



NR Corner

Natural Resources Newsletter for Educators



Outdoor Classroom Funding

Take It Outside!

Does your school have an outdoor classroom? CPNRD's Outdoor Classroom Program provides funding for schools to implement or improve existing outdoor classrooms. CPNRD has funded 14 classrooms since 2001.

In January, Grand Island Senior High's Success Academy received funding to create an outdoor classroom for butterfly monarch habitat at Dodge Elementary in Grand Island in the amount of \$1,666.75. Students from Success Academy, Dodge Elementary, Skills Academy Elementary, and the Roots & Shoots Program have partnered to use the scientific method to conduct real world observation and data collection in the monarch butterfly habitat.

Vleck Gardens, Chapman, will provide project design and construction and Pheasants Forever will present lessons for students to apply their knowledge in field observations by participating in national Monarch Butterfly field studies. The classroom will cover approximately 800 square feet, with implementation to be completed this spring.

For an application visit: cpnrd.org/Education or contact Marcia Lee at: lee@cpnrd.org or call (308) 385-6282.

Time to reserve your seedlings!

Free Arbor Day Seedlings

Arbor Day is being celebrated this year on Friday, April 28th. The Central Platte NRD will be giving out Chokecherry shrub seedlings to help students celebrate this Nebraska-born holiday. The seedlings are grown at the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey, NE. CPNRD will deliver the seedlings free of charge.



Each seedling is approximately 12" tall and will be enclosed in a plastic bag with planting instructions. Chokecherries (*Prunus virginiana*) are good wildlife habitat, providing food and cover for birds and small mammals. Cherries ripen during July. The cherries can be used for making jelly and wine. It is a medium/large-sized shrub that forms a dense thicket from root suckers. It is used for the outer row in multi-row windbreaks and is native to Nebraska. Average height is 6-8' and should be planted 12' from other trees and shrubs.

If you'd like to receive seedlings to educate your students about Arbor Day and the benefits of trees, contact Marcia Lee at: lee@cpnrd.org or call (308) 385-6282 with the following info:

Teacher Name(s), Number of seedlings per classroom, Phone #, Email and School addresses, Best delivery dates after April 7th.

Free Monarch Educator Packets

"Monarchs on a Mission" aims to educate Nebraskans about monarchs and milkweed by inviting them to color a monarch of their own. The colored monarchs will be collected and used in an exhibit at the Nebraska State Capitol during Pollinator Week 2017.



Classroom teachers, afterschool programs, scout troops and any other organization dedicated to educating children about monarchs are invited to request a "Monarchs on a Mission" educator packet. Packets include lesson plans, 30 paper monarchs to be colored and a return envelope to send colored monarchs for use in the display. To request a free packet, visit www.outdoornebraska.gov/MonarchsOnAMission.

Contact Lindsay Rogers with any questions: (402) 471-5581 or lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov.



CPNRD-Ron Bishop College Scholarships

Central Platte Natural Resources District is accepting applications until **March 22nd** for the CPNRD-Ron Bishop College Scholarship Program. Each year the CPNRD provides 10 students majoring in a natural resources field with \$1,000 scholarships.

The NRD's Programs Committee ranks applicants according to their major and grade level, with the highest rankings going to those already enrolled in college and pursuing a natural resources career. Students must also reside within CPNRD boundaries; which reach from Gothenburg to Columbus along the Platte River.

Some of the careers that qualify:

- Agriculture: Business Representative, Engineer, Inspector, Agronomist, Applied Science/Diversified
- Biologist
- Engineer: Civil, Mechanical, Chemical
- Conservationist, Resources Management
- Environmental Educator
- Geographic Information Systems Specialist
- Geology Engineering
- Grazing Livestock System
- Hydrologist, Hydrogeologist
- Mechanized Systems/Soil and Water Conservation
- Rangeland Management
- Soil Conservationist/ Soil Engineer
- Vocational/Agriculture Educator
- Water Resources Specialist

**Applications are available on the CPNRD website at: cpnrd.org/cpnrd-school-page
or by contacting Marcia Lee at (308) 385-6282 or email: lee@cpnrd.org.
Applications must be postmarked by March 22nd!**

Taking Registrations for Groundwater Festival



Did you know that Central Platte NRD hosts the statewide Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival? This one-day event educates students about all aspects of groundwater. The goal is to provide in-depth, hands-on activities to expand on the students knowledge about groundwater and natural resources.

The Groundwater Festival was the first to be formed nationally and has become the model for others nationwide, including 40 states in the U.S. and in Mexico, Canada, India, and the United Kingdom. Based on pre-test and post-test results, evaluations, and a behavioral impact study, the festival has demonstrated its positive impact on children's awareness, knowledge, and ultimately their behavior in groundwater protection.

Would you like to provide this opportunity to your students? The festival is always held the second week of May at the Central Community College/College Park in Grand Island, NE. We're currently taking registrations for the next two calendar years. There is no cost to attend.

Visit <http://cpnrd.org/groundwater-festival/>
or contact **Kelly Cole- cole@cpnrd.org or Marcia Lee- lee@cpnrd.org or call (308) 385-6282.**



**Sunday, June 11th to
Wednesday, June 14th**

**Four days of Outdoor Fun,
Exploring and Learning at
State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE**

Calling all 6th, 7th and 8th graders

NRD Sponsored Summer Camp

Did you know that Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts host an annual summer camp for middle school youth called **ACE? Adventure Camp about the Environment** is students who are interested in having fun and learning about natural resources. The camp focuses on forestry, water, energy, edible plants, soils, range, and wildlife. Campers are educated through hands-on activities by rolling up their sleeves and digging into nature to form a new understanding of the environment through interactive participation.

Campers also experience nature through other activities such as tubing, archery, zip line, water rockets, the water slide and other adventures. They'll also learn about possible careers in the area from the professionals who work with natural resources every day. Registration is \$190 with a \$100 registration scholarship available through Central Platte NRD for students who live within the District. **Registration deadline is May 26th.**

DATE: Sunday, June 11- Wednesday, June 14 LOCATION: State 4-H Camp, Halsey NE

Need a ride? Contact the 4-H camp director about transportation from Grand Island to the camp: (308) 533-2224.

Registration/brochure available at: www.cpnrd.org. For more information about ACE scholarships, or to receive a registration brochure, **contact Marcia Lee (308) 385-6282 or lee@cpnrd.org.**

ACE is sponsored by Nebraska's NRDs and Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Foundation. Nebraska NRDs and the NARD partnered with several organizations to help make the camp a success, including the University of Nebraska, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska National Forest, Nebraska State 4-H Camp, and Nebraska Pheasants Forever.



Central Platte NRD co-hosts the Envirothon, Land Judging and Range Judging contests with other NRDs, NRCS, and UNL Extension. For more information on contests, presentations, or materials available from CPNRD, visit our website at : www.cpnrd.org.

Your contact is Marcia Lee at (308) 385-6282 | lee@cpnrd.org.

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*Nebaska's NRDS...
Protecting Lives
Protecting Property
Protecting the Future*

Central Platte Natural Resources District
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