

For Immediate Release

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN TIFTON

ATHENS, GA., February 28, 2011 --- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton will host this year's Natural Resources Conservation Workshop (NRCW) June 5 - 9, for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students from all around Georgia. This year, NRCW will celebrate 50 years of conservation education!

The NRCW targets students with a desire to learn more about Georgia's natural resources and the opportunities and responsibilities that come along with their use and management. Experts from universities, local, state, and federal natural resource agencies, along with industry professionals provide students with lectures and hands-on learning to enhance their understanding of Georgia's vital natural resources, their uses in agriculture and industry, and our responsibility to conserve and protect them. This workshop gives students a unique, one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about Georgia's soil, water, air, plant, mineral, and animal resources from experts in each field.

"Some of our youth do not realize the importance of our natural resources that we all depend on daily. This camp utilizes classrooms and field trips to help educate our students on the basic principles of conserving our natural resources. This is also a wonderful opportunity for our students to earn valuable college scholarships to further advance their education," stated Workshop Director, Dennis Brooks.

Students attending the workshop will get a taste of college life while gaining valuable insight into career opportunities through their advisors and instructors who consist of professional personnel from the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and the Georgia Mining Association.

More than \$17,000 in scholarships will be awarded from this workshop. In Addition, to celebrate NRCW's 50th Anniversary, the NRCW Executive Board will award a special scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.

Also, as part of our 50th anniversary celebration, the Executive Committee would like to commemorate the workshop's long legacy of conservation education by gathering success stories from former participating students and staff. If you are an alumnus of the workshop or served as a volunteer at the workshop, and you would like to share your story of how the NRCW has influenced your life or career path, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us at (229) 391-5072, nrcw@abac.edu, or find us on Facebook by searching for the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop group where you can post your story on our discussion forum. We look forward to hearing from you!

Scholarship sponsors for the NRCW include the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors, ABAC Foundation, Georgia Chapter of American Public Works Association, Georgia Mining Association, NRCW Scholarship Fund, Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association, Piedmont Conservation Products, Fort Valley State University, the Blue Ridge Mountain SWCD along with Young Harris College, and the Georgia Chapter of National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees.

Tuition is \$150 per student and is usually provided by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts along with local businesses and individuals.

Application and information is available online at <http://www.abac.edu/psbo/nrcw/> or through your local offices of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Georgia Forestry Commission, Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, UGA Cooperative Extension Service, and participating organizations. Application deadline is May 20, 2011.

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