

WCDEA News

NOVEMBER 2010

A Message From the Executive Committee

Greetings!

We would like to encourage everyone to attend convention in Worland. Our WCDEA business meeting/training is set for Tuesday, November 16th at 1pm. This years training will feature Conflict Resolution presented by Lucy Pauley. Materials for the employees business meeting will be sent out soon.

Please don't forget to bring your silent auction items. These funds are used to put on trainings, purchase longevity awards (13 were given out this year), and provide scholarships to members.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ District Happenings
- ◆ New Employees
- ◆ Longevity Awards
- ◆ Employees Meeting Agenda
- ◆ WCDEA Executive Committee

Outstanding Area Employees Named

Outstanding Area II Employee: Karri Ellis, District Secretary, Goshen County CDs-Karri began working for the three Goshen County Conservation Districts two years ago. Since that time, Karri has been instrumental in reviving the education program. Karri has worked with the local Cattlewomen and has been successful in getting all of Goshen County 4th graders to attend the Ag Expo. She works with the students in each of the three Goshen County CDs on the worldwide water monitoring day, and has had 3rd grade through middle school participate in monitoring activities.

Outstanding Area IV Employee: Arla Strasser, Resource Specialist, Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins CD-Arla has worked tirelessly to get some type of forest product industry to move into the Platte Valley. With thousands of acres of dead timber from beetles, this is a huge concern in the Platte Valley. Her work has finally paid off as the Encampment mill recently opened. Arla was instrumental in getting the BLM to pull some proposed oil and gas leases in the valley. These leases were in critical elk and deer winter habitat, under ranchers' sprinkler irrigation systems, and near the Encampment municipal well system.

Outstanding Area V Employee: Sno Ann Engler, Administrative Assistant, Sublette County CD-Sno Ann takes a proactive approach to her community, whether it's through her involvement with her local subdivision, helping local non-profit organizations with their financial books, or when she takes time to volunteer during the county's community clean-up days..... Her official title to date just might read: master planner, tree and shrub expert, office manager, sounding board, number cruncher, professional coffee maker, circus trainer, chief dishwasher, comedian, fencer, weed puller, windbreak caretaker, fair booth creator, education outreach coordinator, lunch/snack/dinner go getter, all around office/desk organizer, peace keeper, friend, conservation promoter, friendly voice on the phone, idea generation, office equipment guru and the voice of reason. She is all of those things and more, and she takes it all in stride!

Excerpts taken from winners nomination letters submitted to WACD.



Celebrating Water Quality

Submitted by Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD

This year on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 the Powder River Conservation District partnered with the Johnson County 4-H to celebrate World Water Monitoring Day and the 4-



H National Youth Science Day (NYSD). This year's NYSD 4-H₂O fit perfectly with the district's annual World Water Monitoring Day celebration. District Manager Anita Bartlett and Johnson County 4-H/Youth Educator Rachel Vardiman taught KES 1st and 3rd graders and KMS Outdoor Recreational Education Opportunity (OREO) students about water quality and its connection to climate change. Kaycee students actively participated in a live demonstration of how carbon dioxide builds up in the atmosphere, and how at the smallest level CO₂ can affect aquatic animals, plants, and other living organ-

isms in lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans. Participants also discussed ways to conserve water to ensure a clean water supply for future generations.

Northern Rockies Tree School

Submitted by Sno Ann Engler

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I would like to share a blurb about the Northern Rockies Tree School, put on by Wyoming State Forestry Division, Montana DNRC, and the International Society of Arboriculture. It was one of the best workshops I've attended . A complete 2 day agenda packed with:

- How to Grow a Good Root System
- Do People Understand Trees?
- Hazard Tree Management
- Protecting Trees From Ourselves
- Controlling Tree Insects & Diseases
- Trees For The Northern Rockies
- Northern Rockies Forestry Panel Discussion
- Tree Management Walking Tour

Cost was \$85 and included a great BBQ dinner the first evening, and a delicious lunch the next day.



Speakers consisted of: Dr Mike Kuhns-Utah State Extension Forestry Specialist
Mike Garvey-Garvey's Urban Forest
Vic Gust-Warne Chemical and Equipment
Mark Hughes-Wyoming State Forestry
Monte Bales-City of Cody, Mark Ellison
Wyoming State Forestry Division (just to name a few).

There were about 90 people in attendance (7 CD's were represented) Sublette, Campbell, Teton, Powder River, Cody, Powell-Clark Forks, Natrona.....There was so much great information that I'm going to try and attend the next couple of years to be able to absorb it all!



Counting Cow Patties

Submitted by Carla Thomas, Hot Springs CD

How do you explain your job to someone? I have always gotten questions since day one. I can't count how many times I've gotten these questions: "What is a Conservation District? What does a Conservation District do?" I've always had the urge to tell people we count cow patties on the range, but I haven't. The answer to those two questions can be so different depending on where you live and the level of funding your Conservation District receives. The districts with mill levy's are able to do so much more for the communities; urban, rural and agriculture. It almost seems like the difference between day and night. Then there are those districts who are involved with the schools and those who are not. I still struggle to answer these questions, even after working for the conservation district for 4-1/2 years.

My answer to the question has changed with the seasons and the years, too. Started out I would answer, "We monitor the water of county creeks and we are putting in wonderful BMP's on Kirby Creek to stabilize the creek banks". That answer led to many more questions to explain a BMP and why would we monitor and who would care. For a time I gave the long answer that "Supervisor's are elected during the general elections to serve as representatives of local people with responsibility to natural resource issues; water and soil, timber and forests, rangeland, fish, wildlife and minerals." Many times I received the blank stare look. I would think to myself, "Am I not getting the idea across? Am I making it too hard or too easy?"

I enjoy this position with the Conservation District very much and I still have a hard time explaining it to people. I'm certain it must be my communication style and not the message. For a time I compared Hot Springs Conservation District to Washakie County Conservation District since we as districts are neighbors, because with a mill levy WCCD is so active in the community with recycling, school children and so much more. However that response always led to the question of why HSCD doesn't sponsor recycling and the other community items. When asked about why the differences if we are both conservation districts, I felt my panic rising because I would love to do all those things, IF we had the funds. I stopped that answer then and there!

I keep hoping I will eventually find the correct response that anyone is able to understand, but I've discovered it depends on whether the person has had contact with a conservation district for any reason or not and whether there has just been a general election, "Oh is that who I was voting for and a Conservation District supervisor?" So if you ask me about where I work, don't be surprised if I either entirely give you the long explanation or the short and sweet one. It will all depend on the last person who asked before you and the questions they had. I won't try to read your body language or expression to determine if I explained it to you, I will just hope that you know that Conservation Districts began in the 1930's in response to the dust bowl era. Now I'm going to go out and count the cow patties west of town along with the greasewood that is in bloom.

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Public Notice

NORTH PLATTE VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 5 YEAR LONG RANGE PLAN RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The North Platte Valley Conservation District will accept written comments on their 5 year Long Range Plan beginning Friday, October 15, 2010 and will continue through Tuesday, November 30, 2010. Copies of the document are available at the North Platte Valley Conservation District office located at 1441 East M Street, Torrington, WY as well as on there website www.goshencountyconservationdistricts.com

For more information, contact the North Platte Valley Conservation District at (307) 532-4880 ext. 101. Your comments can be turned in at the office or emailed to nancy.borton@wy.nacdnet.net or karri.ellis@wy.nacdnet.net.

“THE ISLANDS ARE
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Local Success—Districts highlight conservation projects

Partial article courtesy of Wyoming Livestock RoundUp

Buffalo – At the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Area 1 Meeting held Sept. 14, each individual district in the area presented information on one or several innovative projects implemented or continued in their area this year.

CCCD Administrative Assistant, Crystal Kellebrew highlighted projects centered on the Gillette Fishing Lake.

The Lake is a 25-acre manmade lake that receives runoff from about 27,000 acres and is listed for impairments on the WDEQ 303 (d) list. The district has been involved in installing storm ceptors, providing community outreach on non-point pollution, applying storm drain stickers and is working to get the lake dredged for the third time next year.



Another way to clean up the Lake is by putting in float- ing islands. In addition to providing natural beauty, the plant roots filter the water of different pollutants, depending on what is planted. The islands are made from recycled number one plastic and the lake hosts three in varying sizes. Volunteers and additional sponsors helped the City for three days putting the islands together and planting the vegetation. Each island is anchored and provides fish habitat in addition to a splash of color on the Lake.



How Does Your Garden Grow.....

Submitted by Laramie Rivers CD

A garden is a wonderful place to learn about life and growth. A dry seed in the hand looks insignificant, but inside is a plant to be. Pressed into some warm, rich earth and given a little water and sunshine, the seed begins to develop. A root breaks out of the seed coat and pushes deep in search of plant food and water. A tender green leaf thrusts it way upward through the soil. . .



In some schools, gardens are being integrated into the educational curriculum to teach children not only about plants, nature, and the outdoors, but other subjects as well. Gardens can teach about history,



agriculture, economics, poetry, art, math, science studies, nutrition, and food preservation. Studies have also shown that school gardens offer benefits that go beyond the classroom. Gardens can provide the opportunity for students, teachers, and the community to interact. This interaction can help with the improvement of interpersonal social skills and teach students how to work cooperatively with others.

Students have the responsibility to care for their plants or the plants die, this helps instill in them a sense of accountability. Since plants don't grow overnight, patience is another virtue they learn. As the garden grows and becomes fruitful and attractive, students can take pride in their project which helps bolster self-esteem. A school garden allows students to work in a non-threatening outdoor environment and can provide them with a tranquil retreat from every day stress and a release for excess energy.



The garden is a living entity that can serve as an excellent resource to teach subjects while allowing students to learn in an environment that is atypical to the sterile classrooms to which most students are accustomed. School gardens can become an integral part of the classroom and may ultimately improve student learning.



The ultimate benefit is kids learn first hand the benefits of growing, harvesting and eating healthy foods.

“GARDENS CAN TEACH ABOUT HISTORY, AGRICULTURE, ECONOMICS, POETRY, ART, MATH, SCIENCE STUDIES, NUTRITION, AND FOOD PRESERVATION.”



New Employees Join the WCDEA Family

Lisa Ogden, Natrona County CD



Lisa Ogden is a Wyoming native that has lived in Wyoming most of her life, except for a few short years in Oregon (which was beautiful, but way too much rain!). Lisa started with Natrona County Conservation District in March of 2010, after working for Wyoming State Workforce Services for a time. She has her Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, with a minor in Psychology, and her background in the sciences has been very helpful in the new challenges at the District.

Lisa lives on fifteen acres in Natrona County with her husband, Randy, of twenty years, and her sons Ryan and Michael. She began raising chickens after moving out of town, just for the eggs, but soon began "collecting" the different breeds just for the enjoyment of their personalities and sounds. In the distant future, Lisa would love to start a wildlife rehab "clinic" for injured wildlife.

Jerry Forester, Sheridan County CD



Jerry Forster came to work for the Sheridan County Conservation District in January of 2010. His move to the Conservation District comes after 26 years of dedicated service to landowners and natural resources with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). He officially retired from the NRCS on January 01, 2010. Jerry first started working with the NRCS in 1983. While still finishing a master's degree in Agronomy he was hired on as a soil conservationist in Buffalo. Shortly thereafter he was transferred to Baggs until 1986. From Baggs he went on to work in Cheyenne and took his final position with the NRCS as a District Conservationist in Sheridan in 1990. Jerry was critical to the success of the Conservation Partnership between NRCS and the Sheridan County Conservation District. He was named outstanding District Conservationist by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts in 2004 and 2009. He also received the Stockgrowers' Outstanding Range Professional in 2010. His expertise on resources and soils has been a valuable contribution to local water resource improvement projects.

Alicia Rux, Dubois-Crowheart CD



Alicia Rux was born and raised in the farm country of Nebraska, in the northeast corner of the state. She came to Wyoming to attend the University of Wyoming in Laramie, and studied many areas of agriculture and natural resources while working toward her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. After graduation and two and half years with the University of Wyoming's Human Resource department, she and her family moved to Crowheart where they operate a commercial hay and cattle operation. This lifestyle has provided Alicia with a great deal of experience in the areas of public grazing permits and land use issues, weed control, and irrigation water conservation and management. She is excited about her new position as Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District Manager and is looking forward to helping local producers and community members take advantage of the many programs the district has to offer.



Oakley Ingersoll, Uinta County CD

Oakley Ingersoll, a Rangeland Specialist, started work for the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) in October 2010. He is a Wyoming native born and raised in Pinedale. He attended Northwest Community college in Powell for two years, and completed his schooling at the University of Wyoming. In May of 2006 he received a bachelor's degree in Range Ecology and Watershed Management with a minor in Soils. Oakley is married to Dr. Amber Ingersoll who is a veterinarian at Bear River Veterinary Clinic in Evanston. The two enjoy many outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, trips to the mountains, and camping.



Colleen Tate; Converse County CD

Colleen Tate is the new District Clerk for Converse County Conservation District. She has lived in Wyoming for 28 years. Colleen is married to husband, Don, and she has three grown children, Robin, Elizabeth and Robert. Colleen is thrilled to be a new member of the conservation district "family"!



Diana Olson, Popo Agie CD

Diana Olson originates from Torrington, Wyoming. She started working with PACD in January, 2010 as a program assistant. She has a degree in geology and a lot of experience in administration. Prior to coming to PACD, Diana worked for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality permitting gravel pits and continues to be a consultant to the operators in the field. Diana is a positive and energetic person that has tackled a variety of projects since her arrival from report writing to education planning and preparation to water quality monitoring.

Diana and her husband Jerry live on a few acres outside of Lander with their children James and Jessica where she enjoys riding her horses.



Jerry Hattan, Goshen County CDs

Jerry Hattan a NRCS retiree and volunteer for NRCS has recently signed a one year contract with the three Goshen County Conservation Districts to be their Water Quality Consultant. His duties will include collecting data for the random UAA's that each district just recently were involved with. He will provide designs for water quality projects and structures, he will provide annual inspections of the 5 flood prevention structures on 5 watersheds within the county and promote NRCS and Conservation Districts programs within the county. The three districts are very excited about this contract and the knowledge that Jerry will bring with him in this position.





District Employees Receive Longevity Awards

This year 13 District Employees received Longevity Awards for their years of dedicated service to their Districts. They include:

Area II

- Brady Irvine 5 yrs Platte County CD
- Jim Cochran 20 yrs Laramie County CD
- Nancy Borton 25 yrs Goshen County CDs

Area III

- Emily Ewart 5 yrs Meeteetse CD
- Steve Jones 5 yrs Meeteetse CD
- Kristin Tilley 10 yrs Shoshone CD
- Caryn Agee 15 yrs Washakie County CD
- Tori Dietz 20 yrs Washakie County CD

Area IV

- Arla Strasser 5 yrs S-E-R CD
- Todd Heward 5 yrs Medicine Bow CD
- Jeri Trebelcock 15 yrs Popo Agie CD

Area V

- Brenda Ashworth 5 yrs Star Valley CD
- Randy Williams 10 yrs Teton CD

Congratulations and Thank You for all that you do.

Sublette County Kids Ag Connection

Submitted by Sublette County CD

The Kids Ag Connection is being done as a way to re-connect kids with the importance of agriculture. It seems as if today many kids don't know how food gets to their dinner plate. Perhaps some might even think it's made at the grocery store. The Sublette County Conservation District, Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association and the Green River Valley Cowbells/Cattlemen hosted four 30 minute education sessions done with live animals. These presentations were given by a handful of local producers who generously donated their time & animals. These were all held during the county fair.

Check out their clip on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RealRanchers?feature=mhum>

“THE GREATEST
PLEASURE IN LIFE
IS DOING WHAT
PEOPLE SAY YOU
CAN NOT.”



WCDEA Employee's Meeting Agenda

WCDEA Annual Convention Meeting & Training November 16, 2010 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Call the meeting to Order
 - Minutes
 - Financials
 - Reports
 - WACD
 - WDA
 - NRCS
 - Nephi/Cathy-Recreational UAA Updated
 - Old Business
 - None
 - New Business
 - Trainings
 - Presentation from Mountain West Business Solutions; Jerry Asay
 - Break 3:00-3:15pm
 - Training
 - Conflict Resolution-Lucy Pauley
 - Adjourn 5pm
-
- 7:00 pm Optional Roundtable for Districts interested in having their own computer systems (alternatives to utilizing the NRCS Server)
 - Randy Wiggins-Invited

“.....ENCOURAGE
COMMUNITIES TO
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PROTECTING OUR
WATERWAYS.”

World Water Monitoring Day

Submitted by Uinta County CD

Each year during the month of September, the UCSD #4 5th graders spend a day at the Uinta County Youth Camp facility. The students get to learn from several different instructors about a variety of topics. This year, Dannette and Kerri celebrated World Water Monitoring Day with the students. The students tested the Blacks Fork river for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity of the water. After collecting the results, the students calculated the flow of the water by dumping environmentally friendly bright green dye into the water and timing how fast the dye traveled down stream.



WWMD is an educational outreach program developed to provide awareness and encourage communities to be proactive in protecting our waterways. WWMD day is celebrated internationally with 39 countries celebrating each year, and 3900 sites monitored. WWMD is a great opportunity to participate and become informed about the health of our local waterways. Dannette and Kerri also celebrated World Water Monitoring Day with fifteen students from the Children's Learning Foundation on August 9, 2010.



The Purpose of the WCDEA is:

- *To promote natural resource conservation in Wyoming and in Conservation Districts*
- *To assist as needed or requested in the implementation of District programs and activities*
- *To establish and maintain a standard of quality for Conservation District Employees*
- *To establish and maintain a continuing education program for Conservation District Employees*
- *To encourage excellence in fulfillment of duties of District employees in their job capacities.*

Who Is Your WCDEA Executive Committee?

Following this year’s WACD Convention your executive committee will be:

President: Glen Leavengood; SER CD

Vice President: Todd Heward; Medicine Bow CD

Treasurer: Sno Ann Engler; Sublette County CD

Secretary: Anita Bartlett; Powder River CD

Area I Representatives:

Crystal Kellebrew; Campbell County CD

Amy Doke; Sheridan County CD

Area II Representatives:

Brady Irvine; Platte Valley NRD

Liz Harvey; Laramie Rivers CD

Area III Representatives:

Steve Jones; Meeteetse CD

Kristin Tilley; Shoshone CD

Area IV Representatives:

Lisa Ogden; Natrona County CD

Dave Morneau; Popo Agie CD

Area V Representatives:

Robb Sgroi; Teton CD

Kerri Sabey; Uinta County CD

WACD Liaison: Jeri Trebelcock; Popo Agie CD

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If you have any questions or comments regarding employee issues please feel free to contact any one of us.