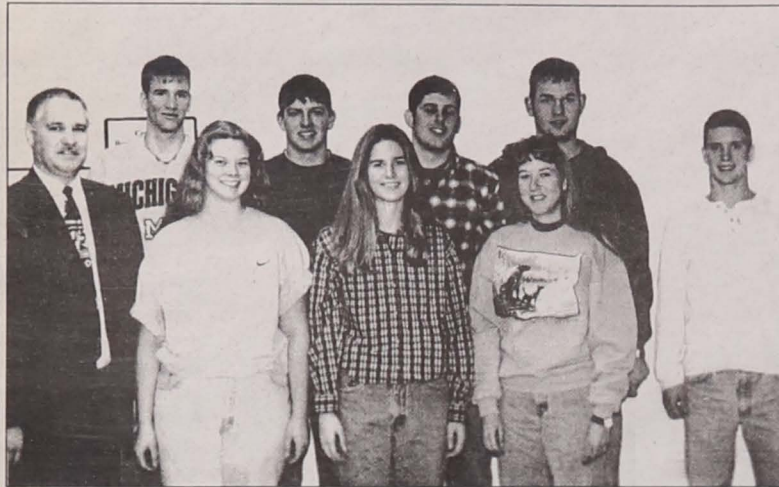


Lloyd Receives Scholarship

Misty Lloyd is the 1998 recipient of a \$500 scholarship given by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. The money was contributed to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation which helps promote agriculture in the three state area.

The Foundation was established to assist students enrolling in the Southeastern Community College agriculture programs.

Other organizations who made contributions towards the 1998 scholarship fund are F&M Bank, Des Moines County Farm Bureau, Twomey Company, Bank of Stronghurst, Querna Seed, Raritan State Bank, Agrineed, Griffen L. C., and American Cyanamid.



Tri-State Agriculture Education Foundation scholarship recipients left to right: Jeff Burgus, Foundation Treasurer, Allen Wiseman, Misty Lloyd, Brian Randall, Tracy Vorwerk, Tony Durr, Sarah Hicks-Harshbarger, Ben Torrance, and Troy Bisgard.

Gary Wagner Memorial Award Presented

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District presented Harold Linder of Sperry with the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award during the Ag

Expo held at SCC on September 2. Harold was the first recipient of this award. He has spent a lifetime being a good land steward to improve the natural resources he loves very much and through

volunteer work he educates others. Harold received a \$250 cash award to be used towards a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing his efforts.

The second recipients of the award are Richard and Carolyn Mapel of Danville. Richard and Carolyn were chosen because of the many wildlife benefits that have been established on their farm, including a tree plantation, pond with nesting structures, prairies, and wildflower and native grass strips. The Mapels are also active in conservation education and regularly host field trips of their prairies. They will be presented the award during the 1999 Ag Expo.

The Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award was developed by family and friends of Gary to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.



Harold Linder displays the plaque he received for being the first recipient of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.

EQIP Update

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the federal cost-share program that replaced the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) in 1996 under the new farm bill.

EQIP works primarily in locally identified priority areas where there are significantly natural resource concerns such as soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest and grazing lands. EQIP is a federal program that puts control of priorities, practices, and cost-share rates at the hands of local officials.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District worked with local landowners and partners through a public forum to identify Yellow Springs Watershed as Des Moines county's priority area. The District combined this effort with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Lee, Louisa and Muscatine counties and named the priority area MISS Quad.

MISS Quad is only for Des Moines County landowners located in Yellow Springs Watershed. In 1998, MISS Quad received \$33,000. Six projects were funded with this money and five of these projects were located in Des Moines county.

In 1999, MISS Quad will have a signup April 19 - 30. Priority projects will be 1) Water and sediment basins, terraces, 2) alternative Ag, 3) grade stabilization structures, 4) no-till, and 5) wildlife/wetland development. Again, this is for landowners located in Yellow Springs Watershed.

Landowners located outside of Yellow Springs Watershed also have an opportunity to receive EQIP funds. There is a limited signup, usually once a year, for applicants not located in priority areas. The resource concerns for the statewide signup are 1) livestock manure management and grazing lands, 2) soil erosion, and 3) priority lakes, municipal water supply impoundments and lakes, agricultural drainage wells and DNR priority cold water streams.

If you have any questions about EQIP, please call the District office at 319-753-6221.

Lundy Receives Watershed Achievement Award

Sherman Lundy, Burlington High School teacher, was selected as the recipient of the 1998 Iowa Watershed Achievement Award.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District submitted a nomination form for Mr. Lundy to the Conservation Districts of Iowa and State Soil Conservation Committee, co-sponsors of the award. The District was notified in July that Mr. Lundy had won the state award.

The Watershed Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the solution of resource conservation problems through the watershed approach. Mr. Lundy was selected by the District because of his leadership in implementing water quality testing along Flint Creek and for his involvement with the Flint Creek Advisory Board. Mr. Lundy has also been instrumental in organizing riparian buffer plantings along Flint Creek.

Mr. Lundy was presented with a plaque during the Conservation Districts of Iowa Annual Conference held in September in Des Moines.

Assistant Commissioners Desired

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are assisted with their various programs by special people called Assistant Commissioners.

Assistant Commissioners are appointed on a yearly basis. They aid the district governing body by assisting with activities such as tours, contests, and educational activities. Assistant Commissioners act as advisors and offer suggestions or ideas, but cannot make motions or vote on official district business.

If you are interested in becoming an Assistant Commissioner, please call the District office at 319-753-6221.

Educational Volunteer Award

Are you concerned about the environment? Are you willing to spend a couple of hours a week teaching children about the environment? If so, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District needs your help.

The District is looking for someone to volunteer their time to coordinate an educational program. The volunteer would become a liaison between the District and Des Moines county schools. The program will possibly include outdoor classrooms, classroom visits, poster contests, distributing educational materials to schools, and much more.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

Mushroom Kits Available

Spring will soon be here! The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has just what you need for your backyard landscaping needs.

The District now offers a Conservation Products Catalog for purchasing conservation items. The brochure includes mushroom habitat kits, butterfly and bat houses, wildflowers, grapevines, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, hummingbird feeder kits, border and accent plants, daylilies, ground cover plants, ferns, and much more.

Orders and payments are made directly to the nursery where the products are shipped from. If you are interested in receiving the free brochure, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.



Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipient



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and Assistants (L-R): Frank Hedges, Brad Weiss, Jeff Bergman and Todd Heckenberg. Not pictured: Myranell Dockendorff, Don Lounsbury, Arlyn Musselman.

District Accomplishments

July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

	Amount	Unit
New District Cooperators on 1,247 acres	13	No.
Individuals or Groups Assisted	738	No.
Individuals or Groups Applying Practices	124	No.
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	138	Acres
Terraces Constructed	21600	Fl.
Water & Sediment Control Basin Constructed	1	No.
Woodland Improvement	121	Acres
Tree Plantings Completed	11	Acres
Wildlife Habitat Management	883	Acres
Wetland Development/Restoration	451	Acres
Underground Outlet Installed	8327	Fl.
Riparian Forest Buffers Established	19	Acres
Filter Strips Established	396	Acres
Ponds Constructed	1	No.
Waste Management Systems Constructed	1	No.
CRP Contracts Completed	122	No.
EQIP Contracts Completed	5	No.

Volunteers Construct Riparian Buffer

On November 14, JB Martin, District Conservationist of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, led a crew of volunteers to construct a riparian buffer along Flint Creek in Pleasant Grove Township.

The project began when Randy Higdon was approved for a riparian buffer along Flint Creek through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. A riparian buffer is a zone consisting of trees, shrubs and grass along a body of water. The zone filters sediment and pollutants entering the water.

The volunteers worked together on a Saturday to plant approximately 1000 walnut, oak and ash trees and dogwood shrubs that will help make a difference in the water quality of Flint Creek.

Among those helping with the riparian buffer were members of Cub Scout Pack 85, Burlington High School Ecology Club and Science students, Trees Forever, and many more volunteers from throughout the area.

Personnel

COMMISSIONERS

Jeff S. Bergman, Chairperson
Frank C. Hedges, Vice-Chairperson
W Donald Lounsbury
Myranell Dockendorff
Laura Wagner-Ertz (January-August)
Todd D Heckenberg (started September)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Todd D. Heckenberg (January-August)
Arlyn L Musselman
Bradley J Weiss

OFFICE STAFF

J B Martin Jr, District Conservationist
John D White, Soil Conservationist (started October)
John J Horan, Soil Conservation Technician
Jill L Westercamp, Soil Conservation Aide (January-August)
Tyler W Messer, Soil Conservation Aide
Jamie L. Fair, State & District Secretary

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce W Trautman, Area Conservationist
Shawn A Deltmann, Area Resource Conservationist
Mark R LaVan, Area Resource Soil Scientist
Sue M Long, Civil Engineer
George A. Schaefer, Agricultural Engineer
Ron P Wilson, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry K Richards, Computer Specialist
Suzette D Betts, Administrative Management Assistant
Darlene G Lauder, Area Secretary



Patricia Honson of Sperry was chosen as the 1998 recipient of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) and CDI Auxiliary scholarship.

Patricia was chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. Patricia graduated in May from Mediapolis High School and started college in August at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

Patricia is the daughter of Kirk and Pamela Honson.



A streambank stabilization project was completed on Robert Yaeger's farm along Flint Creek in Pleasant Grove Township. Riprap was installed to prevent the creek from eroding away the bank. This project will also include riparian buffers, filterstrips and wetland areas. The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is partially funding this project through a grant received from EPA.

West Burlington Bank

101 Broadway • Westland Mall
Member FDIC

Wal-Mart

324W Agency Rd.
West Burlington

Target

525 S. Gear Ave

Danville State Savings Bank

Danville/New London
Member FDIC

Cut-Ups

Hair Styling and Tanning Salon
115 Broadway
West Burlington
Jackie Klein

The Des Moines County News

West Burlington Your Community Newspaper