This spring the Laramie County Conservation District will be hosting a workshop on Dalmatian toadflax. This workshop will be held in late March to early April. It will cover what the plant is, why it is so bad, and methods of control. We will be advertising the exact date in February and March so keep your eyes open.

Watch for our structure pruning class to be held in late March.
Date and time to be announced!!!
Newly elected board member brings real world practices to the Laramie County Conservation District

Ann Sanchez came to Wyoming from Colorado in the fall of 1969 to attend the University of Wyoming. Ann graduated in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. She also earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from U.W. in 1979.

Ann started teaching for Laramie County School District #1 in 1976 and taught in the district for 32 years. Ann and her husband Phil, lived inside Cheyenne city limits from 1976 until 1980. Shortly after they bought a small farm near Albin, Wyoming, where they continue to live and farm. They produce alfalfa/grass hay and raise Angus cattle. Ann and Phil have benefited from many Conservation District programs, especially windbreak trees, which enables for added crop yield and storm protection for their livestock. Ann and Phil also allowed the Laramie County Conservation District, through funding from the Laramie County Public Works Department, to plant and maintain two Living Snow Fences to help in snow control for the school bus route that travels near their home.

Ann has a great understanding and passion for natural resources, especially those in Laramie County. We look forward to working with Ann and her ideas of conservation on the ground.

Your service is appreciated!!

Lindi Kirkbride was elected in 2010 to serve on the Laramie County Conservation District’s Board of Supervisors as a rural representative. Her duties with the Conservation District have come to an end. Lindi’s passion to encourage young adults into agriculture, as they are the future, has motivated her to get conservation recognized in Laramie County.

Lindi has taken on many new tasks, including working with multiple agencies for awareness of bee decline and pollination effects on agriculture from reduced pollinators. Most recently Lindi’s focus involves range health in Laramie County with education involving Toadflax control and awareness using biocontrol methods. Lindi has always been committed to conservation and her community. This shows with her push on community outreach and getting two community gardens established. One located at the Cheyenne Alliance Church and the other at the Veterans Administration.

Lindi was eager to serve and excited to learn more about the role of a Conservation District board member and that is what she did.

Lindi, thank you for your leadership and vision in conservation!!

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Laramie County Conservation District
2019 Seeding Tree Order Form
Deadline to order: March 15, 2019
Species are in limited supply – place your order soon

I have read and agree to the conditions of sale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Date</th>
<th>Harvest grade prices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City/State/Zip</td>
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<td>Phone (home)</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.lccdnet.org">www.lccdnet.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Components of Sale
1. Trees must be for conservation purposes.
2. No plant purchased from the Laramie County Conservation District may be sold as a planting.
3. Each order shall be made in multiples of 25 per species only. (Stakes
4. Large tube stock is available in multiples of 30 per species only. (Boxes
5. Payment must accompany order
6. Substitutions for trees ordered are made in multiples of 30 per species only. (Stakes
7. NO WARRANTY, IMPLIED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE BY THE LARAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE SEEDLING STOCK.

Application & Planting Services
- The District provides both fabric and wood application and planting services for trees and plants purchased from the District.
- In order to be placed on the list for these services, a paid Tree Order Form must first be received.
- You will receive confirmation of your order that we will plant your trees. These services are billed upon completion of planting.
- Installation of the fabric and trees is also contingent on a District-approved windbreak design. (For an appointment, please call 772-3260)
- Underground utility checks are completed at least 2 days prior to planting.

Fabric mulch installation prices
- Up to 1,500 ft – $5.00 per linear foot
- 1,500 ft to 3,000 ft – $4.00 per linear foot
- Over 3,000 ft – $3.50 per linear foot

Tree Planting fees
- 1-250 trees – $50 to $125 each
- 251-500 trees – $100 to $200 each
- Over 501 trees – $200 each

These are purchased separately, below

ORDER SUMMARY
- Do you want the District to install trees?
- a. Install on your property? (Please circle one)
- b. Order sub-total
- c. Add 6% sales tax
- d. Total amount due

Laramie County Conservation District
11221 US Hwy 287, Cheyenne, WY 82009
Phone: 307-772-2680
Website: www.lccdnet.org
Rooted in Cheyenne’s mission is to re-establish a long-term tree planting program in our city to help support a more diverse and resilient urban canopy and cultivate greener, healthier, more livable neighborhoods. Cheyenne has always been a progressive city in its efforts to increase the tree canopy.

Conservation owes a big thank you...

In 2009 the Natural Resource Conservation Service hired Jim Pike to lead conservation practices in and around Laramie County. Jim was instantly thrown in as a consultant between other agencies and individual landowners on phase 3 of Allison Draw Flood Control project. The project was designed to control flooding in the south part of Cheyenne.

Since that time Jim has been instrumental in many conservation practices, such as implementing Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) in Laramie County. Jim used this program to convert over 2000 acres of marginally irrigated crop land to dry-land farming or range land.

Another innovative conservation practice Jim set up was the Organic Initiative. This program encourages organic producers to plant post-harvest cover crop for erosion control and soil health. Crop such as Austrian winter peas are planted in the fall to protect soil in the windier fall and spring months. In the spring, the peas are plowed under to aid in nitrogen amendments for the next seasonal crop.

Under Jim’s leadership the NRCS office has developed conservation plans for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which created contracts totaling more than 53,000 acres of marginal crop land turned over to permanent improved rangeland.

Jim’s attention to real world details and common sense approaches to program administration allowed him to get real conservation results. Jim has always been willing to give positive effort and knowledgeable feedback whenever needed.

Great work Jim and congratulations on the next step in your master plan.

Lindi Kirkbride presents LCCD Plaque of Recognition to Jim Pike.
Another Fiscal Year has come to a close, and the annual audit has been completed. An annual audit is completed to ensure fiscal responsibility with taxpayer funding. The District is now into Fiscal Year ‘18–’19. The Fiscal year for the District runs July 1 through June 30. So, what is a fiscal year?

The fiscal year is usually the primary accounting year for a company, organization, or government. The fiscal year serves as the organizing basis for financial reporting.

The District has also met all of the annual requirements set forth by the WY Department of Ag and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. In order to qualify for State Funding, the District must submit several documents. There are two deadlines for reporting. Those due Aug. 30 are:

- Proof of Bonding
- Demonstration of Risk Management
- Proof of Worker’s Comp Coverage
- Proof of Unemployment Coverage
- Proof of Liability Coverage

Items due by Dec. 30 are:

- A FY Annual Plan
- A FY Annual Report
- A FY Budget
- The Budget Notice published in a local newspaper
- A Revenue Compliance Letter from the Department of Revenue
- Proof of an Educational function for elected officials
- Proof of Local Funding
- A one page summary of the Districts accomplishments
- Copies of Oaths of Office for newly elected Board of Supervisors

The District has been receiving tree orders, and some species are already sold out! Check out the order form included in this publication or the form is available on the website, www.lccdnet.org. It can be found on the home page under “Latest News”, for the most current listing of available trees.

With noxious weeds being a big concern for the county the District is working to establish a county weed group to help inform the public. This group consists of various county and state agencies and organizations. The goal of the group is to develop a strategic plan on how to provide the public with the information and resources to identify and control weeds on their properties.

The District’s Wildlife Program assists landowners with providing recommendations for problem wildlife, installing food plots, tree plantings, water developments, and wildlife friendly fences. This year the District worked with the Belvoir Ranch, Nature Conservancy, and UW Conservation Corp to replace ¼ mile of fence to improve elk and deer migration. The District works with Pheasants Forever to improve wildlife habitat across the county. This year the local High Plains Chapter provided funding for two wildlife tree planting projects totaling over 300 trees planted to provide more than 5 acres of habitat.

The Wildlife Program also assists the District’s Education Program on a deer research project with Central High School. For more information see the Education Program for more information.
The Laramie County Conservation District’s Wildlife/Range program provides free technical assistance and information to landowners on weed identification/control, grass seeding, grazing management, wildlife habitat, and problem wildlife issues.

**Range Program**

New subdivisions/homes are constantly increasing in the county. With these developments soil is disturbed, increasing the opportunity for weed invasion. The Range Program works with these landowners to reestablish grass and control weeds in these areas. This past year over 70 landowners were provided grass seeding recommendations and over 40 weed control recommendations.

The Conservation District also rents out a small grass seeder to assist landowners in reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas. This seeder can be used in completing district seeding recommendations. The seeder has been rented out over 25 times in FY 2018.

Grazing management is crucial in Laramie County’s arid landscape. Proper grazing decreases weed invasion and increases vegetation production. This means that a landowner can get more benefit out of their property. The District’s Range Program assists landowners in developing grazing management plans. These plans include water developments and fencing to distribute the grazing evenly across their property. Over 30 landowners were assisted in FY 2018 with their grazing management. This included assisting seven landowners with obtaining funding for water development projects through the State Small Water Project Program (See water program for more details).

(Continued on page 4)

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**Community Enhancement Projects – 2018**

**Program Overview**

The Community Enhancement Program seeks project proposals that will improve the environment and natural beauty of Laramie County.

Funding is available from the Laramie County Conservation District to assist in the implementation of natural resource projects not to exceed $1,000 per project. All proposals submitted must identify at least 20% in matching funds. This match can be either project installation labor and/or materials but not maintenance labor or materials. In addition, the District offers design assistance free of charge.

**Types of Projects**

The program encourages projects that benefit the public as a whole. Examples of such have included tree and xeriscape (low water landscape) plantings in public parks or along the Cheyenne Greenway, church and cemetery plantings, Boy Scout projects, and school improvement projects such as providing seedling trees for conservation education.

The emphasis in the past has been on tree plantings. The District is also encouraging project proposals for xeriscape, wetland improvement or development, urban and wildlife habitat or any other project that would conserve or improve natural resources.

The following projects were approved and installed last fiscal year:

- Laramie County School District #1 & #2 - seedling tree for each 2nd grade student
- Bureau of Land Management Employee Group - planted 10 deciduous trees along Cheyenne’s greenway just north of the BLM building. The BLM statement of need was they had adopted the stretch of Greenway between Yellowstone Rd. & Sunset Drive. Portions of the Greenway have large cottonwood trees, but other portions lacked any tree cover. The trees would improve shade and aesthetics along that stretch of Greenway.
- Rooted In Cheyenne - $1,000 donation in support of their program.
Over the course of the past 12 months, the Laramie County Conservation District has reached out to, educated, and informed over 4200 students, adults, and visitors across 82 different classroom visits, field trips, expos, and events. Each and every one of the groups reached were presented information relating to the four main areas of conservation within the district: water, soil, trees/plants, and wildlife. Many of the groups reached have built a history with the conservation district to help further the knowledge and importance of utilizing natural resources in a responsible and renewable manner. Other groups, while not necessarily local, have also benefited through the conservation district’s spirit of cooperation and the belief that the more people who know how to take care of their land, wherever they live, the world will be a better place over all. So on that note, feel free to read through some of the highlights of what the Laramie County Conservation District has accomplished through education.

Classroom Visits and Field Trips

This year 20 different schools were visited with one class being taught at the Laramie County Community College, East and Central High Schools, Carey and Johnson Junior High Schools, and classes in 15 of Cheyenne’s elementary schools. Far and away the most popular lesson taught this year was that of erosion with the district stream trailer. Followed closely in popularity were the presentations about Wyoming’s wildlife with the district’s collection of furs and skulls. Not all lessons were taught in the classroom though. Many were taught at the Cheyenne Business Parkway Natural Area and the Thomas O. Kraner Outdoor School. At the natural area, students were able to learn about the ecology of the Laramie area.

Living Snow Fences

The District contracts with both Laramie County Public Works and the Wyoming Department of Transportation to install Living Snow Fences along Laramie County’s roads, highways and interstates. These sites are deemed necessary by WYDOT and LCPW due to public travel. This program is allocated to districts throughout the state through WYDOT. This past year 4 new living snow fence sites were established, bringing the total to 274 sites throughout Laramie County. At these sites, a total of 922 trees were planted for a total of 4,973 feet of tree row installed. This adds 0.83 miles or 4,389 feet of road protection to Laramie County. Bringing the total road protection to date, up to 32.33 miles in Laramie County.

The District has also started going back to some of the older Living Snow Fence sites to begin rehabilitation on them. This will include replacing dead trees, cutting out and/or removing old fabric mulch and repairing or replacing older fences. The District gave this project a trial run last year to get a feel for how much work it will require. This year, the District rebuilt 2 sites for Laramie County Public Works. Included was removing 1,456 feet of livestock exclusion fence and installing 1,456 feet of new fence.
Clark Young has taken over as the new Tree Specialist for Laramie County Conservation District. Clark is a Wyoming native, originally from Afton, Wyoming. He moved to Sheridan in 1997, before relocating to Cheyenne in 2001. Clark worked for the City of Cheyenne for 17 years beginning in the Parks and Recreation Department then transitioning to the Urban Forestry Division in 2008. Clark enjoys working outside and traveling with his wife of 18 years. Although Clark has only been with the Conservation District a short time, he looks forward to serving the residents of Laramie County, assisting with tree health concerns and windbreak placement to aide in stopping that Wyoming wind and snow. Clark can be reached via email at cyoung@lcdnet.org.

Laramie County residents are familiar with the District’s seedling tree program which allows residents of Laramie County to purchase seedling trees at a reduced cost for all types of conservation plantings. The District’s Tree Specialist, Clark Young, and Tree Technician, Dale Beranek, will assist landowners with windbreak designs to gain optimal wind and snow control benefits. These designs include tree species suitable for the area and recommend district setbacks. A planting cost estimate will also be provided. Costs of district planting services are included and are also listed on the 2019 Seedling Tree Order Form.

These seedling trees can be purchased from the Conservation District office located at 11221 US Highway 30, Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:30 by completing the order form and paying for the trees. The trees can be purchased in bundles of 25 for bareroot species, or boxes of 30 for potted species. These bundles/boxes cannot be broken for smaller purchases. The last day to order trees for this year will be March 15th, 2019. This year the Laramie County Conservation District completed 148 windbreak designs. Of these 148 designs, 88 Laramie County residents requested the District’s planting services. This equated

of the area and do water quality sampling. The outdoor school allowed students to learn more about trees and wildlife while being able to practice outdoor and recreational skills.

Ongoing Projects, Camps, Expos, and Workshops

In addition to the many different classroom visits made last year, one of the main constants has been that of the Central High School Deer Project. This project started in January with the darting and collaring of two doe mule deer. The purpose of the project is raise awareness of the deer that frequent Cheyenne’s yards and fields while helping students who are interested in life sciences receive hands-on experience by tracking the deer and making inferences about their habitat and forage requirements. This project was initiated with a great deal of help from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Muley Fanatics Foundation Southeast Wyoming Chapter.

The Wyoming Game and Fish department teamed up with the conservation district to host a Project Learning Tree Workshop for early childhood educators. At the workshop, educators learned many different ways to bring the outdoors into their classroom and relate those lessons to various district standards. Many of the attendees had so much fun that they requested a second workshop to be held in the spring of next year.

The conservation district also participated in two new events. One of the events was the reinstated Wyoming Expo hosted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the other was a booth at the Western Village at Cheyenne Frontier Days in partnership with the University of Wyoming Agriculture Department.

Be sure to check back in the next couple months to see how the winter months have shaped up. Current plans have a schedule full of science fairs, so stay tuned!
Though the calendar year is drawing to a close, the WATER year has really just begun (October 1 - September 30). This is the season reservoir owners usually need to store water prior to the irrigators turning on their ditches in the spring. Much the same, the water program is planning ahead so we can implement a large number of best management practices (BMPs) during the next field season. This means the District has been busy writing both proposals to obtain grant monies and requests for proposals (RFPs) to perform technical designs for multiple projects.

By the time you are reading this article, the District will have entered into a contract with the River Design Group to perform a 100% engineering design for a portion of the Crow Creek Revival (CCR). The CCR select committee evaluated five different proposals for design and interviewed the top three scoring firms. After the smoke cleared, the River Design Group was our clear choice for this first phase of Crow Creek. They have performed over 400 projects restoring 600 miles of stream across numerous western states. The CCR committee and the River Design crew will hold a kick off meeting in January to establish a complete understanding of our goals and objectives for this section of Crow Creek and its impacts for the City of Cheyenne. This design will truly be foundational to the overall success of Crow Creek’s revival especially since the segment is bookended by the West Edge development and the new Enhanced Use Lease just south of F.E. Warren (the old Frontier Days parking lot). The CCR committee believes this project will not only provide a functioning stream channel for our aquatic and riparian related wildlife but an urban escape for the residents of Laramie County.

The District was also awarded a Specialty Crop Grant through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA). This grant was sought after to convert the Laramie County Public Library’s detention pond into a pollinator habitat and additional seed source for the Library’s seed bank program. The project will also act as a showcase for reducing City water usage by harvesting rainfall and stormwater runoff to irrigate proper vegetative plantings. The District will be working closely with the local groups to develop a planting design for the 11,000 square-foot detention area. The goal is to have the detention pond become a National Wildlife Federation certified habitat facility instead of a turf monoculture requiring almost three acre-feet of irrigation water to maintain, let alone mowing and weeding. The seeds provided by the facility will allow others to propagate the same plantings at their own domicile, producing rain garden transformations across the entire city.

Often times the Water Program and Range & Wildlife Program within the District work together to accomplish a common good. 2018 marked the inaugural year of LCCD taking part in the Small Water Program offered through the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC). We applied for a mere 7 projects to improve off channel water sources and better range utilization throughout the county. LCCD has enjoyed working with WWDC’s Small Water Program so much that we are anticipating 17 more projects for the 2019 application season. There is a lot of work involved with these projects but we believe they are in the best overall interest of Laramie County, so we will continue to do them.

The District will be addressing some issues that have arisen over the past decade on the LEADS Cheyenne Business Park Natural Area (CBPNA). Escherichia coli (E. coli) numbers still remain high in Dry Creek and hopefully the proper BMPs will help to lower those numbers. A real issue for the CBPNA is managing for the ever-increasing runoff produced by impervious subdivision surfaces. Cheyenne’s growth is a good thing, but the District has to manage its water resources within the CBPNA wisely so that we can tame the erosion that is currently occurring. Thanks to a WDA Water Quality grant that we were recently awarded, we can begin to assess, design and implement the necessary BMPs.

Finally, the District has partnered with Rotary Clubs of Cheyenne, Frog Creek Partners and the City of Cheyenne to begin deploying the Gutter Bin Catch Basin Filtration system in 2019. These retrofit filtration systems act as the first wave of defense by capturing trash and urban pollutants in the gutter before entering the City’s waterways, like Crow Creek. The proposed placement of the purchased bins will immediately reduce the amount of trash entering the City’s newly constructed Pumphouse Park Wetland. Be on the lookout for them hopefully in early spring.