



April 27, 2019

Vol. 35 No. 16

Paige Volkens Speaks

Paige Volkens, Education Director for East & West Pott. Soil and Water Conservation District, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on April 27, 2019 at the Treynor Community Building. Paige, a Treynor native, received her BS from NW Missouri State in Ag Science with a minor in Ag Communications.



Paige's job is unique! This is the only District in Iowa with an Education Director.

The job entails educating pre-K to Adults, outreach, public relations, and leading and building existing programs and creating new programs. West Pott, which had never had an Education Director, was added to her job description when she started in Nov.

Examples of programs for youth which Volkens is involved with includes: Farm tours, summer camps, after school programs, Quarry Days, field days, Farm Safety Days, FFA programs and more. A recent fun experience on Earth Day was for school kids to draw pictures on grocery bags which the grocery store then used with customers. Other programs include Rain Gardens, a Rain Barrel Workshop, and the Iowa Children's Water Festival.

The Botna Bend Field Days, due to flooding, will take place at WestFair this year and topics will be about birds, trees, bees, snakes, and a rain fall simulator. Volkens told about a Soil to Spoon after school cooking club and a conservation Superhero Club.

A specific program for women is the Women Landowner Summer 2019 event on Sat., June 15 from 8:30 AM – 11 AM at the Oakland Community Center. Topics to be taught include farm business estate planning and retirement by TS Prosperity Group and Sara Ross discussing making food and farming personal.

August 10 is the Rural Ramble, Pott Co. Small Farm Tour, which runs similar to a Poker Run and will feature Ditmar's Orchard, The Swallows Nest, Prairie Crossing Winery, Give Joy Gardens, Minden Meat Market/ Hodges Smokehouse Catering, Cedar Valley Ranch, AgriVision Equipment, Iowa Corn, Pott Co. Soil & Water Conservation. Like on Facebook – RuralRamblePottCo. Contact swcdeducoordinator@gmail.com for more info on these events.

There is lots of coordinating and connecting with people and finding opportunities, which Paige loves about her job. She works with many resources and agencies, including Extension Service, D&R, Golden Hills RC&D, WIDA, IDALS, NRCS and more. She applies for many grants for salary and programs. She does lobbying and interacts with many state heads.

Paige is now the only woman (and youngest) member of the W. Pott Farm Bureau Board. She is President of the Pott Co. Iowa Corn and SoyBean Growers and she serves on the SW Iowa Women's Land & Legacy Committee.

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Thirteen members were present plus three guests, our speaker Paige Volkens and her parents Robin and Jodi Volkens. Jokes were shared by Gary Funkhouser, followed by the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer.

Dale Willenborg won the 50/50 Drawing and Kirk Vorthmann won the Attendance Drawing but was not able to claim as he wasn't present last week. There were no birthdays or anniversaries observed.

Bragging Rights contributions to the Youth Fund: 1) Kevin Underwood stated he attended his first tennis match ever. 2) Gary and Dee Guttau donated because of Gary's picture sitting on a bucket in the Nonpareil at the Mulch Madness. 3) Dale Willenborg saluted Mulch Madness. 4) Judy Guttau donated because Easter was a beautiful all-around day. 5) Mick announced that the Legion is mounting their helicopter today at 9.

Old Business: The Scholarship Committee announced they had selected their scholarship recipients.

Gary Funkhouser reminded the group that the Optimist Youth Appreciation Event is scheduled at 3 PM on April 28 at Zion Congregational Church. Judy reminded those that volunteered to bring cookies and stated that help would be needed with set-up and serving and take down.

Gary Guttau announced that money has been received to date for 64 flags. It was noted that flag holders on the school property may need to be reset at a lower distance. Also it was noted there is a football field sign on main street that needs to be changed.

Thanks to John Klein for leading the Mulch Madness and for volunteers: Gary & Dee Guttau, Dale Willenborg, Bill Vorthmann, and Keith Denton. See the pictures below.

New Business: The next Can Kennel sorting will take place Wednesday, May 1 at 6 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by stating the Optimists Pledge.

Mulch Madness – Thurs. April 26



These two photos were in the Nonpareil.

Thanks to John Klein for organizing this annual event. See below interesting facts about the event.

The remaining pictures were taken by Dee Guttau.



How to dress for Spring



Assisting the 59 Fifth Graders were the following adults:

- 6 High School Junior Optimist members
- 4 Pott. County Master Gardeners (including Gary and Dee Guttau)
- 4 Treynor Optimist Club members - (excluding Gary and Dee Guttau)
- 3 Fifth Grade teachers & 1 Aide
- 1 School nurse (no injuries reported)
- 1 TS-Bank Volunteer
- 1 Soil & Water Conservation District employee

All turned out great, and we gave Treynor School some very good public press. More importantly, we hopefully instilled in our 59 Fifth Graders a concern about our environment, and a personal ownership in their school. I got lots of comments from our Junior Optimists, and even adult Treynor Alumni who remember tree planting and mulching at Treynor School grounds for Arbor Day events organized by our Optimist Club.

Monday was Earth Day, and today is the official Arbor Day. Thanks for making Treynor a better, cleaner, and prettier place for future generations.

John Klein - Optimist Arbor Day coordinating volunteer
712-309-5992

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” –NELSON HENDERSON

Calendar

May 1 Can Kennel – Zion Congregational Youth

Birthdays

May 11 Keith Denton
May 21 Steve Irwin
May 22 Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Programs

May Gary Funkhouser
June Mick Guttau (first 3 weeks)
Open (last 2 weeks)
July Dale Willenborg

Speakers

May 4: Noel James, Sr at Treynor: Work with CB street hockey and her Sr. year.
May 11: TBA
May 18: Brendan Mass: National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC
May 25: Erica Carley, WIDA Director

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575

