

Summer 2007

Soil and Water News



Congratulations to Kayla Fringer Best of Show winner of the 1st annual Christian County SWCD Photo Contest

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"Mid Afternoon Beauty" by Oleta McClelland
1st place—Landscape



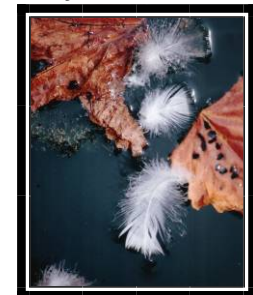
"How Time has Changed" by Kayla Fringer
1st place— Youth Christian Co. Treasures



Kayla Fringer Best of Show Winner 2007
Photo Contest



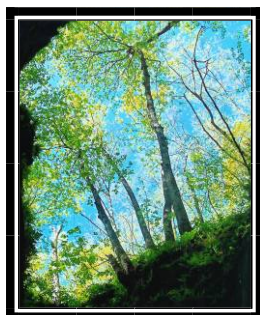
"Butterfly" by Debbie Thompson
1st place—Missouri Nature



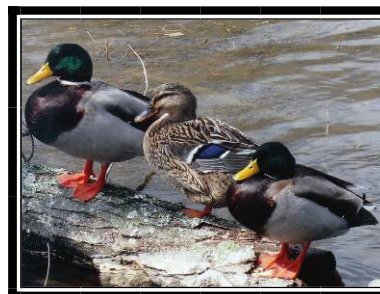
"One, Two, Three" by Wendy Kollmeier
1st place— Trees and Plants

Congratulations go out to Kayla Fringer for winning "Best of Show" in the first annual Christian Co. SWCD Photo Contest for her photo entitled "Three Amigos". The photo contest ran from February 19th to April 6th and received 47 entries from 10 different participants. Over \$500 in cash prizes were given out to the winners of the 10 different photo categories with a \$100 grand prize for "Best of Show". To view all of the winning photos log on to our website's education page <http://www.christiancoswcd.org/Education.htm>. Please look for the contest to take place again this spring so start capturing those precious moments now.

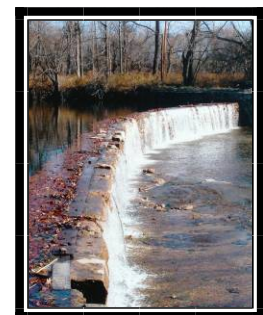
Best of Show



"Inside Looking Out" by Kayla Fringer
1st place— Youth MO Nature



"Three Amigos" by Kayla Fringer
1st place—Youth Finley River



"Linden Dam" by Dick Wilson
1st place—Finley River

Visit us on the web at:
www.christiancoswcd.org



Trees work to improve water quality in the Ozarks

Riparian corridor, what is it and why is it so important?

Well, I intend to answer these questions and hopefully turn you on to thinking about how riparian areas help all of us.

I am sure that most everyone at one time or another has seen a riparian corridor. There is hardly a place here in the Ozarks, that you can



Finley River Riparian Corridor

go where there is no riparian corridor of some kind, although the condition of them varies widely. If you have ever had to pick your way through the brush to get to your favorite fishing hole, look through it to get a better look at a

turkey or deer, floated in a canoe, or just been anywhere near a creek or river, you have seen a riparian corridor. A riparian corridor is an area of land next to a stream that has trees and brushy vegetation in it. They can differ in widths, however they generally are recommended to be in the 50 to 100 ft wide range in relation to the size of the stream they are next too, to provide effective benefit. This group of trees and understory vegetation that we can find very annoying or beneficial, depending on what we are doing at the time, is crucial to the health of a stream for many reasons. The riparian corridor provides essential components that relate physically, biologically, and aesthetically to the health and well being of the area and its many inhabitants.

The physical advantages of having a healthy corridor include reduced overland flow of storm water and sediment carried directly into a stream, and reduced stream bank loss to swiftly flowing water. The reduction of overland flow is due to the vegetation and organic material in the corridor which slows water down before it reaches the stream channel and allows it to infiltrate the soil profile. This flow has the potential to be full of sediment and nutrient concentrations that are very real threats where water quality is concerned. Slowing this flow can promote settling out of sediment and nutrient distribution into the soil, thereby reducing amounts being carried from open areas directly into the stream channel, and thus improving water quality conditions.

This reduction of sediment and nutrients is especially important in areas with losing streams (streams that go dry periodically or only have water in them during storms) or sinkholes, which cover this area of the Ozarks. These areas are direct conduits to groundwater in many cases, and ensuring that the water reaching them is adequately filtered is essential. Slowing down water can be beneficial when considering the effects of nutrient and sediment concentrations within a body of water as well. If you have ever seen a heavy cover of green algae in a stream or water that was muddy looking, then you have seen conditions that can be promoted by nutrient or sediment transport and can have adverse effects on the health of the stream's

ecosystem. Riparian corridors help to alleviate these effects.

Another physical advantage to having a good riparian corridor is that the vegetation in the corridor holds onto soil that borders the stream. It hinders the effects of rapid water movement during storm events by slowing water and reducing the impact of stream bank erosion. Root wads can decrease the impact of erosion by holding the existing soil in place and slowing water velocity in the channel, thereby lessening the effects of soil loss during normal flow. An adequate corridor can slow stream channel water movement during flooding conditions which works essentially the same way as in reducing overland flow. It allows sediments to drop out, increasing potential for water clarity and nutrient deposition.

Biologically, the cover that a corridor provides does many things. It moderates water temperatures to ensure that fish and other aquatic species have a better chance of surviving. It also provides many other wildlife species with cover, food sources, and nesting or dwelling habitat. This provides a better environment for species development and stabilizes habitat areas for long term use.

As I have mentioned previously, a sufficient corridor can help to filter sediment and nutrients, hold soil in place and improve habitat. A good corridor can also improve aesthetic and recreational value as well. Large concentrations of nutrients or sediment can alter our ability to enjoy activities associated with our area's water resources. Canoeing, fishing and swimming activities can be adversely affected. Wildlife variety and availability is directly affected by the amount of established riparian areas, especially in more open areas of the Ozarks where pasture tree cover may be limited. Adequately sized riparian corridors can provide the means to address these issues.

We each enjoy our piece of the Ozark landscape in our own particular way, however without the contributing factor of a sufficient riparian corridor along many of our streams and waterways; we could be truly missing out. Who doesn't like to look out on a stream bank with many native species of trees and brushy plants throughout the seasons and stand in awe of nature? I don't know of a more beautiful place than our region of the country and without sufficient riparian corridors, we have much to lose and little to gain.



Justin Jenkins is the project manager for the Finley River 319 project at the Christian County Soil and Water Conservation District. The project is trying to promote the establishment/enhancement of riparian corridors on small acreages (3-40 acres) as one part of a larger project to improve water quality within the Finley River Watershed.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VII, through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, has provided partial funding for this project under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Signup for Federal Conservation Cost Assistance Program September 10, 2007 through October 5, 2007

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a Federal Cost Assistance program that can assist producers in the installation of various conservation practices on the farm. Some examples might be: Rotational Grazing Systems (cross-fence and livestock water), Animal Waste Systems, Stream Corridor Establishment, Nutrient Management Plans, Pest Management Plans, Forest Stand Improvement, etc.

These programs are long-term contract programs in which you enter into a multi-year agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to install the practices. The contract life can vary from 2 years to a maximum of 10 years. Cost assistance is based on average state and county costs. These incentives will pay set amounts on various practices installed.

The next Sign-Up Period is scheduled for September 10, 2007 to October 5, 2007. The EQIP Program application review period is only set once per year so if a person does not get signed up during this time, their application will not be reviewed until Fall, 2008.

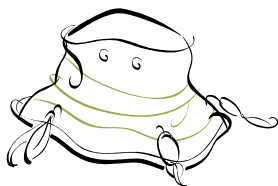
If you are interested in more information on these programs, please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Christian County NRCS
1786 S 16th Ave., Suite 102
Ozark, MO 65721
417-581-2719 Ext.3

Gone Fishin' ...



USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist Loren Kelly passed away August 13, 2007 at the age of 56. Loren served his community as the District Conservationist for Christian, Stone, and Taney counties for many years. Loren was also a passionate bass fisherman, and fished the BFL. He will be greatly missed.



Changing Times Changing Faces



Sam Schauman became the newest member of the Christian Co. SWCD Board of Supervisors in April this year and will represent territory one of the district.

Sam runs a cow/calf operation and manages his own forage and pasture land for hay production northwest of Billings.

Sam is taking the place of Joe Peebles, who after 18 years of service on the Board decided not to run for re-election. We appreciate all of Joe's hard work and dedication to the District and wish him all the best and welcome Sam to the Board.

Along with the addition of Sam to the office there has also been a change in faces in the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Mark Hultgren has replaced Richard Reynolds, who retired as of August 3rd 2007 after 13 years as the County Executive Director for Christian, Stone and Taney County and 37 years with the Farm Service Agency.

Mark is a native of northern Greene County and a graduate from Missouri State University. He transfers here from Booneville and Cooper County and has been with the Agency since October 2004. We would like to welcome Mark to the office and wish Richard a happy retirement.



MDC Private Lands Conservationist Retires

After about 2 years of service to the Christian, Stone and Taney county areas, Larry Martien Private Lands Conservationist (PLC) for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) retired as of June 1st. Larry had been with the Department for over 30 years working in several positions with the fisheries division before taking the position of PLC. We wish Larry all the best in everything he does from here on out.

We expect Larry's position to be filled before the end of the year so keep a look out for news on his replacement.

**CHRISTIAN COUNTY SOIL
AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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Enjoy Reading the Soil and Water News???

If you enjoy reading our newsletter and would like to continue receiving it please let us know. To continue receiving our free newsletter, or to send it to a friend, **please contact us by phone or e-mail by October 1st.**

If you do not respond, you **will not** continue to receive our newsletter.



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Ozark, MO 65721
417-581-2719 Ext. 3 or 1-800-581-6444
Ext. 3



kathryn.allen@mo.nacdnet.net

Equipment for Rent

The District also has Prescribed Burn Equipment, Fencing Equipment and Soil Augers for loan.

10ft. No-Till Drills (3) \$8.00/Ac. \$20.00 Delivery Fee 10 Acre Minimum
8ft. Field Roller \$40.00/day or \$80.00/weekend \$20.00 Delivery Fee
15ft Flex Harrow \$40.00/day \$80.00/weekend \$20.00 Delivery Fee
4ft x 8ft Small Harrow \$20.00/day pick up at office
Electric Broadcast Seeder for ATV \$20.00/day pick up at office

NOTICE: Christian Co. SWCD has received its fiscal year 2008 cost-share allotment. The following cost-share practices will be available. Be ready with a current soil test if you are interested in applying: **Permanent vegetative cover establishment, Permanent vegetative cover improvement, Permanent No-Till inter-seeding of legumes, Woodland & stream protection through livestock exclusion (fencing) and Management intensive grazing.**