



Redington Resource Review

Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner

A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural Resource
Conservation District

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Submitted by Charles Kent
Chair, Redington NRCD

Time has sure flown! We are quickly heading into fall. The summer monsoon season has been good to our part of the San Pedro. The hills are green with new growth: a sight that I have been able to enjoy tremendously these past days. What a beautiful place the desert can be.

The summer meeting of the AACD (Arizona Association of Conservations Districts) was held in Globe August 18-21st. One item on their agenda was the new Farm Bill, just passed by congress. The amount of money set aside (\$4 billion) was staggering! The parameters on how these funds are to be allocated are now being discussed and the results will soon to be sent to the local NRCD boards for comment. If this interests you or affects you personally, please come to a meeting or contact a supervisor with your comments and suggestions. We would appreciate your input!

AACD has changed their name to Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Districts State Association (and isn't that a mouthful!) If you need to contact the State Association or use their Website, please remember this change.

A policy against state-wide wild cat dumping was passed. This policy provides for reducing the burden of proof for convictions, establishing a state clean up fund, eliminating wording that penalizes state grazing and agricultural lease holders and a substantial increase in fines. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Winkelman District, this issue will be brought before our state legislators. Let's hope for prompt attention from our government.

If I can manage to cross our running river and washes, I'll see you all at the Sept. 16th meeting.

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Redington NRC District News and Announcements

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Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise notified, the Redington NRC Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of every other month at 9 AM at the Cascabel Community Center.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday September 16, 2008 at 9 AM

All agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the Community Center and at the Game and Fish kiosk along the Cascabel Rd at the 3 Links Road. If you would like email notification of the agenda please email Charles Kent
ckent1@starband.net

Rainfall Measurements for Area

Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

May -- 0.84"
June -- 1.76"
July -- 6.36"
all of August -- 3.12"

Data from Cascabel Clayworks, Cascabel

May -- 0.65"
June -- 0.17"
July -- 4.49"
all of August -- 1.45"

Data from Three Links Farm

May -- 0.24"
June -- 0.85"
July -- 3.35"
to August 15 -- 1.92"

Data from Harold Elliott, Cascabel

May -- 0.4"
June -- 0.27"
July -- 2.44"
all of August -- 0.78"

River first summer runoff flowed by Clayworks this year on July 7th.

Rain – don't wait for it. Prepare for it!

Submitted by Wilma Renken, USDA-NRCS
Rangeland Management Specialist

Willcox, April 2008 – “Looking at all the grass growing along this new pipeline trench, we just knew we had to try something,” says Rooster Todd of the Warbonnet Ranch. After seeing how loosening the soil had gotten rain into ground and growing grass, the Todds knew they could find ways to take advantage of the limited rainfall they receive each year.

The Warbonnet Ranch is located near the Allen Flat, southwest of the Winchester Mountains. This area was a lush grassland in the 1980's. In fact, grass seed was harvested there. Today, the extended drought has hardened the clay loam soil. A recent analysis conducted on the ranch shows that land is growing less than one-third of its normal forage amount.

Most ranchers in Southeast Arizona have reduced their herds to painfully low numbers and are praying for rain. They feel that they've done all they can in the face of the current drought. The Todds, however, chose to contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to proactively restore productivity to their pastures. During the planning process, alternatives to solve their problems were developed and evaluated. Based on the grass they saw along ripped-in water pipeline, the Todd's chose to try contour ripping.

Contour ripping involves mechanically loosening the soil every 10 to 30 feet by creating “rips” in the ground by using a bulldozer with its shanks set deep into the soil. This treatment is rather expensive, but a well-planned project with good follow-up livestock management can significantly increase forage

production. A local rule of thumb is that ranchers can expect about 100 pounds of forage per acre to grow for every inch of rainfall that soaks into the soil during summer monsoons. Conversely, think of potential forage lost when there is unnecessary run-off. By roughening and loosening the soil, a grazing land mechanical treatment like contour ripping decreases water runoff and increases water infiltration. Following ripping, no matter how much rain falls during a monsoon storm, most will be captured for plant growth.

The NRCS has two ways to help ranchers: 1) conservation planning assistance, and 2) a financial assistance program that can defray the cost of installing conservation practices. The planning process is free of charge, can identify productivity problems and propose ways to enhance the long term ranch sustainability. Financial assistance to implement planned practices is provided with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

Praying for rain and waiting for nature to heal takes a lot of time and patience. Installing conservation practices can help reduce the negative impacts of this drought and, hopefully, speed up range recovery. According to Rooster Todd, “God willing, it will rain. And we will be ready to gratefully receive it.”

Contact the NRCS Willcox Field Office for assistance at 565 N. Bisbee Ave. or call (520) 384-2229 ext. 3. For more information about NRCS programs, visit www.az.nrcs.usda.gov.

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Jim EtsHokin, Chief
etshokin@rnsmtc.com



Howdy all,
Well it seems that it has been pretty quiet this summer in our river valley. Our VFD did have 3 calls over the summer, 2 false alarms and 1 vehicle fire. A big thanks to all who responded to those calls.

Our VFD participated in the Bye Bye By-Pass celebration held over the Memorial Day weekend. My sincere thanks to all who helped with that fundraising endeavor.

We have completed 2 classes over the summer, the S-216 Driving for the Fire Service and the P-101 Introduction to Fire Prevention. A huge thanks to Gordan and Linda Beasley and Bob Schultz for continuing to conduct the training in my absence. Also to Gordan and Linda thanks for attending the Cochise County EMS and Fire Chiefs meetings. I also wish to thank The Nature Conservancy, represented by Barbara Clark

for the use of the Manor House as a training facility.

We have acquired a 22 foot travel trailer. It was donated to our VFD by the Southeast Arizona Type 2 Incident Management Team. The trailer was used as office space on incidents. We are in the process of renovating this trailer to accommodate our VFD's equipment and supplies with a small workspace and filing cabinets for our paperwork. The trailer will then be located at the Heaven Sent Ranch. Any one wishing to help with the renovation can contact me or Steve Bribach.

We have invited LifeNet to fly in on our next training day (9/13) at 10 AM for some orientation/training. Everyone is invited to attend.

Thanks to all in our community for supporting our Volunteer Fire Department.

**In an Emergency
Call 911
Immediately.**

*Cut this out, complete it and put it on your fridge or near your phone in case of an emergency. You may need this information. Please call or email the Fire Chief for the Helicopter Landing site Lat and Long closest to you:
etshokin@rnsmtc.com*

In case of Emergency First Call 911

Your local Fire Dept is Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department at
212-FIRE

My address is: _____

My phone number is: _____

The closest Mile marker is: _____

Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____

In the event that a helicopter air rescue is required my closest Helicopter Landing Site is at the following location:

Lat: _____ N Long: _____ W

Education Center Report

Submitted by Jacquie Dale, Ed Center Director
redingtonnrnews@yahoo.com



Building bat houses. Photo by J. Dale.

The Ed Center held a bat house building workshop on June 9th at the Cascabel Community Center. Twenty-three people attended and built 19 bat houses. Every bat house seems to have found a home.



Staining the inside of the bat houses. Photo by J. Dale.

Why build a bat house you might ask. Bats are part of an healthy environment, however, many bat species are in decline because of loss of natural roosts, among other things. You can help by putting up a bat house.

According to Bat Conservation International (BCI), just one little brown myotis can catch a thousand or more mosquito-sized insects in an hour. They also can be of assistance in reducing



Stu Tuttle of NRCS gives presentation on bats. Photo by J. Dale.



Gene Troutner assists participants in cutting foot hold grooves on the inside of the bat houses. Photo by J. Dale.

garden pests. Cucumber and June beetles, stinkbugs, leafhoppers, cutworm and corn ear-worm moths are just a few of the many insects consumed by bats.

A big thank you to all the enthusiastic participants for making this workshop a success. Stu Tuttle, wildlife biologist from the NRCS in Phoenix gave a powerpoint presentation on bats and answered questions. Eric Peitz of the Willcox NRCS was here to lend a hand. Thanks to NRCS for their support in putting together this workshop.


Gene Troutner assisted in the workshop and supplied much of the equipment and knowledge for building. Maria Troutner prepared the lunch and was assisted by Lynn Ffolliott and Anna Lands.

If you were unable to attend the workshop but would like to build your own bat house, the

...continued on page 7

Local Classifieds

The Cascabel CPA LLC
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MISSION STATEMENT
 The legislation establishing the Conservation Districts in Arizona described their mission as follows: **ARS Title 37, Chapter 6 37-1001**
 It is declared that the policy of the legislature to provide for the restoration and conservation of lands and soil resources of the state, the preservation of water rights and the control and prevention of soil erosion, and thereby to conserve natural resources, conserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands and protect and restore this state's rivers and streams and associated riparian habitats, including fish and wildlife resources that are dependent on those habitats, and in such a manner to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people.



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The Redington Resource Review accepts ads on a quarterly basis. Ads measuring 4" x 3" cost \$5 per issue. If you are interested in placing an ad please email redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com. or submit your ad and check to: Redington NRCD, PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627



Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) in Eucalyptus Photo by J. Dale.

Facts about the Roadrunner:

- The geographic range is Mojave, Sonoran, Chihuahuan and southern Great Basin deserts.
- Lifespan is 7 to 8 years.
- Diet is typically insects, lizards, snakes.
- Roadrunners are quick enough to catch and eat rattlesnakes.
- Roadrunners prefer to walk or run and attain speeds up to 17 mph
- The Roadrunner reabsorbs water from its feces before excretion
- The Roadrunner is also called the Chapparal Cock.
- Roadrunners are ground cuckoos (Family Cuculidae).

Source: Desert USA. <http://www.desertusa.com>

continued from page 5.



Nighttime visitors. Photo by Casey Kent.

Redington Conservation Education Center has handouts that you can use, including a plan for the construction of a single chamber bat house and criteria for successful bat houses. We also have a Bat House Builder's Handbook and a DVD on Building Bat Homes that we will gladly loan out. These materials are from Bat Conservation International. You can contact me at 212-1441 if you would like to borrow any of these materials. You can also read about BCI's bat house program at <http://batcon.org> and click on Conservation Programs.

Over the next year, I will be following up with participants to see how successful the houses have been in attracting bats. I will also be collecting data on placement, direction and height as well as the color they were painted. This information may serve useful for others who want to install bat houses in this area.



Mexican long-tongued bats (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) and Lesser long-nosed bats (*Leptonycteris curasoae*) are known to frequent hummingbird feeders in summer. Photo by Casey Kent.

Upcoming Events

(from the Coronado RC&D August News available online at: <http://www.coronadorcd.org/>)

Click on What's New

National RC&D Week Celebration - Sept. 21-27th
(for more information visit www.rcdnet.org).

Fall 2008 Fluvial Geomorphology Workshop Series by Natural Channel Design, Inc. (The training is specific to the arid conditions of the southwest and incorporates the experience and expertise collected over the past decade in a variety of locations.)

- September 22-26th - Level I. *Geomorphic Processes of Natural Channels in the Arid Southwest*. Flagstaff, AZ \$850/participant.
- October 6-10th - Level II. *Inventory & Assessment of Natural Channels in the Arid Southwest*. Springerville, AZ \$850/participant.

To register for workshops or for more information email Tom Moody at tom@naturalchanneldesign.com

Interesting Facts about using Plastic bags (from Coronado RC&D August Newsletter):

Data released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency show that somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed each year. Less than 1% are recycled. It costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one. Purchase a cloth bag from the Redington Conservation Education Center and help support the environment and your local district ed center.

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Redington Natural Resource Conservation

**District and Natural Resource
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