

Douglas County Conservation District



Clean Water Healthy Lands
Bright Future

Events Calendar:

June 24-August 5: Water/Ways Exhibit at Eudora Community Museum. See more info on Page 4.

July 5: District Board Meeting

July 11: Raising Backyard Bees

July 24-30: Douglas County Fair, Fairgrounds

August 2: District Board Meeting

August 22: Garden Party Open House, 4:30-6:30 p.m., USDA Service Center

September 6: District Board Meeting

September 14: "Composting Made Easy" Conservation Conversation, Flory Meeting Hall

September 8-17: Kansas State Fair, Hutchison

September 29: Douglas County Water Festival for all Douglas County 5th graders, Clinton Lake

October 4: District Board Meeting

October 7-8: Kaw Valley Farm Tour, Self-guided tour of over 20 farms along the Kaw River Valley

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Protecting Douglas County
Natural Resources Since 1945

Garden Party Open House

Join us as we celebrate the second year of the pollinator garden and Monarch Waystation on the grounds of the USDA Service Center. On Tuesday, August 22, 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.

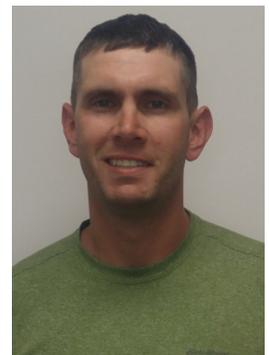
At 4:30 p.m., Tim Gogolski of GOGO's Bee Co. will speak on native bees and their importance in the landscape. At 5:15 p.m., Geary County Extension Agent Chuck Otte will speak on landscaping for birds and other wildlife. Chuck is an avid bird-watcher and has wonderful insight and pictures to share.

Refreshments will be served.



Board of Supervisors Update

Welcome to our newest Board Supervisor, Lowell Neitzel. Lowell is a lifelong Kansas resident, born and raised in St. Francis, Kansas. In 2003 he moved to Lawrence where he joined his wife's family farm. They raise corn, soybeans, and have a small feedlot. They practice strip-till and no-till farming. Lowell enjoys hunting, spending time with family and friends, and being on the farm.



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

Composting Made Easy

-A Conservation Conversation-

On Thursday, September 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the Flory Meeting Hall on the Douglas County Fairgrounds, join Lydia Gibson, Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist for the city of Lawrence, as she shares more about compost and how to start or improve your composting system.

Uncover the basic processes behind composting, and the keys to successful composting at home. Composting is nature's way of recycling, and participants will be shown how to recover valuable moisture and nutrients from green waste and return it into natural systems. Compost has long been prized for its role in the garden, and we will explore the reasons why, and the most common and easiest ways of creating your very own "black gold". Whether you're a first time composter or a veteran, the topics and perspectives will open your eyes to an unseen world right under our feet.

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

Conservation in the Schools

Schools across Douglas County will soon begin gearing up for the new school year. The Douglas County Conservation District has many educational programs which 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 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) 2-ESS2-3; or 5-ESS2-2.
- "Soil Stories" - Although soil is a building block for life, often it is only thought of as dirt. Students will get their hands dirty exploring the parts of soil and learning who lives there. Through conversation about erosion, NGSS 4-ESS2-1 will be linked.
- "The Incredible Journey" - 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 Sue Ann Funk, Education and Outreach Coordinator, for information on educational activities, lessons and programs that are available: 785-843-4260 or sue.funk@ks.nacdnet.net.



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 2017 Poster Contest theme is “Healthy Soils Are Full of Life”. The poster contest is open to grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Posters should be on 12” x 18” paper with a horizontal orientation, and this year’s theme, “Healthy Soils Are Full of Life” 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: **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.douglascdd.com **The deadline for the 2017 contest is September 15, 2017.**

Photo Contest

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



The photo should be 8” x 10”, mounted on white mount board measuring 11” x 12.5”. Minor digital enhancements are allowed, but images should not be altered in any significant manner. Complete instructions on required mounting can also be found on the KACD website. **The deadline for submitting photos in September 15, 2017 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.

RCCP and Kansas Forest Service

The Kansas Forest Service works statewide to support land management that benefits both private forest resources and public water quality. Landowners wishing to engage in forestry-related conservation activities can receive professional consultation and technical assistance from our foresters at no charge. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that funding is currently available to help landowners pay for projects that improve their woodlands and protect their waterways.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP) provides financial assistance for qualifying landowner projects within targeted watersheds. Project areas in Douglas County include the Upper Wakarusa watershed in the western half of the county and the Hillsdale watershed in the southeast corner of the county. Practices include: improving existing woodlands and riparian forests, installing cattle-exclusion fence, planting trees and shrubs, creating streamside filter strips, and more. Up to 90% of the total costs associated with this work can be covered by RCCP.

The program is a collaborative effort between many federal, state, and local groups and agencies that bring technical and financial resources to Kansas farmers and landowners. Applications for assistance are continuously accepted, reviewed and approved throughout the year. The process involves the development of a land management plan in collaboration with a Kansas Forest Service forester who performs site visits, evaluates resource concerns, and discusses management options with landowners.

For more information on the program contact Jarran Tindle with the Kansas Forest Service at 785-532-3340. There is also more information available online at the following websites:
www.nrcs.usda.gov and
www.kansasforests.org.



The Smithsonian Museum is Coming to Eudora, Kansas

From June 24th to August 5th, the Eudora Community Museum will host *Water/Ways*. Developed by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington DC, *Water/Ways* focuses on the numerous relationships between people and water. How has water shaped our history and traditions? How does it impact our daily life? What does the future hold for water? The Eudora Community Museum will also develop a companion exhibit to *Water/Ways* that relates to the history of water and Eudora. The companion exhibit will have a focus on the Kansas River in Eudora and the devastating 1951 flood.

The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 am to 5 pm at the Eudora Community Museum, 720 Main Street.



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.



Kaw Valley Farm Tour October 7th and 8th 2017

The Kaw Valley region offers a wealth of sights, tastes and traditions. Now in its 13th year the farm tour provides fun and interactive farm experiences, supports local farms and introduces individuals of all ages to the many faces of agriculture in the Kaw Valley.

Have breakfast on a farm, discover unique artisans, nurseries and greenhouses, pumpkin patches and wines produced at local vineyards. Pet a friendly alpaca, meet a horse that paints or chat with a chicken.

The Kaw Valley Farm Tour is the perfect event for friends and families, and a great way to make connections between the farmers in the fields and the foods on our tables. Info and Tickets are available at www.kawvalleyfarmtour.org



Nexus Interpreting Helps Out District

The District would like to offer a big THANK YOU to Nexus Interpreting of Olathe, Kansas for their willingness to volunteer services for two of our Backyard Conservation classes. Their assistance made it possible for the District to meet its responsibility of serving everyone in our community.

They provide Sign Language interpreting services across the state of Kansas and as well into the state of Missouri. For locations that are in the rural parts of Kansas, they also offer VRI (video remote interpreting) when appropriate. VRI is when the interpreter is accessed through an iPad or a computer. The interpreter appears on a screen on your selected device and then can also see the consumer on their end. Once a connection is made through video and audio, they will then start interpreting.

Nexus Interpreting provide interpreters for a variety of settings, whether that is in the court room, business meetings or an informational workshop about, "Raising Backyard Bees". They only employ interpreters that hold some of the highest certifications in the state of Kansas and several possess national certification as well.

If you have any questions about Sign Language interpreting, please feel free to contact them at: 913-220-2333 or by e-mail at: amanda@nexusinterpreting.com or on their website: www.nexusinterpreting.com

Volunteer Rain Gauge Network

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). Volunteers take measurements of precipitation any time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses the area. These precipitation reports are then recorded on the Web site www.cocorahs.org. The data are displayed and organized for many end users to analyze and apply to daily situations ranging from water resource analysis and severe storm warnings to neighbors comparing how much rain fell in their backyards. Check out their website to learn more.

Want to be involved? Currently, the District has a limited number of rain gauges suitable for CoCoRaHS reporting available for \$25.00. Contact the District office for more information.

2017 Farmers Markets

Farmer's Markets are a terrific way to find local food, and Douglas County has many options. Check out these Douglas County Farmers' Markets:



Baldwin City Farmers' Market

@ High Street (Downtown)

Saturdays April -Sept., 7:30 am-12:00 pm

Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market

@ 1832 Massachusetts Street, in back parking lot

Thursdays, May -Oct., 4pm-6:30pm

www.cottinshardware.com/farmersmarket

Eudora Farmers' Market

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

Tuesdays May -October, 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. 27, 4:30pm-6:30pm

Lawrence Saturday Market

@ 824 New Hampshire St.

April -August, 7am-11am

September -November, 8am-12pm

www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com

Lawrence Tuesday Market

@707 Vermont St.

Lawrence Public Library Outdoor Plaza

May -October, 4pm-6pm

www.lawrencefarmersmarket.com

Perry Lecompton Farmers Market

@ 24 HWY & Ferguson Rd.

(in the Bernie's Parking Lot) Perry

Fridays May-October, 4-6:30 pm

<http://www.facebook.com/perrylecomptonfarmersmarket>

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. Contact our office to learn more about this exciting new program.

Thanks to these
“Friends of Conservation...”

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District Drill

Don't forget that the Conservation District has a LandPride 606 NT Seed Drill available for rental for those early fall reseeding projects. 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.



• **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 Sue Ann Funk at sue.funk@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!

Find Us Online:
Website: www.douglasccd.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasccd

Douglas County Conservation District

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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:

Jordan Olsen, Chair
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David Brown, Treasurer
Mike Flory, Member
Lowell Neitzel, Member

District Personnel:

Randy Winchester, District Manager
Sue Ann Funk, Education & Outreach

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

Tim Miller, Supervisory District Conservationist
Coleen Davison, Soil Conservationist

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