

Volume I, Issue 3

August 2008



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

KACDE NEWS & VIEWS

KACDE PREPARES FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION



Preparations are well under way for this year's 4th Annual Convention at Jabez. This year proves to be our most exciting yet! The training schedule includes:

- Excel
- New Employee Orientation
- Office Procedures
- CPR
- Quick Maps
- "Biologist in Training"
- Butterflies/Leaf ID
- Grant Writing
- Water Conservation
- Nature ID
- Streambank Stabilization and
- Urban Cost Share Programs

Don't forget to bring the following:

- * Silent Auction Item
- * Cash/check to purchase merchandise, silent auction items, raffle tickets, etc -- we will be announcing the winner of our GPS during the convention
- * Sharing Idea item
- * Laptop if you have one to borrow for the EXCEL workshop
- * A light jacket in case it gets a little chilly
- * Items for our "Treats for Troops" project and EBay items
- * A camera

Optimistic speakers from NACD and NCDEA, SECDEA, NRCS and DOC are all attending—Please make plans to attend!!!

"I love the fact you can excellent and resourceful ideas from other Districts—even other states. Ruthie Pike was extremely interesting and I received more info than I thought I would. I also liked the relaxed atmosphere...."
(Anonymous comment from last year's convention)

"The enthusiasm of the district employees is contagious!" (Ray Adams, Jefferson Co. District Supervisor)

"Openness—ability to be who we are, what we are—and everyone shines! Love the atmosphere! Skip other conventions, but not this one!"
(Anonymous comment from last year's convention)

KACDE Business Luncheon

Our annual Business Luncheon was held July 21st during the KACD Convention in Lexington. With no room to spare, the luncheon included plenty of excitement and enthusiasm from its membership and officer team.

A review of the past year's activities, as well as goals for the upcoming year were presented. Districts Employees were then honored for their years of service — which included a special presentation given to Ms. Charlotte Rigdon of Barren County who celebrated 50 years with the District!

Also awarded were those employees who has given of themselves to promote KACDE and it's activities throughout the state. These were awarded the "Kentucky Shine" Award by their coworkers.



After several items of business were taken care of, new officers were installed. Those new faces include Ms. Shelly Isenberg, Allen County, as Area 3 Representative, and Brian Hacker, Knox County, as President.

Ms. Linda Smith closed the meeting with her farewell address. Later, she wrote the following words:

FAREWELL

I have written many articles and speeches, But this has been the most difficult one ever.

It has been a great honor to serve the members of KACDE for the last four years.

We have built a strong, active association that should make each of you very proud.



It has been a pleasure to represent KACDE and be able to brag, and boast of our successful accomplishments each year on the state, regional and national levels.

We started with great visions and dreams. We revised our by-laws, developed committees, increased our funding, developed several newsletters, awarded very deserving district employees and last but definitely not least, we started our own stand-alone convention! Strong teamwork achieved these goals.

I have worked with some of the most dedicated and hard working people that I have ever met. They have not only become my friends, but also a part of my family. I have made friendships that will last a life time. Each of you found a place in my heart that I will cherish forever.

My goal was to represent you in a way that would bring you respect and honor. I hope I have done this to your satisfaction. This has been one of the most rewarding times of my life.

This work is not finished, we are just beginning. You have a new leader, with fresh new ideas. I hope you will continue to work with Brian with open minds and guide and support him as you have me.

We are entering into a new phase. We are ready to experience new adventures. As a mother watches her children leave her nest, I will observe as you grow to a new level and give advice only when needed.

Thank you for sharing your hearts and enriching my life. Remember to keep your minds sharp and your eyes open.

I love you all. Keep on Shining!

Linda Smith



KACDE Membership Drive

The 2008-09 KACDE Membership Drive during the KACD Convention was a great success. As of the last of August, we currently have membership consisting of 62 individual members and 5 group memberships!

The winner of the KY Proud Basket given away during the Convention was Ms. Cindy Potts, KACDE Member and Admin. Secretary for the Henderson County Conservation District. Congratulations Cindy!

Keep up the good work!!!



 **Remember to send in registration form for SECDEA Conference in Pigeon Forge!**



South East NACD Meeting



Martha Newby, Stephanie Young and myself recently attended the South East NACD Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi earlier this month. We had the privilege of meeting with current NACD President, Mr. John Redding, NACD Representative—Ms. Phylis Vandevere, SECDEA President—Mr. Mendel Wade, as well as many other representatives from all across the southeast including our own delegation from Kentucky.

SECDEA held a live auction on Thursday night which brought about \$1,210 in proceeds. Our own KY Proud basket brought \$150!!! We had a wonderful time! More importantly, we received some great training and made many new connections to make our own state association better!

Thank you, KACDE Members!!!

Dear Friends,

I want to start out by saying how humbling it is to be considered (*much less elected*) as President of such an organization as ours. To work with such a fine group of people...to be a part of something as great as our organization is....to follow in the footsteps of those who built the KACDE into what it is now.....what a great privilege it is on my part.

Thank you all for your support—I will do my best to represent each District Employee of Kentucky to the best of my ability. Whether I am working with the D.O.C. in Kentucky, or working with NACD throughout our great country —I will do my best to represent the gracious, hard-working conservationists throughout our great state.

I also want to personally thank those on our Board who have accepted me so graciously. Linda is right—there is a great bond there.... one that cannot be easily broken. Such friendships only occur once in a lifetime. Each Employee across the state should be well pleased to know that the most capable, gracious folks that could be found anywhere are at the helm of this great organization.

I also want to personally thank Linda Smith for the wonderful job she has done over the past 4 years. She has moved our organization to a different level....a respected level throughout our state and even region. She has continually represented us well at all levels of conservation throughout our country. She has also increased participation by District Employees throughout our own state by implementing our own Annual Convention, Business Luncheon during the KACD Convention, and various other projects during her term as president. While being affectionately referred to as “slave driver”, she knows how to get the best out of all of us. Also, don’t worry – she’s not going anywhere!!

I want to take this opportunity once again to say thank you for your support – your **continual support** to this organization. The membership is what makes this organization truly successful! Thanks again for all that you do – conservation would not happen without folks like you! Also, if you’re not a member yet—I encourage you to consider becoming a part of this great organization! If you **are** a member—consider attending the Annual Convention in September....consider getting involved. It’s just like anything else, “the more you put into this organization, the more you will receive....”

I will continue to do my best for you and our organization. If you need me, feel free to contact me at any time.....

Thanks again,

Brian D. Hacker
President, KACDE

*Remember to
send in your dues
for 2008-2009*



**KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES**

34 Spring Avenue
Barbourville, KY 40906

Phone: 606-546-3393 Ext. 3
Cell: 606-627-8157
E-mail: brian.hacker@ky.usda.gov

*KACDE's vision is to promote our
natural resources through education
and encourage professionalism of all
conservation district employees*

www.kacde.org

Purchased your raffle tickets yet? Better hurry!
Tickets will be sold until the raffle at our
Convention in September! Don't know how to
get more tickets? Come to Jabez!!! Can't
come to Jabez? Call your Area Rep—today!



Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Thank you, Convention Sponsors!

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Allen County | Morgan County |
| Boyd County | Ohio County |
| Estill County | Oldham County |
| Franklin County | Rockcastle County |
| Gallatin County | Russell County |
| Harrison County | Scott County |
| Hickman County | Union County |
| Jackson County | Wayne County |
| Jefferson County | Woodford County |
| Lee County | |

**Registration Form for Annual SECDEA Conference in
November will be on Website Soon.**

Plans are well underway for this year's annual SECDEA Conference in Pigeon Forge. Because so many positive comments were received at last year's conference, plans were started for this year's conference the very next day!!!

"Imagine...Believe...Achieve..." is the theme for our 2008 Conference in Pigeon Forge. The deadline is October 8th for hotel reservations and October 15th for registration. After reviewing the evaluations from last year, we feel like we have a great meeting lined up, some of which is a continuation of last year. We will have more on Working with Digital Photography, Grant Writing, Agrability, and Conservation Motivation. If you haven't made plans to attend yet, make plans soon!

Information for registration and hotel accommodations are on our website or you can contact your Area Rep for more information. Don't miss the chance to learn from other states in our region!

