



Conservation in the classroom
An environmental education newsletter for educators in Weld County
Provided by West Greeley Conservation District
Visit our website at: www.wgcd.org

This newsletter is designed to assist educators in finding resources and opportunities for all students in Weld County.

Directors and staff of the West Greeley Conservation District have long recognized that one of the keys to achievement and success in natural resources conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment is education. For this reason, every effort is made to provide informative and useful programs for people of all ages so that they will have the knowledge and skills needed to make meaningful contributions. Programs and activities include school programs, exhibits, field trips, support and/or sponsorship of special events, mini-grants to educators, and the District website and newsletter.

The District provides or participates in:

- School programs for grades pre-K through 12
- Watershed Education
- Watershed education exhibits
- County Science & Engineering Fair Awards
- Arbor Day Celebration
- Ag Awareness
- Youth Conservation Camp
- Envirothon natural resource education competition
- High Scholarships
- Continuing Education scholarships

Engaging Youth in environmental education and stewardship through educational opportunities

How we can help you

- Resources and lesson plans for the classroom
- Classroom presentations
- Teacher workshops
- Environmental learning library
- Conservation contests
- Envirothon
- Scholarships
- Teacher workshops
- Camp Rocky

How you can help us

- Share our information with your colleagues
- Encourage your students to participate in the conservation contests
- Call us for assistance

How to Reach us

West Greeley Conservation District
(WGCD)

4302 W. 9th St. Rd.

Greeley, CO 80634

970-356-8097

High School Scholarship

Applications Due

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

MARCH 1, 2015

The WGCD offers three \$1000 scholarships and one \$2500 scholarship to graduating high school seniors who would like to pursue a career in agriculture or the conservation of natural resources. This scholarship is reserved only for students residing in or attending school within the West Greeley Conservation District's County's service area.

The application can be found on our website www.wgcd.org, or call us at 970-356-8097.

“Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators”.

National Association of Conservation Districts

2015 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

April 26 to May 3, 2015

2015 will be the 60th anniversary for Soil and Water Stewardship Week, which started as a national event in 1955.

Educational materials are available at:
<http://www.nacdstore.org/>



Stewardship Week Information

NACD has sponsored Stewardship Week since 1955. 2015 marks the 60th year to celebrate NACD Stewardship Week.

Education is a critical element of the conservation effort at the local, state, and national levels. Educating youth ensures that the next generation will be wise stewards of America’s natural resources. Helping today’s adult and youth understand the need for effective conservation practices builds on the conservation legacy. Through NACD’s Stewardship and Education efforts, we help districts and communities extend the reach of their education programs.

Stewardship Week, celebrated annually between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, reminds us of our individual responsibilities to care for the natural resources upon which we all depend.

Other NACD education materials available: DIG DEEPER - Mysteries in the soil, Where does your water shed?, Soil to Spoon, Forests For People, Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats, DIG IT - Secrets in the Soil.

Learn More about the National Association of Conservation Districts NACD online at <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

6th Grade Poster Contest

Each year the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) sponsors a 6th Grade Poster Contest. West Greeley Conservation District (WGCD) is the local sponsor of the contest. The theme this year is “Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators”, based on the NACD 2015 stewardship theme.

WGCD each year provides cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, \$50 for third place, \$35 for fourth place, and \$25 for the fifth place winners. Monetary awards are also awarded at state and national contests.

All entries are due in the West Conservation District office by November 2, 2015.

George M. Houston Gardens

Managed by West Greeley Conservation District

515 23rd Avenue

Greeley, CO 80634

www.houstongarden@wgcd.org



For the enjoyment and education of the citizens of Weld County.

Situated on land of one of Greeley's early settlers.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Resource management education
- Ecology education
- Gardening workshops
- Irrigation practices
- Nature center
- Self-sustainability
- Native mammals and birds



COMMUNITY GARDENS

- The oldest and largest public gardens in Greeley
- 31 rentable plots, each roughly 10 by 60 feet
- Can be rented as full or half plots
- Gardening season runs from April to October
- Irrigation water, soil preparation and a selection of tools are provided
- Gardeners of all skill levels are welcome
- Inquiries welcome year round



Spotlight on Resources



Petra Barnes
NRCS State Public Information Officer

USDA Joins Global Partners to Kick Off International Year of Soils in 2015

DENVER, Dec. 5, 2014 – The USDA joined nations from across the globe to kick off the International Year of Soils, an effort to highlight the importance of soil in everyday life. Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie addressed members of the 68th United Nations General Assembly, which designated 2015 for the yearlong celebration.

“We are excited to be working with the United Nations to help raise awareness and promote the importance of conservation of our soil resources,” Bonnie said. “USDA is embracing this unique opportunity to tell the world about the importance of soil conservation and how we’ve worked with private landowners since 1935 to protect and improve this priceless natural resource.”

UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization spearheaded the global International Year of Soils campaign within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership. The year of awareness aims to increase understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. Soils play a crucial role in food security, hunger eradication, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

“We’re excited soils will be in the spotlight during 2015,” said Elise Boeke, Acting NRCS state conservationist in Colorado. “Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource. As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance.” NRCS works hand-in-hand with producers through technical and financial assistance programs and services to help ensure their success. The agency was born amid the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s, the nation’s largest environmental disaster caused by over cultivation, drought and record-breaking temperatures.

“NRCS conservationists work with farmers and ranchers across the country, including here in Colorado to take care of the soil, ensuring agricultural operations are sustainable for many years to come,” Boeke goes on to say.

For more information on International Year of Soils, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/.

52nd Year and Award Winning:

Camp Rocky



www.coloradoacd.org/camprocky

***THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (CACD)***

Outdoor Natural Resource Conservation Adventures for Youth Ages 14 - 19

Near Divide, Colorado

What is Camp Rocky?

Camp Rocky is a week long, residential camp for 14 through 19 year olds who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources. The camp is located just outside Divide, Colorado. Camp Rocky's professional staff helps participants learn about their environment through hands-on experiences. The students work in teams, making new friends from across Colorado. Each year, new and returning students choose one of the following resource fields for their area of focus.

Forest Management

Fish & Wildlife Management

Soil and Water Conservation

Rangeland Science

Visit: www.wgcd.org, or www.coloradoacd.org/camprocky, for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHILDRENS WATER FESTIVAL

The Children's Water Festival 2015 theme "Colorado Water, Live Like You Love It" focuses on the Colorado water connection. The 2015 Festival is April 29 at Island Grove Regional Park.

The Children's Water Festival in Greeley is a free event for 4th grade students in Weld, Morgan and Adams Counties hosted by Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, West Greeley Conservation District, City of Greeley Stormwater, and City of Greeley Water Conservation.

For more information visit, greeleywaterfest.org.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

CONFLUENCE INSTITUTE

The Confluence Institute – Teacher's Workshop is a four day hands on water education workshop for teachers in northeastern Colorado. Participants will receive the Project Wet Curriculum & Activity Guide and the Water Wise Colorado Curriculum. The Workshop is free to teachers and is located at the Poudre Learning Center in Greeley. 2015 date to be announced.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM, FOOD, FIBER, AND MORE

This is a five day course designed for teachers who have little or no agriculture background.

The purpose of this class to assist educators in understanding the agriculture industry and its connection to our environment and society. The class will provide a variety of methods for using agriculture materials in the classroom, and assist educators in developing curriculum ideas which integrate an understanding of agriculture in various academic subjects.

Fort Collins - 2015 Food, Fiber & More AITC Summer Institute, June 15th, 2015

San Luis Valley - 2015 Food, Fiber & More AITC Summer Institute, June 22nd, 2015

EDUCATION CONTESTS

ENVIROTHON

A Natural Challenge for High School Students

Visit CO Envirothon website at www.coloenvirothon.com

Resources

February 2015

NUTRIENTS FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

Nutrients for Life Foundation

<https://www.nutrientsforlife.org>

For Teachers (Curriculum)

For Students (Games)

For Everyone (Information)

For Communities (Programs)



North
American
Envirothon

<http://www.envirothon.org>

<http://www.envirothon.org/thecompetitioncurriculum-guidelines.html>



Colorado Foundation for
Agriculture
www.growingyourfuture.com



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

USDA-NRCS

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

10 key Messages about soil

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_052550.pdf

Soils-Tools for educators-CD

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/edu/?cid=nrcs142p2054314>

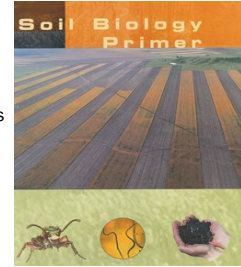
SK Worm

Answers your questions about soil and stuff.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/edu/?cid=nrcs142p2_054329

The Soil Biology Primer an introduction to the living component of soil and how it contributes to agricultural productivity and air and water quality . The Primer includes chapters describing the soil food web and its relationship to soil health and chapters about soil bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, arthropods, and earthworms.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/biology>



USDA-NRCS

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Unlock the Secrets-Soil Health

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>



West Greeley Conservation District

<http://www.wgcd.org/Educational.html>



United States Department of Agriculture



<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?>

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=PEOPLES_GARDEN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Soils for Kids

<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/soil/kids/index.html>

Discovery Channel

The Dirt on Soil

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/soil/>

NACD Soils Education Material

Educators Guide, Activity Sheets and more.

DIG IT-Secrets in the Soil

<http://www.nacd.org/education/soils>

Soil to Spoon

<http://www.nacd.org/education/resources/soil-to-spoon>

Dig Deeper-Mysteries in the Soil

<http://www.nacd.net.org/education/resources/digdeeper>

