

Conservation Courier Newsletter



Volume 28 Issue 3

November 2014

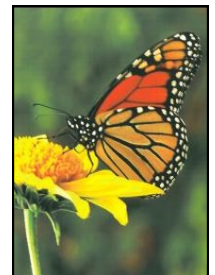


The National Association of Conservation Districts has named “**Local Heroes —Your Hardworking Pollinators**”, the theme for the 2015 Stewardship Program.

Join students all over the country as they are learning about Pollination as they participate in the 2015 Poster Contest.

DID YOU KNOW??

- * The act of “pollination” occurs when pollen grains are moved between two flowers of the same species by wind or animals. Successful pollination results in the production of healthy fruit and fertile seeds, allowing plants to reproduce. Without pollinator visits to tomatoes and other fruit and vegetable plants in our gardens, we would have no produce!
- * Almost 90% of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for fertilization, and about 200,000 species of animals act as pollinators. Of those, 1,000 are hummingbirds, bats, and small mammals such as mice. The rest are insects like beetles, bees, ants, wasps, butterflies and moths.
- * Worldwide, approximately 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines need to be pollinated by animals in order to produce the goods on which we depend.
- * Foods and beverages produced with the help of pollinators include: apples, bananas, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, potatoes, pumpkins, vanilla, almonds and tequila.
- * In the United States, pollination by honeybees and other insects produce \$40 billion worth of products annually!
- * Bees—can fly at about 7 miles per hour, and have to beat their wings 190 times per second to do it! Bees are constantly on the lookout for brightly-colored flowers with sweet scents. Bees tend to prefer flowers that they can walk on to sip nectar.



Stewardship Week is: April 26—May 3, 2015

If your church would like stewardship material for your services or your school would like to join the 2015 Poster Contest,

Email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

Call Linda at: 816-228-1836 x 101

HELP SAVE YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Each year our District sends out letters asking for financial sponsorship to help meet the expenses of funding educational programs, office equipment and day to day expenses. Therefore, we would like to offer you the opportunity to help support our soil and water conservation program by making a tax deductible donation.

JACKSON COUNTY SWCD'S COMMITMENT:

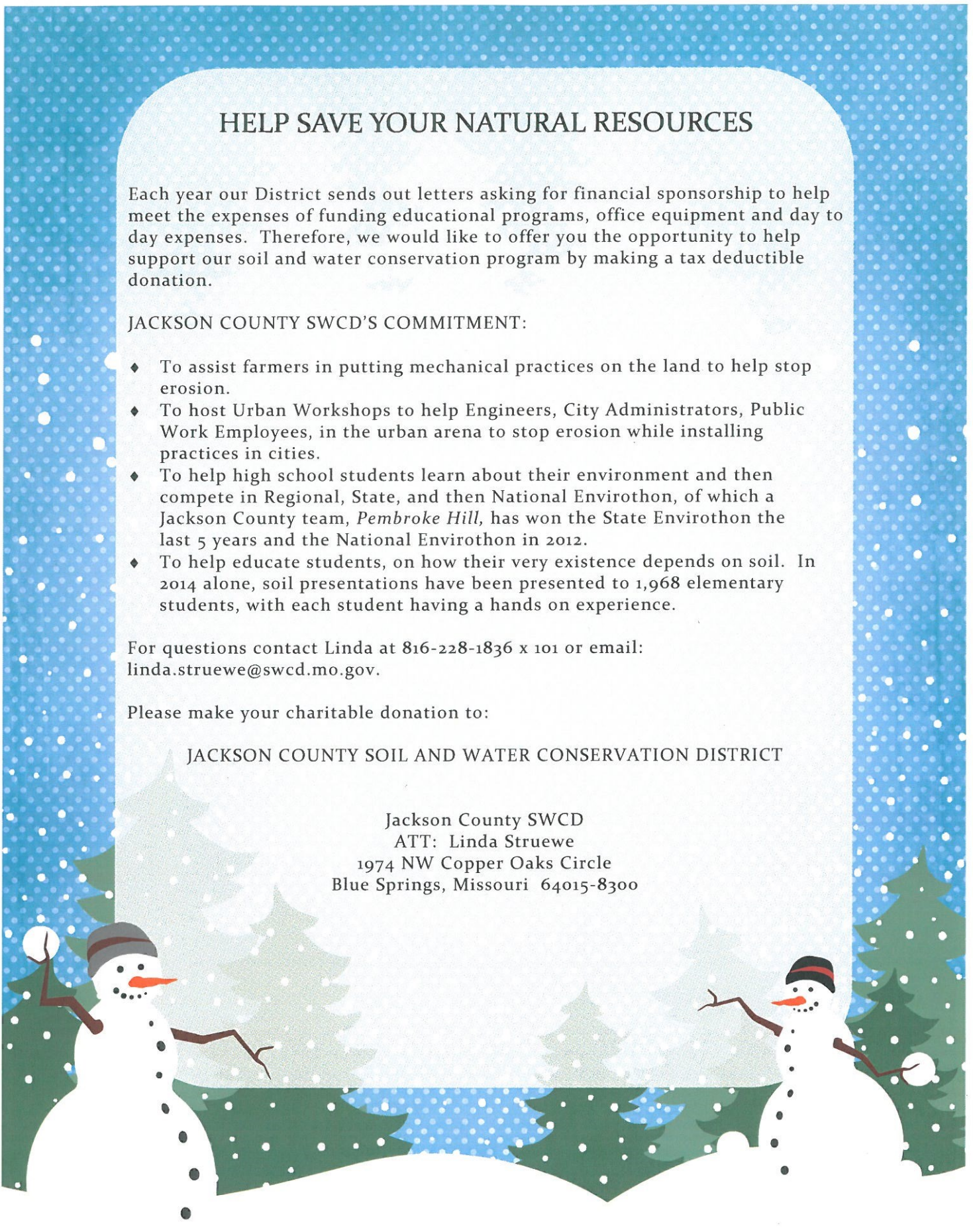
- ◆ To assist farmers in putting mechanical practices on the land to help stop erosion.
- ◆ To host Urban Workshops to help Engineers, City Administrators, Public Work Employees, in the urban arena to stop erosion while installing practices in cities.
- ◆ To help high school students learn about their environment and then compete in Regional, State, and then National Envirothon, of which a Jackson County team, *Pembroke Hill*, has won the State Envirothon the last 5 years and the National Envirothon in 2012.
- ◆ To help educate students, on how their very existence depends on soil. In 2014 alone, soil presentations have been presented to 1,968 elementary students, with each student having a hands on experience.

For questions contact Linda at 816-228-1836 x 101 or email:
linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov.

Please make your charitable donation to:

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Jackson County SWCD
ATT: Linda Struwe
1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015-8300



EXPERIENCE COVER CROPS



Experience Healthier Soil



Experience Cash Crops Following Cover Crop Residue



Experience Nutritious Grazing



Experience Seeing New Things Growing

Earlier this year the Soil and Water Districts Commission approved a Cover Crop Pilot program. The N340 Cover Crop Pilot practice is a program to offer landowners/operators the opportunity to implement cover crops on a limited number of acres for FY15. The practice provided a \$30 per acre incentive for operators implementing cover crops under a required no-till system, with a 20 acre maximum per operator. The practice applied to no-till cropland acres where row crops are grown and a cover crop management system is not currently being implemented. The practice must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications. Only fall seeded cover crops are eligible, seeding up to Mid-November. Cover crops will be left undisturbed until just prior to the planting of the primary crop. Cover crops cannot be grazed or mechanically harvested. Tillage as a means of killing the cover crop is not an option. The Cover Crop practice is not eligible for pasture or hay land. It is anticipated that this program will be offered again next year.

If you are not implementing cover crops, this is an excellent opportunity for you to use this incentive program next year to start your cover crop program.

If you have questions about Cover Crops, call Greg Stegner at the Jackson County Field Office at 816-228-1161 x 109.

START MAKING PLANS TO IMPROVE YOUR SOIL HEALTH!

ARC/PLC Program

The Jackson County FSA Office in co-operation with the University of Missouri Extension Service will be conducting informational meetings about the 2014 Farm Bill. These meetings will focus on the new ARC & PLC programs.

The first meeting will be December 18, 2014 at:

University of Missouri Extension Office
Jackson County
Heartland Financial Building
1600 NE Coronado Drive
Blue Springs, MO 64014

The next meeting that is still in the planning stages, will be January 14, 2014 at:

Oak Grove Civic Center
2100 S Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075

Please contact the Jackson County FSA Office at 816-229-5113 for more information.



Save the Date:

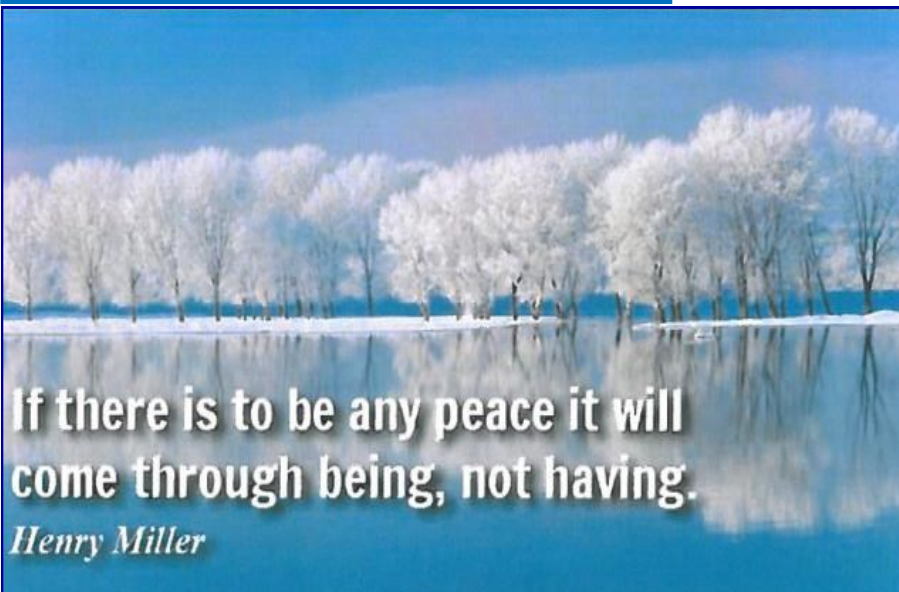
February 19, 2015

Ag Appreciation Night

Come Help Us Celebrate the
Accomplishments of the District

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Office Closed December 25, 2014 to Observe Christmas
- December 31, 2014 Deadline for Local Photo Contest
- Office Closed January 1, 2015 to Observe the New Year
- Office Closed January 19, 2015 to Observe Martin Luther King, Jr birthday
- February 19, 2015 Ag Appreciation Night, Oak Grove, Missouri
- February 26, 2015 KC Region Envirothon Training
- March 26, 2015 KC Region Envirothon



*Bountiful
Harvest
Blessings*

Season Greetings

*May the Beauty
of Nature
Bring you Peace
and Hope
this Holiday Season,
and May the Importance
of its Conservation
Help Guide your plans
in the New Year*

**The Board of Supervisors
and Staff of the Jackson County
Soil and Water Conservation District**

Fiscal Year 2015 Cost Share

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors policy states the Landowner will be required to come in to the office and sign up for any conservation practices requested on their own farm, and at that time fill out the Vendor Information and Landowner Authorization form or take it with them to return at a later date. Because as in other years there is a list of landowners waiting to receive funds for conservation

work it is policy of the Jackson County SWCD that a landowner will be allowed \$15,000.00 in cost share dollars per fiscal year. *The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board reserves the right to vary or exceed the maximum cost share dollars with special circumstances.*

At the time your name comes up on the list, you will be contacted to see if you are still interested in the practice. At that time you will have two weeks to inform the office of your decision. If a decision has not been made at that time, your name will be placed at the bottom of the list. The policy remains the same as before, you have ninety days to complete your conservation practice. Your contractor not getting there is not taken in consideration, you have the option to hire another contractor. Your practice must be started in sixty days or the contract will be cancelled.

For any questions or appointments call Linda at 816-228-1836 x 3 or email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov



Benefits of Snow

The obvious benefit of snow cover is that it's an excellent insulator. Without it, cold temperatures can freeze the ground deeply, which damages the root systems. Without insulation the water contained in plant cells can freeze, damaging the cell walls. Plants can turn black or look translucent. Snow cover also protects plants from harsh, drying winter winds.

Snow protects plants from the freeze/thaw cycles that heave them out of the ground. This happens because of the way snowflakes are shaped. There are small spaces in each one that are filled with air. As they pile up, the result is low heat conductivity so the daily temperature permeation into the snow is reduced and the plants are protected from really cold temperatures.

The process of freezing and thawing has been said to improve soil structure. This lighter soil makes it easier for plants to root causing increased productivity.

As it falls through the atmosphere, nitrogen and sulfur attach to the flakes. When the snow melts, these elements are released into the soil and absorbed by plants. Nitrogen is essential to plant growth.

Snow helps preserve moisture in the soil during winter and provides water to the soil as it melts in the spring.

The general rule is 10 inches of snow equals 1 inch of rain, although this varies, depending on how fluffy or heavy the snow is. One of the benefits of getting moisture in the form of snow is that nearly all the moisture will move down into the soil and remain there for quite some time. Since the weather is cold. Or at least cool, after a snow, very little of it will evaporate immediately.

Moisture from snow will help increase root growth of wheat. Even if the top growth is dormant and isn't growing during periods of cold weather, roots will continue to grow if there is moisture.

Snow cover does a great job in keeping the soil from blowing. As long as the ground is protected by snow, soil particles on the surface can't be picked up by high winds, thus preventing wind erosion for a time.

Snow has an insulating effect on the soil, keeping very cold air temperatures from reducing soil temperatures and protecting the crown of the wheat plant from cold injury. Snow also keeps soils warmer during the winter by adding moisture to the soil. It takes much longer for wet soils to get cold than dry soils.

The best way for a grower to improve the chances of having snow cover is to maintain standing residue on the field. Standing residue is especially effective in capturing and keeping snow, especially when it's windy. That's another reason that keeping residue on the soil is important.

Excerpts taken from: All Things Plants and Steve Watson, K-State Research and Extension



Joel Parris New District Technician



Joel Parris has been hired as a full-time district technician for Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Joel grew up in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, where he graduated from high school. For many years, Joel has assisted his father, Jack Parris, with his excavating business. After high school, Joel received the A+ scholarship to continue his education at Longview Community College, where he earned his associates degree. After receiving his associates degree, Joel continued his education at the University of Central Missouri, formally Central Missouri State University, studying Biology with an emphasis on Natural Resource Conservation. Joel graduated in December 2013 with his Bachelors of Science in Biology.

Joel enjoys spending most of his free time hunting, fishing, and being outdoors. Joel is excited to get in the field and looks forward to meeting with Jackson County landowners to discuss how to conserve our natural resources, while combatting erosion.

WELCOME ABOARD, JOEL!

WINTER WONDERLAND

BLANKETS

BOOTS

COCOA

EARMUFFS

FIREPLACE

FROSTBITTEN

GLOVES

ICESKATING

PARKA

SHIVER

SHOVEL

SLEIGH

SNEEZE

SNOWBOUND

SNOWSTORM

SOUP

SWEATSHIRT

C D D I S K Y Y X S K G K V F S E
S Y N T C R J E O Y H M Z I Z T O
B K O U R E P T B P O I R G S E X
K O M R O T S W O N S E V F Q K W
B U Y N Q B I K S B P F F E S N S
G L O V E S W L A L V U J S R A H
C Z O O J U E O A T M J V W A L O
V A H P M I N C N R I P K E K B V
Y Q F G G R E X A S B N W A R S E
K W N H M X G E S O U P G T A B L
F R O S T B I T T E N A J S P Y W
E Z E E N S A G A G N T E H X M P
U Z X M V H B O B F U O S I Z L F
K J C W S R W V C I V Q Z R R R U
T U D F B K Z Q H O O L B T Z W K
O M U U H U M A V W C K W O C V Q
N W T H K R B I V G Y G W A K Y T

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JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300

Phone: 816-228-1836
Extension 101

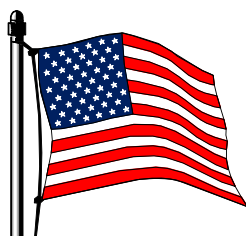
E-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov

The Conservation Courier Newsletter carries the message of natural resource conservation to rural and urban Jackson County. To receive a quarterly e-mail notice listing new topics, just e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



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**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

If you would no longer like to receive this publication please contact the office.

Rob Montgomery, Chairman
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Tim Brockmeyer, Member

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**JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300**

