

UINTA COUNTY Connection



SPRING 2010

UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

★ *Featured Workshop:* **RURAL LIVING** ★

COMPOSTING – WEED IDENTIFICATION – XERISCAPING

CHRIS AIMONE – UINTA COUNTY WEED AND PEST:

A Weed is Not Just a Weed: Topic will focus on problem weeds in Uinta county and chemicals that will work with the various species. Landowners will realize that every herbicide does not work on every weed all the time. The discussion will include identification and herbicide that will work.

DONNA CUIN – NATRONA CO. HORTICULTURIST, U.W. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE:

Flowers and Grasses for the High Plains Gardener: Topic will highlight several perennial plants from the Plant Select(r) as well as suggest several ornamental grasses, some of which are native to Wyoming. Plant Select(r) is a cooperative program from Colorado between the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado State University and The Colorado Green Industries.

HUDSON HILL – U.W. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE:

Composting—Keep Nature Employed! Composting is a good way to recycle yard waste such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, most weeds, and dead houseplants. It is also a clever way to dispose of most food scraps and unwanted leftovers so that your refrigerator doesn't become the compost bin. In your compost bin the unemployment rate is very low! Composting is a means of harnessing a host of highly beneficial micro-organisms and earthworms who would otherwise be sitting around idle and unappreciated. (Excerpt: Home Composting Made Easy, by C.F. McDowell)

RURAL LIVING
WORKSHOP

APRIL 28, 2010
LYMAN TOWN HALL
6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

Please call 747-8223
to RSVP by April 26.

WORKSHOP DRAWING!!

Attend the workshop for your chance to win a composter or rain barrel!



COMING SOON!
WELL WATER TESTING DAY

More information
inside this issue.

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YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



There are many households in Uinta County that rely on an individual septic system to treat wastewater. However, in too many cases, these systems are installed and forgotten- that is, until problems arise.

As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system. If properly designed, constructed and maintained, your septic system can provide long term, effective treatment of household wastewater. A malfunctioning system can contaminate water sources and spread infection and disease.

Signs of Failure: If you smell sewage, or see a sunken, wet spot in your lawn, or a place of lush growth, your septic system may be malfunctioning. Call a professional immediately.

Things to remember in maintaining your septic system:

- * Inspect your system and pump your tank every 3 to 5 years.
- * Avoid overloading the system; CONSERVE WATER!
- * Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks, toilets or other drains.
- * Avoid damage to your leach field; do not drive or park over the system.
- * Keep accurate maintenance records



SEPTIC SYSTEM REMEDIATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

If you feel your system is failing and may be contaminating surface water, the Uinta County Conservation District may be able to help. UCCD started a Septic System Remediation Program in 2006 as a result of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers being placed on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's (WDEQ) 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies for high counts of e.coli bacteria. E.coli bacteria found in surface water indicates the presence of fecal material that comes from warm blooded animals including wildlife, livestock and humans. If enough of the bacteria are present, and the water is ingested by humans, it can make a person very sick.

In many cases, septic systems are installed and forgotten, or in some cases, septic systems that were installed many years ago were not installed properly. Some of the problems UCCD has encountered since beginning the program include systems with a straight pipe from the house to surface water, a septic tank with no leach field, septic tanks installed backwards or not large enough to handle the waste from the house, leach fields that were not working and systems that were installed too close to a well or to surface water. In all of these instances, the waste is not being treated properly and the potential for these systems to contaminate water sources is extremely high.

In order to reduce the amount of bacteria reaching the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers as a result of malfunctioning septic systems, UCCD developed a program to assist homeowners with the cost of repairing or replacing their failing system. The program has three tiers of funding, depending on each situation. Those with the most potential to directly contaminate the Blacks Fork or Smiths Fork Rivers will receive the highest cost share rate and those contaminating surface water that doesn't have the direct potential to reach these rivers will receive a lesser rate. Contact UCCD for more information on cost share rates or visit our website.

As with all of our programs, this program is completely confidential and voluntary. It is a way for homeowners whose septic systems are potentially contaminating surface water to get financial assistance to remediate the problem. UCCD accepts applications for the program year round, with decisions for funding taking place at regular board meetings each month. If you aren't sure where to start, UCCD has a brochure available on our website at www.uintacountycd.com, which includes a self assessment to help you determine whether or not your system is working correctly. UCCD encourages you to call the Conservation District office at 787-3794 x4, or stop by for more information and an application for the program.



WELL WATER TESTING DAY



The Uinta County Conservation District is holding a Well Water Testing Day for Uinta County Residents to help you make sure the water you are using is safe and healthy.



As a private well owner, you probably use groundwater for doing your family's laundry, drinking, cooking, bathing and watering your garden. Most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water; however, contaminants can pollute private wells and unfortunately you cannot see, smell or taste most of them. EPA regulations that protect public drinking water systems do not apply to privately owned wells. As a result, YOU are responsible for making sure your water is safe.

TEST OPTION

FAMILY WATER QUALITY: Bacteria presence/absence, sulfate, total hardness, nitrate, nitrite, sodium, total dissolved solids, pH, fluoride, chloride. Test cost \$125.00. UCCD will pay 50% of this cost, making your total cost \$62.50.

COLIFORM BACTERIA PRESENCE/ABSENCE: Used as an indicator of water contamination. These organisms do not generally cause disease, but they indicate that the water is a suitable environment to support the presence of harmful bacteria. Test cost: \$30.00. UCCD will pay 100% of this cost, you will pay nothing if you choose to do just the bacteria test.

UCCD will be using an EPA Certified Lab in Riverton, Wyoming called Precision Analysis. The district will take care of all shipping procedures and costs. All you have to do is take the sample and bring it to us!!

*Precision Analysis promises a quick turnaround with results back in 6 days or less!

DATES TO REMEMBER

★ Must pre-register by Wednesday, May 26th, including which test option you would like — call 747-8223.

★ Pick up your sampling kit from the District on Thursday June 3rd from 8-3, June 4th , 8-12 or June 7th from 8-3

★ **Sample your water on June 8th** and bring the sample back to the conservation district the same day, during the following times and locations:

BRIDGER VALLEY: sample collection **9am-11am** at the Conservation District Office at the Lyman Town Hall: 100 East Sage Street, Lyman, WY

EVANSTON: sample collection **12-2pm** at the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Office: 228 9th Street, Evanston, WY

WATER FACTS DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- ★ Frozen water is 9% lighter than water, which is why ice floats on water.
- ★ If all the world's water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us to use would equal only about one tablespoon.
- ★ Human brains are 75% water.
- ★ Human bones are 25% water.
- ★ Human blood is 83% water.
- ★ 75% of a chicken is water
- ★ 70% of an elephant is water
- ★ A single tree will give off 265 liters (70 gallons) of water per day in evaporation.
- ★ Bottled water can be up to 1000 times more expensive than tap water and it may not be as safe.
- ★ About 25,700 litres (6,800 gallons) of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.

Read more: <http://www.lenntech.com/water-trivia-facts.htm#ixzz0jsGylqHR>



WINTER CAMP

February 19th was the 2nd annual 5th grade winter camp. Fifty-two 5th graders from Mountain View ventured out to the Uinta County Youth Camp to learn about soils, the food chain, snow shoeing and winter survival.

Dannette with UCCD, shared information with the students about the food chain. They learned about producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, and how food chains create food webs. The students also learned about the Barn Owl and its' food chain, by dissecting owl pellets.



Jack, Mandy, Andrew and Suzanne with NRCS joined us at camp. They set up three different stations for the students to explore. At the first station the kids got their hands dirty and textured some sandy, silty, and clayey soils. They also mixed their textures to get a loamy texture and discussed what the different textures were best used for. The second station included several small demonstrations. The first demonstration showed how a solution of water and salty soil conducted electricity and turned on a light bulb

hooked up to a battery and joined in the soil solution. The second demonstration showed how to determine if a soil contains carbonates. A little dilute hydrochloric acid (vinegar will also work) poured onto the soil created a lot of fizzing and carbon dioxide gas, which indicates the presence of carbonates. Another demonstration involved grape and cherry Kool-Aid, and a paper cup filled half way with soil with holes in the bottom. When the cherry Kool-Aid was poured into the small cup of soil, the liquid that came out the bottom of the cup was red, but when the grape Kool-aid was poured into the other cup, the liquid that came out the bottom was clear. Soils act as a filter and were able to filter out the purple color due to the charge of the soil particles and the charge of the purple dye used in Kool-Aid. Finally, a discussion was held about plants. Just like animals and humans have food preferences, plants have soil preferences.

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Grab your muck boots and join the Wyoming Stream Team at the river! This workshop is available to educators, youth group leaders, residents of Wyoming and residents of watersheds in neighboring states. The program focuses on hands-on training in water quality monitoring and stream ecology. Participants will build the foundation to initiate monitoring projects in their home communities.

Uinta County Conservation District will host the Wyoming Stream Team workshop on July 27-28, 2010. The workshop will be based at the Bear Community Center in Evanston. The workshop will focus on field-based stream monitoring and delve into water-related issues specific to southwestern Wyoming.



\$30 registration fee (refundable upon workshop completion): Educators are eligible for one U.W. graduate credit or one CEU through the PTSB. Lunch, snacks and refreshments will be provided. There will be a drawing for one monitoring equipment kit valued at \$900 and other fun giveaways!!! Call Uinta County Conservation District at 307-747-8224 to register.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION GRANTS

For over 60 years, the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) has promoted the stewardship of our natural resources through education and project implementation. A key component in this stewardship is actively working with the youth of Uinta County. The conservation district is offering grants to assist in this education. This unique opportunity is available to conservation minded educators for conservation, natural resource and agricultural related outdoor education. The grants are available for up to \$1,000 per event. This grant is open to Uinta County schools and youth organizations. For more information, please call (307) 747-8224.

This fiscal year, two organizations have received the Outdoor Education Grant:

Uinta County School District #4, Camp Carpe Diem: Camp Carpe Diem is a three-day / two-night camp for Wyoming students with developmental delays and / or seizures. The camp is designed to challenge campers of all abilities, while providing everyone with an outdoor education experience. The campers will learn about being good stewards of the environment, they will be encouraged to reuse, reduce, recycle and respect our natural resources during camp and when they return home.

Children's Learning Foundation and Evanston Child Development Center: The School age children at the Children's Learning Foundation and Evanston Child Development Center will be participating in two outdoor education field trips. They will visit the Seedskafee National Wildlife Refuge, to learn about riparian wetlands and upland shrub habitats. They will also visit the Uinta County Youth camp, where they will learn about forest habitats and forest conservation.

2010 CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations!

Talkin Trash: The Jim Bridger FFA Ag Issues Team wants to help eliminate the use of plastic bags in our community by encouraging families in Bridger Valley to get in the habit of shopping with reusable grocery bags. It takes 1,000 years for a plastic bag to break down and they are taking up space in our landfill. We see them along every highway stuck on fence posts, in trees, blowing in the wind and attached to sage brush. The FFA hopes to purchase 2500 reusable bags and spend time at local businesses giving bags away and asking for a pledge "I will use recyclable bags". They will hang a banner outside of the store reminding people to bring and use their recyclable bags. Those who do will be put in a drawing to win prizes. If the project

goes well, the FFA Team will showcase their project on a state and national level. FFA members include Sammy Hood, Shantell Henry, Marci Harvey, Karly Horton, Marissa Vitt, Halee Salsbury and Crystal Schleichardt with advisor Cari Covolo and coach Ruth Rees.

Arbor Day & Earth Day Conservation Projects: The Children's Learning Foundation will implement a series of mini conservation projects in the school age enrichment program offered at the center. The first project to celebrate Arbor Day will be a planting of 4 trees while students learn about the importance of trees. The second project will include kids planting a flower garden and learning about ecosystems and bees. The third

project will be planting grass and learning about top soil and soil conservation. The students will plant and care for all three projects

Earth Impressions' Forest Restoration Project: The project will take place at the Uinta County Youth Camp. The Youth at the YAHA Group Home will assist the County in their efforts to remove the trees that have been killed by the beetle infestation to reduce the fire danger. The focus of the project will be on work ethics and environmental education. The Youth will supply the labor to plant bushes, flowers, trees and shrubs and to clean up the slash and improve the soil that has been disturbed. The primary goal of the project is to give the forest help in rejuvenating itself and making the area more beautiful. Plantings will include lilacs, yellow roses, strawberries, cherries, berries and perennials.

UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 370, 100 East Sage Street
Lyman, WY 82937
(307) 747-UCCD (8223)

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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUR CONSERVATION
TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!



VISIT US ON THE WEB! WWW.UINTACOUNTYCD.COM



- Music
- White water activities
- Crawdad catching contest
- Kids scavenger hunt
- Obstacle course
- Earth Bracelets
- Activities for the whole family

Come join us for a day of fun at
the BEARiverFest
May 22, 2010
For more information, visit the
Bear River Greenway website
www.bearrivergreenway.org



EXTRA SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE

UCCD will have extra seedlings available for sale this year. There will be bareroot seedlings available in bundles of 10 and regular and small potted available as single trees or in lots of 20. These seedlings will be available on a first come, first serve basis, so call or email now to reserve yours! You can call the District for a list of what is available as well as the cost of the seedlings. Call us at 787-3794 x4, 747-8223, or email at kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net.

Uinta County Conservation District Staff

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- ▶ Dannette Edelmayer, Education Coordinator
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Uinta County Conservation District
Board of Supervisors

- ▶ Shaun Sims, Chairman
- ▶ Kelly Guild, Vice-Chairman
- ▶ Spencer Eyre, Secretary / Treasurer
- ▶ Kevin Condos, Member
- ▶ Dennis Cornelison, Member
- ▶ Carol Hamilton, Associate Member

Natural Resource
Conservation Service
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Jeff Lewis;
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