



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District

72nd Annual Report



2017 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners (standing) Jason Hinson, June Morgan (Assistant), and Troy Nelson; (seated) Maureen Hutchcroft, Bob Hinson, and Brian Messer. Not pictured Jeff Burgus, and Andrew Mason (Assistants).



IOWA FARM ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER AWARDS
Paul and Linda Beckman (center) receive their Environmental Leader Award from Iowa DNR Director Chuck Gipp, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Governor Kim Reynolds, and Lt. Governor Adam Gregg.

Lake Geode Restoration Efforts Hit Full Swing

By Caleb Waters, Lake Geode Watershed Coordinator

Lake Geode is known for its excellent sport fishery, but in recent years the water quality has been on the decline. The lake is currently



ly listed on the 303d impaired waters list due to high concentrations of E. Coli bacteria and pH levels. As a result, project partners have been working towards improving the water quality through a water quality project. Since 2010, a great deal of work has been completed in the watershed. Landowners within the watershed have been implementing a variety of conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and runoff off from their land. These practices include terraces, waterways, ponds, cover crops, no-till, and strip-till practices. Landowners within the watershed can receive up to 75 percent cost-share to voluntarily implement conservation on their properties.

This past year, project partners geared up to begin an extensive lake restoration project that will include the removal of 200,000 cubic yards of sediment from the upper end of the lake (that's nearly 10,000 dump truck loads). The restoration project will also include building underwater fish habitat, armoring eroded shorelines, and building an in-lake silt dam. On June 16, 2017, a dive team investigated the lakes inlet. While doing so, they found a steel plate covering the structure. After a few months of developing a strategic plan, crews were hired to re-install the sluice gate back into the dam and to remove the steel plate covering the inlet. On October 11, 2017, crews removed the steel plate. Later that day, the gate was cracked beginning the lake draw down process. It took approximately thirty days for the 178-acre lake to fully drain.

Over the next two years, crews will mechanically remove sediment from the lake. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources hopes to have the project completed by Spring of 2019, although it will depend on the weather. At that time, the lake will begin filling on its own. Once the lake is filled, the fishery will be restocked. The campground at the park is also slated for a renovation over the next year. This project will include new drive-through camp pads and updating breaker boxes from 30 to 50 amps.

For more information about the ongoing water quality efforts, logon to the "Lake Geode Watershed Project" or the parks Facebook page at "Geode State Park, IA." You can also contact the Lake Geode Watershed Coordinator at 319-753-6221, ext. 3968.

Beckmans Win Environmental Leader Award

Paul and Linda Beckman of Sperry were one of 81 Iowa farm families presented with the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards during the Iowa State Fair in 2017.

The Des Moines SWCD nominated the Beckmans because of their strong conservation farming ethics and Paul's objective "to run a successful profitable farming operation, while improving his soils." The award is a joint effort between the Governor, Lt. Governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources to recognize the efforts of Iowa's farmers as environmental leaders committed to healthy soils and improved water quality. It seeks to recognize the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state, while also encouraging other farmers to follow in their footsteps by showcasing the success that they have had.

Find more information and current news about the SWCD on Facebook at "Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District"

SWCD FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Checking General Account Balance, July 1, 2016	\$ 10,313.05
Receipts:	
Seed Sales	\$ 75,736.46
Cookbook Sales	40.35
Bluebird Boxes Sales	112.35
Checking Account Interest	6.18
IM Reimbursement	2,000.00
Geode Reimbursement	17.59
TOTAL	\$ 77,912.93
Expenditures:	
Postage	\$ 244.00
Sales Tax	5,630.00
Awards	27.75
Commissioner Travel	932.40
Poster Contest Prizes	180.00
PF Seed	63,150.50
Dues	1,150.00
Sympathy/Get Well Expressions	125.00
Office Supplies	245.67
Scholarship	350.00
Cover Crop Field Day	32.31
PF Banquet Sponsor	500.00
Bluebird Box Supplies	107.02
Farmers Market	13.67
Soils Judging Contest	100.00
Environthon	50.00
TOTAL	\$ 72,838.32
Balance, June 30, 2017	\$ 15,387.66
Special Projects/Payroll Account Balance, July 1, 2016	\$42,785.85
Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$ 13.84
FB Program	7,786.80
Intern Program	3,478.50
TOTAL	\$ 11,279.14
Expenditures:	
Payroll	\$ 4,207.14
PF FB Biologist	2,500.00
Taxes/IPERS	1,012.39
Intern Travel	101.35
TOTAL	\$ 7,820.88
Balance, June 30, 2017	\$ 46,244.11
Geode Watershed Account Balance, July 1, 2017	\$ 6,326.58
Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$ 2.02
IDALS – payroll & supplies	65,126.75
Transfer from payroll for taxes	65,132.21
TOTAL	\$ 66,466.68
Expenditures:	
Payroll	\$ 36,297.47
Taxes, IPERS, payroll fees	29,515.44
Conferences/training	461.80
Supplies	582.62
Printing	315.70
TOTAL	\$ 140.85
Balance, June 30, 2017	\$ 67,313.88
Balance, June 30, 2017	\$ 5,479.38

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Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District

72nd Annual Report

Healthy Soils Are Full of Life



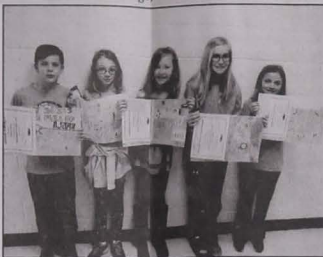
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2017 theme was "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life." Soils are the foundation for everything that we are and do—from the clothes that we wear, the food we eat, to the house we live in; every person and thing gets its start from the soil. Healthy soils are important for growing our food. People and plants need healthy food to live and grow.

The contest consists of five divisions—Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grades; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th-6th grades; Division 4 is 7th-9th grades; and Division 5 is 10th-12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.



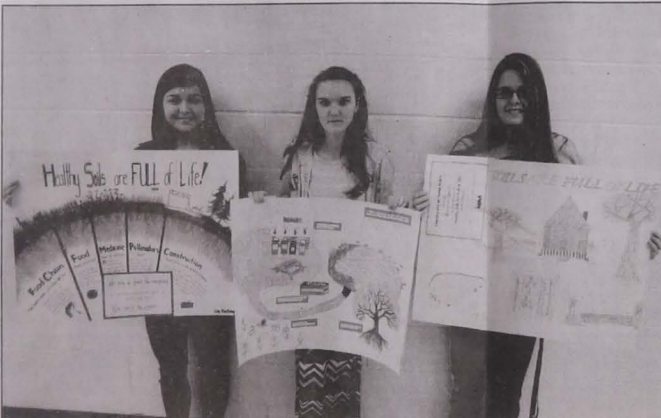
Division 4 winners from Burlington High School were Abby Peters, 1st; Peighton Davis, 3rd; Spencer Brown, Honorable Mention; and Isaac Morehead, Honorable Mention.



Division 3 winners from Mediapolis Schools are Solomon Zaugg, 1st; Alyssa Haynie, Honorable Mention; Ella Russell, 2nd; Larae Steiner, Honorable Mention; and Jaydon Wirt, 3rd.



Tobin Krell was West Burlington Jr. High School Honorable Mention winner in Division 4.



Mediapolis School winners in Division 5 were Lily Bullinger, 1st; Keena Norton, 2nd; and McKenzie Spears, 3rd.

Personnel During 2017

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Hutchcroft, Chairperson & Co-Treasurer
Robert Hinson, Vice-Chairperson
Brian Messer, Co-Treasurer
Jason Hinson
Troy Nelson

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Jeff Burgess
June Morgan
Andrew Mason

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Drew Delang, District Conservationist
Shiloh Bradley, Resource Conservationist
Kindra Pruetz, Soil Conservation Technician
Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator
Erica Yost, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist
Eric Bro, Summer Intern (May - August)
Jamie Grimes, State Conservation Assistant

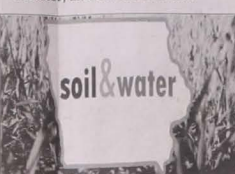


Messer Receives Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District honored a local high school senior with a scholarship in 2017. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Matthew Messer of Burlington High School was the recipient chosen. He is the son of Brian and Diane Messer. Matthew is currently attending Des Moines Area Community College.

Matthew was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. In order to be eligible, the student must be planning to attend college to pursue programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character, and self-motivation.



Des Moines SWCD Financial Report

Of State Funds

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Budget & Operating Funds

Total Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Commissioners Expense	\$ 896.83
Office Expenses, Awards	\$ 530.20
CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 575.00
Balance	\$ (2.03)

REAP PRACTICES

Forest Stand Improvement – 69.6 acres

Water & Sediment Control Basin (Knotty Creek priority watershed) – 1 no.

Funds Paid in Des Moines County \$ 9,349.50

REAP FORESTRY & NATIVE GRASSES

Forest Stand Improvement – 10.1 acres

Funds Paid in Des Moines County \$ 924.00

COST SHARE

Terraces – 15,802 feet

Water & Sediment Control Basin – 1 no.

Pasture & Hayland Planting – 5 acres

Summer Construction – 1 acre

Funds Paid in Des Moines County \$53,953.13

LAKE GEODE – PUBLIC OWNED LAKES, WSPF, 319

Cover Crops – 371.8 acres

Terraces – 1,305 feet

Grade Stabilization Structure – 1 no.

Septic System Upgrades – 3 no.

Strip Till – 73.2 acres

Funds Paid in Des Moines County \$49,754.89

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

Cover Crops – 2,590 acres

Strip Till – 250.5 acres

Nitrification Inhibitor – 160 acres

Funds Paid in Des Moines County \$53,430.25

Thanks for Your Help

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses.

Businesses donating goods or services to the SWCD during 2017 include:

- Papa Murphy's—pizza gift certificates to give as honorable mention prizes for the poster contest.
- Mediapolis News—prints our Annual Report every year.
- Des Moines County Fair—booth space for one day.
- The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! Those wanting to make a donation should call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

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