

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Volume 22, Issue 3

September 2009

New Technician - Carl Jarboe

Carl Jarboe comes to Barber County from Holton, Kansas, where he worked as Buffer Coordinator for the Jackson County Conservation District. Carl also owned a nursery near Holton where he was able to incorporate his love of the outdoors into a successful business. "I like to do anything outside - hunt, fish, ride horses, work with cattle, backpack in the mountains and garden," said Carl. Carl also hosts a live Q&A call in radio program on Saturday mornings, "Lawn and Garden Solutions with Carl" on three FM stations in Northeast Kansas.

We look forward to working with Carl not only during our Wildflower Tour and other educational events sponsored by the District, but also incorporating his technical knowledge into helping the producers of Barber & Comanche Counties.

Successful Transplanting

By Carl Jarboe, SCT

We all have transplanted trees and had success one time and the next time things didn't go as well. We wonder why they died; were they bad plants, was it the wrong sign of the moon or was it something we did or didn't do.

Successful transplanting of trees or any plant is all in timing, plant selection, and care after the move. The best time to move deciduous plants, ones that lose their leaves in the winter, is when they are dormant or just starting to grow in the spring. Evergreen plants, like Eastern Red Cedar, can be moved successfully in the fall, late winter or early spring.

Selecting smaller not larger tree to transplant is often more successful. The Districts Tree Spade will move trees up to 4" in trunk size measured 12" off of the ground. I would always recommend moving a smaller tree, maybe 2" in trunk size. They will move easier and will catch up with the larger tree in a year or two.

Watering well immediately after transplanting is the first step to success. Then continued watering the first two years is necessary to help get the plants established. Consider using drip irrigation to take the work out of watering. Eliminating weed and grass competition with a mulch or weed barrier fabric can double the growth of trees.

I think the sign of the moon may have an effect; bad plants aren't likely the problem we need to look in the mirror when we have problems growing things and take a hard look at when, how and what care was provided for the plants after transplanting.

Banker's Award Nominations

Nominations for the Kansas Bankers Association Conservation Awards Program are now being accepted in recognition of farmers and landowners who have made outstanding progress in practicing conservation on their farms. Award categories include Soil Conservation, Windbreaks, and Wildlife Habitat. Nominations can be made by any person in the county and should be submitted by November 1 to the awards program chairman, Tim Marshall, who is the Barber County Extension Agricultural Agent.

Nature Trail

Is your organization or club looking for a service project that offers rewarding work in a beautiful environment? The Barber County Conservation District is seeking folks interested in helping maintain the Red Cedar Nature Trail located at the Barber County State Fishing Lake. Trimming branches, picking up limbs, and spreading wood chips on the trail are a few of the maintenance duties. If you are interested, please call the Conservation District at 886-5311 ext 3.

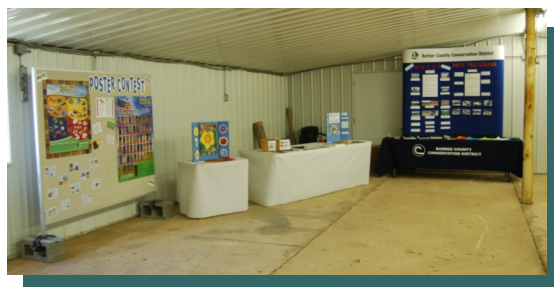


THE APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP) WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 1, 2009. IF YOU WANT YOUR APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS YEAR, YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY TURNED IN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

BE WATCHING THE NEWSPAPERS FOR INFORMATION ON A NEW EQIP AND WHIP SIGNUP.

Fair

On Thursday, July 23, we loaded up the truck and headed south to once again set up for the fair. This year's booth highlighted the Water Resources Cost Share Program and the Non Point Source Pollution Program. A second display was set up highlighting this year's stewardship theme "Dig It" giving kids ideas for the poster contest this fall. Information was also available on the Wildflower Tour and the products and services provided by the District. With an abundance of literature and great photo displays there was plenty for everyone to see. The District put out event recycling bins across the fair grounds and everyone put them to great use. The winners of our door prizes this year are Trey Robinson who won the kids prize of a 6-pack soft cooler filled with lots of candy, and Robyn Whitaker who won the adult prize of a flower pot filled with gardening tools. Congrats to both of them!! It was great to see everyone at the fair this year!! We can't wait to see you next year!!



Mini-Wildflower Tour

On August 1, 2009 the District conducted a mini-wildflower tour as part of a promotional event hosted by the Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway Committee promoting the Kansas Lottery scratch ticket "Painted Byways." The event highlighted some of the events unique to the area along the Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway, such as the Wildflower Tour, Larson's Trail Ride, local scenic photographer, Bill Krug, and artist Stan Herd whose art is featured on the scratch tickets (Herd's work *Gypsum Hills* is pictured at right). A good showing of late summer wildflowers were available, giving everyone a taste of what the spring tour beholds.



Sericea Lespedeza Control

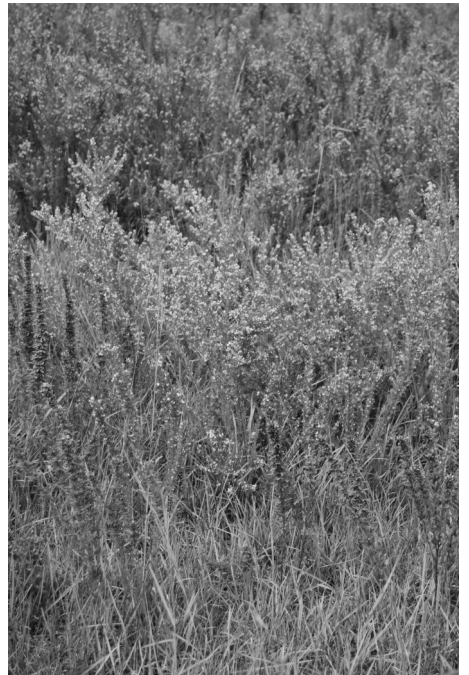
by Jarred Kneisel, SDC

Sericea Lespedeza, or *Lespedeza cuneata*, is a noxious weed in Kansas (declared in 2000), and one that has become more abundant in recent years in the south-central portion of Kansas. *Sericea* was introduced into the United States from Asia in the late 1800's, where it was used control sites that were actively eroding, as well as to provide an excellent source of forage for livestock. Controlling this invasive plant species can be a challenging proposition, especially if the infestation is not detected early and the plants are allowed to establish. Now is a great time to check your pastures for sericea lespedeza, as it is one of the few green plants out in the pastures this late in the growing season and is readily identifiable. Refer to the pictures at right for an example of sericea lespedeza.

Controlling sericea lespedeza will have the best results if you use a combination of treatment methods. While chemical control alone will have some success, it will take a very long time to eradicate the plant completely. The plant itself is relatively easy to kill, the problem lies with the tremendous amount of seed that sericea is able to produce. This seed is very hard, and can stay viable for many years in the soil. Burning will actually encourage sericea to propagate, whether by removing surrounding competition, or by scarifying the seed laying in the soil and encouraging more to emerge. You can use this influx of new seedlings to your advantage, however. By scarifying the seed and having more seedlings, there will be opportunity to treat more of the plants and seed source than in a year with no fire. Also, with all of the old growth and top cover removed, the herbicide you apply will have a greater chance of contacting the targeted plants. As a side-benefit to burning, cattle will tend to graze that portion of the pasture more in the early part of the grazing season – a time in which the young sericea seedlings are both palatable and susceptible to injury from grazing. Mowing could be another option, especially during the later part of the growing season when the sericea plant is working to store reserves down in the root system. Bear in mind that mowing could also spread the seed around the pasture, as well as damage the other more desirable warm season plants that are trying to store reserves as well.

As for chemical control, you have a couple of different times during the growing season to apply herbicides. A spring application when the plant is actively growing (late May to June) is recommended with Remedy (trycopyr), according to Kansas State University, whereas a fall application with Escort (metsulfuron) is recommended when the plant is flowering (mid-September to October). Keep in mind that using Remedy in the spring may also damage the surrounding desirable forb community. As always, be certain to apply your herbicides as the label directs.

Keep in mind that controlling sericea lespedeza will be a long-term process. If you have questions about sericea lespedeza, you can contact your local NRCS office, county extension agent, or local noxious weed department.



Barber County Conservation District
800 W. Third Ave.
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104

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NOTICE: WHEN YOU CALL THE BARBER COUNTY USDA SERVICE CENTER AT (620) 886-5311 AN AUTO ATTENDANT WILL ANSWER THE PHONE. YOU MAY ENTER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS DURING THE MESSAGE:

2 - FARM SERVICE AGENCY
3 - NRCS AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

IF YOU HAVE A ROTARY PHONE, PLEASE STAY ON THE LINE AND A PERSON WILL ASSIST YOU.

Barber County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors

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Member Georgi Dawson

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Barber County USDA Service Center. If you have any questions or comments for the Board of Supervisors, or suggestions for this newsletter, please call (620) 886-5311.

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