

Conservation Conversation

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Thanks for Everything, Jake

By Tony Pals

Jake Kringer passed away on August 6th after a long battle with cancer. I'd known Jake for a long time – over 20 years. I didn't always agree with him, but I always respected his dedication to conservation. Jake was a wildlife biologist with the Illinois Department of Conservation (now the Dept. of Natural Resources) for many years. When we started working on the Vandalia Lake Implementation Plan, I knew we



had to have Jake on the planning committee. He brought a different perspective to the group – a good idea for a planning committee. And, because he did, we had some pretty good discussions on a lot of the topics we had to cover. But Jake always stood his ground on the issues he held dear to his heart – wildlife and wildlife habitat. He certainly kept our meetings interesting. I'll miss you Jake. Thanks for all you did for conservation, and especially for Vandalia Lake.

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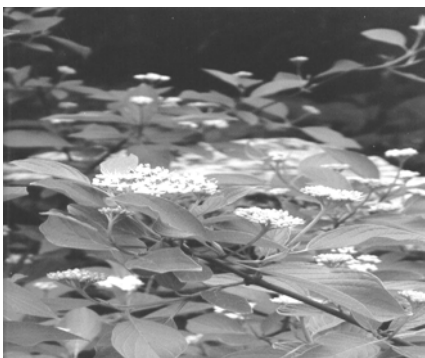
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2007 Tree Sale Begins

By Karen Sanders

Every year the district orders large quantities of trees to sell and this year is no different. We have ordered White Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Red Oak and Red Osier Dogwood (also known as Red Twig Dogwood). White Pine and the Norway Spruce work well together to make a great windbreak, mainly because they both grow fairly fast and have a pretty good survival rate (as long as the animals leave them alone). The Blue Spruce grows a lot slower but they make a beautiful ornamental tree when mature. The Red Oak is a slow growing hardwood, excellent for shade. Each year we try to have something different and this year we found the Red Osier Dogwood. The Dogwood is a thicket-forming shrub that quickly grows to 10 ft. high by 7 to

8 ft. wide. It has small, white flowers that are followed by small, white fruit. In the fall, its foliage turns from green to purple. In the winter, the stems are red, providing a nice contrast to the snow cover. This plant is rugged, tolerating most soil conditions. With additional water, growth rates of 3 to 4 feet per year are possible. It will even grow in wet, swampy conditions and may thrive in sun or shade. The Dogwood is good cover for birds and wildlife. They can be used as a third row in a windbreak and should be planted 6 to 8 feet apart. Remember that trees are usually paid for when they are picked up in the Spring. We will call when the trees arrive, around the first part of April. If you have any question, or are interested in purchasing trees please contact Karen or Tony at the Fayette County SWCD at 618-283-1095 ext. 3 or mail in the attached order form included on page 4.



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Nelsie's News

By Nelson Torbeck

Well, I'm going to start over with this letter. We had a shower come through this afternoon; I thought this is a good time to write my newsletter article. Then the power blinked off and I lost what I had written. Wish I could remember what it was, probably very deep stuff. We did get 3 tenths of welcome rain along with the 5 tenths last night - that will help the double crop beans. Rain was sort of light here this summer, but it will be better next year. By golly, it was HOT in July! We had 4 days of over 100 degrees in a row, and a bunch of high 90's. We didn't do too much those days. It's been nice weather the last week or so. We made a trip up north to see the Tarter's. Kelly had some lumber for me, good lumber too. We had a good visit with Kelly and his mom. Course she had a peach cobbler for lunch - good too. When I started with the SCS, Gerald Rush (the technician at the time) told me that we always checked the Tarter job just before dinner or at lunch time. Don always did a bunch of conservation work, so we had to check the jobs a lot. Anyway, thanks to the Tarter's. Their crops look good; they had more rain than we did. I'm glad for them. We went up there one way and came back another. I didn't get lost coming home but some times I was on a different road than I thought I was. This is going to be a busy month for son Scott and his family. They were over the other Sunday and Travis said, "Don't forget I'm going to Ohio this month." He and a bunch of friends are going to a car race over there. Tim said, "Don't forget I'm going to Wisconsin to see a friend." Scott said, "Well, we're going to Chicago the last part of the month." So they're going to be busy. Son John just works; he's been putting in a lot of overtime this past month. I told him that's when you make the big bucks. Jordy went to a basketball camp a while ago. The high school coach and some of the players have that every summer.



He was staying here those days, so we took him to Salem in the mornings. We would watch them do this and that. There were at least fifty boys having the time of their lives. They would have contests, lay ups, free throws, three point shots, and corner shots. We were proud of Jordy - he won the free throw trophy. That's not bad for as little as he is. Travis says he'll pork up pretty soon, so people will know he's a Torbeck. Jaron is still in the marching band, so we'll be going to Salem football games. He plays the baritone sax now. At least I can see him on the field; it's the biggest sax out there. We go see him and visit with John and family in the stands and watch the first half, and go home. While we're on football, here's a story. Scott played football for Vandalia, so we went to all the games. One night in Shelbyville, I think, the other team was running a play. All of a sudden all heck broke loose. The announcer said, "And Torbeck recovers the fumble." I stayed up and waited for Scott to come home. I told him that he did a good job. He said "I just fell on it, and the rest of the team jumped on me." John was the manager for the team. I asked him why he didn't go out for the team. He said "I get in the game free, I've got the best seat in the house and I don't have to practice, practice, and practice some more. He had a good point! He does take credit for one game. We were playing in Vandalia, and it rained - I mean rain, the whole game. Vandalia won, Greenville I think, John came home and said, "well I won that game." I told him he didn't play. Well, come to find out they changed balls every play and he made sure Vandalia always had a dry ball. Here's a question: If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy? The old saying "Laughing is good exercise, it's like jogging inside"

District Purchases Filter Fabric Plow

By Tony Pals

One of the easiest conservation practices to design is the grass waterway. Construction is another matter, it being hard to get the parabolic shape necessary for maximum efficiency. But we have some experienced contractors who have mastered the technique. The trouble with waterways is that, no matter how well you design and construct them, they will get a gully down the middle of them if you get a big rain before the grass is established. That's why we try to construct them in late July through early September. First, our fall grass seeding dates are August 1 through September 20, and, second, we generally get very few big, fast rains in that time period. To help reduce the gullies, the SWCD has purchased a filter fabric plow to install fabric



checks across the bottom of those waterways (see photo). They work similar to rock checks but with a lot less cost and hassle. Gullies generally start at the bottom of a waterway and unravel up - the farther they can unravel, the deeper they tend to get. The idea of the fabric check is to stop any gully from getting any farther than the next fabric check, essentially controlling length and depth. We will be including fabric checks in almost all of our waterway designs from now on since we feel it is cheap insurance for good waterways. We are charging \$.60¢ per foot of fabric check. That includes the use of the plow and the filter fabric used.

Conservation Conversation
FAYETTE COUNTY SWCD
301 South Third Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-1095, Ext. 3
Fax: 618-283-4962

Non Profit Organization
Permit #53
Vandalia, IL

Conservation Calendar

October 2006

9- Columbus Day
19 - Board Meeting
16 - Boss's Day
30 - Tony's Birthday
31 -Halloween

November 2006

7 - Election Day
10 - Veteran's Day
23 - Thanksgiving Day
29 - Daylight Savings Time ends

Fayette County SWCD Annual Tree Sale

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Day-time Phone: _____

- Bundles (25) White Pine, \$14
- Bundles (25) Norway Spruce, \$14
- Bundles (10) Blue Spruce, \$8
- Northern Red Oak, 2 for \$4
- Red Osier Dogwood, 2 for \$3

Mail form to: Fayette County
SWCD
301 South Third Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-1095 ext. 3

CPP Cost-Share Funds Allocated

By Tony Pals

We just received word as of this writing date the amount of cost share funds allocated to Fayette County for FY 2007. We will get \$16,400 for cost share on conservation practices throughout the county. This will be for practices already signed up. We will prioritize our list and will probably have contacted those that ranked high enough to be funded by the time you get this. I know \$16,400 isn't a lot of money, but its \$6,000 more than we got last year, and \$16,400 more than we got the year before that. So, we're going in the right direction anyway. We also received an additional \$5,000 to be used in the county's three TMDL watersheds. If you remember, TMDL is an EPA acronym for total maximum daily load, meaning they identify the total amount of a pollutant that a water body can handle per day. The three watersheds that have been studied in Fayette County are Vandalia Lake, the East Fork, and the North Fork. We can use these TMDL funds for any practice that reduces the pollution getting to these water bodies, but we have been strongly urged to use them for nutrient management. This practice offers \$10 per acre to the farmer and \$3 to the plan preparer for applying fertilizer based on the soil test recommendations. The idea behind this is to reduce the amount of fertilizer applied in these watersheds, and, therefore, the amount of nutrients getting to the water bodies. It can save on your input costs while improving your position if and when we get CSP (the Conservation Security Program) in this area. Nutrient management is one of the first things looked at when determining the tier you will be in - and therefore the amount of money you can receive. Having this nutrient management plan is very good documentation.

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