

Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands
Bright Future

Newsletter Quarter 2/2016
VOL. 30 ISSUE 2



Protecting Douglas County
Natural Resources Since 1945

Garden Party Open House

Our new pollinator garden is up and growing, so let's celebrate! Last November the Douglas County Conservation District was awarded \$1,800 from the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund through the Douglas County Community Foundation to establish a pollinator garden on the grounds of the USDA Service Center.

On Tuesday, August 9, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. you are invited to visit the garden, learn more about the role of pollinators in our world, and how you can help.

At 5:30 pm, bird expert and Geary County Extension Agent Chuck Otte will speak on hummingbirds and their role as pollinators. Chuck is an avid bird-watcher and has wonderful insight (and pictures) to share.

Join us to pick up ideas on how to make your area more welcoming to pollinators.

Refreshments will be served.



Events Calendar:

July 6: District Board Meeting

July 19: Kids Take a Tasteful Look at Soils, 4-5 p.m., The Merc

July 25-31: Douglas County Fair, Fairgrounds

August 3: Growing Lawrence meeting: Farm Assistance Programs, Extension office, 7:00 am

August 3: District Board Meeting

August 9: Garden Party Open House, 4:30-6:30 p.m., USDA Service Center

September 7: District Board Meeting

September 7: Growing Lawrence meeting: Tree Fruit Production, South Baldwin Farms, 6:30 pm

September 9-18: Kansas State Fair, Hutchison

September 23: Douglas County Water Festival for all Douglas County 5th graders, Clinton Lake

October 1-2: Kaw Valley Farm Tour, Self-guided tour of over 20 farms along the Kaw River Valley

October 5: District Board Meeting

October 5: Growing Lawrence meeting: Mushroom Production, Wakarusa Valley Farm, 6:00 pm

ATV For Sale!

The Douglas County Conservation District is selling its ATV. Details: 2007 Kawasaki Bayou 220, 2x4, \$1000. Also for sale: ATV ramp, \$60. Contact Randy Winchester for more information: (785) 843-4260. Pictures of the ATV can be found on the District website: www.douglasccd.com

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

Welcome Steven Hallstrom

The District is pleased to announce Steven Hallstrom as the new Conservation Technician. Steven graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Environmental Studies with a focus on sustainable agriculture. After graduation he began a produce farm that distributes fruit, vegetables, and other farm goods through CSA (community supported agriculture) programs in Lawrence and Kansas City. He also raises pastured heritage hogs.

Steven and his fiancé Leah live in north Lawrence and are getting married this September. Steven looks forward to using his skills and knowledge to help conserve the natural resources of Douglas County.



Conservation in the Schools

Schools across Douglas County soon will begin gearing up for the new school year. The Douglas County Conservation District has many educational programs that can teach about conservation of soil and water. Lessons include:

“All the Water in the World” It might appear that we will never run out of water, but actually only one percent is available to us for daily use: Find out about the other 99% in this fun filled activity that links to NGSS 2 ESS2-3; or 5 ESS2-2.

“The Incredible Journey” where with a roll of the die, students simulate the movement of water within the water cycle, collecting beads along the way to represent the stops they make. This class links to NGSS MS-ESS2-4.

“Water Quality Hopscotch”. Participants will learn about point and non-point source pollution as well as water quality improvement methods. Students will simulate a river’s journey through the landscape, picking up and letting go of pollutants along the way. Its link is NGSS 5-ESS3-1.

Please call or e-mail the office for information on educational activities, lessons and programs that are available: 785-843-4260 or sue.funk@ks.nacdnet.net.

Watch the website and the Facebook page for announcement of upcoming “Conservation Conversations”. Do you have an idea or interest that you would like to share, or a topic you would like to see covered as part of the Conservation Conversation? Contact our office: 785-843-4260, ext. 3.

Speech and Poster Contest

Students are invited to display their knowledge and creativity through participation in the annual Douglas County Conservation District poster, essay and limerick contest. First, second and third place awards will be given to county winners at the DCCD's annual meeting. First place in each judging category advances to the state level competition.

The 2016 Poster Contest theme is "We All Need Trees". The poster contest is open for grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Posters should be on 12" x 18" paper, horizontal orientation and this year's theme "We All Need Trees" should be included.



The **Essay** Contest is open for grades 5-8, and the essay should be typed on letter-sized paper, 500 words or less with the subject of why conservation is important.

The **Limerick** Contest is available for grades 3-8 and should reflect a conservation theme.

All three contests are open to any Douglas County Student. Complete rules are available in the DCCD office or on the District website: www.douglasccd.com **The deadline for the 2016 contest is September 15, 2016.**

New This Year: Photo Contest

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) has announced a new contest for amateur photographers who are age 18 or younger as of December 1st. Subject matter includes conservation practices within the county in which the photographer resides including: cover crops, contour farming and strip cropping, grass waterways, livestock management, and stream bank stabilization. A complete list of possible subjects can be found on the KACD website www.kacdnet.org/conservationcommittee or in the DCCD office.



Minor digital enhancements are allowed, but images should not be altered in any significant manner. The photo should be 8" x 10", mounted on white mount board measuring 11" x 12.5". Complete instructions on required mounting can also be found on the KACD website. **The deadline for submitting photos in September 15, 2016 to the DCCD office.**

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.

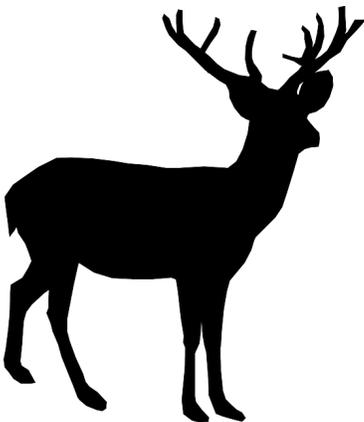
Providing Public Hunting Access Pays

By Brad Rueschhoff, District Wildlife Biologist

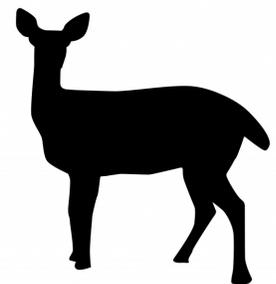
The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is accepting applications from private landowners willing to make their land available for public hunting access through a lease agreement. The Walk-In Hunting Access program (WIHA) is 20 years old and remains popular among hunters and landowners. Participating landowners receive payments which vary depending on the number of acres offered, quality of the habitat, and length of the access period.

Almost anyone who owns or leases land in Kansas can qualify. This includes resident landowners, absentee landowners, tenant farmers, estate managers, and others who manage privately owned land. Applications are accepted year-round, however applications for the fall 2016 season need to be submitted by July 1, 2016. This deadline allows for property review, lease development, posting signage and atlas production prior to September 1st. Once applications are received, biologists review the properties and assess them for hunting opportunity, available habitat, and access.

There are several benefits to participating in addition to the lease payment. Many landowners own land far from their home or do not have time to worry about who is hunting on their land. It may be more convenient for them to enroll their property in the WIHA program. Property boundaries are posted along with regulations so there is little doubt what property is open and what is not. Conservation officers patrol WIHA properties much like other public hunting areas. While incidents are rare, violators will be ticketed or arrested for offenses such as vandalism, littering, or failing to comply with posted regulations. Landowners can withdraw from the program at any time, but will be paid a prorated payment amount if they withdraw during the designated lease period. Liability is a valid concern. State law provides that private landowners who lease their land to KDWPT for recreational purposes like hunting are immune from damages or injuries that result from ordinary negligence. No vehicle usage by the public is allowed. Access is by foot traffic only during posted access periods. Hunting is the only designated public activity allowed on leased properties. Thus, activities such as camping are not allowed except with landowner permission.



For more information or if you are interested in enrolling your property, contact Brad Rueschhoff at 785-273-6740. You will be asked to provide your contact information and a legal description for the properties you would like to have considered for enrollment.



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.

Grassland Heritage Foundation

By Kim Bellemere, Membership & Education Coordinator

The Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) is a grassroots organization working to preserve prairies in eastern Kansas through education, stewardship, and land protection. Founded in 1975, GHF has successfully preserved native tallgrass prairie in Johnson and Jackson Counties, and through our sponsored workshops, events, and outings, we have educated thousands of children and adults about the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

Prairies of all types - short, mixed-grass and tallgrass prairies - once dominated central North America extending from Canada to Mexico. Tallgrass prairie alone historically covered 170 million acres and likely supported more than 1000 species of plants, 500 species of vertebrates, and 4000 species of insects. The deep roots of prairie plants helped create rich, fertile soil. Consequently, most tallgrass prairie fell victim to the plow, while some was developed for cities, towns, and roads. Today, the tallgrass prairie is the most endangered ecosystem in North America with only 1- 4% of the pre-EuroAmerican settlement acres remaining - roughly 80% of which is in the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Prairies have a number of important benefits: they retard storm-water runoff, they reduce pollution, prevent soil erosion, and improve land values. Most importantly, prairies consist of native plants upon which native insect pollinators, birds, and other animal species depend on for food, shelter and nesting sites.

The Kansas Biological Survey estimates that 75 - 94% of the land in northeastern Kansas was native tallgrass prairie in the 1850s. Today, most of those prairies are gone and remnant prairies make up only one half of 1% of this area.

GHF fulfills our mission of education and preservation in many ways:

- Protect and manage the 140-acre Rachel Snyder Prairie near Mayetta, KS.
- Teach landowners about prairie restoration and management.
- Teach children and families about the prairie and native habitat at events and workshops.
- Provide native plants to community members through our annual GHF Native Plant Sale.
- Award the annual Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship supporting graduate student research.
- Support the preservation and protection of remaining prairies throughout northeastern Kansas.



Join us in our work to preserve prairies and educate Northeast Kansas about our prairie heritage. To learn more about volunteering or joining GHF as a member, go to www.grasslandheritage.org, email us at grasslandheritage@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

Food System Plan

Our community leaders have asked for a strategic Food System Plan for Douglas County—to guide future land use and policy decisions relating to production, consumption, and other food issues. The Food System Plan will establish goals and policies to improve our local food system. Your voice and perspective as farmers, land owners, and residents matter.

The Douglas County Conservation District will collaborate this summer/fall with the Food Policy Council to collect your thoughts and experiences about where we are and where we want to go as a county. Your input will help inform the priorities and policies that eventually will be adopted by the City and County Commissions. Keep posted for more information this summer!

- Helen Schnoes, Douglas County Food Systems Coordinator

2016 Farmers Markets



Baldwin City Farmers' Market

@ SE Corner of 56 HWY & 6th Street

Saturdays April 16-Sept. 24, 8:00am-1:00pm

Questions? Contact Rachel Renyer

@ 319-504-2824

Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market

@ 1832 Massachusetts Street, in back parking lot

Thursdays, May 5-September 29, 4pm-6:30pm

www.cottinshardware.com/farmersmarket

Eudora Farmers' Market

@14th & Church (Parking Lot of Gene's Heartland Foods)

Tuesdays May 3-October 25th, 4:30-6:30pm

For more information, contact market manager Jamie Knabe, 785-615-1290 or check out their Facebook page, Eudora Farmers Market

Farmers Market

@ Clinton Parkway Nursery,

4900 Clinton Parkway

Wednesdays through Sept. 28, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Lawrence Saturday Market

@ 824 New Hampshire St.

April 9-August 27th, 7am-11am

September 3-November 19, 8am-12pm

www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com

Lawrence Tuesday Market

@707 Vermont St.

Lawrence Public Library Outdoor Plaza

May 3-October 24, 4pm-6pm

www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com

Perry Lecompton Farmers Market

@ 24 HWY & Ferguson Rd.

(in the Bernie's Parking Lot) Perry

Fridays May-October, 4[-6:30pm

[http://www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/perrylecomptonfarmersmarket)

[perrylecomptonfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/perrylecomptonfarmersmarket)

District Drill

The new LandPride 606 NT seed drill is up and running. Although wet weather slowed down some projects, the drill was busy through the month of May. The rental rate is \$100 check out fee, plus \$10 an acre. The drill 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.

For more information, estimates, and scheduling/reserving, contact Randy at 785-84304260 ext. 129.



Your Ad Here!

The Douglas County Conservation District produces a quarterly newsletter and we want to include your business information. Call Randy at 785-843-4260, ext. 3, to get more information on rates and other details.

Looking for a Contractor?

Visit our resources pages to view the a list that includes earthwork, burn assistance, brush clearing, well drilling, tree/shrub planting, and much more!

<http://www.douglasccd.com/resources.html>

Find Us Online:

Website: www.douglasccd.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasccd

Twitter: [@douglasccd1](https://twitter.com/douglasccd1)

Follow us for quick up to date information!

Did you know the Conservation District has equipment to loan free of charge?

Including:

Soil Compaction Meter, Soil Probe, Prescribed Burn Equipment

Call or stop by our office today to reserve!

• E-Newsletter •

Due to increasing budget constraints as well as conservation of natural resources, the District is moving towards using the electronic version of our newsletter. We will continue to send paper but encourage those that can to sign up for the electronic version.

Please send an email to Randy Winchester at

randy.winchester@ks.nacdnet.net

providing your contact information and email address or sign-up on our website at www.douglasccd.com.

Thank you for supporting our conservation efforts!

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

Conservation 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

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lawrence, KS 66049-1996
Permit #132

Clean Water Healthy Lands

Bright Future

www.douglasccd.com

Shipping Address

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, Conservation 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, Co. Exec. Director
Debbie Chappelle, Program Tech.
Lindsay Ly, Program Tech.
Shelley Taylor, Program Tech.
Jessica Yost, Program Tech.