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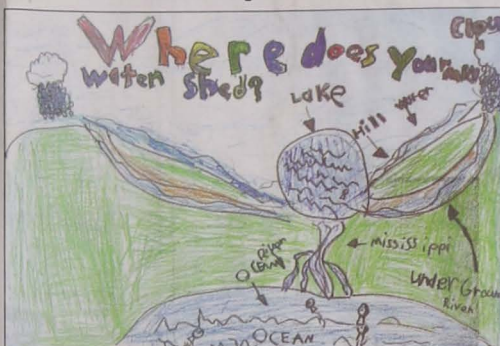
Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 68th Annual Report

Where Does Your Water Shed?

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 2013 theme was *Where Does Your Water Shed?* 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. Division 1 winner Solomon Zaugg was selected as a regional winner and a state winner while Division 3 first place winner Ruth Jahn was chosen as a regional winner.



First place and regional and state winner was Solomon Zaugg from Mediapolis Elementary School with this artwork.



Division 2 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Andrew Kodis, third; Cami Whitaker, Honorable Mention; Lucas Wagenbach, second; Taryn Miller, Honorable Mention; and Mallory Martin, first.



Division 3 winners from Mediapolis were Alaina Oliver, Honorable Mention; Travis Massner, second; Justin Wyatt, third; Maxwell McClure, Honorable Mention; and Ruth Jahn, first and regional winner.



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.



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Des Moines County Soil And Water Conservation District 68th 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 the Southeast Iowa Regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City in March 2013.

The MHS team placed ninth in Iowa regional competition, which allowed them to advance to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park. State competition was held in April where they competed against the top 15 teams. The MHS team placed 11th. The first place team went on to national competition in Montana.

Team members were Blake Hubbard, Jordan Hubbard, Davis Carberry, Ryan Phillips and Caleb Hemphill. The group was coached by NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Kindra Bradley and MHS Science teacher Stacey Reitor.

The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to answer written questions about Aquatic Ecosystems, Forestry, Wildlife and Soils.



2013 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners Don Lounsbury, Jason Hinson, Maureen Hutchcroft, Ron Snyder, Jeff Burgus and Bob Hinson.

Des Moines SWCD Financial Report Of State Funds July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Budget & Operating Funds

Total Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Commissioners Expense	\$ 995.13
Office Expense	\$ 79.87
Educational Materials	\$ 200.00
CDI & NACD Dues	\$ 725.00
Balance	\$ 0.00

REAP Practices

Allocation & Carry Over	\$12,389.63
Projects Completed	\$ 8,783.09
Transferred to FY14	\$ 4,021.25
Balance	\$ 495.29

REAP Forestry & Native Grasses

Allocation & Carry Over	\$ 7,113.71
Projects Completed	\$ 3,024.00
Transferred to FY14	\$ 3,996.00
Balance	\$ 93.71

Cost Share

Allocation & Carry Over	\$58,227.95
Projects Completed	\$22,244.82
Transferred to FY14	\$35,962.50
Balance	\$ 20.63

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Allocation & Carry Over	\$79,608.49
Projects Completed	\$ 8,942.10
Transferred to FY14	\$69,502.50
Balance	\$ 1,163.89



SCC Ag Instructor Chuck Albright explains the different cover crop practices that were aerially seeded on the fields at the college.

Cover Crop Field Day At SCC

The Des Moines and Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation Districts co-sponsored a cover crop field day in October at Southeastern Community College (SCC). Other sponsors included Green Cover Seed, Iowa Learning Farms, SCC, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

The field day was held to show local landowners the benefits of cover crops, soil health and the difference in the two types of seeding applications (aerial and drilled) that were used at the college to seed the cover crops.

Speakers included SCC Instructors Chuck Albright and Adam Raub, NRCS personnel Jason Steele, Drew DeLang and Shawn Dettmann, Practical Farmers of Iowa Sarah Carlson, and local farmers Tim Knudson and Jim Pilling.

Des Moines County Cattleman's donated their time to grill the meal that was served.



Mazenzie Rubin of Monsanto, Iowa DNR Director Chuck Gipp, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Connie and Charles Nealey, Governor Terry Branstad, and Lt. Gov. Nealeys Receive Environmental Leader Awards

Charles and Connie Nealey of Danville were one of 63 Iowa farm families presented with the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards during the Iowa State Fair in 2013.

The Des Moines SWCD nominated the Nealeys because of their strong conservation farming ethics. 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 building success upon success.

Personnel During 2013

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Hutchcroft, Chairperson
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Burgus, Co-Treasurer
Jason Hinson
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Robert Hinson
Bradley Weiss

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Drew DeLang, District Conservationist
Shiloh Bradley, Resource Conservationist
Kindra Bradley, Soil Conservation Technician
Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator
John Steinhacker, Summer Intern (May-August)
Jamie Grimes, State and District Secretary

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Jim and Charles Pilling were chosen Conservation Farmers of the Year by the Des Moines SWCD.

Jim And Charles Pilling Receive Award

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District chose Charles and Jim Pilling, of Mediapolis, as Conservation Farmers of the Year for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Additionally, the Pillings went on to regional judging and were chosen winners at that level.

The Pillings were selected by the Des Moines County SWCD as local winners for various reasons including that they are conservation leaders in the community. Jim and Charles have been using no-till for well over 20 years on both Highly Erodible and Not Highly Erodible Land. They began using cover crops before others heard of it because they knew it would build organic matter, reduce erosion, scavenge nitrogen and suppress weeds on their fields. The Pillings have installed numerous conservation practices such as waterways, terraces, field borders, basins, and filterstrips throughout the years. They have made decisions about their land use that shows their commitment to keep the soil in place.

The Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program is sponsored by the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation in partnership with Conservation Districts of Iowa and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Des Moines County is located in Region 9, which consists of 13 counties in southeast Iowa.



Soil And Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipient

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District honored a local high school senior with a scholarship in 2013. This scholarship is sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Dustin Belknap of Mediapolis High School was the recipient chosen. He is the son of Michael and Annette Belknap. Dustin is currently attending Iowa State University.

Dustin 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.