



Envirothon 2014

The Winning Streak Continues

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.

The Envirothon stimulates, reinforces, and enhances students' interest in the environment and our state's natural resources. The concept was created by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts as an outdoor hands-on competition. From "Environmental Olympics," the concept expanded to other states; and when the national competition was added in 1988, the name was changed to Envirothon. Envirothon affords a unique approach to teaching environmental education, and it's fun!

The KC Region Envirothon was held April 2, 2014 at Burr Oak Woods. Five schools made up the six participating teams which include:

- Lafayette County C-1
- Knob Noster High School
- Oak Grove R-6
- Pembroke Hill--Blue Team
- Pembroke Hill--Red Team
- Smithville R-II

The top three teams qualified to attend the Missouri State Envirothon. Those students attending at the State level were: 1st Place; Pembroke Hill-Blue Team, 2nd place; Pembroke Hill-Red Team and 3rd place; Lafayette County C-1.

These three teams traveled to Mexico, Missouri on May 1st to compete in the State Envirothon, held at the Audrain County 4-H Center. Eighteen teams competed with Pembroke Hill High School, blue team, again taking the top score in the State for the 5th year in a row, and the red team taking third place.

Missouri will host the 2015 North American Envirothon in Springfield at the Missouri State University Campus from July 27, 2015 thru August 2, 2015. Approximately 54 teams of high school students from across the United States and Canada will come to Missouri to test their knowledge of wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils and current issue.



Pembroke Hill's Blue Team



Pembroke Hill's Red Team

Thank you Jackson County Legislature

For helping Jackson County

Soil & Water Conservation District with info/ed programs and technician work --thus saving Jackson County Soil!

Ag Appreciation Night



Rob Montgomery



Tim Brockmeyer

On the evening of February 20th, the Oak Grove Civic Center in Oak Grove, Missouri, was the place to be. 2014 Supervisor Elections was the first event of the evening. Rob Montgomery, rural Lone Jack, was elected back in as Supervisor for his third term, representing Area 3 and Tim Brockmeyer, rural Buckner, representing Area 1 was elected for his first term. Thank you both for agreeing to serve on the Jackson County SWCD Board of Supervisors.

The District Board of Supervisors administers policies, programs, personnel, and funding. Their volunteer 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 the March Board Meeting Rob Montgomery, was elected Chairman; John Campbell, Vice-Chairman; Dan Stock, Treasurer; Lala Kumar, University MO Extension Representative, Secretary; Tim Brockmeyer, Member.

The district would like to express their appreciation to Melvin Dickmeyer, who served on the board 8 years.

A delicious meal was catered by Hy-Vee and awards were given to the 2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year, 2014 Conservation Educator of the Year, Photo Contest Winners, and a special memorial to a past photo contest winner, C.L. Harra.

We were privileged to have Andy Carmack, Missouri Department of Conservation, come to share his knowledge and experience with fighting fire, and the vocal director from Fort Osage High School, Julie Ammon's, bring some of her students to share their talents. I'm sure those of us that remember Dean Martin, were still humming his tunes the next day, and maybe some of us were still practicing the Samoan dance.

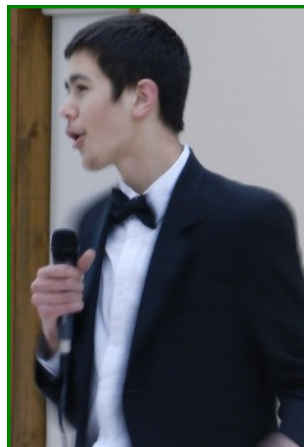


Andy Carmack

2014



Benjamin Siefker



Kai Chapin



From left: Serita Taviuni, Eseta Pau, Lexis Talato

APPRECIATION

Jackson County Board of Supervisors would like to express their appreciation to the businesses listed below, for their help in making this event possible.

Financial Contributors

Melvin Beckemeyer Soil Conservation
 FCS Financial Higginsville
 Community of Christ
 Hertz Farm Management, Inc.
 Jack Parris Excavating
 KAT Excavation, Inc.

Door Prize Donors

Feldman's Farm & Home
 Jackson County Parks & Rec
 KC Zoo
 Pleasant Hill Grain
 Powell Gardens

Wayne Kranz

2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year

Wayne Kranz was awarded the **2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year** from Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, February 20, 2014, at their Ag Appreciation Night held in Oak Grove, Missouri. The award was presented by Jackson County SWCD Supervisor, John Campbell.

Kranz was given a walnut plaque with the engraving that reads “*in recognition of outstanding achievement in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.*”

The Kranz farm was purchased in 1976. While Wayne took care of his heavy construction business for over 50 years, he left the farm in very capable hands. When it was suggested the farm could use a conservation practice, Wayne jumped at the opportunity to save his soil. In the last 5 years Kranz has installed 8,113 feet of Terraces, Diversion, Waterways, and Sediment Retentions, thus saving 2,940 tons of soil.

Kranz credits the Soil and Water Program and the Technicians for their efficient work to make this possible. Wayne says, “My Dad always said years ago, “There won’t ever be anymore dirt, so we need to take care of it.”

Kranz and his wife Loydine enjoy visits with their children and grandchildren. Kranz also enjoys his retirement by keeping up with his farm, collecting and restoring old tractors, old cars and collecting all kinds of toy tractors.



From left: Jackson County SWCD Supervisor John Campbell and Wayne Kranz

Congratulations,

Wayne Kranz 2014 Conservation Farmer of the Year!

Kirsten Fox Conservation Educator of the Year 2014



Info/Ed Specialist Dave Fry and Kirsten Fox

Kirstin Fox, was the recipient of the **2014 Conservation Educator of the Year** award. Dave Fry, Info/ed Specialist for Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District presented the award in the form of a certificate and a \$50 check to Ms. Fox.

Fox has been teaching for 24 years and is currently a fourth grade teacher at James Walker Elementary in Blue Springs, Missouri. Fox has also taught kindergarten, 1st grade and 5th grade. Fox says, “I love teaching all academic areas, but I especially love teaching science. The students get so excited about the hands on labs and learning about the world around them. I enjoy the natural curiosity that children bring to learning.”

Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to help contribute to the program Fox has started, by using the funds to buy toys that her students may check out to play with at home.

The *Conservation Educator* is chosen by the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Fox was chosen for her fresh perspective of teaching soils and encouraging her students to conserve soil and the importance of conserving their Natural Resources.

Congratulations to Ms. Fox and James Walker Elementary for the honor of having the

2014 Conservation Educator of the Year!

New Funds for Cost Share Begin July 1, 2014



The new fiscal year for Soil and Water Conservation Districts statewide begins July 1, 2014. MoSWIMS will be shut down June 15, 2014 to install funds for the new fiscal year. The landowners remaining on the present list will be contacted to make sure they are still interested in receiving cost share.

It is board policy that the landowner must make the request for cost share. It is also recommended that you make an appointment with Linda, to request cost share and at that time fill out the required paperwork or make sure your existing file is up to date.

You will be contacted when your name comes up. If you know ahead of time you will not be participating in cost share please call Linda so the funds may be allocated to someone else.

Keep in mind, while going down the list, the landowner who is ready to start the practice immediately will take higher priority.

It is recommended that if the acreage needing conservation work

is in wheat, the practice could be started shortly after wheat harvest while others are waiting for corn or soybean harvest.

Everyone benefits from participating in cost share, the landowner to help with expenses and to save their soil, and the whole community to save our Natural Resources.

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



Missouri USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Sign-Up for Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-up for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs began April 15, 2014.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LEP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Enrollment also began April 15 for producers with losses covered by the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) in 2011, when the programs expired, through 2014.

“Missouri’s producers have encountered several extreme weather conditions over the past few years, from a historic drought, to flooding, to extreme cold and snow,” said Mark Cadle, state executive director for Missouri FSA. “These programs will help our producers recover from these disasters and help sustain Missouri’s livestock industry.”



LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as wildfires. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

For more information or assistance contact the Jackson County FSA at: 816-229-5113.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9922 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

Thank You to the City of Oak Grove

Thank you City of Oak Grove for allowing Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District to use your Civic Center free of charge. As you know, we wouldn't be able to put on an event such as our Ag Appreciation Night and workshops without your generosity. The accommodations are always so clean and Stacie and Dana polite and helpful. We can't say enough about the folks who set the room up for us. It is always just right. Thanks for your help in saving soil in Jackson County.

Working Together We Can Make a Difference

Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil



First Place 4th Grade:

Alexis Cornett

Mill Creek Elementary

Independence



First Place 3rd Grade:

Cierra King

Meadow Lane Elementary

Lee's Summit



Second Place Overall:

Kona Hudson

Mill Creek Elementary

Independence



Third Place Overall:

Grace Gomez

Stony Point Elementary

Grain Valley

Trophies were recently awarded to county winners in the District's Conservation Poster Contest, the theme for 2014 was, Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil. Poster contest supplies were provided for 408 third and fourth grade students from six Jackson County elementary schools. The contest provides students an opportunity to artistically express what they have learned in the classroom about soil, water, and related natural resource conservation.

County poster contest winners receive trophies for their winning entries and a poster party, which consist of juice and trail mix, for the entire class, celebrating with their peers in their own classrooms and of course, lots of pictures.

Thank you to all who participated, it's a great learning tool, as well as a way to encourage students. The district provides each student with a ribbon. Blue, red, and white rosette ribbons for the winners in each classroom and green participant ribbons for everyone else, because each student is a winner.



It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.

Ann Landers

NRCS and MU Hosting Free Soil Health Expo



The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the University of Missouri are hosting a free Soil Health Exposition, August 13-14, 2014. The exposition will be at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center (4968 Rangeline Road), about six miles east of Columbia.

The two-day exposition will feature vendors, tours, demonstrations and presentations by farmers who have successfully incorporated cover crops into their operations.

The exposition will feature an open admission, so participants may attend as few or as many of the sessions as they choose. Events will be occurring from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. Topics will include: climate variability; understanding soil data; economics of cover crops; cover cropping and improved infiltration; effects of Glyphosate on soil biology; the latest soil health field equipment; field demonstrations; soils exhibits' and soil pits and properties. Equipment and seed dealers also will be present.

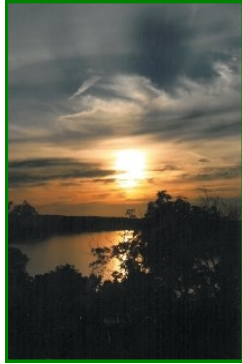
The Joy of Spring

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

Asparagus
Baseball
Blooming
Bunnies
Calves
Daffodil
Easter
Flowers
Garden
Grass
Green
Leaves
Mowing
Mushrooms
Rain
Thunderstorms
Windy

Conservation Photo Contest Winners Honored

Youth Winners



"Missouri River"
Morgan Davis



"Red Tree"
Lilli Weir



"Rain Barrels"
Morgan Davis



"Robin's Nest in My Window"
Kate Davis



"Ribbet"
Ashley LaMasters



"Bottle Babies"
Tammy Baxter



"Cleaning of Rocks"
Tammy Baxter



From left: Ashley LaMasters, Lilli Weir, Morgan Davis, Kate Davis and NRCS Technician Scott Slusher



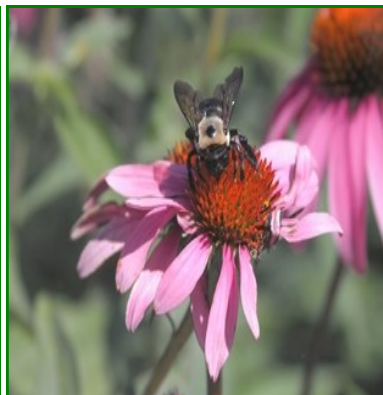
"Two Raccoons"
Ronald Billinger

A D O L T

The winners of the 2013 Jackson County Conservation Photo Contest were honored Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the annual Ag Appreciation Night, in the form of a certificate and a cash prize of twenty-five dollars for each winning photo. Youth and Adults are encouraged to enter the contest. Scott Slusher, Jackson County NRCS Soil Technician, presented the awards. A special thank you to Carla Sands, educator at Oak Grove Middle School, for having her class participate. If you would like to participate in the Jackson County 2014 Photo Contest and win \$25 per winning photo, contact Linda at 816-228-1836 x 101 or email: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov



"Barn"
Karen Billinger



"Bee on Flower"
Ronald Billinger



From left: Tammy Baxter, Karen Billinger, Ronald Billinger and NRCS Technician Scott Slusher

Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle
Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300
Phone: 816-228-1836,
Extension 3

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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The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you would no longer like to receive this publication, please call 816-228-1836 x 101



**Conservation Districts
Conserving America**

_____ **To:**

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

