



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 62nd Annual Report

Conservation's Power

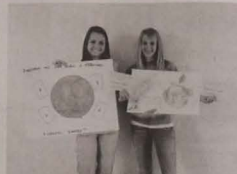
The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2007 theme was "Conservation's Power". 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. The posters from Kennedy Hopper and Bethany Dichraft were chosen as regional winners.



Division 1 winners from Notre Dame Elementary were Kennedy Hopper, 1st; Claire Hackenmiller, 3rd; Riley Bruce, 2nd; and Honorable Mentions Laurn Wagner, Niles Siefken, Ashley Lohmann.



Honorable mention winners in division 5 from Burlington High School were Britanie Sattler and Danielle Stauffer.



First place in division 5 was Katelynn Henry, Burlington High School, and Stephanie Hoffender, Burlington High School, received second place in division 5.



Division 5 third place winner was Jared Hanel from Burlington High School.



Winners from Burlington High School in division 4 were Bethany Dichraft, 1st; Kelsie Henrie and Hilary Beard, Honorable Mentions.



Courtney Grisham, Grimes Elementary, received an Honorable Mention award in division 3.



Grimes Elementary student Austin Atteberry also received Honorable Mention in division 3.



Mediapolis winners were (front row) Brianna Eberhardt, Div. 2 Honorable Mention; Savannah Banwart, Div. 2 2nd; Sara Peterson, Div. 2 3rd; and Marshall Rupe, Div. 2 Honorable Mention. Back row: Abby Eberhardt, Div. 3 1st; Darby Massner, Div. 3 Honorable Mention; Allie Massner, Div. 2 1st; Jenna Tapp, Div. 3 3rd; Kelli Sisco, Div. 4 3rd; Megan Hedges, Div. 4 2nd; Heather Wulf, Div. 4 Honorable Mention; and Molly Woodruff, Div. 3 2nd.



MHS Team Competes at Envirothon

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a team of seniors from Mediapolis High School who participated in a regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City in March 2007. The team placed fourth at the regional competition and 24th overall in the state of Iowa. They took top honors in the soil division. From the regional level, the top fifteen teams in the state advanced to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park.

Team members Angela Kuntz, Victoria Taffe, Michael Fosdick, Caleb Robb, and Elizabeth Weyer competed against nine other teams from Iowa City West, Muscatine, Bellevue, Preston, and Lin-Mar. The group was coached by NRCS Soil Conservationist Courtney Myers and teacher Ralph Kaufman.

The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions covering five categories: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, and Current Environmental Issues.

LOCAL LANDOWNERS CHOSEN FOR CONSERVATION AWARDS

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected local landowners as District winners for the 2007 annual Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program, which is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Dale and Julie Bartelt, owners, and Mike and Jason Hinson, operators, both from Mediapolis, were selected as winners in the division for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Jack Strawhacker, Burlington, was selected as the winner in the division for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

Additionally, Jack was submitted to represent the Des Moines SWCD in regional competition. Region 9 consists of thirteen counties in southeast Iowa. The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners were pleased to find out in July that Jack Strawhacker was selected as the regional winner. Strawhacker was judged on four categories: land adequately treated, conservation practices accomplished, community service, and general farm husbandry.

Jack received his award at a Regional Commissioner's meeting in September in Fairfield. He was presented the award by the Region 9 Director Jim Gevoek of Fairfield and Jim Flinspach with the Farm Bureau.

If you know a landowner or producer you feel is doing a great job of conserving natural resources, please call the Soil & Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 to nominate them!

Kaufman Receive Gary Wagner Memorial Award

Ralph Kaufman, Sperry, was the 2007 recipient of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.

Ralph is a retired Mediapolis High School science teacher and during his tenure, he was an untiring advocate of conservation work. The importance of teaching young people about conservation will serve many generations to come through his work and teaching. Ralph is also active in many conservation groups such as the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. District Commissioner Jeff Burgus stated, "I can think of know one more deserving of this recognition than Ralph. He truly cares about the environment and our natural resources."

This 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. Ralph received a \$250 cash award to be used towards a conservation project and a plaque recognizing their efforts.

Family and friends of Gary, to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example, developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. 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 environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

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



Dale and Julie Bartelt



Jason and Mike Hinson



Shelly and Jack Strawhacker



Jack Strawhacker receives his regional award from Jim Flinspach and Jim Gevoek.

Issue Continued On 4B

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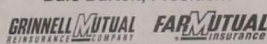
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Dale Bartelt, President



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319-394-9795

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888-596-8265



Apostolic Christian Church

Highway 99, Oakville
10:15 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
12:45 p.m. - Afternoon Worship
Wednesday Midweek Service
7:30 p.m. - Winter Hours
8:00 p.m. - Tapestry here

Centenary United Methodist Church

Morning Sun, Iowa
Sue-Ellen Sherman, senior pastor;
Scott Smith, assist. pastor 968-4120
Thursday, February 21
2:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet
Sunday, February 24
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:30 p.m. - Parish Bible Study here
Wednesday, February 27
6:00 p.m. - Tapestry at 10:15 a.m.
Thursday, February 28
2:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet

Church of Christ

1900 S. Roosevelt, Burlington
Robert Housley, pastor
Phone 758-9250
Church phone 754-5684
Sunday, February 24
9:30 a.m. - Morning Bible Study
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. - Evening Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - 10:15 a.m. Study

Faith Christian Outreach Church

1302 E. Washington,
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641
319-967-7337 fcoiowa@comcast.net
Pastors: Monte Knudsen, Rick
Bunnell, Gary Van Nyhils,
Tom Roberts, Crystal McLennan
Sundays 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
At every service, childcare for 6 weeks
to 3 years, World Wide Kids for Pre-K to
5th graders, High Impact Youth for 6-12th
graders.

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - Dan Baker, pastor
Church phone 394-3345
Sunday, February 24
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Nursery provided
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship, Nursery
provided
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study and Prayer
Nursery provided. For fee information
to any of these call 394-3345

First Baptist Church

Yarmouth, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Presbyterian Church

Mediapolis, Iowa
Pastor Brad Hansen
Church phone 394-3330
Wednesday, February 20
12 p.m. - Midweek Bible Study
7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee
Thursday, February 21
7:00 p.m. - Narrow Road
Sunday, February 24
8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Christian Education
11:00 a.m. - Worship
6:00 p.m. - St. High MCVG
Monday, February 25
7:00 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

First Baptist Church

Mediapolis, Iowa - 865-5511
Paul Hooks, pastor
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Praise & Training
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Oakville United Methodist

Sue-Ellen Sherman, senior pastor;
Scott Smith, assist. pastor - 766-2911
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
10:15 a.m. - Sunday School
4:30 p.m. - Parish Bible Study in MS
Tuesday, February 25
6:00 a.m. - Men's Prayer Meeting
Wednesday, February 27
6:00 p.m. - Tapestry here

Peace Lutheran Church

1346 Beaverdale Road, West
Burlington
Cindy Johnson, pastor
Church 319-392-4422
Sunday, February 24
8:15 a.m. - Sunday School
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
10:00 a.m. - Coffee & Fellowship
Common on 1st & 3rd Sundays
Afternoon Circle & Bible Study 3rd
Wednesday at 1 p.m.
"Over the Hill Gang" Fellowship 2nd
Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Sharon Reformed Presbyterian Church

Morning Sun, Iowa - Ronald V. Good,
pastor
Church phone 394-3381
Sunday, February 24
10:10 a.m. - Morning Worship
11:00 a.m. - Sabbath School
5:00 p.m. - Bible Class
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

Shinar Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Pleasant Grove, Iowa
394-3384
Sunday, February 24
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Worship, Rev. Steve
Parker, guest speaker.

Solid Rock Baptist Church

1404 Locust St., Wapello
Dan Doolin, pastor 319-522-5320
email: srbc@iouisacomm.net
website: www.srbcfamily.org
Sunday
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - Worship
6:30 p.m. - Evening worship
Wednesday
6:00-7:15 p.m. - Team/KID
7:15-8:30 p.m. - Youth Group

Sperry United Methodist Church

Sperry, Iowa
Jeff Kodis, pastor - 394-3131
Wednesday, February 20
7:00 p.m. - Kids Club at Mepo
Sunday, February 24
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Wednesday, February 27
7:40 p.m. - Kids Club at Mepo

St. John's Church of Flint River Two

13623 35th St., Burlington, Iowa
Dan Buck, pastor
Church phone 965-2119
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Worship

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Dodgeville
Phone 563-4771
319-752-4771
Rev. David G. Steinhilber
Wednesday, February 20
5:30 p.m. - Communion Service
Sunday, February 24
8:15 a.m. - Mass
Wednesday, February 27
6:30 p.m. - Mass
Saturday, March 1
6:00 p.m. - Game Night & Chili Supper.
Everyone invited

Yarmouth Community United Church of Christ

Yarmouth, Iowa - 865-7205
Sunday, February 24
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service, with
Sunday School following

Annual Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District Report

Continued from page 5A

2007 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	AMOUNT
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	19
Terraces Constructed	21,809
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constructed	33
Field Borders Seeded	4,534
Wetlands Restored, Created or Enhanced	341
Tree Planting Completed	15
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	86
Windbreaks Established	1,216
Filter Strips Established	4
Grade Stabilization Structures Completed	9
Conservation Cover Established	401
Fence Installed	17,826
Recreation Trail & Walkway Established	1,162
Pipeline Installed	1,440
Forage Harvest Management (biomass)	47
Nutrient Management	11
Pasture Planting Completed	33
Continuous CRP Contracts Completed	31
Continuous CRP Contract Acres	243
EOP Contracts Completed	19
Conservation Plans Developed	10,475

Cost Share Available for Future Work

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for state cost share to install conservation practices on privately owned agricultural land for fall 2008 or spring 2009. The program offers up to 50% cost share for conservation practices such as terraces, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, field borders, pasture and hayland planting, and more. If you have any questions or would be interested in applying for cost share, stop in the NRCS/SWCD office or call 319-753-6221.

Thanks for Your Help

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses. Businesses donating goods to the SWCD during 2007 include:

- Targel - hummingbird feeder and nectar to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Wal-Mart - gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Vista Bakery - cookies for the Geode Watershed Kick-off meeting.
- Pizza Hut - personal pan pizza gift certificates to give as honorable mention prizes for the poster contest.

- Mediapolis News - generously prints our Annual Report every year.
- Des Moines County Fair Board - booth space at the county fair.
- The Remember Inn, Indian Agency, Two Rivers Bank & Trust, Mediapolis Savings Bank, Cashmere Credit Union, Danville State Savings Bank, Dods Insurance, and Kum'n Go on Roosevelt St., Burlington, for promoting and selling our cookbooks.

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

FLOWERS FOR SALE

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District will be selling flower plants, bulbs and kits this spring. Each bulb package costs \$5.00. The variety of plants offered includes both perennial and annual. The plants and bulbs available include:

- Bleeding Heart, one plant
- Two Tone Hanging Begonia Garden, 1 complete kit
- Hanging Strawberry Garden, 1 complete kit
- Everbearing Strawberry Plants, 10 plants
- Hosta, 1 plant
- Fancy Leaf Caladiums, 3 bulbs
- Crocosmia Lucifer, 8 bulbs
- Spectacular Gladiolus, 14 bulbs
- New Tiger Lilies, 3 bulbs
- Star Gazers Lilies, 2 bulbs
- Anemone De Caen, 15 bulbs
- Mini Amaryllis, 18 bulbs
- Elf Lilies, 3 bulbs
- Peacock Orchids, 18 bulbs
- Camellia Begonias, 3 bulbs
- Blazing Stars, 12 bulbs
- Daylily Stella D'Oro, 1 plant
- Persian Buttercup, 2 bulbs

Every plant and bulb is guaranteed to bloom or it will be replaced for free. Each also includes advice to follow. Directions on how deep and how far apart to plant. The bulbs/plants will be available after April 15.

To place an order, contact your local commissioner or stop in the SWCD office at 3625 First Ridge Drive, Burlington (money is due when order is placed). For directions or if you have questions, call Jamie at 319-753-6221.

1M Budget & Operating Expenses

Allocation	
\$ 2,136.40	
Commissioners Expense	1,048.51
Office Expense (includes postage, supplies, fair booth expense)	425.39
CDI Dues	362.50
NACD Dues	300.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices

Allocation	
\$14,182.50	
Timber Stand Improvement, 86.4 a completed	6,480.00
Projects Not Completed	7,025.50
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry & Native Grasses

Allocation	
\$ 4,644.68	
Farmstead Windbreak, 2 completed	2,372.18
Projects Not Completed	2,272.50
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2007

Allocation	
\$45,215.35	
Terraces, 250 ft. completed	817.50
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 9 completed	7,858.95
Grassed Waterways, 860 ft. completed	925.13
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	22,384.85
Terraces, incomplete	2,498.00
Balance	10,730.92

IFIP 2006

Allocation	
\$43,134.93	
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 17 completed	21,102.99
Terraces, 5,530 ft. completed	17,032.94
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	4,999.00
Balance	-0-

Public Owned Lakes

Allocation	
\$ 3,028.10	
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 2 completed	3,028.10
Balance	-0-

Geode Watershed Kick Off Meeting and Update

Approximately 50 landowners, personnel from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and IDALS Division of Soil Conservation, commissioners, and other interested parties attended the Geode Watershed kick off event hosted by the Des Moines and Henry County Soil and Water Conservation District's on November 15.

The two Districts were one of seven in the state to receive a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The purpose of the grant is to identify potential water quality issues at Lake Geode. Work to be completed with the grant includes a gully assessment, inventory of functionality of existing structures, assess potential bacteria sources, and identify the possibility of potential new conservation practices.

To complete all the grant work, the SWCD has hired Theresa Pinter from Burlington. She is a graduate from Western Illinois with a BS in Biology.

Work on the watershed project has been moving along smoothly. An inventory of existing structures was conducted in fall of 2007. Theresa began the gully assessment in December with a goal to finish it by the end of February. A recent meeting was held about the bacteria situation at the lake. March will be spent identifying sites for new conservation practices and assisting Geode RCAD with writing a grant for the next phase of the project, which has an April 1 deadline.

SECRETARY NORTHEY ENCOURAGES FARMERS TO USE NEW ONLINE OPTION TO MANAGE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to take advantage of the new FARMS (Financial and Resource Management System) website, which allows you to sign-up for and manage participation in many of the conservation programs offered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. This new web program is designed to make it easier for farmers to register and get conservation practices on the ground. There remains a great demand for filter strips, grass-waterways, and other projects that reduce runoff and improve water quality. This website will help ensure those projects happen.

Farmers can visit <http://idsa.iowa.gov/FARMS/> to learn more about the programs offered and even apply for assistance. If you have previously received assistance, you can use the site to monitor the status of your projects.

In addition to making it more convenient to make inquiries and apply for assistance, the new program is designed to increase the responsiveness to requests for cost-share assistance and, as a result, speed up the processing of payments for landowners.

Your Soil and Water Conservation District and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will also realize benefits of the program. They will be more responsive to requests, have faster and less costly processing of payments, be able to better gauge demand for conservation measures, as well as track the progress of application of soil conservation and water quality measures on the agriculture landscape.

When you are out in the combine and running grain carts or scouting your fields in the spring, take a good look at your land and see if any areas could benefit from additional conservation practices. This new program will allow you to quickly apply when and where it's convenient to you to address problem areas.

Iowa farmers are great stewards of the land and this new resource will help you continue that tradition.

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