

## **EARTH DAY 2006**

Sponsors: Buena Vista Soil and Water Conservation District  
Trees Forever  
Watershed Improvement Review Board grant  
Mulch donated by: Jerry's Tree Service, Storm Lake  
Drinks donated by: Hardee's, Storm Lake

The Alta 6<sup>th</sup> Graders were invited to celebrate Earth Day 2006 by planting 240 trees and shrubs on the Turnquist riparian north of Alta. Each student was given a red rubrum maple to plant in their own back yards. The students played a trivia game about trees and Earth Day, and then competed in teams to plant the most trees correctly.

The riparian is a conservation practice the Turnquist family planted almost ten years ago. It consists of numerous rows of trees, shrubs, and grasses that buffer Powell Creek. Within the last few years a beaver has clear cut a 400 foot section of the riparian. There was a need to replace these trees and shrubs to continue the wildlife and water quality benefits it provides to Storm Lake. With the help of the sponsors and the Alta 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the area will be back to high quality habitat.

The Turnquist family was awarded the Trees Forever Buffers and Beyond Award in 2005. Through this they have been awarded cost-share to replant trees, improve grasses, and complete needed maintenance on the trees. Kimberly Proctor the Storm Lake Water Quality Coordinator has helped organize the maintenance of the riparian and tree planting to improve the quality of the Turnquist riparian. Trees Forever, BVSWCD, and the water quality project are planning a field day June 14th, at 5pm to demonstrate tree maintenance and highlight the new practice installed, boulder weirs.

Within the last month a series of boulder weirs have been installed at this section of the creek. Boulder weirs are used for stream bank restoration when there is evidence of headcuts, nickpoints (downcutting of the stream) and channel widening. By installing the boulder weirs at this location, we have reduced sediment loading by 116 tons per year. Please plan to join us for the field day to get a look at this new practice.

A big thank you to the Alta 6<sup>th</sup> Graders for your hard work, and our local sponsors Jerry's Tree Service, Hardee's, and BVSWCD commissioners. Cost-share was provided by Trees Forever, Watershed Improvement Review Board, and the EPA 319 Grant. For more information on trees, conservation practices, or the Storm Lake Water Quality Project, please contact Kimberly Proctor at 732-3096 to 1617 N Lake Ave. Storm Lake