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## **Introduction to the event: Regional wetland mitigation bank to be given to Morgan County at upcoming ceremony.**

- Event** The ceremonial property transfer of the Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank to the Morgan County Commission.
- Time** 1:30 p.m.
- Date** July 25, 2006
- Place** USDA Agricultural Service Center Meeting Room  
3120 Highway 36 West  
Hartselle, AL 35640  
Telephone 256 773-6541, Ext 3
- Getting there** Highway 36 approximately 4 miles WEST of the Highways 31 & 36 intersection in Hartselle or approximately 9 miles EAST of Highway 157. Look for a long brick building with the American flag flying in front. You can enter through the front door directly in front of the flag. Call Ann, 256-773-6543 ext 3, if you need further directions.

You are invited to a rare event that concerns the heartland of north Alabama: For the first time, a county commission receives land as the result of a sold-out wetlands mitigation bank.

Two stories in one:

**Story one:** Morgan County receives the 647-acre Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank. The land was returned to wetlands from a farm after all the bank's credits were sold.

**Story two:** Alabama's first privately-owned wetlands mitigation bank is sold out as a success for Robinsong Ecological Resources LLC, the entity which created it, and for the Flint Creek watershed in which it is located.

**The Event:** the ceremonial property transfer from Robinsong Ecological Resources, who founded and operated the wetlands mitigation bank from its inception, to the Morgan County Commission.

**The Program:** Visitors are invited to arrive and take a quick facility tour at 1:30 p.m. At 1:45 p.m. Robinsong principals Cynthia Robinson and Jo Somers and NRCS representative Foy Kirkland will conduct a presentation in the NRCS conference room about the importance of the Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank and its impact on the Flint Creek watershed and the water quality in Morgan County and the nearby Tennessee River.

At 2:10 the 647-acre tract of the fulfilled Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank will be handed over to the Morgan County Commission. This photo opportunity will take place on a podium located in front of an archway sign created to commemorate the event.

At 2:25 the floor will be open for photographs, interviews and questions.

The ceremonies will take place indoors at the NRCS facility in case of rain.

**How it came about:** The Morgan County Soil and Conservation District, who will assume ownership of the project during the ceremony, was authorized by the State of Alabama to manage the community's soil and water resource needs.

The need for attention to the watershed serving the Flint Creek gained special prominence for focus upon that waterway and thus the Flint Creek Watershed Conservancy District was developed. The Flint Creek Watershed Conservancy District promoted its efforts through newspaper articles and the Internet. When Robinsong CEO Cynthia Robinson went looking for farmland that could be restored to wetlands status in a manner that would be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they encountered the group behind the Flint Creek Watershed Conservancy District and a match was made.

Through these efforts, the state's first private owned wetlands mitigation bank was created which allowed the sale of mitigation credits (acres of restored wetlands) to meet the requirements of the EPA's wetlands requirements. These requirements, developed during the 1990s, are that for every acre of wetlands destroyed, two acres of wetlands must be created to take its place.

This law was intended to—and in fact did—reverse the rapid decline of wetlands in America (see attached press release with detailed explanation). The Flint Creek Wetlands Mitigation Bank was the first privately owned in Alabama. Since its inception it has sold its “credits” (acres of wetlands) to airports, municipalities and name brand stores whose growth imperiled wetlands. Now that all the acreage credits are sold out, the land that the state's first private owned wetlands bank was founded upon is being turned over to the Morgan County Commission in perpetuity.

[For more information, contact](#)

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