

Conservation Courier Newsletter

Pembroke Hill Goes to Nationals 4th Year in a Row



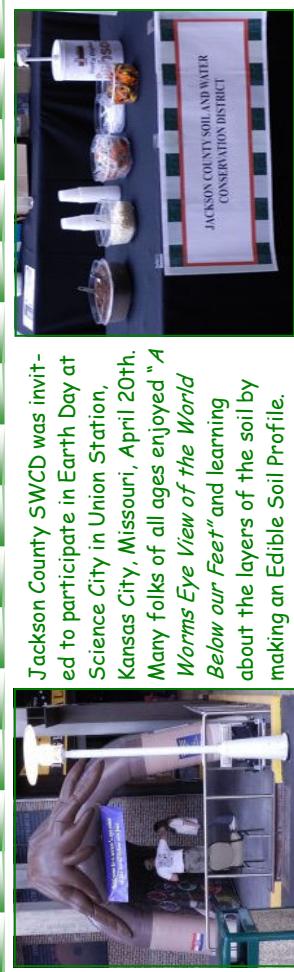
Pictured above: Ryan Hrina, Jeffrey Rubel, Riley Sloan, Wanda Czervinski and Hosain Ghassemi

PEMBROKE HILL DOES IT AGAIN! The KC Region Envirothon was held March 6, 2012 with Pembroke Hill High, Blue Team, winning first place, Pembroke Hill High, Red Team winning second place and Blue Springs South winning third place. These three teams then earned the right to participate in the State Envirothon, April 18, 2012 at Columbia, Missouri. Pembroke Hill's blue team went on to place 1st at the State competition out of 21 teams. The team earned 485 points out of 600 points, placing first in Stormwater Management, Soils and Land Use, Aquatic Ecology and Wildlife. Placing first in the Missouri State Envirothon gave this team the privilege to represent Missouri in the National Envirothon held July 22-27 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. This is Pembroke's fourth year in a row to earn first place at the State Envirothon. Pembroke Hill's red team came in second with 431.7 points.

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.

Good luck, to Coach SueAnn Wright and her team in Pennsylvania. If your school would like to participate in the 2013 KC Region Envirothon, email: jeremy.soucy@mde.mo.gov or call Jeremy at 816-759-7300 x 1136.

Earth Day Observed at Union Station



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JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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.struewe@swcd.mo.gov with your request.



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To:

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Conservation Districts
Conserving America

Choosing Cover Crops

To get the maximum benefit from cover crops, they need to become an integral part of your cropping system. Whether you grow just corn and soybeans, horticultural crops or livestock and manure, there are opportunities to include cover crops in your production system.

To choose the most appropriate cover crop for your cropping system, you should first answer these questions:

- **What are your objectives?** Different cover crop species provide different benefits. Choose those that best match your needs.
- **What is your cropping/tillage system?** You should also know how much time you can allow the cover crop to grow—how much time do you have after you harvest your cash crop before you plant the next one? Or, how much growing season is left? The amount of time a cover crop needs to grow to be a benefit varies by species.
- **Where are you located?** Climate, soils, and other growing conditions affect cover crops just like other crops. Some cover crops that work well in the central part of the Corn Belt may not work consistently in the more northern areas of the Corn Belt.
- **What are the soil types and natural drainage characteristics of the soils?** Is there artificial (tile or ditch) drainage? Some cover crops tolerate wet or droughty conditions while others will not.

Benefits of Cover Crops: Cover crops have a number of benefits. They can prevent erosion, but also may return nutrients to the soil. What a cover crop can do varies by species. When you select a cover crop, make sure it provides benefits that meet your objective.

For more information on cover crops: Call Greg Stegner at 816-228-1161 or email: greg.stegner@usda.mo.gov



Celebrating Agriculture in Jackson County

February 16, 2012 at the Oak Grove Civic Center in Oak Grove, Missouri, 103 individuals celebrated achievements in agriculture at the 2012 Ag Appreciation Night. After landowners were encouraged to vote in the Supervisor Election, they were then invited to experience “*A Worm’s Eye View of the World Below Our Feet*”, the District’s new information/education tool. The evening was full of ag information, awards, conservation conversation, and good food. The event was designed to recognize the positive impact of soil and water stewardship on agriculture. Not pictured: W.P. Bohnet, Jr. receiving an award from Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts (MAACD) in the “Conservation Lifetime” category.



Conservation Educator of the Year,
Vickie Dent with Tech II Dave Fry



Conservation Farmer of the Year,
Brian Sims,
with Supervisor Melvin Dickmeyer



Good Food!



Soil Tunnel

2012 Election Results

The 2012 District election of supervisors was held February 16, 2012. **William O’Brien**, Kansas City, was elected to a four-year term in Area 4 encompassing the southwest corner of the county and **Dan Stock**, rural Buckner, representing Area 2 encompassing east-central Jackson County was re-elected for his second four-year term. Congratulations to William and Dan and thank you to Slade Uptegrove, who served as an election candidate in Area 2.

The District Board of Supervisors administers policies, programs, personnel, and funding. Their service is indispensable for the efficient conduct of soil and water conservation programs in Jackson County. By Missouri statute, the board is composed of four elected members, representing specific geographic areas of Jackson County, plus one individual appointed by University of Missouri Extension.

At a recent reorganization meeting, Melvin Dickmeyer was elected as board Chairman; Rob Montgomery, Vice-Chairman; Dan Stock, Treasurer; Lala Kumar, Jackson County MU Extension as Secretary and William O’Brien, member.

A **Big Thank You** to all District Board Supervisors for volunteering their time!

Don Hicks, Jackson County SWCD Supervisor Retires

How do you say **Thanks** to someone who has given 16 years to the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District. Don’s office of Treasurer, started at the first meeting he attended in 1996 and continued through his tenure. Don also served on the State Urban Committee. Locally, Don was instrumental in the District’s working in the Urban Arena to help inform: City Workers, Developers and Road Builders the importance and value of saving our natural resources, and installing the Best Management Practices to utilize them.

Thanks, Don. Best Wishes



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Good Food!



Special Guest
J. R. Flores



Youth Photo Contest Winners
Sam Day Scholz, Carlee Doss, Morgan Davis, Cheyenne Erickson with Supervisor Don Hicks

Ag-Motivational & Humorous Speaker — SusieO