



Redington Resource Review
Resource News for the Conservation Minded
Producer and Landowner
A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural
Resource Conservation District
Volume 23 No. 1 February 2006

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Submitted by Stefanie Smallhouse,
 Chair, Redington NRCD

In 2004 the Governor's Drought Task Force developed the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan. The principal intent of the plan is to refine the monitoring process, understand the impacts of drought, and limit the state's future vulnerability. In order to refine the monitoring process and better understand the impacts of drought at a local level the need for Local Area Impact Assessment Groups (LAIAG) became apparent. Theoretically, these groups will help to funnel information such as local drought impacts, monitoring data, loss and cost impacts, and societal impacts to the State Monitoring Technical Committee. The State Monitoring Technical Committee will be working with CLIMAS (Climate Assessment for the Southwest) out of the University of Arizona.

At present, these groups will cover the state by county, and monitor within climate divisions. Cochise County, within AZ Climate Division 7, has been selected by the state to begin the first LAIAG group. Unfortunately, that was not because of the stellar individuals that live in this county. We are the driest of the dry!

As chair of the Redington NRCD I have been attending the initial start-up meetings of the Cochise LAIAG, as the districts have been invited to participate in the process because of our links to on the ground natural resource information. Also involved in this group are local governments, water companies, irrigation districts, watershed groups, the AZ Game and Fish Dept., and local non-government organizations. Serving as advisors to the group are the AZ Dept. of Water Resources and the U of A Cooperative Extension Service. As with the start-up of any working group, determining the organizational structure, monitoring methods and drought response plans will take time. After 3 meetings, it was decided that the LAIAG needed a jump start from an executive committee comprised of six individuals that will meet for the next couple of months to develop a skeleton of organizational structure and get the group moving on other items such as monitoring and drought response. The Redington NRCD is going to participate on

this committee. Within our district I feel that we can provide valuable information to this group about rainfall data and overall drought impacts to the Lower San Pedro River Watershed. I will keep you updated on this process as we move forward. Once the group has established its structure, the District will develop a monitoring plan for our area to feed information to this group.

For up to date climate information for AZ please check out the CLIMAS website @ www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/. This is a great way to depress yourself if you feel that your day is going a little too well. Kidding aside, it is a very interesting and informative tool. Precipitation data exists all the way back to 1664 through single-year reconstruction using annual tree-ring growth. I wonder if other states measure their precipitation in *mm* too.

"Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it"

~C. Warner

What's Inside?

Redington NRCD News & Announcements.....	2
In the News	2
Gila Monsters and Medicine	2
Mission Statement.....	3
Cascabel Volunteer Fire Dept. News	4
Redington NRCD Board of Supervisors	4
Watershed Stewardship Training Opportunity ..	5
Local Advertising	6
Redington NRCD Meeting Schedule	6
New Books.....	6
Redington NRCD Meeting Minutes	7

Redington NRC D News and Announcements

MEETING NOTICE!

CASCABEL COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE

WHEN: Saturday, March 25th
TIME: 10:00 AM
WHERE: Cascabel Community Center
WHAT: The Redington NRC D and Cascabel Community Center are co-sponsoring a road maintenance meeting.

Please plan to attend to share your thoughts and concerns about the road condition, maintenance, or lack thereof. The district's goal is to find out where the greatest support lies in ways to improve the road condition and then present this to the county. We already know that this is a leading issue with landowners, but we need to know of concerns, specific problems (i.e. vehicle repair, interruptions of business), and ideas to take to the county and know that there is widespread support for this effort to see any results. A Potluck lunch will be sponsored by the CCC.

ATTENTION REDINGTON NRC D COOPERATORS *ELECTION NOTICE* SATURDAY, MAY 6TH 2006

Polling place to be determined.

6-year Elective Term To expire May 31, 2012
Vacated Elective Term To expire May 31, 2010
Vacated Elective Term To expire May 31, 2008

Qualified District Elector:

"Qualified Elector" is defined as a person who is a District Cooperator who lives in the District and is registered to vote.

A District cooperator must have a signed cooperator's agreement on file with the district.

If the landowner is a company or trust there must be a designated elector for that company. If you need additional information please call Jody Latimer, NRC D Administrator at 602-542-2699

If you have any questions as to your cooperator status please contact Stefanie Smallhouse@ 520-212-2639

Arizona State Land Initiative Informational Meeting

State lands listed within the Redington NRC D and throughout the State
March 23rd, San Manuel
Panel Discussion - All sides represented
Specific time and place to be announced

AACD Conference

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) has scheduled it's bi-annual winter legislative conference for March 7 and 8, 2006 in Phoenix. The conference theme is "Districts Energized and Revitalized". Speakers for the conference include Mark Winkleman, State Land Commissioner and David McKay, NRCS State Conservationist. The winter meeting includes Legislative visits to the Capital to educate legislators on NACD and the many projects Districts have been working on during the past year. The conference is open to all cooperators Early registration is \$55.00 and at the door registration is \$80. More information can be obtained by calling AACD at 602-280-8803

In the News

Proposed USDA Budget Includes \$345 Million for Energy Projects

Although many conservation programs and projects did not fare well in the Budget released last week by the Administration, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 provides for at least \$345 million in loans, grants and other support for energy projects. Increased funding would help producers manage the impacts of high energy costs while employing renewable energy resources and energy efficient technologies, in support of a comprehensive energy strategy announced by Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns in December 2005. USDA's core investment in energy related projects increases to \$85 million in the 2007 budget request, a 27 percent increase. The funding supports renewable energy research and development projects, as well as efforts to support energy development and transmission across public lands. The budget also provides more than \$250 million per year in loans and grants in FY 2006 and 2007 to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through the USDA Rural Development program.

Gila Monsters and Medicine

By Ralph Waldt, Naturalist and Cascabel Resident

Almost every region of America has one or more unique animals. These are creatures whose natural range is restricted to certain areas. For example, crocodiles in southern Florida or mountain goats in northern Montana. One of Arizona's standouts in this category is the Gila Monster. In the USA, Arizona is the heart of this animal's range. Elsewhere in America, Gila Monster habitat extends (just barely) into California, S.E. Nevada, and tiny portions of New Mexico and southern Utah.

Gila Monsters are among the most reclusive animals in southern Arizona. Experts who have studied these animals at length say that they spend over 95% of their lives in hiding, underground. To see one of these lizards in the wild is always a memorable experience.

Virtually everyone knows that the bite of this lizard is poisonous, but not many folks realize that there is only one other poisonous lizard on Earth. That creature is a close relative to the Gila Monster, known as the Mexican Beaded Lizard. Beaded Lizards look very much like overgrown Gila Monsters. They live in Sinaloa and Sonora, Mexico, but their range does not extend northward far enough to encompass any part of the USA.

One of the most amazing aspects about Gila Monsters is that they may play a strong role in combating diabetes, a serious disease that is very prevalent in our nation. In parts of Arizona, the rate of diabetes among the population can be 2 to 10 times higher than the national average. It seems fitting that a new way to treat this disease would arise from an animal that is almost unique to the state.

The connection between Gila Monsters and diabetes comes in the form of a compound found in the lizard's saliva known as exenatide. This compound helps Gila Monsters to digest meals slowly over time, maintaining blood sugar levels on a more even keel. If the same compound would work in a similar fashion in people, it would be a great help in controlling diabetes.

After nearly two decades of work, an endocrinologist from New York named Dr. John Eng discovered exenatide. Subsequent work with this "new" compound proved that it did, indeed, work well in humans suffering from diabetes. So well, in fact, that exenatide, marketed under the name Byetta, was given federal approval less than a year ago.

Byetta controls blood sugar levels for longer periods of time than insulin, one of the most commonly used drugs for diabetics. It also reduces appetite, an important consideration since many diabetics are overweight.

The next time you are lucky enough to see one of these rarely glimpsed creatures, you might think twice about running it over or otherwise harming it. Gila Monsters are native residents in our neighborhood. It is very rare that they bite people, and their saliva contains a unique ticket to life for people that suffer from one of mankind's most debilitating diseases.

Redington NRC was established in 1947 and is responsible for 285,860 acres of land located within Pima, Cochise, Graham and Pinal Counties. The district is an independent political subdivision of the State of Arizona that works with private landowners on a voluntary basis to help provide science-based technical assistance for the purpose of conservation. Over 200,000 acres of land are under conservation management plans or using conservation practices. Only 48,071 acres in the district are privately owned. Over 156,000 acres are state trust lands.

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.

Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Submitted by Les Helfrich, Fire Chief, CVFD
chiefd@theriver.com



Do

HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME?

The primary determinants of a home's ability to survive a wildfire are its roofing material and the quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it.

CREATING WILDFIRE - DEFENSIBLE ZONES

Defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of fire towards the structure. It also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from the building to surrounding forest. It provides room for firefighters to do their job in protecting your home. Defensible space can be divided into three zones. One (1) the areas closest to the house or other structure.

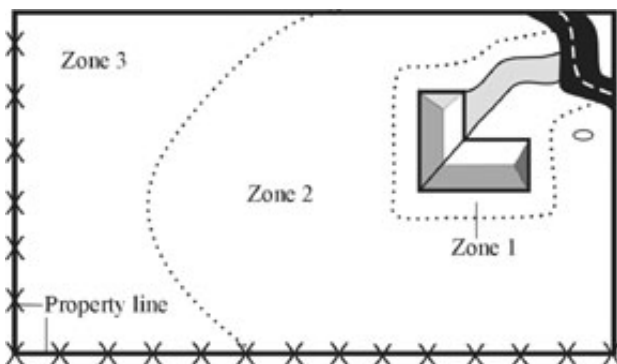


Figure 1. Forested property showing the three fire-defensible zones around a home or other structure.

The size of Zone-1 is 15 feet, measured from the edges of the structure. Within this zone, several specific treatments are recommended. Plant nothing within 3 to 5 feet of the structure, particularly if the siding is a flammable material. Decorative rock creates an attractive, easy to maintain ground cover.

If the house has non-combustible siding, widely spaced foundation planting of low growing shrubs or other "firewise" plants are acceptable. Do not plant directly next to vents or beneath windows. Be sure there are no areas of continuous grass adjacent to plantings in this area and keep grass cut. Frequently prune and maintain plants in this zone to ensure vigorous growth and low growth habit. Remove dead branches, stems and leaves.

not store firewood or other combustible materials in this area. Enclose or screen decks with metal screening. Extend the gravel coverage under decks and do not use as a storage area.

Ideally, remove all trees from Zone- 1 to reduce any fire hazard. If you do keep one tree, consider it part of the structure and extend the distance accordingly. Isolate the tree crown from any other surrounding forest by at least 20 feet. Prune it to at least 15 feet above the ground. Remove any branches that overhang the roof or are within 10 feet of a chimney. Remove all "ladder fuels" from beneath the tree. Ladder fuels are small shrubs, trees, tree limbs and other materials that allow fire to climb into the tree crown.

Use fire-resistive materials (class B or better rating), not wood or shake shingles, to roof homes in or near forests and grasslands. When your roof needs significant repairs or replacement, do so with a fire-resistant material.

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District & Conservation Education Center Board of Supervisors

Stefanie Smallhouse, Chairman

Don Looney, Member

Les Helfrich, Member

Judy Dykes, Member

District Contact:

Stefanie Smallhouse

carlink@theriver.com

Newsletter produced by J. Dale

If you would prefer to receive this

newsletter electronically, please

email

carlink@theriver.com

Watershed Stewardship Training Opportunity

What can you do to protect and conserve water and land resources? Become a Watershed Steward! The University of Arizona Cochise County Cooperative Extension announces the start of the Master Watershed Steward Program (MWSP) in Cascabel. In the series of twelve educational sessions, including two field trips, participants will hear from a wide array of experts from the University of Arizona, public agencies, private organizations and citizens groups. A sample of topics to be covered includes: geology, climate, watershed and stream processes, soils and erosion, vegetation and wildlife, and water related issues. Learn firsthand some watershed improvement techniques. Being a Master Watershed Steward is fun, interesting and rewarding. Whether you're a novice, long-time environmental advocate, or employed in a watershed related field, your interest is all that is required. A draft schedule will be posted on the website at http://ag.arizona.edu/cochise/mws/cochise_mws_home.html by March 1st.

Participants successfully completing the program and who wish become certified Master Watershed Stewards will be expected to donate 40 hours of volunteer service. There are a wide variety of service opportunities available including program support, environmental monitoring, restoration projects, curriculum development and community education. The class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Cascabel Community Center, beginning March 14th.

The cost is \$120.00 (payable in full or \$10 per session) which includes the training manual, field trips and all other handouts. Some scholarships may be available. Contact Kim McReynolds or Susan Pater at the Cochise County Cooperative Extension office (520) 384-3594 for further information and to sign up to receive future information about the program.

If you are planning on attending send us a note or call (384-3594) and let us know your name. This will allow us to order the correct amount of manuals prior to the first class.

It would also be helpful for planning purposes to know those who will attend certain classes ahead of time (the "drop-ins").

TRAINING SCHEDULE (DRAFT 1/17/06)

All classes will meet on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, except the two field trips.

Date	Proposed Topic/Key Concepts
March 14	Intro to MWSP Class Geology: Structure of earth, geologic time, rocks and minerals, igneous rocks and volcanism, surface processes and sediments, metamorphism, Arizona geologic overview. Climatology: climate vs. weather, climate variability, precipitation patterns and seasonality, climate change on human and natural systems, climate outlook.
March 28	Soils: functions of soil in watersheds, infiltration and runoff, landscape variability, soil microbiology, view a soil profile, soil texture, soil conservation, soil surveys, control structures.
April 11	Watershed Processes: groundwater, what is a watershed, watershed delineation, watershed hydrology, watershed characteristics that affect streams, types of stream patterns, stream dynamics and processes, Arizona rivers, floods and floodplains.
April 25	Field Trip: Erosion processes, land treatment and restoration. Visit areas that have received funding for watershed improvement projects (Ruth Evelyn's, Fort H.)
May 9	Riparian Areas and Stream Processes? Aquatic Ecosystems: aquatic biota of arid lands and aquatic biota as indicators of environmental conditions.
May 23	Water Quality: point vs. non-point sources, factors affecting water quality, waste water treatment and septic systems water quality issues, clean water act, surface water and TMDL's water quality monitoring. Water Testing
June 13	Vegetation and Wildlife: riparian area functions, processes affecting plant community composition, invasive and noxious species, vegetation monitoring, threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat, wildlife issues.
June 27	No Class
July 11	No Class
July 25	Watershed Field Trip to be determined
August 8	Geospatial Tools for Natural Resource Management: Use of geospatial tools, GPS
August 22	State/Regional Water Issues: how water resources are allocated, surface water vs. groundwater, water rights and water law, political processes, watershed groups.
Sept. 12	County/Local Water Issues: growth issues, land use planning
Sept. 26	Water Conservation: Waterharvesting techniques, water audits, xeriscape examples, Working Together to Create Success
Oct. 10	Watersheds: History and Future Development of project plans

Note: It may be necessary to alter or reschedule presentations and/or activities due to potential weather problems, potential resource conflicts and the number/availability of presenters. We hope the need to so will be minimal. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Local Advertisements

Bull Canyon & Boer Goat Ranch

Eggs, Feathers, Meat, Crafts
Don & Toni Looney

(520) 212-2900

bcogr@direcway.com

Saguaro-Juniper Grass Finished Beef

jeannine85602@yahoo.com

(520) 212-7333

MARY KAY®

Barbara Y. Crawford
Independent Sales Director

6310 N. Cascabel Rd.
Benson, AZ 85602
(877) 463-7048 Toll-Free
(520) 403-4199 Cell
bcrawford@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/bcrawford

Cookbooks Are Here!

Get your copy of this 8x10" Cookbook featuring recipes from the best cooks in southern Arizona. Funds received from the sale of these cookbooks will be used to support the Student Market Garden at the Willcox Agriscience Center. This will be the second year of the garden and provides an opportunity for students in all grades to learn gardening basics and older students the fundamentals of operating a business. Students raise vegetables and market them in the local community. Excess produce is donated to the local food bank. To order your cookbook contact Kim Webb at the RC & D Office 520-384-2229 Or the Redington NRCD at 520-212-2639.



CENTER FOR
DESERT
ARCHAEOLOGY

a nonprofit corporation

300 E. University Blvd #230
Tucson, Arizona 85705
(520) 882-6946
www.cdarc.org
center@cdarc.org

Preserving the Places of our Shared Past

Contact us to receive a
FREE copy of our award
winning magazine,
Archaeology Southwest
and to learn more about
Member benefits

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Meeting Schedule

Please note: There will be no February 25th meeting. It was rescheduled to February 14.

March 25 9 AM @ CCC (to be followed by Road
Maintenance Meeting at 10 AM)

April 22nd 9 AM @ CCC

May 27th ANNUAL MEETING (Tentative)
Place to be determined

All agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the Game and Fish kiosks along the Cascabel/San Pedro River Rd. If you would like email notification of the agenda please email Stefanie Smallhouse carlink@theriver.com

Rural Living in Southeastern Arizona 2nd Edition

Never lived off of a country road before? What is the open range law, or where can you dispose of your trash?

What can you plant in your garden and when? Or maybe who maintains the road and where should you put the mailbox?

This handbook was designed and improved with the new edition to answer these questions and provide information on contacts to further help you.

Produced by: Coronado Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and the Counties of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee

Available through the Redington NRCD. Please Call 520-212-2639 for a copy.

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

Meeting Minutes & Draft Agenda

Redington Natural Resource Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting Saturday January 28, 2006

1. Call to Order 9:14 a.m.
2. Introduction of Guests
Present: Stefanie Smallhouse, Les Helfrich, Judy Dykes, Don Looney
3. Approval of Minutes
Motion to Approve October 2005 minutes - J. Dykes
Second - Les Helfrich
Motion Carried

Motion to Approve November 2005 minutes - J. Dykes
Second - L. Helfrich
Motion Carried
4. Approval of Financial Report
Motion To Approve - L. Helfrich
Second - J. Dykes
Motion Carried

Motion to approve change of mileage rate reimbursement to \$.405 payment per discussion with State Land Dept.

Motion to Approve - J. Dykes
Second - L.Helfrich
Motion Carried

Motion to again donate \$250.00 to the Arizona Envirothon Program.

Motion to Approve - D. Looney
Second - J. Dykes

There was also a discussion about the program and the possibility of one of the Supervisors again participating in the judging at the State competition level.

Motion Carried

Motion to Pay \$28.00 Post Office Box yearly fee.

Motion to Approve - D. Looney
Second - J.Dykes
Motion Carried
5. Reports
D. Looney gave an update on 2007 Budget currently being developed by the Governor and Legislature. AACD members did presentations to Legislative Committees in support of additional dollars for the Districts and their Ed Centers.

Zone 8 meeting scheduled for February 7, 2006 in Willcox at 9am. S. Smallhouse and D. Looney will attend.

L. Helfrich gave a full report on the activities of the Cascabel Fire Dept. Solar radio repeater site up and working. Fire phone installed 212-3473. Two new mobile radios and four hand held radios received.

NRCS representative gave an update on current activities and passed out their monthly report. See Attachment

RC&D written reports were handed out.

J. Dale gave an update on her work with the Munguia homesteader house. She is waiting for BLM approval to do a firebreak around the house.

J. Dykes gave an update on handing out fire prevention materials in the northern part of the District and the status of the attempt to get animal control enforcement given to Pinal County Officers which she expects to be approved soon. She then led a lively discussion on the Initiative Measure "Conserving Arizona's Future" which is currently being circulated for signatures trying to get on this year's election ballot.

It was decided that the District would try to arrange an informational meeting on the Initiative so that both sides could be heard and discussed with

those in favor and against.

Deadline for next Newsletter submissions is February 17th. Cascabel Community Center had agreed to pay postage for non-cooperators that request to receive the newsletter.

Motion was made to again accept business ads in the newsletter at a cost of \$5.00 per issue to help cover costs of preparing and postage.

Motion to Approve - J. Dykes
Second - L. Helfrich
Motion Carried

6. Old Business

Motion to not appoint a temporary Supervisor since the election for all supervisor positions is scheduled for May. There was a discussion among the Supervisors and candidates for the position including encouraging them all to run for the vacant positions in May. There was also a discussion on voting procedures and eligibility. Interested persons were encouraged to go to the new District web site as all State Statutes and instructions are available on the site.

Motion to Approve - D. Looney
Second - L. Helfrich
Motion Carried

NRCS/MOU moved to next month's agenda

S. Smallhouse gave an update on LAIAG. Action plans in response to the drought are being developed. Question by the group as to the area of designation ie. County, Watershed Basis, Watershed Sub-Basin, Conservation District etc.. Motion was made to empower Stefanie to represent the District view that Watershed Basins should be designated as the action components.

Motion to Approve D. Looney
Second - J. Dykes
Motion Carried

Surety Bond approved at last meeting costs \$215.46 annually.

S. Smallhouse gave an update on the BLM Resource Management Plan - Tucson Area. Stefanie attended an initial scoping meeting. She was informed that the development of the new plan was a 5 year process. District to continue to try and get designation by BLM as a Cooperating Agency. Two important items in the plan would be whether the grazing moratorium continues and BLM's land acquisition and disposal boundaries. District to continue to operate under old plan until the new one is completed.

B. Clark gave an update on the Master Watershed Class. There are a viable number of persons interested and the classes are scheduled to start on March 14th and be held twice monthly. The 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Fees will be \$10.00 per class.

7. New Business

Debra Smith presented the new District web site and gave a brief presentation of its features. Website address is redingtonnrcrd.org All persons interested in the District and its operations should visit the website. It is also a great way to communicate with the District and the Supervisors.

D. Smith and L. Smith gave an update on outreach meetings and the status of the grant for the Lower San Pedro River Watershed Project. Final meetings with area cooperators and interested parties are expected to be held during the late summer of this year.
Grant Contract with Cascabel Range Consultants was moved to a future meeting.

Discussion was held regarding need to update District's 10 year plan. S. Smallhouse to coordinate initial assignments.

Next meeting scheduled for February 14, 2006 at Cascabel Community Center

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W. Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Redington Natural Resource
Conservation District and Natural
Resource Conservation Service**
656 N. Bisbee Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2229 ext.3 (phone)
(520) 384-2735 (fax)
david.matthews@az.usda.gov (email)
www.az.nrcs.usda.gov (website)

NRCS Willcox Office Staff (Team)
Dave Matthews,
Marty Kroll,
Wilma Renken,
Matt Roberts
Dave Clough
Donna Matthews, RC&D Coordinator

**Redington Natural Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 232
Pomerene, Arizona 85627**