

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman: Mark Reitzel
Vice Chairman: Kenny Spooler
Secretary: Anthony Ohmes
Treasurer: Susan Jahn
Member: Gary Bock
District Manager: Paula Meier
District Technician: Denise Essner
Phone: (573) 243-1467, ext. 3
www.swcd.mo.gov/capegirardeau/index.htm



March 2014

James T. Hunt
NRCS District Conservationist

Monica Siler
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Scott Crumpecker
NRCS Soil Conservationist

Brad Pobst
Private Lands Conservationist
Missouri Department of Conservation

*Lend a Helping Hand to
Conservation of Land*

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The Cape Girardeau County Soil & Water Conservation District
cordially invites you to attend
the Cape Girardeau County SWCD

Open House Appreciation Day
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
11:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

Election of Supervisors

Presentation at 12:00 p.m. by
Dave Jones with Missouri One Call

Landowner Awards to follow
University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Lower Level



Election of Supervisors

The Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding an election of Supervisors in Area II, which includes Whitewater, Byrd, and Kinder townships, and Area IV, which includes Liberty, Hubble, and Welch townships. The election will be held in conjunction with the open house on Wednesday, March 19th. Polls will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the lower level of the University of Missouri Extension Center.

A Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor is a person elected or appointed to represent people throughout the county, and to be part of the governing body of the District. Supervisors are elected to a four year term. Supervisors administer District policies, programs, personnel, and funds. The Supervisors have the authority "to promote all reasonable measures for the saving of the soil and water within that soil and water district." This leaves the Supervisors almost unlimited opportunity to execute a conservation program and makes them the key to success of the Soil and Water Conservation District. The District is supported by the one-tenth of one percent parks, soils and water sales tax, and other sources.

The candidate running for Area II is Kenny Spooler. For Area IV, the only candidate running is Mark Reitzel. Any qualifying candidate not nominated by the committee may have their name added to the ballot if they reside in one of the two areas where an election is being held and have secured 10 signatures of land representatives in the territory they wish to represent on petition and submit the petition to the Cape Girardeau County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at least 10 days prior to the election.

HEALTHY SOILS ARE: *high in organic matter.* **Tillage destroys soil structure.**

Soil structure, the arrangement of the solid parts of the soil and the pore space between them, is critical to how the soil functions. However, management practices can reduce soil cover, disrupt continuous pore space, compact soil, or reduce soil organic matter, and negatively impact soil structure.

Since tillage negatively affects all of these properties, it's high on the list of practices damaging to healthy soils.

When tillage loosens the soil, it leaves soil particles exposed to the forces of wind and water. Transported by wind and water, detached soil particles settle into pores, causing surface sealing, compaction and reduced infiltration. When this happens less water is available to plants and runoff and erosion increases.

By contrast, soils that are not tilled and are covered with diverse, high residue crops throughout the year have better soil structure, are highly aggregated, with high levels of organic matter and microorganism activity, high water holding capacity, high infiltration rates, and little compaction.

To learn more about soil health, and to meet some of the farmers who are "Unlocking the Secrets in the Soil," visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.



Soil Health Workshop



When: **Tuesday, March 11, 2014**
Registration – 9:30-10:00 AM
Lunch - 12:30-1:00 PM
Workshop ending around 2:30 PM

Where: Registration/Field Presentations:
1286 PCR 502, Perryville, (Todd Lohmann's)
Lunch and Wrap-up:
Longtown Lutheran Parish Hall, 6483 S Hwy 61

Topics:

Soil Health (Rainfall Simulator)

Doug Peterson, NRCS State Soil Health Conservationist

Cover Crop Basics and Field Trials

Jerry Kaiser, NRCS Plant Materials Specialist

Effects of Cover Crops on Soils (Soil Cores)

Dave Skaer, NRCS Area Soil Scientist

Lunch

Funding Opportunities

James Hunt, NRCS District Conservationist

Producer Panel/Recent Experiences with Cover Crops

Derek Cattoor, Steve Huber, Todd Lohmann, Aaron Verseman

Lunch provided thanks to the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Please register by calling the Perry SWCD/NRCS office at
573-547-4077 Ext 3 by March 7, 2014.**

Prescribed Fire Workshops

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Where: Southeast Regional
Conservation Office
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

When: 1:00-4:30 pm and
6:00-9:30 pm



Presented by: Missouri Department of Conservation

This workshop will be given two different times to provide landowners a better opportunity to attend.

Prescribed fire is a low cost way for landowners to manage grasslands, CRP and old fields for forage production and/or improve wildlife habitat.

This workshop will include classroom discussions on methods, equipment, safety, and why and when you would use fire as a management tool. Emphasis will include how to conduct a safe and effective burn to control sprouts, encourage beneficial plants and create better quality quail habitat.

Participation will qualify landowners to have a prescribed burn plan prepared for their fields and use available loan equipment.

Attendees will also be invited to optional demonstration burns which will be conducted later in March around the region to demonstrate the use of tools and techniques.

To register for one of the workshops please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573/290-5730 or the Cape Girardeau County SWCD at 573/243-1467 ext. 3

UPCOMING EVENTS:



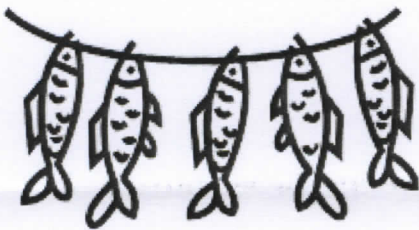
Forestry Field Day Saturday, March 15, 2014



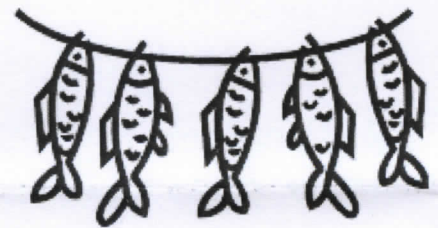
The Missouri Department of Conservation will be hosting a forestry field day for Missouri landowners on Saturday, March 15, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the General Watkins Conservation Area in Scott County. In case of bad weather the tour will be the following Saturday, March 22, 2014. This is a free workshop, however participants must pre-register.

This is a great opportunity for landowners to learn about practices that will help them manage their forest resource before, during, and after a timber sale, provide habitat for deer, turkey and other wildlife species, and water quality. Topics at the field day will include timber stand improvement (TSI), edge feathering, temporary forest opening, oak regeneration, and control of unwanted plant species.

The workshop participants will meet at the General Watkins Conservation Area Schlosser Tract parking lot. To get to this parking lot you take Highway 61 south of Benton to County Park Road, turn west and follow the signs to the parking lot. To register for the workshop, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-290-5730 or the Cape Girardeau County SWCD at 573-243-1467 ext. 3.



Pond Management Workshop Thursday, March 27, 2014



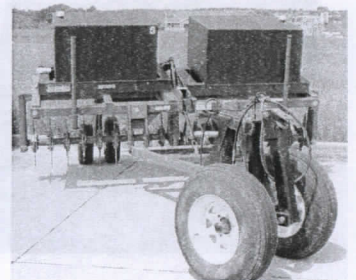
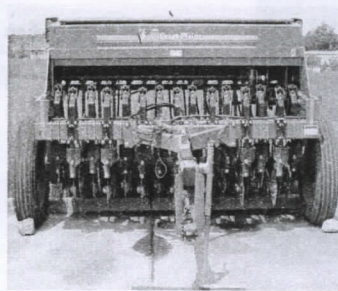
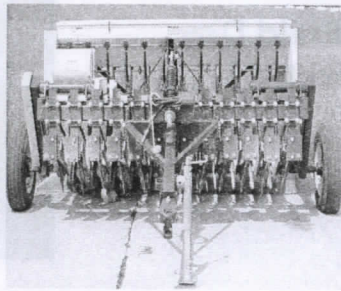
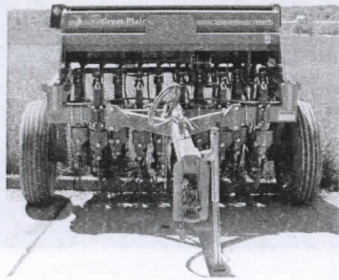
Attention pond owners! Have you ever wanted to know how to improve your pond fishery? How to deal with nuisance aquatic plants? What fish to harvest and what fish to stock? Well here is your chance to learn about these questions and more.

On March 27th the Missouri Department of Conservation will host a pond management workshop at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center in the Cape County Park. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

Presentations will be given by MDC Fisheries Management Biologists over various topics which include: pond construction, watershed management, fish stocking and management, aquatic vegetation establishment and control, plus much more. Questions are encouraged and this informal discussion will hopefully get you on your way to a successful and enjoyable pond. This workshop is free; however, pre-registration is required. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation at 573-590-5218.

FOR RENT NO TILL DRILLS & PASTURE RENOVATOR

The SWCD would like to remind everyone the District has a 10' Great Plains Drill and a 7' Great Plains Drill for rent along with a 8' Truax Drill (warm season grasses). The District also has a Rhino Pasture Renovator also available for rent. The 10' drill rents for \$9/AC, the 7' drill rents for \$8/AC, the 8' drill rents for \$10/AC, and the renovator rents for \$6/AC. If you would like to schedule either the drills or the renovator, please call 573-243-1467 ext 3.



WILDLIFE WAYS DID YOU KNOW.....

The decline of the pileated woodpecker almost led to the extinction of the wood duck from North America. Why? Wood ducks use the woodpecker's holes in trees for nests. Man made nest boxes have more recently come to the rescue.

Non Profit Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
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Jackson, MO
63755
Permit No. 78

Cape Girardeau
Soil and Water Conservation District
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