

NCDEA Update

May 22, 2006

NCDEA Hires Executive Director

The NCDEA Board of Directors, acknowledging the growth of the organization and the need for expanded management of association business, is pleased to announce that we have hired **Rich Duesterhaus** as our first Executive Director.

Rich Duesterhaus has served a thirty-eight year career with the NRCS/SCD in field and national leadership positions, including more than twenty-eight years in the NRCS Senior Executive Service. Mr. Duesterhaus has degrees in Agriculture; Farm Management and Economics; Public Administration and Political Science.



Since retiring from the NRCS, he has been working as a conservation consultant and has served as Senior Advisor with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Rich is currently President of the Association of Retired Soil Conservation Service Employees and has been active in numerous national and community organizations. He has served on the Board and is Past-President of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and Board Chair of the Renewable Natural Resource Foundation.

NCDEA Leadership Lends a Hand in Mississippi

Last week NCDEA President Robert Dobbs and Vice President Cindy Moon traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi for the Quarterly Partnership Leaders Meeting. Members of the Conservation Partnership toured areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They spent time meeting with members of the Board and Staff of the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District and state and federal leaders to learn more about the devastation from Hurricane Katrina and rebuilding efforts in the area. Conservation Partners in Mississippi displayed an outstanding example of the importance of our conservation partnership and the extraordinary results from that partnership. Partnership leaders joined local and state conservationists in cleaning up an area along the coastline in Waveland, MS. Following the clean up, the group returned to New Orleans for a full day of meetings.

Cindy and Bob were pleased to be part of the clean-up effort. However, the needs are great and enormous amount of work is left to be accomplished along the devastated coastline of Mississippi and the rest of the gulf coast. If you can spare a day or two or more to go lend a hand in the continuing efforts to restore our natural resources, it will be well worth your trip.