

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts



Conservation Education & Youth Committee

2023 Committee Members

Dwayne Roux—Chairman
Jarrod and Sarah Bowser
Brian Boeckman
Trent Winter
Nina Meyer
Pamela Walker—Secretary
Brandon Dibben
Angela Beavers

2023 Committee Advisors

Dan Meyerhoff, KACD Executive Director
Ronald Brown, KACD
NRCS
Cathy Thompson KDA-DOC
Nancy Zenger-Beneda KFAC
Laura Downey, KACEE

2023 Youth Awards Financial Sponsors

KACD
KACD Auxiliary
Farm Credit Association of America
Conservation Districts

39th Annual Speech Contest
"Healthy Soil, Healthy Life"
November 20, 2023

Program

10:05 a.m. - 12 noon

Registration (10:00 a.m.).....
Call to Order.....Dwayne Roux
Introduction of Committee Members.....Dwayne Roux
Appointment of Secretary.....Dwayne Roux
Review and Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting found in Program Booklet

Speech Contest

Contest Judges:

Rhonda McCurry
Candy Thomas
Mike Beam

Contestants.

Area I..... Brielle Hanna, Gove County
Area II.....
Area III.....Noah Goss, Ellsworth County
Area IV..... Madelyn Heigert, Pottawatomie Co
Area V..... Summer Raymond, Wilson County

The State speech contest is sponsored by Farm Credit of Kansas
Area contest prizes provided by KACD

Essay Contest Winner Presentation -Brandon Dibben
Limerick Contest Winner Presentation-Brian Boeckman
Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship Recipients & General Memorial.....Nina Meyer
Photo Contest Winner Recognition -Pamela Walker
Poster, Limerick, & Essay Awards announced.....Angela Beavers
Envirothon Report.....Dana Schmelzle
Interview with the 2023 Speech Contestants.....Jarrod Bowser
Adjournment.....Dwayne Roux

The Conservation Education and Youth Committee would like to
thank all of the Districts that organized and hosted the
Area Speech Contests.

2023 STATE KACD CONTEST WINNERS

“One Water”

POSTERS

K & 1st Grade

1st Place-Stephanie Arceo, Stanton Co.
2nd Place-Charlie Lee, Dickinson Co.
3rd Place-Vanessa Gonzalez Amodor, Stevens Co.

Honorable Mention:

Milo Kleinert, Washington Co
Scarlett LeBien, Lincoln Co.
Harlow Rogers, Ellsworth Co.
Ethan Simpson, Linn Co.
Gwenivive Weber, Jackson Co.

2nd & 3rd Grade

1st Place-Ellis Jensen, Washington Co.
2nd Place-Henley Holthaus, Nemaha Co.
3rd Place-Hartlyn Zink, Ellsworth Co.

Honorable Mention:

Myah Chaplin, Bourbon Co.
Mariah Goldsmith, Butler Co..
Atticus Adams, Clark Co.
Raydence Franklin, Crawford Co.
Eve Mick, Osborne Co.

4th-6th Grade

1st Place-Emery Vinduska, Barton Co.
2nd Place-Ronni Stoppel, Lincoln Co.
3rd Place-Camden Floyd, Stanton Co.

Honorable Mention:

Kinley Greene, Jewell Co.
Shay Cavenee, Rawlins Co.
Brogan Pfaff, Rooks Co.
Sidney Hulse, Wilson Co
Jase Meier, Washington Co.

7th-9th Grade

1st Place-Brady Becker, Nemaha Co.
2nd Place-Evelyn Jones, Pottawatomie Co.
3rd Place-Aubree Pate, Stevens Co.

Honorable Mention:

Isabelle Jueneman-Washington Co.
Kasen Stramel, Wallace Co.
Emerie Woolfolk, Comanche Co.
Kirsten Smith, Brown Co.
Brooklynne Miller, Barber Co.

10th-12th Grade

1st Place-Addyson Bryan, Barber Co.
2nd Place-Mierya Villa, Sheridan Co
3rd Place—Alexis Baker, Linn Co.

Special Purpose Conservation Posters

1st Place—Eli Hull, Morton Co.
2nd Place—Jainel Cruz, Wilson Co.

LIMERICKS

1st Place– Alyson Taylor, Kiowa Co
2nd Place-Morgan Vorhees, Wilson Co.
3rd Place– Kaleb Fowler, Pottawatomie Co.

Honorable Mention:

Shelby Harris, Franklin Co.
Katani Ortiz, Brown Co.
Kristin VanCleave, Osage Co.
Koy Williams, Pottawatomie Co.
Edison Merritt, Linn Co.

ESSAYS

1st Place-Juan Cordova, Crawford Co.
2nd Place-Mayerly Hernandez, Morton Co.
3rd Place-Raylee Wahwasuck, Brown Co.

Honorable Mention:

Isabella Glover, Coffey Co
Hannah Vague, Ellsworth Co.
Valen Vague, Ellsworth Co.
Leia Martin, Osage Co.
Isaac Giancola, Sheridan Co.

PHOTOS

Subject Matter: CONSERVATION PRACTICES

1st Place—Latham Kramer, Nemaha Co.
2nd Place –Alison Rosebrook, Lincoln Co.

Honorable Mention:

Hannah Vague, Ellsworth Co.
Natalie Behrends, Franklin Co.
Zoey Klataske, Riley Co.

2023 1st PLACE ESSAY CONTEST

Juan Cordova, Crawford County

Water is Life

Water is vital for our well being. One of the things people, animals and our environment cannot live without is water. Three issues concerning our water supply include water importance, watersheds and water conservation.

Water is extremely important for our well being. Water is essential to keep our bodies functioning properly and feeling healthy. Water plays many important roles in our bodies including: flushing waste from the body, regulating body temperature and transporting nutrients. According to studies from the Gundersen Health System, 60 percent of our body weight is made up of water, therefore humans can only live 3 to 5 days without any water or fluids.. Water also makes it possible to do many daily tasks. Some of these tasks are drinking, preparing food, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, brushing your teeth, watering the garden, and even washing the dog. Water not only helps us, but our environment. Water helps regulate earth's temperature. Water currents regulate global climate, helping to counteract the uneven distribution of solar radiation reaching Earth's surface. All living organisms depend on water. Life-forms use water to carry nutrients around the body and to take away waste. Water also helps breakdown food and keep organisms cool, amount other very important jobs.

What are watersheds? Watersheds are land acres that channel rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams and rivers and eventually outflow points such as reservoirs, bays and the ocean. The definition of watersheds may lead you to think that watersheds may not be very important, but that is the opposite. Healthy watersheds provide us with clean drinking water. Healthy watersheds also affect the water cycle. According to PSU researchers, the water movement that watersheds provide help the water cycle with easier precipitation and evaporation. Watersheds are very pmportant to our communities. Watersheds provide us with clean drinking water. Studies from the American Water Works Association Journal show that the forests, stream borders and wetlands of watersheds serve as natural filters for many contaminants; they also help preserve water quality. Watersheds no only provide us with clean drinking water, but they also help with soil formation. This is very important to the process of agriculture.

Water conservation is extremely important for humans and basically every other living organism in the environment. There are many reasons as to why we need to consider conserving water. One, conserving water can help prevent droughts and two, conserving water helps nature and everything on it. Conserving water can seem overwhelming, but is actually very simple. Ways to conserve water are by reducing the amount of unnecessary water usage and by not littering near any body of water.

In conclusion, water is extremely important, in fact water is life. Watersheds contribute to our drinking water and other things environmentally. Water conservation is vital to ensure that us and our next generation will live and thrive. That's why if able you should consider conserving water.

2023

Conservation District Sponsors

The KACD Conservation Education and Youth Committee gratefully acknowledges the individual sponsorship contributions of the following Conservation Districts. Your financial support is truly appreciated and is being put to good use in promoting conservation education activities.

Aitchison	Barber	Bourbon
Brown	Butler	Clay
Coffey	Comanche	Crawford
Decatur	Dickinson	Douglas
Ellis	Ellsworth	Finney
Franklin	Geary	Greeley
Greenwood	Harvey	Jackson
Jefferson	Jewell	Kiowa
Labette	Lincoln	Linn
Marshall	Miami	Mitchell
Nemaha	Neosho	Osborne
Osage	Pottawatomie	Riley
Rooks	Rush	Russell
Sedgwick	Seward	Sheridan
Stanton	Wabaunsee	Wallace
Washington	Wilson	

Thanks for your continued support!

Golden Key Donors
Kiowa County, Jackson County, and
Sedgwick County all donated

Congratulations to Our 2023 Scholarship Recipients

The Don and Caroline Peterson Scholarship and the General Memorial Scholarship were established in memory of individuals who were active in the conservation and protection of our natural resources. Individual contributions are combined to provide the scholarships.

Kristen Floyd, Kingman County
Attending Ft. Hays State University

Rachel Sebesta, Ellsworth Co.
Attending Kansas State University

Kaitlyn Seiwert, Kingman County
Attending Kansas State University

Scholarship Amount and Establishment:

Up to \$1,000.00 for the fall semester for a full time college Junior or Senior Student majoring in a Natural Resource related field.

2023

Don and Caroline Peterson Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Each year, Don's wife and children made personal contributions to this fund to help deserving students pursue higher education in conservation based degree programs. Last year, word was received of the passing of Caroline, and her children requested that the scholarship be renamed from the Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship to the Don and Caroline Peterson Memorial Scholarship.

In addition to their continued annual contributions to the fund, they named the scholarship fund as recipient of half of the funds given as memorial. Their generosity and commitment to the work of conservation in Kansas will benefit students for years to come as well as stand as a fitting tribute to the legacy of Don and Caroline Peterson.

Quinn Girard, Cloud County
Attending—Ft. Hays State University

Macy Odle, Rooks County
Attending—Kansas State University

Jacob Bell, Stevens County
Oklahoma Panhandle State University

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dwayne Roux, Harvey County Supervisor, served as the Chairman for the Education and Youth Committee this year. The committee is made up of ten members along with six advisors. The committee members are listed on the front of the Annual Meeting program and include, Dwayne Rounx, Chairman, Ashley Janzen, Secretary, Jarrod and Sarah Bowser, Brian Boeckman, Trent Winter, Nina Meyer, Pam Walker, Brandon Dibben, and Angela Beavers. Advisors to the committee include Dan Meyerhoff, Nancy Zenger-Beneda, KFAC Laura Downey, KACEE, Ron Brown, KACD, NRCS and Cathy Thompson KDA-DOC. The committee met via e-mail in May to determine scholarship winners, in-person at the State Fair in September and in-person at KACD Convention in November.

On November 1, 2021, the KACD Education and Youth General Bank Account totaled \$10,511.27 in operating funds, \$200.00 in the General Scholarship fund and \$4,430.00 in the Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Intrust Bank is the official depository of the committee's funds. As of October 31, 2022, the General Account has a balance of \$9574.14 the General Memorial fund totaled \$200.00 and the Don and Caroline Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund totaled \$5,480.00. These funds are deposited in the Intrust Bank. The KACD Education & Youth Committee continue to use of the KACD EIN No.

In February the committee sent their annual sponsorship request to 105 Conservation Districts. In 2022 41 Conservation Districts contributed \$ 2,875.00 to the activities of the committee. A list of contributing counties is found in the KACD Education & Youth Program booklet. Two Districts Riley County and Kiowa County were the Gold Key Members for donating \$250 to the committee.

The Committee met via Zoom in May to review scholarship applications. Three applications were received and met eligibility criteria. Each of the applicants were awarded \$1000.00 to continue their Agriculture/Natural Resources education. Two of these awards were made from the General Account and one from the Don and Caroline Peterson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship recipients were Caleb Hinck and Riley Krehbiel and Kara Hays.

In 2022 Farm Credit Association of America agreed to be the exclusive sponsor of the speech contest in the amount of \$2,500. \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for each Honorable Mention. The remaining \$250 will be used to pay for the plaques, postage and other expenses incurred with the contest.

This year, Rush County judged the Poster Contest, Sedgwick County judged the Limerick Contest, Shawnee County judged the Essay Contest and Wilson County judged the Photo Contest. The Committee would like to thank these counties for the extra time and effort they put forth to make these contests a success. The first place winners from the poster and photo contests will be sent on for national competition. The first place essay and limerick winner will receive \$100.00 for first place entries

Kansas Envirothon is a subcommittee of the KACD Conservation Education & Youth Committee and their Annual Report is included in this program. That report will be submitted to KACD along with this committee's reports.

The 2022 Poster, Essay, Limerick, Photo Contest awardees are found in the KACD Conservation Education & Youth Committee Program.

Submitted By: Dwayne Roux, Chairman, KACD Conservation Education and Youth Committee



Kansas Envirothon Annual Report – 2023

The 2023 Kansas Envirothon held regional competitions throughout the state in April. The State Envirothon was April 26th at Camp Wood. There were 12 teams participating with Manhattan High School in Riley County taking first place. The Current Issue for the competition was "*Adapting to a Changing Climate*".

The team from Manhattan then went on to participate in the National Conservation Foundation's International Envirothon, which was also held and hosted by the National Conservation Foundation's International Envirothon -New Brunswick, Canada. Kansas placed 12th out of 49 teams.

Kansas Envirothon received a diversity grant from the National Conservation Foundation & National Envirothon and the United States Forest Service. With the funds a storage trailer was purchased with the help of our major sponsors. The trailer will store all the necessary supplies for Regional and State Events. KACD was an integral part of making this possible.

Plans are under way by the committee for in-person Envirothon competitions in 2024. April 3 –Regional Event held at the Red Rock Guest Ranch in Jackson County
April 3 –Regional Event held at North Central KS LOCATION TBD
April 10 –Regional Event held at White Memorial Camp in Morris County.
April 10 –Regional Event held in Linn County at the Fair grounds in Mound City,
KS April 24 –Kansas Envirothon held at Camp Wood near Elmdale, Kansas
July 28-Aug 3 –National Conservation Foundation's International Envirothon -Geneva, New York
The Current Issue for 2024 is "**Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future**".

The Envirothon committee current has a balance of \$19,818.72 in their bank account.

Dana Schmelzle (Nemaha County Conservation District
Manager) Chair

KACD Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20th-21st, 2022
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 2pm

The KACD Youth and Education Committee met on November 20th, 2022. Jarrod Bowser called the meeting to order at 2:08pm. The meeting started with member introductions.

Members present: Nina Meyer, Angela Beavers, Pamela Walker, Brandon Dibben, Brian Boeckman, Suzy Mooney, Dana Schmelzle, Marlene Schmidt, Jeni Ewy, Leslie Holthaus, Janel Odle, Pamela Hays, Trent Winter.

Advisors present: Jack Fitzgerald, NRCS ASTC for Partnerships,

Jarrod Bowser appointed Ashley Janzen as the acting secretary.

Nov. 20th, 2022, Angela Beavers made a motion to approve the minutes of September 15th, 2022 meeting. Nina Meyer made the second. Motion carried. November 21, 2022, Brandon Dibben made the motion to approve minutes from November 21st, 2021. Trent Winter made the second. Motion carried.

Ashley Janzen presented the treasurer's report. Bills to approve are contest winners prize money, invoice from Jayhawk Trophy for the plaques and medals and lunch tickets for speech contest attendees. Angela Beavers made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Nina Meyer made the second. Motion carried. Trent Winter made the motion to approve the bills to be paid. Brian Boeckman made the second. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ashley Janzen reported that 42 conservation districts have paid "dues" this year with Riley, Kiowa and Sedgwick Counties being the Golden key donors with \$250. This is an increase in counties donating from years past.

Pam Walker reported that the contest winners will be displayed downstairs on a TV plus our committee table will have the essay winners displayed. Pam Walker reported that this year we had 13 essays, 132 posters, 2 photo and 20 Limericks. Pam reminded the committee members that each county is allowed to enter 2 essays and 2 limericks. Contest participation is up from last year but still down from 2019. Pam suggested reaching out to more counties and doing more training. Nina Meyer also reported that she has envelopes for each district that had winners of contests that has medals. Ashley reported that the limerick and essay winners will be present at the speech contest to read.

Dana Schmelzle reported on the Envirothon. This last year was State back in person at Camp Wood with 11 teams. Manhattan high school took 15th place at State and placed 15th out of 40 teams at Internationals. 2023 regional sites will be White Memorial Camp April 12th, Red Rock Ranch April 5th, Linn County Fairgrounds April 13th and Wilson Lake April 5th. State Competition will be in person at Camp Wood on April 26th. Training day was held in Manhattan on November 10th. 8 teams participated with 7 of those teams being new. Still working on getting the website updated with new PowerPoints on the resources page. With the grant money a trailer was purchased to transport all the Envirothon stuff. Working on shelving and decals. Committee will discuss more at the 4:30pm meeting.

Ashley Janzen reported that checks have been cleared for the three scholarship winners. This year the committee decided to raise the scholarship amount to \$1000. Two of Don and Caroline Petersons children have been very involved this year with the scholarship. Ashley sent them the applications and they had first pick on their scholarship. Caleb Hinck and Riley Krehbiel won the General Scholarship and Kara Hays won the Don and Caroline Peterson scholarship.

Unfinished Business:

Ashley Janzen reported that the Judges for the speech contest would be Reese Wilkison Harvey County NRCS DC, Ariel Whitely-Knoll with Kansas Forest Services and Nancy Zenger-Beneda KFAC.

New Business:

Ashley Janzen has accepted a job with FSA and has started already. Jeni Ewy will be the new district manager for Harvey County and Secretary for the Education and Youth committee. Sponsorship letter will be sent out after the 15th of the year. After meeting the committee will need to look at the room and make sure that it is set up for tomorrow's speech contest. Angela Beavers had everyone look at the program and discussion around who is doing what tomorrow for the speech contest. Pam Walker suggested that at the next meeting we discuss the citation for the speech contest for next year.

Announcements:

Jarrold announced the judges for this year's contest: Reese Wilkison NRCS, Ariel Whitely-Knoll with Kansas Forest Services and Kevin Regila NRCS. Jarrold also announced our sponsor Farm Credit Association of Kansas.

Jarrold Bowser introduced the speech contestants, and each gave their speech. Here were the results of that.

1st place- Meg Norman Crawford Co.

2nd place- Jonathan Knapp—Nemaha Co.

Honorable Mentions: Rebekah Vague Ellsworth Co. and Drew Bretz Sheridan Co.

Brandon Dibben announced the essay winner Inarie Rippert and read her essay.

Brandon then introduced Tiffin Lanter as the limerick winner and she read her limerick.

Trent Winter announced the scholarship winners.

Pam Walker announced the photo winners.

Angela Beavers announced the poster, limerick and essay winners.

Dana Schmelzle gave an update on Envirothon. Report is printed in the program.

Jarrold Bowser interviewed the speech contestants while judges were working on the scoring sheets.

Reports from Advisor Agencies:

Jack Fitzgerald, NRCS reported that they are looking at getting more funding for this next year but not sure what that looks like just yet. Karen Woodrich will be present tomorrow at Convention and she might have more insight on that funding.

Next meeting will be in March- look at having it in person. Jarrold Bowser

concluded the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ashley Janzen

REMINDERS FOR 2024

Poster Contest Theme: May the Forest Be With You Always



Speech Contest Theme: One Water

Photo Contest Theme: *Conservation Practices*

Judging Assignments:

Poster Contest—Stafford County

Essay Contest—Neosho County

Limerick Contest —Geary County

KACD Conservation Education and Youth Committee

Information about this committee and all of its contests and activities can be found on the KACD website. Go to “Governance, Committees, Conservation Education and Youth” <https://www.kacd.net/annual-local-district-contests.cfm>

The committee is always actively seeking new members to help with these important activities. It is recommended that a supervisor and their district manager both join the committee, but this is not a requirement. The Chairman serves for a three year term and the District Manager from that county traditionally serves as the committee secretary. The committee traditionally meets three times per year to organize the scholarship awards, various contests and convention activities.

If you or someone you know would like to become involved with the Conservation Education and Youth Committee, we would be thrilled to bring you on board.

NACD STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. It is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances.

The program relies on conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation through field days, educational programming, and workshops to educate citizens about the need to care for our natural resources. Many district activities extend beyond the one-week observance to include an entire year of outreach. Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conservation natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows.

2024 SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

APRIL 28—May 5, 2024

THEME: May the Forest Be With You Always

Trees provide so many benefits to our Kansas Communities; Shade to reduce cooling bills in the summer, stormwater management, wildlife benefit, recreation..... This theme celebrates them all.