

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 65th Annual Report



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2010 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners were (front row) Maureen McLaughlin and Don Lounsbury; (back row) Bob Hinson, Jeff Burgus, and Ron Snyder.

Personnel During 2010

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Maureen McLaughlin, Chairperson
Don Lounsbury, Vice-Chairperson
Jeff Burgus
Robert Hinson
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Bradley Weiss

BURLINGTON FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Drew DeLang, District Conservator
Shloh Bradley, Resource Conservationist
Jon Matz, Soil Conservationist (through June)
Kindra Bradley, Soil Conservation Technician
Mark Delperding, District Employee (June - August)
Caleb Waters, Geode Watershed Coordinator (started March)
Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)

Bruce Trautman, Assistant State Conservator (FO)
Shawn Deltmann, Area Resource Conservationist
Kristina Harris-Hull, Area Program Specialist
Jesse Jackson, Grassland Specialist
Randy Robb, Area Easement Specialist
Kevin Andersen, State Private Lands Biologist
Teresa Breuer Lauterbach, Administrative Management Assistant

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & LAND STEWARDSHIP

- DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION (Des Moines)

Chuck Gipp, Director
James Gillespie, Chief Field Services Bureau
Paul Valin, Field Representative (through June)
Vince Sitzman, Field Representative (started September)

Revolving Funds Account Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular checking account from

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2009	5,049.77
Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 25.00
Rain Barrel Sales	845.40
Cookbook Sales	98.00
CD Sales	75.00
Checking Account Interest	5.73
1M Reimbursement	2,500.00
Pheasants Forever Reimbursement (MCM mtg)	262.60
Louisa Co. SWCD Reimburse. (contractor's mtg)	37.24
Check Never Cashed	10.20
TOTAL	\$ 3,859.17

Disbursements:	
Postage	\$ 220.00
Meeting Room Expense	100.00
Rain Barrels	664.00
Mid Contract Management Mtg Expenses	262.60
Commissioner Travel	1,201.90
Poster Contest Prizes	300.00
Fair Booth Expenses	114.97
Dues	1,100.00
Subscriptions/Memberships	32.00
Scholarships	400.00
State Soil Conservation Committee Tour Expense	75.96
Office Supplies	77.13
Contractor's Meeting	124.48
Lake Geode Playground Donation	80.00
Envirothon	120.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,873.04
Balance On Hand, June 30, 2010	\$ 635.90

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special projects/payroll account from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2009	\$18,900.04
Receipts:	
Account Interest	\$ 16.30
Transfer from Geode Acct for qtrly taxes	3,920.05
FB VIII	2,070.00
FB IX	1,468.80
TOTAL	\$ 7,475.15

Expenditures:	
Federal Tax	\$ 681.98
State of Iowa - Tax	80.04
Unemployment Insurance	30.10
IPERS	802.70
Payroll preparation fees	45.00
Transfer to Geode Acct for qtrly taxes	549.89

Payroll	\$ 5,650.29
TOTAL	\$ 7,840.00
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2010	\$18,535.19

2010 District Accomplishments

	Amount	Unit
Terraces Constructed	31,836	Feet
Grassed Waterways Established	2	Acres
Field Borders Seeded	8	Acres
Wetlands Restored, Created or Enhanced	160	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	1	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	7	Acres
Windbreaks Established	3	Acres
Filter strips Established	15	Acres
Riparian Buffers Established	1	Acres
Conservation Cover Established	251	Acres
Fence Installed	5,600	Feet
Continuous CRP Contracts Completed	34	Each
Continuous CRP Contract Acres	224	Acres
General CRP Contracts Completed	53	Each
General CRP Contract Acres	828	Acres
EOP Contracts Completed	12	Each
Conservation Plans developed	5,752	Acres

District Activities During 2010

January

Election of Officers for 2010 resulted as follows: Chairperson - Maureen McLaughlin; Vice Chairperson - Don Lounsbury; Secretary - Jamie Grimes; Treasurer - Grimes; Co-Treasurer - Jeff Burgus; Assistant Commissioners - Brad Weiss; RCAD Executive Board - Lounsbury, Ron Snyder (alternate); Flint Creek Advisory Board - Bob Hinson, Snyder (alternate); REAP - Hinson; Education/Contests/Awards Committee - McLaughlin, Hinson, Snyder; Fund Raising Committee - All; Marketing Committee - McLaughlin, Burgus; Legislative Committee - Burgus, Lounsbury; Urban Conservation Committee - Snyder.

McLaughlin attended the CDI Legislative Day held at the capital in Des Moines.

The SWCD donated \$50 to Johnson County Conservation for Envirothon lunch costs.

Civil Rights were reviewed.

February

Annual report was printed in Mediapolis News.
The SWCD co-hosted a contractor's meeting with Louisa County SWCD on February 24 at the Dodgeville St Mary's Church Parish.

March

Caleb Waters started March 1 at the Geode Watershed Coordinator. Snyder attended the Spring Regional meeting at Honey Creek Resort. Amy Holley and Jessica Cary were chosen as local recipients of the high school scholarship.
Waters attended the Iowa Water Conference & Coordinator's meeting in Ames.

April

Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 25 - May 2.
Winners were chosen for the poster contest.

Lake Geode NPS Watershed Project review meeting was April 24.
The SWCD began selling rain barrels and tumbling composters.

The SWCD had a booth during the Earth Day cleanup at the Port of Burlington. McLaughlin, Hinson and Snyder were on hand to talk about the SWCD, rain barrels, and the benefits of conservation.

Waters had a booth at an Earth Day function in Mt. Pleasant at the Thresher's ground to display information about the Geode Watershed project.

McLaughlin met with the Burlington City Council to gain support for rain barrels.

May

McLaughlin and Burgus did soils runoff and apple/earth demonstrations at the New London 6th grade campout.
NACD dues were paid.

June

The SWCD co-hosted a State Soil Conservation Committee tour of the 2008 flood areas, Geode Watershed, conservation practices, and a tilling demonstration at the ISU Crawfordville research farm.

Matz's last day was June 18.
The SWCD signed a Memo of Understanding with the Iowa Soybean Association and Henry County Soil & Water Conservation District for Geode Watershed landowners.

Informational signs were installed in the Geode Watershed.
Mark Delperding started as a summer employee on June 8.

July

The SWCD had a booth during the Des Moines County Fair, July 28 - August 4. The Iowa Learning Farm Conservation Station was on hand July 29.

CDI dues were paid.
McLaughlin and Hinson completed the annual audit of the District books.

September

McLaughlin attended the CDI Annual Conference in West Des Moines.
Mark Delperding's last day was September 8.

John Trochese started September 23 as an Earth Team Volunteer for two months.

October

Waters attended a Project Coordinator's meeting in Ames.
November

McLaughlin and Burgus were re-elected as District Commissioners during the general election.
The SWCD paid registration fees to sponsor an Envirothon team from Mediapolis High School.

SWCD Selling Rain Barrels and Other Items

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is taking orders for rain barrels and accessories. Other items also available include a 50 gallon tumbling composter, potting benches, a 5 gallon mini composter, bird houses and flower boxes. All items are made from recycled products.

Orders will be taken until April 8 with delivery scheduled shortly after that.

A rain barrel allows you to recycle nature's most precious and most taken for granted resource. The water can be used for watering plants or gardens, cleaning windows, washing cars, cleaning tools, and more. As cities continue to raise water rates, saving rainwater saves money and helps the environment!

Profits from the sales of these items go to high school scholarships, poster contests, conservation education, and promotion of natural resources in Des Moines County.

For pricing and more information stop by their office at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, or call Jamie at 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 or services to the SWCD during 2010 include:

-Vista Bakery - cookies for the contractor's 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.
-Mediapolis Savings Bank - meeting room for a management unit meeting.

-Lake Geode Park Manager Ulf Konig - meeting space at the park office for various meetings concerning Lake Geode watershed.
-Des Moines County Fair Board - booth space at the county fair.

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.



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MHS Team Competes at Envirothon

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a team of students from Mediapolis High School who participated in the Southeast Iowa Regional Envirothon competition held in Iowa City in March 2010.

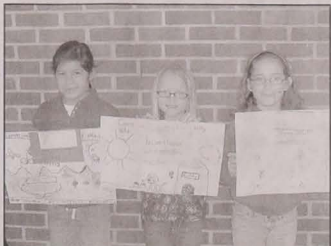
The MHS team tied for third place in the Soils Division. From the regional level, the top fifteen teams in the state advance to the state competition held at Springbrook State Park. MHS tied for eighth place overall in the SE IA regional.

Team members Cody Vantiger, Danielle Dill, Garrett Rupe, Unity Litton, and Jessica Cary competed against multiple teams from Decorah, Riceville, Alburnett, Wapello, Bellevue, and Maquoketa. The group was coached by NRCS Soil Conservationist Jon Matz and MHS teacher Stacey Rector.

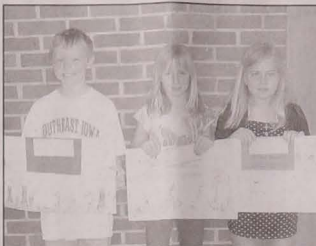
The Envirothon is a team competition for high school students. In the field and classroom, teams of five students are challenged to use their knowledge and critical thinking skills to conduct hands-on investigations, solve real-life scenarios and answer written questions about Aquatic Ecology, Forestry,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



The 2010 Envirothon team from Mediapolis High School: Unity Litton, Jessica Cary, Garrett Rupe, Cody Vantiger, and Danielle Dill.



Division 1 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Adriana Schultz, 1st; Izabel Vincent, Honorable Mention; and Alaina Oliver, 3rd.



Division 2 winners from Mediapolis Elementary were Cady Massner, 2nd; Sarah Coates, 3rd; and Olivia Moehle, 1st. Kendra Schultz, home schooled, received Honorable Mention in division 2.



Division 3 winners from Mediapolis were Brianna Eberhardt, 1st, and Autumn Fjeld, 3rd (not pictured).



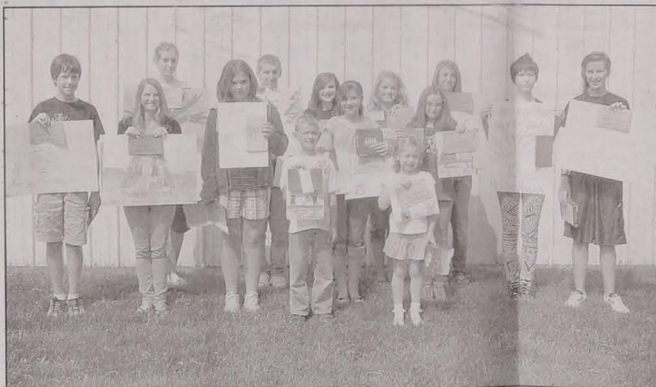
Division 4 winner from Mediapolis High School was Mallah Kome, 3rd.

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

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 2010 theme was "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats." 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 Olivia Moehle and Brianna Eberhardt were chosen as regional winners.



Winners from Danville Schools were: front row Jordan Watznauer, 2nd, and Emma Rehman, Honorable Mention, Division 1. Second row Darren Wolbers, Honorable Mention Division 4; Deldra Steward 1st Division 5; Katy Roby, Honorable Mention Division 3; Meredith Gourley, 2nd Division 3; Sierra Kelman, Honorable Mention Division 2; Nora Meierotto 2nd Division 5; Brittany Hoelzen, Honorable Mention Division 5. Third row Brandy Lowary, Honorable Mention Division 5; Cody Ita, 3rd Division 5; Madison Wolkenhauer, Honorable Mention Division 4; Alexandra Gabeline, 2nd Division 4; Lindsay Schaffer, 1st Division 4. Not pictured, Randall Williams, Honorable Mention Division 3.

Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship Recipients

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District honored two local high school seniors with scholarships in 2010. These scholarships are sponsored in conjunction with the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Amy Holley of West Burlington High School was one recipient chosen. She is the daughter of James and Brenda Holley. Amy is currently attending Upper Iowa University. Additionally, Amy's information

was forwarded for Regional competition where her application was judged against up to 12 additional individuals.

The second recipient was Jessica Cary from Mediapolis High School. Jessica is attending Iowa State University. She is the daughter of Randy and Carol Cary.

Amy and Jessica were chosen from the applications received from seniors throughout the county. In order to be eligible,



Cary

the student must be planning to attend college to pursue programs of study in any field of agriculture or natural resources. Criteria considered in judging



Holley

the applications included scholastic achievement, need and leadership, which include service, character and self-motivation.

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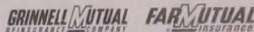


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