



IT'S HERE, IT'S HERE! the New SOIL TUNNEL is HERE!

Just what does it feel like to be an earthworm inching your way through a layer of topsoil? Well here's your chance to find out. Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District now has a new amazing educational tool. The tool is called a Soil Tunnel. It is a room sized three dimensional inflatable structure, shaped like a tunnel which is ten foot wide, twelve feet tall and fifteen feet long. The tunnel is designed to allow students and adults an avenue to go below ground and actually view images of the organisms, roots, and sub terrain features that exist below the Earth's surface. Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation district is all about conserving soil, we are here to educate our younger citizens to be good stewards of the land. Today's students have a difficult time understanding the relationship between the soil and where our food products really come from. We hope to inform everyone that soil is being a vital basic component for many life sustaining functions. It is still the most under appreciated and commonly overlooked of all our natural resources. With the Soil Tunnel we can better explain and show students the value of reducing erosion and the importance of protecting our natural resources today and into the future. The Soil Tunnel has been purchased and paid for by Missouri tax dollars as administered through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



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By Dave Fry

Cost Share Updates

Recently, the Soil and Water Districts Commission approved the supplemental allocation of \$5 million more cost-share dollars for fiscal year 2012. Of the \$5 million, Jackson County SWCD received \$38,000.00. As per board policy, as funds are available, the next landowner on the list that had previously requested cost-share will be called to see if there is still interest. At the November 17, 2011 board meeting, an amendment was made to the policy, stating the landowner has sixty days from the time of signing the contract to start the practice, and the remaining thirty days to finish the practice. If, at that time the practice is not started, it is the board's discretion if the contract will be cancelled to allow another landowner use of the funds.

If you would like to receive cost-share and are not on the list, call Linda at the District Office to be put on the bottom of the list.

When requesting cost-share, there is also a new Cost-Share Landowner Authorization sheet to fill out, to ensure the contract is written with the correct legal information.

For more information call the District Office at 816-228-1836 x 3, or email: linda.struewe@swcd.mo.gov

Teaching our Future Leaders the Importance of Soil

On September 24, 2011 the SWCD staff was invited to be a part of **Teacher Appreciation Day at the Kansas City Zoo**. It was a beautiful fall day, bringing out over nine thousand guest to the zoo that day. Teachers and their guest were invited to the zoo to get helpful ideas to teach their students. The Apple Demonstration is a great tool to show folks of all ages, how much of the earth is left to grow the food we each enjoy as the population increases and there is no more land. It was then demonstrated, by giving each participant a cookie, where the cookie came from. There were many guesses as to which grocery store, but also several participants knew, that directly or indirectly, everything we eat comes from the soil. Then, the demonstration went to **EARTHWORMS**. Each visitor was given a 6 inch realistic brown, soft, gummy earthworm. It took most guests a while to decide what to do with it. "Can we eat it?" Yes, *these* earthworms are good to eat and yes, real worms are good for fishing, **but** most importantly, to till, cultivate, fertilize, and enrich our soil. It was a great day at the zoo and many new friends were made to help **SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**.



On October 12, 2011 the SWCD staff was invited to attend **Earth Week, at Science City in Union Station**, downtown Kansas City. The **Edible Soil Profile** is a big hit at this indoor function. After the soil profile is explained layer by layer and each participant makes one, **THEY GET TO EAT IT!** What a fun way to learn, and EVERYONE is ready to eat!



Then on November 8, 2011 the new **SOIL TUNNEL** made it's debut at the Plaza Heights Christian Academy. There were two groups, one of third and fourth graders and another group of fifth and sixth graders. Info/ed leader Dave Fry gave each group an hour presentation on the saving of soil and the importance of soil. Everyone was excited to experience, **"A WORM'S EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD BENEATH OUR FEET"**.

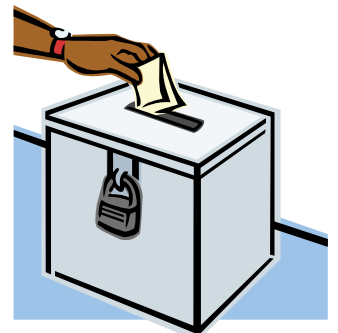


Upcoming 2012 Supervisor Election

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold election for one supervisor each in Area 2 (northeastern Jackson County) and Area 4 (southwest corner of Jackson County) on February 16, 2012. Supervisors administer District policies, programs, personnel, and funds. The District is supported by the one-tenth of one percent Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, the Jackson County Legislature, and other sources.

Nominating Committees for the election have been established including: Area 2, Henry Twiehaus, Sibley; Lawrence Heman, Buckner; and C.L. Harra, Buckner. Area 4, Ryan Fry, Lee's Summit; James Dillon, Grandview; and Laura Hillman, Lee's Summit..

District cooperators may submit names for consideration of the nominating committees to the District Office by calling 816-228-1836, extension 3, or by mail to 1974 NW Copper Oaks Circle, Blue Springs, MO 64015-8300.



Season's 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**



Save the Date:

February 16, 2012

Ag Appreciation Night

Come Help Us Celebrate the
Accomplishments of the District

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Office Closed November 24, 2011 to Celebrate Thanksgiving with Family

November 28-30, 2011 SWCD Training Conference

December 13, 2011 Board Meeting

December 1, 2011 Deadline for National Photo Contest

Office Closed December 26, 2011 to Observe Christmas

December 31, 2011 Deadline for Local Photo Contest

Office Closed January 2, 2012 to Observe the New Year

Office Closed January 16, 2012 to Observe Martin Luther King, Jr birthday

Protecting Urban Soil and Water Workshop

Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District is planning a Protecting Urban Soil and Water Workshop. The workshop will be Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the James A Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. The day begins with sign-in at 8:00 am with the workshop starting at 8:30 am. Participants have the opportunity to earn four Personal Development Hours by attending the training. The cost of the workshop is \$35.00, which includes a continental breakfast.

Urban soil erosion and the accompanying problems of sedimentation and degradation of water quality are serious natural resource challenges in areas undergoing development. The dual detriment of losing valuable topsoil, then polluting streams, rivers, lakes, and infrastructure can be greatly reduced by using *best management practices*, low-impact development, and other strategies. Regulations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II place special emphasis and enforcement on maintaining water quality by reducing urban erosion.

For a registration form, brochure or questions, call the District Office at 816-228-1836 x 3 or e-mail: linda.struwe@swcd.mo.gov.



Conservation Courier Newsletter

JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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.



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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.

*Conservation Districts
Conserving America*

Please deliver by November 30th

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JACKSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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