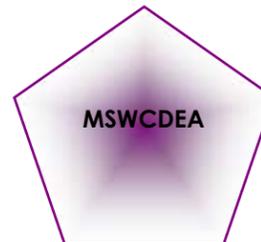


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Volume 24, Issue 1
January 2009



Happy New Year!

By Shelly Sumpter, MSWCDEA President

Well I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. If you're like me, you get kind of excited about pulling out all the decorations and really getting in the Holiday spirit several weeks before Christmas. However, by the time all the entertaining, cooking, and cleaning are over; after all the bags of "money" er...I mean wrapping paper, bows and boxes are dragged to the curb, it's no wonder choice words are being spoken under the breath as I box all the decorations away...again! I wonder why in the world I do this every year. And if that wasn't silly enough, I will go shortly after Christmas to buy MORE holiday decorations. I just can't pass up those 75% off items. I will sometimes even pick up those boxes of candy or cookies that are now only \$.50 cents and wonder if they will keep until next Christmas. Then reality sinks in...keep until next Christmas, my rear—I buy those things by the cart full for the after Holiday recovery snacking that will last until March (and I wonder why my clothes keep getting smaller). Then of course, after stocking up on half price bows, wrapping paper, boxes and singing snowmen, I'm again using those same choice words as I try to find a place to store all that stuff!

Then there are the New Year resolutions. Yes, I usually have the same ones every year..."I **WILL** unbury that Treadmill", "I **WILL** give all those \$.50 cent boxes of cookies and candy to someone else", "I **WILL** eat healthier" —yeah, yeah, whatever. I think we are all guilty of setting those new year goals only to have them fade away after a few months.

You know how it seems like a special event will sometimes spark us to get healthier or lose some weight? Maybe a wedding or graduation...usually, it's an event where there will be lots of cameras. Well I'm sure there will be many new "events" in our lives as district employees which I hope will be a "spark" for good changes and renewed working relationships. If the November elections did nothing else, they did scream of a desire for change.

I know this newsletter will not get to you for a couple of weeks, so this will probably be old news by the time this reaches you. However, this is what we know today. Doyle Childers resigned as Director of DNR effective January 12th. The new director of DNR will be Mark Templeton. Templeton is not expected to start his duties until the first part of February at the earliest or could be as late as March. Bill Foster is no longer with the Soil and Water program. All indications are that no decisions about a new Soil and Water Director will be made until after Mr. Templeton is settled in. Until then, Bill Wilson is acting Soil and Water Director. The MASWCD also has a new president, Steve Radcliff. So as you can see, change is all around us.

I wish I could tell you more about what this new year might hold but unfortunately as I write this, we are all still in a transition phase. Until the new directors are in place, it will be difficult to know how much change our current program will experience. Will all the recent program changes stay in place or will some be rescinded? Will an entire new set of changes be put into place? I know these are questions we all have. I just want you to know, the Employee's Association will continue to make your voices heard. We want to work very closely with this new administration, restore trust and make this program stronger than ever. This is why it will be imperative to show the new administration the invaluable service this program provides.

I want to encourage a "spark" in everyone. One that will bring renewed confidence to our jobs—renewed confidence in our working relationship with the Commission, the State Association and DNR—and finally a renewed confidence in why we do this day after day...to protect our natural resources. (OK, I know, it helps pay the bills, also).

As always, don't hesitate to contact your Area Representatives with any concerns or suggestions. This is a new year with new possibilities and we look forward to working with all of you.



The Employee Association MESSENGER

Thanks You!!!

A big **Thank You** goes to all those who donated toward the Hospitality Room at the Annual Training Conference this year. We were also able to get donations from these businesses:

Coca Cola of Jefferson City
Burger's Smokehouse of California
Beverage Hut in Tipton

The poinsettia we raffled was donated from the California High School Horticulture class.

We hope everyone had a great time and we look forward to doing it again next year!

THANKS SO MUCH,
Sandy Hutchison and Nancy Kirby

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2008 MSWCDEA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Area 4

Lorrie Ann Longan

Daughter of Bruce Longan

Moniteau County District Technician

My name is Lorrie Ann Longan, and I am a senior at California High School. My parents are Bruce and Devora Longan. I have one brother, Christopher, who is in sixth grade. While at CHS, I participate in clubs such as Student Council, DECA, History Club, and Future Business Leaders of America. I am also very active in the Pinto Pride Band. I have held leadership positions at school too, including section leader in band, secretary of DECA, and Class of 2008 treasurer. I have enjoyed all of my classes at CHS and currently have a 3.18 GPA.

In my spare time, I take pleasure in doing many activities. My favorite activity is playing the piano. To pass time, I hang out with my friends and doing 1000 piece jigsaw puzzles with my dad and grandma. I like fishing with my brother and going on road trips with my mom and grandma, too. My family is very close due to many traumatic events that have occurred over the years. My family has made me a stronger and more independent person.

I plan on attending college at Missouri State University in Springfield, with a major in Radiography. The medical field has always been an interest of mine. As a child, I spent a lot of time with my great-grandmother, who was paralyzed from the chest down. I enjoyed taking care of her. That taught me how important it is to help people who cannot help themselves. When I would doctor her up, my grandma would call me "Doctor Lorrie." Since that time in my life, I have wanted to be in the medical field and have wanted to help people. With this college education and the help of this scholarship, I can fulfill my dream of helping people through the field of medicine.



Area 5

Angie Nowak

Daughter of Lori Nowak

Franklin County District Clerk

Hello, my name is Angie Nowak. I am 19 years old and currently attending East Central College. I plan to graduate with an Associates Degree in Health Sciences in May, 2008. I am a very busy person. I am a full time student, I work at the college for the Recruitment and Athletic Departments and I also play softball here at the college. I go to school from 7 in the morning until the early afternoon. I then work all afternoon until 6 in the evening. After working all afternoon, I go to practice for 3 hours a night. In between all these times, I make time for homework and organizing things for softball since it is my duty as captain to make sure everything with the team is going smoothly.

After graduating from ECC, I plan to either attend UMSL or Barnes Jewish College. At either one of these schools, I will strive and work hard to get my RN license. I will work at Barnes Jewish Children's Hospital for 2 years as a Registered Nurse; then, I will be going back to school for 2 more years to get my Neonatal Nurse Practitioner license.

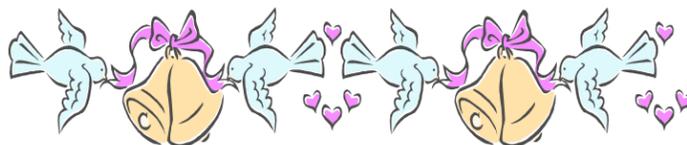
I have always had a passion for caring for others and what better way than to be a nurse. There is such a high demand for nurses these days and I am very proud to say that I am going to be that person that is willing to go through any measure to help fill the demand. I am going to specialize with pediatrics and all my life I have been dealing with children, whether it was with younger siblings, babysitting, or shadowing in the hospital. Ultimately, my goal to pursue a higher education in nursing/nurse practitioner is more for the benefit of going home every night knowing that in some way I helped a child and not just go to work because I have to or because of the money. In my eyes, no one has as much passion for this career path as I do.

WEDDING BELLS

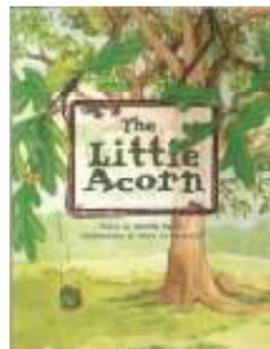
On December 19th, Kay Dover and Philip Wilson were married at the Benton Courthouse. Kay is the Scott County SWCD District Manager. Kay reports, "After the ceremony (talk about dedication), I went back to work!"

We now have a total of six children, four sons, two daughters and grandbabies. Life for our families has changed and we are so happy! We had our first Christmas together, the first of many holidays to come! Philip and I now cook lots of family dinners (Yes, I said Philip and I). It is wonderful when he gets home from work earlier than I do and supper is ready."

"The children and our friends are hosting a "celebration of our union" on January 31st. Guess I'm going to have to break out my dancing shoes!"



THE LITTLE ACORN



More Good News for Mary Tannehill...since our last newsletter!

When the publication, "The Little Acorn," was sent to the NRCS National Office for printing, it was liked so well it will now be a national publication rather than a statewide publication. It will be available to teachers all across the nation!

Mary Jo Tannehill is the Program Specialist II in Laclede Co SWCD.

MSWCDEA Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2008

By Debbie Niederer, MSWCDEA Secretary

Present: MSWCDEA Board: Area 1 – Brooks Reid, Area 2 – Wendy Bowen, Treasurer and Debbie Gudgell, Area 3 – Shelly Sumpter, President, Chris Terry, Vice-President and Kris Pettey, Alternate, Area 4 – Tina Hovendick and Nancy Kirby, Area 5 – Charlie Perkins and Debbie Niederer, Secretary, Area 6 – Deneen Jenkins and Debbie Henderson, Area 7 – Bonnie Pryor and Sandy Hutchison, and Area 8 – Kay Dover.

The meeting was called to order by President Sumpter at 10:00 a.m. Information given on the death of Peggy Lemons' father. She will not be attending the conference therefore district representatives may have to assist in areas that were not earlier planned. DNR employee Bill Wilson will now be at the conference assisting.

Approval of Minutes: Hutchison moved to approve the August 6, 2008 meeting minutes as read by mail, Gudgell seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bowen presented the attached treasurer's report. Terry moved to approve the treasurer's report as given, Dover seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Bowen reported 257 employees have paid their membership.

DNR Report: A representative from DNR was unable to attend.

NRCS Report: Karen Brinkman was also unable to attend. Sumpter had contacted her regarding toolkit Conservation Farm Plans after district employees are required to use the Conservation Management Tool. No decisions have been made at this time.

MASWCD Report: A representative was unable to attend.

Scholarship Update: Hovendick reported all of last years scholarships applied for had been awarded and next years will be due in March.

Training Conference:

Trade show – Vendors down; only 21 booths this year. There is heat in the trade show area.

Silent Auction – Items down a little, all shifts covered.

Awards – Plaques and pins in place for awards. Discussed plaque prices if they could be obtained for less money; no viable alternative was given. Discussion tabled at this time.

Hospitality Room – Ready to go. Received many donated items and cash.

Annual Meeting – Sumpter will give Association Report. Certificate for Past President Reed. Discussion regarding letters to the commission from SWCD Boards on the subject of Bill Foster's performance.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

By-Law update – MSWCDEA by-laws state District representative alternates are only allowed to vote in the absence of the District representative.

Representing your area – Discussion regarding it is more important than ever with all of the changes to stay in touch with your area.

Discussed requesting a web page for the association from DNR. Henderson stated she may be interested in maintaining it.

Regional Employee Association of SWCD's – Sumpter received a request for a representative to the National Employee's Association of SWCD's and \$200.00 in dues. A representative was not selected at this time.

Hovendick moved to pay \$100.00 for 2009 dues to the NCDEA, Jenkins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: Not set at this time.

Terry moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am, Hovendick seconded, motion carried unanimously.

SWCD FAMILY NEWS

Debbie Scherder, Clerk for Pike County, is happy to announce the addition of two new boys to her family.

First Grandchild, Brendan Edwin Schereder, was born to Brian and Carey Scherder of October 12, 2008. Debbie's daughter, Lindsey, became the wife of Aaron Jacob Garringer on January 9, 2009. The Scherder family is thrilled with both of the additions, and looking forward to more!

Congratulations!

WELCOME
TO OUR SWCD FAMILY!



Amanda Cook

Christian County Welcomes New Employees!

I started in February of 08 as the Info-Ed Specialist, when the District Manager was offered a new job. I was then offered her position that May. Prior to this job, I was a middle school teacher at a small district that was not compartmentalized, so I taught all subjects. My students, those few years I taught, were among the top 10% of MAP scores in the state. After surviving a rare type of cancer that spread through my body in 5 weeks and several months of chemo, I decided I was not willing to go to a job everyday I had lost faith in. So, I quit teaching. I graduated from MSU with a BS in Horticulture. I have a Masters of Education in Administration. I have an 8 year old daughter that is involved with Girl Scouts, swimming and any sport involving horses! I have been married 9 years. My hobbies include compulsive reading. I also run a lot and participate in several adventure races each year, triathlons, and I try to get in at least 4 half marathons a year, along with 5 and 10K's through out the year. Really, anything outside, a long lazy day on the river, a camping trip, lounging in a hammock with a good book, a ski trip, a beach vacation...you get the idea! As a family, we take vacations twice a year to enjoy each other and remember not to take life so seriously!

During my 31-year teaching career in the Springfield Public School System, I taught children from Pre-K through 12th grade. My expertise is 5th grade, which I taught most of those years. I retired in 2007. I began working for the Christian County SWCD in May 2008 as the Information/Education Specialist.

Donna Weter



I have a Bachelor of Science Degree from MSU and a Master of Education Degree from Drury.

I have lived in Christian County for 29 years. After graduating from Ozark High school, my two sons are now attending OTC and MSU.

I love doing anything outdoors, no matter what the temperature or weather. I love watching and listening to nature, playing outdoor games, and working with livestock. If you come to my house, you must love dogs, because I have several!!!

Jefferson County Welcomes New Employee!



Leann Schmidt started on October 27, 2008 as the new Jefferson County SWCD District Technician. Leann received her BS Degree in Horticulture and Agronomy from Southwest Missouri State University in 2002. Leann is excited to be a part of the SWCD team and in helping local landowners with their conservation practices to prevent soil erosion and protect our water quality. She is committed to environmental stewardship of the land and is looking forward to implementing management practices with the local farmers.

Leann is very knowledgeable and experienced in controlled burns from training with the Missouri Department of Conservation and she has skills in Integrated Pest Management. Leann can assist the landowners who are interested in the benefits of native plant communities, restoring and protecting wild-life habitats and encouraging their success.

Leann's certification areas are: Environmental Management Plans, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Outreach and Education, and Wildlife Habitat Restoration/Management. She has skills in designing, installing and maintaining native landscapes, identifying pest problems and implementing control through Integrated Pest Management approach.

Butler County SWCD Welcomes Back Jennifer Edwards!



Jennifer Edwards is back working with the Butler County SWCD as the District Technician. She worked at the office on two previous occasions: once as a Technical Service Provider and the other as a NRCS WAE. As the old saying goes, "third time's a charm." Jennifer has her Associates Degree in Business Ag. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Ryan, and her dogs (Junior, Chrome and Buster) a/k/a, "her kids." She is an avid barrel racer and loves riding horses. She is knowledgeable in the practices and programs offered by both, USDA and SWCD. We are excited to have Jennifer back as part of our team and look forward to many years working together.



Calling for Scholarship Applications

If you or one of your immediate family members (district employee, spouse, child, grandchild—including step relations) are planning on attending college full-time and you or your family wouldn't mind a little extra cash to help get started; here is your opportunity!

We will be awarding 8 scholarships throughout Missouri very soon. There will be one scholarship per SWCD area and each one is worth \$500.00!

Please read all guidelines and instructions carefully. If you forget to include required items...your application will be disqualified.



All applications must be received on or before the 15th of March, 2009.

Treasurers Report

By Wendy Bowen, MSWCDEA Treasurer

ITEM	RECEIPTS	ITEM	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE
As of 07/28/08				\$17,827.50
Interest	147.27	Area Awards	400.00	
Employee Dues	420.00	Area Mtg Expenses	946.77	
Associate dues	410.00	Conference Exp/Judges Lunch	62.24	
Trade Show Booths	3850.00	Scholarships	500.00	
		Rep Mtg Expense	86.51	
		Postage & Delivery	40.00	
		Printing and Reproduction	1237.10	
		MSWCDEA Awards	400.00	
		Balance Adjustment	+43.03	
Subtotals	4,827.27		3,629.59	
As of 11/28/08				\$19,025.18

MSWCDEA Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2008

By Debbie Niederer, MSWCDEA Secretary

Present: MSWCDEA Board: Area 1 – Brooks Reid, Area 2 – Wendy Bowen, Treasurer and Debbie Gudge, Area 3 – Shelly Sumpter, President and Chris Terry, Vice-President and Kris Pettey, Alternate, Area 4 – Tina Hovendick and Nancy Kirby, Area 5 – Charlie Perkins and Debbie Niederer, Secretary, Area 6 – Deneen Jenkins and Debbie Henderson, Area 7 – Bonnie Pryor and Sandy Hutchison, Area 8 – Kay Dover and Denise Yamnitz. MASWCD: Peggy Lemons, MASWCD Executive Director. DNR: Jim Boschert, Planner III.

The meeting was called to order by President Sumpter at 10:10am. Hovendick moved to go into closed session, Reid seconded, and motion carried unanimously. At 12:30 p.m., Bowen moved to come out of closed session, Perkins seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the June 6, 2008 meeting were reviewed. One correction needed to remove Pam Burgess from Area 8 and insert Kay Dover. Gudge moved to approve the June 6, 2008 meeting minutes as read by mail with correction, Yamnitz seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Correspondence received by Sumpter. Got a couple of questions. I see the MASWCD has requested resolutions for the upcoming annual meeting. In reading the letter, I have a question about paragraph (3). {The passing of a resolution, however, does not guarantee that action included in the resolution will be carried out. MASWCD can only educate, encourage, and influence; it has not power to change laws or programs directly.} So this is my question: Last year resolutions #2, #3, #4, #5, #9, #10 and #11 were passed at the annual MASWCD meeting. My board is wondering what became of those resolutions. So could you or someone point me in the right direction by way of recorded commission minutes, DNR meetings or Legislative presentations where education, encouragement, or influence was presented by the MASWCD leadership on behalf of these passed resolutions. Has anyone asked about this? Also, I noticed the salaries for DNR and District employees were published. It would have been more accurate if DNR salaries reflected the 3% increase received as of July 1 instead of using June 15, 2008 salaries. Oh well, anything for a little more favorable spin. Lemons responded to the question—the resolutions were on the agenda at the last commission meeting. She didn't know the outcome because she did not attend the commission meeting. She also stated you can go on the MASWCD web page and find out which ones passed and failed. She stated that MASWCD sends them on to the appropriate agency. Boschert thought they were in the package and that there was a letter from Foster for the association. Boschert commented on the second question stating he thought the new salaries will be out there.

Treasurer's Report: Bowen presented the Treasurer's Report. All scholarships have been awarded to their recipients for this year. Overall checking total is \$17,827.50. Henderson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as given, Pettey seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Membership and Dues: Bowen reported there are 215 paid employee members and 81 paid associate members. She thought we may need to push participation. Sumpter stated we may see more as everyone gets rolled over.

DNR Report: Boschert reported on Health Insurance. There had been a meeting with Missouri Consolidated the week before. In the Mercy area, there was a 5 to 6% increase in the rates for the same package. The package they are looking at for this year the deductible has been reduced. This year's package would include \$6,000.00 out-of-pocket expense, \$2,000.00 deductible, \$25.00 co-pay. The Mercy area this year will also include the South Central Region. The Coventry area options are still being considered. The bid process resulted in not many options from Blue Cross Blue Shield. They felt the best options were with Mercy and Coventry. The plan this year will be a two-year contract. Concerns were expressed by employees in the Coventry area who had a pre-existing condition would they be covered by a new group plan. Workers Compensation: DNR is going to work on coverage for the entire state. Districts are paying different amounts for their coverage and employees are coded different. Retirement: One of the things they looked into when the retirement started was going with Loggers. This is being considered again. If the districts would participate in Loggers, it would require a Statute change. Sumpter requested more information from Boschert regarding this. Staff Changes: As of November 1, 2008, DNR will no longer have soil scientists. Chris Evans will be leaving his coordinator position. MoSWIMS Discussion: Could it be changed so that the SSN's do not print on the contracts or just the last four digits of the SSN. Discussion regarding the legislative update and letter to the Districts regarding the \$460,000.00 that Foster stated went to the Districts. Boschert felt there was approximately \$60,000.00 left due to employees leaving districts and Tech II certifications that are not completed. A mid-September date is being discussed for the Tech certification. When asked about the Workload Analysis and how the company was chosen, if it was sent out for bids, Boschert indicated nothing under \$25,000.00 had to go out for bid. District Coordinators are going to be reassigned. They will be responsible for 6 to 12 counties. A new map should follow.

NRCS Report: None at this time.

MSWCDEA Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2008 (Cont'd.)

By Debbie Niederer, MSWCDEA Secretary

Newsletter: Articles are coming in slow. Suggestions for articles were the upcoming training conference and previous scholarship winners, i.e., where they are now.

Training Conference Committee Reports: Sumpter will contact the vendors for the Trade Show. Raffle item secured is a red, pedal tractor. Pryor will request items for the silent auction. State and Area Award nominations due October 15th—only going out over email. After discussion regarding award winners being paid association members, Jenkins moved that an employee must have paid their dues to be an award winner, Gudge seconded, and motion carried with two opposed. This will not include length of service awards. This will be put on the letters to the districts regarding award winners. Hospitality Room: Nancy and Sandy would like the districts to let them know what they are bringing.

Old Business—None.

New Business—Nothing further.



MSWCDEA Annual Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2008

By Debbie Niederer, MSWCDEA Secretary

Welcome/Announcements—Shelly Sumpter, MSWCDEA President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She introduced Paula Champion who hosted the Roast and Potato's Game Show. A certificate of appreciation was presented to past MSWCDEA President, Ben Reed.

Approval of Minutes—Debbie Niederer, Secretary, presented the November 27, 2007 Annual Meeting minutes. Brad Powell moved to approve the minutes as presented, Wendy Bowen seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report—Wendy Bowen, Treasurer, presented the MSWCDEA Financial Report. Ben Reed moved to accept the report as presented, Brad Powell seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Representatives—Shelly Sumpter introduced the Area Representatives. Regina Young from Holt County has agreed to fill the vacant Area 1 representative position.

Area Awards—Area Representatives presented the eight area awards for district employees.

Length of Service Awards—Tina Hovendick presented the Length of Service awards.

Association Report—Shelly Sumpter reported the Work Study Information Meeting held in October at Carver Farms was attended by approximately 200 people and 64 districts were represented. Sumpter also reported Mike Wells, the Deputy Director of DNR, attended the State Association meeting in November, which followed the last Commission meeting and the meeting at Carver Farms. Wells reported that an independent internal audit review had been completed by DNR Internal Audit staff regarding the work study. The review staff determined that not only was there nothing illegal but that there was nothing unethical about the work study. This was based on reviewing the work study data, interviews with staff and the contractor, Ron Randon. A follow up conversation with Wells revealed DNR staff had entered the numbers into the work study which ultimately determined that districts were overstaffed and overpaid. They were under the direction of the contractor who felt the districts did not submit accurate information on the forms so he used the information he received during the district interviews. Wells also asked at the State Association meeting what they could do to turn this situation around and rebuild the working relationship. Sumpter replied a full recant on the legislative update sent out earlier this year is wanted. Wells stated this could probably be done. Randon's Business Solutions Company has been dissolved by the State. The Soil and Water Districts Commission is requesting input from the districts.



**WELCOME
TO OUR SWCD FAMILY!**



**Please Welcome
Kathy Cassidy!**

I was hired on April 1, 2008—it was no April Fool's joke! I've been married to Bruce Cassidy for 33 years and have one son, Justin.

We moved to Missouri in the fall 2003 and enjoy raising Boer goats, pygmy goats, chickens, geese, llamas, and a couple of bottle calves. We also own 30 acres of alfalfa, which helps to supply feed to our menagerie of animals.

Hobbies include reading, gardening, fishing, and spending time with my family usually outdoors.

Please Welcome Jennifer Beste!



Jennifer Beste is Franklin County's new District Technician. She started September 8, 2008 and is looking forward to helping our county landowners with their conservation practices that prevent erosion.

Jen received her B.S. degree in Environmental Geology from Northwest Missouri State University. She had worked as an Environmental Specialist for DNR, St. Louis, before she accepted the position with the District.

Jen's hobbies and interests are playing sports, hunting, fishing and being outdoors.

Carter County Welcomes Two New Employees

Please welcome Tammy Townsend...

I am a transplant from Colorado (born and raised)—I met my husband, John, who is from here (Grandin/Ellsinore) through my older brother in 1983—they were in the Army together at Ft. Riley, KS. After 17 years in Colorado after we got married, he said it was time for him to go home. We have lived here since 1999. I worked with the school district as a substitute teacher for several years before starting here in July of 2008. I have my Associates Degree in Business Management and local pastor's license through the Nazarene Church and am working on getting my district license. I have been a youth minister for 6 years at our church—this is one of my favorite things in life to do!

I have two kids of my own. Dan is 23 and married and hasn't made me a grandma yet and Beth, who is 21, married, and hasn't made me a grandma yet, either. I am also raising my niece, Lisa, who is 18 and a special needs child. Her little brother Jerry, who is 17, lived with us for several years as well till this last summer.

I enjoy camping with my husband, working in the garden and canning the produce from it, playing volleyball with the teens, playing with my dog, Horse, watching movies, playing Skip-bo with my niece and occasionally volunteering as being a youth minister. Even though I don't get to "work" at that as much as I'd like to (yet!), my life has been blessed. God is good!

And Chuck Greer...

After working for twenty-eight years for the State of Missouri, in another capacity, and retiring on 10/01/08, I am now employed part-time as a District Technician for the Carter County SWCD starting 10/06/08.

I have two children: a daughter thirty-three years old, and a son (gulp) seventeen years old. (Life throws you some curves.) I reside in Poplar Bluff, MO with my wife and son.

I was educated in the Poplar Bluff school system, graduating in 1962, and received my Bachelors Degree in 1970 from Southeast Missouri State University, majoring in pre-law and political science. Three days after taking my final exams, I found myself in an army uniform headed for basic training after which I served in Vietnam. Upon returning from active duty, I entered St. Louis University School of Law, but that portion of my education was interrupted after one semester.

When not working or taking care of my duties around the house, I am consumed by golf, although my skill is not equal to my enthusiasm. I also enjoy fishing with my son, camping and building small projects for my family. Faith, family, community, and country head the list of my priorities.

WELCOME

Oh—and, this job is pretty cool too. I work with a lot of nice people and I

Length of Service Awards

10 YEARS



Front Row—L to R:

Nena Myers—Shelby Co, Donna Smith—Saline Co, Debbie Niederer—Warren County and Kevin Monckton—Boone Co.

Back Row—L to R:

Roy Stice—Clark Co, Karen Goodwin—Knox Co, Cassandra Bryant—Scotland Co, Joyce Rider-Diehl—Bates Co, and Cindy Dalton—Venon Co.

15 YEARS

Not Pictured:

Kent Ledbetter—Pulaski Co and Ron Rauch—Worth Co



25 YEARS

Vicky Fieth—Polk Co

Not Pictured:

John Cash—Taney Co



20 YEARS

Front Row—L to R:

Sandy Krenkel—Clay Co, T. Luise Craven—Gentry Co, Susan Heldenbrand—Davies Co, Elaine Brotherton—Clark Co, Carol Hubbard—Shelby Co, Sandy Hutchison—Maries Co.

Back Row—L to R:

Bob Varner—Putnam Co, Clay See—Knox Co, Chris Terry—Audrain Co, Jerry Weinrich—Lincoln Co and Jim Shipley—Cedar Co.



2008 STATE

MSWCDEA AWARDS

DISTRICT CLERK



Linda Struwe
Jackson SWCD

DISTRICT MANAGER



Kay (Dover) Wilson
Scott SWCD

TECHNICIAN



Bruce Longan
Moniteau SWCD

SUPERVISOR



Sharon Gifford
Pulaski SWCD

AREA AWARDS



Area 1
Gene Esely
DeKalb County



Area 2
Robert Varner
Putnam County



Area 3
Mark Collins
Macon County



Area 4
Bobbi Farmer
Henry County



Area 5
Wilma Carlyon
St. Francois County



Area 6
Ben Reed
Barton County



Area 7
Mary Jo Tannehill
Laclede County



Area 8
Paula Meier
Cape County

AWARDS

MASWCD AWARDS

Cooperator of the Year



Marvin & Diane Query
Vernon County

Grassland Farmer of the Year



Ron Locke
Dallas County

Teacher of the Year



Danielle Pauley
Livingston County

Distinguished Service Award



Steve Hopper
Livingston County

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

GRADES K TO 1



Alexis Holden
1st Grade
Hurley Elementary R-1
Stone County

GRADES 4 TO 6



Matt Oerly
5th Grade
California R-1
Moniteau County

GRADES 2 TO 3



Emily Knaebel
3rd Grade
St. Joseph School
Osage County

GRADES 7 TO 9



Kelsey Schmidt
8th Grade
St. George School
Gasconade County

GRADES 10 TO 12



Amanda Martinsen
11th Grade
Marion C. Early
Polk County

GRASSLAND EVALUATION CONTEST

COLUMBIA FFA

Brady Chasteen
Russ Chambers
Michael Moore
Will Garrett

Advisor: Larry Henneke

2008 MISSOURI ENVIROTHON

Parkway North High School
St. Louis County



Team Members:

Amal Al Lozi
Kathleen Beilsmith
Jenny Bower
Rebecca Frankenberger
Jon Lee

Advisors: