Alabama's Erosion and Sediment Control Program History

Clear Water AL
Dothan, AL
September 26, 2024

Earl Norton, CPESC, CPAg, CCA, Auburn, AL
Alabama Erosion & Sediment Control Program Specialist

Typical problems in the 1990's - 2000's

Sediment Barrier

Inlet Protection

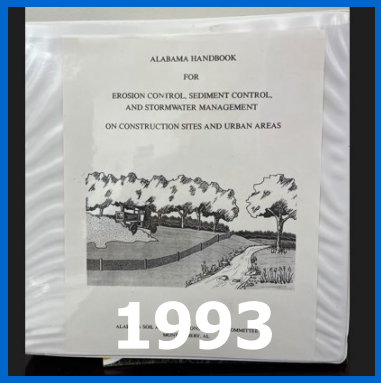
Channel Erosion

Poor Retrofits for Basins

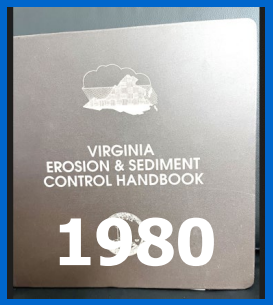
1993

The first AL Handbook was prepared by the USDA NRCS in 1993 at the request of the Jefferson Soil and Water Water Conservation District

1993 handbook had 30 BMPs sorted as "structural" and "vegetative"



Erosion and Sediment Control Handbooks of 1980 - 1990's were prepared by cities, regional planning councils, soil and water conservation entities, DNRs, others



Alabama needed better construction stormwater systems and installations

1995

Soil and Water Conservation Society - AL Chapter was a catalyst

- Began providing CPESC Exam Review
- CPESC Exam
- Continuing education in erosion and sediment control

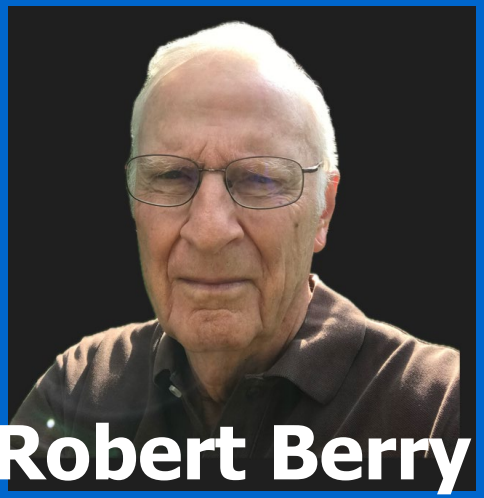
Fall of 2000

ADEM NPS scientists Patti Hurley and Steve Foster requested that CPESCs Earl Norton and Robert Berry provide ESC training to industry staff


Patti Hurley


Steve Foster


Earl Norton


Robert Berry

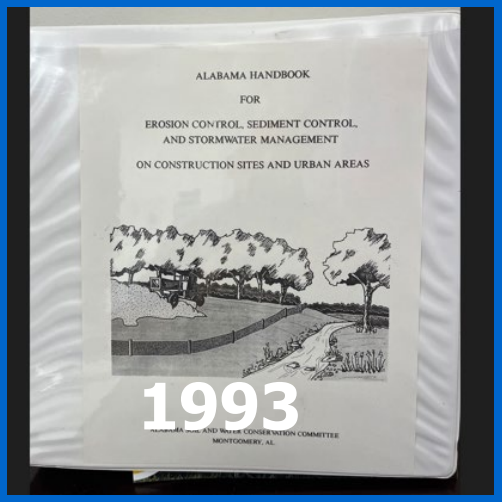
September 2001
Our Partnership Program began

Original Partners

- Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (AL SWCC) - provided overall guidance
- AL Department of Environmental MGT (ADEM) - provided initial funding of $10,000
- Soil & Water Conservation Society - AL Chapter - provided the vision plan and contracted with AL SWCC to provide dedicated technical staff
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - provided support technology

2021

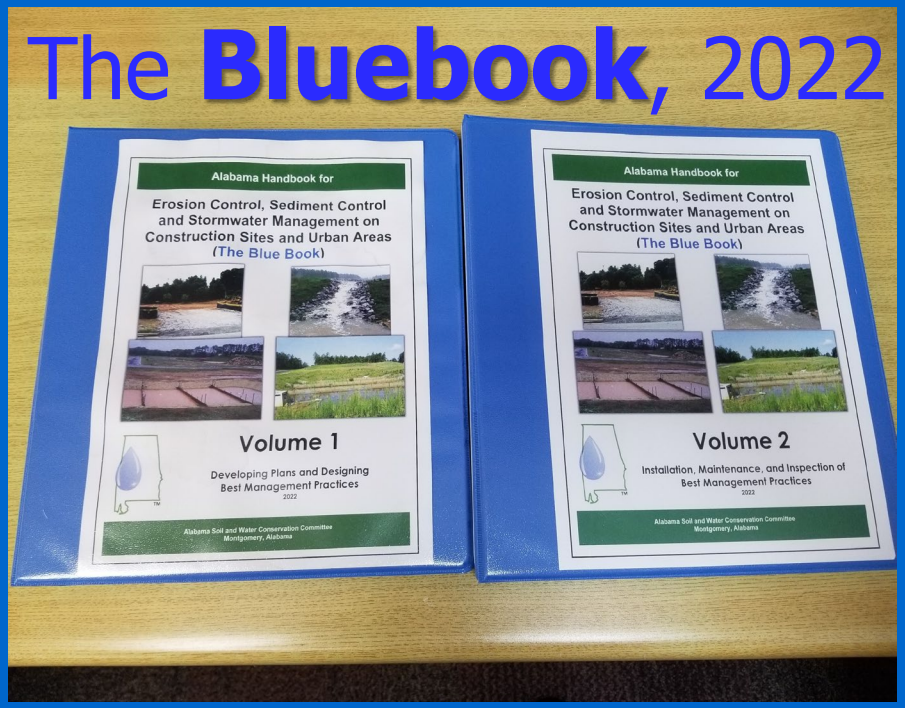
A more up-to-date ESC Handbook to support training was needed



30 BMPs needed modernizing and additional BMP were needed

Since 2001: 8 Handbook Updates

2002 (added 13 BMPs), 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009 research-based, 2014 research-based, 2018 research-based, 2022 research-based



- **Currently 43 BMPs**
- **6 categories sorted by primary purpose**
- **No "approved product list"**

Constructive comments on the contents of the Bluebook welcomed. Provide in writing to the AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee

2004-2007 Field Days Red Water Blues

- **Steep slope and channel stabilization -** *hydraulic mulches, Erosion Control Blanket, Rock Riprap Swales*
- **Inlet Protection in subdivisions and commercial sites – featured** *various devices*
- **Sediment control at site perimeters using** *Silt Fence*

Red Water Blues 2004-2007

Emphasized BMPs at house sites

Construction Exit Pad

Temporary Seeding or Mulching all bare ground

2008 – new name: Clear Water AL

- Became a 2-day event with an all-day Seminar and 2nd-day Field Day
- Included training for better Sediment Basin technology and turbidity control

Learned that gravel packs not effective in removing fine particles and reducing turbidity

The better alternative: baffles, skimmer, flocculant

2009 Clear Water Alabama - Bessemer
Seminar
Sediment Basin designs – Perry Oakes
ESC strategies - Dr. McLaughlin, NC State
Low impact development (LID)

2010 Clear Water Alabama – Auburn
More on Sediment Basins and turbidity control

2011 Clear Water Alabama - Birmingham
Partnered with IECA for 3-day event

2012 Clear Water Alabama
Huntsville and Spanish Fort

More Clear Water AL Events

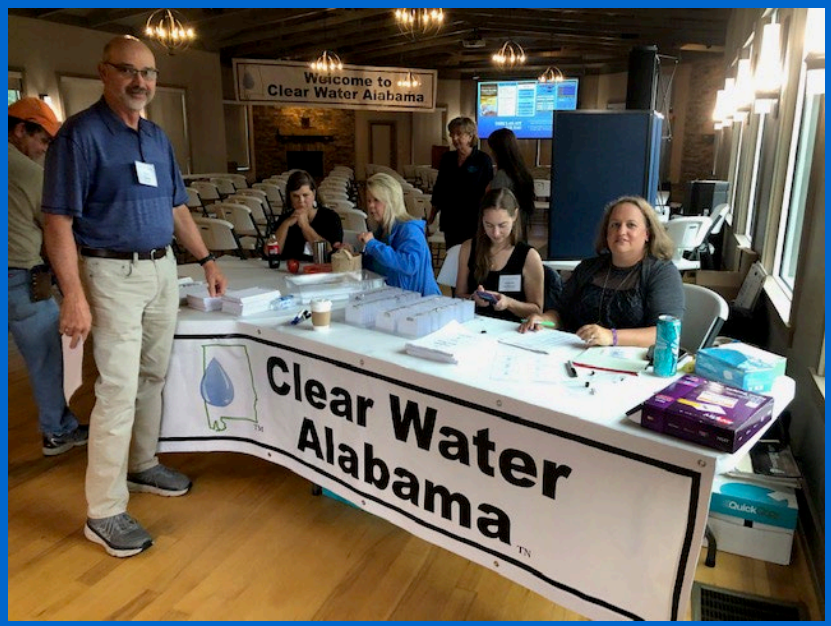
2013 Birmingham
2014 Spanish Fort
2015 Tuscaloosa
2016 Madison
2018 Oxford
2017 Mobile
2019 Prattville
2020 Virtual
2021Cullman
2022 Daphne
2023 Florence

2024 Dothan
33rd Event!
17 Locations

Bessemer – 1st Sed Basin with baffles, skimmer, flocculant

Prattville – tents & walking

Decatur – Tent facility at Catholic Church



Cullman – Camp Meadowbrook

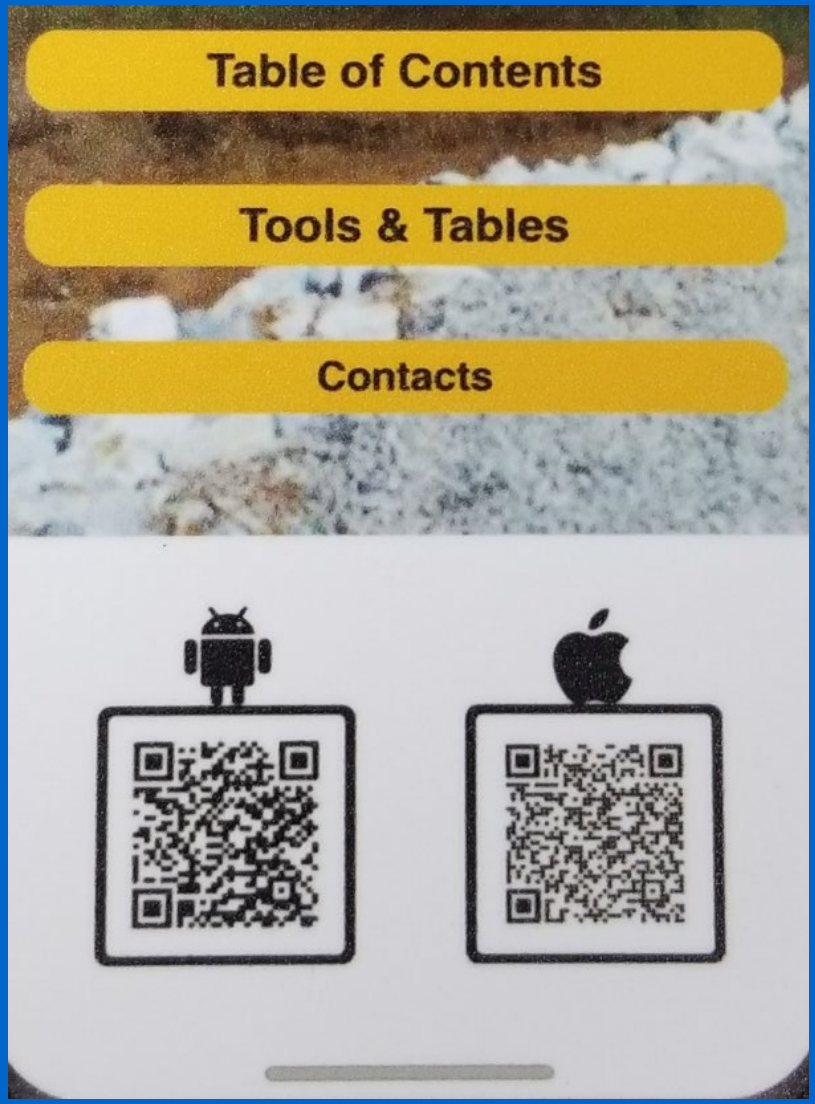
Field Guide

Over 20,000 copies distributed

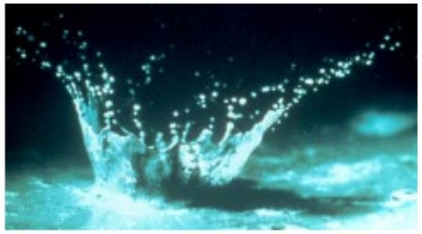
Field Guide
For
Erosion and Sediment Control
On Construction Sites
In
Alabama

Alabama Soil and Water
Conservation Committee
and
Partners

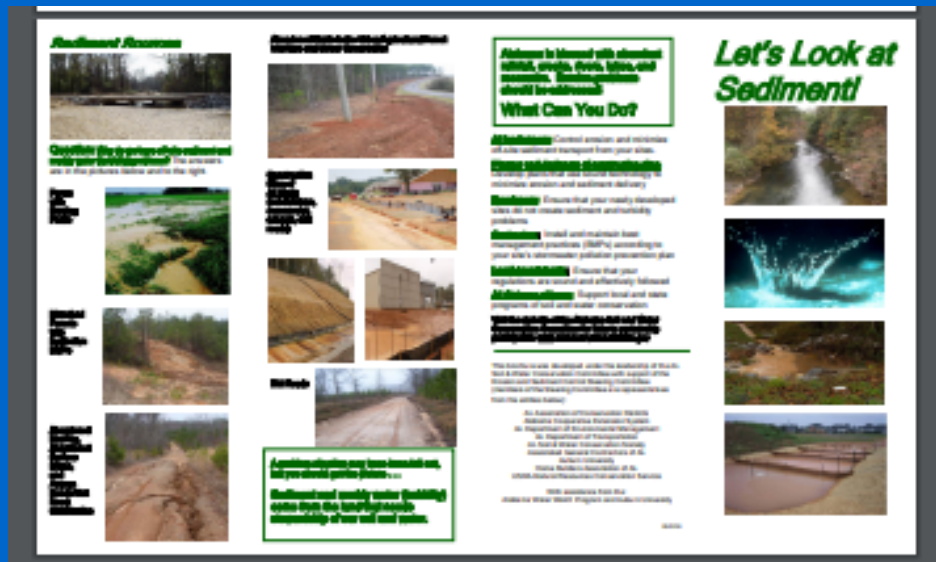
Fourth Edition, 2022

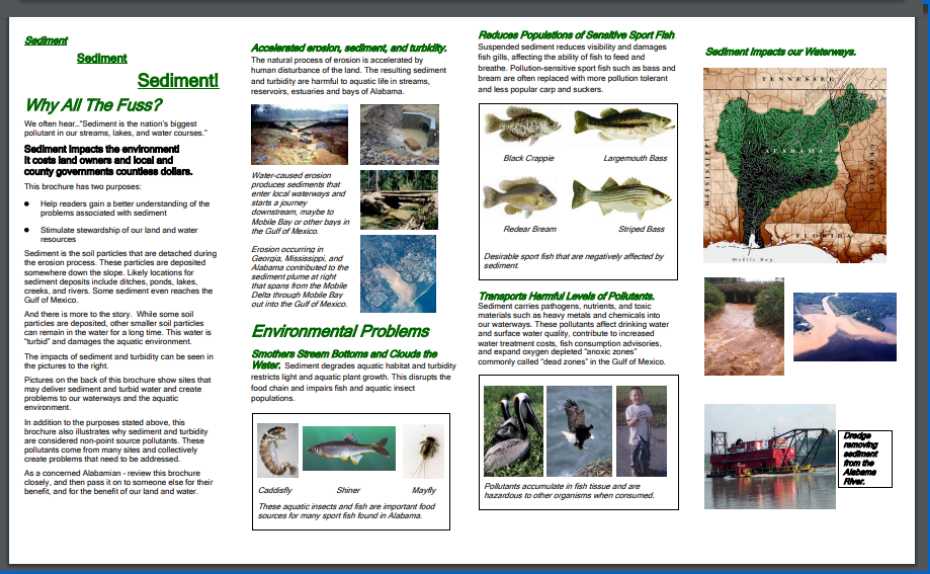


Let's Look at Sediment!



A "Should Read" for everyone in Alabama





Erosion and Sediment Control Tips

(email, Blog, FB, & Instagram)

Erosion and Sediment Control Tip #62

"Be careful placing mulch around trees in the landscape. Mulch placed too high on the bark can cause rot and decay. About 1" of mulch is plenty around the tree, just don't place mulch against the bark of the tree".

Perry L Oakes, PE , Erosion and Sediment Control Program Coordinator, AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee

2013 - 319 funding from ADEM ended and AL SWCC became the financial sponsor and has continued financial support

The partnership program has grown to 12 entities cooperating to support erosion control, sediment control, and stormwater management on construction sites

Clear Water AL Supporters over the Years invaluable to our program's success

Industry – their members, staff, funds

Agencies and Organizations – staff support

- Local soil and water conservation districts
- Host cities and other local governments and businesses
- ESC Program Partnership

Special thanks to

Auburn University - Stormwater Research Facility

Research, Testing, Training

Important persons to say "Thank TO".

Charlie Pritchett and Billy Bullard (deceased) - retired ALDOT staff that recognized significance of CPESC in late 1990s and helped connect ALDOT in 2004 to the Partnership Program and SWCS.

Patti Hurley and Steve Foster of ADEM for helping initiate the partnership program.

Steve Cauthen (retired) and Bill Puckett, AL SWCC Executive Directors, for guiding the Partnership and providing financial support

John Slupecki, Skip Ragsdale, and Perry Oakes for strong support in initiating **Red Water Blues in 1994** and continued support of Clear Water AL

Thanks" to Key Long-time Supporters

Alabama Association of Conservation District representatives **Roger Walters** (deceased) and **Jack Wadsworth** for exceptional support of the Partnership Steering Committee.

Sunshine Supplies. American Excelsior, and Hanes Geo staff for their support of over **30 Red Water Blues/Clear Water AL events**.

Barry Fagan, long-time member of Steering Committee and strong supporter of all aspects of our program.

Perry Oakes for providing strong leadership in all facets of the program since its beginning.

Technology providers making a difference!

AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee & Partners – Funding, technology tools, and training

Soil and Water Conservation Society – AL Chapter – CPESC Course and exam, training, partnership contracts

AL Agricultural Experiment Station – Rese

Auburn Univ Research and Training

AL Assistance Program (Auburn University) – Training

AL Water Resources Conference – Training annually

AL Vegetation Management Society – Training annually

AL Stormwater Association – Training annually

International Erosion Control Association & Southeast Chapter

Change requires time, leaders, organizations technology providers and practitioners!

Common denominator with providers & other supporters

Connections with experts in their field

Websites for Information

AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee & Alabama Erosion and Sediment Control Partnership

https://alabamasoilandwater.gov/alesc/

Soil and Water Conservation Society – AL Chapter

https://alchapterswcs.org/

Auburn University (AU) Stormwater Research Facility

https://www.eng.auburn.edu/research/centers/auesctf/index.html

AL Transportation Assistance Program (Auburn University)

https://eng.auburn.edu/atap/workshops-webinars

AL Water Resources Conference

https://mellbase.uce.auburn.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C240904

AL Vegetation Management Society

www.avmsonline.org

AL Stormwater Association

https://www.alabamastormwater.org/

International Erosion Control Association and Southeast Chapter

https://www.ieca.org/

Partnership Program Members

- AL Soil and Water Conservation Committee - Chair
- AL Association of Conservation Districts
- AL Associated General Contractors
- AL Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society
- AL Cooperative extension System
- AL Department of Environmental Mgt.
- AL Department of Transportation
- AL Section American Society of Civil Engineers
- Auburn University
- Auburn University Stormwater Research facility
- Home Builders Association of AL
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Your Partnership Staff

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www.alabamasoilandwater.gov/ALESC

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Questions

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