



WARREN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

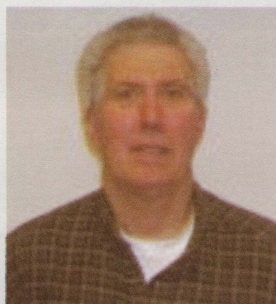
Arlan Becker, Chairman
Kenneth Croat, Vice Chairman
Jason DeLay
Ralph Mendenhall
Harold Whipple

February, 2007

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



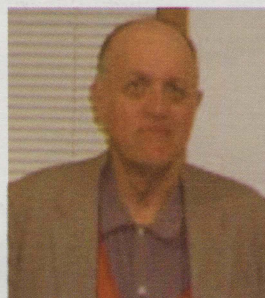
Arlan Becker



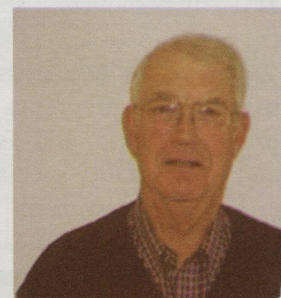
Kenneth Croat



Jason DeLay



Ralph Mendenhall



Harold Whipple

This report is prepared annually by the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District to provide information concerning our local conservation program to the people of Warren County. This work has been accomplished with the cooperation of the Warren County landowners and operators. We thank you for all your efforts in conserving the land for future generations.

And we thank the many organizations that assisted us during the year. We appreciate the support given by the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation Board, the DNR, and the Extension Service.

We also thank our Booster Club Members who make it possible for conservation educational programs to continue throughout the county. In 2006 your donations have allowed the District to provide Soil Stewardship materials to local churches, schools and at the Warren County Fair booth, a donation to the Women, Land & Legacy organization benefiting Warren County female landowners, as well as a host of workshops, training sessions and field days. Without the generosity of our

members, many of these activities could not be carried out.

Soil and water conservation district commissioners are the governing body of a district and are responsible for conducting the affairs of the district. The commissioners have the task of coordinating the efforts of all agencies, organizations and individuals with responsibilities in natural resources conservation and development in the district. The commissioners meet in regular monthly meetings to develop and carry out the annual work plan for reaching the district's goals. The board is responsible for correlating the programs with those of other agencies engaged in resource planning and development as well as develop leadership and group activity in conservation. They promote initiatives of landowners and operators as groups and as individuals. The commissioners support the programs of the state and national association by contacting state and national legislators on matters pertaining to soil and water conservation. Soil and water conservation district commissioners serve without salary and are elected to serve four-year terms of office. The Warren SWCD commissioners are a spokesperson for you.

2006 BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

<i>James Bergman</i>	<i>Orville Crowley</i>
<i>Dwight Dollison</i>	<i>D. Robert Downing</i>
<i>Allan Graham</i>	<i>Lorraine Hill</i>
<i>Kelly Tree Farm</i>	<i>Chris McCormick</i>
<i>Leland McCormick</i>	<i>Jim & Joyce Penick</i>
<i>Don Pochter</i>	<i>Kenneth Schaper</i>
<i>Ralph Schlenker</i>	<i>John E. Sereg</i>
<i>Kay Whipple</i>	

Thanks to these generous Boosters donating a total of \$1,034.78, the District has been able to enhance the conservation education and awareness in Warren County.

Soil & Water Conservation District Partners –

The *Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC)* is responsible for the administrative functions of the soil and water conservation laws of Iowa. Division staff advises and assists districts with local resource management programs, allocate state financial incentive program funds, and assign state technical, secretarial, and water quality specialist positions to the districts.

The *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* is the technical agency helping landowners and operators plan total resource management systems and apply soil conservation practices to the land. NRCS personnel work through the soil and water conservation districts.

The *Farm Service Agency* administers Farm Bill programs that Congress passes into law. Some of those programs include Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP), commodity loans, facility loans, operating loans, etc.

The *Iowa Department of Natural Resources* administers parks, lakes, recreation areas, wildlife areas, forests, natural and cultural preserves and associated user facilities and services. The local Warren County DNR office is located near Lake Ahquabi State Park and provides technical assistance to private landowners for wildlife management.

These agencies work together to administer the conservation programs available in Warren County. Technical assistance for soil and water conservation purposes is provided free of charge to all landowners and residents of Warren County.

SEEDERS

The District has two battery-operated seeders and two hand-operated seeders that rent for \$10 and \$5 respectively. They are ideal for seeding terraces, waterways, dams, and small area native grass seeding projects.

POSTER CONTEST

"Today is the Day to be a part of Conservation's Power". The 2007 poster contest theme is "**Conservation's Power**" and all students K-12 attending Warren County Schools are eligible to participate. Contest information has been sent to all Warren County schools. **Entries must be submitted to the Warren SWCD office by March 26, 2007.**



For more information contact the SWCD office at 909 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite B (USDA Bldg.), Indianola or phone 515-961-5264.

4th Grade Field Day

With the help of Joel VanRoekel from the Annett Nature Center, the District hosted the annual Conservation Field Day on May 16, 2006 for 100 fourth grade students from Irving Elementary School in Indianola.



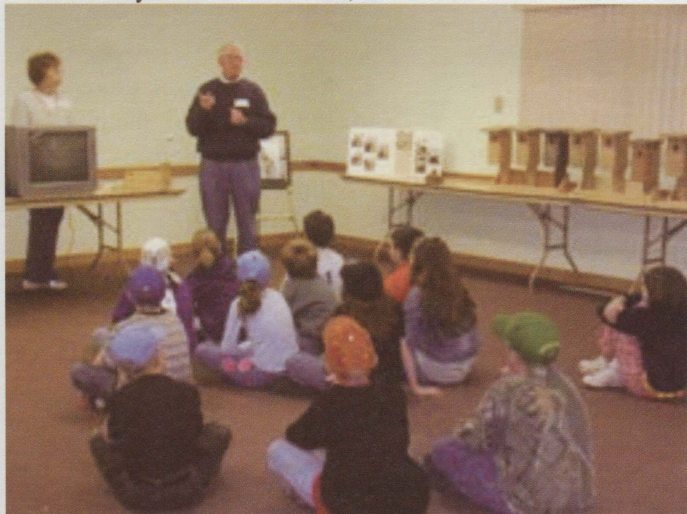
Rick Bednarck, Soil Scientist, is demonstrating how soil particles settle out in water. The sand particles, being larger, settle out first, then the silt particles. The water still looks dirty because the clay particles are still in suspension because clay is so small and light in weight that they take a lot longer to settle.

All programs and services of the Warren SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Jim Coffey demonstrated hands-on tree planting. Seven bur oak trees were planted, mulched, staked and caged in the prairie north of the Annett Nature Center. This will eventually form an oak savanna demonstration area for the county.



Harold Whipple showed students a day-by-day video of a typical bluebird family beginning with nest preparation and hatching to the young birds leaving the nest 17 days later. The Whipples displayed and demonstrated actual nesting boxes and talked about common predators, how both parents care for the hatchlings, the number of hatches they have in a season, etc.



WOMEN LAND AND LEGACY

Women, Land and Legacy (WLL™) helps agricultural women come together to converse, listen and become empowered to act on their landscape and in their community. Through small group dialogue and focused conversation processes, Iowa agricultural women are given the opportunity to inform agencies and organizations of their needs and what specific outreach strategies would serve them best.

A Conservation Nature Walk was conducted by Nick Morrell and Chuck Abel. Each of their sessions talked about wildlife that could be found in the Lake Ahquabi area as well as throughout Warren County and Iowa. The groups identified numerous plants, grasses, trees and shrubs and talked about how each provides habitat in some form or another.



Using a stream table, Don Bonneau demonstrated how erosion can be reduced and prevented by incorporating certain conservation measures. Students were shown how terraces and waterways slow the water flow. Rick Streeter talked to students about the various types of erosion and that an average of 1/12" of topsoil is lost per year due to unprotected soil. Water and wind erode more unprotected topsoil than any other natural force. By leaving crop residues such as cornstalks on the soil surface and planting hillsides on the contour or strip cropping, erosion can be cut by as much as two-thirds when used in combination with other erosion control methods.



Warren Soil & Water Conservation District
909 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite B
Indianola, IA 50125-2812

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
DES MOINES IA
PERMIT 5297

2007 DISTRICT TREE SALES

The Soil and Water Conservation District is again selling bare root and potted trees and shrubs. This is the district's main fund raiser and profits are used for conservation education in Warren County.

Some nursery stock is limited, so you should order as soon possible to assure receipt of the species you want.

The deadline for ordering is March 15, 2007. A list of trees and shrubs showing price, size and quantity is on a separate sheet included with this report. If you desire a species not on the list, please call 515-961-5264 and we will do our best to obtain it for you.

USDA

2006 NRCS and SWCD staff

Nick Morrell District Conservationist
Sarah Zimmerman Soil Conservationist
Anne Hildebrand . . Whitebreast Creek Watershed Coord.
Rick Streeter Federal Soil Con. Technician
Chuck Abel State Technician
Martin Bown District Technician
Marcia Grimm State Secretary

2006 Poster Contest Winners



Jenni Wilson, first grade student at Whittier Elementary in Indianola and daughter of Scott and Marcy Wilson. Congratulations Jenni!



Emily Coffey, third grade student at Whittier Elementary in Indianola and daughter of Steve and Beth Coffey. Congratulations Emily!



Allie Elliott, fifth grade student at Whittier Elementary in Indianola and daughter of Brad and Angie Elliott. Congratulations Allie!

Each of the poster winners received a \$25 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble Bookstore.