Troy PRIDE receives Conservation Award

Troy PRIDE has been notified that it was selected as the 1992 recipient of the Kansas Wildlife Federation's "Conservation Organization of the Year" award. In a letter to PRIDE chairman Thad Geiger, the conservation awards chairman, Tommie Burger stated, "Your conservation achievements have resulted in your being nominated by your peers for work above and beyond the call of duty. Your efforts in the conservation field are sincerely appreciated and highly valued."

Conservation projects in which Troy PRIDE has been involved include: operating the county's recycling center, planning and implementing Earth Day activities at the grade school, holding a local water conservation informational meeting with state and area officials, selling water-saver shower heads, and helping with the development of a community park.

"Being selected for this award is very gratifying," says Geiger. "Sometimes, outsiders may be better able to see the positive things in a community than the people who live there. Receiving an award like this can serve as a wake-up call to a small community such as Troy, by reminding us that we have something very good going here. But we need people to work to keep the good things going and to make the community even better place."

Troy received second place in the PRIDE community achievement competition in 1992 and a merit award for waste reduction/recycling. Congratulations Troy for making conservation a priority!

Former chairman nationally awarded

Timothy Comer, former Kingman PRIDE Chairman was presented the 1992 National Community Development Society Student Achievement Award at their annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. The award was based on Timothy's work while a Kansas State University graduate student in Regional and Community Planning. His work was titled "Testing Indicators of Economic Success in Rural Kansas Communities." Congratulations Timothy.

Important PRIDE Dates

April 15, 1993 PRIDE entry form is due
PRIDE Outreach Participation form is due
April 18-24, 1993 National Volunteer Week
April 19, 1993 Colby Area Workshop
April 20, 1993
Lemars Area Workshop
September 1, 1993 PRIDE Project Book is due
September 20-24, 1993 PRIDE Judging Week
October 23, 1993 State PRIDE Recognition Day, Salina

March - April 1993

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
scheduled for April

"Celebrating Kansas Communities: From Plans to Action" is the theme of the 39th annual Community Economic Development Conference to be held April 29-30, in Great Bend. PRIDE communities are encouraged to attend. The conference will offer useful information to both economic development leaders and volunteers.

Topics for the conference include:

- Kansas State Economic Development Strategy
- Government Cooperation
- Action Plan Development
- Local Funding Strategies
- New Technologies and Existing Industries
- Tourism Development in Rural Areas
- Leadership Development
- Implementing Action Plans
- Community Conflict Resolution

A brochure/registration form can be obtained from the Kansas State University for Rural Initiatives, College Court Building, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-2040, (785) 532-9000.

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KANSAS
PRIDE
Program
Kansans Building Better Communities
Recognition enhances volunteers’ commitment

Recruiting PRIDE volunteers is an important area in building an effective community improvement organization. There are four components to recognize:

Acknowledgment: recognizing the volunteers as important members of your group.

Attention: giving time and energy to focus on each volunteer as an individual.

Feedback: sharing positive and negative information with volunteers about their performance.

Praise: direct thank-you’s and helpful feedback after each volunteer has performed his/her task.

Volunteers should be recognized for doing a job well, being cheerful and friendly, commitment to PRIDE’s goals and purposes, taking the lead on a project or task, and being a PRIDE committee member and attending meetings.

The manner in which you recognize a volunteer depends on the individual. Some people rely closely with their picture in the paper. Others may prefer a sincere personal thank-you or acknowledgement of their contribution from your group’s leader.

Helping ourselves by helping others

In his book, “The Healing Power of Doing Good,” Allan Lake, Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York City, suggests that volunteering relieves stress, raises self-esteem, and possibly bolsters the immune system.

At least two prominent heart researchers recommend volunteering to their patients. “Anything that promotes a feeling of community and connection is healing,” and volunteerism is one way of accomplishing this,” says Dr. Dean Ornish, director of the preventive medicine institute at the University of California at San Francisco.

“People who are isolated have a rate of heart disease two to five times greater than that of people who are socially involved,” Adds Dr. Herbert Bosson, a professor of medicine at Harvard University Medical School and a leader in the field of mind/body research. “Social help is one way to promote physical relaxation, which has many benefits, including reduced anxiety, depression and anger.”

Hints to save your liquid assets

As spring approaches and the use of water begins to rise, it is important to keep in mind that water conservation is a necessity both for our environment and our future. Whether your community is actively involved in the PRIDE water conservation special emphasis or not, it is important to treat water as the limited natural resource it is. The following three tips are presented as you begin to water your lawn, wash your car, or clean your driveway:

1. Most established lawns need about 1” of water per week. But Americans routinely over-water lawns by 20 percent to 70 percent. For most types of grass, the proper depth is about 2” to 3” high. At this depth, it needs less water and develops longer, healthier roots.

2. Washing your car at home with a garden hose can waste up to 150 gallons of water. A sponge and a bucket uses only 15 gallons.

3. You can save hundreds of gallons of water by using a broom to clean your driveway instead of a garden hose.

Area workshops focus on leadership

To date, six area PRIDE workshops have been held in the communities of Maize, Lyndon, Fall River, Belton, Wakefield, and Fortuno. The Kinsey workshop was cancelled due to weather and the Colby and Lenora workshops are scheduled for April 10 and April 20 respectively.

To date, 134 people representing 32 communities have participated in the workshops. A more comprehensive analysis of the workshops will follow in the June-June PRIDE newsletter.

Helpful home owners, Northeast Area Extension Community Development Specialist, leads the sharing session on successful PRIDE community improvement projects during the March 9, 1993, PRIDE Workshop held in Fortuno. Participating communities included: Fortuno, Colby, Neinas, Walsbee, Baker, Olson, and Sallandton.

For your information:

Blue Ribbon certificates approved by Board

The following communities were evaluated and approved as meeting the requirements for Blue Ribbon recognition at the February 26, 1993, State PRIDE Board meeting.

Junction City Airport

Wakefield Commercial and Industrial Development

Cost of PRIDE signs increase

Beginning April 15, the standard 34” x 34” community PRIDE signs will increase from $22 to $38 per sign. These signs are leased by communities and displayed at the entrances to town. The reason for the increase results in higher raw material costs that go into making the signs. PRIDE signs are made at the Kansas Correction Industries located in Lansing.

Brochure to help clean-up available

Many PRIDE communities are beginning the process of spring clean-up. A free brochure entitled “Conducting A Community Clean-up, Fix-up Campaign” is available. This how-to brochure can be obtained by contacting Stan McAdoo, Cooperative Extension Service, 311 Johnson Hall, Manhattan, Kansas, 66506, (913) 532-5960.

Pacemaker status achieved by Wakefield

The Northeast Kansas community of Wakefield (population 900) has been awarded PRIDE Pacemaker status at the February 26, meeting of the State PRIDE Board of Directors. Wakefield has been approved in all nineteen Blue Ribbon categories of community facilities and services. Wakefield has now been certified three times as a PRIDE Pacemaker community in its 23-year history of participating in the Kansas PRIDE Program. Only one other community (Ozello) has the distinction of being active in PRIDE every year since PRIDE inception in 1970.

Wakefield is a shining example of what can be accomplished through hard work and a commitment to excellence. Wakefield’s Pacemaker celebration is currently being planned.