



News Release

Mills Soil and Water Conservation District Held 6th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet

On Thursday, November 12th, 2009 the Mills Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) honored two landowners for their commitment to conservation of natural resources within Mills County. The Mills-Montgomery Cattlemen’s Association supplied and prepared steaks and sides for the event, which took place in the Malvern Community building.

After dinner, Wayne Phipps of Glenwood presented a slide show on the cultural resources and a proposed archeology interpretive center within Mills County. Awards were then presented to individual landowners for their conservation efforts.

Mr. Bill Burgoin was recognized with the “Conservation Achievement” Award. Over the past few years, Bill has enrolled over 60 acres of his own land into the Conservation Reserve Program, as well as assisting in the enrollment of more than 65 acres on land that he rents.



Bill Burgoin, 2009 Conservation Achievement Award Winner

Bill used this program as it was originally intended, taking out less productive or critical land. This helped him increase the efficiency of his operation, while protecting the soil on his farm and the water that left his land.



Albert Washburn, 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

The “Lifetime Achievement” recipient was awarded to Mr. Albert Washburn. In 1956, Albert first served as an assistant commissioner to the Mills Soil and Water Conservation District. The very next year, Albert was elected by his peers as the Chair of the Soil and Water District, and held that position for 25 years.

In his tenure, Albert was essential in the completion of Mule Creek Watershed, the development and completion of Pony Creek Watershed, and the start of Waubonsie Watershed. These projects brought millions of federal dollars into the county to protect the farmland, soil and water resources of our area. He also helped

Paul Hathaway, CHR

Steve Roenfeldt, V-CHR

Commissioners
Steve McGrew

Sandra Mass

Rodney Seipold



Mills

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promote the millions of feet of terraces that were installed in the county.

In 1982, Albert received the State Award for Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner. He continued to serve as a commissioner until 1994, nearly 38 years. Albert now serves as an Assistant Commissioner, offering insight as to the original intentions of the Mills Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Mills SWCD also recognized four women for their volunteer work to NRCS and the district. In the spring of 2006, Suzanne Burgoin, Deloris Williams, Becky Wearin-Pulk, and Beverly Dashner agreed to help the Mills SWCD and Natural Resources Conservation Service office in its endeavor to reach out to women landowners. The project was "Women, Land and Legacy" and they volunteered well over 300 hours with a great deal of ability and enthusiasm.



Suzanne Burgoin, Bev Dashner, and Deloris Williams (and late Becky Wearin-Pulk) were recognized for their extraordinary efforts during the "Women, Land, and Legacy" informational series.

The first session focused on a learning session designed to find out what information women wanted and, more importantly, how they wanted that information provided. We had a tremendous turnout during that first meeting, and over the next couple of years, quarterly sessions were held, each well attended. The sessions left the women asking for more! The following programs were covered:

- "Where There's a Will, There's a Way"
- "Letters from the Government"
- "Hot Topics, Cool Solutions"
- "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"
- "Cash Rent, What should I Get, What should I Pay"
- "Grain Marketing for Dummies"
- "Puzzling Pieces of Your Farming Future"

Mills County SWCD Commissioners would like to thank the award winner and volunteers for their continued commitment to our natural resources.

Mills SWCD would like to thank the following businesses and people for sponsoring this annual event (continued on next page):

Paul Hathaway, CHR **Steve Roenfeldt, V-CHR** **Commissioners**
Steve McGrew **Sandra Mass** **Rodney Seipold**

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