



Richard Scheer 2011 Conservation Farmer



Richard Scheer, left, receives 2011 Conservation Farmer of the Year, plaque from SWCD District Technician, Dave Fry.

Richard Scheer, of rural Pleasant Hill recently received the honor of being selected the *2011 Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year* award by the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District. The award, in the form of an engraved plaque, is presented annually to farmers in recognition of natural resource conservation.

Scheer, 90, has actively been farming in southern Jackson County from 1946 until April 2010, when health issues slowed him down. Scheer uses the State Cost Share incentive program to help protect his natural resources, by installing terraces on his farm in 2008 and 2010. Scheer's philosophy is, **"to leave the land in better condition than when you received it."**

His award was presented at the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ag Appreciation Night, February 17th at the Oak Grove Civic Center.

Pembroke Hill High School Shines on Jackson County

The smiles on these boys faces are well deserved. This team from Pembroke Hill High School, Kansas City, have just won 1st Place at the Missouri Envirothon for the third year in a row. The event was held April 13th at Lincoln University Carver Farm in Jefferson City, Missouri. For this honor, the team, and their coach, SueAnn Wright, have earned the right to represent Missouri at the 2011 Canon Envirothon, held July 24- July 29 at Mt. Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.



Pembroke Hill High School Envirothon Team: Left to right: Foster Honeck, Hosain Ghassemi, Austin Caldwell (Captain), Riley Sloan, Jeffrey Rubel

The Envirothon is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students. In the field, teams of students are challenged to hone critical thinking skills and work as a team. They answer written questions and conduct hands-on investigation of environmental issues in five categories- Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. In addition to a written test, the teams also present an oral presentation solving a specific natural resource issue.

To win the State Award, students must demonstrate their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. In addition to the prestige of being invited to the Canon Envirothon, each member in the top ten teams are awarded Canon scholarships ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$1,000.00 to be used toward their college education.

We wish this team of hard working boys, the very best in Canada in July. If your school would like to participate in the 2012 KC Region Envirothon, email: jeremy.soucy@mdc.mo.gov or call Jeremy at 816-759-7300 x 1136.

Thank You Jackson County Legislature!

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the **Jackson County Legislature** for assistance in funding Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District. With the Legislature's help, valuable programs are conducted which protect the natural resources of the County and further the missions of the County and our District. Specific programs include:

- ◆ Technical and State cost-share assistance to secure conservation practices on the land, protecting County soil and water resources and infrastructure
- ◆ Natural resource education classes for *X-Stream Green* and *Jacomo Day Camp* programs at the Jackson County Parks and Rec Kemper Outdoor Education Center
- ◆ Sediment and erosion control and watershed hydrology training workshops
- ◆ Reaching out to school age children to teach them about saving our Natural Resources



HOORAY FOR HALLE! Two Time National Winner!

Hooray, for Halle Wild, of Kansas City! Halle entered this photo, titled, "Sustaining Life" in the 2010 National Association of Conservation Districts, Youth photo contest, and won *Honorable Mention*, in the "Ag/Conservation Across America" category. The photo contest is a great opportunity to experience Nature first hand.

Halle also won last year in the same contest in the category "Up Close Conservation". If you'd like to enter the 2011 National Association of Conservation Districts photo contest for youth or adults, contact Linda at the District office at 816-228-1836 x 3 for an entry form, or e-mail linda.struwee@swcd.mo.gov.



"Sustaining Life" by Halle Wild

Thanks For Embracing your Natural Resources

Yes, it takes all of us working together to save our Natural Resources! The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District wants to express a heartfelt *THANK YOU* to all who help our District all year long to save soil and water in Jackson County. We thank our financial donors, and our door prize donors, for their contributions to our *Ag Appreciation Night*. We express a very big *THANK YOU* to Oak Grove Parks and Rec for allowing us to use the Oak Grove Civic Center; Wanda and Hy-Vee for the beautiful buffet; Brent Emch, from Cargill, for his wisdom on the markets; and the Oak Grove Middle School Choir, directed by Julie Ammons, for their gift of music; and of course, you, for saving soil and water on *your* land. To help embrace **your** Natural Resources, mail your donation to: Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle, Blue Springs, Missouri 64015.

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SOIL SURVEY ON THE WEB



You can now go on a website to find soils information for anywhere in the United States. The site is titled “Web Soil Survey” and can be accessed at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.

Web Soil Survey provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world.

The website is designed to focus around easy-to-use features which define, view, and then explore a geographical area of interest. Viewers visiting the site are first asked to “define” their area of interest, such as selecting a state and county or just highlighting a designate area. Once a location has been defined and projected on the computer screen, the viewer has a choice to print the map and related information or save it to their hard drive.

The soil survey contains maps so users can locate the various soils found on their land and also find a wealth of information about their soils. Landowners will find the soil survey helpful in determining crop suitability and productivity. Information is also provided to help users in selecting farm pond sites, sites suitable for septic systems and construction capabilities along with many other useful information.

Visit “Web Soil Survey” today and explore all the “dirt” on **your** soil.

Jackson County SWCD Winners

Local Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations, go the winners of the photo contest on the local level. Twenty-one contestants entered sixty-five photos for the 2010 Photo Contest. Contestants are divided into Adult and Youth Divisions. Participants are invited to enter photos in five different conservation categories. In the Adult category, **C.L. Harra** won in the *Trees & Plants* category, and **Tammy Baxter** won in the categories: *Wildlife, Landscape, Conservation and Education*.

In the Youth Division, **Kelsey Hoffman** won in the *Trees & Plants* category and **Halle Wild** won in the categories: *Wildlife, Education, Landscape and Conservation*.

Winners received a certificate and a prize of twenty-five dollars for each winning photo. The awards were presents at Ag Appreciation Night, February 17, 2011.

Thanks to all who entered the contest and if you'd like to enter next year, contact Linda at the District Office at 816-228-1836 x 3 or e-mail linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov.



Youth Photo Contest Winner, Halle Wild, pictured with Supervisor, Don Hicks, not pictured; Kelsey Hoffman



Adult Photo Contest Winners, left to right: C.L. Harra and Tammy Baxter, pictured with Supervisor, Don Hicks

Poster Contest Winners

Parties were held for the 2011 Poster Contest winners, April 20th at their respective schools.

Kyler Barnett, in Ms Hartley’s class, at Blackburn Elementary was the 1st place county winner in the 4th grade and **Madelyn Padget**, in Ms. Hemmel’s class, from Underwood Elementary was the 1st place county winner in the 3rd grade.

Mariah Danforth, in Ms. Williams class, from Blackburn Elementary was the 2nd Place overall winner and **Parker Allen**, in Ms. Gooding’s class, at Underwood Elementary was the 3rd Place overall winner.

These students competed with 900 students in Jackson County to be chosen for this award, while also learning about their *Natural Resources*. All 3rd and 4th grade students in Jackson County are invited to participate. Winners received blue, red or white ribbons in each class and all other participants received a green ribbon. The theme this year, chosen by the National Association of Conservation Districts was, “**Forest for People-More Than You Can Imagine**”.

Thank you to all the schools and teachers that took the time for your students to participate in the contest. Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District also has an Info/Ed Educator available to come to your school for school presentations

For more information on the Poster Contest e-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov or for school presentations e-mail: dave.fry@swcd.mo.gov or contact the district office at 816-228-1836 x 3



Kyler Barnett



Madelyn Padget



Mariah Danforth



Parker Allen

Conservation Courier Newsletter

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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**

Please deliver by — May 6

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JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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