

Water Source

Business, agriculture, recreation and communities — a partnership for water quality

Tree plantings filter runoff, attract wildlife

The Meisingers have been whipping their Lake Farm property into shape with cost-share assistance through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

About 20 volunteers helped Linda Meisinger plant almost 1,000 trees and bushes on the family's land at 19545 S. Gardner Rd. More than 10 varieties were hand-planted, including American and Sandhill Plum, Choke Cherry, Eastern Red Cedar, Fragrant Sumac and Golden Currant. Linda timed the event in April to help celebrate Earth Day.

"Everyone who helped has either used the farm or been involved with it one way or another," she said.

Among the helpers were individuals who fish at the pond, families whose children have attended the Lake Farm School, Dave Bruton with the Kansas Forest Service and Hillsdale Water Quality Project staff.

"In developing the wildlife habitat, we're preserving the land in a natural state," she said. The vegetation will also provide a filter for runoff between area properties and the pond. The wildlife area includes a wetland with wildflowers and grasses.

The wildlife area will be used for education at the Lake Farm School. The independent, Waldorf-based school teaches through experience rather than traditional classroom education.

WHIP, offered through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, provides up to 75 percent cost-share reimbursement for landowners wanting to improve fish or wildlife habitat. Participants also develop a long-term wildlife management plan.

A brochure describing more than 20 similar cost-share programs for water and soil conservation is available through the project office, 913-829-9414.



About 10 children examine organisms with help from Jared Bright and Jason Manczuk of Hillsdale Water Quality Project during a stream excursion at Edgerton Frontier Days June 24. The bugs living in a stream can help indicate the health of the water.

Students clean stream

Ten Spring Hill Middle School students cleared six bags of trash, two old barrels, a fire hose and several tires from a half-mile stretch of Little Bull Creek March 31.

The clean up effort was coordinated through the Hillsdale Water Quality Project as part of KC Clean Streams 2000, a citywide effort to have 2000 volunteers collect 20 tons of trash along area streams.

"The kids had fun doing it and are willing to do it again," said Steven Haffener, a Spring Hill science teacher who helped with the effort. "I think this type of activity is important. If we teach our children about cleaning up the environment when they are young, they will be more likely to do it when they are adults."

Several of the Spring Hill students who participated are part of a stream team that visits the creek at 207th Street and Clare Road regularly to monitor its water quality. Haffener supervises the stream team along with Jared Bright, field representative for the Hillsdale Water Quality Project.

Simple steps to reduce water use

As the supply of clean water diminishes, it becomes increasingly important for each family to practice water conservation. Using less water saves energy and money, helps mitigate environmental degradation and decreases the need for chemicals to process dirty water and sewage. Cutting back on water use also reduces air pollution emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, which are used to heat water. The following simple steps will help conserve this precious resource.

Tips for inside the home

- ◆ Check pipes, faucets, and toilets periodically for leaks. Even small leaks and dripping faucets can waste four to five gallons of water per day. A leaking toilet, which can neither be seen nor heard, can waste thousands of gallons per month. Place a little food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl, there is a leak.
- ◆ Keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator so that water is not wasted while waiting for tap water to cool for drinking.
- ◆ Use short bursts of water when cleaning vegetables and other foods or rinsing dishes.
- ◆ Turn off the faucet after wetting a toothbrush and fill a glass of water to use for rinsing.
- ◆ Partially fill the sink with water to rinse the razor when shaving.
- ◆ Wait until washing machines and dishwashers are full before running them. Washing machines use 30 to 35 gallons while dishwashers use 25 to 30 gallons per load.
- ◆ Install low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and toilet dams that cut water usage. Most are inexpensive and simple to install. These energy and water savers can be purchased at most home centers, hardware stores and, for a limited time, through the project office. (See Page 3)
- ◆ Take shorter showers.

Tips for outside the home

Efficient watering of the lawn and garden will not only save time, money and effort, it may actually increase their beauty and appeal.

- ◆ Water should only be applied when the lawn or garden shows signs that it is needed. Lawns that are watered when the root zone is still moist release large quantities of water in the form of evaporation and runoff. In this situation of low efficiency, watering is not needed.
- ◆ Water in the morning when water loss from evaporation is at a minimum and during times of low wind. If watering in the evening, stop a half hour before dusk so the vegetation has a chance to dry. Grass stays wet longer at night when evaporation rates are low, leaving it more vulnerable to disease.

- ◆ Water slowly and deeply to help develop a deeper root system. The lawn or garden will become more resilient to disease and drought, and require less frequent watering. Plants that seem to benefit most from shallow watering are the undesirable ones – weeds. During shallow applications, more water is lost to surface evaporation than during infrequent soakings where much of the water is retained deep in the soil.
- ◆ Plants can absorb only so much water. Overwatering wastes water and can injure certain plants. Place several containers under the sprinkler to help gauge how much water the lawn or garden is receiving.
- ◆ Use organic matter to slow the evaporation process, allowing the soil to retain more moisture. By applying a layer of straw to a garden, watering will be needed less frequently and weed germination will be hindered. A good mulching lawn mower serves the same purpose for lawns.
- ◆ Sprinklers that produce large drops of water are better for watering lawns than those that emit a fine mist and yield an excessive amount of evaporation.
- ◆ Trees, wood fences, and other windbreaks help slow the velocity of wind and decrease the rate of evaporation. This helps to retain water in the soil longer, requiring less frequent watering.
- ◆ Plant grass species that are better adapted to dry conditions. Buffalo grass and Bermuda grass may be ideal for individuals desiring a low-maintenance lawn. The green season for these varieties is relatively short, as is the watering season.
- ◆ Only water areas that are in need, making sure to avoid watering impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- ◆ Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- ◆ When washing cars at home, use a bucket instead of a hose. Wash the car on the lawn instead of the driveway so the soil can absorb the water and filter the soapy chemicals.

A
U.S. baby
will use
41,289,000 gallons of water
during a lifetime.*
Make every drop count!

*according to the U.S. Census and
World Resources Institute

Save water, money

Each minute in the shower means five gallons of water down the drain – with a regular showerhead. At a daily average of seven minutes per family member, attaining that shower-fresh feeling can add up to a lot of water.

A specialized low-flow showerhead - could save a family of four more than 32,000 gallons of water per year. This would be an annual savings of about \$200 in water, energy and sewer bills for a family of four.

These showerheads (\$8) and water saver kits (\$10) can be purchased through the project office for a limited time. The kits include a low-flow showerhead, faucet aerator and tank displacement bag. **Project members receive a 25 percent discount!** Call 913-829-9414 to order one today or visit the project's booth during the Johnson County Fair or Spring Hill Festival.

Water usage for a family of four*

Gallons used	Regular	Low-flow	Gallons saved
Minute	5	1.8	3.2
Day	140	50	90
Month	4,200	1,500	2,700
Year	50,400	18,000	32,400

*based on daily showering time of 28 minutes



Members
receive
**25%
OFF**

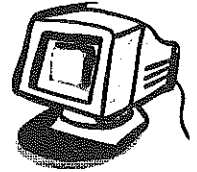


Mark your calendar ✓

<u>July</u>	29-8/5	Miami County Fair
<u>Aug.</u>	8-12	Johnson County Fair
	18-20	Spring Hill Festival
<u>Sept.</u>	16	Race for the Lake 2000
	23	Wellsville Harvest Festival

Web sites to visit

<http://www.epa.gov/surf>
 Surf Your Watershed
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/mearth.html>
 Water Science for Schools
<http://www.epa.gov/watrhome>
 Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water
<http://www.epa.gov/owow>
 Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo/ks.htm>
 Drinking water standards
http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/hillsdale/hillsdale_home.htm
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Hillsdale Lake
http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/fishing/Fishing_Forecast/Fishforecast.html
 Fishing forecast for Kansas lakes
<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/livablecommunity/index2.html>
 Livable Communities Initiative



Members make a difference

Families

(\$20 annual contribution)

Tom and Kay Bach

Jim Bell and Julie Lewis-Bell

Francis and Eloise Bennett

Jared and Angi Bright

Bill and Connie Coulter

Walter and Suzanne Dotson

💧 **Morris and Myrtle Eastman**

Harold and Marilyn Erickson

Dale and Jean Everhart

Dick Gibbs and Janet Johnson

★ David D. and Diana Green

Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Gump

Ed and Doris Haselrick

💧 **James and Linda Heimbach**

Tony and Cathleen Holt

Robert and Janet McRae

Danny and Diana Meisinger

Richard and Alice Piezuch

Paula Selby

Mike, Becky and Ryan Stewart

💧 **Teresa Wolfe-Miller**

💧 New Members

★ Recently Renewed Members

Individuals

(\$15 annual contribution)

Jessica Baetz

Eric Berlin

Betty Chaney

Bennie Erwin

Laura Hammond

Marshall Hitchcock

Al LeDoux

Lee Quaintance

Joseph Rowe

★ Allan Soetaert

💧 **Debbie Smith**

★ Judith Taggart

Dick Weisser

James Wilson

Joe Yelton

Small Business Members

(\$100 annual contribution)

Drs. Hawks, Besler & Rogers

★ Coldwell Banker New Horizons,
Dale Harsh

Corporate members

(\$250 annual contribution)

Executive Beechcraft

★ Haz-Mat Response

Johnson County Stormwater
Management

★ KCP&L

KPL — Western Resources

Mr. Goodcents Subs & Pastas

Niffie Printing

★ Ponzer Youngquist, P. A.
Sprint

Municipalities

(Contributions vary)

City of Edgerton

City of Gardner

City of Spring Hill

Miami County Conservation
District

Rural Water District No. 2
of Miami County

Rural Water District No. 7,
Johnson County

Lake Region RC&D
Hillsdale Water Quality Project
P.O. Box 23
One New Century Parkway Suite 115
New Century, KS 66031

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage PAID
Gardner, KS
Permit No. 49

Water Source

Money-saving tips,
membership
discounts inside!



CURRENT RESIDENT
SPRING HILL KS 66083

The Hillsdale Water Quality Project is funded by local private, corporate and municipal contributions, in addition to an EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant C9007405-98 administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Race

5K Run/Walk Saturday, Sept. 16

for the

Lake

8 a.m. at Hillsdale State Park

Entry Fee \$15 After Sept. 1 \$20

Each entrant receives a T-shirt and water bottle

Runner Registration One entry per form. Please print.

Register online at www.Active.com

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Sex: Male Female Age on Race Day (9/16/00) _____ T-shirt size: M L XL XXL
(selection limited for late entrants)

I will participate in: 5K Run 5K Walk 5K wheelchair. I would like to volunteer and receive a free T-shirt.

As a donation to the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, I have added \$ _____ to my entry fee.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____. Make checks payable to: Hillsdale Water Quality Project.

Waiver of Liability

By signing below, I acknowledge and represent that I am physically fit and have trained sufficiently to participate in the third annual Race for the Lake. I also accept any and all responsibility and hold harmless the Hillsdale Water Quality Project, the race sponsors, and the officers, employees, volunteers, and representatives of those organizations for any injury, accident, or loss of personal or group property resulting from my participation in Race for the Lake.

Signature (Parent or guardian if under 18) _____

Date _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 23, New Century, KS 66031