Douglas County Conservation District



Healthy Soil • Clean Water Bright Future

Upcoming Events

If you have an event or webinar that you would like included in our newsletter please email the information to: douglasccd1@gmail.com.

April 20- 6:30-8:30pm Grazing the Native Prairie in Douglas County- see pg. 7 for Details.

April 21-10am-Noon-Grazing the Native Prairie in Douglas County- see pg. 7 for Details.

April 20- 5pm -Trails that connect us-, Join Friends of Lawrence Area Trails (FLAT) and Free State Brewing for an evening of live music, beer, food, and organizations committed to living a better life outdoors.

April 21- 6pm Sunflower STEAM Series: Scouting for Native Edible and Medicinal Plants While Riding the Roads. Sunflower Outdoor Bike Shop 804 Massachusetts, Lawrence KS. A fun and informative talk for anyone who delights in roadside plant life. Register

April 21-22, 8:45am, Eastern Kansas Grazing School- Wycoff Family Farms, 39947 W 231st Rd, Wellsville Ks 66092. See pg.9 for Details.

April 27, 5-6:30pm <u>Happy Hour on the Prairie</u>- 744 N 1800 Rd Lecompton. Tour around the remnant prairie at Winter School with Courtney Masterson of Native Lands! Seasonal cocktails are provided by our (spirited) barkeep, Aly Bush.

April 28, 11am-1pm- Lender Lunch and Learn- Please see pg10 for Details

April 24– <u>Jayhawk Audubon Education</u>-Environmental Education in Haiti- Debbie Baker – 7pm Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

April 29, 8am – <u>Jayhawk Audubon Field trip</u>-Baker Wetlands (Joint trip with Lawrence Public Library) west parking lot at the Discovery Center (1365 N. 1250 Rd) Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

April 30, 4-6pm— Spring Volunteer Workday at the Lawrence Nature Park. Please <u>RSVP</u> here if you plan to join us so that we can plan accordingly.

May 3, 8am – <u>Jayhawk Audubon Field trip</u>-Fitch Natural History Reservation – Park at Roth Trailhead and cross road to east to meet at Fitch Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Continued on Pg3

Newsletter Quarter 2 VOL. 36 ISSUE 2

Protecting the Natural Resources of Douglas County Since 1945

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



Cost Share Sign up

Time to mark your calendar and start thinking about upcoming projects such as terraces, waterways, tile systems, livestock waterers, streambank protection, and more.

Sign-up runs from now through June 1, 2023. A second sign up may be available if we still have funds.

All cost-share practices must be built to Division of Conservation (DOC) approved standards. Specifications are based on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications. Cost-share funds are allocated using a ranking process approved by the Division of Conservation. Landowners should receive notice of approved projects no later than July 31, 2023.

To apply for funding, please call us (785-843-4260 x6500) to discuss how we can help with your next conservation project! An application can be downloaded from our website at http://www.douglasccd.com/cost-share-programs.html.

The Kansas Division of Conservation (DOC) administers state cost-share programs through your Conservation District. The District provides landowners financial and technical assistance to implement approved conservation practices. Funding is provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund.



Join the Douglas County Conservation District at South Park for the Earth Day Fair, Saturday April 22nd, from 1-3pm. We will have the Stream trailer at South Park to demonstrate erosion and Conservation Practices. We will also have coloring pages.

There will be a range of crafts, activities and information from several participants including the Watkins Museum of History, Douglas County Food Policy Council, Lawrence Transit, and several more. Hope to see you there.

Other Earth Day events:

- Baker Wetlands 1365 N 1250 Rd will have a Family Fun Day from 9am-noon. Event is free and will have many fun activities.
- Lawrence Public Library 's Seed Library will have a Mushrooming adventure with author Sherry Kay. At 10am at Burcham Park
- Ninth Annual Kansas River Cleanup 9am-1pm Sponsored by Friends of the KAW, The Nature Conservancy, City of Lawrence, and The Merc. To clean the riverbank below the Bowerstock dam. RSVP at <u>kansasriver.org</u>.
- Prairie Park Nature Center 10am-1pm, Free Family Event—includes 3 small animal programs, a "seed bomb catapult" crafts and Games.
- Cans for the Community will be collecting cans all month long. The goal is to recycle 5,000 lbs. of aluminum cans. All proceeds will go to the Lawrence School Districts Elementary Schools.



Welcome to Our Newest Board Member!

Stephanie McNish was born and raised in Douglas County. Her family can trace their roots here in the county back to the 1850s. She runs a cow/calf operation alongside her husband and their three young children. Stephanie earned her accounting degree from Northwest Missouri State University in 2010 and a Masters of Accounting degree from The University of Kansas in 2011. She brings a unique perspective and understanding to the Douglas County Conservation District.

Upcoming Events Continued...

May 7, 8am – <u>Jayhawk Audubon Field trip</u>-Fitch Natural History Reservation – Park at Roth Trailhead and cross road to east to meet at Fitch Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

May 11, - <u>Douglas County Conservation District</u> Board Meeting - TBA- 785-843-4260

May 13, 3-5pm- Family Wildflower Walk (bring the kids) 1852 N 1150 rd. Lawrence, Families are invited to join us at the Akin Prairie near Eudora for a short, guided walk through the blooming wildflowers! This event is designed specifically for kids with short hikes and fun activities.

May 19th 6-7pm- Sunflower STEAM Series- Wildlife Corridors-Join Rachel for an exciting talk about wildlife corridors in Kansas. Let's change the way we see nature by changing our relationship with land. | <u>REGISTER</u>

May 20th 10am-1pm -<u>Native Plant Sale</u>- Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF)- Trinity Episcopal Church 1011 Vermont, Lawrence. 11th Annual Spring Native Plant Sale here in Lawrence, KS!

May 22– <u>Jayhawk Audubon Education</u>-Mating Systems in Birds | Ted Anderson– 7pm Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

June 3, 9am-1pm- Master Gardeners of DG County- Native Plant Sale- - see pg.4 for details.

June 3, 9:30am- 2:30pm- Garden Art Sale- - see pg.4 for details.

June 3, 9am-1pm- Master Gardeners of DG County- Garden Tour- see $\underline{\text{pg.4}}$ for details.

June 4, 11am-5pm- Master Gardeners of DG County- Garden Tour- - see pg.4 for details.

June 8, - <u>Douglas County Conservation District</u> Board Meeting— TBA- 785-843-4260

June 10, 7:30am- <u>Jayhawk Audubon Field trip</u> Clinton Lake,
Overlook Park Mutt - Run Dog Park AREA. Address is 1330 E 902
Rd. Let us meet on turn off north to Sesquicentennial Park just
west of the Dog Park @ 7:30 am (early start). Look for people
without dogs and with binoculars! Contact Roger Boyd
at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more
information.

June and July-Douglas County 4-H has several upcoming Summer camps For more information visit: https://www.douglas.k-state.edu/extension-summer-programs/ index.html

July 8th, 7:30am <u>Jayhawk Audubon Field trip</u> Baker Wetlands Meet at the Southwest Parking lot which is down by the river, south of the Discovery Center, just east of E 1400 Rd. Contact Roger Boyd at <u>rboydbird69@gmail.com</u> or 785-424-0595 for more information.

Garden Inspiration Weekend

Hosted by Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners



Garden Tour

Sat, June 3 | 10a to 5p Sun, June 4 | 11a to 5p

Six beautiful private gardens

Ticket prices are \$15.

Native Plant Sale

Sat, June 3 | 9:30a to 2:30p (while supplies last)

All plants are grown locally without pesticides.

29 new varieties of plants

Preorder bloom boxes containing 15 plants, or purchase individual plants day of sale.





Garden Art Sale

Sat, June 3 | 9:30a to 2:30p (while supplies last)

beautiful items to enhance your garden created by Master Gardeners

Both sales held in the open Pavilion at Douglas County Fairgrounds, 1930 Harper St, Lawrence, Kansas.



Details and ticket information are found our website.

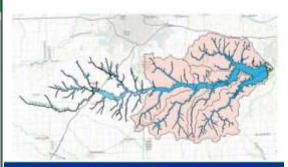
Proceeds support the Douglas County Extension Master Gardener activities and public programs.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

dgemgks.com

Upper Wakarusa Watershed

~ WRAPS Program ~



Watershed Priorities

Upper Wakarusa Upland and Riparian Areas

Conservation Cost Share and Consultation



Soil Health

- Cover Crops
- Permanent Vegetation/Buffers
- Nutrient
- Management/Applications

Livestock

- Waterers
- · Feeding Sites
- Permanent and Temporary Fencing
- · Rotational Grazing

Small Farm Projects



Call or Email Andrew Rutter andrew cutter@Raws.org 285-764-4562

Connecting the waters, lands, and people of Kansas





This project has been funded in part through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act

Grass Planting Season is Here

The District has equipment for rent and sells a variety of native warm season grass, cool season grass, forbs, and flower seeds.



Dew Drop Drill

Designed to be pulled by a ATV with twin seed boxes that can handle a variety of seed types including but are not limited to: warm and cool season grasses, native grasses.

Rental rate is \$50 per day.



606NT No-Till Drill

Land Pride's 606NT is a 6' Pull-type No-Till Drill - Landowners with tractors of 30-40 horse power will now be able to rent the drill from the district. The rental rate is \$100 check out fee, plus \$10 an acre.



REMINDER: Please call the Douglas County Burn Hotline at 785-832-5394 before conducting any burning of fields, brush, sticks, twigs, leaves, grass or anything. The Burn Hotline is updated every day by 8 a.m.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN SPRING & EARLY SUMMER



april

As days continue to grow longer, plants begin to green up. Winter might have one or two more freezes, but spring is well on the way! Mid April begins nesting season for many of our birds. You probably are already hearing robins sing as the sun comes up! More things to watch for this month include redbuds blooming and Earth Day. There will be lots going on in Douglas County, so keep an eye open for ways to get involved!

One invasive plant that is easy to see this month is the Bradford Pear. You can see this tree's white flowers along roadsides and in empty fields throughout Kansas.



May

By now, spring will have arrived! Forests and grasslands will be full of earlyblooming flowers. Towards the end of the month, you can expect to see the prairie dusted with white flowers such as Daisy Fleobane, Yarrow, Penstemon, and more!

The flowers blooming make this month a great time to observe the pollinators we have here in Kansas! You will see butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, and many more visit as days grow longer and the temperature rises.



June

June is when the prairie really puts on a showl if you are able, this month may be the best time of year to observe prairie plants in bloom!

Some of the plants that can be seen this month include many of the Milkweeds! Milkweeds are important hosts for the monarch butterfly and provide pollen and nectar to a wide variety of pollinators!

The summer solstice occurs in June. The longest day of the year provides plenty of time to explore our beautiful county!

June is also the month when we see some of the noxious weeds emerge.
Watch for non-native thistles such as Musk Thistle and Bull Thistle. This is
also when Sericea lespedeza will be visible and able to be treated before
it has the chance to spread.

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN ADD NATURE TO YOUR LANDSCAPE?

Hannah Pippert Wildlife Biologist



(785) 764 5565 hpippertepheasantsforever.org



Grazing the native prairie in Douglas County

Cultural and ecological perspectives

Join us in a discussion about the cultural and ecological importance of the largest tracts of prairie in the county - our native grazing lands. Speakers will talk about local history, pollinators and grassland birds, and issues affecting the future of these important lands.

Talk one-on-one about invasive species, woody encroachment, wildlife enhancement, and cost-share programs with staff from these natural resource groups:

- Douglas County Conservation District
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
- K-State Research and Extension Douglas County
- · Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
- KAWS/Upper Wakarusa WRAPS
- · Natural Resources Conservation Service (hand-outs only)

Worden

Thursday, April 20 6:30 – 8:30 pm Worden Cornerstone Church 298 E 900 Rd, Baldwin City, KS https://www.facebook.com/events/ 6121721064564136

Lecompton

Saturday, April 22 10:00 am - noon Lecompton Community Bldg. 333 Elmore St., Lecompton, KS https://www.facebook.com/events/ 136965592637629

No registration necessary. Coffee and cookies provided.

Sponsored by the Kansas Biological Survey in partnership with K-State Research and Extension, with funding provided by the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners and the Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program.







Purchase Native Grass Seed from the Conservation District

The Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG) mix consists of:

- 35% Big Bluestem
- 15% Little Bluestem
- 20% Indiangrass
- 10% Sideoats Grama
- 10% Switchgrass

Please Contact the Conservation District for a full list of seed available for grass, wildflower and forbs.

Phone: 785-843-4260 ext 3 Email: douglasccd1@gmail.com

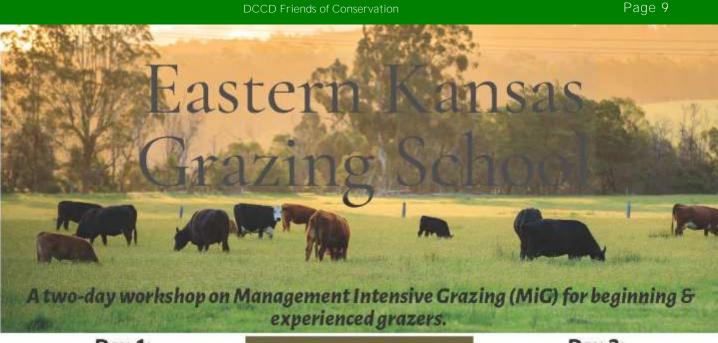




Jayhawk Audubon Society

Apr. 29, 2023 (Sat.) Baker Wetlands (Joint trip with Lawrence Public Library).

Meet at 8:00 am at west parking lot at the Discovery Center (1365 N. 1250 Rd). Spring migration should be close to full swing so many species of birds will likely be present. We will walk the center trail along the old N. 1250 Rd alignment to the Naismith Canal, cross on the bridge and continue east. Our intent is to walk to the center intersection and Grebe Pond blind which is 1.5 miles round trip. Warblers, vireos, buntings should be in full migration mode as well as several rail and wader species. This is the height of migration for the next 10 days. Weather will be a major factor in what we look for and where we go. We will probably be there 2-3 hours but you would be able to return to the parking lot at any time. You can usually anticipate some of the trails will be wet or muddy. All levels of interest and experience are invited. A few extra binoculars will be available for loan. Contact Roger Boyd at rboydbird69@gmail.com or 785-424-0595 for more information.



Day 1:

- 8:45am Registration (Coffee/Donuts)
- 9:15am Welcome
- 9:30am Art & Science of Grazing
 - Doug Spencer NRCS
- 10:15am Grazing Arithmetic
 - Doug Spencer NRCS
- 11:15am Stocking Rate & Resource Inventory
 - All Presenters
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Plant & Soil Basics
 - Bruno Pedreira KSRE
- · 2:00pm Forages to fill production gaps
 - Jaymelynn Farney KSRE
- 3:00pm Strategies to Maintain Productive Pasture
 - Bruno Pedreira KSRE
- 4:00pm End

April 21-22, 2023

Wyckoff Family Farms 39947 W 231st Rd. Wellsville, Ks 66092

- Registration costs \$50
 - Covers meals, snacks, & handouts
- Registration & payment by April 19.
- Max limit is 35 farms & is on first-registered basis.
 - Farm registration covers 2 people. Any additional persons are \$20.
- To Register or ask **Questions?** Contact the MdC District- Paola Ext. Office at 913-294-4306

SPONSORS:

Day 2:

- 8:45am Coffee/Donuts
- 9:15am Electric Fence
 - Rod Schaub KSRE
- 10:00am Watering Systems
 - · Herschel George
- 11:00am Pasture Allocation Exercise
 - · Doug Spencer NRCS
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45pm MiG Paddock Layout & Design
 - Jason Warner KSU
- · 2:00pm Economics of Grazing
 - Dale Helwig KSRE/KSFGC
- 3:00pm Q&A/End of School
- Bud Box Demonstration
 - Low Stress Cattle Handling Demo, for those who would like to see.





















LENDER LUNCH & LEARN

APRIL 28TH 2023 - 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Join the Douglas County Food Policy Council and partners for a Lender Lunch & Learn on April 28, 2023 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center located at 1365 N 1250 Rd in Lawrence.

The event will include presentations from Douglas County organizations who work to support our County entrepreneurial ecosystem. The vision for this event is to connect with lenders, share about the programs our partners provide for entrepreneurs, and learn from lenders about challenges entrepreneurs may experience when accessing necessary funding resources.

11:05—12:00 NetWork Kansas Presentation
12:00—12:15 Lunch provided by Just Food Chop Shop
12:15—12:45 Lunch Presentations by the Lawrence Chamber, the KU Small Business

Development Center, and the Douglas County Community Foundation

12:45—1:00 Questions and Conversation

11:00-11:05 Introductions

Please RSVP to this event on or before April 14th by viewing our <u>Eventbrite</u> page, using the QR code on this flyer, or e-mail dcfpc@douglascountyks.org



scan to register

Partner Organizations & Sponsors

















You know it's Spring when the Farmer's Markets open up.

The Lawrence Downtown Farmers Market —Location: 824 New Hampshire— Open every Saturday from 7:30am-11:30am

North Lawrence Farmers Market - Location: 923 North 2nd St, Lawrence KS, Open every Sunday from 9:00am-1:00pm

The Lawrence South Park Farmers Market - Location: South Park, Open every Tuesday from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Downtown Topeka Farmers Market —Location: Parking lot of the Judicial Center between 10th street on the North, 12th street on the South, Topeka Blvd on the West and Jackson on the East, SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS. Open every Saturday from 7:30am-Noon.

If you know of other farmer's markets in the area please email me at <u>Suzy.Mooney DCCD@outlook.com</u>



Common Ground Program Seeking Volunteers

Common Ground, the community gardening and urban agriculture program, has 11 sites across Lawrence and needs volunteers (individuals or groups) to help maintain the gardens, plant and harvest produce, and transport produce to local food banks.

For the 2023 season, Common Ground sites that need the most volunteer help are:

Little Prairie Donation Garden & Orchard—Peterson Park, North Iowa Street and Peterson Road. Contact Darin Brunin at bruninda@gmail.com.

Lawrence Community Orchard—830 Garfield Street. Contact Skyler Adamson at lawrence-fruittreeproject@gmail.com.

Growing Together Community Garden—West Third and Alabama streets. Contact Umut Bayramoglu at ubayramoglu@douglascountyks.org.

A few of the Common Ground sites have designated areas that are open to the public throughout the gardening season. For designated public-picking, please visit:

- The public section of the Garden Incubator at John Taylor Park, located at Seventh and Walnut streets.
- The Lawrence Community Orchard, located at 830 Garfield St.
- Growing Together Community Garden, located at West Third and Alabama streets.

Established in 2012, the Common Ground program provides residents underutilized properties for use as community gardens and farming land for minimal cost. It serves a dozen beginning farmers, more than 230 gardeners, as well as hundreds of community members that benefit from food donations and opportunities for physical activity. Last year, Common Ground donated more than 8,000 pounds of produce to local food banks. Questions? Contact: Program Manager Umut Bayramoglu at 785-312-2347 or

ubayramoglu@douglascountyks.org

Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste.

Plastic Free July[®] is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

For more information go to https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/



Ways to Reduce your Plastic Reliance

If you're like me, you looked around one day and said how did this happen? Why am I using so much plastic? When did this become commonplace? Well it's not to late to break the plastic habit.

Did you know that not all plastics are the same? That's right, there are different kinds of plastic. If you look

closely at the bottom or side of a plastic container you'll see a triangle made of arrows with a number inside. This symbol does <u>not</u> mean it is made from recycled material as a friend of mine thought. For example, number 6 is for Styrene or Styrofoam, it's found in Styrofoam containers, disposable cups, plates, plastic cutlery, packing peanuts etc., Styrofoam is not commonly recycled. Numbers 1-5 and 7 are commonly recycled. So pay attention to those numbers.

Did you know that Americans purchase about 50 billion water bottles per year, averaging about 13 bottles per month for every person in the U.S.! That means by using a reusable water bottle, you could save an average of 156 plastic bottles annually.

Coffee at work? Yes please. Styrofoam cups?? Oh, no. Did you know that Americans alone throw away around 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups every year? Look at the first paragraph. Another way to cut down on plastic is to take a reusable coffee cup to work.

What about those straws? Yes, I know this can be a touchy subject. But plastic straw use in America is outrageous. A whopping half a million plastic drinking straws a day. That's right— A DAY. Purchase reusable straws. A lot of them come with cleaning brushes and carry bags.

Refill instead of rebuying. I know it can be inconvenient but, getting refills for your cleaning products, and personal items does help reduce the plastic waste. Especially if the refill container is not plastic. You can even buy concentrated cleaners and refill your current bottles.

Five trillion plastic bags are produced worldwide annually. It can take up to 1,000 years for a bag to disintegrate completely. Americans throw away 100 billion bags annually—that's the equivalent to dumping nearly 12 million barrels of crude oil! By switching to reusable shopping bags, we can eliminate that waste—which amounts to about 307 bags per person. You can take it a step further and use mesh bags for your produce instead of the flimsy plastic bags they have in the produce section of the store.

This Earth Day, let's decide to do something to reduce our plastic reliance.

Numbers and information taken from https://www.earthday.org/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/

Thank You to our Sponsors







We need your help!

We focus on youth and conservation events.

Learn more at www.jayhawkquwf.com









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We provide seed and erosion supplies for reclamation projects, temporary and permanent road mixes, and wildflower seeds. Whether you need native grass seed or erosion products allow us to give you a quote.

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cell 785,979,2411

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Douglas County Conservation District

4920 Bob Billings Parkway, Suite A Lawrence, KS 66049 Return Service Requested

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:
Jordan Olsen: Chairperson
David Brown: Vice Chair
MacKenzie Flory: Treasurer
John Bradley: Member
Stephanie McNish: Member

<u>District Personnel:</u> Farm Service Agency
Suzy Mooney, District Manager 785.843.4260, ext. 2

Jeremy Gaines, Soil Technician Garrett Pounds, County Executive Director Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech

Jessica O'Trimble, Program Tech Allison Womack, Program Tech

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist

David Mooney, NRCS Clerk

Brooke Franklin, Natural Resource Specialist

Hannah Pippert, Pheasants Forever Jennifer Green, Soil Conservationist