

Conservation Conversation

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Annual Meeting

By Karen Sanders

The Fayette County SWCD will be holding its 62nd Annual Meeting on February 15th, 2007. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall in Vandalia. Caterers will be Red Fox Catering, owned by Lisa and Larry Rebbe. There are still a couple of things to finalize, like centerpieces & door prizes (A MUST). Tony and MaryAnn will be the entertainment. They 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.

62nd Annual Meeting
Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District
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

By Karen Sanders

We are holding our annual tree sale. 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 wind-break. The Blue Spruce is a slower growing tree but they are a beautiful ornamental. The Red Oak is a typical oak - they grow slowly but make a very pretty shade tree. The Red Osier Dogwood is a shrub that grows very quickly and gets about 10 ft tall and 7 to 8 feet wide. 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 paid for when picked up in April. We will call when the trees arrive. If you have any questions, 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.

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
- ___ pr. Northern Red Oak, 2 for \$4
- ___ pr. Red Osier Dogwood, 2 for \$3

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

These are our advertisers and sponsors.

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Sunset 66

Red Fox Catering

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***Blankenship Construc-
tion***

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South Central FS

***618-326-8467 and
618-781-5249***

Craig Excavation

Kidd's Plumbing

FNB Vandalia

Cripe Grain

Ragan Appraisal Service

Bluff Equipment

***ADM Grain Co. St. Peter
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Ad Tractor to ad

***Karcher's Forestry
Service, Inc.***

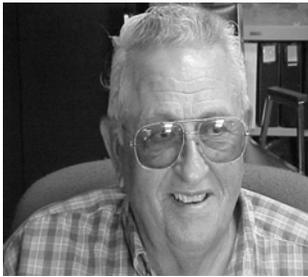
Farina Bank

**First National Bank of
Brownstown**

Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

This may be a short newsletter since there's not much going on. How about this weather we're having? It's been a warm one so far, and that's fine with me. We had a cold snap the first part of December, but since then it's been nice. We have had a lot of rain; I've had to do the chores in the rain a bunch of times. My chores don't amount to much - three cat's one dog and one ram sheep. Notch, the ram, is a big pet. He wants me to pet him the first thing when I get in the barn. Sometimes, rams get mean when you fiddle with them, but so far he hasn't. I carry a cane and don't turn my back on him. A few years ago, I turned my back going out the door and he butted me out the door and on the ground. That was bad enough, but then he stood in the door and laughed! Can't you just see that? Here I was jumping up (well, OK, getting up) and I swear he was laughing. Needless to say I didn't turn my back on him after that. I haven't saw any skunks so far this winter. I've seen some places where some thing's been digging for grubs, so there's one around some times. I'll get him one of these times. Jordy's been playing basketball - no wins but lots of playing. It's tough for the little guys to play against the big kids, although it will help them when they get to be the big kids. By golly, it's starting to sleet like the dickens, and the winds blowing hard. Hope it doesn't amount to much. Glad we didn't get the ice they had around St. Louis. Tim said Taylorville had a lot of ice. There were lots of limbs down. He was without power for a while. That's what I hate about ice - the power goes out. Speaking of Tim, he's in Los Vegas at a big convention. Bill Gates was to be there giving a lecture. If I had Bill Gates' money, I'd give lectures too, instead of just rambling on like I do. I've been working in the shop a lot lately. We had a good craft year. I've got over a hundred toys to make before next year. Trains were the big sellers this



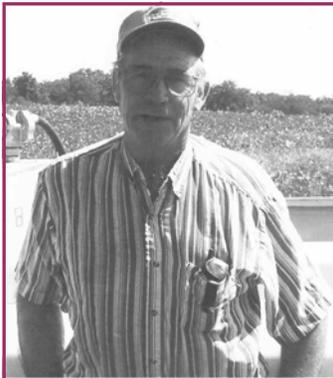
time. There are six cars and twenty six wheels in each. I'm making thirty, so that's, well, a bunch of wood. Granny says it keeps me out of trouble. I'll have to admit I enjoy doing it. Talk about a lot of stuff, Granny makes rugs you know. She keeps track of how many and how long. Last year she used seventy nine MILES of warp (string). There's 336 pieces of warp in a rug. That's a bunch. Well, lets see, fifty years ago I was in the Army at Fort Leonard Wood. Denny, Paul and I

got there about 2:00 in the morning. We stayed in an unheated barracks that night - or rather morning. Early, and I mean early, all heck broke lose; whistles, bugles and shouting, lots of shouting. They said, we'll assign barracks some time today. Well, it was getting towards evening, and nobody had told us where we were to stay. So, I said, "Hey we'll ask somebody." Well, they elected me to be the spokesman (I don't know why but they did). So, we went to a building called an Orderly Room. So far so good. I said, "OK, let's go in." We did (not a good thing to do). I'll tell you the air turned blue with, let's say, loud talking. There was a Sergeant behind a desk that informed us that one didn't enter an Orderly Room without knocking. He told us to get the blankety blank out of there, and knock first. Well, it didn't take us long to get out! I'm sure the three of us went out the door at the same time. Anyway, we knocked, the Sergeant answered, and we went in and told him the problem, and he took care of it. All in all, he was a really nice guy. But he really made an impression on three farm boys on their first day in the Army. Here's a question; why don't sheep shrink when it rains. The old saying, we can do more than we think we can, but we do less than we think we do.

We Lose another Friend of Conservation

By Tony Pals

It seems like Fayette County has been losing a lot of friends of conservation lately. We lost another one when Hadley Forbes passed away recently. For those of you who didn't know him, Hadley was a contractor, and probably the best pond builder I've ever been around. I don't know that there were a lot of those ponds that he needed our office's assistance on, but many times he would have us out to get our ideas. I think that's what I liked most about him - with all his experience, he never thought he had all the answers. And the man could find mushrooms I couldn't see with a magnifying glass! I'm going to miss you, Hadley, as will everyone who knew you. But we'll all think about you every time we go by one of the hundreds of ponds you built.



New Truax Drill

By Tony Pals

Rejoice! Hallelujah!! The district was finally able to purchase a new 8 ft. Truax Grass Drill. We had a heck of a time trying to come up with the money. If you remember, we took bids on the old Truax and our John Deere 1560 drill in the hope of generating enough from those two sales to get close to the purchase price of a new Truax. We didn't even come close. We did get a bid for the Truax that was acceptable, so we sold it. We finally, in desperation, advertised the John Deere on eBay. I had never tried that before, but that is the way to sell stuff. Anyway, we now have a new drill to seed cool season grasses, legumes, and native grasses. This one has rear transport wheels and front dolly wheels for higher ground clearance and easier transport. Thanks to everyone who has used our Truax in the past, and for your patience when we tried to get the old one through this past year.



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

February 2007

2 - Ground Hog Day
12 - Lincoln's Birthday
14 - Valentine's Day
15 - 62nd Annual Meeting
19 - President's Day
22 - Washington's Birthday

24 - Karen's Birthday

March 2007

11- Daylight Savings time
21 - Spring Begins
22- Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Fire and Your CRP

By Mary Ann Hoeffliger

Increasing numbers of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are being planted to native warm season grasses and forbs (prairie grasses and flowers) in Fayette County. Prescribed burning offers a management tool that cannot be duplicated by mowing or chemicals. Fire is used to control invasive weeds, such as multiflora rose and autumn olive; maintain a quality wildlife habitat of native plants; and enhance erosion control with a healthier stand of grasses.

Before European settlement, fire was a frequent visitor to Illinois prairies and woodlands. Most people today are uncomfortable with the thought of using fire, but following a prescription developed by a qualified person will help ensure a successful and safe burn.

The NRCS office can assist you with developing a prescribed burn plan. Your plan will identify important factors such as wind speed and direction, humidity, temperature, and the amount of fuel (grass, leaves) present. It will contain a map, directions of headfires and backfires, and areas that must be protected from fire or smoke. We urge you to develop a prescribed burn plan on your CRP acres or anywhere you want to add fire. Please contact our office at 618-283-1095 ext. 3 so that we can schedule an appointment to visit your farm.

District Website

By Tony Pals



Its 2007, so the district has decided its time to move into the 21st century. We (and by "we" I mean Karen) are in the process of developing a web page. It will hopefully be up and running in the next several months. She's done a great job with it. It will have lots and lots of pictures with information on:

cost share programs available, our education programs, director's and employee bio's, our annual report, board meeting minutes, links to other agencies, and much, much more. You will be able to order trees and annual meeting tickets through the website. One of the more important items we will post on the site is the latest "Conservation Conversation".

So, here's the deal. If you have the internet, and would be interested in saving a bunch of trees, not to mention, printing and postage costs for the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District, email us that you will read the newsletter on line. We will put your email address in a list to be contacted when we post the new newsletters. You can send that email to: karen.sanders@il.nacdnet.net, please include "Conservation Conversation" in the memo of the email.

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.