



DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

~helping people help the land~

Conservation Happenings

Newsletter

March 2017

DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND NRCS STAFF

Douglas County CD

Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, President
Kevin Shanks, Vice-President
Ray Kujawski, Secretary
William Vanderpoel, Treasurer
Cliff Meier, Member
Clete Lewis, Member
Vacancy, Member
Pam Brewster, District Admin.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Deric Clemons, District Conservation
Dan Nosal, Range Management
Linda Pollick, Civil Engineering Tech
Deborah Rigo, Civil Engineer
Lana Armon, Soil Conservationist
Stacey Collins, Programs Support

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Clete Lewis

I'm Diggin' My Doug Workshop for Kids Planting Home Gardens in Douglas County

This educational program teaches children 8-11 years old how to grow a plant while guiding them to uncover their deeper connections with our natural environment - water, air, soil, sunlight. This new interactive approach includes energetic practices of movement etc. and connects youth to gardening in intellectual, physical, emotional and intuitive ways. The kids have the fun and connection of planting a seed and taking it home with them along with instructions on how to care for their plant "Doug".

There is limited space for this workshop. This free interactive workshop for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders (ages 8-11) is on Saturday, April 22nd at the Douglas County Public Library in Castle Rock (100 S Wilcox Street) from 1pm to 3pm. To reserve a place for your child please call 719-406-5800 or visit GrowinDoug.com

SMALL ACREAGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

This free workshop will be on March 25, 2017 at 8am to 12:30pm at Kirk Hall on the Douglas County Fairgrounds located in Castle Rock, CO.

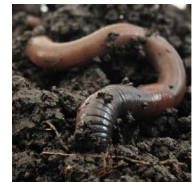
The topics featured will be:

SOIL HEALTH

BEEKEEPING

YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

CHICKENS



RSVP TO: Leah Braton at DCFarmBureau@aol.com



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Conservationists of the Year 2016–The Browneller Family. The Browneller's own 44 acres in the southern part of Douglas County along the front range. The land has been in the family for five generations. Forest health practices on seventeen acres of the property such as tree thinning, Gambel oak clearing and mastication (chewing up slash) has been completed along with reducing continuity of fuels with a fuel break. They also have kept some of the dead tree (snags) standing for wildlife habitat. Part of the land was a gravel pit, they used biochar as a reclamation experiment to enhance soil health. Where they planted grass seed, applied biochar, manure, and slash, the area is now able to be grazed. They have set up a rotational grazing system by cross fencing three pastures into seventeen pastures with three miles of fence. Linda and Terry were recognized for their outstanding conservation efforts and good stewardship of the forested and grazing land at our annual meeting in October 2016.

SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE

The Douglas County Conservation District is selling seedling trees in Douglas County for the State Forest Service Nursery. There is a wide variety of seedling trees and shrubs available for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, shelterbelts, visual screens, etc. These plants are to be used for conservation plantings. Seedling order forms are available now.

March 29th is the deadline to order trees. Contact our office for an order form at DCCDistrict@gmail.com or 303-218-2622. Tree distribution will be April 13, 2017 in Castle Rock.



Windbreak Design and Species

Now is a great time to plan for a windbreak. A windbreak is a combination of trees and shrubs planted to protect a home, farmstead, or even driveway from prevailing winds and blowing snow. When planning a windbreak, you should consider many factors in order to have an effective windbreak. These factors include: **Location, Tree Species, Number of Rows desired, and Tree Spacing**

Location is the first consideration in planning a windbreak. With our prevailing winds coming from the north and west, place windbreak on the north and west side of the buildings and areas that you want to protect. The windbreak should be planted between 100-300 feet from the area you are trying to protect.

Species are very important and can determine how many rows for the effectiveness of the windbreak. **The most effective windbreak is 3 to 5 rows**, the most common is 2 rows with Ponderosa pines and/or Junipers. Shrub row is an important part of a windbreak if you have space. This provides a low dense barrier on the windward side, especially in the winter months, to prevent snow from blowing and drifting.

When planting your windbreak, the **spacing of the trees** will also improve the windbreak effectiveness. For more details on windbreaks, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 303-218-2626

An Exciting Opportunity!

We are looking for one more Douglas County Landowner interested in being part of a very motivated and active Conservation Board!

Are you interested in conserving our natural resources here in Douglas County?

Do you have a desire to share in the urgency to conserve the precious natural resources in Douglas County with others?

Would you like to be involved in educating landowners through conservation projects and seminars addressing natural resource concerns in the county?

If so, and you reside in Douglas County, then feel free to send a letter of intent to join the Douglas County Conservation District Board.

Mail, or email, to:

Douglas County CD

PO Box 688, Franktown, CO 80116

or

DCCDistrict@gmail.com

Landowner Financial Assistance for:

Noxious Weeds (A & B List Species)

The Douglas County Conservation District has an opportunity for landowners to apply for noxious weed control assistance. This grant will assist with a 50% cost share up to \$500.00 per property for chemical and biological control methods for weeds on the Colorado State Noxious Weed "A" and "B" list species. Landscape projects will not be funded. If you are interested, you can obtain an application via email DCCDistrict@gmail.com. Please complete the application form and mail, or email it in to our office. The deadline is April 20, 2017. If your application reaches our office after the deadline, it will be considered in the second round of reviews if funding is still available.

Projects will not be funded if other Federal, State or Local funding is being used for project.



Fuels Mitigation and Defensible Space

Douglas County landowners can apply for financial assistance for fuels mitigation and defensible space practices on their property. The conservation district will assist small acreage landowners with a 50% cost share of the total project treatment costs not to exceed \$500.00 reimbursement per property. The practices cost shared are tree thinning, fuels reduction, slash mulch/chipping of cut trees and equipment rental. Landscape projects will not be funded. If you are interested, please get an application via email DCCDistrict@gmail.com. Mail or email the completed application form to our office. The deadline is April 20, 2017. The applications will be reviewed and ranked for approval. Applicants will be notified the beginning of May. If your application reaches our office after the deadline, it will be considered in the second round of reviews if funding is still available. **Projects will not be funded if other Federal, State or Local funding is being used for project.**



College Scholarships Available

\$1000.00 scholarships available to qualified applicants. This scholarship is open to any graduating 2017 Senior who will be attending college in the fall of 2017 as a Freshman or Sophomore majoring in the fields of Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Soil Science, Watershed Management, Earth Resources Sciences, and other fields related to the utilization and conservation of soil, water, plant, and animal resources. Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 point scale. Please send a one to three page letter and a copy of transcripts of previous course work to the Douglas County Conservation District at PO Box 688, Franktown, CO 80116. the deadline is May 17, 2017.

The Douglas County Conservation District Welcomes Clete Lewis to the Board

Now retired, Clete's professional career involved managing Environment, Health and Safety programs for large companies in the petroleum and medical diagnostics industries. He has lived in Colorado for 22 years, and currently resides in Douglas County with his wife Elizabeth Suarez, and youngest daughter Bianca. In his retirement, Clete looks forward to further involvement in community service and pursuing his outdoor recreation interests.



We are very thankful to have Clete as part of the district board of supervisors. His expertise has and will continue to be very valuable to the county.

PRODUCTS

Custom Seed Mixes:

- Pasture and Hay Mixes*
- Native (1 acre bags in office)*
- Introduced Grass Mix*
- Drought Tolerant Turf Seed*

Wildflower Mixes :

- All Perennial Mix*
- Low Grow Mix*
- Rocky Mountain Mix*

Tree and Other Supplies:

- Seedling Trees*
- Barrier and Staples*
- Fertilizer Tablets*
- Polymer Crystals*
- Gopher Traps*
- Mosquito Larvicide*
- (40# Bag/Dunks)*



Grass Seed Drill is available to rent

Programs:

District Seminars and NRCS Farm Bill Programs

HISTORY: The Douglas County Conservation District's mission is to "promote projects through education to further the long-term sustainable use of natural resources balancing the needs of agriculture and urban growth".

The Douglas County Conservation District was formed on September 15, 1960 from the landowner's recognition of a need to control and prevent further deterioration of the Natural Resources after the drought in the 1930's. The issue today is to educate landowners on water quality, erosion and sediment control relating to urban development, over-grazing on small acreage, fire mitigation, learning to ID and control the spread of noxious weeds.

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