



# Water Currents

RILEY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Winter 2010

[www.rileycountyconservationdistrict.org](http://www.rileycountyconservationdistrict.org)

Volume 17, Issue 1

## ANNUAL MEETING – February 4<sup>th</sup>

The Riley County Conservation District's **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** will be held on Thursday evening, **February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Pottorf Hall** in CICO Park, near the intersection of Avery and Kimball Avenues in Manhattan, Kansas. **Supper will be served at 6:30 PM**, and will consist of a hearty buffet catered by Ricky's Café of Hanover, Kansas. Following the meal, we will honor Irene Johnson, District Manager, who plans to retire later this spring after 29 years of service. **Thank You, Irene!** Elementary school winners of the Conservation Poster, Essay, Limerick and coloring contests will be recognized.

The **business meeting** will follow, and District Board Supervisors will present the 2009 annual report and treasurer's report. One Board Supervisor will be elected to a three year term. The 2009 Soil & Water Conservation Award, Grassland Award and Wildlife Habitat Award will be presented to Riley County landowners, and we will draw for Door Prizes! (Times are tough this year for many businesses – **if you can donate a door prize, it would be very much appreciated!**)

Attendance has varied from 250 to 350 the past few years! In order to know how much food to prepare, **reservations are required**. To make your reservations, please phone (785) 537 8764 ext 107, or send an email message to [Irene.johnson@ks.nacdnet.net](mailto:Irene.johnson@ks.nacdnet.net), or return the form below to the Riley County Conservation District's office in Manhattan. Please contact Irene if you are able to contribute a door prize, and **respond no later than January 28, 2010**.

\_\_\_\_\_ (clip here and return)



## RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meal(s) for the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Riley County Conservation District to be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park in Manhattan. The meal will be served at 6:30 PM.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

**Riley County Conservation District, 3705 Miller Parkway - Suite A,  
Manhattan, KS 66503**

**Thank you to Riley State Bank and UMB National Bank  
for sponsoring our Annual Meeting and meal.**

## Irene Johnson to Retire



Ms. Irene Johnson, Manager of our Riley County Conservation District (RCCD), plans to retire in May 2010. The photo above shows Irene receiving a plaque from the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, for 30 years of service to our conservation customers.

Irene began her career as a (young!) teenager with the Pottawatomie County Conservation District in 1972, then worked for the Treasurer's Office there, and took the reins of the RCCD in October 1981. She has worked with four NRCS District Conservationists, helping to fund and build hundreds of ponds, miles of terraces and waterways and other conservation improvements with over one million dollars of cost share. Many school programs, Envirothons, Garden Shows, and 15,000+ posters from school children help round out her work!

In lieu of a guest speaker this year, we will celebrate Irene's service. If you have a favorite photo or story to share, please let us know. And be sure to drop in and say "Hi" to Irene between now and May!

## EQIP / WHIP / CSP Signups

The signup cutoff date for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (**WHIP**) is **January 15, 2010**. Producers with agricultural land, rangeland, or forestland with any concerns should apply at their local NRCS office and work with the staff on a conservation plan. Although applications may be submitted anytime for the programs, they will be gathered on this date for ranking. The new Conservation Stewardship Program (**CSP**) also has a continuous signup, and applications received by sometime in January 2010 will be scored for this round of funding.

Information about **FY 2010 EQIP, WHIP and CSP** is available at your local service center – call **Kevin Religa** at (785) 776 7582 ext 3 - or visit the Kansas NRCS Web site at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs). NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Flint Hills PF & QF

Flint Hills Pheasants & Quail Forever will hold their annual banquet on **February 5, 2010** at the **American Legion, 114 McCall Road in Manhattan, Kansas**. Most of the proceeds from the banquet support habitat work in Riley, Geary, western Pottawatomie, Washington, Clay and Marshall Counties. **For information about the banquet, contact Josh Vogt** at (608) 225 2309 or at [bccmanhattan@cox.net](mailto:bccmanhattan@cox.net).

## Please Visit our Booth at the

Manhattan  
Area  
Garden  
Show



To be held at **Pottorf Hall in CICO Park** (Avery and Kimball Avenues in Manhattan). The Garden Show's hours this year are:

**Saturday - February 27<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Sunday - February 28<sup>th</sup>** NOON - 4:00 PM

**Free Admission** – Door Prizes – Food Stand – Silent Auction on Garden Items.



## Burn Permits



Prescribed burning is required on many local CSP, CRP, WHIP and EQIP contracts. Landowners are reminded that a burning permit is required in Riley County. Please stay safe and follow all county burning guidelines. For more information or to obtain a permit, **contact Riley County Emergency Management at (785) 537 6333**.



## Conservation Tree Program

The Kansas Forest Service continues to offer **low cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings**, such as windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, wildlife plantings, and riparian forest filter strips. Now is a good time to plan your conservation improvements, and to place an order. The seedlings usually begin shipping in mid March, as weather permits. KFS has an order form listing the plant varieties and their cost at [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org). Or stop by their office at 2610 Claflin Road in Manhattan, call them at (785) 532 3300, or toll free at (888) 740 8733. Order forms are also available at the Conservation District Office.



## Farm the Best, Buffer the Rest

Timely rains provided good yields this year, and producers may be looking to farm more acres – not less. However, if you have small fields that are hard to reach, too narrow to turn the new combine around, or lower in yield due to overhanging trees and their roots, you might consider conservation buffers. This could make financial sense **in certain areas** – farm the best, and put the lower yield areas into grass and hold the soil.

Buffers are enrolled in the Farm Service Agency's Continuous Signup CRP programs, and there are a variety of programs to fit different needs. **Grass filter strips** along a stream might pay about \$100 - \$150 per acre. **Quail borders** often pay in the \$75 - \$100 per acre range. **CP38** allows enrollment of entire fields smaller than five acres, and can be a good fit for hard to reach fields, skinny points, thin or poor soils or other problem areas.

For information regarding these programs, please contact the USDA Service Center at (785) 776 7582, ext 2 or 3.

## Conservation District Items for Sale

The District offers items for sale or rent from time to time. **The proceeds go toward** Annual Meeting costs, awards to school children for poster and essay contests, conservation awards to landowners, participation in the Envirothon and other **programs that educate and promote the wise use of our county's natural resources.**



## Native Grass Seed

Our standard mix for reseeding disturbed areas includes Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass and Sideoats Grama. **Special seed mixes can be prepared for your site, and we rent grassland drills.** Please call Irene at (785) 537 8764 ext 107 for availability and price.

## Wildflower Seeds

Packets of wildflower seeds include Gloriosa Daisy, Purple Coneflower, Red Corn Poppy, Indian Blanket, Dames Rocket, Lemon Mint, Mexican Hat, Yarrow, Chicory, Standing Cypress and Scarlet Sage.



This product can be used on trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and row crops, and works as a deterrent to deer, elk, opossum and rabbits. Call for details.

Riley County Conservation District  
Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program  
3705 Miller Parkway – Suite A  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
(785) 537 8764 ext 3

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MANHATTAN, KS  
PERMIT NO. 79

*Happy New Year 2010 !*

## ***WATER CURRENTS NEWSLETTER***

**Riley County Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors:**

**Norman Danielsen**, Chair  
**Stanley Johnson**, Vice Chair  
**Darrell Parks**, Treasurer  
**Steve Hargrave**, Member  
**Nathan Larson**, Member

**Conservation District Staff:**

**Irene S. Johnson**, District Manager  
**Bob Lienemann**, Water Quality / Buffer Coordinator



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Staff:**

**Kevin C. Religa**,  
District Conservationist  
**John Henry**,  
Range Management Specialist  
**Tom Roth**,  
Soil Conservationist  
**Alex Miller**,  
Range Management Specialist  
**Nick Strawn**,  
Soil Conservation Technician

Riley County Conservation District Board meetings are generally held the second Thursday of each month - (March-October at 8:00 PM, and November-February at 7:30 PM). The public is welcome to attend – please call to verify time of meeting.

This newsletter is financed by a grant from the State Conservation Commission NPSP Control Fund and the State Water Plan Fund. All programs and services are provided to anyone regardless of race, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status or handicap.