

BEDIAS CREEK BULLETIN

a quarterly publication of

Bedias Creek Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://bedias-walker.tx.nacdnet.org>

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Assisting land owners and land users with conservation challenges and programs !

JULY 2008

2nd Place for Area IV Texas Conservation POSTER Contest WINNER was Sterling Taylor !!



The *Bedias Creek Soil & Water Conservation District* had the privilege of entering the top three Conservation Posters from our District in the Texas State Area IV Conservation Awards program; to compete against 37 other Districts' entries. The contest is designed to demonstrate the importance of conservation and taking care of one's surroundings, while giving contestants an opportunity to express their artistic ability. This year Sterling Taylor's Conservation Poster won 2nd Place for Area IV, "Water is Life" was his theme. Sterling was not able to attend the banquet held Tuesday May 6th in Jacksonville Texas so was presented his award at Madisonville Intermediate School where he is a student. We are very proud of Sterling and greatly appreciate the Teachers that help encourage their students in our Conservation Poster and Essay Contest. Congratulations on a job well done!

Area IV Conservation Awards Program

Shown to the right is Chairman George Delfeld receiving this award for Sterling at the banquet. Annual Area IV Conservation Awards Banquet is a way of recognizing and honoring those whose *conservation efforts* exceed the normal into the outstanding.



13th Annual FFA Soil & Water Stewardship Leadership Development

Public Speaking Contest had two participants we would like to recognize. This year's theme was: "Water is Life". Lexi Standley, daughter of Jim & Susan Standley, who placed 1st in her District competition. Ryan McCarty, son of Lonny & Kim Wright, who placed 1st in his District competition. Both students continued on to the Area Competition held May 5th. The top 2 winners of Area go on to compete in the State competition. Lexi placed 3rd just under that goal. We are VERY proud of both of these students and their efforts toward education in conservation. The Bedias Creek SWCD is honored to sponsor young men and women to help inform others just what Stewardship really means. Lexi – Ryan keep up the great work!!!



15th Annual Clover Forage Field Day

Was held April 30th at the Iola Community Center and was hosted by the **Bedias Creek Soil and Water Conservation District** with the **Natural Resources Conservation Service** and the **Madison County AgriLIFE Extension** working together to help us present an exceptional educational outreach program. In attendance were 135 landowners seeking to learning methods and techniques for managing clovers. This year's theme was "Just Getting Started". Information on establishing clovers on small acres with short duration grazing grass and clovers, soil testing-resources for enriching your soil, installing and utilizing electric fence in small operations, using multi species grasses to a landowners benefit, rest-rotation for developing and maintaining a nutritious variety of grasses were some of the topics presented in the field. The group toured Star Haven Farms owned and operated by Ray and Karen Hadaway to see a clover management project up-close. Our great appreciation goes to Mr. Ray and Ms. Karen for all the work in preparation for the Tour. *Thank you AGAIN !!* Morning speakers consisted of: Gene Sollock, past Director with Bedias Creek SWCD (who started this as a tail-gate educational day) along with Floyd Nauls, Jr., NRCS-District Conservationist; Dr. David Bade, retired AgriLIFE Extension and a part of this program for the past several years; Billy Zanolini, AgriLIFE Extension-Madison County; Betsy Ross regarding compost teas, Deb Manahan and Tommy Carroll, both ranchers, giving more details to address the topics and answer specific questions. All photos compliments of NRCS Resource Team Leader, Jon Muncrief.



The attendees had a treat with "Grass-Fed Beef" Hamburgers prepared by JR Sandel and Floyd Nauls (NRCS). The afternoon section was full of information from Karen Hadaway, SWCD Director, on THE KISS Method [Keep It Simple Silly] that has been her outline for the results seen at Star Haven Farms so far. Gene Sollock discussing techniques used on stocker operation, chicken liter utilization; and regulations from TSSWCB Natural Resources Specialist Teresa Reese, and an outstanding overview of all Farm Bill programs emphasizing the benefits of EQIP nationally and throughout the state of Texas was by Susan Baggett State Resource Conservationist. Dr. David Bade closed the meeting with recognition of all speakers and fielded a few more questions, as he'd done throughout the day. [Go to <http://www.bedias-walker.tx.nacdn.net/> CLOVER TOUR - Gene Sollock IMG PowerPoint Presentation]



This year's Clover Field Day was sponsored by: Coufal-Prater County Store; First State Bank of Bedias; Tractor Supply of Navasota; Fi-Shock Energized Fencing; Fairlie Seed Company; Navasota Livestock Auction; Bob Hughes Display; and Standley Feed & Seed. And special thanks got to The Bank of Madisonville for the use of there Bar-B-Pit. 2009 mark your calendar for April 29th !!!!

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CONSERVATION “*Planner*” CHECK LIST

APRIL: Continue pasture & range planting; Control pond weeds; Stock fish; Spray prickly pear after prescribed burn; Graze warm season forages; Begin fertilization program on introduced warm season pastures; Implement high intensity early season grazing to utilize annual production in native pastures; Monitor & record all grazing events; Plan next year’s pasture burn in grazing system.

MAY: Heaviest month of forage production of warm season forage-consider resting pastures for 25-28 days; Foliar spray mesquite when soil temp. at 12” depth reach 75 degrees F.; Establish summer food plots for wildlife; Check for weed infestation in pastures; Control pond weeds; Fertilize ponds as needed; Consider economics of fertilizer application in summer forages (buy hay vs. bale on own).

JUNE: Evaluate forage production-adjusting stocking (June-July); Monitor water for aquatic plant growth; Fertilize ponds as needed; Check forest stand for weed & disease damage; Continue hay harvest & test for Crude Protein (CP) and Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN); Rotate pastures as needed; Monitor & record graze and rest periods. Contact your Bedias Creek Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more detailed information on recommended monthly management activities. Look for calendar updates on the next newsletter.

(936) 348-2666 X 3 Madisonville Service Center or (903) 536-2727 X 3 Centerville Service Center

Return address here

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