

Ernie Fuhs wins state award

The West Pottawattamie County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce that Ernie Fuhs is the 1989-90 state winner of the teacher division of the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. Mr. Fuhs has taught elementary school for the past 18 years at Tri-Center Elementary School near Neola, Iowa.

The award recognizes public or parochial school teachers who perform outstanding service in creating public awareness of the need to safeguard our heritage of natural and human resources.

"Mr. Fuhs loves and respects the outdoors and he is able to transfer that feeling to his students. He educated himself in the knowledge of wild flowers and plants and passed this on to his students," reports fellow Tri-Center teacher Lorretta Jensen.

As he describes it, Mr. Fuhs attempts, "to create an environment that encourages kids to become interested rather than simply trying to teach them." To accomplish this Ernie has worked to establish and maintain a plot of native grasses at the Tri-Center School. Those grass plots and a nearby creek has frequently been used by Mr. Fuhs as a learning environment for his students.

He worked closely with Dr. J. Bruce Holmquist at the Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13 in establishing Iowa's project Outlook in the Tri-Center district. Ernie also accompanied a group of educators to Australia to introduce Outlook to teachers there.

"Ernie is recognized by his colleagues



as a first-class teacher of elementary science and conservation within his own school district," according to Dr. Holmquist, "He is also recognized as a professional educator by leaders in both science and environmental education across the state of Iowa due to his participation in Iowa's project Outlook."

Ernie retired from teaching elementary school in June 1990 but remains an active member of the West Pottawattamie Environmental Education Council.

Ernie will be presented the Conservation Teacher Award for 1989-90 during the Annual Conference for Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners of Iowa to be held November 26 and 27th at the Savery Hotel in Des Moines.

Mark Schnepel is named outstanding young commissioner

By Greg K. Mathis

Mark Schnepel, from rural Treynor, has been selected to receive the 1990 Ken Wagner Award. The Ken Wagner Award is given to an outstanding soil and water conservation district commissioner who is actively engaged in farming and is thirty-five years of age or younger. It is given by Ruth Wagner in memory of her late husband, Kenneth who was a leader as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee from 1948 to 1961.

Lyle Peterson, District Conservationist for West Pottawattamie says, "Mark takes his duties as a commissioner very seriously and actively participates in District functions."

Mark has served the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water District for two years as an assistant commissioner and was then elected to a six year commissioner term in 1987. He has been active in local SWCD activities and has represented the commissioners at county REAP and the Resource Conservation and Development meetings. He presently serves as secretary of the Golden Hills RC&D Executive

Council.

Fellow District Commissioner Charles Angerth has worked with Mark for five years as a district commissioner. "Mark is an excellent example of the leadership needed to pursue the objectives and meet the goals set by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts," reports Charles, "West Pottawattamie looks forward to Mark's continued involvement as a district commissioner."

Mark and his wife, Nancy, live four miles east of Treynor with son Aaron, eleven, and daughter Amy, five. Their farm consists of a hog operation and 500 acres of row crop. Mark is a consistent, no-till planter of soybeans and no-tills some corn. In addition, terraces, waterways, contouring, field borders, and windbreaks are a few some of the practices he uses to control erosion on his farm.

Mark will receive the award at the awards banquet of the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Annual Conference to be held on November 27th at the Savery Hotel in Des Moines.

Neola Gazette

West Pottawattamie conservation awards are presented at banquet

Over five hundred people attended the West Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District's annual awards banquet, held Monday evening at Iowa Western Community College.

A highlight of the evening is the presentation of poster awards to students from St. Joseph, Treynor, Tri-Center and Underwood Schools. (Photographs of all the students on hand for the awards ceremony will be included in the special Ag Week/Soil Conservation issue of the Gazette on March 21.) This year's theme was "Iowa Birds".

Tri-Center students also entered a college contest, with Amy Morse's entry the overall winner. Tri-Center's overall poster winner was Stephanie Voge.

Other Tri-Center students earning recognition were Donnie Smith, Laura Nanninga, Seth Martens, Melissa Darrington, Joshua Kohl, Erin Obermeier, Brandi Huddle, Jodi Schuning, Chris Wohlers, David Gittins, Daryn Morris, Kelsey Miller, Steven Killpack, Noah Thielen, Jessica Muhs, Matt Anderson, Carrie Peters, Traci Minahan, Matt Preuss, Adam Ring, Andri Cohen, Dustin Schelling, Jared Graham, Linda Bruck, Adam Kramer, Jeremy Petersen and Jake Stone.

At St. Joseph School, Jarrod McDonald was the overall winner. Additional awards went to Carl Bjorling, Jamie Masker, Sarah Fischer, Anne Fischer, Rob Turner, Tessa Wellman, Joey Wollenhaupt, Emily Fischer, Amanda Masker, Gavin Skow, Katherine Ward and Bob Busch.

Underwood's top entry belonged to Amanda Lausen, and awards also went to Jennifer Hazen, Kyle Scott, Derek Peters, Blu Wahle, Jessica Rupiper, Tyler Lewis, Aaron Madsen, David Witt, Chad Rybar, Jesse Spencer, Megan Kerber, Morgan Leaders and Kathie Trede.

Mark Miller had the top Treynor entry. Other poster award winners were Jordan Campbell, Karen Johannes, Linsey Boehm, Sarah Vorthmann, Belinda Brockman, Chris Goos, Cora Saxton, Kacy Gadberry, Erin Sudmann, Michelle Behrens, Ashley Green and Jimmy Calkins.

Charles Angeroth was honored upon retiring after eight years as a district commissioner; Mark Schnepel received the special commissioner award and was also honored as the winner of the Ken Wagner Award at the state level; Marshall Delavan earned the special



Among those honored with conservation awards at a banquet held Monday evening at Iowa Western Community College were [front row, from the left] Steve Trede, Eldon Ravlin Award; Fred Miller, Owner/Operator; Francis Cross, New Cooperator; [second row] Roger Trede, Eldon Ravlin Award; Duane Witt and Leonard Rodenburg, Landlord/Tenant.—Maureen Olsen photo

volunteer award; Ernie Fuhs was honored for being named Conservation Teacher of the Year at the state level; and Mrs. Erma Watts was N.A.D.C. Teacher of the Year.

Conservation awards, also featured in a slide presentation, included New Cooperator, Francis Cross; Landlord/Tenant, Leonard Rodenburg/Duane and Gail Witt; Eldon Ravlin Award, Roger and Steve Trede; Owner/Operator, Fred Miller.

Robert Adkins and Sons won the corn division and Todd Goos had the top soybean entry in the no-till yield contest. The Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award was presented to Gary Larson.

Non-cost-share terraces accounted for one-third of the total constructed in West Pottawattamie County last year, or twenty-nine miles of terracing. Plaques were awarded to the following for constructing non-cost-share terraces in 1990:

Joe Welbourne, Gerald L. Ring, Derald Blois, Patrick G. Ellsworth, Fred Huneke, Gary Larsen, John (Mike) Dea, Graalfs Farms Inc., Grace

Messerli, Don Parish, Audrey Maguire, Allan Tiarks.

Forristall Farms Inc., Lucille Harder, R.L. Dick Green, Keith Gunderson, Merle Osborn, Don Warner, Laverne Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Vorthmann, (Walt Wellman - Michael Wellman), Hood, Martin, Miller, Walters, Den-Mar Corp - Darin Eitmann.

Dale Schroder, Doris Ploen, Curt Fischer, Tom Eitmann, Joel Fahrenkrog, James Nielsen, Ray McDonald, Arthur J. Chambers, Mary Eilts, Ron Lammert.

Maurice J. Welbourne, William Geise, Donald Stephens, Norman Thomas, Robert Young, Dean Grove, Art Rath, Mark Ross, Warren Brewer, Jr.

Moran Beef, Inc., Norma Welbourn, Ron Kerber, William Stortenbecker, Donald Smith, Leonard Wilhelm, Paul Hines, Tom Schnepel, Wayne Klahn, Richard Smith, Tom Muhlbauer.

Virgil Anderson, Vincent Killpack, Francis Cross, Marvin Lubbe, Richard Wenninghoff, Lyle Kerber, Roy Maguire, Cornelius Fischer, (Geraldine Bowen, Elaine Lawson), Clifford L. Shudak.