

Clear Creek Conservation District

Fall Newsletter

October - December 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The Clear Creek Conservation District is dedicated to the development and implementation of programs to provide leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of Johnson County's natural resources, agricultural heritage and resource base, to promote the control of soil erosion, to promote and protect the quality and quantity of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, to protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of this County through responsible conservation planning.

CHECK OUT THE NEW NAME!

It's official, folks! As of September 11, 2017, we are now the Clear Creek Conservation District.

We are getting things changed over to the new name slowly but surely. Tanna Parker, with Imagine That Signs and Graphics, has been putting together our new logo. When that's been voted on by the Board of Supervisors, you will see our signs change! Again, more changes will happen but it's a slow process.

Please be patient with us but we are excited to have a new name!

ONE MORE CHANGE:

This will be our last printed newsletter. Due to budget constraints, we have decided to offer the newsletter online only. Please send me an email to amanda.hulet@lccd.org and you can get the newsletter once per quarter with occasional additional information on District news. You can also check out the website which will contain all of the information too! For now, it's still www.lccd.org

Thanks for your patience in all the changes we have coming!

Also in this issue:

- *Winter Tree Care
- *Giving your kids something to do
- *Soil Workshop & Tree Workshop
- *Tree order forms
- *Calendar of Events

Winter Tree Care.

As much as some residents resist, it is a fact of life... fall is upon Johnson County with winter already establishing itself in the high country of the Bighorn Mountains. Fall and winter tree care is not always a top priority for homeowners. Many only think of removing the leaves that fall during autumn and cleaning out gardens for the next growing season. However, there are a few things that property owners can do to prepare their trees for the coming onslaught of winter. Below is a few tips to help prepare trees for the winter months, increasing their ability to withstand the cold temperatures while also increasing their health for next spring.

- **Wrap the trunk.** In Wyoming, thin-barked trees like honey locust, maple varieties, and linden varieties are susceptible to sunscald and frost cracks because of drastic winter temperature fluctuations and low angled sun radiation. To prevent bark damage, wrap the trunks of younger trees up to the first branches using commercial tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until early April and then remove. These wraps can be found through online searches and ordered and shipped.
- **Mulch the base.** Apply 2 to 4 inches of wood chips/bark or other organic mulch near the base of the tree, but not against the trunk. This helps to reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption and insulate the root system against temperature extremes. The radius of the mulch ring should extend to the 'drip line' or the edge of the canopy spread.
- **Recycle leaves.** Instead of disposing of autumn leaves, consider layering them around the base of each tree as mulch (no greater than 4 inches in depth), blend them into the yard with a mulching mower to retain nutrients, or compost the detritus for later use in gardens.
- **Give them a good drink.** Before storing the garden hose for winter, water trees in the area extending from the trunk to the extent of the longest branches. Water slowly, with a sprinkler or soaker hose, at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter.
- **Focus on younger trees.** With less-extensive root systems, they require the most care and are most susceptible to frost cracking and sun scald.
- **Wait to prune until winter.** Late winter is the best time for pruning most tree species, but it can be done whenever trees are dormant over the winter months (few weeks after the last leaves have dropped). Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches and improve tree form. Always prune just outside the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and don't remove any branches without good reason.
- **Winter Watering.** During extended dry periods (e.g., more than two weeks without moisture combined with unseasonable warm spells), provide supplemental water per the guidelines above. The best time for winter watering is on warmer days, when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees. It is important to stop watering well before sunset to allow moisture to percolate into the ground before freezing temperatures set in for the night. Conifer tree species (pines, firs, spruce) are susceptible to winter sun scald especially when planted in areas of southern exposure. Winter watering helps to decrease this occurrence.
- **Wildlife Protection.** Fencing around younger trees is an important task to accomplish in Johnson County. Buck deer have a habitat of territory establishment via rubbing antlers against trees to create 'rubs'. This activity damages the cambium beyond repair and often results in branches being broken off of the trunk. Fencing trees off from wildlife will help deter this behavior. It will also help protect the tree from herbivory by deer. Deer will eat the young buds and shoots off of many of the deciduous trees in the community. This results in branch damage, decreased growth rates, and badly formed trees. This leads to increased stress to the tree and possible mortality of the tree in the future.

Check us out on the web!

www.ldcd.org



Please join us!

Regenerating Landscapes – Soil Health Workshop

Featuring Gabe Brown

* Soil Function

* Principles of Healthy Soil

* Addressing Concerns

* Stacking enterprises & economics

Friday, November 10th, 12:30 pm-5:30 pm

Cost is \$10/person

Whitney Center for the Arts, Sheridan, WY

Visit our web site for

Registration opens September 1st

registration

information

www.sccdwy.org

Trees & Winter – How to Care for Your Trees When the Cold Hits

Featuring Jacob Norris, State Forestry & Garrett Dotson, Tree Mechanics

Saturday, November 18th 9 am – 12 pm

Johnson County Fire Hall, Buffalo, WY

RSVP to www.ldcd.org

Tree Order Forms:

It is that time of year again! Here is what we are offering:

Crestwood Growers (Container Grown trees & shrubs)

River Birch	McIntosh Apple
Prairie Fire Crabapple	Honey Crisp Apple
Radiant Crabapple	Haralson Apple
Autumn Blaze Maple	Siberian Pea Shrub
Swamp White Oak	Common Lilac
Colorado Spruce	Red Twig Dogwood
Cottonless Cottonwood	Peking Cotoneaster
Quaking Aspen	Golden Willow
Canada Red Chokecherry	Bur Oak
Little Leaf Linden	

Clifty View (Balled & Burlapped)

Amur Maple	Lodge pole Pine
Rocky Mountain Maple	Engelmann Spruce
Service Berry	Concolor Fir
Black Chokecherry	Blue CO Spruce
Siberian Pea Shrub	Green CO Spruce
Red Osier Dogwood	McIntosh Standard Apple
Western Sand Cherry	Honeycrisp Semi Dwarf Apple
Nanking Cherry	Haralred Standard Apple
Common Chokecherry	Goodland Standard Apple
Red Leaf Rose	Little Leaf Linden
Coyote Willow	American Linden
Late Lilac	Bur Oak
Common Lilac	Canada Red Cherry
River Birch	Amur Chokecherry
Hackberry	Lance Leaf Poplar
Prairie Silk Honey locust	Aspen Triples
Narrow leaf Poplar	Aspen Doubles
Quaking Aspen	

Seedlings from CSU

Perennial Wildflowers & Grasses	Deciduous Trees
Coniferous Trees	Deciduous Shrubs
Planting Supplies	

All Order forms will be available at the office or on our website November 15th! They will also be at the tree workshop on November 18th. Also, we will not be accepting payment until the trees come in. Thank you and we are looking forward to another successful tree season!



pumpkin patch DIRT CUPS



Try this fun fall snack for your kids!

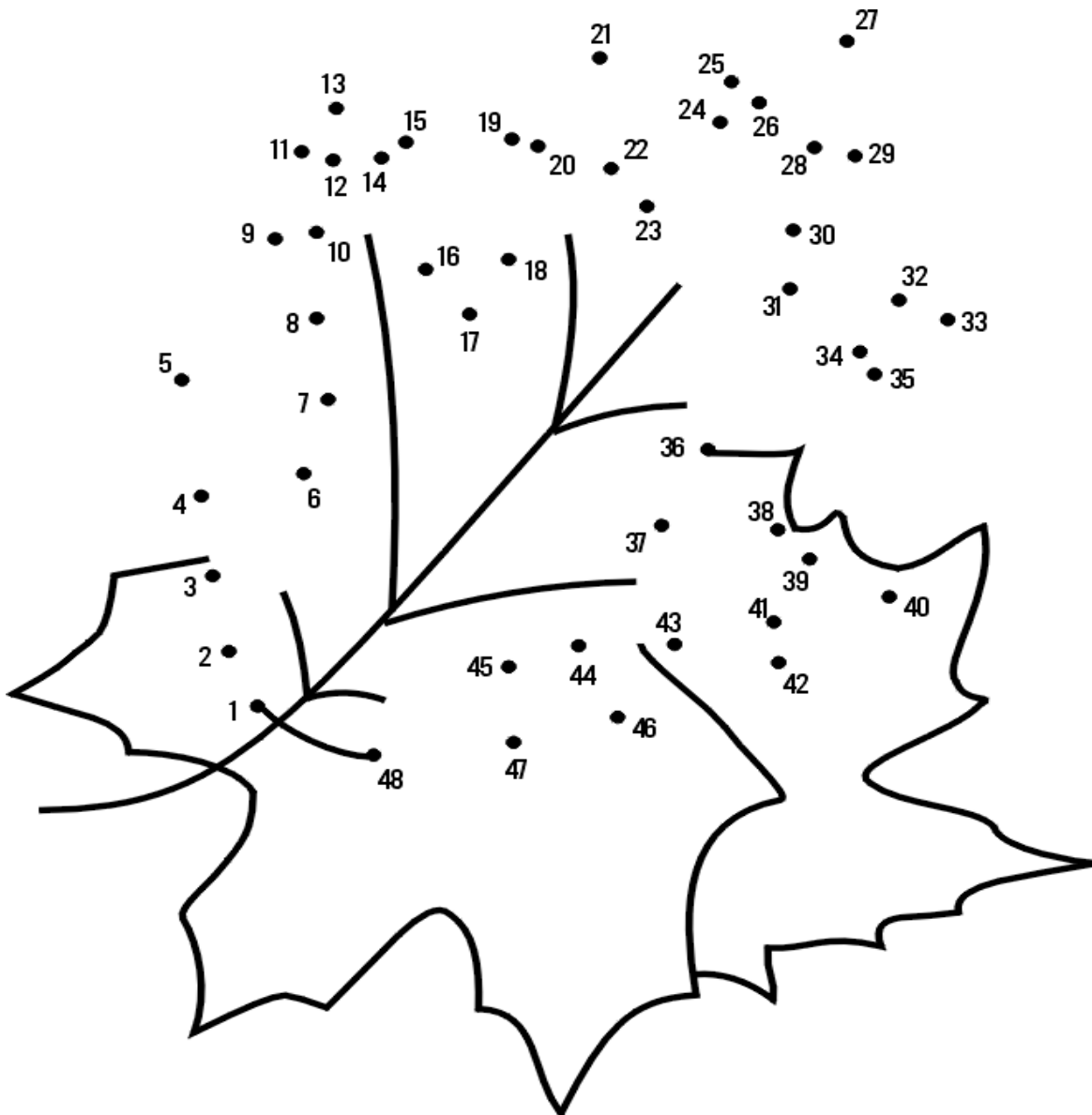
Pumpkin Patch Dirt Cups

Ingredients

- 1-box Instant Chocolate Pudding
- 3-cups milk
- 2-packages Oreos
- 1-package Green Sour Straws Candy
- 1-package Pumpkin Candies

Instructions

1. Make the pudding by following directions on the box (whisk together pudding mix and 3 cups cold milk).
2. Use a food processor to crush the Oreos until smooth.
3. Layer the Oreos and chocolate pudding in a clear cup. Oreos, pudding, Oreos, pudding, and top with Oreos.
4. Top with a Green Sour Straw candy cut in half (the pumpkin vine) and three pumpkin candies.
5. Serve with a spoon!



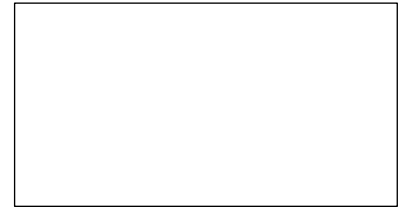


Calendar of Events

- **Oct 17** - Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **Oct 31** – Halloween
- **Nov 5** – Daylight Savings Time
- **Nov 7** – Election Day
- **Nov 10** – Soil Health Workshop – Sheridan, WY
- **Nov 11** – Veteran’s Day
- **Nov 18** – Tree Workshop – Buffalo (Johnson County Fire Hall)
- **Nov 21** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **Nov 23** – Thanksgiving
- **Nov 27 thru 30** – 2017 Wyoming Natural Resources Rendevous – Casper WY
- **Dec 19** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman

For more information on anything in our newsletter including our upcoming events please call, e-mail, visit our website or follow us on Facebook!!

Lake DeSmet Conservation District
621 West Fetterman
Buffalo, WY 82834-2340



Phone: (307) 684-2526

E-Mail: zach.byram@ldcd.org or amanda.hulet@ldcd.org

Meet the Board and Staff

Clear Creek Conservation District

Board of Supervisors:

Ryan Fieldgrove- Chairman

Luke Todd- Vice-Chairman

Priscilla Welles- Secretary/Treasurer

Travis Rule- Member

Virgie Watt- Member

District Staff:

Zach Byram – District Manager

*Amanda Hulet – District Clerk/Education
Coordinator*

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff:

Allison McKenzie – District Conservationist

Kassie Bales – Range Conservationist