



Conservation Conversation

Official Newsletter of the Barber County Conservation District

Volume 25, Issue 2

WILDFLOWER TOUR

The weather was perfect on May 12th as we welcomed 41 enthusiastic Wildflower Tour guests ready to experience the splendor Barber County has to offer. A beautiful morning and two scenic sites gave our wildflower enthusiasts something truly spectacular to behold. Experienced, knowledgeable tour guides shared their knowledge of the flowers, including some little-known uses for many of the plants.



Following a delicious lunch at Eagle Park, we headed off to the afternoon site with a drive through the gyp hills.

This highly anticipated event is a great way to introduce folks to the wonder of wildflowers and share the beauty of our little corner of the world, Barber County.

FOR SALE:

2003 Vermeer 44A Tree Spade 44" Spade Width, 36" Deep

NEEDS REPAIR!!

The District is accepting sealed bids on their Tree Spade. Sealed bids will be opened at a special board meeting at 8 am on August 15, 2012.

For more information please contact the District at (620) 886-5311 x3.



Managing After Drought Serves as Range School Theme

“Roots, Rainfall, and Recovery...management coming out of drought is the 2012 theme for the Tallgrass and Mid-/Short-grass Range Schools set for July 31- August 2 at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, and August 21-23 at Camp Lake-side, Lake Scott, respectively. The Schools focus on grassland ecology and livestock management,” said Tim Chris-tian, KGLC state coordinator.

With a continuing drought over parts of west central and southwest Kansas, and the fact that the Flint Hills suffered a drought through last summer the course subject matter should provide ranchers and land managers with sound ideas and a thought process to be able to successfully manage their grazing lands without sacrificing too much economically and damaging fragile plant communities, he continued. Having a written contingency plan and following it are essen-tial to staying the course over time in an extended drought. Our instructors - ranchers, agency, organization, and uni-versity experts - will narrow down their presentations to get at the heart of this seemingly perpetual issue of drought.

The three-day school costs \$300 per person, but KGLC and its co-sponsors will be providing scholarships to eligible ranchers, ranch employees, students, and agency staffs. Most will receive \$150, with agency attendees receiving \$100, to bring costs down making the highly-rated course a great value. Scholarship forms are available online at www.kglc.org, under 2012 Range Schools in the left-side navigation bar, or by contacting KGLC staff. July 20 is the cut-off for receiving scholarship applications for the Tallgrass School and August 10 for the Mid-/Short-grass School. Registrations are due July 23 and August 13, respectively.

Currently co-sponsoring the schools are the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kansas State University Re-search and Extension; Fort Hays State University; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism; The Nature Con-servancy, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Native Plant Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, and the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management.

More information on the School can be obtained by contacting Tim Christian, KGLC state coordinator, at 620-241-3636, e-mail tdchristian@cox.net, Ken Sherraden, assistant, at 785-922-7061, e-mail kennethsher-raden@sbcglobal.net.

***\$300 IN SCHOLARSHIPS IS AVAILABLE TO ANY BARBER COUNTY RESIDENT WISHING TO ATTEND THE MID/SHORT GRASS RANGE SCHOOL.**

**BE SURE AND VISIT US ON THE WEB @
WWW.BARBERCOUNTYCONSERVATIONDISTRICT.COM
AND
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION INCLUDING SCHOLAR-
SHIPS, COST SHARE, AND EVENTS!**

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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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.

William Lavergne - Student Trainee Profile

My name is William Lavergne and I am a student trainee for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. My hometown is Opelousas, Louisiana and I am currently a senior at Southern University A&M in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is my second summer of service having worked at the Osborne field office last summer. Spending the summer in Barber County has truly been a unique experience. I've worked everywhere from the grasses of the great plains to the steep inclines of the scenic hilly and rocky areas. I've had the chance to deliver and check specifications on stock tanks, lay terraces, design waterways and observe the effects of erosion on the land when these practices are not correctly used. Before working for this agency I took the value of land for granted and never really knew what it took to care for the land and preserve it for generations to come. A new found knowledge has instilled a desire to help people help the land.



Speech Contest

The Conservation District is hosting a speech contest with the theme : Forests For People: More Than You Can Imagine. The contest is open to all high school students in learning levels 9 through 12. The speeches must be at least five (5) minutes long and not longer than eight (8) minutes. Speeches will be judged on Content, Organization of Material, Voice, Stage Presence, Power of Expression, and General Effect.

Contestants will present their speeches to the Conservation District Board of Supervisors on October 2. The winner of the county contest will go on to compete at the Area contest in Pratt later in the month. First place in the Area contest is awarded \$250, second \$150, and third place \$100. Should a contestant advance to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts State contest , scholarships of \$500 for the first place and \$250 for second place will be awarded to the winners .

This is an excellent opportunity for High School students, FFA, and 4-H to further develop their speaking skills and to increase their knowledge of our natural resources. For more information, please contact the conservation office at (620) 886-5311 ext. 3.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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