

Conservation Conversation

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Fayette County Conservation Leader Dies

By Tony Pals

Fayette County lost a leader in natural resource conservation when John Daniels, Sr. died Friday, August 23rd. John served on the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District Board from 1956 to 1972, serving as chairman a good portion of those years. He also served as a leader in other areas; on the Vandalia School Board for twelve years, and the Fayette County Hospital Board for 28 years.

John was truly a conservationist. He not only preached conservation as a district director, he practiced it as well. He had some of the first terraces in the county, plowing up the ridges himself. In fact, he was quite accomplished with a plow, winning the national and world plowing con-



tests in the middle to late 50's. I didn't know him back then, of course, but I got the opportunity to work and talk with him over the years since 1980. He was a genuinely nice, unassuming person – easy to talk to, and always willing to listen to new ideas about conservation. He was

one of the pioneers in the county on no till. And I don't think he ever missed an annual meeting.

Two of his sons have influenced conservation in Fayette County. Brad was Resource Conservationist from 1985 to 1989, and John, Jr. impacts district funding every year as a member of the County Board Finance Committee. Fayette County's conservation program today is due, at least in part, to the leadership and example of John Daniels. Thank you, John.

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Watershed Plans Available

By Tony Pals

The Planning Committee for the Upper Little Wabash Ecosystem Partnership has completed work on the watershed plan. I know this doesn't affect a lot of people in Fayette County, because, even though the watershed is over a million acres, only about 22,000 acres go into it from our county (all but the southwest corner of LaCledde Township and small portions of Lone Grove and Wheatland Townships). Still, I think it is significant to note that citizens from that watershed thought it important enough to spend many, many hours over several years to develop that plan. The plan is an inventory of the watershed's resources, identifies resource concerns, and comes up with an action plan to address those concerns. The 148 page document will soon be available for anyone interested in having

a copy. You will probably get a CD to insert into the computer to view the plan. Let me know if you would like a copy.

While the Upper Little Wabash Watershed covers 22,000 acres of the county, the Carlyle Lake Watershed covers the other 442,000 acres of Fayette County. A plan for this watershed was developed nearly ten years ago. And, again, it took many, many hours of meetings involving local and agency people to come up with an inventory of the resources of the watershed and a plan to protect those resources. Anybody interested in getting a copy of this 101 page document need only stop by the office for a hard copy. This one isn't on CD, but we are in the process of putting it on our web site, www.fayettecountyswcd.com. So you will be able to peruse it there soon.



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Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

The weather in July was on the cool side, except for a few days when we were combining wheat. Then August came, and with it the hot weather. And I mean HOT, HOT. I'd go in the shop in the morning and do a few things, till the temperature got about 90 degrees and then I'd go in the house where it was cooler. I had a project where I could be at the workbench with an old window fan blowing on me.



Speaking of that fan, we got our power in the summer of 1947. The folks bought a stove, deep freeze, refrigerator and the window fan. The stove, deep freeze and the fan are still going. I'd say we got our money's worth out of them. Let's see, where was I? Oh yeah, weather, the third hottest August on record. I'll bet the only people that enjoyed it were the electric companies. And dry I mean DRY, DRY; we had around three tenths the whole month. We'll have a fair crop of corn, but the beans could be a different story. I'll bet the beans will be small, I hear some farmers are thinking about putting clover screens in their combines. Hopefully the beans will be bigger than that. I sure thought we'd get a rain a couple Fridays ago. But all we got was a few tenths. We did get some wind. South of the county line it was the worst. Some corn went down, sheds, trees, not good. Salem had a football game that evening. We usually go to watch Jaron play in the band. Well, the storm was over, so we went. That's when we saw the damage. They did get to play the national anthem, the game started, and then it started to rain a little. We were prepared. We had umbrellas, but still got

damp; what one doesn't do for grandkids. We did get to see one of the referees get run down. (Steve, ask Jerry S if he needed a helmet and pads). Anyway, the half ended, but the band didn't play because of the rain and the transformer for the field lights blew out. So we came home. People are starting to shell corn - mostly south of here where the wind blew the corn down. Jason shelled Janice's field out last week. I

suppose lots of people will start in the next couple of weeks. Not much going on around here, I can give you the varmint total for the year so far: five coons, three opossums, two skunks, three cats (one twice) and a kitten. Let me tell you, when one lets a cat out of the trap it take off for parts unknown! Well, I can't think of anything else to write about, so, let's go back forty years to Fort Leonard Wood, MO. It was hot there too - no air conditioning. They did let us have fans to blow the hot air around. And we didn't know any better. I was the Colonel's assistant driver, so when the driver was on leave I'd drive the Colonel around. When they had a parade, he would have to go and review the troops. He and a bunch of the Officers would be in the shady reviewing stand, and the other drivers and I would be under the shade trees. The poor troops would be standing at attention in the sun. A number got too hot, but the parade would go on. The old saying, "He who is not grateful for the things he has would not be happy with what he wished he had". The question for the day, "If there are bullfrogs why aren't there cow frogs".

2007 Annual Tree Sale

By Karen Sanders



Red Osier Dogwood in Early Spring

Again this year, the district has ordered large quantities of trees to sell. We have ordered White Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Red Oak and Red Osier Dogwood (also known as Red Twig Dogwood). The White Pine and the Norway Spruce make a very good windbreak. They both grow relatively fast and have fairly good survival rate. Now, the Blue Spruce grows a little slower but they make a beautiful ornamental tree when they mature. The Red Oak is a slow growing

hardwood, excellent for shade. Each year we try to have something different but this year we are going to keep the Red Osier Dogwood. Everyone seemed to really like them and we wanted to make sure that if someone needed to replace a few or if, for some reason, forgot to order them this would be their chance to make up for that error. The Dogwood is a thicket-forming shrub that quickly grows to 10 ft. high by 7 to 8 ft. wide. It has small, white flowers that are followed by small, white fruit. In the fall, its foliage turns from green to purple. In the winter, the stems are red, providing a nice contrast to the snow cover. This plant is rugged, tolerating most soil conditions. With additional water, growth rates of 3 to 4 feet per year are possible. It will even grow in wet, swampy conditions and may thrive in sun or shade. The Dogwood is good cover for birds and

wildlife. They can be used as a third row in a windbreak and should be planted 6 to 8 feet apart. Now for the most important part: TREES ARE USUALLY PAID FOR IN THE SPRING EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ORDERED IN THE FALL!! We take orders until all the trees are gone so call early to make sure that you get what you want. We will call when the trees arrive, usually around the first part of April. 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. I am also working on putting the order form on the website so if you would like to order online check the website, at:

www.fayettecountyswcd.com, to see if I have figured out how to get it working.

**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

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

October 2007

8 - Columbus Day
16 - Boss's Day
25 - Board Meeting
30 - Tony Pals
31 - Halloween

November 2007

4 - Daylight Savings Time
6 - Election Day
11 - Veteran's Days
22 - Thanksgiving
? - Board Meeting (undecided - the date will be posted in the office in October after the October board meeting)

Changes in Cost Share Program

By Tony Pals

As of this writing, we have no budget for FY 2008, which means, among other things, we don't know how much money we'll have for cost share for applying conservation practices. We have, however, received the changes that will go into effect with the 2008 program when those funds become available. Some of those changes deal with nutrient management. On all future sign ups for this practice, we will be able to give two years of payment for the four year agreement, so we are basically doubling the payment from \$7 to \$14 for the acres we get in this program. In addition, RC's that have been certified by IDOA will be able to do the nutrient management plans instead of a Technical Service Provider (which are sometimes hard to find).

Another change for '08 is the cost share percentage we can allow to anyone applying practices in one of our TMDL watersheds. We will be able to pay 70% of the cost in these areas, rather than

60%. If you remember, our watersheds on that TMDL list are: Vandalia Lake, East Fork Kaskaskia, and North Fork Kaskaskia. We can also now pay for temporary cover on land in row crops that will be disturbed when installing a practice such as a waterway. Temporary cover can be cost shared up to \$150 per acre for up to 10% of the total cost of the practice being installed.

We also are allowed to pay for ten well sealing's this year instead of eight, and, for folks sealing the well themselves, you will be allowed to charge \$15 per hour for your time as a part of the cost eligible for cost share. So if you have been thinking about sealing an unused well, you may want to get in to sign up.

We will take sign up through February for all practices and then prioritize those sign ups based on the most conservation we can get for the dollars spent. That is, for everything but well sealing which we will fund on a first come basis.

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.