



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 59th Annual Report

The Living Soil

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



First place in Division 1 was Madeline Bozman, Notre Dame Elementary (shown with District Commissioner Ron Snyder).



Second place in Division 1 went to Isabella Van Harz, Sunnyside Elementary (with Snyder).



Third place in Division 1 was Tyler Rogers, Mediapolis Elementary (shown with District Commissioner Maureen Fosdick).



First place in Division 2 was Nicholas Anderson, Mediapolis Elementary (with Fosdick).



Second place in Division 2 was Jared Schmidgall, Mediapolis Elementary (with Fosdick).



Third place in Division 2 was Andrew Poggenmiller, Mediapolis Elementary (with Fosdick).



First place in Division 3 was Shannon Sisco, Mediapolis Elementary (with Fosdick).



Second place in Division 3 was Andrew Osborn and Courtney Pohren, North Hill Elementary (with Snyder).



First place in Division 4 was Michael Fosdick, Mediapolis School.



First place in Division 5 was Jayson Calvin, Crusade High School (with Fosdick).

Local Landowners Chosen for Conservation Awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected five local landowners as District winners for the annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program and Woodland Owner of the Year.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and consists of three Divisions.

Darla Chaddock, Yarmouth, was selected as winner in Division III. This division is for any landowner who became a new soil conservation district cooperators.

Nancy Dunn, Burlington, and Larry's Farm Supply (Larry Oelken), Burlington, were selected as winners in Division II. This division is for tenant-operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Curtis Orr, Mediapolis, was selected as the winner in Division I. This division is for owner-operated farms in which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Additionally, the District chose Clifford Hinson, Kingston, as local winner of the Woodland Owner of the Year award. The award, co-sponsored by the Forestry Division of the Iowa DNR and Conservation Districts of Iowa, is designed to recognize individuals who are doing an outstanding job of woodland management.

If you know a landowner or producer you feel is doing a great job of conserving natural resources please call the Soil & Water Conservation District at 329-753-6221 to nominate them!



District Commissioner Bob Hinson is supervising the both the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District set up during the Des Moines County Fair in July. Information about various NRCS and SWCD programs, backyard conservation, and SWCD history were available. Additionally pencils, tattoos, and coloring books were given away. Three door prizes, donated by Wal-Mart, Target and Menards, were also given away. Winners of the door prizes were Brenda Waring, Carol Abel, and Erika Massner.

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 to the SWCD include:

- Wal-Mart- gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Target- gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Menards- T-shirt to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Vista Bakery- cookies to pass out as a locally made product when the Soil & Water Conservation District hosted the Fall Region 9 meeting.
- Elder Farm Equipment- socket set to give away as door prize for the Regional meeting.
- West Burlington Christian Church—use of fellowship hall for Regional meeting.
- Deery Brothers- the use of a van to conduct a short tour prior to the Regional meeting.
- Mediapolis News - generously prints our Annual Report every year.
- Des Moines County Fair Board- booth space at the county fair.

The following persons also contributed to the SWCD after a letter was sent to all landowners, producers, banks, and contractors requesting financial assistance. These funds were used for student and teacher scholarships, poster contest awards, dues, and educational products.

Al Heckenberg & Sons, William Baker, Howard & Valerie Burgus, Darwin Campbell, Kevin Clark, Marcia Cook, Copley Enterprises, Delores Roberts Revocable Trust, Myranel Dockendorf, Marilyn Drenstedt, Perle & Arlene Dumise, Edie Earthmoving, Gerald & Maureen Fosdick, Gerndner Enterprises Corp, Etta Heddens, Robert Hinson, Virgil & Patsy Kroll, Leann Kurrie, Richard & Bernice Laue, Lyle Lucas Trust, Norman & Pauline Magdefrau, Mark Breder Ltd, McDonald Ltd., Galen & Mary Jo Metzger, H.R. Morrison, Frances Obermann, Richard Osborn, Dennis & Bev Petersen, C. Janet Pfeil, Pierson Farms, Melvin Radd, Velma Ruppner, ServiceMaster of Burlington, Steve Shumaker, James & Phyllis Sluck, Ron Snyder, Dwight & Nettie Stucker, Albert & Kathleen Swander, Everett & Helen Toft, Ida Pauline Wasson, Joseph & Sharon Wasson, Wegman Farms, Williams Excavation.

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! If you would like to make a donation, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

Every November, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners take a tour of different practices that have been established with state and federal programs. In 2004, the tour included a windbreak, CRP tree planting, shallow water area, and a site that is being enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Shown are Ron Snyder, Don Lounsbury, Maureen Fosdick, Carl Stottorf, T.J. Mathis, and Bob Hinson discussing the different trees used in a windbreak on the Stottorf property.



Des Moines County SWCD Hosts Regional Meeting

Jim Gillespie, IDALS Field Service Bureau Chief, presents the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program Regional winner, George Israel, with a certificate during the Region 9 fall meeting. Israel is from Wapello County and owns land in several counties in southern Iowa.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District was chosen to host the Fall Region 9 meeting in August. Region 9 consists of thirteen counties in southern Iowa. These meetings are held twice a year at different locations throughout the region to conduct special business, allow commissioners to get together from different counties to discuss topics of interest and hear updates from partners.

The meeting was held at West Burlington Christian Church with the meal served by West Burlington Christian Church Sisters in Spirit. Thirty-two people were in attendance representing SWCDs from Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Wapello, Wayne, and Des Moines Counties, Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State office and Area office.

Cookbooks for Sale

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is in the process of compiling a taste tempting cookbook with recipes coming from our past and present District Commissioners, Assistants and office personnel.

The cookbook will feature a three-ring binder cover and contain over 300 recipes, including appetizers, main dishes, desserts and more. They will sell for \$14 and will be available in June. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks will be used for our educational and scholarship programs.

To reserve a copy of the cookbook, call Jamie at 319-753-6221.

District Donates Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2004-05 school year. The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington. Other organizations that made contributions towards the 2004-05 scholarship fund were Bank of Stronghurst, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Lee County Bank and Trust, Raritan State Bank, Twomey Company and Vaniger Farm Market.

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Mediapolis Teacher Chosen as SWCD Teacher of the Year

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District chose Mediapolis High School teacher Ralph Kaufman as the local winner in Division 2 of the 2004 Iowa Soil Conservation awards program.

The purpose of the award is to recognize public or parochial school teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources. Division 2 consists of teachers in grades 7 through 12.

The SWCD chose Ralph as their local winner because of his dedication to the environment, not only through teaching, but also as an example through his daily life. He involves his students in every aspect of conservation activities, which, in turn, creates a lasting impression that will benefit natural resources for generations to come.

For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

2004-05 Scholarship Recipients:

Justin Mohr, Caleb Covert, Joe Rich, Dustin Moore, Isaac Rodgers, Matt Pollpeter, Kevin Frank, Damian Getchell, and Richard Yotter.



District Commissioner Maureen Fosdick and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional winner, George Israel, with a certificate during the Region 9 fall meeting. Israel is from Wapello County and owns land in several counties in southern Iowa.



Students construct a pinecone bird feeder. Shown in the picture are students spreading peanut butter on their pinecones before rolling in birdseed.

Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District 60th Annual Report



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Personnel during 2005



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are Ron Snyder (Burlington), Don Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Maureen Fosdick (Franklin Township), and Bob Hinson (Tama Township).

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Todd Heckenberg, Chairperson
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Maureen Fosdick
Robert Hinson
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Frank Hedges
Aryn Musselman
Bradley Weiss

OFFICE STAFF

Shiloh Bradley, District Conservatorist
T.J. Mathis, Soil Conservatorist (through January)
Courtney Myers, Soil Conservatorist (started May)
John Horan, Soil Conservation Technician (through August)
Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary
Dale Schmeiser, District Employee

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce Trautman, Assistant State Conservatorist (FO)
Shawn Dettmann, Area Resource Conservatorist
Mark LaVan, Area Resource Soil Scientist
Jesse Jackson, Grassland Specialist
Sarah Anderson, Agricultural Engineer
Kerry Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Kevin Andersen, Biologist

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP - DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION (Des Moines)

Ken Tow, Director
James Gillespie, Chief Field Services Bureau
Paul Valin, Field Representative

Revolving funds account

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2004	\$1,474.19
Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 5.04
Pop Machine Commission	39.20
Checking Account Interest	5.74
Donations	3,890.00
Cookbook Sales	954.00
Regional Meeting	336.00
1M Reimbursement	2,297.64
TOTAL	\$ 7,527.62
Disbursements:	
Postage	\$ 137.13
Office Supplies & Expenses	180.07
Awards & Dinner Expenses	254.93
Commissioner Travel	878.81
Poster Contest Prizes	155.00
Cookbook Expenses	7,433.88
Dues	1,100.00
Subscriptions/Memberships	25.00
Scholarships	700.00
Regional Meeting	276.00
Soil Loss Complaint	113.46
Film Processing	4.89
TOTAL	\$ 5,669.17
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2005	\$3,332.64

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2004	\$4,773.23
Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$ 20.90
DSC Buffer Initiative	5,000.00
DSC Farm Bill	6,202.00
Newsletter Reimbursement	300.96
Des Moines County Pheasants Forever	1,000.00
CDI	6,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,523.86
Expenditures:	
Federal Tax	\$ 2,139.81
State of Iowa & Tax	438.00
Unemployment Insurance	161.34
IPERS	1,265.07
Newsletter	300.96
Payroll preparation fees	165.00
Payroll	11,832.44
TOTAL	\$ 16,302.62
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2005	\$6,994.47

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 Expenditures of funds provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation	\$ 2,500.00
Commissioners Expense	835.92
Office Expense (includes postage, newsletter, soil loss complaint)	914.08
CDI Dues	350.00
NACD Dues	400.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 2005

Allocation	\$15,084.44
Tree Planting, 6.8 ac completed	2,478.00
Farmstead Windbreak, .6 ac completed	1,200.00
Field Windbreak, 1.6 ac completed	5,000.00
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	557.94
Tree Planting, incomplete	9,390.50
Balance	1,458.00

REAP Forestry & Native Grasses 2005

Allocation	\$ 1,766.63
Farmstead Windbreak, 1 completed	1,016.63
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	750.00
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2004-05

Allocation	\$49,828.00
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 34 completed	34,208.97
Grassed Waterways, .7 ac completed	968.91
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	7,830.00
Terraces, incomplete	2,537.00
Balance	4,283.12

IFIP 2003-04

Allocation	\$21,072.91
Grassed Waterway, 2.5 ac completed	5,248.84
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 13 completed	13,108.13
Critical Area Planting, 1 ac completed	58.50
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	2,500.25
Balance	157.19

IFIP 2002-03

Allocation	\$19,248.97
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 16 completed	15,357.47
Terraces, incomplete	3,891.50
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2004-05

Allocation	\$12,381.41
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 4 completed	12,381.41
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2003-04

Allocation	\$ 2,703.66
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 3 completed	2,703.66
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes 2002-03

Allocation	\$ 7,854.76
Terraces, 1,500 ft completed	7,854.76
Balance	-0-

District Activities During 2005

- January**
- Election of Officers for 2005 resulted as follows: Chairperson - Todd Heckenberg; Vice Chairperson - Don Lounsbury.
 - Appointments for 2005 resulted as follows: Secretary - Jamie Grimes; Treasurer - Grimes; Co-Treasurer - Ron Snyder; Assistant Commissioners - Frank Hedges, Aryn Musselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board - Lounsbury, Maureen Fosdick (alternate), Flint Creek Advisory Board - Bob Hinson, Snyder (alternate), 206 Project - Hinson; REAP - Heckenberg; Education/Contests/Awards Committee - Fosdick, Hinson; Fund Raising Committee - All; Marketing Committee - Fosdick; Annual Plan of Work Committee - Hinson, Heckenberg; Legislative Committee - Snyder, Lounsbury; Urban Conservation Committee - Snyder.
 - CDI dues were paid.
 - Soil Conservatorist T.J. Mathis' last day was January 21.
 - Winner was chosen for the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
 - Meeting date and time was changed to the third Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
 - Civil Rights were reviewed.

- February**
- DSC Program Planner Tony Toigo presented information at a meeting for local landowners interested in the Low Interest Loan Program.
 - A newsletter was mailed.

- March**
- Grimes, Hinson and Snyder attended Spring Regional Meetings.
 - A special meeting was held to discuss cost share.
 - District Conservatorist Shiloh Bradley and Grimes presented information during a 5th grade career fair at SCC.
 - A \$500 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
 - Annual Report was printed in Mediapolis News.
 - An awards supper was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse.

- April**
- Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 24 - May 1.
 - Winners were chosen for the Poster Contest.
 - Participated in "Clean out Your Files" day for Earth Day.
 - NRCS Planning Leader Dave Beck presented a Soil & Water Assessment Tool model for Flint Creek.

- May**
- Courtney Myers started May 31 as Soil Conservatorist.
 - Cookbooks arrived and sales began.
 - Local winners were chosen for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.
 - Musselman was chosen to submit for the Ruth Wagner Award.

- June**
- Geode RC&D Coordinator Christa Perkins attended the monthly meeting.
 - The SWCD agreed to administer a multi-county PF Wildlife Biologist position.
 - NACD dues were paid.
 - Letters were mailed to state planners about the SWCD being eligible for memorials and land donations.

- July**
- The SWCD had a booth during the Des Moines County Fair, July 27 - August 2.
 - Vince Sitzmann, DSC Regional Coordinator, attended the monthly meeting to discuss watershed funding.
 - Two resolutions were presented to CDI.
 - Myers and Dale Schmeiser presented information about sediment to teachers attending the Living Lands workshop.
 - A donation was given to develop an Iowa Soil Monolith exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute.

- August**
- Fosdick and Heckenberg completed the annual audit of the District books.
 - NRCS Technician John Horan retired August 31.
 - Sitzmann attended the monthly meeting to discuss Flint Creek.
 - Hinson and Snyder attended the Fall Regional meeting.
 - Iowa Farmer Today interviewed Fosdick, Lori Heckenberg and Grimes about the cookbook. Recipes from the cookbook were made by Heckenberg for a photo spread in the publication.

- September**
- DMC Engineer Brian Carter and Roadside Manager Jeff Chase attended the monthly meeting.
 - Three local poster winners also were winners of the regional poster contest.
 - Myers and Schmeiser presented information about NRCS to a career exploration class at Mediapolis High School.

- October**
- A local winner was selected for the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
 - Completed resolution voting for Annual Conference.
 - The soil loss complaint went to district court.
 - CDI dues were paid.

- November**
- Snyder attended Annual Conference in Ames.
 - Musselman received his plaque for the Ruth Wagner Award at Annual Conference.
 - Fosdick and Grimes decorated the Christmas Tree at Westland Mall for the Boulevard of Trees.

- December**
- Awards supper was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse.
 - Interviews were conducted for the PF Wildlife Biologist position.
 - Dues were paid for 1,000 Friends of Iowa membership.

District Accomplishments

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Amount	Unit	No.
New District Cooperators on 414 acres	6	Acres
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	17	Acres
Terraces Constructed	1,100	FL
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constructed	43	No.
Field Border Seeded	50,733	FL
Wetland Restoration Completed	165	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	14	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	22	Acres
Reapian Buffer	41	Acres
Field Windbreak Established	6	Acres
Farmstead Windbreak Established	1	Acres
Filter Strips Established	51	Acres
Shallow Water Areas Established	38	Acres
CRP Contracts Completed	46	No.
EQIP Contracts Completed	11	No.