

# Lake DeSmet Conservation District

Spring Newsletter

April-June 2017

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Lake DeSmet 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.*

### LONG RANGE PLANNING: WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!

Conservation Districts are a local political subdivision responsible for providing leadership in developing and implementing natural resource conservation programs and projects within the district boundaries. In 1998, the Lake DeSmet Conservation District (LDCD) conducted a resource inventory and public survey for resource concerns and issues by watersheds in Northern Johnson County. This document provides a directional tool for the District to utilize in prioritizing their programs and services for northern Johnson County.

The District is now in the process of updating our Long Range Plan for 2018-2023. We need your input to help prioritize our conservation efforts in northern Johnson County. LDCD programs and services address diverse natural resource concerns on private lands, through voluntary participation.

Please take this opportunity to voice your opinion on natural resource concerns and help LDCD prioritize our efforts for the next five years by **filling out and returning this survey**. The survey form is included in this newsletter and may also be accessed through our website at [www.ldcd.org](http://www.ldcd.org).

*A public meeting will be held to present survey results.*

### BEWARE: New Invasive Grasses in Wyoming!!

Two new invasive annual grasses have been discovered in Wyoming!! Please read the informational insert inside this newsletter to educate yourself. ***Your help in reporting these species is critical!!***

#### Also in this issue:

- \*Upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Garden Expo
- \*Gardening Tidbits
- \*NRCS: Conservation Client Gateway
- \* Wyoming State Forestry
- \*Calendar of Events

# 1st Annual Buffalo Garden Expo

Brought to you by Lake DeSmet Conservation District

## instructors

Jennifer Thompson, Ami  
Erickson & Blake  
Hauptman - UW  
Extension

Jake Evans, Buffalo High  
School Educator

Tim Miner, Modern  
Steadier

## where

Bomber Mountain Civic  
Center, Saturday April 1,  
9 am - 4 pm

## cost

FREE! Lunch provided

## registration

Online [www.ldcd.org](http://www.ldcd.org)

Call 684-2526

## workshops

### Knowing Where You're Growing

Learn all the basic needs of starting a garden in our area

### All You Need to Know About Seeds

From starting seeds and transplanting all the way to saving!

### Irrigation Techniques

Sprinkler systems, drip systems, Mother Nature...we got answers for you!

### Buzz Buzz Buzz

Learn what you can do to help those pollinators!

### Building Your Soil

Composting techniques and what you can do to amend your soil

### Extending Your Season

High tunnels and low tunnels - How to make our short season last a little longer

Composters, Rain Barrels, and Weed Barrier will be available for purchase at a 50% cost share!!



## **Conservation Assistance Just a Click Away -Online Access Now Available to LLCs!**

By Brenda Ling, public affairs specialist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Wyoming

Remember the time you had to drive to your local NRCS office to sign some paperwork? Sure, you probably still had to run into town anyway. However, as a busy rancher and/or farmer, you have many things that need to get done and you only have so many hours in a day.

NRCS offers Conservation Client Gateway, a secure website that allows you to request assistance, sign documents and interact with field staff online. This service is available not only to agricultural producers, but also to business entities, such as LLCs.

With Conservation Client Gateway, you can:

- Request conservation technical assistance;
- Apply for financial assistance through the Farm Bill's conservation programs;
- Review and sign conservation plans and other documents;
- Document completed practices and request practice certification;
- Request and track payments for completed contract items;
- Store and retrieve your conservation files, including documents and photographs.

This is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All the information you need will be at your fingertip.

NRCS field staff will still come out to your operation and provide one-on-one personal assistance with conservation planning and delivery.

Using Conservation Client Gateway is voluntary. You are free to continue working with NRCS as you always have. This online tool allows you to have more options.

Questions?? Visit with your local District Conservationist or go online:  
**[www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway)**



## Gardening Tidbits

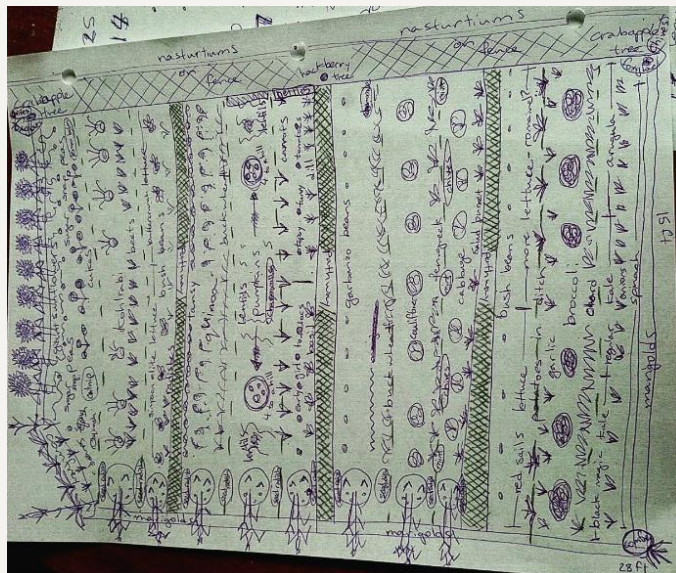
Has the abrupt reminder that it is indeed still winter got you down? One way to get ready for spring when you aren't able to work the frozen ground or prune back the icicle covered, old-growth is to plan out your garden. If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to get out the scrap paper to draw up a garden plan, and to start gathering up seeds. Maybe you will be the same-old-same as every year. If this is the case, I want to bring up some things that I have learned over the past couple of chilly months.

First off, rotation of your veggies can improve yields. Plants in the *Brassica* family (cabbage and its relatives) for example, are more prone to disease if planted in the same spot year after year. There are also several plants that just plain don't get along. Onions and asparagus for example do not grow well together, but tomatoes and basil both improve in yield when grown together -compared to when they are grown alone. Did you also know that flowers like marigold and tansy repel insects and fungal diseases when grown near your veggies? There are lots more combinations of veggies, fruit trees, and herbs that I found valuable and am excited to try this summer!

Second, mulching could save you time, money, and effort. In my search I heard new terms like "no-dig" and "lasagna" gardening, but I didn't know much about how these methods actually worked. After reading several books and watching numerous videos on YouTube, I am convinced that mulching is the way to go! Mulching takes quite a bit of organic material, so late winter is the perfect time to begin.

Composting takes advantage of these materials to make your life easier and cheaper throughout the growing season. Starting a compost pile is one of the best things you can do to cut costs, reduce waste, and make gardening easier. The Lake DeSmet Conservation District has a few ways to help you start on this simple endeavor. They sell compost bins and have pamphlets of information on how to get started. There are also several books all about composting at the library and hundreds of videos and websites on the internet about how to get started in ways that take very little time and effort. Also, don't forget about the **Garden Expo** that LDCD is hosting on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**!

Mulching not only encourages you to add materials to the soil, but it suggests you use some sort of material as a barrier on top of the soil to keep in moisture and keep out weeds and pests. There are several types of mulch you can use, woodchips, sawdust, cardboard, straw, moldy hay, wood ash, nitrogen fixing plants... the list goes on. What better time than now, to do some research and planning to help curb your winter gardening blues?

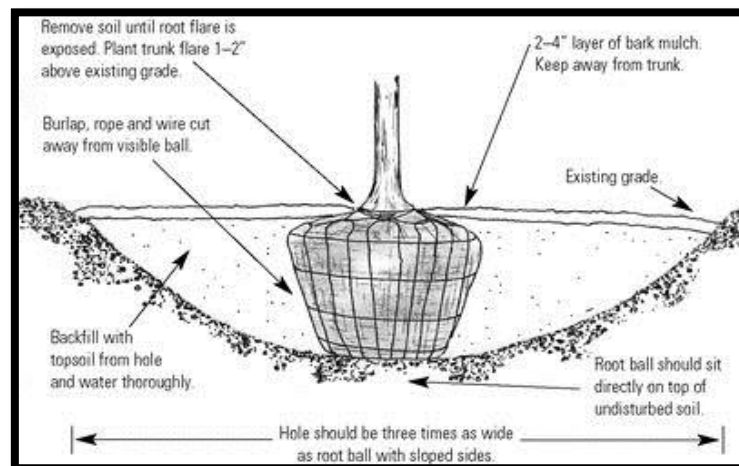


# Did you order trees or shrubs this spring!??

If you did or you're still planning on purchasing trees below is information concerning the proper planting techniques to help individuals get started. All the information is taken from the Wyoming State Forestry Division's *Wyoming Tree Owner's Manual*, which can be downloaded at <https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forestry/forestry-assistance-programs/community-forestry/educational-technical-resources> or a copy and further assistance can be obtained from the Wyoming State Forestry Division office at 600 Veterans Lane, Buffalo, WY, 307-684-2752.

## Planting:

- Trees can be planted throughout the year but spring and fall work well.
- Do not plant until ground is frost free.
- Follow proper planting techniques to ensure greatest survival and proper root development...
  - **Find the first main root** of the tree and remove the excess dirt.
  - **Dig a hole not deeper than the root system** and 2 to 3 times the diameter of the root ball.
  - **Place the tree in the hole and remove all packaging material** from the root ball (plastic containers, wire baskets, burlap, twine, etc.). The first main root should be at or 1-2 inches above existing grade.
  - **Look for and cut circling roots.**
  - **Center and straighten the tree and begin backfill.** Make sure the trunk is straight and place original soil back into the hole taking time to break up large clods and remove large pieces of organic matter.
  - After backfilling approximately half the root ball gently compact fill and water in material.
  - Finish backfilling, gently compact fill, and then thoroughly water in root ball and entire backfill area.
  - Add fill if settling occurs.
  - **Mulch.** Placing a 2-4 inch mulch layer around the backfill area will help with grass completion, protect the trunk from yard equipment, and moderate soil moisture and temperature levels. Mulch needs to be 2-4 inches away from trunk of tree.
  - **Protect and stake.** Protect from wildlife, and stake for the first year of establishment.
  - Remember watering during establishment is critical. Establishment for newly planted trees can be 2-3 years.
  - Pruning should only occur to remove broken or dead branches and establish a strong central leader. Any other pruning should occur after the tree has been established on the site.





- **April 1** – Garden Expo, Bomber Mountain Civic Center
- **April 7** – Last day to order Seedlings
- **April 13** – Last day to order container grown trees
- **April 18** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **April 29** – Spring Tree Workshop, Johnson County Fire Hall
- **May 4** – Seedling tree/shrub delivery
- **May 16** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **June 3** – Annual Home Hazardous Waste Day, 9 am – 3 pm,  
Johnson County Fairgrounds

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

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Buffalo, WY 82834-2340



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

## *Meet the Board and Staff*

### **Lake DeSmet 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*

*BJ Bender - Conservationist*