

Conservation Conversation

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Annual Meeting Preparation

By Karen Sanders



I don't know about you but I think that the Annual Meeting

gets here faster and faster each year. And guess what? It's here again. The Fayette County SWCD will be holding its 62nd Annual Meeting on February 15th, 2007. The location has been arranged at the American Legion Hall in Vandalia along with the caterers being booked - Red Fox Catering owned by Lisa and Larry Rebbe. Now we just have to complete the other minor details of the meeting such as centerpieces, door prizes (A MUST), and entertainment. We decided that I would work on the centerpieces and getting some door prizes - with a little help from everyone

else - and Tony and MaryAnn would work on the entertainment. Well, I haven't got my stuff done yet but Tony has been taking lots of photos. He & MaryAnn are going to do a PowerPoint tour of projects done in Fayette County. I'm not sure who's projects are going to be in the tour but I'm sure that everyone will want to be present in case their farm is one of the featured projects. Mark your calendars for February 15th, 2007 and make your reservations today. Call Karen or Tony at 618-283-1095 ext 3 or mail in the attached ticket to Fayette County SWCD 301 South Third Street, Vandalia, IL 62471. Make your reservations as early as possible so that we can have an accurate count for meals. Hope to see you there.

2007 Annual Meeting

Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District
62nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2007

6:00 p.m. Registration

\$8.00 donation per person

Held at the American Legion Hall, Vandalia

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail form to: Fayette County SWCD

301 S. 3rd Street

Vandalia, IL 62471

618-283-1095 ext. 3

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Tree Sale Underway

By Karen Sanders

We are holding our annual tree sale again. We have White Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Red Oak and Red Osier Dogwood (also known as Red Twig Dogwood). White Pine and Norway Spruce are a fast growing tree and make a great windbreak. The Blue Spruce is a slower growing tree but they are a beautiful ornamental tree, and, if you are willing to wait a few years, they make a great Christmas tree. The Red Oak are a typical oak - they grow slow but make a very pretty shade tree when they mature. The Red Osier Dogwood is a shrub that grows very quickly and gets about

10 ft tall and 7 to 8 feet wide, unless they are kept trimmed back. They have small white flowers that are followed by small white fruit and in the fall the branches turn purple. They tolerate almost all soil types and are a very good cover for birds and small wildlife. Remember that trees are usually paid for when they are picked up in the Spring. We will call when the trees arrive, around the first week of April. If

you have any question, or are interested in purchasing trees please contact Karen or Tony at the Fayette County SWCD at 618-283-1095 ext. 3 or mail in the attached order form included on page 4.



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Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

Well, here it is Election Day, and it's foggy as the dickens. I can just see the end of the lane. Janice had to go to the town house to help with the election. I'm glad it will be over. All you heard or read was one guy would tell you how good he or she was and how bad the other one was. The harvest is just about over. All in all it turned out pretty good, considering the dry weather we had around here. The crops did better than I expected. I made many a trip to the elevator. I haul grain for my neighbor Keith. The last time I was there, the elevator was almost full. The beans were going into the little bins and the corn in the bunker on the ground. Keith got done, but he cut it pretty fine - like done one evening, rain before noon the next. That's called good planning, Keith. Scott had a lot of overtime during harvest. Seems like farmers like to work dawn to dark. Then the guys at the elevator have to dry the wet crop during the night. John is still over timing. Now that basketball is starting, he coaches Jordy's team. He goes in early - like 5 o'clock - to be able to help coach the team in the evening. We watched them play one game so far. Like John says, "There won't be many wins this year." Jordy is a 5th grader so that puts him in Jr. Varsity. So that means they play against 6th and 7th graders. Oh well, he did good running cross-country this year. He got a number of metals and trophies. I really feel he got his running skills from me. Everyone always said that I was never late for dinner or quitting time. Jaron got done with the marching band since the football season is over. Never did figure out how they can play and march in all directions at the same time. Tim passed a couple of tests just lately. He's getting more letters behind his name than a doctor. Travis got home from the race in Ohio. Then he and a bunch of friends went to Kentucky to a



race. Of course they took their 4 wheelers to have something to do between the races. Now he's helping Kelly build a new racecar so they can race this coming summer. Granny says, "All you do is talk about your boys; you have daughters-in-law, too." So I said, "Yes I do, and good ones too." Karen and Jo, they both have full time jobs; they cook, clean the house, wash the clothes and take care of the family. They both had two boys. In general, they do

what needs to be done around the house. Granny does all those things too, but she doesn't have a full time job. Course, she helps me in the shop, makes a quarter mile of rag rugs, and takes care of me, which she says is a full time job. It sounds like they have to do a lot, but its not my fault that Eve ate the apple first. Speaking of the shop, we're busy in there. We go to four craft fairs a year. Did good on the last one. Have another one this Saturday. If we do as good as last year, I'll (or rather we'll) be busy in the shop a long time. Which suits me just fine. The men of our church made apple butter again this year. The women helped too. That was fun. We peeled seven or eight bushel of apples one evening and cooked the apples the next morning. We had three kettles cooking. All in all, it was a nice enjoyable day. Oh, by the way, didn't have any skunks so far this fall, but I trapped four opossums. We don't like them around the place either. I'm thinking about joining the trapping company that was started last year, but I don't know if the company will let me join. Getting to the end of the page. Question for the day, "Why is after dark really after light?" The old saying, "Whatever we write on the hearts of our children is not erased by time." P.S. Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Cost Share Sign Up for FY 2008

By Tony Pals



Things are starting to look up for cost share funding through the state Conservation Practices Program (CPP). In FY 2005 we received no funds for conservation practices through this program. In 2006 we got \$10,400, and an additional \$26,000 later in the year. For 2007, we will get \$16,400 of regular CPP funds and \$5,000 to use in

our identified as impaired watersheds (Vandalia Lake and the East Fork, Kaskaskia). There's no way of knowing what we'll get for the coming fiscal year, but if the current trend continues, we could end up with a decent amount of cost share to install conservation practices next summer and fall. We take sign up from December through March, so if you need some conservation work done, stop by the office during that time and we'll get you signed up.

We are cost sharing on the usual practices; terraces, waterways, grade stabilization structures, pasture or hayland establishment, water & sediment control basins, critical area seeding, and diversions. We also can pay for nutrient management if you're interested. After we get finished taking all the applications, Scott and I will look at everything to determine: the best practice to solve the problem, the estimated cost of the practice,



tons of soil we can save by installing the practice, and the total acres benefited by the installation of the practice. Then we will prioritize the sign ups by those criteria and determine who will be funded after we get our allocation in July.

Conservation Conversation
FAYETTE COUNTY SWCD
301 South Third Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-1095, Ext. 3
Fax: 618-283-4962

Non Profit Organization
Permit #53
Vandalia, IL

Conservation Calendar

December 2006

5-6 Winter Training
21 - Board Meeting
25 - Christmas

January 2007

1 - New Years Day
15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
25 - Board Meeting

Fayette County SWCD Annual Tree Sale

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Day-time Phone: _____

___ Bundles (25) White Pine, \$14

___ Bundles (25) Norway Spruce, \$14

___ Bundles (10) Blue Spruce, \$8

___ Northern Red Oak, 2 for \$4

___ Red Osier Dogwood, 2 for \$3

Mail form to: Fayette County
SWCD
301 South Third Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-1095 ext. 3

Recent District Activities

By Tony Pals

Since the writing of the last newsletter, the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District has been involved with several conservation education activities. On September 12th and 13th, we cosponsored the annual Conservation Field Days for all the fourth graders in the county. A little over 300 students got the opportunity to spend the day outdoors (at the county fairgrounds) and visit eight different stations on subjects dealing with conservation. Conservation Field Days is a great example of different federal, state, and county agencies working together toward a common goal – conservation education. Usually the weather is good in early September, but this year was a bit of a challenge. It was cool and rainy both days, but we managed to get them in, and most of the kids had dressed appropriately.

Two weeks later, we were the host county to the annual three-county soil judging contest. This year it was held on the Harold Kuebler farm on the east side of the county. The digging of the five pits to be judged was donated by Terry Smith Welding. Ag students from Effingham, Fayette, and Marion counties participated in the contest. This gives the students practice for the FFA sectional soil judging contest held a couple weeks later. It also is a chance to give these young people a better appreciation of our fragile soil resource.

Karen has been busy making pizza presentations which reinforces to the kids that everything they eat comes from the soil even stuff on a pizza. She has also been doing a presentation on edible landfills. This helps students understand just what happens to, and where all of the garbage that is produced everyday goes. Of course they also get to eat when the lesson is complete.

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.