



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 69th Annual Report

Digging Deeper: Mysteries of the Soil

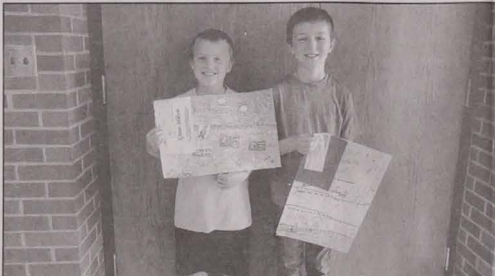
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2014 theme was *Digging Deeper: Mysteries of the Soil*. The contest consists of five divisions: Division 1 is kindergarten and first grades; Division 2 is second and third grades; Division 3 is fourth through sixth grades; Division 4 is seventh through ninth grades; and Division 5 is 10th through 12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Additionally, each first-place winner was submitted for regional competition. Regional winners in 2014 were Elia Subacchi, Cheyenne McMillan and Audriana Parrott.



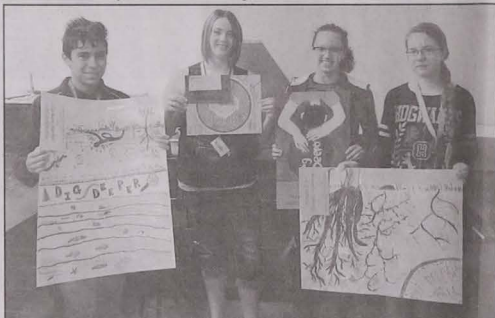
Division 2 winners were Elia Subacchi, first; Eliana Gnann, Honorable Mention; and Adrian Benson, Honorable Mention; all from Great River Christian School.



Division 2 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Grant Hilton, third, and Jack Myers, second.



Division 3 winners from Great River Christian School were Zechariah Hancock, first; Andrew Nicholson, second; and Samuel Perdelwitz, third. Not pictured is Honorable Mention winner Taryn Miller from Mediapolis Schools.



Division 4 winners from West Burlington Schools were Tanner Sherrill, first; Jacob Fritz, third; Brian Brem, Honorable Mention; and Lydia Vance, second. Not pictured is Rashad Brooks, Honorable Mention.



Division 5 winners from Burlington High School were Marissa Purdum, Honorable Mention; Rhiannon De La Rosa, Honorable Mention; Riley Messinger, second; and Cassidy Lawler, third.



Division 1 winners from Great River Christian School were Lilly Baier, first; Katelyn Kobilska, second; Peyton Reichter, third; and Lance Ludens, Honorable Mention. Not pictured is Honorable Mention winner Broderick Schmidgall.



Debra Walker, Betsy Evans and Jean Huss discuss ideas for land and agriculture in their respective counties during the listening session for the Women, Land and Legacy program.

Women, Land And Legacy Program Begins In Des Moines And Louisa Counties

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Iowa State University Extension, Des Moines and Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Mediapolis Savings Bank have partnered together to form a Women, Land and Legacy educational program in Des Moines and Louisa counties.

The listening session was held on October 6 at the Morning Sun Community Center. Through small group dialogue and focused conversation processes used by Women, Land and Legacy, local women were given the opportunity to inform the partners of their strengths and needs and what specific topics they would benefit from learning more about.

Women, Land and Legacy helps agricultural women come together to converse, listen and become empowered to act on their landscape and in their community.

The first educational program is scheduled from Tuesday, March 10, from 1-3 p.m. at Mediapolis City Hall. This program will focus on soil health and cost share programs.

For more information or to RSVP, contact jamie.grimes@ia.nacdn.net.



Division 5 first place winner was Audriana Parrott from Great River Christian School.



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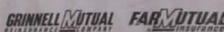
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Annual Contractor's Meeting

The Des Moines and Louisa County SWCDs held a joint contractor's meeting on February 25, 2014, at the St. Mary's Church of Dodgeville Parish Center for local earthwork and tiling contractors.

Speakers were DOT Officer Ben Slife, who discussed road safety and regulations, DNR Senior Dam Safety Engineer Jonathan Garton who discussed pond construction rules and permits, and NRCS office personnel.

Did You Know?

Soil is formed as rock is broken up by ice, frost, wind, and water. Plants take root among the rock fragments and bind them together. When plants die, they fertilize the soil. Soil takes many years to form, but it can be destroyed very quickly by bad farming methods, such as deforestation (clearing the land of trees).



2014 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners Don Lounsbury, Bob Hinson, Maureen Hutchcroft, Jason Hinson, Ron Snyder and Jeff Burgus.

Des Moines SWCD Financial Report Of State Funds

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Budget and Operating Funds

Total Allocation	\$ 2,150.00
Commissioners Expense	\$ 1,039.80
Office Expenses, Meeting Room Rental	\$ 497.64
Educational Materials	\$ 37.56
CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 575.00
Balance	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices

Allocation & Carry Over	\$14,482.39
Projects Completed	\$ 4,975.25
Transferred to FY15	\$ 9,458.75
Balance	\$ 48.39

REAP Forestry and Native Grasses

Allocation & Carry Over	\$ 7,279.22
Projects Completed	\$ 4,546.50
Transferred to FY15	\$ 2,400.00
Balance	\$ 332.72

Cost Share

Allocation & Carry Over	\$89,049.50
Projects Completed	\$53,534.24
Transferred to FY15	\$35,279.25
Balance	\$ 236.01

POL (Lake Geode)

Allocation & Carry Over	\$108,907.87
Projects Completed	\$ 37,008.15
Transferred to FY15	\$ 71,899.12
Balance	\$.60

Personnel During 2014

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

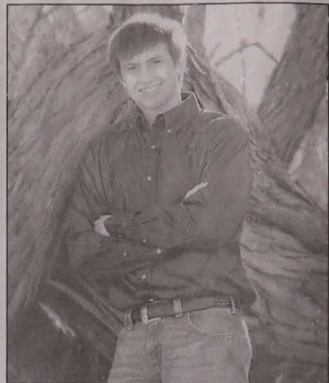
Maureen Hutchcroft, Chairperson and Co-Treasurer
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Burgus, Co-Treasurer
Jason Hinson
Ronald Snyder (through February)
Robert Hinson (appointed August)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Hinson (through October)
Ronald Snyder (February-December)
Bradley Weiss

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Drew DeLang, District Conservationist
Shiloh Bradley, Resource Conservationist
Kindra Bradley, Soil Conservation Technician
Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator
Erica Yost, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist
John Wischmeier, Summer Intern/District Employee (started May)
Jamie Grimes, State and District Secretary



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 2014. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Curtis Messer of Mediapolis High School was the recipient chosen. He is the son of Dan and Crissi Messer. Curtis is currently attending Iowa State University.

Curtis 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.



Signs advertising cover crops were placed in highly visible sights throughout the county. These signs were paid for by a grant provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Division of Soil Conservation through the Water Quality Initiative program.

Cover Crops Making A Comeback In Iowa

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District provided a \$25/acre incentive to producers to plant nearly 1,600 acres of cover crops during the fall of 2014.

The benefits of cover crops include reduced soil erosion; produce/scavenge crop nutrients; increased nutrient recycling; good forage sources; reduced soil compaction; reduced pests; improved soil microbiology; increased soil porosity and infiltration, a help with winter annual weed control, and improved yield potential over time.

If interested in trying cover crops or wanting more information, stop in at or call the office.

Thanks For The Help

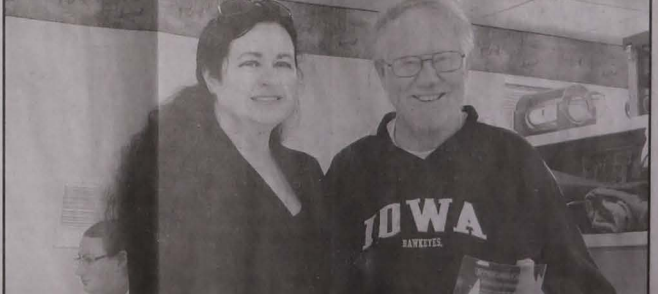
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses.

Businesses donating goods or services to the SWCD during 2014 include:

- Pizza Hut - personal pan 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 Board - booth space at the county fair.
- Mediapolis Savings Bank - meeting space and meal for Women, Land and Legacy meeting and cash donation for sponsorship/meal for habitat workshop.
- Southeastern Community College Ag Club - meeting space for a cover crop field day.
- The Hawkeye County Conservation - booth space at the annual Earth Day cleanup.
- Morning Sun Community Center - meeting space for the first Women, Land and Legacy listening session.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks each and every donor!

If wanting to make a donation, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.



The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District lost one of their commissioners in December 2014. Ron Snyder was a District Commissioner from 2001 to early 2014 when he retired and became an assistant due to health reasons. Ron will be remembered for his passion for conservation and his determination to get things done when he set his mind to it. Snyder is pictured with Chairperson Maureen Hutchcroft receiving an award for his years of service to the Des Moines SWCD.



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