

## May 2016

### Special points of interest:

- **Open House 2016 highlights and pictures**
- **Election Results**
- **Farm Day 2016**
- **Scholarship Opportunity**

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# Cape Girardeau County SWCD Newsletter

## Open House attracts over 80 Cooperators

Cape Girardeau County held their Annual Meeting on March 14th, 2016 at the University Outreach and Extension Lower Level in Jackson. Just over 80 cooperators and landowners were in attendance to enjoy a catered lunch.

The guest speaker was Kelly Smith representing Farm Bureau, as their Marketing and Commodities Director. He spoke about the Missouri Parks and Soil Tax Renewal coming up for vote. Smith mentioned the benefits from the implementation of the practices the Soil and Water Conservation Districts make available. In his presentation,

Smith stated erosion has been cut nationally by 41%. Missouri was well represented with 50% reduction. We were very excited to host such a wonderful speaker.

Awards were also given out during Open House. We had two major awards, Conservation Farmer of the Year and Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.

Our recipients received a plaque and a sign. Curtis and Debby Lorenz received Conservation Farmer of the Year. —Continue reading on page 2.



Pictured above is Curtis and Debby Lorenz accepting Conservation Farmer of the Year.

## Board of Supervisors

Chairman: Kenny Spooler  
 Vice Chairman: Mark Reitzel  
 Secretary: Anthony Ohmes  
 Treasurer: Susan Jahn  
 Member: Gary Bock  
 District Manager: Kacie Gaines  
 District Technician: Dakota Oehl



NRCS District Conservationist  
**James T. Hunt**

NRCS Soil Conservationist  
**Monica Siler**

NRCS Soil Conservationist  
**Scott Crumpecker**

Private Land Conservationist  
 Missouri Conservation District  
**Brad Probst**

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

*“ I am looking forward to working with each of our projects and especially the cooperators of Cape County.”*

**We are on the web!**  
<http://swcd.mo.gov/capegirardeau/index.htm>

## Open House Cont'd.



Above, and Mark Elfrink accept their award for Wildlife Conservationist of the Year for 2015. Whitledge Farms incorporated multiple practices over the past years.

## Meet our New Employee

Our new District Manager started on March 14th. Kacie Gaines is from Oran, MO, where she currently resides. She was previously an intern with the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District during the summer of 2014. In May 2016 she will graduate from Missouri State University in Springfield Missouri. Her degree is in Agricultural Business

with an emphasis in Marketing and Sales.

Gaines said, “I was so excited to receive this position! I am looking forward to working with each of our projects and especially the cooperators of Cape County.” Gaines looks back on her experience at Scott County to allow her an ease of transitioning.

“I look forward to using my

previous experience as an intern to start working right away. Although there are definitely some differences between the two counties, I look forward to working with the Cape County SWCD,” Gaines said. Kacie can be reached at 573-243-1467, ext.3.

## Farm Day

On April 27th, 2016 over 920 third graders came to Flickerwood Arena for the 21st Annual Farm Day. Students came from many different surrounding schools including Cape and Perry county to broaden their farm knowledge through hands on and speeches. There were experts in many ag backgrounds including: AgriTourism, Forestry, Pork, Beef, Poultry, Corn, Dairy, Conservation, Bees,

and Soybeans. The Cape County SWCD helped with the stream tables at the Conservation Station. We were able to demonstrate erosion in the stream banks. The students were able to see what erosion by water can do in a short amount of time. They were able learn ways to slow down erosion with plants and their roots.

Below: James Hunt and Dakota Oehl demonstrate the stream tables.



- Open House from pg. 1.

Lorenz has been involved in cover crop and CRP. They received this award for their outstanding dedication to the environment. The Wildlife Conservationist of the Year was awarded to Mark Elfrink of Whitledge Farms. Some conservation practices implemented include food plots, edge feathering, tree and shrub establishment, prescribed burning, forest stand improvement and establishment of warm season grasses. We are appreciative of not only Lorenz and Elfrink, but of everything our cooperators do! Susan Jahn and Gary Bock were re-elected onto the Board. Thanks to all who came out!

## For Rent: No Till Drills and Pasture Renovator



10' Great Plains Drill—\$9/AC—10 AC minimum  
Requires a 80 HP tractor



7' Great Plains Drill—\$8/AC \* 10 AC minimum  
Requires a 60 HP tractor



8' Truax Drill —\$10/AC  
Requires a 60 HP tractor



Offset Disk —\$30/day or \$75 /weekend  
Requires a 60 HP tractor

If you would like to schedule drills or the disk, please call the office at (573)243-1467, ext. 3.

### Scholarship Opportunity!

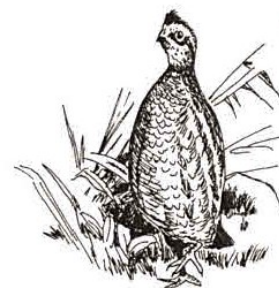
The Cape County SWCD is again sponsoring a scholarship for college students for the ninth year in a row. Requirements:

- Applicants must be a graduate of a Cape Girardeau County High School and a Cape Girardeau County resident at the time of graduation from high school.
- Applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 hours of college level course work toward an undergraduate degree.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a four year degree program that falls into one of the following subject matter categories: Agriculture, Agricultural Business, or Natural Resources
- Minimum GPA of 2.5

Applications are available for pick up at the SWCD office - 480 West Jackson Trail - Jackson, Missouri

Applications for the \$500 scholarship are due **Friday, June 17th** 2016.

Please contact the office at (573) 246-1467 ext. 3 if you have any additional questions.



*Wildlife Ways:*

*Did You Know..*

“Wood frogs burrow into the forest floor to hibernate, and have an amazing capacity to survive being frozen over the winter.”



Cape Girardeau County SWCD  
480 W. Jackson Trial  
Jackson, MO 63755

## Client Gateway—NRCS

### What is Conservation Client Gateway?

Conservation Client Gateway is a secure online web application that gives landowners and land managers, operating as individuals, the ability to track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents anytime, anywhere with NRCS. Conservation Client Gateway provides users the flexibility to determine when they want to engage with NRCS online and when they prefer in-person conservation planning assistance.

If you sign up, you will be able to: request conservation assistance, request and track payments, review and electronically sign documents, and much more. If you think you may be interested in signing up for Client Gateway, or if you have more questions you can call the office (573)243-1467 or check it out on the NRCS webpage –

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>

## Meet Farmer Fred -



In our future newsletters we will be revealing some interesting facts from our friend, Farmer Fred. He has a small farm in Cape County. He has a life time of knowledge doing what he loves. In partnership with the SWCD, he has been able to put in two dry structures and is planning a grazing system. He wants to remind everyone to have a voice and vote this year. This year is a renewal year for the Parks and Soil bill. Farmer Fred

## Helpful Monthly Tips

wants to continue his conservation practices with the help of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Did you know that “careful stewardship by farmers has spurred a nearly 50% decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982.” He found that on Farm Bureau’s website—Voice of Agriculture.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the following events:

### Mark your Calendars:



Offices Closed  
(Memorial Day Weekend)



Perry County Women in  
AG—call to RSVP



Cape County SWCD  
Scholarship due to the  
office