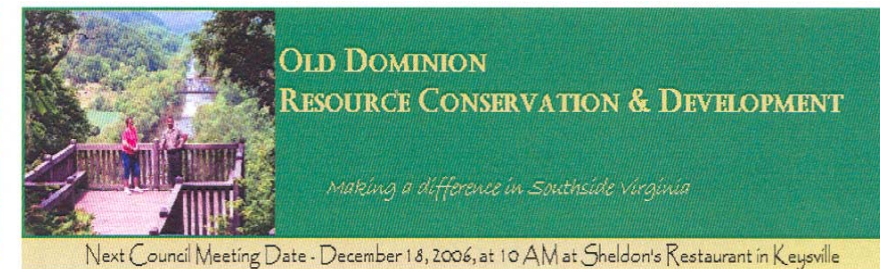
relates to the Councils structure, process, and outcomes each member of the Circle attains.

The Old Dominion Council, in attaining the Circle of Diamonds level, has shown and promises to continue to show their unique ability to reach and attain the specific benchmarks set forth in the program guidelines. This mark of excellence shows the honesty, integrity and strong commitment of the Old Dominion Council to the RC&D mission.

Financial Statements

HILL & DAVIS, CPA, PC		Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.	
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS		Statement of Financial Position	
1610 Graham Road Farmville, VA 23901 Telephone: (434) 392-1801 Fax: (434) 392-3667 1-800-326-2015		At September 30, 2006	
MEMBERS: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants		ASSETS	
Independent Auditor's Report		Cash-operating	\$ 54,282
		Total assets	\$ 54,282
The Board of Directors Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Farmville, Virginia		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
		Liabilities	\$ 1,980
We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as of September 30, 2006, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.		Accounts payable	2,587
		Prepaid dues	4,567
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in The United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.		Net Assets	32,148
		Unrestricted	17,567
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as of September 30, 2006, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.		Temporarily restricted	49,715
		Total net assets	\$ 54,282
Hill & Davis, CPA, PC Farmville, Virginia December 8, 2006		Total liabilities and net assets	

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ALIVE by the James



Who We Are & What We Do

Mission: Old Dominion RC&D is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization serving 10 Southside Virginia counties. Our mission is to initiate and coordinate resource development and conservation programs that enhance the social, economic and environmental quality of the region.

Vision: A locally driven organization with a diverse and talented council empowered to work cooperatively within the region to improve the environment and quality of life of its citizenry.

History: Upon authorization by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Natural

Next Council Meeting Date - December 18, 2006, at 10 AM at Sheldon's Restaurant in Keysville

Who We Are & What We Do

Mission

Vision

History

Purpose and Role

Area Description

Non-Discrimination Statement

ALIVE by the James

Click on the image above to see some of our great photos.

Visit us online at our new website:
www.olddominionrcd.org

Find out the latest information on when council meetings will be held and what new projects the council has adopted. You will find links to all of the other RC&D councils and well as the National Association and NRCS. You can view photographs and read reports. The staff welcomes your comments and suggestions on improvements to our site.

Letter from the Chairman



As this year winds to an end, so does my two year role as council chair. I have enjoyed serving on the council and will continue as Lunenburg County's representative for as long as I remain an active member of the Lunenburg's Board of Supervisors.

It has been an honor to represent the council at the various meetings and conferences throughout the country where I was able to share with others the projects Old Dominion RC&D Council has worked on over the years. At last year's National RC&D Conference in Savannah, I gave a presentation on Farm Safety Day to a group of enthusiastic individuals from all over the country in hopes they too can have youth in their areas benefit from the safety lessons taught in this vital program. In return, I brought back new ideas I learned by listening to others give presentations on their councils. I had the opportunity to meet with many folks living throughout this nation and talk with them of the challenges and successes we all have. Some are very unique; many are similar to the challenges we face here in Virginia.

There have been some important issues this year. The RC&D Program budget nationwide was threatened with drastic cuts. The council pulled together, as did other councils, and the funding was maintained. This issue did not end this year. It will continually need to be addressed in future years.

And as I step down as chair of this worthy council, I will ask the next chair to build upon the foundation that I have, as I did of previous chairs, and come up with new and exciting projects that will benefit the communities, our rural way of life and the natural environment within which we all live.

George E. Ingram

Annual Plan of Work

The Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. The Council is comprised of 10 county sponsors, five soil and water conservation district sponsors and two planning district sponsors. In addition to these sponsors, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides funding which includes staff, office space and a vehicle. The Council identifies resource needs and develops projects for economic development, land conservation, land management and water quality and quantity. Many of the projects provide multi-county benefits while others pertain specifically to one county. Projects and activities worked on in Fiscal Year 2006 were:

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™ The Old Dominion RC&D Council sponsored two Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™ events this year. Focusing on the youth of rural areas, this program is designed to increase their awareness of the potential dangers and safe techniques when using farm equipment, pesticides, ATVs and firearms to mention a few. This relates to the Community Development and Land Management elements of the Area Plan.

Phenix Dixie Youth Ball Field The Council is working with Phenix Dixie Youth, Inc. in seeking funds to complete a field complex in Charlotte County. Funding is being sought through Baseball Tomorrow Foundation, an organization of major league team owners and players. This relates to the Community Development element of the Area Plan.

Edmunds Park Wetland Partnering with Halifax County, Halifax Soil and Water Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, a wetland was created at Edmunds Memorial Park in Halifax County. This relates to the Water Quality and Quantity Element and the Land Conservation Element of the Area Plan.

Edmunds Park Sports Hall of Fame and Sports Museum The Council is providing support to raise funds to construct a facility at the Edmunds Memorial Park. When built, the facility will be used to recognize athletes from the area who have been outstanding in their sport. Sports memorabilia will be displayed in the museum portion of the facility. This relates to the Community Development Element of the Area Plan.

Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail Since the grand opening of the Trail, plans have been underway to continue the development of the Trail. An historian completed a feasibility study investigating potential sites to warrant expansion to the Trail. Virginia's Retreat has formed a committee to document the oral histories of the Trail and produce an audio tool, such as a compact disk, so visitors can hear the stories about people who lived through experiences that mark the Trail. An educational curriculum highlighting the historical aspects of the Trail is being developed for the purpose of teaching the Standards of Learning for fifth and eighth grade students. This relates to the Community Development Element of the Area Plan.

Trash Summit With trash and landfills being a concern in the council's region, a meeting to bring key individuals together to discuss how to approach and resolve the issue will be held. This relates to the Community Development, the Land Management and the Water Quality and Quantity elements of the Area Plan.

Completed Projects:

DVD Premiere
Project Playground
Edmunds Park Wetland
Farm Safety (2 Camps)
Heartland Industrial Park
Wilson-Kautz Trail

Ongoing Projects:

Bio-Diesel Workshop
Purchasing Development Rights and Land Protection
Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail
Trash Summit
Edmunds Memorial Park Sports Hall of Fame and Sports Museum
Phenix Dixie Youth Ball Field
Thyne Institute Memorial
Friends of the Appomattox River
Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™

2006 Executive Council

Chairman, George Ingram	Vice Chairman, Carlyle Wimbish
Secretary, Cynthia Gregg	Treasurer, Stephanie Heintzleman
Past Chair, Billy Park	Member-At-Large, Kenneth Cassada

Sponsors: Council Member and Alternate

Amelia County Board of Supervisors: David Whitaker
Brunswick County Board of Supervisors: Dorothy Thomas, Charlette Woolridge
Buckingham County Board of Supervisors: Henry Hagenau, Rebecca Carter
Charlotte County Board of Supervisors: Stephanie Heintzleman, Susan Adams
Cumberland County Board of Supervisors: Sherry Swinson, Elbert Womack
Halifax County Board of Supervisor: Carlyle Wimbish, James Edmunds
Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors: George Ingram, Catherine Giorgetti
Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors: Wayne Carter, Jim Jennings
Nottoway County Board of Supervisors: Ronnie Roark, John Prosize
Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors: Susie Hampton, Sarah Puckett
Halifax Soil & Water Conservation District: Kenneth Cassada, Baxter Wilson
Lake Country Soil & Water Conservation District: Cynthia Gregg, Herbert Ramsey
Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District: Kelly Jones, Sherry Ragland
Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District: Gary Dillard, Don Maxey
Southside Soil & Water Conservation District: Eugene Morris, Julie Hamlett
Commonwealth Regional Council: Andre Gilliam, Todd Fortune
Southside Planning District Commission: Billy Park, Joyce French

The Old Dominion RC&D Council wishes to express appreciation to all of the groups, organizations and agencies for assistance given in support of projects during 2006. Active involvement and local leadership were the key components toward the successful completion of projects. A special thank you goes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for providing an office, staff and supplies to help us carry out our mission.