



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 64th Annual Report

MHS Team Competes At Envirothon

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a team of students from Mediapolis High School who participated in a regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City in March 2009. From the regional level, the top fifteen teams in the state advance to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park. MHS placed 29th overall.

Team members Cody Vantiger, Taylor Bergquist,



The 2009 Envirothon team from Mediapolis High School: L-R: Tyler Fischer, Cody Vantiger, Stacy Rector (Coach/Teacher), Jessica Cary, Taylor Bergquist, and Unity Litton.

Tyler Fischer, Unity Litton, and Jessica Cary competed

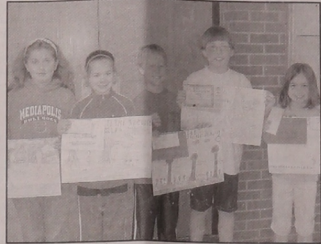
against teams from Keota, Decorah, Riceville, Albur-

nett, Muscatine, Bellevue, Maquoketa, Linn-Mar, and Preston. The group was coached by NRCS Soil Conservationist Jon Matz and MHS teacher Stacy Rector.

The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife and Soils.



Division 1 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Liberty Meth, Honorable Mention; Trevor Gerst, Honorable Mention; Sarah Coates, Honorable Mention; Olivia Moehle, 1st; and Cade Nollen, 3rd.



Division 2 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Lillian Harison, Honorable Mention; Maya Johnson, 3rd; Cayu Massner, 1st; Caleb Siegle, Honorable Mention; and Lily Bullinger, 2nd.



Division 3 winners from Mediapolis were Brianna Eberhardt, Honorable Mention; Torri Stoller, Honorable Mention; Jonathan Massner, 3rd; Charles Jahn, 2nd; and Zach Gordon, 1st.



Division 4 winners from Mediapolis High School were Shannon Sisco, Honorable Mention; Stephanie Massner, 3rd; and Kelli Sisco, 2nd. Patrick Taffe also received Honorable Mention.

Dig It!

The Secrets Of 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 2009 theme was "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." 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

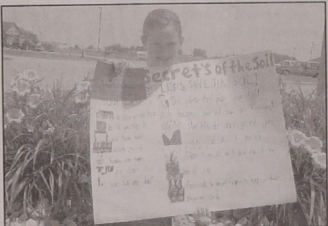
included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Additionally, each first place winner was submitted for regional competition.

The posters from Olivia Moehle, Cayu Massner, and Zach Gordon were chosen as regional winners. Regional winners

are then submitted for state competition. Cayu

was chosen as a state winner and his poster was displayed during the Conservation Districts of Iowa Annual Conference! His poster will now go to national competition at the National Association of Conservation District conference in mid-February.



Kendra Schulz, home schooled, received second place in division 1.



Grimes student Chloe Crawley received Honorable Mention in division 3.



Burlington High School first place winner in division 4 was Surekha Mullangi.



Oetken

Cling

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipients

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District honored two local high school seniors with scholarships in 2009. These scholarships are sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Aaron Cling of Mediapolis High School was one recipient chosen. He is the son of Doug Cling and Joan Cling. He is currently attending Iowa State University. Additionally, Aaron's information was forwarded for Region competition where his application was judged against up to 12 additional individuals. Aaron was chosen the winner in the competition and his application was then forwarded for state competition.

The second recipient was Aaron Oetken from Burlington High School. Aaron is attending Southeastern Community College. Aaron is the son of Larry and Amy Oetken.

Both students were chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Criteria considered in judging the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character and self-motivation. (Continued On Page 4B)

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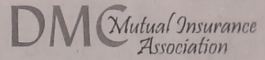


Mediapolis, Iowa • (319) 394-3964

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m.-12 noon



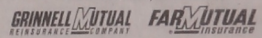
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(319) 985-2161



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Our Church Directory

Apostolic Christian Church

Highway 99 Oakville
10:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
10:45 p.m. - Afternoon Worship
Wednesday Midweek Service
7:00 p.m. - Winter Hours
8:00 p.m. - Summer Hours

Centenary United Methodist Church

Morning Sun. Iowa
Sue Elbert, Minister, Pastor Scott Smith, assist. pastor 868-4120

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship
2:00 p.m. - Bible Study
Thursday March 4
2:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet

Church of Christ

19005 Roosevelt, Burlington

Roddy Tate, pastor
Phone 758-9250
Church phone 758-5684
Sunday February 28
9:30 a.m. - Morning Bible Study
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. - Evening Worship
Wednesday March 3
7:00 p.m. - Midweek Study

Faith Christian Outreach Church

1101 E. Washington
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

319-986-5377 / fco@faithchristianoutreach.com

Pastors: Monte Knudsen, Rick Bunnell

Gary Van Nyskals

Tom Roberts, Crystal McLean

Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

At every service, children are welcome to 1 year. World Wide Kids for Pre-K to 5th grade.

High Impact Youth for 6-12th graders.

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - Dan Baker, pastor

Sunday February 28

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

Nursery provided

6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship - Nursery provided

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer

Nursery provided. For free transportation always get this call 394-1455

First Presbyterian Church

Yarmouth, Iowa - 565-5531

Paul Hooks, pastor

Sunday February 28

9:00 a.m. - Prayer & Training

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

Wednesday March 3

7:00 p.m. - Kids Club

7:30 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Presbyterian Church

Mediapolis, Iowa

Pastor Brad Hansen

Church phone 394-3130

Wednesday February 24

6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee

6:45 p.m. - 1st H.M.C.G.

6:45 p.m. - Confirmation

Thursday February 25

12:30 a.m. - Young Adult Hour

7:00 p.m. - Narrows Road

Sunday February 28

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 a.m. - The Bible Community

10:00 a.m. - Worship

6:00 p.m. - 2nd H.M.C.G.

Monday March 1

7:00 p.m. - Evening Circle

7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Committee

Tuesday March 2

3:00 p.m. - Food Pantry

Oakville Community Bible Church

Oakville, Iowa

Steven Parker, Jim Ruberg, Pastors

Sunday February 28

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Oakville United Methodist Church

Oakville, Iowa

Sue Elbert, senior pastor

Scott Smith, pastor

Saturday February 27

5:00 p.m. - Roy Scott Potluck Supper

Sunday February 28

9:00 a.m. - Worship Service

10:15 a.m. - Sabbath School

Wednesday March 3

5:30 p.m. - Youth Bible Study

6:30 p.m. - Journeys

Peace Lutheran Church

1360 Revere Road West Burlington

Cindy Johnson, pastor

Church phone 319-392-4422

Sunday February 28

8:15 a.m. - Sunday School

9:00 a.m. - Sabbath Service

10:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship

Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

Afternoon Circle & Bible Study 3rd Sunday

at 1 p.m.

Over the Hill Card Fellowship 2nd Friday

at 1:30 p.m.

Sharon Reformed Presbyterian Church

Morning Sun. Iowa - Ronald W. Good, pastor

Church phone 394-3181

Sunday February 28

10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. - Sabbath School

5:00 p.m. - Youth Group

7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Pleasant Grove, Iowa

394-3284

Sunday February 28

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship

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2009 Annual Report State Conservationist Column

This year was full of new conservation-related opportunities offered by USDA. And Iowa farmers responded with great interest. The first, and probably most anticipated, was the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Originally Iowa NRCS was allotted 360,000 acres for this first CSP sign-up. Based on your statewide response, Iowa was granted an additional 56,000 acres for a total of 416,000 acres.

We are still in the process of finalizing our first round of CSP contracts from the 1,100 applications submitted by the funding cutoff deadline. Of these contracts, Des Moines County submitted four applications. The new CSP sign-up is statewide and continuous. So if you did not turn in an application this time, it's not too late. The second date for a funding cutoff has not yet been announced by USDA. But we would anticipate something in February or March.

A second new opportunity was the Organic EQIP Initiative, which was also available statewide. Originally Iowa was provided about \$1 million to provide financial assistance to help producers transition to organic production, but interest was so high Iowa received an additional \$2 million. So Iowa organic producers received more than \$3 million to assist them implement conservation practices. In Des Moines County, producers received \$1,818 of these Organic EQIP Initiative funds.

A third new opportunity was announced this year, the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI). Iowa is one of 12 states selected for the MRBI, which will help producers implement conservation practices that help avoid, control and treat nutrient runoff. Only producers in a few small watersheds will be able to participate this year after NRCS selects the MRBI proposals to implement. However, the MRBI will provide opportunities this year and in future years for additional producers to implement conservation practices which address nutrient runoff. Please visit the Iowa NRCS website (www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov) for updates on the MRBI.

Iowa is traditionally a top state in conservation implementation. And you are the major reason for that. Our accomplishments are only a reflection of your commitment to do more to protect our state's soil and water. You can learn more about our shared accomplishments by viewing the online slide show at the following link <http://www.flickr.com/photos/43873399@N05/sets/7157622668751746/show/>

Even with these great accomplishments, as State Conservationist I have asked NRCS staff to focus on three main areas to make improvements: conservation planning, expanding valued partnerships, and managing our financial contracts. All of these priorities will help our staff help provide better customer service to you.

Anyone in agriculture is used to challenges—some of which are unexpected. This year we know we will face challenges created by the state's current financial crisis. It will touch many, if not all, of our districts. The Conservation Partnership will do its best to maintain our level of customer service throughout this difficult time, but it some cases we may not be able to respond as quickly as we would in the past. I ask for your patience and understanding as we make adapt to best tackle these challenges.

Thanks for all you do and wishing you a healthy and successful 2010.

Richard Sims, State Conservationist

District activities during 2009

January

Election of Officers for 2009

Completed as follows: Chairperson

—Maureen McLaughlin; Vice Chairperson

—Don Lounsbury.

Appointments for 2009 re-

sulted as follows: Secretary—Jamie

Grimes; Treasurer—Grimes; Co-

Treasurer—Jeff Burgess; Assistant

Commissioners—Brad Weiss; NRCS

Executive Board—Lounsbury, Ron

Snyder (alternate); Flint Creek Ad-

visory Board—Bob Hinson, Snyder

(alternate); REAP—Hinson; Educa-

tion/Contests/Awards Commit-

tee—McLaughlin, Hinson, Snyder;

Fair Raising Committee—All;

Marketing Committee—McLaugh-

lin; Legislative Committee—Burgis,

Lounsbury; Urban Conservation

Committee—Snyder.

McLaughlin attended the CDI

Legislative Day held at the capital

in Des Moines.

Annual report was printed in

Mediapolis News.

The district donated \$50 to

Johnson County Conservation for

Environment lunch costs.

The SWCD co-hosted a

contractor's meeting with Louisa

County SWCD on February 11.

Civil Rights were reviewed.

Russ Bennett started on

February 9 as Geospatial

Coordinator.

March

McLaughlin attended the Environ-

ment with the Mediapolis High School

team.

McLaughlin, Snyder and

Grimes attended the Spring Re-

gional meeting in Ft. Madison.

Aaron Kling and Aaron Oet-

en were chosen as local recipients

of the high school scholarship.

April

Soil and Water Stewardship

week was April 26 - May 3

Winners were chosen for the

poster contest.

Lake George NPS Watershed

Project review meeting was April

21.

May

Matz and Bouwleard did soils

runoff and applied demostrations

at the New London #6 grade

campout.

June

Disc Urban Conservationist-

SWCD meeting to discuss urban

practices and grant options.

July

NRCS dues were paid.

The SWCD donated \$125

to the Soil & Water Conservation

Society for the booth set up along

the RAGBRAI route to promote

conservation.

2009 District Accomplishments

	Amount	Unit
Terraces Constructed	14,990	Feet
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constr.	1	Each
Field Borders Seeded	13,249	Feet
Wetlands Restored, Created or Enhanced	2	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	6	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	39	Acres
Windbreaks Established	3.2	Acres
Filter Strips Established	19	Acres
Riparian Buffers Established	3	Acres
Grade Stabilization Structures Completed	2	Each
Conservation Cover Established	34	Acres
Fence Installed	1,600	Feet
Hoop Building Completed	1	Each
Continuous CRP Contracts Completed	14	Each
Continuous CRP Contract Acres	67	Acres
EQIP Contracts Completed	14	Each
Conservation Plans Developed	6,581	Acres

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 Expenditures of funds provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and land Stewardship (IDALS) for Commissioners' Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Cost Share, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses	
Allocation	\$3,000.00
Commissioners Expense	1,347.89
Office Expense (includes postage, supplies, fair booth expense)	1,127.11
CDI Dues	425.00
NACD Dues	100.00
Balance	-0.00