

Conservation Conversation

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Annual Meeting Draws Good Crowd

By Tony Pals

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District held its 62nd Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 15th at the American Legion Hall in Vandalia. We had about 150 people in attendance this year. That's down from last year, but I would



like to blame it on the weather, rather than on the quality of the speakers. Director, Gale Meseke, gave the invocation. After a meal catered by Red Fox Catering, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by the poster contest winners, there was a short business meeting, including the election of two directors. Gale Meseke and Steve Henna were both re-elected for another term.

Speaking of Steve Henna, he, representing the First National Bank of Vandalia, then awarded a plaque and sign to the Tony Snow family as the Conservation Farm Family of the year. Tony and family farm on the west side of the county and milk 200 head of cows – mostly Brown Swiss. They are in the process of converting to a grass-based dairy by creating paddocks and using rotational grazing to optimize forage production. Jerry Reed, from the First National Bank of Brownstown then presented the awards for the 4th grade poster contest. This year's winners were: 1st place – Katlyn Evans, from Vandalia, 2nd place – Cherokee Street, from Brownstown, and 3rd place – Faith Moreland from Ramsey. They

received \$100, \$75, and \$50 savings bonds respectively, and each was given an engraved trophy. The winners of the annual soil judging contest were then announced. This year's winning team was from South Central School. Team members included: Tim Busse, Brady Kramer, Justin Schaal, Tyler Simmons, and Gaylan Gentry. Their advisor is Randy Comer. Vandalia won the area Envirothon competition. They were presented with a traveling trophy for their efforts. Team members included: Drew Bell, Taylor Wollerman, Zach Roper, Sara Schwarm, and Austin Wollerman. Their advisor is Barbie Elliott. The logo for the back of the tee shirts worn by Envirothon competitors is



decided through a competition in the vocational art class at Vandalia High School. This year's winner and recipient of a \$100 savings bond was Matt Shroyer. The district also recognized Bob and Kim Hammel for all their help with our conservation education programs. Bob works for the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources and Kim, for the Army Corps of Engineers. They were both given engraved desk clocks as a small token of our appreciation for all their help. Dean Black was then given an engraved desk clock in gratitude of all his efforts with the Post Oak Flats RC & D. He and John Schuler, RC & D coordinator, then spoke on the purpose of the RC & D and urged the audience to use the services they provide. The featured speakers this year were Mary Ann Hoeffliger and yours truly. We gave a PowerPoint presentation on conservation practices installed in the county this past year.



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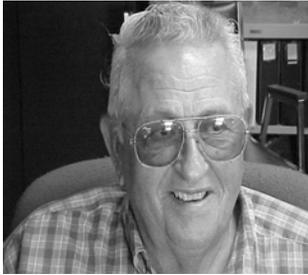
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Nelsie's News
By Nelson Torbeck

Here it is the first of March, sort of gloomy, damp and dreary. The weather men are predicting rain and storms. Hope they miss the storm forecast. We did have some cold weather this winter - a long snap of it. I didn't go in the shop for two weeks. That's the longest I've been out of the shop for a long time. It's hard to heat my old shop when its cold and windy with the little stove we've got. It takes a lot of wood, and I'm running low on wood this year. I may have to use my emergency pile in the barn. Janice says I've got enough old lumber piled up in the sheds to last a winter. But, by golly, I may need a board or two to fix something or other. We did have a little snow in February, three or four inches. Not enough to stop the truck. Grandson Tim did clean out the lane so that we could use the van. Besides, they needed a place to park on Sunday. We always have the kids here on Sunday. Travis came over on his four- wheeler to look for deer. Course Karen had to take our four- wheeler to see the deer, too. They had quite a time, except for that one drift that Travis high centered on. Course, he doesn't want to talk about that, so we won't. The men of our church had the now annual Valentine supper for the ladies. We usually have it on a Saturday evening, but that was the day it was snowing and blowing like the dickens - drifting and cold. So, after a little discussion, we had it the next evening. We men did good serving the ladies with china plates and cups, then wash the dishes and clean up. Nothing but the best, and entertainment on top of that. The committee of Harmeier and Williams out did themselves again. Anyone I talked to is in favor of having them do it again next year. Well, all except



Bob and Ronnie. For the entertainment part, we did any number of things. One thing that surprised me was how many drops of water you can put on a nickel. Try that some time. Anyway, a good time was had by all. Went out to do the chores the other morning and opened the door and noticed Notch, (the Ram sheep) was just standing by the far wall. Well, that's unusual; he always wants to be petted. I stepped into the barn, and there was the biggest coon you ever saw. Ok, here I am, no gun, and a big coon threatening the ram. Come to think of it, the ram didn't seem to be concerned about it. Anyway, I dashed (well, sort of hurried) to the house. and got my gun. On the way back, I thought that coon will be gone, but it wasn't. So after saving the ram, we took the coon to the trapping company north of here. I think Jesse is going to make a coonskin cap out of it. We attended the Conservation District's annual meeting the other night. It was better than usual, even if Dale gave me a time limit. Mary Ann and Tony gave a PowerPoint presentation on practices in Fayette County. It was good. I hear that next year they are planning a special program. The temperature is warm out - almost 60 degrees. I like that. It'll probably blow up a thunderstorm. Well, this is a short article, but we have to go to Vandalia and its time to get going. Just heard that we're supposed to have a severe thunderstorm and lots of rain, not good. How about this for an old saying, "He who is not grateful for the things he has would not be happy with what he wishes he had". Here is a good question, "Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?"

"Conservation Conversation" Online
By tony pals



Hopefully, by the time our next "Conservation Conversation" is done, we will have our website up and be able to put that newsletter online. If you have access to the internet please consider sending Karen an email saying you would prefer to get it online rather than a hard copy mailed to you.

We will then send you an email giving you our website address and a reminder every time a newsletter is finished. You will then be able to read it before we have it published and mailed. You will also be helping to save a bunch of trees and the district a lot of postage. Just email **K a r e n a t :** Karen.sanders@il.nacdnet.net and put in the subject line "Conservation Conversation". Not only will you be saving trees and district funds, when you access the website to read the newsletter, you will find lots of other valuable information there.



Spring Means...
By tony.pals

As I write this on the first day of March, we are supposed to get thunderstorms and then cold with snow forecast in two days. But by the time you get this newsletter, it will be spring and the weather should be a lot better. That means it will be time to start a few things the district can help you with. This is the time of year (if the weather is cooperating) to do spring seeding of grasses and legumes - both cool and warm season. The district has a brand new Truax drill to help with that project. It is available for \$8.00 an acre. Call the office to get on the list. Also, it will soon be time to plant that wildlife food plot seed. We should again have some bagged up for you again this year. Thanks to IDNR for furnishing the seed in bulk. Then we package it in more appropriate size packages for food plots. It usually contains corn, soybeans, milo, and sometimes sunflowers. It is best to plant that around the first of June, so that it will stand better through next winter. We also have a tree planter to rent for \$10 a day if you need to plant some trees. Now would be the time to do that also.

Conservation Conversation
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Non Profit Organization
Permit #53
Vandalia, IL

Conservation Calendar

April 2007

- 8 - Easter
- 22 - Earth Day
- 25 - Administrative Professional Day
- 27 - Arbor Day
- 26 - Board Meeting

May 2007

- 9 - Jake Hortenstine Birthday
- 13 - Mother's Day
- 24 - Board Meeting
- 28 - Memorial Day

Annual Meeting Donations Appreciated

By Karen Sanders

Every year (and for the merchants it's everyday) it seems I get the distinct pleasure of gathering door prizes for the districts annual meeting. And as much of a hassle as it seems to be for me, I think it is even more of a hassle for local business. But you are all so sweet to donate very good items for door prizes. You will never know how great it is to be able to visit with each of you for a short period of time and have you generously offer items for prizes. I know that the attendees at our meeting really enjoy seeing what great stuff they have a chance to win. So, I would like to let everyone know just who was so generous this year as to donate for me again. I know that perfect is not always a strong suit of mine so if for some reason you don't see your name please know that I did not leave you name off on purpose and will correct it if you let me know that I did make a mistake. And if you are like Mr. Tony Pals then you will really enjoy letting me know that I messed up, so let me hear about it, so we can all have a good laugh. Here are the sponsors that I have listed as donating - To each we say a big THANK



YOU: Peoples Bank & Trust Pana, Bluff Equipment, Country Companies of St. Peter, Effingham Equity, Green/Line, St. Peter Insurance Agency, Burger King, Cain's Drugstore, Casey's of Vandalia, Champion Trophies & T's, Cripe Grain, Driftstone Pueblo, Elephant's Attic, Farm Service Agency, Fayette County Farm Bureau, Harmon's Market, Hardimon Farms, KFC/Taco Bell, Long John Silvers, McDonalds of Vandalia, Medicine Shoppe, Napa of Vandalia, Noise, R.P. Lumber, Something Special Florist, Sonic, South Central FS, Sunset 66, Vandalia Tractor, Village Shoppe, Woolsey Brothers, Probst Feed, Burtschi Bros & Co., Michels Feed, Ponderosa, Ace Hardware, Brownstown Lumber. First State Bank of St. Peter, First State Bank of Beecher City, First National Bank of Brownstown, First National Bank of Vandalia, ADM - Farina & St. Peter, Midland State Bank of Farina, and the anonymous donor as well.

As well as saying Thank You to everyone for helping the meeting be a success by attending the meeting. We hope to see each of you again next year.

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability. This policy covers all programs, services, and procedures of the district, including employment.