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## Heart to Heart ... with Hardisty



As of April 27, 2010 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) will be 75 years old. That equates to 75 years of serving the nation as stewards of our natural resources. I am personally very proud of the agency's legacy of conservation, which is a true national treasure.

Since 1942, eight state conservationists have lead the agency in Indiana, beginning with State Conservationist Kenneth Welton. Other state conservationists that followed were Charles Swain, Kenneth Grant, Thomas Evans, Cletus Gillman, Buell Ferguson, and Robert Eddleman. It is an honor to be included in this select group.

Recognizing that conservation is as important today as it was during the Dust Bowl, NRCS is committed to building on its 75 years of conservation excellence. The original concern of preventing soil erosion has evolved into many conservation efforts. Not only are we helping land-owners with their natural resources concerns, we now are addressing today's challenges to the environment; climate change, loss of open space, and hypoxia, to name a few.

I want to thank our NRCS family and conservation partners for making the past 75 years a huge success!



*Jane E. Hardisty*

**\* \* \* \* Employee Spotlight \* \* \* \***

**Virginia Horn,  
State Office Assistant**

If you hear a new voice answering the phone at the state office, you are probably talking to Virginia Horn. Let's put a face with the voice and have Virginia share some information so we can get to know her.

**Q:** As a transplant to Indiana, would you tell our readers about growing up in Maryland?

**A:** I loved living outside of the Nation's Capitol and took advantage of all of the museums and cultural activities the city offered. My family ran together in road races, so we saw a lot of the area first hand. As a teenager, I remember thinking that there was no better place in the world to live.

**Q:** We understand that you attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and graduated with a degree in Oceanography. Sounds intriguing! How was life in the Navy?

**A:** Awesome! I had so many fabulous opportunities. My interest in Oceanography allowed me to travel to the South China Sea aboard a hydrographic survey ship, as well as be a crew member (15 students, two adults) on a 92' sailboat that we took from Annapolis to Bermuda and back.....all in the name of education! School was physically challenging, as well, but as a cross country runner I had an easier time staying in shape. My classmates didn't bother me too much either, because I could outrun them!

**Q:** What brought you to the Hoosier State?

**A:** When my husband, Tom (Marine Corps), and I decided to leave the military, the first civilian job he took was here in Indy with Navistar. We have come to believe that it is the best place in the world to raise a family.



**Q:** Of course it is! Now please tell us about your two sons.

**A:** Tom and I have two wonderful sons who are currently in college. They will be even 'more wonderful' once they graduate and begin paying their own bills. Bill is a senior at Denison University, majoring in East Asian Studies/Chinese, and is currently looking for a job in China. Brian is majoring in Communications at the University of Dayton and is still searching for his passion. Both boys enjoy music and are the joy of my life (most of the time)!

**Q:** Between work and family, do you have time for any special hobbies?

**A:** I love talking to students about college/career options after high school. A few years ago I earned a certificate in College Counseling from UCLA, so I spend a lot of time poking around college Web sites, following news releases, etc. As a member of the Parent Council, I represent Denison University at college fairs; and I represent my alma mater, USNA, on nomination boards for Congressman Dan Burton and Senator Richard Lugar. I also love to walk, garden, play with our Springer Spaniel, read, watch HGTV, and bother my children on the phone.

## Hoosier Happenings

### KUDOS to...

**\*\*Jill Reinhart** for a terrific job of instructing a session on communications at the Leadership Institute in March. A District Supervisor and Board members commented on Jill's great session.—Laura Fribley, ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation

**\*\*Indiana Soils/Prime Farmland Team** for winning the U.S. Department of Interior's 'Partners in Conservation' award and being recognized for achievements relating to conservation of our nation's natural resources. The award was established to recognize conservation achievements that include collaborative activity among Federal, state, and local governments, private institutions, other nongovernmental entities, and individuals. Such achievements would include partnering to conserve and restore our treasured landscapes, help wildlife thrive, address water issues, and develop solutions to natural resource challenges.

### NRCS at Morgan County Garden Show

The Morgan County SWCD sponsored an NRCS booth at this year's Morgan County Garden Show in March. Tony Branam, district conservationist for Johnson and Morgan counties, represented NRCS well and distributed boxes of information. He had many opportunities for discussions with attendees as he spoke with nearly 70 attendees personally on various topics: invasive species and Emerald Ash Borer, trees and Plant A Million, rain gardens, bees and pollinators, composting, Backyard Conservation, USDA and technical information.

### Hardisty Receives Ag Advocate Award

State Conservationist Jane Hardisty received high honors in March by the Sigma Alpha Sorority (Sisters in Agriculture) in Louisville, Kentucky. Annually, the sorority's National Board of Directors select four individuals to receive their Ag Advocate Award, and this year State Conservationist Hardisty was chosen as a recipient.

The sorority's objective and description of the award/candidate is to promote its members in all facets of agriculture and to strengthen the bonds of friendship among them. It is the purpose of the members to strive for achievement in scholarship, leader-

ship, and service, and to further the development of excellence in women pursuing careers in agriculture.



Pictured above: Jane Hardisty receives Ag Advocate Award from Sigma Alpha Sorority

### NRCS Makes the News!

Guess who made the front page of The Review Republican, Warren County's newspaper, on February 25, 2010? NRCS Ben Lambeck, district conservationist for Warren County, was pictured on the front page in an article about the Warren County SWCD Annual Meeting. Lambeck spoke at the meeting where he highlighted many of the services that are available to landowners through NRCS. He was quoted as saying, "The vision and mission of the NRCS is to promote productive lands and a healthy environment and to help people help the land."

### Training Conference Held in Kansas City

In addition to employee groups and Leadership Team members, nine members of Indiana's Civil Rights Advisory Committee (CRAC) were privileged to attend the 2010 Joint Professional Employee Organization & Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) Training Conference in March in Kansas City, Missouri.

(more on page 4)

## —Special Emphasis—

### Women's History Month

This year marks the 30th anniversary of celebrating Women's History, which began when Former President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as the first National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and March is now known as National Women's History Month.

This year's theme is "Writing Women Back into History." According to the National Women's History Project ([www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)), "As late as the early 1980s, the topic of women's history was limited to college curricula. Less than three percent of the content of teacher training textbooks mentioned the contributions of women and when included, women were usually written in as mere footnotes. Women of color and women in fields such as math, science, and art were merely mentioned."

Holli Kuykendall, an ecologist on the Soil Quality Team at the East National Technology Service Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, is this year's poster contest winner. The poster can be accessed from the national NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/civilrights/FWPpage.html>.

Contact: Kamara Holmes, Indiana Federal Women's Program Manager at [kamara.holmes@in.usda.gov](mailto:kamara.holmes@in.usda.gov)

## **PARTNERSHIP LINKS**

Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, *Weekly Updates*:

<http://www.iaswcd.org/whatsnew/index.html>

ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation:

<http://www.in.gov/isda/soil/>

Purdue University: [www.purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu)

Indiana Conservation Partnership:  
[www.iaswcd.org/icp/index.html](http://www.iaswcd.org/icp/index.html)

## Hoosier Happenings (cont.)

The conference was held to provide training for the NRCS professional employee organizations and included topics on agency initiatives, professional development and leadership. They also had the opportunity to network and learn from NRCS leadership and employees from across the country.



SEPMs attended training to help them develop and implement activities and initiatives that support the agency's mission. SEPM training highlighted Roles and Responsibilities, Reasonable Accommodations and Building Accessibility, Recruitment and Retention, Data and Barrier Analysis, Communication Skills, Effectively Managing the Special Emphasis Program, and National and Field Practices (Idea Exchange).

### Earth Day 2010 Celebrated

To celebrate Earth Day, volunteers gathered to spruce up the many walking trails and Trailhead Park near Delphi. The goal of 100 volunteers was met as young and old alike showed up to share in the fun and work for the environment. Hundreds of tree seedlings were planted on a new Floodplain Easement site that belongs to the Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Corporation. The planting site was in the bottomlands next to the junction of Deer Creek and the Wabash River, returning former cropland to conditions more like a native river floodplain.

The Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Corporation sponsored the event with support from the USDA NRCS Earth Team. Earth Team volunteers were designated as 'captains' for the day as they directed the work and answered questions at various locations. All the volunteers were treated to a free lunch served by the Psi Iota Xi Sorority, which added to the successful day.

## Goose Pond Completion Celebration

Nearly 100 people gathered near Linton in Greene County on February 26, 2010 to celebrate the completion of Indiana's largest Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) project. The project, which includes Goose Pond and Beehunter Marsh sites, is one of the nation's largest with a 7,200-acre easement.



(Goose Pond Awardees pictured above, left to right) Front Row: Jerry Roach, Ray McCormick, Dan Luczynski, Travis Walters. Second Row: Jane Hardisty, Dave Stratman, Denise Held, Chris Ritz, Beth Clarizia, Jeff Coats, Ann Mills. Back Row: Jerry Runyon, Jeff Spurlock, Mike Cox, Todd Bisner.

USDA's Deputy Undersecretary for Ag and Natural Resources Ann Mills, who attended the event, is pictured below with State Conservationist Jane Hardisty.



(Goose Pond Founders pictured below, left to right) Robert Eddleman, Jane Hardisty, Ray McCormick, Bill McCoy, John Davis, David Hudak, and Mac Moulden.



## **Personnel Update**

### Reassignment/Selections:

Virginia Horn, State Office Administrator, Indianapolis, effective 03/28/2010

Adam Heichelbech, Soil Conservationist, Programs Staff, Indianapolis, effective 04/11/2010

Kevin Chastain, District Conservationist, Corydon, (servicing Harrison, Floyd, and Crawford counties), effective 04/25/2010

Jennifer Chen, Soil Conservationist, Technology Staff, Indianapolis, effective 07/18/2010

### Resignation:

Bruce Nielsen, Geographic Mapping Specialist, Indianapolis, effective 03/12/2010

### Transfer:

Keri Bilbo, Resource Management Specialist, Southeast Area Office, to NRCS, Bozeman, MT, effective 05/08/2010

Cory Wolfe, Area Engineer, Southeast Area Office, to NRCS, Bozeman, MT, effective 05/08/2010

## **Featured Web Site—America's Great Outdoors**

On April 16, 2010, President Barrack Obama spoke at the America's Great Outdoors Conference, which was sponsored by the White House, USDA, Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency. A video of the event is posted on the White House Web site where President Obama mentioned the NRCS 75th anniversary. You can view the President's remarks at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/president-obama-signs-america-s-great-outdoors-memorandum>.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### April

04/25-05/02/10      NACD 2010 Stewardship Week, “Conservation Habits=Healthy Habitats”

04/27/10      75th Anniversary of NRCS

04/27/10      NW Area Meeting, Lafayette

04/28/10      SW Area Meeting, Vincennes

May

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 05/02-07/10 | Leadership Development Program, Washington, DC visit |
| 05/04/10    | NE Area Meeting, Columbia City                       |
| 05/05/10    | CRP Training, Warsaw                                 |
| 05/06/10    | CRP Training, Lafayette                              |
| 05/11/10    | CRP Training, Petersburg                             |
| 05/12/10    | SE Area Meeting, North Vernon                        |
| 05/13/10    | CRP Training, Greensburg                             |
| 05/20/10    | FOTG Meeting, State Office, Indianapolis             |
| 05/20-21/10 | RC&D Summit, Spencer                                 |
| 05/21/10    | GLCI Meeting, State Office, Indianapolis             |
| 05/25/10    | NW Area Meeting, Lafayette                           |
| 05/26/10    | SW Area Meeting, Terre Haute                         |
| 05/31/10    | MEMORIAL DAY   |

Note: For a listing of Natural Resources Education Center workshops, go to [www.in.gov/dnr/nrec](http://www.in.gov/dnr/nrec)

*Helping People Help the Land*