

Conservation Conversation

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Annual Meeting Held

By Tony Pals

The Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District held its 64th Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 19th at the American



Tim & Jim Hardimon

Legion Hall in Vandalia with 182 people in attendance.

The Pastor Roger Grimmett, from the 1st United Methodist Church, of Vandalia, gave the Invocation. Then everyone enjoyed a catered meal by Good Old Days from Brownstown, the Poster Contest Winners led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the World Bird Sanctuary giving a presentation on "Birds of Prey".

After the birds concluded their entertainment it was time for Nelson Torbeck to entertain everyone as he introduced the guests and employees of the various agencies. The next item on the agenda was the election of directors. Director, and nominating committee chairman, Matthew Runge held the election of officers. Gale Meseke was re-elected and Liz Heinzmann was elected to replace

Steve Henna. Besides Mr. Runge, the nominating committee consisted of Craig Opfer and Ray Meseke.

Presentation of awards followed the election. The Conservation Farm Family award is sponsored by the First National Bank of Vandalia, and this year's recipients are Jim and Tim Hardimon from Herrick. Their conservation efforts include a continuous 0-till system on a corn, soybeans rotation. They also use terraces and grass waterways to help control erosion and maintain water quality.

The Conservation Poster Contest winners were then presented with



Abby Hahn, Shawnee Street, and Jaisa Wehrle

their Savings Bonds and trophies. This contest is sponsored by the First National Bank of Brownstown. The theme this year was, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil". The first place winner was Abby Hahn, from South Central School. She is the daughter of Barry and Audra Hahn. Second place was won by Shawnee Street from Brownstown School. She is the

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Birds of Prey Presentation

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daughter of Taffy Street. Third place went to Jaisa Wehrle from Vandalia Grade School. Her parents are James and Dacia Wehrle.



Soil Judging Team

The next award presented was a travelling trophy for the Soil Judging Contest. This competition involves schools from Fayette, Effingham, and Marion Counties. This year's winner was St. Elmo. Team members included: Dylan Bullard, Blake Wright, Zeke Asher, Weston Parks, and Mitch Buzzard. Their advisor is Bill Wagner.

The next award was given for the Envirothon Logo contest. The winner of the \$100 Savings Bond for designing the Logo to go on this year's Envirothon competition tee shirts was Stacy White, daughter of David and Lynette White.



Stacy white

Well Sealing Funds

By Tony Pals

The Fayette County SWCD has cost-share for sealing abandoned water wells. Abandoned wells not only are dangerous to humans, livestock, and wildlife, they are also an avenue for contaminants to pollute the groundwater. There are probably thousands of abandoned wells in the county. This will be a great opportunity to get a portion of them sealed. If you have such a well to seal, come by our office to sign up. The district will pay 60% of the cost, not to exceed a cost-share payment of \$400.00. We will take sign up until March 1st. This would be a good chance to rid yourself of a safety hazard and help protect our groundwater at the same time



Lee Schaal, retired county board member, was presented with an engraved clock for his work on the county board finance committee to help fund the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Lee Schaal

Steve Henna was then given an engraved clock in appreciation for his six years of service on the district board.

Tony Pals was also given a plaque for 30 years of service to the Soil & Water Conservation District.

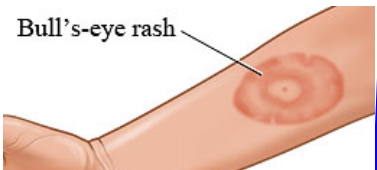
Throughout the meeting there were several door prizes handed to everyone in attendance. The SWCD board and employee would like to thank everyone that donated door prizes for the event as well as everyone that attended the 64th Annual Meeting.



Lyme Disease

By Karen Sanders (Information from Web MD Website)

As most people know Lyme Disease is spread by tick bites, but not every tick spreads Lyme Disease. While in the early stages some people may have no symptoms and may not even remember getting bitten, the majority of people will have flu-like symptoms, feel very tired and have headaches, sore muscles and joints and a fever. Symptoms can start any time from 3 days to a month after being bitten.



There are a multitude of serious symptoms that, over time, if left untreated, can

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Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

News letter time again, doesn't seem like it should be already. Mom always said "Time goes faster the older one gets." She sure was right! Well, we had one big snow this winter, thought I was ready for it. The weather people weren't calling for much that night. But over night it snowed about six or eight inches. So I got the snow blower started and got the walks cleared off, went out and plugged in the tractor and waited for an hour and tried to start it. Well, I guess I didn't wait long enough, because it didn't start. OK, I just called Kruegel's, no problem, Tyler was here in a little bit, and had the snow moved in nothing flat. Granny talked to Scott later that morning and he said that I should have let it warm up a good three hours or so. Well, I had left the heater on, so I went after lunch and tried it, started right up. I just got in a hurry. I know better now. It sure was cold a few times and blew, man it did blow. I hate that wind when it's almost zero. Needless to say, didn't go outside any more than I had to. Most of February and first part of March it was nasty. It does seem like its getting a lot better. It's real nice today and should be nicer tomorrow. Good. I'm ready to mow grass. You know, I should start the lawnmower. I'll do that tomorrow.



Varmint report: I never did get him. I know where he stays and I've got the trap set. That rascal is smart. I guess I'll have to catch him out one of these warm evenings. Jordy, had a free throw contest the other week. He won at his school, went on to district, and won first there. Went on to the regional and shot 22 out of 25 and got third place there. We were sort of proud of him. Travis went to Florida this winter. Kelly was in a car race down there, and they didn't do too bad considering they were racing with the big boys. Tim and Amanda are about to close on a house south of Springfield the end of March. So they have been busy, that and planning for the wedding in September. Jo took Granny and me to visit Jaron at his school in St. Louis a little while ago. It's a nice campus. We caught him between classes for an hour or so. Thank heavens Jo drove. City people drive like the dickens! Here is a question for you: "Why do drugstores make the sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?" The old saying: "When all is said and done there's way too much said and not enough done!"

Lyme Disease

By Karen Sanders (Information from Web MD Website)

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cause anything from tingling in you feet and hands to memory loss, and even paralysis and death.



Western Black-Legged Tick



Deer Tick

If you even think that you may have been bitten by a deer tick or if you have a tick that you are having trouble removing safely, please seek medical attention.

For more information on Lyme Disease you can do a search on the internet. The source that I used was <http://arthritis.webmd.com/tc/lyme-disease-topic-overview?>

Garlic Mustard

By Tony Pals

Garlic Mustard is a non-native plant found taking over large areas of the forest understory in Fayette County. It has a high seed production rate, so it can quickly out-compete native vegetation. Plant stands can produce over 62,000 seeds per square yard. For more information on this aggressive plant and ways to control its spread go to one of the following links:



- <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/garlic.htm>
- <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/garlicMge.htm>
- <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/stewardship/cd/eppc/garlicmustard.html>

TAXES AND CONSERVATION

By Della Moen, Earth Team Volunteer, NRCS/Stephenson Soil and Water

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This time of the year you and the rest of us usually think about taxes. Recent events have caused serious reflection about how our government spends these tax dollars. Tax dollars do things for you and your fellow citizens that you could not do by yourself. Sometimes you can easily see some of your money at work, for example, road construction and repair. Other times what is accomplished by your taxes is not so obvious. Whether you have noticed or not, your tax money makes your life easier, your community and country a better place to live.



The natural resources of soil and water need to be conserved and preserved to sustain life now and into the future. To do this, you must depend on private

landowners who control about ninety percent of the land in our country. Your tax dollars support the persons who research soil and water quality and provide trained personnel to assist landowners in making conservation plans and designing the best conservation practices. In this way landowners, voluntarily applying conservation practices, are assured that the time, effort, and money that they put forward are well spent and will indeed protect soil and water.

When it is desirable to take highly erodible land out of production in the best interest of protecting soil and water, programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funded by your tax dollars compensate the landowner when their land is left without an in-



come-producing crop. Your state and federal taxes make it possible for you to help producer/landowners with some of the cost of applying conservation practices. In return you are assured that soil will continue to be productive and surface and ground waters are protected.

Taxes are used to protect and restore prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. State and federal programs help protect wildlife habitat. Your money supports other programs to assist landowners with planting filter strips, buffers along streams, windbreaks, living snow fences, and grass waterways. Programs also help establish shallow water areas for wildlife, restore farmed wetlands, restore grasslands, and conserve virgin prairie. Most conservation programs depend on voluntary cooperation from landowners. In the end, the programs benefit you.



You get to pay taxes to make life better for yourself and your community now and in the future -- to conserve our natural resources for your grandchildren. With your tax dollars, you get to help conserve soil, protect water quality, and assure habitat for wildlife. Your Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) exist because of your support. Their services are available to you upon your request, without discrimination, and generally free of charge. You make it possible for SWCD and NRCS to help landowners apply practices that benefit you.



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.