

Conservation Profile

Volume 24 Issue 4 SHAWNEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT December - 2011

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Thank You!

Ed Dewey from St. Marys State Bank and Rossville State Bank is once again serving as County Key Banker. We thank Ed and all those making donations of cash and door prizes to help defray the cost of the annual meeting.

Contributors through December 12 include:

**R. D. White
Landscaping &
Unloader Service**
6339 SE Croco Rd
Berryton, KS 66409

**St. Marys State
Bank**
905 E Bertrand
St. Marys, KS 66536

**Shawnee County
Farm Bureau**
3801 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS 66614

Donations (more on p. 3)

Annual Meeting Coming Up January 30

A new year is about to unfold, so mark your calendars for the 57th annual meeting of the Shawnee County Conservation District on January 30, 2012. It will be held in the classrooms of the Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th St., Topeka, KS. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are limited to seating space. Please see coupon below to make your reservations. A five dollar donation will be accepted at the door.

The Conservation District will conduct an election of two supervisors. The terms of the positions held by Francis Kelsey and J.D. Hanna will expire. All legal residents of Shawnee County 18 years of age or older and who are U. S. citizens, are eligible to serve on the board of supervisors as well as vote in the election. **Nominations will be welcomed from the floor** at the annual meeting. Please be sure that anyone you nominate has agreed to serve if elected. Election will be by secret ballot.

Highlights of the Conservation District and NRCS field office activities will be on the program along with presentations of the Kansas Banker Awards for Soil Conservation, Windbreak, Water Quality and Water Conservation. District Grassland Manager and Buffer Awards will also be presented.

The Conservation District will have a drawing for door prizes including a framed wildlife print "Winter In the Heartland - Pheasants" by artist Jerry Thomas. Mr. Thomas was commissioned by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts to paint a series of five pictures for the KACD Endowment Fund. A limited number of prints are available to purchase through KACD member districts.

Please clip the coupon below, e-mail judy@sccdDistrict.com, or give us a call at (785) 267-5721, extension 3 to make your reservations!

Return this to reserve your meals

Annual Meeting Dinner - January 30, 2012

Mail to: Shawnee County Conservation District
3231 SW Van Buren St., Topeka, 66611 due January 20, 2012.



Name _____

Phone # _____ # Attending _____

**SHAWNEE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Francis Kelsey	Chairperson
Megan Davis	Vice-Chairperson
Richard Runnebaum	Treasurer
Wayne Lukert	Member
J. D. Hanna	Member

Advisory Members:

Randol Walker, Robert Lynch,
Ken Hoffman, David Horton

District Staff:

Judy Boltman	District Manager
David Dennon	Technician

**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**

FIELD OFFICE STAFF:

Sara Fredrickson	District Conservationist
Christy Ronsse	Conservation Technician

OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 - 4:30 M-T-W-Th
7:30 - 3:30 Friday

**3231 SW Van Buren Street
Topeka, KS 66611-2469
(785) 267-5721, ext. 3**

The Conservation District Board meetings are held the first Monday of every month and are open to the public. Please call for time and place. Newsletter published irregularly.

All programs and services of the SCCD are

No-Till Drill

It's a good idea to use the District's



Soil Tests

There are funds available for FREE soil tests paid through the District but administered by Shawnee County Extension. Visit the District's website for sampling directions. One free test for lawn or garden; one per 20 acres for farm fields. Only available to Shawnee County residents.

Manure Spreader for Rent

The District recently purchased a 50 bushel, ground-driven manure spreader for rental by any small livestock or horse operation in Shawnee County. Rental rate is \$100.00 for the first day, \$50.00 each additional day with a maximum of 3 days rental at one time. The spreader matches up neatly with any utility tractor for easy maneuvering in and out of confined spaces. For more information or to sign up, please call the District office at 267-5721, extension 3.



**Sediment & Erosion Control
Workshops Well Attended**

As a member of the Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts, Shawnee County Conservation District worked alongside the Office of Utilities and Transportation City of Topeka Public Works to host three 4-hour sediment and erosion control workshops for contractors, developers, and engineers in November/December. One hundred registrants learned about best management practices for cleaner construction site runoff, self-inspections, staying in compliance with regulatory agencies, and which control measures should remain when construction is complete.



It's Showtime!

We look forward to seeing you at the Topeka Farm Show January 10-12 and the Kansas Garden Show February 17-19, both at the Topeka Expocentre!



Cost-Share Available

Cost-share money is currently available for **Abandoned Water Well Plugging, Riparian Protection** (Fencing, Planting, Etc.), **Failing On-Site Waste Water** (septic) **Systems, Unpermitted Dump Site Remediation, Livestock Waste Systems, Pasture and Rangeland Management** (Brush Control, Water Supply Lines, Etc.), and/or **Nutrient Management**. Shawnee County landowners may apply for cost-share anytime, but sign up periods end the 14th of each month until funds are expended. Call the District office for program details.

Funding provided by the KS Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.

Jeff Hansen Wins Conservation Award

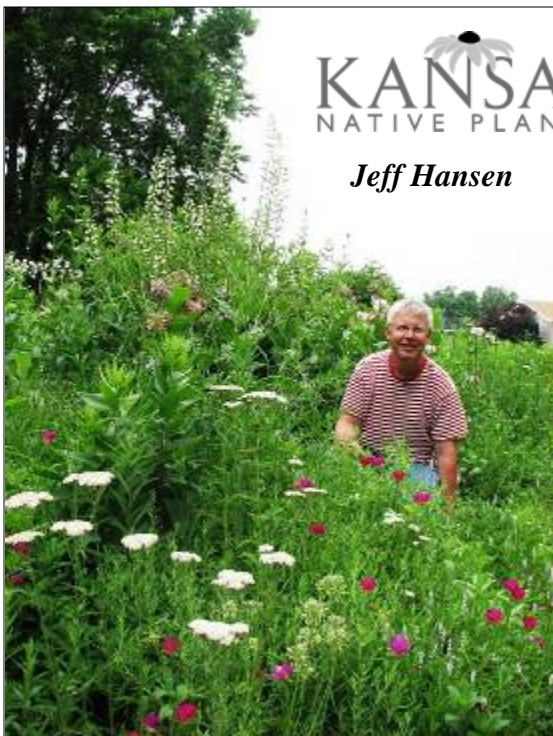
The Conservation District nominated Jeff Hansen for the Mid-America Association of Conservation District's Conservation Award in the individual category.

Gardening had always been a hobby for Jeff - mostly vegetables. But in 1997 he was introduced to the idea of using native prairie wildflowers and grasses in the home landscape, because of their hardiness.

Jeff began searching for seed in road sides and public areas. After a few years of experimenting, he learned how to grow wildflowers and grasses from seed; and incorporate them into his naturally landscaped yard.

Since 2006, Jeff has been a contract botanist for the Chicago Botanical Garden and has collected seeds for their "Seeds of Success" Seed Bank. While seed collecting, Jeff found a plant he had never seen before. It turned out to be the Loesel's twayblade orchid which *was last seen in Kansas in 1899.*

Jeff has given about 60 wildflower tours/walks for a total of around 1,000 people. He has completed about 40 native plant landscape evaluations. He has led numerous activities at events for schools, even paper making from native plants. He is an active member of Topeka Audubon Society and their webmaster as well as both the Kansas Native Plant Society and his Kansas Native Plants business.



Donations...continued from page 1

Silver Lake Bank
PO Box 69
Silver Lake, KS 66539

Atwood Brush & Tree Mowing
7933 SW Hoch Road
Auburn, KS 66402

Wilbur-Ellis Company
1803 Oregon
PO Box 276
Hiawatha, KS 66434

Kaw Valley Bank
1100 N. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66608

Premier Farm & Home, LLC
900 SW University Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66619

Landmark National Bank
1751 N. Washington
Auburn, KS 66402

Fairview Mills, LP
604 Nemaha
PO Box 170
Seneca, KS 66538

Murphy Tractor & Equipment Company, Inc.
1621 NW Gage Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66618

Tarwater's, Inc.
4107 NW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66617



Thank you to UMB Bank, Heritage Tractor, Inc., and Jackson's Greenhouse & Garden Center for donating door prizes.

Poster Contest Winner

Each fall the District offers a poster contest to Shawnee County fourth graders. The theme this year was Forests for People. This year four schools and six classes entered. District personnel visited each classroom with a 20 minute presentation to help students understand the contest concepts and the numerous ways people utilize forests.

The overall best poster winner was Grace Meek, West Indianola Elementary. Her poster (below) was transferred to a tee shirt as the grand prize winner of the contest.



Meet the Current Nominees



Nominations for the Board of Supervisors will be taken from the floor at the District’s January 30 Meeting, however, a nominating committee finds folks in advance who are each willing to serve are a U.S. citizen, a legal resident of Shawnee County, and 18 years of age or older. Those current ballot for the two positions expiring in 2012 were asked to give their qualifications:

Francis Kelsey is a graduate of the Silver Lake schools, Highland Community College and Kansas State University. He has been involved with production agriculture in Shawnee County for most of his life. He is now managing the family farming operation in the Silver Lake and Rossville areas. He has completed one and is currently working on a second course in supervisor training from the KACD and the Division of Conservation of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. He has been a supervisor for the last six years and is currently serving as chairman. “I try to be a progressive-minded supervisor, on the lookout for ways to expand services to the patrons of the Conservation District.”

Bob Lynch says farming has been his passion all of his adult life. He is currently an Advisory Member for the Conservation District. “Hopefully, I have helped to protect our water quality and natural resources through no-till farming practices and seeding over 6000 acres of native grasses in Shawnee, Douglas and surrounding counties in recent years.”

Ken Hoffman has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and Conservation. He worked as the Area Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Topeka and Manhattan overseeing conservation operations in 24 NE Kansas counties from 1990-2007 and retired in 2007. He is a past member/officer in Soil Conservation Society and Society for Range Management; and associate member Kansas Association of Conservation Districts. He is currently an Advisory Member for the Conservation District and is knowledgeable about its operation, programs, and opportunities. “If given the honor to serve as Board Member, I believe my background can help the District reach its goals and objectives.”



The District utilizes newsletters to update you on available programs and District activities. Our newsletter mailing list sources are the Farm Service Agency (about 60%), folks who request it, and targeted audiences such as elected officials, media, partner agencies, organizations, and businesses. Thank you for helping us keep the mailing list updated.



This is our first newsletter posted to our Facebook page. The formatting is a little different than normally found in a newsletter, but I hope you find the information of interest and value.

Thank you,
Judy Boltman
District Manager

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SHAWNEE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
3231 SW VAN BUREN ST., STE 2
TOPEKA KS 66611-2291
PH (785) 267-5721, EXT. 3

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