

WATERWAYS

Promoting the Development of Affordable Water and Wastewater Facilities, Activities and Resources to Improve the Quality of Life for Low-Income Rural Residents of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.



Water Is Life®

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

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Southeast RCAP Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Keynote Speaker Nikki Giovanni entertained the Luncheon audience with a speech about what water means to the world.

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (Southeast RCAP) hosted its 40th Anniversary Water Is Life Luncheon on Thursday, May 7, 2009 in Roanoke, Virginia.

The 40th Anniversary Water Is Life Luncheon celebrated those individuals and organizations that helped bring clean running water to low-income rural communities throughout Virginia and the southeastern United States.

Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator, was the keynote speaker. The author of some 30 books for both adults

and children, Nikki Giovanni is a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. She has received twenty-five honorary degrees as well as Governor's Awards from both Virginia and Tennessee.

To help celebrate the 40th Anniversary Water Is Life Luncheon, writing contests about how clean water impacts our lives were held in area elementary schools. Greenfield Elementary School student Zachary St. Clair won first place for his essay "Water is Life" and Burlington



Keynote Speaker Nikki Giovanni & Southeast RCAP Board of Directors Member Cabell Brand

Elementary School student Skylour Stultz won second place for her essay "What Water Means to Me."

Southeast RCAP's mission is to promote the development of affordable

water and wastewater facilities, activities, and resources to improve the quality of life for low income rural residents. Established in 1969, Southeast RCAP provides more than 15 programs that help low income rural communities lead better lives through clean water.

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Anderson & Friedman Starts Mop Closet at Southeast RCAP

The law firm of Anderson & Friedman is helping Southeast RCAP establish a new Mop Closet!

The Mop Closet will provide cleaning and basic household supplies to Southeast RCAP clients that receive new plumbing. Thank you Anderson and Friedman!

Southeast RCAP needs cash donations and donations of supplies for the Mop Closet. We need donations to outfit bathrooms. For example, you can donate mops, Windex, and toothbrush holders. For many of Southeast RCAP's clients, they are using bathrooms in their home for the first time. They were using outhouses!

We need your support. The Southeast RCAP Mop Closet will only be successful through the support of our community and friends.

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering, please contact Teresa Volk at (540) 345-1184. Thank you!

Reflections from Hope F. Cupit, Vice President & Deputy CEO



First, I wish to commemorate the Southeast RCAP 40th year anniversary celebration this past May. We were delighted and inspired by our world-renowned keynote speaker, Nikki Giovanni. For the past 40 years, Southeast RCAP has been at the forefront of the fight against poverty, supporting community development and educating clients about the importance of clean water. Southeast RCAP has earned a solid reputation on the state, regional, national and even international levels as a provider of expert knowledge and resources in the field of water and wastewater service delivery. What began as a community effort to bring safe drinking water to rural poor residents of Virginia's Roanoke Valley has grown into a regional agency covering seven states that is directly responsible for bringing safe water and sanitary waste disposal facilities to more than 450,000 households.

Second, I commend Southeast RCAP for its ability to manage funds awarded to the Agency. I am proud that only 15% of Southeast RCAP funding supports administrative costs. The remaining 85% is directly related to program costs that sustain rural communities. Southeast RCAP receives more financial requests for assistance from small rural communities than we have funds to support; however we consistently achieve proven results that document Southeast RCAP's valuable service deliverables.

Last, there have been significant transition and changes at Southeast RCAP in the past year. Change is not easy for everyone, however Southeast RCAP has successfully managed the change and the Agency has embraced the transition through team work. Tom Bouchard said, "Teams are successful when they are focused, have a short cycle time, and are supported by the executive." This quote puts everything in perspective for me. I know that by working together Southeast RCAP will achieve even greater results. The team consists of Southeast RCAP's Board of Directors, staff, donors, and volunteers. Southeast RCAP's Board of Directors is a diverse group of brilliant leaders that provide the necessary oversight and governance to the Agency. Southeast RCAP has an exceptional team of staff that sustain and perform the work for our region as a whole. With the support of donors and volunteers, Southeast RCAP will continue to be the pioneer that supports those without a voice. The change over the past year has made Southeast RCAP a stronger organization.

Dario Krolo Joins Southeast RCAP as New Loan Officer

As a Southeast RCAP Loan Officer, Krolo analyzes risk potential and lending options for loans, as well as records, classifies and summarizes financial transactions.

Krolo earned an Associates Degree from Virginia Western Community College, where he studied accounting and business management. He earned his BA in accounting from

National Business College. Krolo is fluent in both the Croatian and Bosnian languages.

Krolo enjoys the challenging and fast-paced environment of the Loan Program. He said, "**Water is life and what better way to help people than by providing them with funds for clean water.**"

He looks forward to being a part of the

Southeast RCAP team for many years to come.



Dario Krolo

Doug Phillips to Speak at Virginia Water Research Conference

Doug Phillips, Small Systems Specialist, will present his paper [Modern Rainwater Collection Provides Additional Potable Water for a Poor Virginia Community](#) at the Virginia Water Research Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University in October.

In 2002, Jack Naylor requested technical engineering assistance from Southeast RCAP's Douglas Phillips, Professional Engineer for the Morton Lane community, in the foothills of mountainous Greene County.

Phillips and Naylor worked together with local and state governments, community action agencies, and contractors to provide innovative solutions to the small community's water and wastewater needs. The following results helped the community tremendously.

A Potable Water System: To augment the existing well, Phillips helped procure funds to involve Rainwater Management Solutions, Inc. (RMS) in the design and installation of an innovative rainwater harvesting project using a modern roof washing, filtering, and disinfection process.

An Onsite Wastewater System: State health officials, working with Phillips, found a solution to inadequate soils by obtaining an easement from a willing neighbor. Phillips then designed a pumped mass drain field dispersal system.

Southeast RCAP is excited and proud that Doug Phillips has been selected to speak at the Virginia Water Research Conference!



New Pump House (right) for Combined Well and Rainwater System Controls



Doug Phillips Shows Some Components of the Potable Rainwater System, the Roof Washer Collection Unit Filter (in hand), and Storage Tanks (in background)

First Place “Water is Life” Essay

Water is Life

To me water means alot. It covers 70% of the earth. It can support life, it can help us in many ways and it can be a source of fun!

“Lastly, what water is best for, FUN!!! You couldn’t play in the snow, surf, swim, go fishing or ride or race boats!”

First, we will talk about how water can support life. Without water plants would die. It gives water and waters everything! It also give drinking water to animals. Water waters the plants so the animals can eat. What about ocean animals though? It fills the deep blue oceans, the wavy lakes and the long flowing rivers. Without water the marine animals would die.

Secondly, water helps us in many ways. We wouldn’t have food if it weren’t for water. It also waters many things for us. Instead of a farmer dragging out a sprinkler to water plants he lets rain water them (most of the time). If you own a garden most of the time you let the rain water it (unless it has been dry for awhile). It also gives us drinking water to drink.

Lastly, what water is best for, FUN!!!! You couldn’t play in the snow, surf, swim, go fishing or ride or race boats! The rain fills oceans, lakes, and rivers so we can do that stuff (except play in the snow). If it is cold enough and it rains it can create snow. Just think, no water, no snow, swimming, riding boats, surfing, fishing or even swimming in the Olympics.

In conclusion, we have learned how water is life. It supports life, it helps us in many ways, and it is a source of fun! No water, no life!

Zachary St. Clair
Greenfield Elementary School



Hope Cupit, Vice President & Deputy CEO, and Terry Lewis, Board of Directors Chairman, Present the First Place “Water is Life” Essay Prize to Zachary St. Clair

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Water Is Life

MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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THANK YOU!

Second Place “Water is Life” Essay Contest Winning Essay

What Water Means to Me

What water means to me is a lot, without water there are a lot of things we could not do everyday. I am going to give you some examples of why I think water is important to me.

Water is very good for you. We need water to drink everyday without it will be dehydrated. When I exercise I really like to drink water it put the sweat your letting out back in your body. At my age of 9, you are suppose to drink 3 8 oz. Bottles a day. That may seem like a lot but, you use a lot threw the day.

It is also good to have water in your house. Just think how many things you use water for. I can think of some, here are a few: Try brushing your teeth with no water, doesn't work to good so I don't wana walk around with nasty teeth or stinky breath. How about when you go potty, what would you do if there was no water to flush with? That's gross to me so I need water. If we didn't have water I wouldn't be able to take a shower or a bath. I cant imagine how stinky we would be without water to wash all the germs off us.

Think about when your mom cooks, she has to use water. I like to eat mac n cheese so how would I make the noodles without water? I wouldn't be able to fix one of my favorite foods spagitti. If my throat is soar I always rinse my mouth out with warm water and salt so, with out it what would I use.

“Summer would be pretty boring without water.”

Water is great in the summer without it we would not be able to swim and I love doing that. We would not be able to wash cares and my mom likes her car clean. I would not be able to skirt water at my friend with the water hose. Summer would be pretty boring without water.

Water is free and so that helps a lot just think of how much money you would save if you drank water instead of tea, soda, juice. Well, from that I see there are only positive things about water. It keeps your body clean, helps with cleaning house, you can cook with it, you can drink it ad its free!! It's a natural resource so that make is that much better. This is why water means so much to me.

*Skylour Stultz
Burlington Elementary School*



Second Place “Water is Life” Essay Winner Skylour Stultz and Luncheon Keynote Speaker Nikki Giovanni

“I’ve been carrying water for three months, and I am so tired. I need Water!”

Success Stories from the Well Water Loan Program

Zina G. Dignall was approved for a \$11,000 loan with Southeast RCAP in March 2009! Ms. Dignall is very pleased with the process and with her new well. She commends the Southeast RCAP staff, who worked with her to establish a payment plan, quickly processed her application and hired a contractor to dig the well. Congratulations Zina!

Carolina Benz-Saint, is extremely satisfied with the Well Water Loan staff mem-

bers’ job performance; especially how they quickly processed her application and how fast her well work was successfully completed. Congratulations Carolina!

Emily Van Patten said, “I’ve been carrying water for three months, and I am so tired. I need Water!” In January of 2009 the Van Patten family received a \$6,250 loan to build a new well! Ms. Van Patten doesn’t have to carry water anymore, thanks to

Southeast RCAP. Congratulations Emily!

Penny Keeve wrote that she is grateful and thankful that God sent her Southeast RCAP to help her with a grant and loan for her new well. Ms. Keeve wrote, “I also thank God for the kindness and professional manner that was shown to me by staff”. Thank you Penny!



New Well Pump



Emily Van Patten New Well



NRCA is approved for a Southeast RCAP loan for \$120,000!

New River Community Action, Inc., (NRCA) was established in 1965 as a private, non-profit organization serving the Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski and the City of Radford, Virginia. New River Community Action’s mission is to promote and support the well-being and self-reliance of individuals, families and communities.

NRCA recently approached Southeast RCAP regarding funding for a new building that they are trying to purchase as an

New River Community Action Partners with Southeast RCAP



office building. This building will allow NRCA to develop administrative and Head Start class room space to permanently house its staff. On August 25th, 2009, New River Community Action was ap-

proved for the loan with Southeast RCAP in the amount of \$120,000! This funding will be used for predevelopment costs to purchase architectural and engineering design services for the office building.

Southeast RCAP State Updates

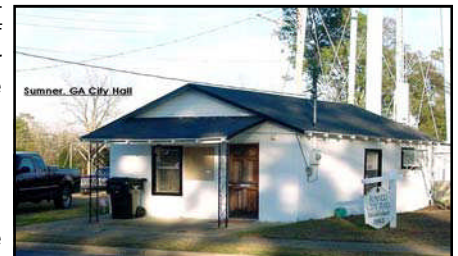


Fentress Truxon and Community Members at the Press Conference

Delaware: On August 11, 2009, Southeast RCAP Regional Program Manager Robert Britts, attended and participated in one of the National Environmental Services Center (NESC) water workshops in Dover, Delaware. Mr. Britts also participated in a press conference presented by board member Harold Truxon and Fentress Truxon relating to clean water in Ellendale. Information and an interview summary about this press conference can be found at www.wmdt.com.

Florida: Blackman Community Water System is establishing a water system in Okaloosa County. Rick Crews, Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Provider, conducted a site visit to explain the process involved with training individuals as Licensed Water Operators. Jeanette Cook, Water Board President, was extremely pleased to have Mr. Crews come to their meeting and educate them on how to reach this goal.

Georgia: Sumner, Georgia experienced an eight inch rain over a 24 hour period in March 2009. The backwater resulted in the collapse of its primary well. The backup well has been unable to keep pace with the normal daily consumption, resulting in the rationing of water to the 111 water customers (population 309) of Sumner. GARCAP TAP staff developed a plan to implement the Immediate Threat and Danger (ITAD) funding assistance and has been able to arrange supplemental water in times that the backup well is simply unable to meet the daily demand, until such time as the primary well can be repaired or replaced.



Sumner, GA City Hall

Maryland: The Technical Assistance Providers (TAP) have been intensely busy as a result of an unprecedented number of funding applications for projects that were "shovel ready" due to the persistent efforts of the Maryland TAPs. As a result, an unprecedented amount of funding has been awarded to multiple town and county projects. Over \$15,000,000 has been awarded to date to Maryland projects!



Volunteers Working in the Trenches

North Carolina: NCRCAP Community Resource Coordinator Rich Holder worked with volunteer Christian youth service groups to hand dig 10 septic repairs in three counties in Western North Carolina. In total Rich worked with over 500 volunteers to hand dig 2,600 linear feet of septic system drain fields, and seven tank holes. The volunteers not only improved the resident's septic needs, but also their living conditions by repairing roofs, floors, and bathrooms. Youth volunteers, from as far away as Ohio and Florida, logged over 15,000 hours of swinging a mattock, shoveling, and raking to complete the systems. The group showed enormous dedication by enduring poison ivy, snakes, bees, chiggers and the intense summer heat while on vacation helping those less fortunate. The Septic Repair Program is a service-learning program that provides volunteer groups with education on onsite wastewater treatment techniques. In addition to gaining technical knowledge, the volunteer groups are provided an opportunity to understand southern Appalachia, see collaboration among a wide variety of public and private organizations, and pursue a lifelong dedication to community service. The program is committed to protecting public health, environmental and natural resources, and addressing poverty issues in Western North Carolina.

South Carolina: The Strategic Management And Resources Technology (SMART) is a Source Water Protection Planning program. Southeast RCAP SMART About Water training has been concluded in South Carolina. Sessions were held in Gray Court, Hartsville and Columbia. Trainings were performed for 15 water systems, regulators from South Carolina DHEC, watershed groups, and county and city officials. Each participant completed a registration and pre-assessment form. At the end of each session a post-assessment form was completed. All the pre-assessment and post-assessment forms were mailed to RCAP, Inc. in Washington DC for entry into the SMART database. Source Water Protection is important to protect drinking water supplies from disruption, by identifying threats and taking steps to prevent or minimize loss of capacity before it occurs.

Virginia: A joint effort between Southeast RCAP, Skyline Community Action Program (Skyline CAP), and the Rapidan Service Authority (RSA) will enable tie-in of both water and sewer service to a large rehab project on Celt Road in Stanardsville. A site survey has been completed and preparations have begun for engineering work for tie-in of these needed utilities. Preliminary efforts on-site prevented the necessity of either onsite wastewater disposal units or a new well. This new sewer system will benefit a planned multi-family housing rehabilitation facility in Greene County.

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