



Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Conservation Districts

April – June 2005

VOL. XX, NO. 2

Flagg Spring Ranch named Campbell County Cooperator of the Year

Randy Haas, and his parents James and Dorothy, of Flagg Spring Ranch, have been named the Campbell County Conservation District 2005 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year. This district award is a part of the National Association of Conservation District's recognition program. Each district is eligible to nominate an individual, group, or business for this award each year. Randy was selected on the recommendation of Ed Thompson, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, due to his sincere interest in stewardship of the land and active participation in conservation programs and the example he sets for others.



Randy Haas, Flagg Spring Ranch

Randy farms about 530 acres near California, off Shababerle Hill Road. Most of the land lies in the Twelve Mile Creek watershed. His family bought the farm in 1969 and put it into the Kentucky Agricultural District program in 1989, becoming the seventh agricultural district in the county. Even after completing his Masters' degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Cincinnati and working for a number of years in the engineering field, Randy knew that his heart was still at the farm. He made the decision to return to the family farm full-time over 10 years ago and has never regretted it.

But Randy is quick to add that he doesn't do all of the farming alone. His father and mother, James and Dorothy, help on the farm and Randy added that his dad is still the best tractor

operator around. His sister Connie Reinert does the bookkeeping, and brother-in-law Larry Reinert helps with the cattle. Other family members pitch in during the year to help with putting up hay and other chores where many hands make a little lighter work.

Most of the farming operation is devoted to raising cattle, mainly mixed breed feeder calves that he sells through the Certified Pre-Conditioned for Health program. The CPH cattle program requires the farmer to follow specific protocols for their feeder calves and the calves are then marketed as a group. Most of Randy's conservation practices center on the cattle operation, which varies from 50 – 100 head during the year. Horses, hay and buffalo make up

the rest of the production of the farm.

Through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Randy has put in a Heavy Use Protection Area for livestock feeding and animal waste management purposes. The Heavy Use Protection Area provides for a cleaner feeding area for the cattle while protecting the soil from erosion. Geo-textile filter fabric is used under rock to keep the rocks from sinking into the soil. The rocks provide a surface that can be scraped of manure when necessary, and a filter strip of grasses below the pad helps absorb nutrients that run off of the feeding area.

"There are specifications to meet, but it's not that difficult," Randy noted. "It was a muddy mess before." Randy noted improved efficiency in feeding and decreased illness in the herd. "The goal is to get them out to pasture, get and keep them healthy and growing, sell them and make a profit." Randy was so impressed with the results of this project that he went ahead on his own and installed another feeding and animal walkway. The animal walkways have eased pressures on this area, allowing better access to the pastures, too.

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Landscapes

Landscapes is a quarterly publication of the Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Conservation Districts, Kentucky - members of the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

BOONE CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT
6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005

859-586-7903 (Phone) 859-586-7683 (Fax)

E-mail: sally.aaron@ky.nacdnet.net

<http://www.boonecountyky.org/bccd/default.htm>

Mike Keller, Chairman
Sarah Drew Griffith, Vice Chairman
James B. Walton, Secretary/Treasurer
Debra Waller Franks * Jan Garbett
Edward D. Moore * Billy Rehkamp Jr
Staff: Sally Aaron, Admin. Secretary
Kristin Anderson, Conservation Technician
Mary Kathryn Dickerson, District Coordinator
Mark Jacobs, Conservation Technician

CAMPBELL CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT

8351 East Main Street, Suite 104
Alexandria, KY 41001

859-635-9587 or 859-635-5666 (Phone)

859-635-0496 (Fax)

E-mail: campbellcd@fuse.net

<http://home.fuse.net/campbellcd>

Ken McCormick, Chairman
Sanford Record, Vice Chairman
Larry Varney, Secretary/Treasurer
Alan Ahrman * Gene Dobbs
Ron McCormick * Dennis Walter
Staff: Linda Grizzell, Administrative Secretary
Kristin Anderson, Conservation Technician
Mary Kathryn Dickerson, District Coordinator
Mark Leopold, Water Quality Specialist

KENTON CO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT

6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005

859-586-7903 (Phone) 859-586-7683 (Fax)

E-mail: sally.aaron@ky.nacdnet.net

www.kentonco.org/conservation.html

Marc Hult, Chairman
Margaret "Peggy" Kelly, Vice Chairman
John "Jack" Heist, Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Bessler * Scott Kimberlin
Janet Scanlon * John Toebben
Staff: Sally Aaron, Admin. Secretary
Kristin Anderson, Conservation Technician
Mary Kathryn Dickerson, District Coordinator
Mark Jacobs, Conservation Technician

With Assistance From:

United States Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ed L. Thompson Jr., District Conservationist

Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Cabinet,
Kentucky Division of Conservation
Linda Hunter, Area Field Representative



All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

Home Front

News from your Conservation District Office



New Campbell County Conservation District supervisors

Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery, left, administered the oath of office to newly elected board supervisors Gene Dobbs, Ron McCormick, Larry Varney, and Alan Ahrman.

Retiring Conservation District board members honored

Helen Fehr, right, former Campbell County Conservation District board member, was honored for her 10 ½ years of service on the board from May 1994 to December 2004. Ms. Fehr was very active on the board, serving on the Education Committee and other board event committees. She served as board treasurer for several years and was involved in many community outreach programs. Ms. Fehr was also active with the No. Ky. University Environmental Education Coalition and served as the district's legislative liaison.



Former Kenton County Conservation District board members Lorna Harrell, below left, and Sherry Carran, below right were honored for their years of service. Ms. Harrell served on the board from December 1998 to December 2004 and was board chair for several years. She led the district's community-wide strategic planning effort during her service as board chair. Ms. Carran served on the board from January 1997 to December 2004 and held the positions of both board treasurer and secretary for several years. Both were very active with the district's involvement in the Kenton County Community Education program and the Kenton County Farmland Work Group.



We thank them for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors!

(Continued on page 6)

Flagg Spring Ranch

(Continued from page one)

Also through the EQIP program, Randy developed a stream crossing in a tributary to Flagg Spring Creek. This allows the cattle limited access to the stream while providing a water source and access to other pastures on the hill on the other side of the creek.

The stream needed to be fenced out to install this practice, something Randy didn't mind doing. "I've lost calves in the creek before. It's hard to believe now, but that stream will get up almost to the fence in a really heavy rain," Randy said.

"Lots of people don't like fencing out their creeks, thinking they are losing grass. They may not realize that you can, according to the specifications, still flash graze the area at certain times. You just can't overgraze and destroy the stream bank."

Randy needed water for the livestock and had three ponds on the property cleaned out on his own. After a number of years, the ponds had silted in and were only a few inches deep. With help through the EQIP program, he was able to fence them and install Frost Free Livestock Watering Tanks in two of them. The other pond will have a limited access ramp. Keeping livestock out of the pond and off of the banks will help prevent accelerated siltation of the ponds. It will also ensure that he won't lose livestock in an iced-over pond.

One of the ponds for livestock water is located in the buffalo,



Stream crossing at Haas farm.

or bison, pasture area. Randy said he's really just an old horse trader and got a good deal on some bison calves a few years back. "They're a challenge. You can't push them. Just keep them happy and realize that they are the boss." Although they might be considered just a curiosity on a Campbell County farm, they are part of the farm operation. He sells freezer sides for a specialty market that is continuing to grow. Randy will have the ponds stocked by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He added that they might not be

where he does his serious fishing, preferring to take an occasional fishing trip to Canada for a change of pace.

Pastures on the farm also receive careful attention. "The first thing we raise is the pasture," Randy said. Although he periodically seeds the pastures to improve them, Randy's goals for the future include doing more soil testing and monitoring of pasture health. A warm season grass plot, about 3.1 acres, was put in several years ago. "What got me

interested in the warm season grass was the drought. I've been through

two and the grass just burns up." Having the warm season grass pasture would provide a continuing source of feed for the cattle as warm season grasses are drought tolerant. "This area should be large enough to get me through the worst of a drought."

When time permits, Randy is active in the Campbell County Cattle Association, and attends programs and training conducted by the University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Conservation District. He'll call on these resource people as he moves forward with other projects planned on the farm: a pond on the ridge in the far pasture, a waterline from a pond below the house that will provide water for another pasture, and finishing work on the limited access area pond and warm season grass area.

When asked about the future of farming in Campbell County, Randy noted "Farming has to have a future. If not, we won't be eating." He added, "I'll be here as long as I can farm. I'm just getting started." Randy said that his engineering background has come in handy when planning and installing the practices. Most important, completing the work gives him a lot of satisfaction. "It's good for the farm, good for the environment, and, it makes my job a whole lot easier."

Congratulations to Randy Haas, the Campbell County Conservation District Cooperator of the Year, and his father and mother James and Dorothy Haas.



The Haas Family of Flagg Spring Ranch accepts the Campbell County Conservation District Cooperator of the Year award from district board member Gene Dobbs.

LANDSLIDES IN NORTHERN KENTUCKY



A Little Knowledge Can Save a Lot of Money

June 14, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission
2332 Royal Drive Fort Mitchell, KY 41017

THIS IS LANDSLIDE COUNTRY!

Did you know that Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky has one of the most expensive per-capita landslide loss rates in the nation? Are you asked about the potential for landslide damage to private and public properties? As a planning official, you need to be aware of this situation and know how to answer questions about it. This workshop will help you understand landslides in this region and reduce the risk to the built environment.

Participants will receive copies of 2 publications on landslides in the area and a field guide developed by the instructors. Space is limited! Register soon!

Morning Session (9:00 - Noon)

Tim Agnello, Consulting Engineering Geologist, Real Estate Broker - Landslides

Dr. Barry Maynard, Professor of Geology, University of Cincinnati - Geology of the Tri-State area

Dr. John Rockaway, Professor of Geology, Northern Kentucky University - No. Kentucky landslide hazard mapping

Afternoon Field Trip (Noon - ~4:30 p.m.) Travel to Devou Park for lunch; view the geologic setting of the region. Visit sites where landslides have had a serious impact on construction. (Lunch and Bus provided)

Professional development/Continuing Education - Your agency or organization can tell you about professional development or continuing education credits for attending this workshop. **Planning commission members** may qualify to receive credits to help meet the education requirements of House Bill 55. Proof of participation will be furnished upon request.

Cancellation policy - No refunds unless the workshop is cancelled by sponsors, but substitutions may be made at any time if the original registrant is unable to attend.

For information or to register, contact: Boone County Conservation District, Mary Kathryn Dickerson, 859-586-7903, mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net; or Mike Lynch, KY Geological Survey: (859) 257-5500, mike.lynch@uky.edu
Registration fee \$35, due by Friday, June 3, 2005. Make checks payable to Boone County Conservation District, 6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington, KY 41005.

Sponsored by:



Boone/Campbell/Kenton
Conservation Districts



Northern Kentucky
Area Planning
Commission



Kentucky
Geological
Survey

Agricultural Diversification Cost Share Program in Kenton County

Monday, June 13, 2005 7 – 9 p.m.

Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service Building, Marshall Road

The Kenton County Conservation District, pending final approval from the state, will begin administering the Agricultural Diversification Program for Kenton County farmers. The Agricultural Diversification Program is a part of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund which was established through the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy for administering funds from Phase I of the National Tobacco Settlement. Kenton County's Agriculture Development Council approached the Conservation District for help to administer the diversification program for the county. The goals of the program are to improve net farm income through the development and expansion of new agricultural products and through the development of new ways of dealing with existing agricultural commodities. It is also intended to assist those farmers who are affected by loss of income resulting from cuts in the tobacco quota and to assist producers already exploring alternative agricultural enterprises who may lack capital to further expand their programs.

The following practices, which follows the state model program, are included in the program: Commercial vegetable and herb production; Commercial fruit and sweet sorghum production; Production of commercial ornamental horticultural products; Green house construction or conversion for horticultural enterprises; Small animal production (bees, rabbits, pastured poultry, sheep, other fowl); Commercial aquaculture production; Commercial silviculture production; Equine production; and Direct-to-consumer livestock production.

Attend this opening meeting to learn about the cost-sharing opportunities for farmers to help diversify farming operations away from tobacco. Applications and information will be available at the meeting, or you may pick up the information after that date at the Kenton County Conservation District offices, 6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington; or at the Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service on Marshall Road. For information, call 586-7903.

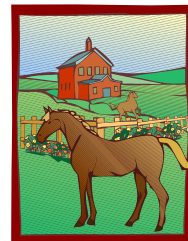
Horse Pasture & Waste Management Tour

Tuesday, June 28, 2005 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.

The tour meets at the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, 3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, Kentucky. From there we will van-pool to visit two Campbell County farms where the owners have made a commitment to conservation and good horse management.

Our topics include:

- ✓ Pasture management and improvement;
- ✓ Rotational grazing and fencing;
- ✓ Water systems;
- ✓ Composting horse waste;
- ✓ Heavy use areas;
- ✓ and a guest speaker on "Horse Health & Nutrition"



There is no charge to attend, but reservations are **required** to Campbell County Conservation District at 859-635-9587, or campbellcd@fuse.net by **Tuesday, June 21**. *A meal will be served. This is a walking tour, so dress for the weather and pasture walking. Participants will receive materials to help them better manage their horse operations.*

Sponsors: Boone-Campbell-Kenton County Conservation Districts; Boone-Campbell-Kenton County Cooperative Extension Services; Boone County Solid Waste; Boone-Campbell-Kenton County Farm Bureaus; and, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. *This workshop is funded in part by a grant from the Kentucky Division of Conservation – Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Fund.*

Home Front

News from your Conservation District Office (Continued from page 2)

Jacobs receives Northern Kentucky United Community Award

Conservation District Conservation Technician Mark Jacobs was honored recently as a recipient of the Cinergy Environmental Impact Award through the Northern Kentucky United Community Awards program sponsored by The Community Recorder. Mark was honored for his personal work as Executive Director of Wildlife Conservation Kentucky, Inc., which opened Split Rock Conservation Park several years ago. This site, the home of a unique geological formation known as “split rock”, provides outdoor educational opportunities on ecology, archeology, geology, and the history of the area. Its location along the Ohio River and Woolper Creek presents invaluable opportunities for conservation of wetland habitats, as well. He is careful to never let his personal work interfere with his duties at the conservation districts and the Conservation Districts are proud of Mark and support his work at Split Rock Conservation Park. Congratulations, Mark, for your dedication to conservation and making a positive impact on the environmental quality of life in Northern Kentucky!



Local agencies recognized by Environmental Quality Commission

The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission, the Kentucky League of Cities and the Kentucky Association of Counties joined together to celebrate the 36th anniversary of Earth Day and recognized 12 outstanding initiatives that exemplify the heart and spirit of Earth Day and demonstrate the positive benefits when communities support job growth, environmental stewardship and social equity – the three pillars of sustainability. Among those honored this year were:

- ❖ The Boone County Planning Commission, the Campbell County Planning Commission and the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission for their regional community stewardship initiative. This initiative includes working together to promote the efforts of the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council, hosting community workshops on a variety of topics such as conservation development, low impact development, smart growth, and other initiatives.
- ❖ The Kenton County Brownfields Initiative, led by the City of Covington, involved the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission and Northern Kentucky University to inventory sites and develop a database of potential brownfields in Kenton County. Through this effort, Kenton County has begun a process that will return its abandoned lands back to productive condition.

Boone County Conservation District board member Ed Moore and Boone County Commissioner Terri Moore attended the awards ceremony on Earth Day.

Conservation news briefs

2005 Woodland Owners Short Course Available This Summer

The Kentucky Division of Forestry, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association are conducting the 2005 Woodland Owners Short Course to help landowners gain the information they need to manage their woodlands in a sustainable manner. The course consists of four day-long events addressing a variety of topics relevant to woodland management. Attendees will learn practical forestry management principles and techniques that can be applied to their woodlands. Topics include: Exotics and Invasive Species Identification and Control - June 9 in Henry County; Small Woodlot Management - July 14 in Woodford County; Bottomland Hardwood Management - August 11 at Pennyryle State Forest; and Alternative Logging Systems and Marketing - Sept. 8 in Fleming County. The cost of the entire short course program is \$50, but individual sessions are available for \$15. Registration is required and each day will start at 9am and run to 4pm with lunch provided. Contact Jean Smith at 859-257-7597 for information.

Farm Pond Stocking

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) offers help to those wanting pond management advice and pond stocking service. KDFWR will supply small fish for new or renovated ponds. The only cost to the pond owner is a handling fee of \$25.00 per pond/lake to cover transportation costs. Ponds with existing fish populations are not eligible for the program. For more information about farm pond management, contact the state conservation officer stationed in your county or district fishery biologist, or call the **KDFWR Fisheries Division at 1-800-858-1549**. You must apply before September 1 to receive fish beginning that fall. Farm ponds stocked by KDFWR do **not** have to be opened to the public for fishing.

"Forest Health... Rx (Prescription) for our Future"



was the topic for this school year's Conservation Contests. The theme focused on Kentucky's forest resources - their variety, their importance, and ways that all citizens can help protect, restore, and conserve them.

The contests are sponsored by the Courier-Journal, the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Department of Education, and Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. The Conservation Writing Contest, started in 1943, is for all students through grade twelve. The Jim Claypool Conservation Art Contest, started in 1973, is for students through grade five. The contests are designed to align with the teaching goals and strategies of the Kentucky Education Reform Act and are to be used as a part of the classroom curriculum. Teachers are provided with brochures that contain related information and activities.

The County Conservation District selects a school winner from the top three entries in each participating school. From the school winners, a county winner is selected and this entry is forwarded to area and state competition. Winning students, their parents, and sponsoring teachers are honored at a county awards dinner. The First Place county winner in each contest receives a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from the Courier Journal, and the second place county winner in each contest receives a certificate of achievement from the Courier Journal.

Campbell County Conservation Contest Winners

In Campbell County, county and school winners in grades K – 6 received a certificate of achievement from the Courier Journal, and a "Fandex – Family Field Guide to North American Trees" from the conservation district. Winners in grades 7 and up received an Audubon Pocket Guide to "Familiar Trees of North America East." Students also received a Legislative Citation to honor their work in the contests from Senator Katie Stine and Representative Joe Fischer. Teachers received a tree identification kit that contains 13 real tree leaves and a manual for tree identification that can be used with their students. In the Art Contest there were 334 entries from nine (9) schools. This year in the Writing Contest, there were 277 entries written in seven (7) schools.



At left are Campbell County Art Contest winners from grades K – 2: seated, School Winners: Micah Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Kayla Ashcraft, Southgate Public School; Michaela Ware, St. Therese School; Second Place, Elizabeth A. Kauza, St. Thomas School; First Place & Second Place County Winner, Colton R. Gearhart, Donald E. Cline Elementary School. Standing are teachers Cheryl Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Jackie Kriege, St. Thomas School; and, Emily Leopold, Donald E. Cline Elementary School. Not pictured are teachers Linda Bolan of St. Therese School, and Suzanne Wycoff of Southgate Public School.

At right are Campbell County Art Contest winners from grades 3 - 5: seated are School Winners Hannah Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Gabrielle Franklin, Holy Trinity School; Amanda Williams, St. Joseph (Cold Spring) School; Brady L. Hightchew, St. Therese School; Second Place Winner Jake Gronette, Southgate Public School; and First Place 3 – 5 and County Winner Tanner L. Hansen, Grant's Lick Elementary School. Standing from left are teachers Cheryl Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Nancy Cooper, Holy Trinity School; Jim Riehle, St. Therese School; Maureen Randle, St. Joseph (Cold Spring) School; and Patty Smith, Grant's Lick Elementary School. Not Pictured are School Winner



Raven Carpenter and her teacher Dianne Mohr of John W. Reiley Elementary School, and teacher Suzanne Wycoff of Southgate Public School. Ms. Jackie Kriege of St. Thomas School was also the winner of the Campbell County Teacher Incentive Award and received a \$100 gift certificate for the Blue Marble Book Store from the district.

Campbell County Conservation Contest Winners



At left are Campbell County Writing Contest winners from grades K – 12. Seated from left are School Winners Stephanie Marino, St. Mary's School; Nolan A. Jack, Grant's Lick elementary School Sarah E. Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Maggie L. Akemon, Holy Trinity Elementary School; Emily Wright, Grandview Elementary School; and Second Place county Winner John Kremer, St. Therese School; and County Winner Robert (Bobby) Hagedorn, St. Joseph (Cold Spring) School. Standing from left are teachers: Diana Muehlenkamp, St. Mary's School; Patty Smith, Grant's Lick Elementary School; Cheryl Myers, Sonlight Ridge Academy; Nancy Cooper, Holy Trinity Elementary School; Katy Drinkhouse, Grandview Elementary School; Rita Strohm, St. Therese School; and Jim Young, St. Joseph (Cold Spring) School.

Kenton County Conservation Contest Winners

In Kenton County, county and school winners, as well as their teachers, received a certificate of achievement from the Courier Journal, and a Pocket Naturalist Guide to Trees of North America from the conservation district. In the Art Contest there were 508 entries from eight (8) schools. Our Kenton County Winner, Tyler Spencer from Hinsdale Elementary School, was also named the Area 5 winner. The state winner has not yet been announced. Tyler will be receiving a plaque and a \$100 Savings Bond from the Courier Journal. This year in the Writing Contest, there were 417 entries written in eight (8) schools. The Kenton County Conservation District Awards Dinner was held in March at the Erlanger Lions Club.



At left are Kenton County Art Contest school winners. Seated from left are: Vanessa Hollon, Piner Elementary School; Bradley Fay, Ryland Heights Elementary School; Lauren Webster, Calvary Christian School; Holly Butts, Holy Cross School; Alexis Frye, St. Augustine School; and Steve Surace, Blessed Sacrament School. Standing from left are teachers Ric Wood, Calvary Christian School; Rita Wesseling, St. Augustine School; and Kathy Wuestefeld, Blessed Sacrament School.



Above are Kenton County Writing Contest County Winners. Seated from left are: Second Place County Winner Lauren Schultz, Turkey Foot Middle School; and First Place County Winner Megan Berberich, St. Agnes School. With them is Kenton County Conservation District Supervisor Peggy Kelly who also teaches at St. Agnes School.



At left are Kenton County Art Contest County winners. Seated from left are: Honorable Mention winner Quinn Birch, St. Augustine School; Second Place County Winner Catherine Otte, St. Henry School; and First Place County Winner Tyler Spencer, Hinsdale Elementary School. Standing from left are teachers Rita Wesseling, St. Augustine School and Linda Simpson, Hinsdale Elementary School.

Kenton County Conservation Contest Winners

At right are Kenton County Writing Contest School Winners. Seated from left are: Shannon Brady, Woodland Middle School; Latisha Payne, Tichenor Middle School; Chase Ford, Summit View Elementary School; Kelcie Monger, Summit View Middle School; and, Andrea Schmidt, St. Augustine School. Standing from left are teachers Sherry Padgett-Sparks, Summit View Elementary School; and, Rita Wesseling, St. Augustine School. Not pictured are School Winner Brandon Lung, Kenton Elementary School; and teachers Doug Singleton, Summit View Middle School; Debra Benzing and Karen King, Woodland Middle School; and Linda Noll, Tichenor Middle School.



Boone County Conservation Contest Winners

In Boone County, county and school winners received a certificate of achievement from the Courier Journal, and a Pocket Naturalist Guide to Trees of North America from the conservation district. Teachers received a “Fandex – Family Field Guide to North American Trees” from the conservation district. In the Art Contest there were 128 entries from three (3) schools. This year in the Writing Contest, there were 158 entries written in four (4) schools. The Boone County Conservation District Awards Dinner was held in March at the Boone County Cooperative Extension Center.

Below are Boone County Art Contest Winners. From left front are: School Winner Tori Whalen, Goodridge Elementary School and First Place County Winner Michael McCartney-Royal, Mary Queen of Heaven School. In back from left are Second Place County Winner Elizabeth Zaragoza, Collins Elementary School; and teachers Ellen Grimme and Janet Ryan from Goodridge Elementary School.



Above are Boone County Writing Contest County Winners. Front row from left are: School Winner Michael McGlasson, Goodridge Elementary School; First Place County Winner Anthony Bates, Gray Middle School; and School Winner Rachel Meeks, Conner Middle School. Standing from left are teachers Ellen Grimme, Goodridge Elementary School; and Barbara Crow, Conner Middle School.

Tree planting and urban forest enhancement grants awarded

The Campbell County Conservation District has been offering the Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement grant since 1993 to help cities and communities establish programs or develop projects to protect and conserve our natural resources. The project must be done on lands located in Campbell County that are owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by city, county, state, or federal government and must include funding or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to the grant request. This year four grants were awarded.

Cold Spring Tree Commission – The City of Cold Spring is receiving a \$1,000 grant to help with their project to beautify the entrances to its city limits. Three have been completed so far, with monument signs and landscaping. They hope to complete this project for the US 27b South entrance by Arbor Day in April of 2005. This entrance site presented some challenges as it is on a sloped area that has eroded. The site will require site preparation and additional trees to hold the soil in place.

City of Melbourne – A city beautification program was started in 1999 with a general city clean-up and repaving of Latonia Avenue. Over the last six years, they have completed the Latonia Avenue extension through the city and the repaving of Garfield Avenue. This \$1,000 grant will help the city to replace and add trees on these avenues, starting with the area from Lincoln to Kenton along Latonia Avenue.

City of Newport – Saratoga Street is a well-recognized feature in Newport. This \$1,000 grant will help the city plant trees in the center islands of Saratoga Street from Third Street to Eleventh Street. Adding trees in an urban setting not only serves to stabilize the soil, but helps improve air quality and provide habitat for birds and other small creatures. The city hopes this new initiative will enhance and improve environment by softening the features of the city.

City of Alexandria – Tribute Park in Alexandria is a new park that will honor the men and women who protect our freedom and keep us safe in our community and throughout the world. This living tribute will be located at US Highway 27 and Kentucky 10 on property donated by UL&P/Cinergy. This \$1,000 grant will help offset the costs of planting trees and shrubs for the initial phase of the park.



Above, City of Alexandria representatives John Stein, left, and Jennifer Stein, middle, accept the Urban Forest Enhancement grant from Campbell County Conservation District board member Sanford Record.



Campbell Conservation awards two scholarships

Jessica R. Gehner, at left with Campbell County Conservation District board member Larry Varney, and **Joshua A. Vogel** have been awarded the 2005 Campbell County Conservation District Scholarships.

Jessica, a graduate of Campbell County High School, is a student at Northern Kentucky University, majoring in Biology. Jessica is the daughter of Joan and Doug Gehner of California. Last summer she participated in a month-long research trip to Costa Rica, visiting the agricultural research center there. She is a member of the Women's Cross Country team and in her spare time works on their family farm and in the family business, "Mr. Cowpie's Party Animals." They run a petting zoo, pony rides and musical entertainment to teach people about the different farm animals and pets and how to care for

them. Jessica sees many possibilities in the field of biological research and hopes she can use her education to help care for our environment and all the living creatures it supports.

Joshua A. Vogel is a senior at Silver Grove School. He plans to attend Thomas More College this fall to study aquatic biology, and work in the field of wildlife biology. Joshua is the son of Ramel and Greg Vogel of Silver Grove. Joshua has performed several independent studies for his school biology class. One involved a water study for the city regarding a lake contaminated by sewage and another took him and classmates to the LaFarge Gypsum Plant to provide a wildlife inventory. Joshua was unable to accept his scholarship in person during the Campbell County awards dinner due to playing in the district basketball tournament that night at Bracken County against Pendleton County.



Boone awards education grant

The Boone County Conservation District has offered education grants since 1994 to assist schools in fostering learning about conservation and our environment. Grant applications are accepted from October through January each year.

This year, Conner Middle School received \$1,000 for their “Field Productivity: Ecology & Economics” project. At left, Boone County Conservation District supervisors Jimmy Walton, left, and Debra Waller Franks, middle, present the grant to Julie Hansel, right, 8th grade science teacher, who is in charge of the project. The project is a team experiment in raising a small crop of tomatoes and flower baskets. Through the project, the students will perform on a smaller scale what commercial

farmers must do. Students will compete to determine which planting methods, nutrients, soil types, etc., yield the most product per area of soil. Students will also carry out cost analysis and determine profit margins as they sell their products. About 120 students will be directly involved in the project, with another 40 students working on the project as they are involved in a composting project for cafeteria waste and organic waste from the greenhouse. Students intend to donate some of the planters to Boone County shut-ins and nursing home residents.



Boone awards scholarship

At left, Boone County Conservation District supervisor Ed Moore presents the 2005 Boone County Conservation District Robert W. Ellis Scholarship to Miguel Carlin, right. Miguel is a junior at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. He is majoring in Agriculture Education – Communications and Leadership with a minor in Latin American Studies. In 2004, he served an internship in the U. S. House of Representatives in Washington, D. C. During his service there he was able to attend hearings to assist Congressional Staff in preparing materials on issues concerning agriculture. Miguel, a graduate of Larry A. Ryle High School, is the son of Robert and Freda Carlin of Union. He notes in his application that he wants to expand his knowledge about the importance of developing renewable and non-renewable energy sources in relationship to the future of agriculture. Miguel also wants to learn more about the transition that is currently occurring in rural communities across the nation as

they change from farming communities to urban centers. He said, “by developing my communications and public relations skills, I will be able to continue to help partners from both the private and public sectors in the community remember the importance of agriculture not only on their individual lives but on the national economy as well.”

Campbell awards education grant



The Campbell County Conservation District has offered education grants since 1991 to assist schools in fostering learning about conservation and our environment. Grant applications are accepted from October through January each year.

This year, St. Therese School in Southgate is receiving a grant for two projects. Rita Strohm, pictured left with Campbell County Conservation District supervisor Larry Varney, teaches science for grades 6, 7 & 8 and is coordinating these projects. “A Little of This and A Little of That” will be funded for \$1,505.79 to re-supply tools and equipment currently used as a part of the school’s environmental science lessons. The staff of seventeen teachers currently uses some aspect of environmental education in their lessons for the over 350 students at St. Therese School. Some new equipment and materials will also be purchased through the grant allowing them to add orienteering, weather and several other objectives to their class work. The Environmental Day Camp program will

receive \$490.80 to purchase field guides, hand lenses and bug boxes for students participating in the program. The first Summer Camp Day was initiated in Summer 2004 at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center with 30 students. They hope to expand the program to 60 students this year, with a maximum of 30 students each day. At the camp, students study different aspects of earth, life and physical science, as well as environmental issues.

Conservation Calendar

Agricultural Diversification Program in Kenton County, Monday, June 13, Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service Building, Marshall Road. 7 - 9 p.m.
The Kenton County Conservation District, pending final approval from the state, will begin administering the Agricultural Diversification Program for Kenton County farmers. Attend this opening meeting to learn about the cost-sharing opportunities for farmers to help them diversify their farming operations away from tobacco. Applications and information will be available at the meeting, or you may pick up the information after that date at the Kenton County Conservation District offices, 6028 Camp Ernst Road, Burlington; or at the Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service on Marshall Road. For information, call 586-7903.

Landslide and Geology Workshop, Tuesday, June 14, 2005, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC) 2332 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell. Sessions on landslides, geology of Northern Kentucky, and landslide hazard mapping. Afternoon field trip. Sponsored by NKAPC, Boone-Campbell-Kenton County Conservation Districts, and Kentucky Geological Survey. See article on page 4. Fee \$35. Registration deadline Friday, June 3. For information or to register, contact Boone County Conservation District, 859-586-7903.

**Northern Kentucky Conservation Districts
6028 Camp Ernst Road
Burlington, KY 41005**

Horse Pasture and Waste Management Tour, Tuesday, June 28, 2005, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m. Meet at the Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service in Highland Heights for this van-pool tour to visit two farms in Campbell County. Topics include pasture management, water systems, composting horse waste, and horse health and nutrition. See article on page 5. No fee, but reservations are required by Tuesday, June 21 to the Campbell County Conservation District, 859-635-9587 or campbellcd@fuse.net.

Mark your calendar!

Thursday, August 18, 6 - 9 p.m., Summer Forage Field Day (location to be announced)

Thursday, September 15, 6 - 9 p.m., Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program field day at Split Rock Conservation Park.

"There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery and the other that heat comes from the furnace." Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*

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