

Conservation Conversation

SWCD DIRECTORS

Dale Jahraus
Chairman

Kelly Tarter
Vice Chairman

Gale Meseke
Secretary

Steve Henna
Treasurer

Jake Hortenstine
Director

DISTRICT STAFF

Tony Pals, RC
Karen Sanders, AC

NRCS STAFF

Mary Ann Hoeffliger, DC
Scott Smith, SCT

Annual Meeting Preparations

By Karen Sanders

Annual Meeting Preparations are in full swing and will arrive before we know it. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21st at the American Legion in Vandalia. Registration begins at 6:00 PM with the meal at 6:30. Tickets are \$10.00. The caterer this year will be Miller's Market of Ramsey. We have scheduled a short PowerPoint presentation on Global Warming to be presented by Tony Pals, RC. as

the principal speaker for the evening. Of course, as always we will have a short business meeting, including the election of directors, presentation of awards, and lots of door prizes. You can order your tickets by several different ways either call the office at 618-283-1095 ext. 3, stop by the office or mail in the attached form. However you get them we hope to see you there.

2008 Annual Meeting

Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District

63rd Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2008

6:00 p.m. Registration

\$10.00 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

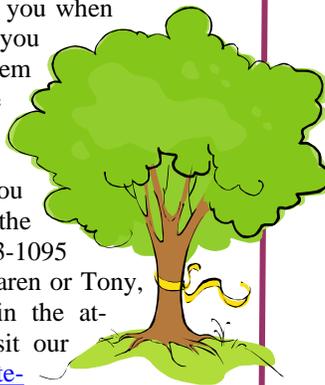
Annual Meeting Preparations	1
Tree Sale	1
Sponsors	2
Soils Map Training 101	3
Nelsie's News	3
Soils Map Training 101	4
Sign Up Continues	4
Calendar	4

Tree Sale

By Karen Sanders

The district is currently holding it's annual tree sale. So, don't wait too long to order, they are going fast. Orders are taken on a first come first serve basis.

Trees arrive around the first week in April. We will call you when they arrive and you can pay for them when they are picked up. If you are interested in ordering trees you can either call the office at 618-283-1095 ext.3 and talk to Karen or Tony, or you can mail in the attached form or visit our website at fayette-countyswcd.com and submit the tree sale form.



Fayette County SWCD Annual Tree Sale

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Day-time Phone: _____

___ Bundles (25) White Pine, \$15

___ Bundles (25) Norway Spruce, \$15

___ Bundles (10) Blue Spruce, \$10

___ Northern Red Oak, \$2 each

___ Red Osier Dogwood, \$2 each

Mail form to: Fayette County SWCD

301 South Third Street

Vandalia, IL 62471

618-283-1095 ext. 3

*For Conservation purpose



Annual Meeting Speaker for 2008 has been announced:

Tony (THE LEGEND) Pals will be doing a PowerPoint Presentation on Global Warming.

These are our sponsors.

They provide some of the funds necessary to print this newsletter.
Please let them know that you saw their ad & thank them with your patronage.

Roger Clark Welding & Fabrication
Day (618) 423-2306 - Eve. (618) 326-6299
MIG • TIG • ARC
Commercial • Industrial • Residential
Onsight • Millwright • Pressure Washing
RR 3 Box 775 Vandalia, IL 62471

Culligan
Darral Richards - Owner
Culligan Water Conditioning of Vandalia
113 W. Gallatin Phone
Vandalia, IL 62471 618-283-0630

Phillips Pro Clean Fuels! 24 Hour Pay At The Pump Service
1620 Veterans Parkway - Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-4338
Operators: David & Jeanne Leigh

Cornestone Concrete Construction
Commercial/Residential
Anything in Concrete!
25 Years Of Experience
"Quality Work At Competitive Prices"
For A FREE Estimate, Call Today! Mike Kidd 618-322-3133

Garrett Tractor Sales
(618) 283-2893 or 1-800-878-8831

Champions Trophies & Tees
2525 Veterans Ave.
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-7062

Got A Problem? Need A Plumber?
Call: 1-800-464-4658
"IF IT'S PLUMBING, WE DO IT!"
Mars Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
129 E. Gallatin Vandalia, IL 62471
Mike Mars • IL Lic#058-105586

NEELEY EXCAVATING
JIM NEELEY - Owner/Operator
RT. 2 BOX 308A - RAMSEY, IL 62080
Home: 618-423-2381 Cell: 618-267-0034
• Ponds • Driveways • Waterways
• Clear brush • Field Tile Repair
• White Rock • Top Soil • Fill Dirt

First State Bank of St. Peter
"The Bank to Satisfy Your Needs"
Member FDIC
PO Box 127
St. Peter, IL 62880
Phone: (618) 349-8343
Fax: (618) 349-8345

BLANKENSHIP CONSTRUCTION
ALL TYPES OF CONSERVATION CONSTRUCTION WORK
Phone 618-326-8467 Fax 618-781-5249

KIDD'S
Thinking & Doing
& Excavating, Inc.
• Backhoe • Dozer
• Tandem Dump Truck • Ditch Work
• Conservation Work • Septic Systems
• 60ft Reach Trackhoe • Pond Cleaning
(618) 283-1355 • 1-800-732-2389
701 St. Louis Ave. LC-058-11311
Vandalia, IL 62471 Mike Kidd

South Central FS, Inc.
People • Product • Service
Solutions For All Your Farm Needs
1800 Hillsboro Road - Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-0789

WOOLSEY BROS. FARM SUPPLY
BOX 363 VANDALIA, IL 62471
1801 Hillsboro Road • Phone: 618-283-1263
1-800-339-1263
PLANTS at VANDALIA, PATOKA & GREENVILLE
ON GRAIN BINS - FIBER BLENDS - AG CHEMICALS
LIQUID FERTILIZER - MARTIN PORTABLE BUILDINGS

IFNB
Ramsay Vandalia Patoka
423-2396 283-1141 432-7233
283-2663

Cripe Grain Co.

Ragan Appraisal Services, Inc.
David M. Ragan, President
Illinois State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser
308 Northwood Drive Phone: (217) 347-8822
Effingham, IL 62401 Fax: (217) 347-8822
Email: david@raganappraisal.com

CASE IH Kubota
BLUFF EQUIPMENT INC.
www.bluffequipment.net
John Britt, Pres. Route 1 • Box 178
Vandalia, IL 62471
Fax: (618) 283-4603 bluffeq@earthlink.net Pk: (618) 283-3277
Vandalia, IL 62471 Toll Free: (800) 311-3277

ADM Grain Co. of St. Peter

Michael CKacher B.S.M.S.
RR 1 Box 149 • Dahlgren, IL 62525
(618) 736-2341
"Value-Added Forestry"
Kacher's Forest Services, Inc.
Call today 877-225-0599! Free
email: Kacher@hamilton.com.net
Tree Planting/Tractor Sales • Millers T.S.L.

Midland States Bank
of Farina
Member FDIC (618) 245-3371
www.midlandstatesbank.com

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BROWNSTOWN
(618) 427-3363
108 East Main Street • P.O. Box 310
Brownstown, IL 62418
Member FDIC

Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

Winter has arrived. It was four degrees the other morning, and seven the next. Now, I'm here to tell you, that's cold! Course, we've got it good nowadays, with central heat, and electric stuff. Years ago it was different; the cook stove in the kitchen was the main heat for the house. We had a stove in the front room, course we only used that for special times - when company was coming over, holidays, etc. The folks would always have the fire going by the time I got up. I'd always jump up, dash down the stairs and get dress by the stove. I slept on a featherbed and covered up with a big blanket. Then, depending on how cold it was, determined the number of comforters you used. It didn't hurt me any, in fact we had lots of fun. If the folks didn't get up during the night to put wood in the stove, the water would be froze in the water bucket. One job I did hate in the winter time was pumping water for the livestock. Mom always said, "Don't put your tongue on the pump handle; I never did, even if I would have heard the angels sing." While we're talking about cold weather, remember starting the cars and trucks? First, pull the choke so far, then pump the foot feed the right number of times. Hold the foot feed down just right, make the right face and push the starter. Then if it started you would keep moving the choke so that you wouldn't flood the motor. It was an art to get the motors going when it was cold, and they all had a certain way to start. Just because you could start your car



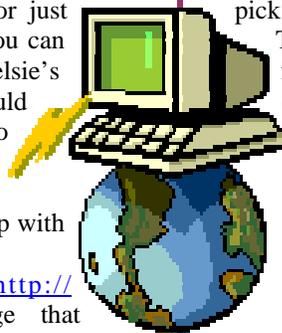
didn't mean you could start someone else's. Now, we put in the key, turn the key, and ninety nine times out of a hundred it starts right up. I'm glad we have it good. Well we had some snow, but not as much as some places did. Snow doesn't bother us to much as years ago either. We used to shovel through the drifts, then I got a blade for the tractor, which was a lot easier, but cold, really cold! Then I got a heat Houser remember them). That was better, but still cold. Now, I plug in the tractor, crawl in the cab, turn on the heater, and move the snow out of the way. That's lots easier than shoveling, by golly! Ok, we had a good Christmas; the kids were all here a number of times. On Christmas Day we went to Scott's for dinner and to see their presents. Then we went to John's that evening for supper and to see their presents. Everyone had a happy holiday, and I hope you folks did too. We're still busy, Granny's still making rugs, and I'm still in the shop most days. When it's real cold and windy, I don't bother. All I'd get done is putting wood in the stove. The whole family is doing OK, everyone is working or in school. Well, I guess I'll sign off for now, not enough room for an Army story. Don't forget the SWCD Annual Meeting. The question for the day is, "What's the best way to keep fish from smelling?" Plug their noses. The old saying, "It's wiser to choose what you say than to say what you choose." So long for now.

Soils Map Training 101

By Tony Pals

Fayette County's Soil Survey is now on the Web! So, if you need a soils map, now you have two ways to get one. You can still come by the office and get one, or you can go on the internet. This article will be my attempt at explaining how to do that. So, if you don't have internet access, or just don't want to learn how to use the web site, you can get to the important part of the newsletter - "Nelsie's News". For the rest of you, here goes. I should preface the following with the fact that I tend to make things more complicated than they need to be. Therefore, once you're in the site, and become familiar with it, I'm sure you'll come up with shortcuts that I haven't discovered yet.

The address for the site is: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. The page that comes up has a green "Start WSS" button and some instructions on how to use the site. After you read this, click on the button. The page that opens has four tabs at the top: Area of Interest (AOI), Soil Map, Soil Data Explorer, and Shopping Cart. The AOI tab should be highlighted. On the right side is a map of the US. Since we probably don't want a soils map of the US, we'll have to set our area of interest. Under the four tabs is a "Quick Navigation" heading, with choices of how to get to the map that interests you. The choice here that will get you real close to where you want to be is PLSS (Section, Township, Range), so click on it. A drop-down box appears



asking you for a location. First, they ask you to pick a state; that one's pretty simple. Then they ask you for Principal Meridian. Here there is a "View Meridian Map" button, if you don't know which one. For Fayette County, pick "Third Principal". Next they ask for Section, Twp. and Range. All that information you can get from the Plat book. When you have that entered, click the "View" button. After a little bit (patience is important here, especially if you have dialup), the US map turns into a aerial photo of you section. Isn't that cool! Now we're getting to the soils part. Above the map are a bunch of buttons. The button pushed in is a magnifying glass with a + sign. This allows you to get a closer map; just drag across the area you want with the mouse. Pretty soon - remember, patience- a better aerial photo appears. Then, to choose the area for the soil map, click on either "AOI" button above the photo, then mark the area with your mouse. The area of the soil map will be outlined with hash marks. Now go back to the top of the page and click the second tab, "Soil Map". In just a few seconds you then have a soils map laid over the aerial photo, with the soil types identified on the left. It even tells you how many acres of each type are in the area you chose! The easiest way to print your results then is to click on the "Printable

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

Label Box

Conservation Calendar

February 2008

6 - Ash Wednesday
12 - Lincoln's Birthday
14 - Valentine's Day
18 - President's Day
21 - SWCD Annual Meeting

March 2008

9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
17 - St. Patrick's Day
20 - Spring Begins
21 - Good Friday
23 Easter
27 - Board Meeting

Soils Map Training 101

By Tony Pals

Sign up Continues

By Tony Pals

(Continued from page 3)

Version" button above the map. Here you will be able to give the map a title. Then hit the "View" button again to see the first page of the several pages that will be printed, and then just click on the printer, and you should get a map, a map legend, and soils information.

There's a lot more you can do on this website, but not enough room in the newsletter to explain. Click on the other two tabs for lots more information. Have fun!



We continue to take sign up for conservation practices, and will through March. So, if you are interested in redoing a waterway, putting in a structure, terraces, water and sediment control basin, seeding some pasture or hayland, or sealing a well, stop by the office to sign up. Scott and I will come out and look at it to prioritize it with the rest of the sign ups for funding this coming construction season. We can pay 60% of either the actual cost or our county average cost, whichever is less. The County Board gave us \$2,000 to dedicate to sealing wells also, and we've had a lot of interest in that practice. But there is still time to sign up for that practice. There's a bunch of abandoned wells out there that need to be sealed. Hope to see you in the office soon.

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.