

Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands
Bright Future

Events Calendar:

January 18: Volunteer Rain Gauge Network, a Conservation Conversation lecture, Baldwin City Public Library

January 21: Kaw Valley Eagles Day, Free State High School, Lawrence

January 24-25: No Till on the Plains Conference, Salina

January 26-27: Slice of Ag, Douglas Co.

January 26: Veterinary Feed Directive: How Does This Change Effect Your Livestock Business; Cookies & Conversation Series, Shawnee Co.

January 31: Stream Bank and Pond Care; Coffee, Cookies & Conversation Series, Shawnee Co.

February 2: Pollinator Habitats; Coffee, Cookies & Conversation Series, Shawnee Co.

February 9: DCCD Annual Meeting, 4-H Fairgrounds, Lawrence (Open to the public)

February 9-10: Women Managing the Farm Conference, Manhattan, KS

February 17: Ag Stewardship Conference, Overbrook

February 22: Prescribed Burning Workshop, Ottawa

March 18-19: Urban Homesteading Institute- Mother Earth News, KU Student Union, Lawrence

Newsletter Quarter 1/2017
VOL. 31 ISSUE 1



Protecting Douglas County
Natural Resources Since 1945

Please Join Us

Douglas County Conservation District 71st Annual Meeting

**Thursday, February 9th, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Flory Meeting Hall, 4-H Fairgrounds
2110 Harper, Lawrence**

Dinner is provided– **reservations required by
February 2nd**

The meeting agenda will include:

- Report of district activities and financial affairs for the prior year.
- Poster Contest winners award presentation
- Presentation of Kansas Banker's Soil Conservation and Wildlife Award
- Election by secret ballot of qualified electors of two Supervisors to serve for a term of three years.

Call our office at 785-843-4260 ext. 3 or e-mail randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net to make your reservation **by February 2nd**. You may also complete the reservation form on page 6 of this newsletter.

To provide leadership and assistance in promoting individual responsibility for the conservation of Douglas County natural resources.

Volunteer Rain Gauge Network
Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Baldwin City Public Library, Baldwin City

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). Join Mary Knapp, from the K-State Weather Data Library, as she describes how the network operates, and how you can participate.

Please RSVP to Douglas County Conservation District for free registration or if you need special accommodations: 843-4260, ext. 3 or e-mail douglasccd1@gmail.com

Part of the Conservation Conversation lecture series

Youth Conservation Education

Recognizing the importance of conservation education for youth, the Douglas County Conservation District, in association with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, sponsors a yearly poster/essay/limerick contest. The theme rotates among various conservation topics, with this year's theme being "We All Need Trees".

For 2016, four schools participated: St. John Catholic School, South Middle School, Raintree Montessori School and Sunset Hill Elementary School. The winners and their schools are:

3rd Grade Limerick

1 st Place	Zoe Peterson	Raintree
2 nd Place	Audrey Montgomery	Raintree

4th Grade Poster

1 st Place	Elle Cormaney	Sunset Hill
2 nd Place	Alayna Littlejohn	Sunset Hill
3 rd Place tie	Lola Stuhlsatz	Sunset Hill
3 rd Place tie	Henry Henrath	Sunset Hill

5th Grade Poster

1 st Place	Ava Amala	Raintree
2 nd Place	Isabel Klish	Raintree
3 rd Place	Jasmy Mavilla	Raintree

6th Grade Essay

1 st Place	Joshua Jewsome	South Middle
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6th Grade Limerick

1 st Place	Noah Van Foeken	South Middle
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6th Grade Poster

1st Place	Dana Nichols	South Middle
2nd Place	Adrianna Swearingen & Rylee Miller	Raintree
3rd Place	Liam Kinghouser	South Middle

7th Grade Limerick

1 st Place	Grace Shroyer	St. Johns
2 nd Place	Chaney Finkeldei	St. Johns

7th Grade Poster

1 st Place	Madison DeWitt	St. Johns
2 nd Place	Imagine Rodenbeek	St. Johns
3 rd Place	Soledad Stevanov	St. Johns

The winners will receive their awards at the DCCD Annual Meeting on February 9th. Thanks to the teachers and students who took the time to create thoughtful and colorful posters and limericks.



Friday February 17, 2017

Grace Community Church 310 East 8th Street (Highway 56), Overbrook, KS

CALL 785-828-3458 prior to February 10 to RSVP

8:30 Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome & Opening Comments

Kelly Lenz, Agriculture Director, WIBW AM 580 Radio

9:15-10:10 Agriculture Law and Taxation Update

Roger McEowen, Kansas Farm Bureau Professor of Agricultural Law and Taxation at Washburn University School of Law

10:15-11:10 Farm Profitability / Marketing

Tom Leffler; Loffler Commodities, LLC.

11:15-12:30 Lunch & Visit the Booths

12:30-1:20 Ag Mediation

Forrest Buhler; Kansas Agriculture Mediation Services Staff Attorney, KSU

1:30-2:20 Grassland Health & Weed Control

John Welborn; Shawnee County Weed Department

2:30- 3:00 Ag Technologies/Drones

Ray Asebedo; Kansas State University Assistant Professor, Precision Agriculture

3:00-3:15 Closing Comments

Organizational Planning Provided by:

Promotional Advertising Provided by:

Financial Support Provided by:



All four organizations are equal opportunity providers and employers

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The Douglas County Conservation District Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of each month at the USDA Service Center. If you have any questions or comments for the Board, or suggestions for this newsletter, please call 785.843.4260.

Prescribed Burning Workshop

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Celebration Hall, Fairgrounds, Ottawa, KS

Frontier Extension District and Franklin County Conservation District will be offering a prescribed burning workshop with the following topics: Reason to burn, weather conditions for burning, fire behavior, liability and more. To register or for more information, call either: Rod Schaub, Frontier Extension District at 785-828-4438 or Keri Harris, Franklin County Conservation District at 785-241-7201.

Registration is required by Friday, February 17th. Cost is \$10

No-Till on the Plains Conference

January 24-25, 2017, Bicentennial Center, Salina

The 21st anniversary Winter Conference will offer a lineup of more than 37 continuous no-till experts and top line producers, 55 breakouts, a special Q&A session with speakers and new one-day beginner's session preceding the conference. Visit www.notill.org for more information and to register.

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation Series, hosted by the Shawnee County Conservation District and the K-State Research and Extension-Shawnee County, with assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service

Thursday, Jan. 26—Veterinary Feed Directive: How Does This Change Effect Your Livestock Business

Tuesday, January 31—Stream Bank & Pond Care

Thurs., Feb. 2—Pollinator Habitats

Tuesday, Feb. 21—Farm Income Tax Management in Low Income Years

All programs begin at 1:00 p.m. and will end by 3:00 p.m. Contact the Shawnee County Conservation District for more info: 785-267-5721

Women Managing the Farm Conference

February 9-10, 2017, Manhattan

To aid women who are helping to grow the nation's food supply whether by design, marriage or inheritance, the theme of this year's Women Managing the Farm Conference is "Her AgriCULTURE Story—Change, Adapt, Grow". Learn more and register at <http://womenmanagingthefarm.blogspot.com>

Mother Earth News Institute

Urban Homesteading -

March 18-19, 2017, KU Student Union

A unique two-day event geared toward maximizing self sufficiency on urban and sub-urban properties. The Mother Earth News Institute is a relatively new event concept designed for people looking to go deeper into interesting, fun and educational experiences. Look for workshops on growing your own medicinal herbs, maximizing your lot with urban permaculture and more. The Conservation District will have a table highlighting pollinators in the Institute's "marketplace". Come see us there.

Conservation Partner Profile

Each quarterly newsletter, we feature one of our 'Partners in Conservation'. Whether we cooperate by hosting workshops and lecture series together or helping out at each other's events, we appreciate our partnerships with groups in the community.

Baker Wetlands

One of the most diverse habitats in Kansas, the Baker Wetlands encompasses 927 acres of rich, natural flora and fauna. Students, faculty, and nature lovers have identified 376 vertebrate species, and 487 plant species at the Wetlands. Restored prairie and grasslands, riparian forest areas, ponds, and wetlands are all part of the area.

Spearheaded by Roger and Jon Boyd, the Baker Wetlands are changing and improving. More land is being restored, the wetlands are expanding, new trails have been added, and the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center has opened.

The 10,000 square foot Discovery Center has exhibits on the importance of the wetlands and how they were restored. There are also family friendly stations where kids can check out pelts and other animal artifacts. In addition to the exhibits, the Discovery Center has spotting scopes, a research laboratory, observatory tower and classroom space. Built to be eco-friendly, 75% of the electric needs at the site are produced by a 10 KWH solar array.

With a simple set of rules, the wetlands and Discovery Center are a great place to visit.

Discovery Center hours – winter: 9 a.m. – noon, and 1-3 p.m. Monday – Saturday; 1-3 p.m. Sunday.

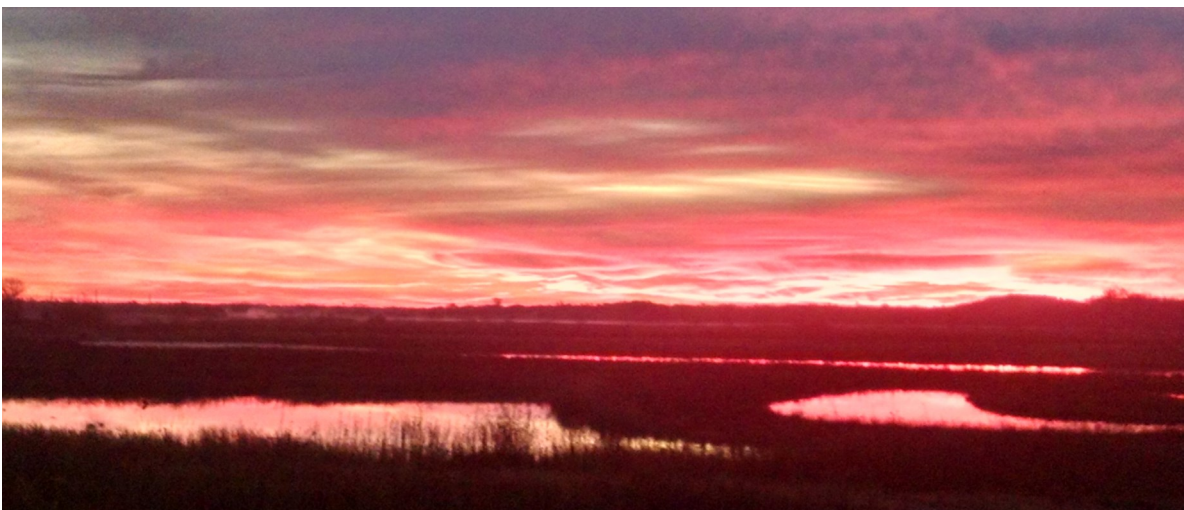
Discovery Center hours – summer: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Wetland hours – dawn to dusk.

Dogs must be leashed.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Just off the South Lawrence Trafficway, located at 1365 N 1250 Rd. in Lawrence, the wetlands are easy to find and easy to get to.



Baker Wetlands
at sunrise-
November 2016

Awards to be presented an Annual Meeting

Two awards will be presented at the Douglas County Conservation District’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 9th.

The Kansas Bankers Association Soil Conservation Recognition Award will be presented to Glenn Rockers. Mr. Rockers has been involved in constructing terraces and other conservation projects with the District for nearly 56 years. In addition to his contractor work, Mr. Rockers has installed multiple conservation practices on his own farm.

The District’s Wildlife Conservation award will be presented to the Baker Wetlands and Discovery Center, in recognition of efforts to restore and establish wetlands, native prairie, and riparian forest in the Wakarusa River Valley. Normally the District gives awards to an individual, but we believe the Baker Wetlands provide such a unique environmental resource for the county that this year we would give an award to the land, rather than an individual.

RSVP for DCCD 71st Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 9th, 2017 at 6:0 p.m. at the new Flory Meeting Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, located at 2110 Harper, Lawrence, KS. **RSVP by Feb. 2nd.**

Number attending: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Clip and send this registration to DCCD, 4920 Bob Billings Pkwy, Lawrence 66049 or e-mail: Randy.Winchester@ks.nacdnet.net

Friend of Conservation

The Douglas County Conservation District has a great opportunity available for you! Become a Friend of Conservation in Douglas County and we will promote your business on our website, in our quarterly newsletter, and at our annual meeting. Conservation is important in Douglas County, and what better way to show support than joining with the District to become a Friend of Conservation.

- Your donation of \$50 will list your business as a Friend of Conservation on our website during 2017.
- Your donation of \$100 will list your business on our website, plus give you a business card-sized ad in our quarterly newsletters which are mailed to nearly 800 Douglas County landowners and business.
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- Your donation of \$250 will list your business as an annual meeting sponsor in addition to all the benefits listed above.

Friend of Conservation funds will be used to help with 2017 Annual Meeting expenses and various education programs administered by the Douglas County Conservation District. Thanks for your support of conservation!

Friend of Conservation



Find Us Online:

Website: www.douglasccd.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasccd

Follow us for quick up to date information!

District Drill

The optimum time to plant native grasses is December 1st-May 15th, so as you plan your spring projects, remember the District has a seed drill available for rental. The LandPride 606 NT seed drill has a 6-foot head and can easily be towed behind a pickup truck for travel to and from sites. With three seed boxes, warm season grasses, cool season grasses, and forbs can all be seeded. The rental rate is \$100 check-out fee, plus \$10 per acre. For more information, contact Randy at 785-843-4260, ext. 129.

Douglas County Conservation District

Located in the USDA Service Center:

4920 Bob Billings Pkwy, Suite A

Lawrence, KS 66049

Phone: 785.843.4260, ext. 3

District Manager: randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net

Soil Technician: steven.hallstrom@ks.usda.gov

Education & Outreach: Sue.Funk@ks.nacdnet.net

Douglas County Conservation District
4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A
Lawrence, KS 66049

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Clean Water Healthy Lands

Bright Future

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DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Funding provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. All programs and services of the Conservation District are available to anyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Douglas County Conservation District 785.843.4260, ext. 3

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Board of Supervisors:

Karen Willey, Chair
Luke Ulrich, Vice Chair
Jordan Olsen, Treasurer
David Brown, Member
Mike Flory, Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager
Steven Hallstrom, Soil Technician
Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist

Farm Service Agency

785.843.4260, ext. 2
Johnathon Alley, County Exec. Director
Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech.
Jessica Yost, Program Tech.