Grundy County Conservation Connection

January 2015 – March 2015 Volume 7 Issue 3

http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy

Tentative Date Set for 12th Annual Customer Appreciation Day

A tentative date has been set for Friday, March 13th for the 12th Annual Customer Appreciation Day.

The 2015 year marks 48 years of conservation efforts put forth by the Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The District hosts an annual appreciation day every March to thank landowner for their conservation efforts, contractors for their work and the partnerships with NRCS, MDC and FSA.

As time draws near you can visit the website at http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/2015AppreciationDay.htm for additional information or call the office at 660-359-2006 ext. 3

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Smithfield Farmland Corp. Environmental Team Hosts World Water Monitoring Day

The 8th Annual World Water Monitoring Day was held at a local county school on Thursday, October 23rd. This yearly event is hosted by Smithfield Farmland Corp. Environmental Team in Milan, Mo.

The environmental team demonstrates testing of turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH from local lake waters. Students are divided into teams so each student can participate in the hands on testing of all the areas.

After completion of testing the students are treated with pizza, soda and chips.

Thank you to the Smithfield Farmland Corp. Environmental team for their efforts to provide environmental education to the youth in the community.

World Water Monitoring Day Pictures

NW Regional Envirothon Teams State Bound May 1st

We had a chilly start to the day at the Hartell Lakes Conservation Area in Plattsburg on Thursday, November 6, 2014 for our Regional Envirothon Competition. Joining the experience this year was Lafayette, Lafayette Alternate, Plattsburg, Missouri Academy A, Missouri Academy B, Norborne, South Nodaway A, South Nodaway B, South Nodaway C & an Alternate team with members from 2 schools. We had 10 teams, although only 8 teams were able to compete in all ecostations of Forestry, Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils, Current Issue and Oral Presentation. Our 2 alternate teams participated in 5 ecostations, but did not compete in the Oral Presentations. All team members had breakfast and Shatto Milk to start the competition and enjoyed pizza and snacks for lunch. After the last rotation ended tests were taken to the scoring room to be graded, components calculated to find the top team in each resource area and the top 3 teams that will advance to State Competition on Friday, May 1, 2015.

The top resource scores this year: Forestry – South Nodaway A, Wildlife – Norborne, Aquatics – Norborne, Soils – Norborne, Current Issue – Missouri Academy A and Oral Presentation – Missouri Academy B. Advancing to State are: 3rd place – Missouri Academy B, 2nd place – Missouri Academy A and 1st place – Norborne.

Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts that donated and supported this competition were: Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Mercer, Nodaway, Holt, Grundy, Ray, Worth & Harrison.

Local Companies/Organizations that donated and supported this competition were: Platte-Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc, United Cooperatives, Inc and SUR Gro Plant Food.

Special thanks to Keith & Sharon Clements for their personal support of the NW Regional Envirothon.

This year ProAg sponsored the event with t-shirts for competition day. For this generous support we sure do thank you!!

Learn more about the Regional, State & National Envirothon Competitions by visiting the websites below:

http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/Envirothon.htm
http://www.moenvirothon.org/
http://www.envirothon.org/

Missouri to host 2015 National Envirothon Competition

Missouri will host the 2015 National Envirothon Competition at the Missouri State University Campus in Springfield from July 27, 2015 – August 2, 2015.

The current topic for 2015 is Urban/Community Forestry.

2015 Learning Objectives – Urban/Community Forestry

Key Topics

1. Understand what sustainable urban & community forestry is and why it is important.

2. Understand of the numerous benefits of urban/community forests to society, often referred to as ecosystem services.

3. Understand the costs associated with urban/community forests.

4. Understand what an urban forest management plan is and why it is an essential tool.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the economic, social, and environmental benefits of urban/community trees to local communities.

2. Comprehension of the effects of urban/community trees on air quality and water quality.

3. Knowledge of research showing that trees contribute to our health, well-being and quality of life.

4. Understanding of threats to urban/community forests such as invasive species, insect and diseases, climate change, fire, air pollution, lack of management capability and development pressures.

5. Understand what a tree inventory is and what it is used for.

6. Understand the components of an urban/community forest management plan.

7. Basic knowledge of models and tools used to calculate the value of tree canopy functions.

The learning objectives can be viewed at http://www.envirothon.org/current-competition.html as well as registration cost, a link to 2015 Resources and Study Material – Urban/Community Forestry and additional information on Urban and Community Forestry.

2015 Poster Contest & Stewardship Week Theme

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances.

The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. Districts provide conservation and stewardship field days, programs, workshops and additional outreach efforts throughout their community to educate citizens about the need to care for our resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one week observance to include an entire year of outreach.

The Stewardship concept involves personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations.

One definition of Stewardship is "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others." E. William Anderson suggests stewardship "is essentially a synonym for conservation."

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold

Stewardship week each year is always the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May.

MSWCDEA Area Representatives

Front Row (L/R): Jerry Becker – Area 2, Heather Keith – Area 2, Kim Williamson – Area 1, Wendy Bowen – Area 2

Second Row (L/R): Matt Blansett – Area 5, Deb Niederer – Area 5, Nancy Kirby – Area 4, Chris Terry – Area 3

Third Row (L/R): Sandy Stratman – Area – 7, Mary Jo Tannehill – Area 7, Tony Rosen – Area 6, Jamie Bokern – Area 4, Brad Powell – Area 4

Back Row (L/R): Emily Wilson – Area 8, Kay Wilson – Area 8, Melissa White – Area 6

MO Woods App

Get advice on your forest with MO Woods App

By Brian Schweiss, MDC

Hey, landowners, grab your smartphones. There is a new app ready for landowners with woods and forests.

It was developed specifically to assist Missouri landowners in an initial evaluation of their woodlands for forest health, wildlife habitat and timber sale potential.

In the app there are links to other resources that may be of use too, such as: insect and disease issues for Missouri woods, wildlife habitat improvement options and timber sale guidance (from the Call Before You Cut website). Landowners now can email their results along with a picture of their woods and even request assistance from a forester.

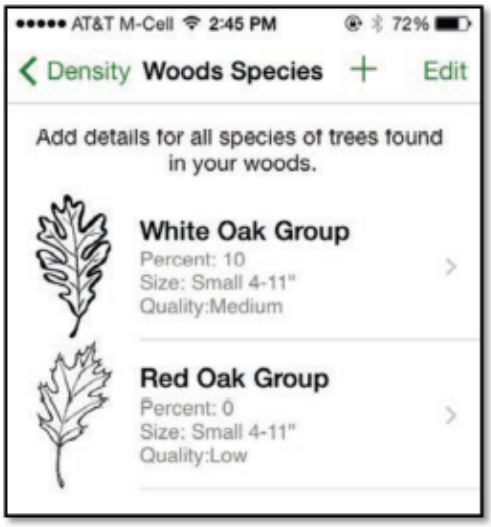
Both iPhone and Android users can download this app, as it is available in both app stores. Start by searching for "Missouri Forestkeepers" or "MO Woods." Once downloaded on your phone, head to the woods. The app will guide you through some steps to gather information. A series of pictures will help determine details about the woods.

One of the first questions asked is about forest density. The app requires a visual estimate of the density using low, medium and high as references. Next up is tree species identification. Identify the primary species in your forest that make up the main canopy of trees. Leaf pictures are provided to assist in identification.

For each species chosen, the app asks for an estimate of the percent present in the forest. It also asks for an average size of tree for each species. Three categories are there to give guidance on how to measure trees. Then, figure out the average quality of your trees in the species. Pictures are provided to serve as a guide.

Continue on to the next step and three different prescriptions will be given: one for timber sale potential, one for forest health, and one for wildlife value. Interested landowners can then send an email to request further assistance or to simply ask a question about their forest.

The MO Woods app is not a substitute for a forester. It is meant to be a starting point, and is written to capture statewide scenarios in broad categories. It will not identify specific market conditions or forest health issues. When in doubt, send an email to a local forester.



2015 Women In Ag State Conference

The NW Region will be hosting the 2015 Women In Agriculture State Conference on September 21 – September 23 at the beautiful and historic Elms Hotel & Spa in Excelsior Springs.

As time nears information will be posted on the Grundy County SWCD website at http://www.swcd.mo.gov/grundy/WomenInAgriculture.htm (select the 2015 link).

www.facebook.com/WomenInAgriculture

FY 2015 Statistics

Tons of Soil Saved

Practice Type	Tons of Soil Saved
Terrace Systems	1000
Ponds	0
Basins	0
Diversions	0
Vegetative Cover Establishment	0

This chart indicates tons of soil saved from practices that have been completed and claims turned in. It does not include practices started.

Acres Served

Practice Type	Acres Served
Terrace Systems	22.8
Ponds	0
Basins	0
Diversions	0
Vegetative Cover Establishment	0

This chart indicates acres served from practices that have been completed and claims turned in. It does not include practices started.

Feet of Terrace Installed	Cubic Yards of Earthwork
6,300	0

FY2015 Cost-Share Report as of January 8, 2015

Grundy County Soil Water Conservation District

REGULAR COST-SHARE ALLOCATIONS/PRACTICES FY2013			
Practice Type	# of Practices	$'s Obligated to date	
Cover Crop	4	$	2,400.00
Terrace Systems	14	$	207,110.75
Ponds	3	$	28,437.45
Basins			
Streambank Stabilization			
Grazing Management	1	$	9,435.00
Total $'s Obligated to Date		$	247,383.20
	Report Obligated	$	247,383.20
	MoSWIMS Allocation	$	315,861.00
	Unobligated Funds	**$**	**68,477.80**

Kids Corner – Top10 Fun Fact about St. Patrick's Day

1. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on **March 17th** around the globe to honor the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.
2. St. Patrick's Day is observed on March 17 because that is the **feast day of St. Patrick**, the patron saint of Ireland. It is believed that he died on March 17 in the year 461 AD. It is also a worldwide celebration of Irish culture and history. St. Patrick's Day is a **national holiday in Ireland**, and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
3. In Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, people traditionally wear a **small bunch of shamrocks** on their jackets or caps. Children wear orange, white and green badges, and women and girls wear green ribbons in their hair.
4. Many cities have a **St. Patrick's Day parade**. Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has a huge St. Patrick's Day festival from March 15-19 that features a parade, family carnivals, treasure hunt, dance, theatre and more. In North American, parades are often held on the Sunday before March 17. Some paint the yellow street lines green for the day. In Chicago, the Chicago River is dyed green with a special dye that only lasts a few hours. There has been a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston, Massachusetts since 1737. Montreal is home to Canada's longest running St. Patrick's Day parade, which began in 1824.
5. Ireland is associated with the color **green** because it is known as **"The Emerald Island."**
6. According to the Guinness Book of World records, the highest number of leaves found on a **clover is 14!**
7. Legend says that **each leaf of the clover** means something: the first is for **hope**, the second for **faith**, the third for **love** and the fourth for **luck**.
8. Some American towns have **"Irish"** names. You could visit: Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia; Shamrock Lakes, Indiana; Shamrock, Oklahoma; Shamrock, Texas; Dublin, California and Dublin, Ohio.
9. The Irish flag is **green, white and orange**. The green symbolizes the people of the south, and orange, the people of the north. White represents the peace that brings them together as a nation.
10. 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry. That's almost **nine times** the population of Ireland, which has 4.1 million people.

Kids Corner – Recipe Sausage & Potato Coddle

Ingredients

- 1 pound pork sausage links
- 1/2 pound thick-sliced bacon, cut in 2" pieces
- 4 large potatoes, (2 pounds)
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 cups water

Preparation

- In a skillet cook the bacon pieces until they turn golden, and then drain on paper towels. Brown sausages (prick in several places with fork) in bacon fat; drain on paper towels and slice into 1/4-inch pieces.
- Peel and slice potatoes about 1/4-inch thick. In a casserole dish, alternate layers of bacon, sausage, onion, and potato, seasoning the potatoes with salt and pepper. Sprinkle each layer with a little parsley. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the skillet.
- Add water and bring to the boil. Pour over the potato casserole. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove the cover and cook for an additional 15 minutes, until the top is browned and potatoes become tender.

This recipe was found at at http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/main_dish.htm#qTO25P9qccv6vh96.99

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to construct and carry out a complete soil and water conservation program on all lands within Grundy County, Missouri. The district supervisors will work with all individuals, organizations and agencies interested in saving, maintaining and improving soil and water resources within the district.

Non-Discrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at www.ascr.usda.gov, or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are dear, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

2015 Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

January

19th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

16th – President's Day

EVENTS

March 13th
12th Annual Customer Appreciation Day Luncheon at Barton Campus 11am – 1pm

SWCD Board Meetings

January 20th – 9:00am

February 17th – 9:00am

March 13th – 1:00pm
March meeting will be held at Barton Campus following annual luncheon

Board Meetings are held at the USDA Service Center
3415 Oklahoma Avenue

All meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive sessions. If you wish to be on the agenda please notify the District

conserving natural resources *for our future*

Happy Holidays to you from the Staff!

Photo Credit: William Milner/Shutterstock.com

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