

As you may know Conservation Districts were originally organized to assist landowners with implementing soil conservation practices in response to the soil erosion problems experienced during the Dust Bowl. Now Conservation Districts are charged with assisting the citizens and stakeholders of our area with proper management of all our natural resources. To meet that need we offer educational and outreach activities as well as technical and financial assistance to address natural resource concerns within the district. We'd love to hear from you, visit us on our website at: [wgcd.org](http://wgcd.org) or call us at 970-356-8097 ext. 3!

### Houston Gardens Update

**Paul Conklin, Houston Gardens Manager**

The West Greeley Conservation District is pleased to be beginning its second year of managing Houston Gardens which is located at 515 23rd Avenue, Greeley. The Conservation District is working closely with the Greeley Community



Foundation to improve the gardens as a learning environment, activity and venue setting, and a continuation of the Houston's vision of creating a "special Colorado environmental setting" for the residents of the Greeley area.

There are again thirty-one community garden plots located at Houston Gardens. Planting was delayed because of our record precipitation in May but the gardeners are being patient and all the crops should be in very soon. The Conservation District received a grant from North Colorado Health Alliance and one of the requirements is that gardeners record quantities of their harvest. It will be interesting to have the total production from the gardens and that information will be published on our website. Houston Gardens will be participating in the community gardens tour August 1st at 8:00 am.

The five year plan that was developed for the gardens is in the process of having various aspects implemented. There are three gardens where perennials have been added and they will all be identified with common and genus species names for reference. A new entrance was installed in

April to make entering and exiting the gardens safer for visitors. A variety of plantings are in the process of being installed near the house and at the west walkway. These plants are a mixture of native and naturalized specimens and will also be labeled for identification purposes.

Houston Gardens is available for a variety of social events as well. There are several weddings, receptions, family reunions, birthday parties etc. scheduled throughout the summer. The Conservation District welcomes these activities and are certainly hoping more people take advantage of the beautiful setting that Houston Gardens offers. To find out more information about reserving the gardens call 970-356-8097 x3. There is also a half mile path that is ADA accessible that makes a wonderful walking path for those looking for a change of pace. With extended hours this year, Houston Gardens is indeed more readily accessible than ever before. New summer hours are 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Sunday – Saturday (unless there is an event scheduled).

Please take some time to come out for a walk or picnic with your family.



## Seven Scholarships Awarded to Local High School and College Students

West Greeley Conservation District awarded seven scholarships this year for both high school and continuing education students. These scholarship funds have been established for educational assistance to recognize and support students pursuing a career in a natural resource or agriculture field.

Continuing education scholarships have been awarded to three students attending Colorado State University.

- **Katie Geist**, of Loveland, is gaining skills as an Agricultural Business major. One day she plans to own an equestrian center focusing on horse rescue and rehabilitation.

- **Codie Wilson** is a PhD student in Watershed Science researching mulch effects on soil conservation and water quality in the High Park Fire. Future plans include researching water quality and agricultural management.

- **Miles Crane** is attaining his Master's in Natural Resource Stewardship emphasizing sustainability on military lands and ecological restoration. Miles served as a senior analyst for the Marine Corp.

Four high school students received scholarships from the district as well. **Jenna Frink** attended Highland High School and is enrolled at CSU majoring

in Animal Sciences and Agriculture Business. Jenna was the recipient of the Bryce White Scholarship. **Lena Haun** graduated from Pawnee High School. Lena is majoring in Agriculture Education at CSU this fall. **Reed Hodgson** is a graduate from Eaton High School. Reed will be pursuing an education in Environmental Engineering at Fort Lewis College in Durango. **Amber Thormodsgard** attended Briggsdale High School. Amber will be attending CSU and plans to double major in Animal Sciences and Agronomy.

We congratulate all these scholarship recipients and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

## Remember When?

### Raymond Mowery, District Conservationist NRCS



Remember when the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) had lines of farmers waiting to work with a planner to record how they intended to meet soil erosion limits set by the 1985 Farm Bill. SCS hired several soil conservationists to assist with the increased workload. I was lucky enough to be one of the newbies hired by Ron Miller, District Conservationist, to help draft farm plans on highly erodible land (HEL) and provide technical assistance for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Some dry land operators chose to reduce erosion by reduced tillage and maintaining more crop residue, while others elected to enroll in CRP and plant a permanent vegetative cover. Farmers of irrigated crop land moved to less inversion tillage, maintained more residue over winter and in some cases applied tons of manure to reduce erosion.

Regardless of how they chose to do it, farmers proved to be true stewards of the land, reducing soil erosion by thousands of tons.

In 1994 the SCS was abolished and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was formed to replace it. The new name was a better fit for an agency charged with conserving all natural resources. About this same time, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) was created to assist agricultural producers achieve their goals of improving the management of natural resources on private property. Myself and fellow conservationists with NRCS, administered EQIP in Weld County, providing assistance to improve irrigation, soil health, grazing systems, wildlife habitat, and of course, reduce soil erosion. I have had the pleasure of working with some of the finest people in Colorado and Wyoming, producers who are passionate about their role as providers of food and fiber for the rest of us, while they excel in stewardship of the land they so proudly manage. Challenges

lie ahead for producers and NRCS employees to provide for a growing



population while remaining sustainable. Consumers can drive choices producers make by demanding products produced in ways that they believe are beneficial to them in some way. For example: producers' attempts to produce organic crops on a large scale, may force them to abandon modern erosion controlling best management practices, while resorting to past conventional farming practices that relied on tillage to control pests. I hope these farmers can once again rise to the challenge to avoid soil erosion levels that initiated the 1985 Farm Bill.

As my career with NRCS comes to a close, I want to thank the farming and ranching communities for allowing me to serve them and share in small parts of their careers. May 30<sup>th</sup> was my last day as District Conservationist in Greeley.

## Updates from our Conservation/Education Program

Megan Lowery, Conservation/Education Technician

### 2015 Colorado Envirothon Competition: Urban Forestry

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> marked the third annual Colorado Envirothon competition, a natural resource based contest. High school teams came from across the state to participate and this year's competition was hosted in Alamosa in the San Luis Valley. A total of ten teams participated this year from Alamosa, Castle Rock, Craig, Fort Garland, Greeley, Kremmling, Monte Vista, and San Luis. The winning team hailed from Monte Vista (Sargent High School) and the second and third place teams were both from Castle View High School in Douglas County. The winning team will

move on to compete in the national competition in Missouri, July 27-August 2.

West Greeley Conservation District was happy to sponsor a team from Greeley West High School to represent Weld County. The team from Greeley included Hugo Garcia, Devon Leaf, Juan Martinez, Jasper Mullins, and Devonte Olivas and was chaperoned by Kelly Longacre.

All students were tested on four resource categories (soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife) and a current

environmental issue. This year's issue was Urban Forestry and teams delivered oral presentations on solving a current resource issue based on this year's theme. Team work and critical thinking are the basis for a successful outcome at this fun and educational contest.

West Greeley Conservation District is proud to be a part of the Colorado Envirothon committee and looks forward to sponsoring at least one team from the district each year!

### CoCoRaHS Reporting Contest

The precipitation records in north eastern Weld County are sparse, so West Greeley Conservation District teamed up with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) to host a reporting contest among 5<sup>th</sup> graders at

Briggsdale, Pawnee, and Prairie Schools. Students received a CoCoRaHS rain gauge, registered their site, and reported precipitation daily to [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org). The contest ran from October 20, 2014 to May 20, 2015 with more than 200

potential reporting days. The winner was Heather Jewell from Briggsdale School with 216 reports! All the students did a great job reporting!

## Weed Management

Erik Wardle CSU

### Safe and proper use of pesticides in the home and garden

As the rain finally begins to subside and sun and warmer weather is on the way, weeds and other pests will begin to thrive in our yards. Most of us don't like to let weeds and damaging insects take over our lawns and gardens and pesticides (products including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) can be one useful tool for controlling unwanted pests. However, the same ingredients that make these products good at controlling pests can make them harmful to people, animals and the environment including our water resources.

Pest-free homes and gardens are expensive, impractical, and environmentally unsound. Consider all options to manage pests before choosing a chemical solution. These include preventative maintenance, biological

controls, encouraging natural enemies, less-toxic controls and allowing low levels of weeds and garden insects to survive. The goal is to have a healthy environment in homes and gardens, not to eliminate 100% of pests. If a chemical option is needed, proper use of pesticides cannot prevent all contamination risk but it can help reduce threats to water and other resources.

Before you mix a pesticide for application, test your sprayer with water to make sure it is working properly and is not leaking. Carefully, read the label more than once to determine the amount of chemical you need to mix. Be sure to do any needed calculations before you begin. Then select an area on the lawn or open ground to mix the pesticide.

Prior to application, clear all people, pets, toys, pet dishes and other items out of the

### Cost Share Money Available to Help You Manage Weeds on Your Property

In conjunction with Weld County Public Works Weed Division the district sponsors a cost-share program that covers the cost of chemical and commercial application if hired out.

General noxious weed suppression cost-share is at 50% up to \$500. Certain noxious weeds set for eradication have cost-share money at 80% up to \$700.

Call 970-304-6496 ext. 3770 to make an appointment with a Landowner Specialist.



area to be treated. Keep everyone away until the spray has dried or for as long as the label directs. It's best to spray in the early morning or late evening; this will help protect honey bees and other pollinators. Never spray in windy conditions and if a wind comes up while you are spraying, stop and finish the job later so that other areas are not affected by pesticide drift. Apply pesticide only on the target areas, avoiding driveways, sidewalks, or other hard surfaces where water runoff occurs. Clean up any spilled chemical right away, cat litter and "floor dry" work well to clean up spilled liquid concentrate. If the label states that the product must be watered in, apply only enough water to completely wet the treated area.

You should buy pesticides only in the quantity needed in order to minimize storage of unused chemicals. In the case you have some unused pesticides they should be stored properly to avoid spills

and unwanted contact with children and animals. Pesticides should always be left in their original containers, well labeled, and stored in a locked cabinet. The best way to dispose of a pesticide is to use it according to the label. However, if you have unwanted pesticides the Colorado Department of Agriculture has a guide to legal disposal sites at: [www.colorado.gov/ag/pw](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/pw).

When using pesticides in your yard and garden, follow the steps below to reduce the possibility of unwanted consequences:

### *Simple Things You Can Do To Protect Water Quality and the Environment*

- Question the need for pesticide. There may be a better choice.
- Accept a certain amount of pests or weeds as part of the natural balance.
- Consider using a licensed, professional applicator instead of applying chemicals yourself.

- Follow all label directions for storing and mixing of pesticides and for disposing of empty containers.
- Use only the amount of chemical specified by the label - more is NOT better! *And it is a violation of Federal law to use in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.*
- Mix only the amount of pesticide that will be used for the current job.
- Take the time and care not to get any pesticide on sidewalks, driveways, or other hard surfaces.
- Store pesticides in a locked cabinet, in their original containers, with labels intact, visible and legible.
- **Never** pour leftover spray mix or pesticide down the drain or storm sewer.

For more information on this and other important topics for homeowners please see CSU Extension's Homeowners Guide series of publications at [waterquality.colostate.edu](http://waterquality.colostate.edu) click on the publications tab or email: [erik.wardle@colostate.edu](mailto:erik.wardle@colostate.edu)

## **New Phone App for Pesticide Recordkeeping**

Do you apply restricted use pesticides (RUPs)? Do you have an iPhone? If you answered yes to both of these questions then you should check out a new phone App developed by the water quality program at Colorado State University. When opened at the application site, the phone App automatically records the date, time and location of application. It

also links to an online list of RUP's and their EPA registration numbers, reducing entry time. Finally, records can be emailed to the account you designate as text or an Excel .csv file for your records back at the office. The Colorado Restricted Use Recordkeeping App (CURA) is available for FREE at the iTunes store at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/crura/id967106909?mt=8>. It is also linked at the CSU water quality website: <http://waterquality.colostate.edu>. Check this new tool for the 2015 growing season.

**Contact:** [troy.bauder@colostate.edu](mailto:troy.bauder@colostate.edu)

## **South Platte River Mapping Project in Weld County**

**Tina Booten**

The Weld County Weed Division has received a special grant to evaluate the noxious weeds on the South Platte River. These funds came from a unique grant program that the Colorado Department of Agriculture created after all of the natural disasters that Colorado has had in the recent years. The state is trying to provide additional assistance in the recovery from these disasters.

The Weld County project has several

goals to aid in the recovery along the riparian corridor. The primary goal of the grant project is to determine which noxious weeds might have moved into Weld County from the 2013 flood. A second goal is to have a better understanding and count for the Russian olive and tamarisk trees that currently infest the riparian zone of the South Platte River. Additional funding will be sought in the future to address these noxious weed trees. The third goal of the project is

to identify any other noxious weeds slated for eradication or suppression that are infesting the riparian zone.

By state law and county code, A list species are set for mandatory eradication. Known species that may be on the South Platte River from the A list include: purple loosestrife, orange hawkweed, Mediterranean sage, and the knotweeds. Other A list species may exist and will be addressed if identified. There are

allowances in the grant to work with landowners if any of these species are identified.

B List species are set for suppression to eradication depending on the species. Species from the B list that currently infest the riparian zone include: Canada, musk and Scotch thistles, moth mullein, yellow toadflax, the chamomiles, perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, teasel, and diffuse and Russian knapweeds. If any of the eradication species are identified during the mapping of this project, allowances have been built

into the grant to work with landowners to address these species.

Species from the C list include: poison hemlock, and common burdock. It is encouraged that these species be addressed, as the poison hemlock is toxic to livestock and the common burdock reduces forage value.

With landowner permission, Weld County Weed Division staff will map parcels bordering the South Platte River. If any of the noxious weeds are identified,

staff will work with landowners to develop a management plan that is practical and feasible for the landowners to implement. Once the management plan is created, landowners qualify for a special cost-share assistance program for the purchase of herbicides. This program may cover up to 100% of the cost of the herbicides.

For more information on noxious weeds, go to [www.weldweeds.org](http://www.weldweeds.org) or call 970-304-6496 ext. 3705 to schedule an appointment and to learn more about the cost-share program.

## From our friends at the Poudre Learning Center

The Poudre Learning Center is a premier facility for interdisciplinary learning focusing on the importance of history, science, economics, stewardship and aesthetics of the Cache la Poudre River and Northeastern Colorado. This 65 acre

site is situated along the Poudre River and the Poudre River Trail in NW Greeley and is easily accessible from surrounding towns. Anybody can visit anytime and each time you come you will have a different experience. With easily

accessible walking trails that meander through riparian zones, short grass prairies, wetlands, and an aquatic learning lake you are bound to see some wildlife and escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

## Volunteer in the Great Outdoors

The Poudre Learning Center is most recognized for the field experiences offered. Last year, 16,000 students visited the learning center with their school. Another 15,000 students are reached during science nights, school visits, and community outreach events. Our numbers continue to rise with every passing year. As an environmental center, we focus our curriculum on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) inspired by nature.

With so many students visiting us, both at

the center and in the schools, we are always in need of volunteers to help support these large groups. Volunteers can be trained to lead an activity for a day, assist our staff with an activity, or lend a hand and join us for science nights in the schools.

Maybe you are interested in getting your hands dirty and helping with one of our restoration or land maintenance projects. Help be a part of a reclamation team which assist in restoring the grounds to its natural prairie and riparian areas. These

events are great for families, individuals or an employee team building exercise.

Contact Kali Arenas, STEM Outreach VISTA at [karenas@plcoutdoors.org](mailto:karenas@plcoutdoors.org) for more information regarding volunteering for our Environmental Education programs. Contact Jamie Weiss, *Grounds Volunteer Coordinator* at [jweiss@plcoutdoors.org](mailto:jweiss@plcoutdoors.org) for more information regarding volunteer restoration work.

## Outdoor Family Science Opportunities

We also have organized events – such as our Families Investigating Science at Home (F.I.S.H) workshops which are held on the last Saturday of every month, generally from 9:00am-12:00pm. Families have the opportunity to spend quality time with one another, learn about science together, and connect with nature. After attending a F.I.S.H. workshop, each

family is awarded with an explorer vest to take home and continue the activity in their backyard or nearby nature area. Once the family completes the at-home activity, they have earned a pin to add to their vest. Contact Christopher Schall, *FISH Coordinator* at [schall.christopher@gmail.com](mailto:schall.christopher@gmail.com), or visit us

online at [PoudreLearningCenter.org](http://PoudreLearningCenter.org) for more information.

We look forward to connecting with each of you at upcoming events as it is so nice to be a part of our community that is able to provide a "helping hand" in shaping the Poudre Learning Center.

## Farm Service Agency Update

Jeff Wilson, County Executive Director

### Acreage Reports due by July 15

JULY 15, 2015 is the final date to timely file your spring seeded acreage reports with the FSA office. Producers must file an acreage report for all crop acreage on all farms in order to become eligible for any benefits offered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offered under Agricultural Risk Contract (ARC) or Price Risk Contract (PLC).

FSA accepts acreage reports for all annually planted crops and perennial forage and grazing crops. Remember that acreage reports are needed for all native and improved pasture to become eligible for benefits offered through the Livestock

Forage Program (LFP). LFP benefits only become eligible if the county becomes drought affected as recorded on the US Drought Monitor.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants must also annually report their acreage to FSA by the July 15 reporting deadline.

LATE FILED REPORTING PROVISIONS do apply to crops reported beyond the final reporting date. There is a fee of \$46 per farm for reporting after the established deadline of July 15 for spring and summer plantings and

November 15 for wheat and other fall seeded crops. Producers who carry crop

insurance with FCIC or participate in the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) must pay the fee at the time of reporting. A field visit MUST be performed by FSA for each late filed acreage report, so timely file your crop acreage report.

Appointments are preferred for accepting acreage reports. Call (970) 356-8097 x 2 for an appointment.



### "Enrollment" of Farms into ACR/PLC

With the passage of the farm bill last spring, FSA is in the process of implementing many new programs. In the spring of 2015 many producers updated their yields and chose to participate in the Agriculture Risk Program (ARC) or the Price Loss Program (PLC).

It is now time for producers to enroll their farms and initiate a contract with shares.

The enrollment signup began June 17 and will end September 30, 2015.

Producers will be enrolling for crop years 2014-2015. Copies of cash lease agreements will be needed. Any producer

who did not make either an ARC or PLC choice will be limited to participation in 2015 ONLY! As always, please notify the FSA office of any changes in your farming operation, including change of ownership and/or operators, changes in banking institutions, and any address, phone, and email changes.

## How Conservation Easements Relate to Our WGCD Mission

Stan Cass, President, WGCD

When I came back to farming in 1986, after a 33 plus year career in the military, I soon discovered that things had changed! My Dad, from the old school, was still using dry land farming practices similar to when I left in 1953. After making contacts with both local farmers, and some very successful operators further east in Colorado, I was convinced that we needed to "catch up". We worked with CSU crop specialists on a study on our lands around Briggsdale to determine a good rotation of crops – for dryland areas – with wheat, of course, being the key "cash crop". Amazingly, after about eight years of testing, they found that the rotation of wheat – millet/sorghum-fallow, was the preferable choice, and

thus, you would get two crops every three years rather than one every other year from the historical wheat/fallow system. This had been the recent choice of most dryland farmers, so CSU had now confirmed our practice! And, of course, the major addition/change to dryland farming – while I was gone – was the increased use of herbicides to control weeds and reduce tillage operations.

Then, while I was president of the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association during the mid-90's, we asked Linn Sherrod of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to address our annual meeting and talk about a new concept of "conservation easements" that had made in-roads in other states. She

assumed – correctly – that many of us in the audience were multi-generation farmers or ranchers, and thus were concerned about being able to assure that their lands would stay in agriculture rather than being sold to "developers". This got many of us thinking, and my son and I were gradually convinced that this is something we wanted to do. As I sought out a few land trust organizations to talk to, we ended up talking to the Larimer Land Trust in Fort Collins. Finally, in 2004, we signed up our first easement, assuring us that this 1500 acres of prime farm/ranchland would be – in perpetuity – protected from any type of development. Now that we "knew the system", we continued to sign up more

land in easements, until we now have almost 7000 acres protected. And, after we do one more – this year – that contains some of our most valuable land along Crow Creek, we can “rest easy”, knowing that our property is forever farm and ranch land.

During this time frame, I was elected to the West Greeley Conservation Board of Directors, and, though it took a long time, we on the WGCD Board have gradually realized that the mission of any soil conservation district shares strong similarities to those of a land trust. We are all passionate about preserving and

protecting our agricultural property and the naturally beautiful lands, for our future generations to enjoy and utilize for agriculture.

Though Colorado has a very helpful tax system for anyone donating their development rights, there is a significant cost involved when putting property into an easement. The WGCD has approved up to \$50,000 annually to offset owners’ transaction costs involved in establishing an easement. All WGCD constituents are encouraged to look into this opportunity, and our staff will put you in touch with Legacy Land Trust, the non-profit

organization that manages easements in Weld County, to discuss details.

And from a personal standpoint, I have never regretted for a minute taking the time to make this happen on our farm. It assures me that Cass Farm Company lands will always be used as we intended. I encourage all of you who might be interested in learning more about placing your property in a conservation easement to attend the Legacy Land Trust fund raising auction/dinner on July 25, 5:30-7:30, at Producers Stock Yards located at the north edge of Greeley.

## New Staff and Board Member Added to Our Team



**Paul Conklin** has been hired by West Greeley Conservation District to manage Houston Gardens which is located at 515 23rd Avenue, Greeley. Paul taught horticulture at Greeley West High school for 31 years before accepting this position with the district. He has been involved in the horticulture industry in varied aspects since 1972.

Paul is extremely excited about the opportunities that await at Houston Gardens for the Conservation District as a demonstration site and for a variety of community outreach activities. Houston Gardens is a perfect venue to explore and serve as avenue for the Conservation District’s mission to reach a wider audience of home and small acreage owners. Paul can be reached at [houston.gardens@wgcd.org](mailto:houston.gardens@wgcd.org) or 970-356-8097 x3. Hours of operation are 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Sunday through Saturday from June – August, September and October, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 8:00 – 4:00 and

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 6:00. Take some time and come out for a visit.



We welcome **Natalie Macsalka** as the new District Manager for WGCD. Natalie most recently worked for the Colorado State Conservation Board supporting the work of Conservation Districts across Western Colorado. But she is no stranger to Northern Colorado. Natalie is a proud CSU alumna with a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management and a M.S. from

the University of Wyoming in Agricultural Economics. Natalie looks forward to working with the citizens and stakeholders of our area as we strive to meet our vision of being a local leader in natural resource outreach, education and service in our district.

A big welcome to our newest board member, **Randy Miller**. Randy joined the board in April of this year. He was raised in Greeley and is a cattle feeder in the area.

### West Greeley Conservation District

4302 W 9<sup>th</sup> St. Rd.  
Greeley, CO 80634  
(970) 356-8097 ext. 3  
[www.wgcd.org](http://www.wgcd.org)

### District Supervisors

President: Stan Cass  
Vice President: John Leone  
Secretary/Treasurer: Lennard Simpson  
Members: Randy Miller and Richard Foose

### District Staff

District Manager: Natalie Macsalka  
District Clerk: Kandee Nourse  
Conservation/Education Technician: Megan Lowery  
District Conservation Technician: Jasen Kettle  
Houston Gardens Manager: Paul Conklin

Serving the conservation needs for the members of the West Greeley Conservation District since 1948.





Want to learn about options for protecting working land in Weld County? Join us at Producers on July 25 for a fun evening of music, great food and a live auction, and we'll tell you more about it.

**July 25**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**

at



711 O St., Greeley, CO 80632

Music by SilverStar-Live Auction by Scott Shuman  
Burgers and Brats-quilts, antiques, vacations,  
kids stuff, ag products, pie

For more information visit  
[www.legacylandtrust.org](http://www.legacylandtrust.org)  
or call (970) 266-1711

## Upcoming Events

### August 20 & 21: Grass Tour

The West Greeley Conservation District is partnering with Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc. to offer this year's annual grass tour. The tour will be based in Weld County and cover: reclamation of lands disturbed by energy production, cover crops, and more. Go to <http://www.pawneebutteseed.com/grass-tour-2015/> for more information and to register.

### September 15: Pruning Workshop at Houston Gardens (5:30 pm)

This Free event will be taught by Paul Conklin, Houston Garden Manager. Paul will discuss the proper method to prune your trees and shrubs. Improper pruning methods will weaken the plant's structure and leave them susceptible to disease and insects. Come learn about proper maintenance techniques for all trees and shrubs, including windbreak and landscape plants.

The district rents equipment and cost-shares on approved conservation practices.  
Call the West Greeley Conservation District at 970-356-8097 ext 3 for more information.