



Grundy County Conservation Connection

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy>

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State Poster Contest Winner...Jessi Westcott

By HeatherK



Jessi Westcott, Pleasantview R-6, takes State for the 2009 Dig It! The Secrets of Soil Poster Contest, in the Soil Paint category.

"Jessi Westcott takes State for the Soil Paint Poster Contest...2009 Dig It! The Secrets of Soil."

Please see *State Poster Winner* on page 2

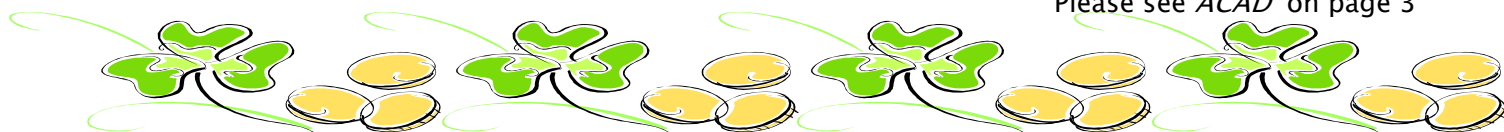
7th Annual Customer Appreciation Day Set

By HeatherK

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 19, 2010! This is the 7th Annual Customer Appreciation Day and the 43rd year of the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District. The District was formed in 1967 and is still going strong into 2010.

This event will be hosted at the First Baptist Church

Please see *ACAD* on page 3





“Kudos to the students, teachers and staff that support the contest for Grundy County!.”

2010 Poster Contest Underway

By HeatherK

Presentations have begun for the 2010 Poster Contest, Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.

Local schools will be provided with educational material, copy of poster presentation and posterboards.

As well you can visit our website at:

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/2010PosterContest.htm>, and find the 2010 Contest Rules, What Makes A Good Poster, Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats Poster Presentation, Tip Sheets and Kids Korner (which displays a Word Search, Recipe and the Backyard Movie by NRCS.

I am looking forward to ANOTHER exciting year for the Poster Contest!

**Kudos to the students, teachers and staff
that support the contest for Grundy County.**

State Poster Winner from page 1

Grundy County SWCD was so excited to hear this news! For at least the past 15 years Grundy County has NOT had a state winner, if ever! Jessi's poster will advance to National Competition.

Jessi was “informed” about this news during a Friday morning school assembly. What a treat to win such an event and get flowers to boot!

Jessi is the daughter of Danny and Jennifer Westcott of Trenton. The Westcott family traveled to the Tan-Tar-A Resort on Tuesday, December 1st to attend the MASWCD Awards Banquet. All state poster winners received an award plaque and received \$50 during the banquet.

The 2009 Poster Contest was such a success! We had awesome posters and such talented students in Grundy County. Please view our website at <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy> and view local projects - poster contest.

Thank you to our local schools: Rissler, TMS, Spickard R-2, Grundy R-5, Laredo R-7 and Pleasantview R-6. I look forward to another amazing year!



ACAD from page 1

(basement), located at 2421 Oklahoma Avenue, in Trenton and will kick off with a blessing by Scott McClure at 11:00am, followed by an excellent meal. The Cooperator of The Year Award will be presented as well as drawings for door prizes.

Be sure to sign in when you arrive AND do not forget to sign up for the door prizes. As well, landowners will have the opportunity to sign up for a free one day rental of equipment. The cultipacker and drill be have a maximum of acres (rental rates will take effect on acre overages). The tractor will have a maximum of hours (rental rates will take effect on hour overages).

A special Thank you goes out to the 2nd grade classes at Rissler headed by Mrs. Kimberly Bain for the hard work and creativeness they have put forth for this meeting décor!

The Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank all landowners, cooperators and contractors for their extraordinary efforts put forth toward soil and water conservation.



Prescribed Burn Workshop

By Scott Roy, MDC

The Missouri Department of Conservation in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service will host a Prescribed Burn workshop for CRP and grassland management the evening of Wednesday January 27. The class will be held at the Grundy County USDA office at 3415 Oklahoma Ave in Trenton and will run from 6 PM to 9PM.

Discussion topics will include: achieving land use objectives with prescribed fire, burn plan considerations, available resources, CRP requirements and alternative management methods. This course will meet the certification requirements for conducting a prescribed burn on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Landowners, land managers and assisting individuals interested in attending will need to make reservations by 5 PM on January 26th by contacting Scott Roy at 660/359-5685 x 114 at the Grundy County USDA office.



Soil Series by Encarta.msn.com

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

As yet there is no worldwide, unified classification scheme for soil. Since the birth of the modern discipline of soil science roughly 100 years ago, scientists in different countries have used many systems to organize the various types of soils into groups. For much of the 20th century in the United States, for example, soil scientists at the USDA used a classification scheme patterned after an earlier Russian method. This system recognized some three dozen Great Soil Groups.

In 1975 a new classification scheme known as soil taxonomy was published in the United States and is now used by the USDA. Unlike earlier systems, which organized soils according to various soil formation factors, the new system emphasizes characteristics that can be precisely measured, including diagnostic horizons (which give clues to soil formation), soil moisture, and soil temperature. In a manner similar to the kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species system used to classify living things, the USDA soil taxonomy employs six categories. From the general to the more specific, its categories are order, suborder, great group, subgroup, family, and series. This system has classified more than 17,000 types of soil in the United States.

The top level of the system consists of 12 orders: alfisols, andisols, aridisols, entisols, gelisols, histosols, inceptisols, mollisols, oxisols, spodosols, ultisols, and vertisols. Each term employs a Latin or Greek word root to describe a range of soil characteristics. Mollisols, for example (from the Latin *mollis*, for “soft”) are soils with thick, dark surface horizons that have a high proportion of organic matter. Such soils can be found in the midwestern United States stretching up into Canada and in portions of northwestern North America. Regions in New

England and the eastern portion of Canada, meanwhile, contain spodosols (from the Greek *spodos*, meaning “wood ash”), which are characterized by a light-colored, grayish topsoil and subsoil accumulation of aluminum, organic matter, and iron. Soil scientists classify soils in many of the southern United States as ultisols (from the Latin for “last”), heavily weathered soils with high concentrations of aluminum. In the southwest, meanwhile, aridisols (from the Latin *aridus*, for “dry”), featuring little organic matter, are found, as their name implies, in arid lands with little plant growth.

The suborder and great group names of the soil taxonomy provide increasing levels of detail. The suborder aqualf, for example, combines *aqu* from the Latin *aqua*, for “water,” and *alf* from alfisol to describe wet soils. Using assorted roots and combining them in different ways, scientists describe soils in a highly specialized and specific language. Aeric fragiaqualfs, for example, are wet, well-developed soils with aerated surface layers and restrictive subsoils.

Soil Use

For most of human history, soil has not been treated as the valuable and essentially nonrenewable resource that it is. [Erosion](#) has devastated soils worldwide as a result of overuse and misuse. In recent years, however, farmers and agricultural experts have become increasingly concerned with [soil management](#).

Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of material on the surface of the land by wind, water, or gravity.

In nature, erosion occurs very slowly, as natural weathering and geologic processes remove rock, parent material, or soil from the land surface. Human activity, on the other hand, greatly increases the rate of erosion. In the United States, the farming of crops accounts for the loss of over 3 billion metric tons of soil each year.

In a cultivated field from which crops have been harvested, the soil is often left bare, without protection from the elements, particularly water. Raindrops smash into the soil, dislodging soil particles. Water then carries these particles away. This movement may take the form of broad overland flows known as sheet erosion. More often, the eroding soil is concentrated into small channels, or rills, producing so-called rill erosion. Gravity intensifies water erosion. Landslides, in which large masses of water-loosened soil slide down an incline, are a particularly extreme example.

Wind erosion occurs where soils are dry, bare, and exposed to winds. Very small soil particles can be suspended in the air and carried away with the wind. Larger particles bounce along the ground in a process called saltation.

Soil Management

To prevent exposure of bare soil, farmers can use techniques such as leaving crop residue in the soil after harvesting or planting temporary growths, such as grasses, to protect the soil from rain between crop-growing seasons. Farmers can also control water runoff by planting crops along the slope of a hill (on the contour) instead of in rows that go up and down.

Soil faces many threats throughout the world. Deforestation, overgrazing by livestock and agricultural practices that fail to conserve soil are three main causes of accelerated soil loss. Other acts of human carelessness also damage soil. These include pollution from agricultural pesticides, chemical spills, liquid and solid wastes, and acidification from the fall of [acid rain](#). Loss of green spaces, such as grassland and forested areas, in favor of impermeable surfaces, such as pavement, buildings, and developed land, reduces the amount of soil and increases pressure on what soil remains. Soil is also compacted by heavy machinery and off-road vehicles. Compaction rearranges soil particles, increasing the density of the soil and reducing porosity. Crusts form on compacted soils, preventing water movement into the soil and increasing runoff and erosion.

With the world's population now numbering upwards of 6 billion people—a figure that may rise to 10 billion or more within three decades—humans will depend more than ever on soil for the growth of food crops. Yet the rapidly increasing population, the intensity of agriculture, and the replacement of soil with concrete and buildings all reduce the capacity of the soil to fulfill this need.

As a result of an increased awareness of soil's importance, many changes are being made to protect soil. Recent interest in soil conservation holds the promise that humanity will take better care of this precious resource.

I hope you have enjoyed the Soil Series by Encarta.msn.com!

Kid's Corner – Fun Food Facts

Wisconsin is the state that grows the most cranberries. Each year cranberry producers grow more than 300 million pounds of cranberries.

Maine produces almost all of the nation's wild blueberries. Wild blueberries are smaller and sweeter than "commercial blueberries", and they hold their shape, texture and deep-blue color through a variety of baking and manufacturing processes.

Almonds are actually stone fruits related to cherries, plums and peaches ? [California](#) produces 80% of the world's supply of almonds. The world's largest almond factory is in Sacramento, California. It processes 2 million pounds of almonds a day. [Chocolate](#) manufacturers currently use 40% of the world's almonds and 20% of the world's peanuts. Japanese teenagers enjoy snacking on a mixture of dried sardines and slivered almonds.

This excerpt was found at: http://content.fsa.usda.gov/fsakids/food_facts.htm

Kid's Corner – Recipe

Romantic Brownie Sundaes

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 3 oz bittersweet chocolate/chopped or semisweet chocolate chips
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for greasing foil
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, plus 1 yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Strawberry ice cream, for serving
- Raspberry Sauce, for serving

Directions

Heat oven to 325°. Line an 8x4-inch loaf pan with aluminum foil, leaving some extra foil along the sides to aid in lifting out the brownies. Grease the foil with soft butter. In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, and cocoa. Set aside. Place the chocolate pieces and butter in the top of a double boiler over barely simmering water. When the chocolate has just melted, remove from heat. Whisk in the sugar, eggs, and vanilla. Whisk in the reserved flour mixture until just combined. Transfer mixture to prepared pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the center of the pan comes out with a few moist crumbs. Cool on rack for 20 minutes. Transfer the brownies to a cutting board. Using a 3 ½ inch heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out two heart shapes. Cover with plastic wrap until ready to assemble sundaes. Spoon a few tablespoons of Raspberry Sauce onto each dessert plate. Place a brownie heart next to a scoop of strawberry ice cream. Serve. Advise from Heather...for a nice touch dust with powdered sugar and enjoy!



Share your recipes!

e-mail recipes to
Heather.Keith@swcd.mo.gov
 please include your name!

2010 Stewardship Week

By HeatherK

Well, the time of year for Stewardship Week 2010 is quickly approaching. Stewardship Week will be celebrated April 25th through May 2nd.

This 2010 theme is Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.

The excerpt below gives a brief “history” of Stewardship Week and can be found at the NACD Website www.nacdnet.org/stewardship.

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others." E. William Anderson suggests stewardship "is essentially a synonym for conservation."

Stewardship Week helps reminds all citizens of the power of each person to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When people work together with their local conservation district, that power grows and grows. As these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts, the results are spectacular!

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to construct and carry out a complete soil and water conservation program on all lands within Grundy County, Missouri. The district supervisors will work with all individuals, organizations and agencies interested in saving, maintaining and improving soil and water resources within the district.

2009 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

January 2010
1st - New Year's Day
18th - Martin Luther King Jr Day

February 2010
15th - Presidents' Day




SWCD Board Meetings

January 19th - 9:00 am
February 16th - 9:00 am
March 15th - 9:00 am

Board Meetings are held at the USDA Service Center 3415 Oklahoma Avenue

All meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. If you wish to be on the agenda please notify the District prior to the meeting.

Happy Holidays to you from the Staff!



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