

This year marked 30 years of service for the Golden Triangle RC&D. This is quite a milestone and one we are excited to celebrate! Our past president, Mr. Billy Roland, has been with the Golden Triangle since the beginning. He states “We went from being the youngest RC&D in Georgia to being the most progressive. We’ve been named Outstanding Council twice since 2016.” He went on to add “I’ve seen a lot of changes over the years, and we’ve had some great leaders involved. Golden Triangle has completed a lot of projects and been able to help many cities, counties, and individuals along the way. We’ve doubled the size of our service delivery area over the years.”

To date, Jerome Brown has been the longest serving Coordinator/Director for Golden Triangle. I reached out to Jerome, to see if he would comment on his time with Golden Triangle. He stated “I enjoyed every day of work as the Coordinator for the Golden Triangle RC&D Council. The Council members are leaders in Southwest Georgia. Over the last 30 years, Golden Triangle has accomplished so many great projects that have improved the Southwest Georgia communities tremendously. I am so proud to have been a part of this magnificent effort from 1994-2006. Keep up the great work and continue making Georgia proud. Happy 30th Anniversary Golden Triangle RC&D Council. You are on a roll; I know your next 30 years will be even better!”

Frank Yancey was the second coordinator for Golden Triangle. He served the Council from 2007 until 2011. I asked Frank to comment on his time with the organization. He stated “The Golden Triangle RC&D has had tremendous impact in assisting communities and protecting the resources of Southwest Georgia. Being a part of the Council was truly one of the best experiences of my life. Congratulations on 30 years of service!”

In April, we were awarded the *Outstanding Council of The Year* by the National Association of RC&D Councils for 2022. We were beyond excited and extremely flattered to have been chosen for this award. We are blessed with a committed and strong leadership and a talented, dedicated, and hardworking staff. Our team is flexible and can put boots on the ground...quickly. We forge new partnerships while maintaining current ones and are constantly seeking out new opportunities to learn and grow. Our organization is willing to work and think creatively, inspire others, and continuously listen and make improvements.

As you read this report, I hope you will gain insight into the extent and intensity of the programs and services we offer. After 30 years of service our organization is strong and vibrant, and we are still inspired by our mission and motivated by our vision. Specific highlights for the year include: the roll-out of the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Burn Association with our partners at Tall Timbers; the anticipated launch of the 49.8 million from the American Rescue Plan Act that was awarded to Albany State University Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center in which Golden Triangle will play an important role in the project implementation; the allocation of our annual community and volunteer fire department grants; continued progress with our household water well and septic tank program; further application and development of the Water First Program for our member communities and the introduction of our on-site high tunnel and greenhouse projects along with pollinator areas.

Thank you again to all our supporters! We would not be where we are today without each of you.

Best Regards,

Rhonda Gordon - Executive Director