

2023 Appreciation Open House
by Elizabeth Davis

The Bates County Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual Cooperator Appreciation Open House on March 23, 2023, at the USDA Building, 625 W. Nursery, Butler, MO, with 17 people who had signed in by the noon hour and many more who dropped in throughout the day. Refreshments were served from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and lunch was offered between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The highlight of the day for many attendees was the Annual Fourth Grade poster Contest. This year's theme was "One Water." Posters are judged at 50% on theme, 30% for visual appeal, 10% for originality and 10% for universal appeal. The top contest winners from each class receive a ribbon and cash prize.

In all, 179 fourth graders from eight area schools participated in the event. From each class, a first place winner was picked and from those thirteen, the field was narrowed to the four winners who were introduced at the Thursday Open House.

This year's Bates County winners were as follows:

- 4th Place – Quinn Ross - Rich Hill School, niece of Bernessa Vaughn
- 3rd Place – Danielle Langley – Adrian School, daughter of Karen Langley
- 2nd Place – Coabyn Nation – Butler School, son of Craig & Nikki Nation
- 1st Place – Maxton Wainscott – Ballard School, son of Nathaniel & Erin Wainscott

Each county winner received a plaque in addition to the ribbon and cash prize for placing first in their school. The first place county poster will advance to the State level competition. State Poster Contest winners will be announced at the Annual Training Conference held in November, at TanTarA Resort. We would like to thank the schools, teachers and parents for allowing their students to be a part of this activity. We are especially thankful to all the students who submitted a poster. You are the future of our Conservation Nation. Each and every one of the posters showed a genuine interest in preserving our Natural Resources through good conservation practices.

Everyone in attendance seemed to have a good time and their presence was much appreciated in helping to make a fun day for all.

Board Members in attendance were: Michael Rapp, Chairman; David Yarick, Vice-Chairman; and Tyler Reinke, Treasurer. Board members unable to attend were: Ramon Arancibia, Secretary and David Thurman, Member.

Personnel in attendance were: Jody Jones, Cheyenne Reinke, Katrina O'Farrell and Joshua Miller all NRCS staff; and Brad Powell and Elizabeth Davis, all SWCD staff.

We would like to thank everyone that attended our Open House and hope it was as enjoyable for the attendees as it was for our Staff.

