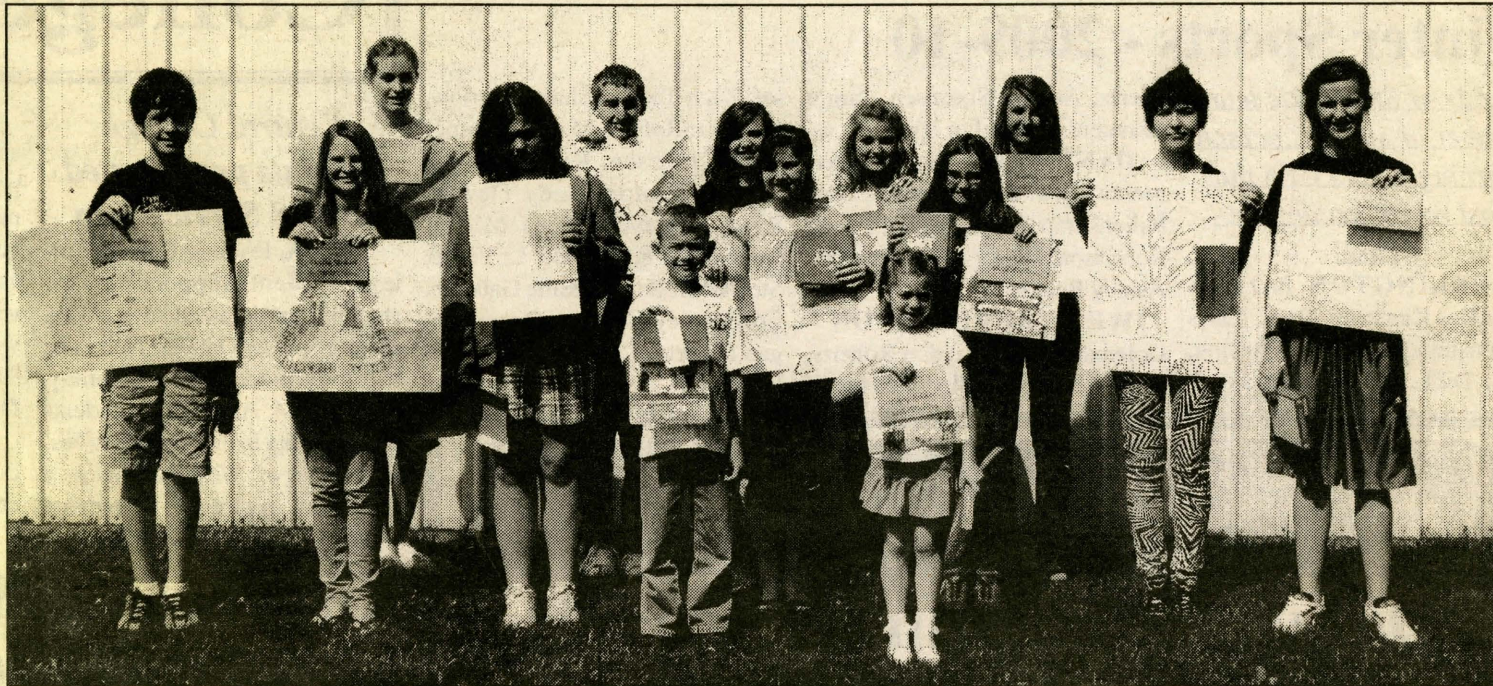


Danville Students earn Poster Contest honors



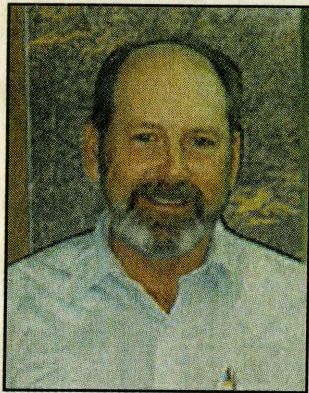
By Sherry Kaestner

Danville students in grades K-12 recently took part in a poster contest sponsored by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. This week Jamie Grimes and Maureen McLaughlin announced the winners and presented the students with a variety of awards, including Pizza Hut Gift Certificates and cash, ranging from \$15 to \$25.

Students who entered were asked to design a poster that reflected the theme "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits".

Winners pictured include (back row, left to right) Brandy Lowary, Cody Ita, Madison Wolkenhauer, Alexandria Gabeline, Lindsay Schaffer, Brittany Hoelzen and Nora Meierotto; (middle row, left to right) Darren Wolbers, Deidra Stewart, Katy Roby, Meredith Gourley and Sierra Kelman; and (front row, left to right) Jordan Watznauer and Emma Rehman. Randall Williams also received an award, but was not present for the photo.

Lounsbury Honored For Volunteer Service



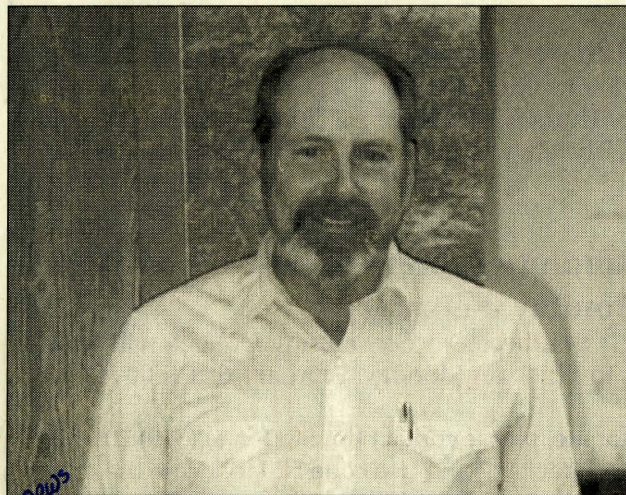
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to publicly thank Don Lounsbury, of New London, for his years of service as a Soil and Water District Commissioner.

Don served as a Commissioner from January 1995 to December 2016. During that time, he served as chairperson and vice chair-

person and also represented the SWCD on the Geode Resource Conservation and Development board.

Lounsbury was a pioneer for conservation while serving and was a proponent for water quality in the Flint Creek watershed. His valuable input concerning soil and water conservation will be greatly missed.

Don Lounsbury provides 21 years of volunteer service to DMCSWCD



DMC News
2017

Don Lounsbury, New London

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to publicly thank Don Lounsbury, New London, for his years of service as

a soil and water District Commissioner.

Don served as a Commissioner from January 1995 - December 2016. During that time, he served as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and also represented the SWCD on the Geode Resource Conservation and Development Board.

Don was a pioneer for conservation while serving and was a proponent for water quality in the Flint Creek watershed. Don's valuable input concerning soil and water conservation will be greatly missed.

Mediapolis teacher is local SWCD winner

The Hawk Eye

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has chosen Mediapolis school teacher Nancy Carter as the local winner in Division 1 of the 2007 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards program.

The award is to recognize teachers who are performing outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard natural and human resources. Division 1 consists of teachers in grades K-6.

The SWCD chose Carter because of her dedication to the environment, both through teaching and by researching conservation methods for the family farm. She gets her students excited about conservation through various projects ranging from helping a Third World country with water purification to participating in a variety of competitions.

Carter's application was forwarded for state judging, but a Clayton County teacher was given the state award.

For more information about the awards program, call the SWCD at (319) 753-6221.

By Danny Davis

The Mediapolis School Board met in regular session on Monday night. The board voted on several key issues, which included phase one of the Elementary School roofing project, and a 2008 project to upgrade the surface of the school playground.

In the first order of business, the school board made Commendations to: Dustin Miller for being elected Representative to District 16 at the FCCLA conference, Zach Gabeline for being named to the Des Moines Register's 2nd team All State Football Team "Offense" and All Hawkeye Land Offense, 3rd Team INA and for making KBUR All Prep 1st Team. The board also made Commendations to: Adam Nelson for making All Hawkeye Land Offense, Brock Massner for All Hawkeye Land Defense and KBUR Prep Football Team, to Lane Rank for making INA 2nd Team DB and Hawkeye Land Defense, Brian Borrison, Co-Coach of The Year, Danielle Jackson for being selected to the All Hawkeye

Land Volleyball Team- Middle Hitter, Nathan Crouch for becoming an official member of the Yarmouth Volunteer Fire Department, Nancy Carter as District Educator of The Year for Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District, and to the Mediapolis Football players, coaches, and spectators for achieving above the state average in sportsmanship.

A Mediapolis High School Diploma was given to Mr. Virgil Eisemann, who graduated from Huron High School in 1958. The board decided the courses and credits Eisemann obtained after leaving Huron were well worth that of those required by the school district for graduation. Eisemann graduated from Air University, which is the Community College of the United States Air Force, and also pursued a Military Education based career.

The board also agreed to renew the 28E Sharing Agreement program with Morning Sun. The agreement is made between both schools and is a tuition based enrollment program. All board members agreed that it

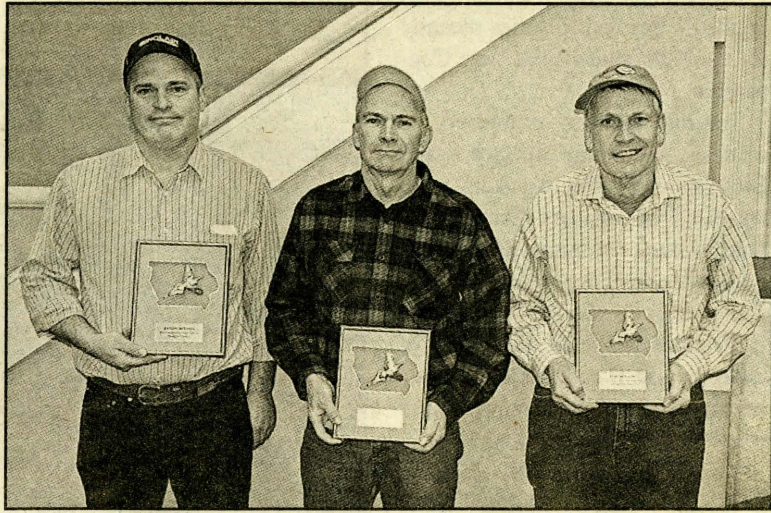
Local landowners honored at Iowa Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Convention

Iowa Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever recently recognized landowners in the state for their early and continual adoption of sustainable conservation practices at the organization's state convention in Altoona on Jan. 30.

The Hinsons have been long time supporters of conservation, not only on their own land, but on others' land as well. Brothers Mike and Bob, and Mike's son Jason, have been implementing conservation practices on their farms for years and are considered role models in the area.

Mike and Bob became fifth generation farmers when Oak Cliff Farm was passed down to them from their father Cliff. Growing up on the farm gave them an appreciation for the land. Jason's two sons will be the seventh generation on the farm.

Whole farm conservation is practiced on all of the Hinsons' land. The family has done endless amounts of conservation practices including pollinator plantings,



The group of Bob, Mike and Jason Hinson (all Farm Bureau members) was one of two award winners chosen for the 2016 Conservation Faces of Iowa award.

tissue samplings, cover crops, timber prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, food plots and built bat boxes.

Bob and Jason are both currently commissioners for the DMC Soil & Water Conservation District. Jason has been a commissioner since 2013 and Bob has been a commissioner or assistant

commissioner since 2003. In this time, Bob has been very active working booths for Earth Day and the DMC Fair and attending bi-annual REAP assemblies.

Congratulations and thank you to the Hinsons! If you have any questions about this award, please contact Erica Yost at 319-217-3204.

Hawk Eyetems

Stuckers given award for environmental efforts

The Hawk Eye

NEW LONDON — Doug and Melanie Stucker of New London have received the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship Award.

The award is given by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation.

The Stuckers have established food plots, native grass seedings, filter strips, trees and riparian buffers. Their future plans include wetland restoration and developing the farm into a model conservation farm for education.

They will receive a \$250 cash award to be used for a conservation or enhancement project and a plaque recognizing their efforts. These will be presented to them at a later date.

The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and the environment.

For information about the nomination process, call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at (319) 753-6221.

The Conservation Station is coming to Des Moines County Fair

AMES, IA — Water Rocks! presents the Conservation Station—a mobile learning center that educates audiences of all ages about the importance of healthy soil and clean water. It will be stopping at the Des Moines County Fair in West Burlington on Friday, July 31, from 3-7 p.m.

Visitors to the Conservation Station can learn how everyone can do their part to help preserve and protect soil and water—essential natural resources.

The free, fun, hands-on activities and demonstrations for kids and adults teach about watersheds and the effects of rainfall on the land. A popular activity is the "Poo Toss" where participants try to throw rubber doggy poo into wastebaskets for prizes and learn why picking up animal waste is a good thing.

The Conservation Station's rainfall simulator offers a strong visual of how land management choices affect soil and water. The rainfall simulator demonstrates the effects of rainfall on different surfaces in agricultural and urban environments.

Water runoff and subsurface drainage are collected in clear jars to show what is coming off the various soil surface types including tilled soil, cover crops, green roofs and pervious pavement.

Since 2010, the Conservation Station has traveled to every county in Iowa for community festivals, county fairs, field days, farmers markets, and school visits. Visit the Water Rocks! website to see the schedule of Conservation Station appearances and to request a visit for an event: www.waterrocks.org.

Water Rocks! is a statewide youth water

education campaign that uses a variety of resources to bring awareness and appreciation of water. Through classroom visits, an interactive website, an award-winning computer game, songs, music videos, dogs, enhanced learning activities, teacher/peer mentor workshops and geocaching, Water Rocks! offers an original, light-hearted approach to water issues.

For more information, visit www.waterrocks.org. Follow Water Rocks! on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Water Rocks! partners include: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (United States Environmental Protection Agency), Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Iowa Water Center, Iowa Learning Farms and personal gifts of support. This cooperative project has been funded in part through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

It Pays To Advertise in the
Des Moines County News
Call 752-8328

Maureen McLaughlin Hutchcroft of Des Moines County receives state award

Maureen McLaughlin Hutchcroft, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioner in Des Moines County, received the Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Award on September 2, 2015 at the 69th Annual Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Conference at the Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona.

Maureen is a very active commissioner who has served on many of the district's committees and attends all district, regional and annual meetings. Maureen has assisted the district with organizing a booth at their Earth Day Event and County Fair. She has helped host their State Soil Tour and Spring Regional Meeting, represented the district at local meetings, and judges and presents awards to poster contest winners. She supports the Iowa Learning Farms and Water Rocks Programs and has been on the planning committee for the Women, Land & Legacy Program. Her farm has implemented conservation practices such as waterways, terraces, field borders, and windbreaks. Last year, her family accepted the Heritage Family Farm Award for their 150 year old McLaughlin Family Farm. Maureen's personal conservation ethic shines through in nearly every



Maureen McLaughlin Hutchcroft (left) receives award from Wallaces Farmer Editor, Rod Swoboda.

conversation she has.

For additional information contact Clare Lindahl, Executive Director with

Conservation Districts of Iowa, phone: 515.289.8300, Email: clare.lindahl@cdi-owa.org.

Southeast Iowa conservation tour planned

SUBMITTED BY **JEFFERSON**

The 2008 flood recovery and soil conservation projects in the Oakville area will be the main focus of the 2010 State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) tour on June 15. The tour will also visit the Southeast Research and Demonstration Farm at Crawfordsville to examine a pattern tile drainage project that includes an artificial wetland to de-nitrify the tile-drained water.

The Crawfordsville stop will also feature the southeast Iowa debut of the newest outreach and education tool from the Iowa Learning Farms, The Conservation Station. The Conservation Station is a portable trailer offering a multimedia, hands-on teaching and information experience covering a variety of conservation topics. More information on use and availability is posted on the Learning Farms Web site, www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf.

[iastate.edu/ilf](http://www.iastate.edu/ilf).

These annual tours always include review of routine private land conservation projects on normal production farmland. The final stop of this year's tour will be at Lake Geode State Park to receive an update on the ongoing water quality improvement project in the watershed.

The SSCC is a nine-voting-member, governor-appointed body that provides several oversight and review functions for the Division of Soil Conservation (DSC) within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The nine members are apportioned with six farmers representing different regions of the state, plus an urban representative, a forestry representative, and a mining and minerals representative. The southeast Iowa member is Jeani Leyda of Davis County. Jeani is also an assistant Soil and Water Conser-

vation District commissioner. The four ex-officio, non-voting and/or advisory members of the committee represent the Department of Natural Resources, Iowa State University Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa County Engineers Association. More information on this year's tour or the SSCC is available at the IDALS Web site, www.agriculture.state.ia.us, or your local Soil and Water Conservation District office. All area commissioners are expressly invited to attend the tour; reservations are due by June 1.

Maintaining and enhancing soil and water quality may seem somewhat mundane, but there is no single way to provide for growing food needs of the future that is superior to maintaining our high quality fertile soil. Once fertile soil is lost, it takes hundreds of years to refurbish.

WLL Vineyard Tour scheduled

SUBMITTED BY **DES MOINES, LOUISA**

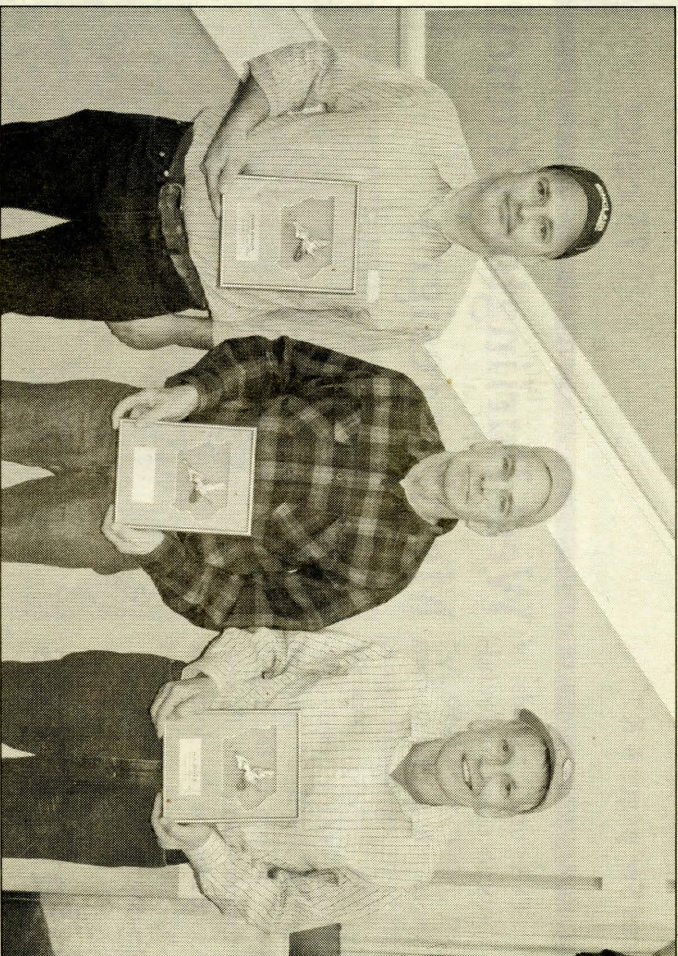
The Des Moines/Louisa County Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) Team is hosting a tour of Odessa Vineyards Wednesday, June 24, from 2-4 p.m. The tour will include history of the vineyard and the process of making wine. The vineyard is located at 10448 77th St., Wapello.

The Des Moines/Louisa County WLL began with two listening sessions in October, 2014. During these sessions, local women shared with the team topics of concern and interest for future

learning sessions. WLL is locally led and is based on the interest and requests of women in the two counties. Topics for learning sessions in 2015 and the future will be based on what the team has heard and will continue to hear from local women that participate in WLL.

The tour is free to attend. If you have questions regarding the tour or Women, Land and Legacy, please email Jamie Grimes at Jamie.grimes@ia.nacdnet.net or call 319-523-6411, ext. 3 for Louisa County and 319-753-6221, ext. 3 for Des Moines County.

Local landowners honored at Iowa Pheasants Forever Convention



Bob Hinson, Burlington and Mike and Jason Hinson of Kingston, were one of two award winners chosen for the 2016 Conservation Faces of Iowa award.

Iowa Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever recently recognized landowners in the state for their early and continual adoption of sustainable conservation practices at the organization's state convention in Altoona on January 30.

Bob Hinson, Burlington and Mike, and Jason Hinson of Kingston were one of two award winners chosen for the 2016 Conservation Faces of Iowa award. The Hinson's have been long time supporters of conservation, not only on their own land, but on other's land as well. Brothers Mike & Bob, and Mike's son Jason have been implementing conservation practices on their farms for years and

are considered role models in the area.

Mike and Bob became 5th generation farmers when Oak Cliff Farm was passed down to them from their father Cliff. Growing up on the farm gave them an appreciation for the land. Jason's two sons will be the 7th generation on the farm.

Whole farm conservation is practiced on all of the Hinson's land. Oak Cliff Farm contains conservation and habitat everywhere you look including a shallow water area, upland bird buffer, filter strips, tree plantings, and wetlands. Mike has upland bird buffers and a newly established pollinator habitat planting on his farm. Bob has also planted chestnut and other varieties of nut trees on their land that he harvests from annually and sells at

a local co-op.

Jason farms the family-owned ground and custom farms additional acres in both Des Moines and Louisa counties. He practices award worthy conservation on these farms using cover crops, no-till, nutrient management, and many other practices.

In addition, the family has done endless amounts of conservation practices including pollinator plantings, tissue sampling, cover crops, timber prescribed burning, timber stand improvement, food plots, and built bat boxes.

Bob and Jason are both currently commissioners for the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. Jason has been a commissioner since 2013 and Bob has been a commissioner or assistant commissioner since 2003. In this time, Bob has been very active; working booths for Earth Day and the Des Moines County Fair, and attending bi-annual REAP assemblies.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact Erica Yost at (319) 217-3204.

Governor's office, ag & natural resources departments recognize environmental leaders



Sperry: Paul and Linda Beckman

tament to the hard work Winners were pre-
our farmers are doing in sented a certificate as
and for our state." well as a yard sign do-

nated by Monsanto and a commemorative program provided by the Iowa Ag Water Alliance. Hagie Manufacturing sponsored a recognition luncheon following the ceremony. Bob Quinn from WHO served as the Master of Ceremony.

All winners were chosen by a selection group representing both agricultural and conservation groups.

Local winners include:
Sperry: Paul and Linda Beckman

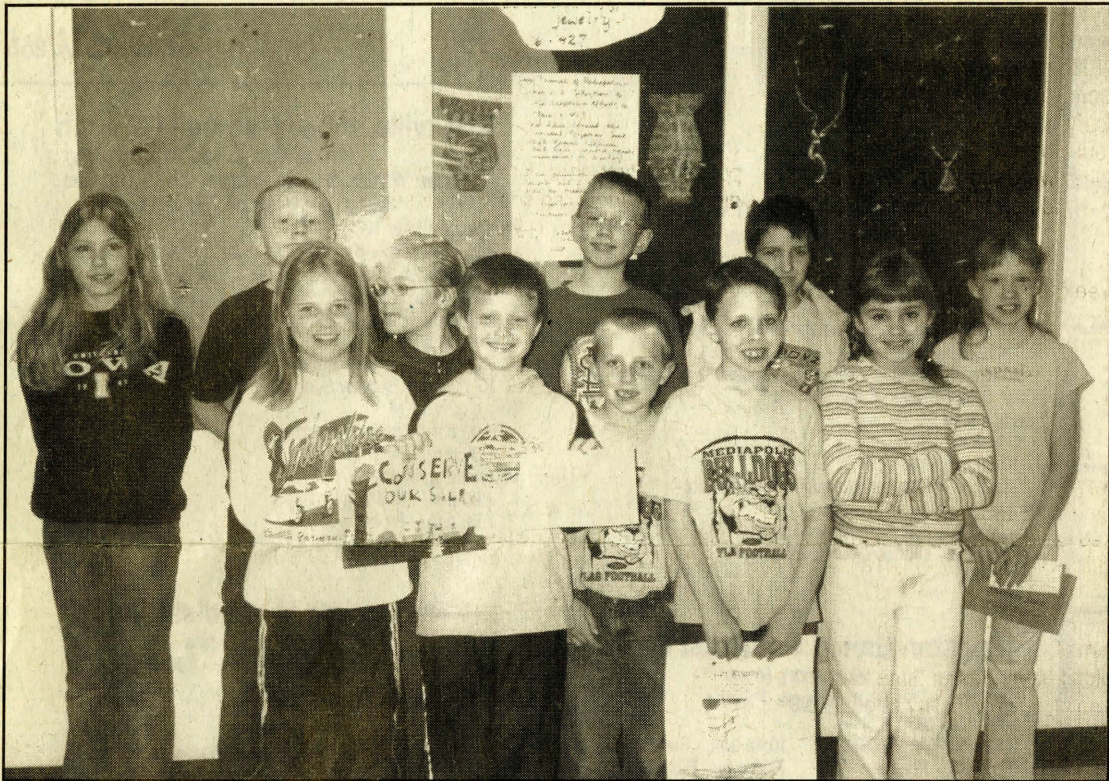
Columbus Junction: Roger and Susie Edwards, Ro-Sie View Farm Mt. Union: Steve and Ann Mallams, Mallams Inc.
New London: Harlan Miller

(DES MOINES) - Gov. Kim Reynolds, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey and Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Chuck Gipp presented 81 Iowa farm families with the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award during a ceremony Aug. 16 at the Iowa State Fair.

The award is a joint effort between the Office of the Governor, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to recognize the efforts of Iowa's farmers as environmental leaders committed to health soils and improved water quality.

"This award seeks to recognize the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers to improve and protect the environment and natural resources of our state," Gov. Reynolds said. "It also encourages other farmers to follow in their footsteps by building success upon success."

"This award program is in its sixth year," Lt. Gov. Gregg said. "To date, more than 450 families have received recognition. That number is a tes-



5-13-04 Mediapolis News

Front row, left to right- Jaci Steffener, Andrew Poggemiller, Zach Moehle, Tyler Rogers, Andrea Larson. Back row: Allegra Crews, Brody Armstrong, Nicholas Anderson, Jared Schmidgall, Joey Burgus, Shannon Sisco. Photo submitted by Maureen Fosdick.

Poster Contest Winners

April 18-24 was Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The theme for 2004 was "The Living Soil." Each year the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors a poster contest so that the youth have an opportunity to explore their ideas about conservation and express them in any art medium they choose. This year 190 entries were received.

Several Mediapolis students submitted posters using "The Living Soil" theme back in March. Entries were judged using the following criteria:

- 50% Conservation Message
- 50% Visual Effectiveness
- 30% Originality
- 10% Universal Appeal

The first place posters will be sent to regional contest with the opportunity to get chosen for state and national competitions.

The following students received a certificate of participation: Allegra Crews, Brody Armstrong, Joey Burgus, Jaci Steffener, Zach Moehle, Andrea Larson

The following students received a certificate and a check:

Division 1: Grades K and 1

Third Place Winner- Tyler Rogers- \$10

Division 2: Grades 2 and 3

First Place Winner- Nicholas Anderson \$20

Second Place Winner- Jared Schmidgall \$15

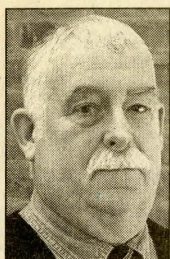
Third Place Winner- Andrew Poggemiller \$10

Division 3: Grades 4 through 6

First Place Winner- Shannon Sisco \$20

Congratulations to these students. The conservation messages were impressive and their artwork was expressive.

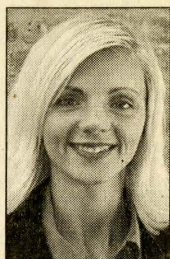
BUSINESS



Polen



Delaney



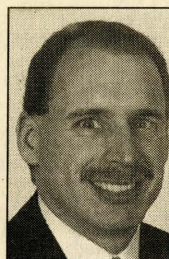
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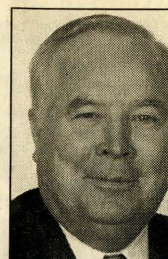
Smith



Farniok



Eveleth



Carmody



Zaiser



Dillon

The Hawk Eye

Great River Financial Group reported consolidated net income of just over \$2 million during 2001 at its annual meeting Jan. 17.

The company includes Burlington Bank & Trust, Henry County Bank, Cady Insurance, Great River Brokerage Services, Employee Benefit Systems and Southeast Security Bank of Mediapolis.

In November, Great River Financial group completed its acquisition of Southeast Security.

At the meeting, BB&T President and CEO **Jim Olson** announced that **Renee Zaiser** would be named an officer of the bank. Zaiser is director of BB&T's Good Neighbor Club.

Winners of several awards were announced:

From Burlington Bank & Trust:

■ **Jim Polen**, maintenance supervisor, received the Douglas S. Grinde determination award;

■ **Frank Delaney III**, senior vice president of investment management services, received service award;

■ **Carole Preader**, customer service representative, received the board of directors sales and

Business briefcase

service excellence award; and

■ **Julie Messamer**, customer service representative, received the MVP pride award.

From Cady Insurance:

■ **Patty Smith** received the Bill Kelly commitment to excellence award;

■ **Tim Farniok** received the Chuck Rucker outstanding sales leader of the year award; and

■ **Cindy Eveleth** received the MVP pride award.

From Henry County Bank:

■ **Don Carmody**, president, received the community service award; and

■ **Jeanette Dillon**, customer service representative, received the MVP pride award.

Those re-elected to the Great River Financial Group board of directors were **Don Allgood, Keith Boyer, Carmody, Kevin Carr, Delaney, Glen Heagle, Johnny Johnson, Robert Miller, David McMurray, Olson** and **Robert Ritson**.

Re-elected to the Burlington Bank & Trust board of directors were **Allgood, Carol Benne, Delaney, Jon Gates, Olson, Reddy Reganti, Mark Richardson, Ritson, Jeff Rucker** and **John Von Harz**.

North Central Bankshares, the holding company for First Federal Savings Bank of Iowa, has announced a record \$2.41 diluted earnings per share for the year that ended Dec. 31.

That compares to \$2 the previ-

ous year.

North Central Bancshares had net income of \$4.5 million during the year, \$500,000 more than the previous year.

Deposits increased \$7.6 million to \$268.8

Fogle

million.

North Central bancshares, based in Fort Dodge, has eight locations in north-central and southeast Iowa, including Burlington, and Mount Pleasant.

The company, which trades on the Nasdaq national market under the symbol FFFD, reported total assets of \$379.4 million.

■■■■
Lavonne Fogle has joined GMAC Real Estate as a new broker Associate.

■■■■
Jeff A. Pence of Advance Chiropractic Center has earned the certified chiropractic sports physician designation from the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians.

Pence attended 120 hours of postgraduate work pertaining to the diagnosis and treatment of sports injuries, including physical fitness and training, sports nutrition and supplements, and sport-specific exams and treatment protocol. He then passed a written test at the Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, Minn.

■■■■
The Des Moines County Soil

and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest on the gift of trees. The posters will be judged on the entry's conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Size of the posters can be from 8½ inches by 11 inches up to 22 inches by 28 inches.

The five divisions will be: kindergarten to 1st, 2nd to 3rd, 4th through 6th, 7th through 9th and 10th through 12th grades.

Detail information may be obtained at 1000 N. Roosevelt Ave., Suite 8, in Burlington, or call (319) 753-6221.

All posters must be completed before March 29.

Prizes will be: 1st place, \$20; 2nd place, \$15; 3rd place, \$10.

■■■■
Melissa Scheetz, a family-based counselor, is observing her fifth-year anniversary this month at Young House Family Services.

Scheetz works primarily in Henry, Jefferson and Washington counties, providing in-home counseling services to children and families.

■■■■
Eric Kemp and Kirk Lewis, service writers at Deery Brothers, have successfully completed training programs at the University of Toyota.

Also at Deery, **Ryan Quivey** completed an examination and experience requirement to qualify as a master automobile technician. The designation is bestowed by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

Women, Land & Legacy Learning session March 10

MEDIAPOLIS - The Des Moines/Louisa County Women, Land and Legacy (WLL) Team is hosting their first learning session on March 10 from 1-3pm at the Mediapolis City Hall. The session is entitled "Soil Health and Conservation" and will highlight a presentation by Jason Steele, Area Resource Soil Scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in southeast Iowa. Soil health is a hot topic in agriculture and is the connection to higher yields, soil conservation and water quality. More and more farmers are implementing practices such as cover crops to improve the soil health on

their farms. Learn how important soil health is and what a tremendous difference it can make for you and your land in this session.

In addition to the soil health presentation, local NRCS and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff will present information about conservation and farm programs. These programs provide tools and resources to implement conservation planning and soil health practices. Come meet your local USDA staff and hear about opportunities available to you.

The Des Moines/Louisa County WLL began with two listening sessions in October 2014. During

these sessions, local women shared with the team topics of concern and interest for future learning sessions. The team will host 3 sessions, including the March event on Soil Health and Conservation, in 2015 that address and meet requests shared at the listening sessions. WLL is locally led and is based on the interest and requests of women in the two counties. Topics for learning sessions in 2015 and the future will

be based on what the team has heard and will continue to hear from local women that participate in WLL.

The March 10 session is free to attend. Refreshments will be provided by Mediapolis Savings Bank. RSVPs are encouraged but not required. To RSVP, please email Jamie Grimes at Jamie.grimes@ia.nacdnet.net or call 319-523-6411 for Louisa County and 319-753-6221 for Des Moines County.

Des Moines County News -- Page 3

Notre Dame teacher chosen as SWCD Teacher of the year

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has chosen Notre Dame Elementary Teacher Sharon Sommerfelt as the local winner in Division I of the 2003 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 1 consists of teachers in grades Kindergarten through 8.

The SWCD chose Sharon as their local winner because of her

cooperation with their annual poster contest and her hands-on teaching techniques with her students on conservation activities, including a new butterfly garden in the courtyard of the school.

Ms. Sommerfelt's application has been forwarded for state judging. Judging at the state and local level consists of the effectiveness of the teacher to (1) create a favorable climate for conservation education in the classroom; (2) organize conservation field trips that are meaningful to students; (3) create an awareness of conservation and environmental problems at the local, state and national levels; and (4) motivate students to promote conservation of natural and human resources.

The SWCD has made a donation for the butterfly garden at Notre Dame in recognition of Sharon's award. For more information about the awards program, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

THE HAWK EYE

CITY & REGION

Waterways become a concern

The Hawk Eye

The Sierra Club and Iowa Environmental Council are raising concerns over a proposal to lessen the protection for hundreds of waterways in the state, including two in Des Moines County.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has placed Long Creek and Spring Creek on a list of 279 water bodies that would have their status changed under the federal Clean Water Act.

The creeks would move from A1 protection, a category reserved for water bodies used heavily for swimming and fishing, to A2, a less protected or unprotected status.

The list specifically mentions

Long Creek from Agency Road south of Danville to the Skunk River and Spring Creek from Burlington to the Mississippi River.

Other area water bodies included are:

- Henry County — Brush Creek, South Skunk River, Sugar Creek and unnamed creeks near New London and Wayland

- Lee County — South Skunk River, Sugar Creek, unnamed creeks near Donnellson and the Climax Molybdenum plant

- Louisa County — Otter Creek and Roff Creek

According to a press release from the Iowa chapter of the Sierra Club and the Iowa Environmental Council, changing

the status of Long Creek and Spring Creek would leave them more vulnerable to wastewater from sewage treatment plants and other facilities. That could mean they would “not be safe for children to play in and some of the fish (caught in them) might be (unsafe) to eat,” the groups claim.

Neila Seaman of the Sierra Club could not be reached Monday afternoon for comment.

According to a “notice of intended action” on the Iowa DNR Web site, approval of new federal regulations adopted in 2006 meant that all 26,000 miles of the state’s perennial waterways (those that flow year round) were “protected at the highest levels for recreation and warm water aquatic life

uses.”

The state can move to strip away some of that protection based on scientific analysis.

The public gets a say, however. Both the Sierra Club and the Iowa DNR are asking people to explain how they use the streams, with special attention given to activities in which water touches the eyes, ears or mouth.

Comment forms are available at www.iowa.sierraclub.org. The Iowa DNR also offers a survey at www.iowadnr.com/water/standards/index.html.

Comments can be faxed to the Iowa DNR at (515) 281-8895, or e-mailed to adamschnieders@dnr.iowa.gov. Only those received by 5 p.m. on Dec. 11 will be considered.

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a scholarship to a local high school senior who will pursue a college education in any field of conservation or agriculture.

Application packets are available at high school guidance counselor offices or call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 753-6221, Ext. 3. Applications are due by February 16, 2018.

Students living outside of Des Moines County must submit their applications to the soil and water conservation district in which they reside.

Des Moines County SWCD Sponsors Poster Contest

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home", for all students K-12 in Des Moines County.

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into one location such as a river or lake. These water bodies supply our drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, offer opportunities for recreation and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 23. For detail information on rules, division categories, judging criteria and awards, please contact the SWCD at 319-753-6221 Ext. 3 or send an email to jamie.grimes@ia.nacdnet.net.

DMC SWCD Announces Poster Contest

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a poster contest, *Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home*, for all students in K-12 in Des Moines County.

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into one location such as a river or lake. These water bodies supply our drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, offer opportunities for recreation, and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals.

The deadline to complete the posters is March 23. For detail information on rules, division categories, judging criteria, and awards, contact the SWCD at 319-753-622, ext. 3, or send an email to jamie.grimes@ia.nacdnet.net.



Schnedler Named Conservation Teacher Of Year

Mediapolis Middle School science and social studies teacher Julie Schnedler has been named ISCAP (Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program) Conservation Teacher of the Year. The award is sponsored by the CDI (Conservation Districts of Iowa), NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), the State Soil Conservation Committee and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition.

Schnedler was nominated by Jason Hinson, District Commission of the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District. She has been teaching for eight years at her current position but 11 years total.

In response to a nomination form, Schnedler described her personal conservation ethic and how it impacts her decisions and action. "I grew up participating in FFA and 4-H, active in roadway cleanup, campouts and various other opportunities. This inspired me to continue learning and understanding conservation to offer her experiences to my students. I have been trained in the Iowa Water program and created a new camp for the DMC Conservation Department to teach kids about our waterways and the effects of runoff on water quality. After the flood of 2008, I encouraged my students to join me to replant trees and shrubs at the Pumping Station campgrounds. Pheasants Forever invited me to talk at the state convention and I received the National Conservation Educator of the Year award in 2016. As a winner of Disney Planet Challenge in 2010, I have spoken about students' involvement in conservation projects to support learning in San Francisco, Calif., and Hartford, Conn., for the Disney program. Summers are used to continue training in various conservation programs offered in Iowa that I can apply back to my classroom. I have been training in the pollinator program from Blank Park Zoo and Environment Issues Soil Workshop at Upper Iowa University."

Schnedler also described how she helps build a conservation ethic in her students to inspire them to be good stewards of Iowa's soil and water. "Disney Planet Challenge initiated my conservation teaching. Students were so passionate about learning using an investigative, hands-on style that it continued into other topics. Over the years, we've done large class projects on low quail population, forest diversity, Emerald Ash Borer and Colony Collapse Disorder. Projects were student-driven, with guest speakers and activities and ending with a public forum of student projects to teach the public information they learned and to encourage them to take an active stand to help solve issues.

An Outdoor Classroom was also created to pique the interest of elementary students to learn about environmental education. It includes a prairie area to teach about Iowa history, pollinator gardens, a water garden for filtration and more. It is student-created and student-managed on school grounds. A composter and rain barrels were added this year, as well as student-made solar-lit displays.

During our electricity unit, students participate in the LivingWise Alliant Energy program that teaches electricity/water management. These kits ask students to collect data at home and make slight changes with Energy Star tools. They show instant results and ask them to calculate long-term results. This application makes conservation of electricity and water real to their world."

Des Moines County SWCD,

Dec 2017

Thanks to generous gifts like
yours, the Water Rocks! program
will continue in 2018. We
will be able to reach thousands
of more Iowa youth on the
importance of our natural resources.
Thank you!

Jackie Combs

Save those leaves

Believe it or not, those leaves covering your lawn can be a valuable resource for your yard and garden. Before you rake up your leaves and send them to the landfill or other disposal facility, consider their value to your yard and garden. In the natural forest, fallen tree leaves serve as mulch to protect the ground and plants throughout the frigid winter and serve as a "nutrient bank." This "bank" stores the nutrients contained in organic matter and slowly makes them available to plants. When it rains, the mulch serves as ground cover that can greatly reduce soil loss due to sheet and rill erosion while protecting our lakes and streams from polluting soil-laden runoff.

We can create these same natural benefits for our gardens, trees and shrubs by recycling leaves from our yards. A layer of leaf-mulch will control weeds and improve soil and plant health, conserve moisture, serve as a weed barrier, and provide a "finished" look to the garden. Of course, other types of commercial mulches will provide these same or similar benefits, but many are expensive and need to be hauled to your yard. Leaves are free and place themselves conveniently right in your yard or your neighbor's.

The challenge of effectively using leaves as garden mulch comes in keeping them in place when it's windy. While watering the leaves or covering them with a tarp is effective, chopping them with a lawnmower or shredder also works well. A lawnmower bagging attachment allows for chopping and collecting all at the same time. The chopped or whole leaves can be placed directly on gardens or around trees or a compost pile for later use. Six-inch mulch depth is recommended, but avoid using walnut leaves and wood, as they are toxic to many plants.

Terrance Rudolph, NRCS District Conservationist for the USDA National Resource Conservation Service in Burlington says, "Putting leaf based mulch on your garden and shrubs is a very beneficial conservation practice that builds up the soil while protecting our lakes, rivers and streams. Since polluting soil loss can come from any size plot of land, using farm proven conservation practices like mulch for ground cover makes great environmental sense. In addition, using leaves this way can help a gardener get a head start on spring planting; especially the no-till gardener."

Rudolph promotes no-till gardening as one of many farm-proven conservation practices adapted for use on city size plots of ground.

**2013
IOWA FARM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER AWARDS
PROGRAM**



Awards Ceremony
Iowa State Fair
Penningroth Center
Thursday, August 15th, 2013
9:00am – 11:00am

Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award

The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader 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.

This award 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.

It recognizes those that have taken steps in their farming operations to serve as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farms, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. As environmental leaders, these farmers have adopted best management practices and incorporated environmental stewardship throughout their farming operations. True stewards of the land, they recognize that improved water quality and soil sustainability reaps benefits that extend beyond their fields to reach the citizens of Iowa and beyond, and have made environmental stewardship a priority on their farms. We thank them for their efforts.



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

Bob Quinn – WHO Radio

Opening Remarks & Presentation of Awards

Kim Reynolds – Lt. Governor

Terry E. Branstad – Governor

Bill Northey – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Chuck Gipp – Iowa DNR Director

Special Thanks to the Award Selection Committee

Jim Gillespie – Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

Bruce Trautman – Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Jim Frederick – Conservation Districts of Iowa

John Lawrence – Iowa State University Extension

Sean McMahon – The Nature Conservancy

Jeff Pape – Iowa Farm Bureau

Jay Lynch – Iowa Corn Growers Association

Jim Andrew – Iowa Soybean Association

Pat Daufeldt – Iowa Turkey Federation

Dave Moody – Iowa Pork Producers Association

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Fred & Vicki Abels
K&A Acres, Inc.
Grundy County

Nathan & Sarah Anderson
Cherokee County

Bach, Nancy & Jon Bakehouse
Mills County

Terry & Lorie Bear
Clarke County

Larry & Nancy Beyer, Mike Beyer
Koszta Farm Corp.
Benton, Iowa & Tama Counties

Jim & Katie Brown & Family
Woodbury County

Bruce Family Farm
Montgomery County

Scott Bruns
Butler County

Roger & Duane Buehler
Buehler Farms, Inc.
Sac County

Jerry & Georgia Crew
Clay County

Elsbernd Farms
Don, Trish & Eric Elsbernd
Allamakee & Winneshiek Counties

Fara Farms
Orland & Mike Fara
Carroll, Crawford & Shelby Counties

William & Laura Foell
Sac County

Wayne & Ruth Fredericks
Mitchell County

Garold and Ila Galvin
Buena Vista County

Jon & Ardi Giselson
Floyd & Mitchell Counties

Daniel Golightly
Jonbar Ranch
Dallas County

Darwyn & Sharri Hansen
Sac County

Dick & Connie Hines
Decatur County

Steve & Deborah Janssen
Wright County

Gary Johnson
Calhoun County

Kenlyn Kelso & Kyle Kelso
Clarke County

Randy & Mary Kay Kent
Calhoun & Sac Counties

JRT Focus Farms
Roger, Janet, Thadd, Trent, Troy, & Travis Knoblock &
Jon Blomgren
Lyon County

Steve Leazer
Blue Knoll Farm
Cedar County

Rick Lee
Wright & Hamilton Counties

Glenn N. Lee
Wright & Hamilton Counties

Arthur & Mary Lemley
Appanoose Counties

Bill & Babetta Lucke
Lucke Farms, Inc.
Harrison County

Dennis & Connie Lundy
Lundy Farms, Inc.
Adair County

Robert & Linda Lynch, Jay & Emily Lynch
Humboldt County

Ray & Phyllis More
Davis County

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mark & Jeri Mueller, Howard & Fran Mueller
Bremer County

David J. Muth, Sr.
Butler County

Charles & Connie Nealey
Des Moines County

Arliss & Jacqueline Nielsen
Wright County

Jerry M. Peckumn, Thomas R. Peckumn
Greene County

Craig, Lois, Kyle & Garrett Peterson
Greene & Carroll Counties
Harlan & Janet Petty
Marion County

Jeff Pollard
Clarke & Lucas Counties

Mike, Debra, Megan, Sara & Mitchell Redmond
Jackson County

John & Kay Reis, Jason & Jennifer Reis,
Josh & Amy Reis
Howard & Mitchell Counties

Jim & Donna Riesberg
Carroll County

Carl, Carol, Joe & Jane Roberts
Wright County

Rouw Farm
Wapello County

Russell Brothers, LLC
Linn County

Mike & Brenda Ryan
Monroe County

David L. Schroeder
Carroll County

WB Smith Family
Burdette, Connie, Doyle & Dennis Smith
Lucas County

Sam & Julie Spellman
Dallas County

Dean & Debbie Stromer
Hancock County

Jim & Betty Sullivan Farms
Clarke & Decatur Counties

Tim & Jenny Sullivan
Mitchell County

Randy & Sandy Swartz, Travis & Anne Swartz
Lucas County

John P. Thompson
Hamilton County

Dean Tiefenthaler
Carroll & Sac County

Ed Ulch & Brian Ulch
Johnson County

Myron & Brad Vanhorn
Franklin County

Eric Wahl
Wahl Farms LTD
Delaware & Jones County

Wayne & Lanette Watts
Wright County

Willhoit Farms, Inc.
Jefferson & Wapello Counties

Dan & Lorna Wilson
Torrar, Erin & Jaron Wilson
O'Brien County

Roger, Carolyn, and Wesley Zylstra
Jasper County



LEGEND

- 1 Taxi Stand
- 2 Strollers and Wheelchairs
- 3 Hedrick's Petting Zoo sponsored by Cellular Advantage
- 4 Shoppers' Mart
- 5 Halls of Law and Flame
- 6 Fabric and Threads Exhibits
- 7 Team Rock and Mango Dango
- 8 Robert G. Horner & Sheri Avis Horner Service Center/Lost Children/Adults sponsored by The Des Moines Register
- 9 Little Hands on the Farm
- 10 Chainsaw Carvers A.J. Lutter & Gary Keenan
- 11 Sky Glider East/West sponsored by Select Comfort
- 12 MidAmerican Energy Wind Turbine/Education Center
- 13 Walnut Center Crafts
- 14 Maytag Family Theaters/Pella Wildlife Shows
- 15 Principal Plaza at Legacy Terrace
- 16 William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building sponsored by Principal Financial Group
- 17 Timberworks Lumberjack Show
- 18 Anne & Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi

- 19 Ye Old Mill
- 20 Hy-Vee Health & First Aid Center
- 21 John Deere Agriculture Building sponsored by Alliant Energy
- 22 Hy-Vee Fun Forest Sponsored by Community Choice Credit Union/Play Area/Art Under the Tent
- 23 Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center sponsored by Christensen Farms
- 24 Susan Knapp Amphitheater with media sponsor KDSM Fox 17
- 25 Richard L. Easter Museum Complex
- 26 Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum
- 27 Richard O. Jacobson Hall & Kenyon Gallery
- 28 Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall
- 29 Vermeer Grandfather's Barn/Wine Experience/Grape Getaway
- 30 Patty & Jim Cowmie Cultural Center
- 31 Fairview Stage sponsored by Coors Light with media sponsor KCCI 8 News
- 32 Farm Bureau Picnic Shelter
- 33 Pioneer Livestock Pavilion sponsored by Prairie Meadows

- 34 Country School sponsored by CoOpportunity Health
- 35 Cattle Barn/Milking Parlor/Boulevard of Dairy Breeds/Penningroth Media Center
- 36 Swine Barn/Avenue of Breeds
- 37 Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
- 38 Elwell Family Food Center sponsored by Blue Bunny
- 39 Budweiser Stage sponsored by ABC5
- 40 Giant Slide
- 41 Snakes Alive/CIRC Model Railroad
- 42 Blue Ribbon Kids Tent
- 43 Thrill Rides/Scare Zone/Crazy Mouse
- 44 Kids' Zone/Kangaroo Jumper/Krazy Maze sponsored by KIX 101.1
- 45 Outdoor Arena sponsored by Vermeer
- 46 Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center
- 47 Discovery Garden

2017 Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards



IOWA FARM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

Iowa State Fair
Penningroth Center
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award

The Iowa Farm Environmental Leader 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.

This award recognizes the exemplary voluntary actions of farmers that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of our state. These influential environmental leaders also encourage other farmers to follow in their footsteps by showcasing the success that they have had.

It recognizes those that have taken steps in their farming operations to serve as local leaders in environmental stewardship on their farms, utilizing a variety of techniques and best management practices. As environmental leaders, these farmers have adopted best management practices and incorporated environmental stewardship throughout their farming operations.

As true stewards of the land, these awardees recognize that improved water quality and soil sustainability reap benefits that extend beyond their fields to reach the citizens of Iowa and beyond, and have made environmental stewardship a priority on their farms. We thank them for their efforts.



Program

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Jim Frederick
Conservation Districts of Iowa

Wayne Fredericks
Iowa Soybean Association

Dennis Friest
Iowa Corn Growers Association

Jim Gillespie
Iowa Department of Agriculture
and Land Stewardship

Jay Harmon
Iowa State University Extension
and Outreach

Sheila Larson
Iowa Turkey Federation

Sean McMahon
Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

Katie Olthoff
Iowa Cattlemen's Association

Jeff Pape
Iowa Farm Bureau

Bruce Trautman
Iowa Department of Natural
Resources

Dan Wetherell
Iowa Pork Producers
Association

Awardees

Robert and Marilyn Arndorfer

Clarke County

Elgin-Ayers Farm

Warren, Clarke and Adair Counties

Paul and Linda Beckman

Des Moines County

Alan and LuAnn Bennett

Ida County

David and Darren Boot

Marion County

James and Melody Bourn

Montgomery County

Denny L. Busch

Madison County

Brian Caves

Van Buren County

**Austin, Angela, Harley,
and Lea Charlson**

Wright County

John Clayton and Kyle Clayton

Shelby, Cass and Pottawattamie Counties

Croghan Family Farm

Jerry and Nancy Croghan

Shelby County

Ricky and Mary Davis

Wayne County

Russ and Liz Davis

Sac and Calhoun Counties

Wayne Dillard Family Farms

Warren County

Wendell and Becky Dimmitt

Wapello County

John Dingman

Lee County

Bob Downing

Warren County

Ro-Sie View Farm

Roger and Susie Edwards

Louisa County

David and Jennifer Felt

Dallas County

Arcola Farms

Bo and Mali Fox

Monona County

Jim Goodhue and Family

Warren County

Dave and Sharee Green

Dickinson County

Griffieon Family Farm

Polk County

Larry Haren

Hamilton County

For event photos, go to flickr.com/iowaagriculture/albums

Awardees

Mark Henderson

Davis and Appanoose Counties

Hoeger Family Farms

Joe and Lori Hoeger

Delaware County

Ingels Farms

Chad Ingels

Fayette County

Joe and Mary Jardon

Fremont and Montgomery Counties

Jellum Farm

Eric and Annette Jellum

Mark and Chris Jellum

Mitchell County

Bruce and Lisa Johnson

Mitchell County

Patrick and Nancy Jones

Dickinson County

Karin Jordahl, Sharon Jordahl,

Jerry Jordahl, Leif Jordahl,

HF Holdings LLC, Longevity Foundation

Rod and Shannan Potts

Potts Organic Farms

Hancock and Webster Counties

Gene Kaldenberg

Jasper County

Wayne and Lisa Koehler

Floyd County

Paul and Avriel Koester

Tama County

Dalla Terra Ranch

Sharon Krause

Dallas County

Peter and Darlene Keuning

Marion and Jasper County

Lampe Farms Company

Ron Lampe and Tom Lampe

Pocahontas County

Jim and Laurie Legvold

Humboldt, Wright and Webster Counties

Lehman Farms

Polk County

Mike G. and Rhonda J. Leonard

Harrison County

Mallams Inc.

Steve and Ann Mallams

Henry County

Eric Marchand

Hancock County

Frederick W. Martens

Madison County

Duane Martin Family Inc.

Duane and Karen Martin

Brian and Jamie Martin

Fayette County

Awardees

Cinnamon Ridge Farms

John and Joan Maxwell

Scott County

Mike and Jon McClure

Dallas County

Keith and Sharon Mensing

Adair County

Harlan Miller

Henry and Lee Counties

Donald Millikin

Harlan and Joyce Millikin

Joel and Jenell Millikin

Keokuk County

Rick and Page Mitteness

Wayne County

Moffitt Stock Farms

Warren County

Todd, Anne, and Andrew Nielsen

Wright County

Jim and Mike Penick

Warren County

Joe and Shirley Pitsor

Franklin County

Prevo Farms Inc.

Mark and Cindy Prevo

Kevin and Angela Prevo

Jason and Amanda Prevo

Kyle and Clarrissa Prevo

Davis County

J3B Partnership

Hancock County

Ron and Marilyn Reis

Brandon and Jessica Reis

Howard County

Donald W. and Betty J. Richardson

Bruce and Deborah Richardson

Matthew and Megan Richardson

Buena Vista County

Randy and Karla Rupalo

Appanoose County

Julius and Cynthia Schaaf

Fremont County

Mark and Melissa Schleisman

(M&M Farms)

Colby and Brandy Winter

Matthew Schleisman

Calhoun, Carroll and Sac Counties

Dave and Karen Schwaller

Dickinson and Clay Counties

Sheets Farms

Leon Sheets

Chickasaw County

For event photos, go to flickr.com/iowaagriculture/albums

Awardees

Henry and Meri Kay Shepard

Black Hawk and Benton Counties

Kenneth Sieren

Washington and Keokuk Counties

Loran and Brenda Steinlage

Fayette County

Randall and Barbara Stewart

Wayne and Jasper Counties

Westshore Farms, INC.

Palo Alto County

C&S Sylvester**Brad and Debbie Sylvester**

Wapello County

Alan Tiefenthaler

Sac and Carroll Counties

Tim and Ellen Tusha

Hancock and Emmet Counties

Upchurch Feeders

Susan and Kendall Upchurch

Melissa and Seth Upchurch

Story County

Craig Voss

Wright County

Nathan Voss

Kossuth County

Walton Farms

Dave, Paula, Brad, and Alex Walton

Albert and Carole Walton

Cedar and Scott Counties

Weber Brother's Dairy Inc.

Virgil and Rhonda Weber

Dan and Sal Weber

Dubuque County

Weller Farms

Chase and Jess Weller

Taylor County

Wellik and Sons

Hancock County

Wieben Farms

Benton and Tama Counties

Dave and Dorothy Winter

Carl and Kathleen Winter

Guthrie County

PROGRAM PRINTING PROVIDED BY



IOWA AGRICULTURE
WATER ALLIANCE

*Increasing the pace and scale of farmer-led efforts
to improve water quality.*

AWARDEE LUNCHEON PROVIDED BY



AWARDEE SIGNS PROVIDED BY

MONSANTO



development of creative slogans about recycling, a field trip to a local recycling facility, and a survey identifying recyclable products used in the students' homes.

Iowa Conservation Secondary Teacher of the Year

Winner: Kay Thorton, Perry Community High School, Perry, Dallas SWCD

Kay Thorton teaches science at the Perry Community High School, and is a Dallas SWCD Assistant Commissioner. She strives to help her students connect with their community, and the ecological processes around them in a variety of ways including: the construction of American Kestrel nesting boxes, development of an Envirothon team, establishment of an ecology club, a trip to the Walnut Creek National Wildlife refuge, and a winter hike focused on tracking.

Thorton says about her environmental education efforts, "Many of my students simply were not aware that their actions were hurting the environment, or that certain experiences in the natural world were waiting for them just outside their doorstep in Perry, Iowa, or that their individual actions could make a difference in the preservation and conservation of our natural resources. My students are reminded time and time again that we are not islands, but are an integrated part of the systems of the planet."

District Winner

East Pottawattamie SWCD - Darrell Stamp accepting

The East Pottawattamie SWCD Environmental Education Council includes a commissioner, an assistant commissioner, the county resource planner, and at least two teachers from each school in the district. The Council stresses the importance of all educational activities, whether they are designed for students or adults. In addition to annual events such as the poster and essay contests, the District sponsors Trees for Threes, Stewardship Week activities, and an outdoor environmental education field day for fifth and sixth graders. The Council is especially active in the Envirothon program. The SWCD has sponsored three high school teams in the SW Regional Envirothon, in addition to providing technical assistance, educational materials and equipment for the teams to use in preparation for the contest.

One unique activity the SWCD participated in to increase adult awareness of soil conservation included the digging of a five-foot deep hole at the Armstrong Research Farm. The hole was dug so the public could observe the different soil horizons, earthworm activity, and soil structure. Dr. Doug Harlin from the National Soil Tilth Lab in Ames, was on hand to explain points of compaction and permeability. The District commissioners believe that by providing demonstrations and general information to the public, the land and its resources will remain here and in good condition for generations to come.

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE WINDBREAK AWARD

Presenter: Tom Rodd, Des Moines, President, Iowa Chapter, Izaak Walton League

Farmstead Windbreak

Winner: Ben and Sylvia Olson, Pocahontas, Pocahontas SWCD

Ben and Sylvia Olson developed their farmstead windbreak to provide protection for their farm from winter snow and wind. They have since come to appreciate it for the wildlife habitat and riparian buffer benefits it also provides. The Olsons do some spot mowing to control weeds as needed in their windbreak, but have found that good stands of blue grass and brome grass control many weeds. They also prune the trees regularly to reduce competition and disease among the trees. The 24-row windbreak ranges in age from 14 to 21 years old, and includes honeysuckle, walnut, white pine, Scotch pine, Amur maple, silver maple, plum, apple, choke cherry, cedar, concolor fir, lilac, and poplar.

Newly Established - Farmstead Windbreak**Winner: David Hammen, Harper, Keokuk SWCD**

David Hammen established a windbreak on his farm to provide protection for livestock and the farmstead, and to beautify the farmstead. The seven-row windbreak includes dogwood, cranberry, Norway spruce, red cedar, white pine, arborvitae, walnut, autumn olive, and poplar trees. Hammen controls weeds by mulching and mowing, and has protected the windbreak from livestock. He sprays to control insects, and replaces any lost trees.

Field Shelter Belt**Winner: Martha Siemers, Emmetsburg, Palo Alto SWCD****Accepting: Tim Siemers**

Martha Siemers has a 10-year-old field shelter belt on her farm, including one row of red cedar and one row of Colorado spruce. The rows are 12 feet apart, and weeds are controlled by mowing.

WOODLAND OWNER OF THE YEAR

Presenter: Bill Farris, Des Moines, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, State Forester**Winner: New Melleray Abbey, Peosta, Dubuque SWCD****Accepting: Joe Fitzgerald**

The New Melleray Abbey maintains a 115-acre woodland. The area has been protected from livestock, and limited hunting is permitted to control the deer population. Timber stand improvements are done in conjunction with harvesting, and also in unharvested areas. Nearly 95 acres have been improved in the past three years. Nearly 115,000 trees have been planted in the woodland since it was established in 1955.

The monks and land managers have attended tri-state forestry conferences. The Abbey hosts private contractor and woodland owner meetings and field trips. Visitors to the woodland are given information about the value of sustaining the land, crops and forests. The Abbey has also received state and federal grants to pursue a value added timber enterprise to design and make furniture from lumber they harvest.

WATERSHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presenter: L. Jeanette Winegarden, CDI Past President**Winner: Sherm Lundy, Burlington, Des Moines SWCD**

Sherm Lundy has been very active in the Flint Creek water testing project, serving on the advisory committee and chairperson for the testing committee. He was one of the volunteers who helped take water samples and has encouraged the implementation of riparian projects along the creek to reduce the flow of contaminants into the stream.

Lundy teaches science classes at the Burlington High School and at Southeastern Community College. In addition to his work with the Flint Creek Watershed project, he is an active member of, or helps with: the Iowa Rivers Project, the Missouri - Mississippi River Monitoring Project, Des Moines County Trees Forever, the Iowa Environmental Council Water Monitoring Project, Global Rivers Environmental Education

on establishing an Animal Waste project through the EQIP program. Mark has been very active in the George Wellhead Protection Program, which benefits the George community as well as all of Lyon County.

Mark and his wife, Mary, operate a diversified farm operation, which includes 425 acres of corn, 425 acres of soybeans, 500 cattle and 2,400 hogs. They have installed terraces and grass waterways and incorporate strip cropping, no-till and mulch-till practices.

Region 2 Winner: Mark Ingwersen, Spirit Lake, Dickinson SWCD

Along with being a commissioner over ten years, Mark Ingwersen is Chair of the Dickinson District, and has previously been Vice-President of the CDI. He has been very active on both the National and State level in the promotion of conservation. He was one of the Founders of "Iowa Watershed", which was organized to promote water quality and information sharing. Mark was also among the Founders of the Dickinson SWCD Foundation, which was formed to ensure long-term environmental benefits for the County.

Mark and his wife Kim farm 875 acres, on which they produce both corn and soybeans. Their conservation practices include no-till, mulch-till, sediment control basins, waterways, and a farmstead windbreak. Mark also participates in the Farming for Maximum Efficiency Program.

Region 3 Winner: Jim Lundberg, Charles City, Floyd SWCD

Jim Lundberg has been a commissioner for five years. Jim has a keen interest in commissioner development and continuing education. He was superb as a facilitator for "Strengthening Yourself and Your District." As well as being a FFA Instructor at the Charles City High School, he has served on committees responsible for education, finance, stewardship and publicity. Jim is always ready to volunteer. He helps out at the Floyd County Fairgrounds, before during and after the fair, and helped build the swine and sheep barns there.

Lundberg is in charge of bible school, very active with the youth Church Education Commission, and staff parish work. In 1990 he received the Outstanding Ag Teacher award and in the Floyd County District Education award in 1989.

Region 4 Winner: Richard Jensen, Elgin, Fayette SWCD

Richard Jensen has been a commissioner for the past 12 years. Besides attending national meeting Jensen has given great time and effort toward educating children about the importance of conservation and importance of nature. For the past 6 years he has hosted the Fayette SWCD conservation field days on his farm. This 3-day event draws approximately 500 third graders from 8 school districts each year. Students have the opportunity to gain on-site knowledge of such subjects as soils, contour farming, bees, woodland, wildlife, erosion, ponds and recycling.

Richard and his wife Dorothy implement conservation practices on their farm, including contour farming, contour buffer strips, terraces and CRP.

Region 5 Winner: Babetta Lucke, Persia, Harrison SWCD

Babetta Lucke is completing her fifth year as a commissioner, and is Chairperson of the District. She was Vice-Chairperson in 1996 and served as Co-Treasurer in 1998. Babetta assists the district with the annual poster contest, fund raising, and distribution of soil stewardship material. She does watershed inspections

and maintenance of PL-566 structures in the Mosquito Creek Watershed and trains inspectors for other watersheds.

Babetta and her husband Bill farm 840 acres of land producing both corn and soybeans. They practice no-till and conservation tillage on their farm and have installed buffer strips, contouring and three PL-566 structures.

Region 6 Winner: Paul Wiedemeier, Ankeny, Polk SWCD

Paul Wiedemeier is completing his seventh year as a commissioner and served as an assistant commissioner for three years. He is currently the Vice-Chair of the District. In addition to attending local and national meetings he is active in the district's education and publicity. Paul drafts letters to community leaders and local publications, as well as meetings with state legislators, county and local officials in order to generate funding and support for projects like the Walnut Creek Watershed, and the Urban Soil and Water quality Program.

Wiedemeier manages a 400- acre corn/soybean farm in Carroll County, along with being a State Certified real estate appraiser.

Region 7 Winner: Larry Wetjen, Marengo, Iowa SWCD

Larry Wetjen is a 20 year member of the Iowa SWCD. He has served as chairman and vice chairman and attends 100% of the meetings and has been active in all aspects of district business. He is a member of Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the Turkey Federation. He is a past member and chairman of the Iowa County Izaak Walton League, a current member of the Iowa River Corridor Committee, RC & D Board Treasurer, and served 25 years on Iowa County Conservation Board and is presently their chairman.

Larry and his wife Wanda had previously farmed 900 acres with contour and no-till. Currently Larry is District Sales Manager for the Stine Seed Co.

Region 8 Winner: Paul L. Roeder, Afton, Union SWCD

Paul Roeder has been a commissioner for two years. He attends local and state meetings regularly and has been active in the Education Committee. He also participates in activities related to the Twelve Mile Watershed.

Though retired Paul and his wife Dorothy still farm 60 acres, evenly divided between corn and soybeans. They participate in no-till farming and have in the past installed terraces and two ponds.

Region 9 Winner: Jeff Bergman, Burlington, Des Moines SWCD

Jeff Bergman works to protect the environment in both his roles, as SWCD commissioner and as a Conservation/Natural Resource Manager with Des Moines County Conservation Board. He served on the marketing committee and developed the district's marketing program as well as serving as a technical advisor for Flint Creek Watershed. Along with attending regional, state and national meetings Jeff served as a team member of a Quality Steering Team sponsored Quality Improvement Process team for marketing and strategic planning for SWCD Commissioner Development.

Jeff and his wife, Jan maintain a tree farm on 295 acres of Mississippi River bottomland backwater slough area. They also maintain 10 acres of upland woodland and prairie.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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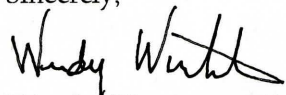
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On behalf of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, I would like to thank Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District for the recent gift to support the Water Rocks. Your generous gift allows the College to sustain and strengthen areas where we excel. Your support will allow Iowa State University to continue leading the nation in agricultural education, technologies and development. It is truly appreciated by the students, faculty and staff who benefit from it.

Generosity from industry and public partners upholds a long-standing tradition among friends of agriculture who provide support for the critical needs of our College. Gifts from donors like you make it possible for Iowa State University to give our students the skills, knowledge and opportunities required to succeed in an ever-changing world and an increasingly competitive work environment. It enables us to attract top-notch faculty and staff to teach our students, conduct research and provide outreach services. We want you to know that your vote of confidence is essential as we strive to be the best in the nation and to provide positive, powerful leadership in the world.

Our partnership with Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is important to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Your support boosts our capacity to solve problems, educate leaders and innovators, and paves the way to an exceptional future for agriculture and the life sciences.

Sincerely,



Wendy Wintersteen, Dean
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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Aldo Leopold Chapter #271



Des Moines County, Iowa

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