



**Redington Resource Review**  
 Resource News for the Conservation Minded  
 Producer and Landowner  
 A Quarterly Publication of the Redington Natural Resource  
 Conservation District  
 Volume 24 No. 1 March 2007

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

Submitted by Charles Kent  
 Chair, Redington NRCD

Spring is a season of renewal and rebirth. Finally making its entrance here in the San Pedro River Valley, nobody welcomed this time of new life better than the Smallhouse family with the arrival of their son, John Bayless. Congratulations, Stefanie and Andy! With such a grand beginning, I hope to get our monthly meetings off to a fresh new start by putting together a few common goals that we can all take part in developing. As your new Chairman, I would like to actually define what the NRCD means to each of us. The Redington District encompasses much diversity and I would like to bring it into a more cohesive unit for proper development of set goals. With everyone's effort we will continue to be a fully functioning Conservation District that we can all be proud to be a part of in the rapidly growing Southwest.



Photo by J. Dale, 2007



Snow Day! On January 21st, residents in the district were treated to a rare snowfall.

Photo by J. Dale, 2007

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## Redington NRCD News and Announcements

### Cascabel/River Road Update

The Redington NRCD in cooperation with the CCC held a meeting with Cochise County officials on January 11th to discuss road maintenance and condition.

At this meeting it was determined that comments would be taken through the Redington NRCD for 30 days to then be submitted to Supervisor Richard Searle for his review.

Comments were requested to include detailed descriptions (mile markers/reason for needed attention) as to sections of the road which are habitually in poor condition and in need of more attention than regular grading can address. These sections will be considered by the county for a more intensive maintenance.

All comments were compiled by Stefanie Smallhouse and Maria Troutner and were forwarded to the Supervisor's office on February 15th.

### Changes to the Board

In December 2006, Don Looney, resigned from his position on the board. His position has not yet been filled.

In January, 2007, Stefanie Smallhouse officially stepped down as Chair but will remain on the District Board as a supervisor. Charles Kent assumed position of Chairman of the Redington NRCD Board.

### AACD Report

Submitted by Charles Kent

The Legislative AACD (Arizona Association of Conservation Districts) meeting was held January 16th and 17th at the Double Tree Inn in Phoenix. In the afternoon of January 17th a barbecue was held on the Arizona Senate Lawn so that the districts could lobby the legislators. Participation by individual conservation districts was disappointing, with only about one-third of the districts attending. That being said, the information provided by all the speakers was quite interesting.

One of the speakers who focused directly on issues of relevance to the San Pedro River and the Redington Conservation District was Dr. Gregg Garfin, the Program Manager for Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS), who gave an interesting presentation on the current drought. His focal point noted that the San Pedro River Valley was near normal for the short term, but abnormally dry for the long term. With only about fifty percent or less of normal snow pack, the outlook for immediate relief remains poor. As always there was good news, El Nino was *expected* to strengthen for February and March.

State Coordinator, Kris Randall, of The Partners for Fish and Wildlife, gave a presentation on the way that small, private, landowners can apply for money for projects from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The focus area for this program is the San Pedro and Santa Cruz River Valleys. Preference is given to projects that would benefit any listed endangered or threatened species, including waterfowl or migratory bird.

Also speaking at the event were:

Jamie Hogue, NRCS

David McKay, State Conservationist

Sherry Pitsch, Pitsch Insurance

Evelyn Erlandsen, AZ Dept. of Water Resources

Jeff Schalau, U of A Coop. Extension, Yavapai County

Reuban Teran, Az Water Protection Fund

While many of these presentations were pertinent to Arizona as a whole, the presentations given by Garfin and Randall, in particular, focused on areas of concern within our district. In addition to these presentations, a training session on Open Meeting Law was provided by the AZ State Attorney General's Office.

A business meeting for the AACD was also held. The officers elected at the summer meeting were affirmed and new bylaws were voted on and passed. Summer meetings are planned for August 21st through 23rd, 2007 at the Hon Dah Resort in Pinetop.

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

Charles Kent, Chair  
[ckent1@starband.net](mailto:ckent1@starband.net)

Judy Dykes, Secretary  
[dykes@rnsmtc.com](mailto:dykes@rnsmtc.com)

Stefanie Smallhouse, Supervisor  
[carlink@hughes.net](mailto:carlink@hughes.net)

Les Helfrich, Supervisor  
[chiefc@rnsmtc.com](mailto:chiefc@rnsmtc.com)

Jacque Dale, Newsletter Editor, Ed Center Director  
[redingtonnracdnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnracdnews@yahoo.com)

## Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department News

Submitted by Bonnie Bell, Fire Prevention Coordinator. CVFD  
[bbhummingbird@rnsmtc.com](mailto:bbhummingbird@rnsmtc.com)



### Spring Cleaning: Establishing a Firewise Environment

Greetings! I, for one, am excitedly looking forward to our spring wildflower display following the extraordinarily wet winter we've had. It could be spectacular. However, the 2007 fire season outlook is predicting normal to higher than normal fire activity at the lower elevations (yup, that's us) this coming fire season. While we all enjoy the beauty of the spring season here, what this means for us is that, come April, all that greenery starts drying out and by May we are left with an excess of drying, curing FUEL. Lots of it!

So, as you are looking at the "spring cleaning" that needs to be done around your homes and property, here's some defensible space guidelines that may effectively reduce your potential wildfire hazard. The dimensions of a defensible space are subjective and depend on site characteristics, but typically a defensible space, on flat ground, extends a minimum of 75 feet around a home. This distance should be extended if the structure is located on a slope.

Thin out continuous tree and brush cover around structures. The initial 15 feet around a structure should consist of an area in which all flammable vegetation is removed (in chapparal areas extend to 30 feet). Beyond the initial 15 feet, the trees should be thinned to 10-12 foot crown spacing. Occasionally, clumps of 2 or 3 trees are permitted for natural effects if more space surrounds them.

Dispose of all slash and debris left from thinning by either chipping, hauling away or by piling and burning (check with CVFD for burning restrictions).

Prune branches from trees within the defensible space to a height of 10 feet above the ground fuels. Also remove shrubs and small trees, or

other potential "ladder" fuels from beneath large trees; left in place, these can carry a ground fire into the tree crowns.

Trim branches that extend over roof eaves and remove branches within 15 feet of a chimney.

Clean roof and gutters of pine needles and leaves to eliminate an ignition source for firebrands, especially during the hot, dry weather of the fire season.

Maintain the defensible space annually, by removing excess debris, shrubs and other vegetative growth accumulated during the year.

Stack firewood and woodpiles at least 30 feet from any structure and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles. Many homes have survived as a fire passed, only to burn later from a wood pile that ignited after the firefighters left.

Place liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and propane tanks and fuel storage containers at least 30 feet from all structures. Clear flammable vegetation from within 10 feet of all such tanks.

Remember, after you have established your **Firewise** environment, you must maintain it regularly.

**If you have any questions about creating or maintaining defensible space around your home, contact Cascabel Volunteer Fire Department @ 212 - FIRE. If you would like a Fire Department member to come to your home to do a Firewise assessment, please call Bonnie at 212-4130 to schedule a time.**

I hope you all enjoy a fabulous spring show!

For other articles on Arizona Firewise Communities visit:

<http://cals.arizona.edu/firewise/>

## Southeastern Arizona Invasive Weeds

Submitted by Dave Matthews, NRCS Resource Specialist

Invasive weeds can have many adverse effects on land, animals and humans. These plants are normally extremely prolific, competitive, destructive and difficult to control. Many land managers are very concerned about the negative impact of several invasive plants on Southeastern Arizona rangelands. These invasive species include Russian Knapweed, Yellow & Malta Starthistle, and African Rue.

### Russian Knapweed



Photo from  
Backyard Gardener  
[cals.arizona.edu/yavapai](http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai)

Russian Knapweed was first introduced to North America around 1900 from Eurasia. Its origins in this country have been traced back to contaminated alfalfa seed. It can be found in a variety of places such as roadside ditches, waste areas, alfalfa & grain fields, riverbanks, pastures and rangeland. They can be found on just about any soil type but seems to survive best in clay soils.

Knapweed is a perennial weed that will form dense colonies with deep spreading roots. These black roots can produce over 20 shoots per year that will extend over 10 feet in the ground. The stem can grow from 1 to 3 feet tall. As a result of this dense colonization, Knapweed will inhibit growth of surrounding plants. While most livestock will not eat Russian Knapweed, horses can develop trachea paralysis (also known as "chewing disease") as a result of grazing it.

As with most weeds, the best way to control Knapweed is during the early stages of growth. Maintaining a variety of healthy native vegetation will reduce the chances of it spreading. In many cases, mechanical, biological or chemical controls are needed. Mechanical control includes disking, chopping, and hand pulling. Russian Knapweed may contain a carcinogenic compound. It is recommended that you wear protective gloves when handling this plant. Effective chemical controls include glyphosate, picloram, or clopyralid when applied in the correct amounts at the right time of the year. Remember to follow the label and use herbicides properly.

### Yellow & Malta Starthistle

As members of the Sunflower Family, Yellow & Malta Starthistle invaded the United States from Southern Europe in the late 1700's either as ornamental plants or by contamination of seed mixtures in some form. They are most visible on roadside areas where there has been disturbance but can also be found in or near major irrigated areas such as pasture and grain fields. If it gets thick enough, Starthistle will choke out native plant species, especially grasses. Since it has a simple taproot, it does little to hold



Photo from  
Backyard Gardener  
[cals.arizona.edu/yavapai](http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai)

the soil in place. Therefore it can increase erosion on the land in higher amounts than before. These plants can cause "chewing disease", a fatal disease in horses, with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease in humans. Because of its bitter taste, horses usually avoid grazing Starthistle, although they will resort to eating it in pastures lacking adequate amounts of suitable green forage.

The unique appearance of the Starthistles makes them somewhat easy to identify if you know what to look for. They are annual forbs that grow between 1 to 3 feet tall. An obvious characteristic are the numerous brown or purple small tipped spines that are located underneath the yellow flowers. Smaller spines will also branch from the main spines. You will usually see the yellow flowers from April to September. There are about 30-80 seeds produced from each seed head, so there are numerous opportunities for the seed to germinate and establish.

As with most weeds, the best way to control Starthistle is during the early stages of growth. Maintaining a variety of healthy native vegetation will reduce the chances of the spread of Starthistle. This can be done with proper grazing use on the land affected. Control measures such as mowing, burning or herbicide treatments can reduce or even remove Starthistle, but need to be properly timed to be effective. It is not recommended to use disking as a control measure for Starthistle because it will stir up the seed that is already in the ground and actually improve the chances for successful germination.



Photo from  
Backyard Gardener  
[cals.arizona.edu/yavapai](http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai)

As with most weeds, the best way to control Starthistle is during the early stages of growth. Maintaining a variety of healthy native vegetation will reduce the chances of the spread of Starthistle. This can be done with proper grazing use on the land affected. Control measures such as mowing, burning or herbicide treatments can reduce or even remove Starthistle, but need to be properly timed to be effective. It is not recommended to use disking as a control measure for Starthistle because it will stir up the seed that is already in the ground and actually improve the chances for successful germination.

### African Rue

African Rue is an introduced plant that is native to the deserts of Africa and southern Asia. It is now found on rangelands in Arizona, New Mexico and west Texas. It is a bright green, succulent plant that has many branches and grows from an aggressive woody base. It can grow 1 foot tall and up to 3 feet wide. The hairless leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and have long, narrow lobes. When the leaves are crunched, they have a bad odor to them. The flowers have 5 white petals that can be found from April to September. The seed capsules develop from May to October.

... continued on next page

The seeds and fruit of the plant can contain up to four poisonous alkaloids that are toxic to cattle, sheep and horses. A lethal dose of the seeds and fruit can equal about .15 percent of the animal's body weight. Mature leaves are supposed to be less toxic and dry leaves non-toxic. However, livestock do not usually have any desire for the plant, unless they are starving and/or are not getting enough minerals in their diet.



Photo from  
La Plata County Weed  
Website  
[www.lpcweeds.org](http://www.lpcweeds.org)

The main locations that African Rue can be found are around heavy use or disturbed areas such as near cor-

als, traps or other livestock watering areas. They can also be found along roadsides and near irrigation areas as well. Chemical treatments have been used to control the spread of this plant. Hand removal can also be done, but all of the plant and the seeds need to be removed and thrown away.

Since these plants are all recognized as invasive weeds, report any sightings to your local Cooperative Extension Service. If you think you may have this plant on your place and need a positive identification, you can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Willcox at (520) 384-2229 ext. 3 or Arizona Cooperative Extension Service at (520) 384-3594.

### Education Center Report

Submitted by Jacquie Dale, Ed Center Director  
Email: [redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com)

I attended my first Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Meeting (AACD) held in Phoenix this last January. The AACD has an Ed Center Committee which consists of nine Ed Center directors representing twelve Education Centers in the State. At the committee meeting, I met with several individuals who are doing some amazing work in their district Education Centres. These people are a great resource for me and I hope to benefit our district by tapping into their broad knowledge. On the second day of the AACD meeting, Education Centers, including the Redington NRC Ed Center, set up displays on the lawn of the State Legislature. Although attendance was not as good as expected, a few individuals did stop by to enjoy the beef barbecue provided and to browse the displays. Through the remainder of this year, I will continue to update our educational display and materials for future events like this.

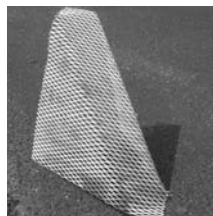
Members of the AACD Education Committee continue to stay in touch with one another through monthly conference calls, thus providing an ongoing means of support and information for one another. I have been finding this to be a particularly helpful source for information.

In April, I will be attending a Strategic Planning Retreat in Brown Canyon with other Education Center Directors. Preceding this, all Ed Centers are being asked to complete a strategic plan survey. This retreat will help set the direction for the future of the Ed Center Committee.

### Upcoming Redington NRC Ed Center Workshop: May 16th, 2007

This May, we are already planning to have a workshop on building wildlife escape ramps. You may recall this was a feature article in our August 2006 Redington Resource Review. Escape ramps provide a safe avenue for bats, birds, rodents, and other animals to climb from open tanks and troughs to avoid drowning.

Wildlife escape ramps can be easily produced at a very low cost. They can be built from sheets of expanded metal and cut in squares. The squares are then easily bent into a wedge shape and painted to prevent rust



before they are bolted or secured to the lip of any tank or trough. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at Cascabel Ranch Workshop (Helfrich's)**. If you are interested, **please pre-register** with me by

phone at (520) 212-1441 or email me at [redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrcdnews@yahoo.com) so I can be sure to pick up enough materials for everyone who wants to build a wildlife ramp. I will also be checking with people to see what tools they can bring. The cost of each ramp is estimated to be approximately \$10-20 when we divide up the cost of material and paint. Dave Matthews of the NRCS will be our fearless leader in this valuable workshop. I hope to see you all there!

### Rainfall Measurements for Area

#### Data from M Diamond Headquarters near Redington:

Jan -- 1.32"  
Feb -- .43"  
1/2 March -- 0"

#### Data from Cascabel Clayworks, Cascabel

Jan -- 1.06"  
Feb -- .18"  
1/2 March -- 0"

#### Data from Harold Elliott, Cascabel

Nov 06-- 7.00"  
Dec 06-- 0.43"  
Jan -- 1.06"  
Feb -- 0.41"  
1/2 March -- 0"

**Redington Natural Resource Conservation District  
Meeting Schedule**

Unless otherwise notified, Redington NRCD Board meets the 4th Saturday of every month at the Cascabel Community Center

**Next Meeting Dates:**

>Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 9 AM at CCC

>Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 9 AM at CCC

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@hughes.net](mailto:carlink@hughes.net)

**RAINLOG.ORG**

**Be a part of the cooperative rainfall network. Visit <http://rainlog.org> and click on Handbook. All you need is a rain gauge and Internet access to participate.**

**Become an Arizona Site Steward!**

Site stewards are volunteers dedicated to the protection and preservation of Arizona's heritage resources. I am currently looking for site stewards to monitor archaeological sites in the Cascabel area. Site Steward training involves approximately 4 hours of classroom training and 4 hours of outdoor training. Stewards should be willing to volunteer a minimum of 1-2 hours per month. If you are interested in becoming a site steward, please contact Jacquie at (520) 212-1441 or email: [jdale@cdarc.org](mailto:jdale@cdarc.org).

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email [redingtonnrnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrnews@yahoo.com)

**Local Classifieds**

**Saguaro-Juniper  
Grass Finished Beef**  
[jeannine85602@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannine85602@yahoo.com)

(520) 212-7333



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of our Shared Past**

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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 [redingtonnrnews@yahoo.com](mailto:redingtonnrnews@yahoo.com). or submit your ad and check to: Redington NRCD, PO Box 232, Pomerene, AZ 85627

# Meeting Minutes

Draft  
 Redington Natural Resource Conservation District  
 Board of Supervisors Meeting  
 Saturday Jan. 27, 2007  
 Cascabel Community Center

1. Call to order 9:25
2. Introduction of guests BLM Grant Drennan
3. Approval of Minutes for Oct. and Dec.
  - a. motion C. Kent
  - b. second L Helfrich
 motion approved
4. Approval of financial report as presented to the Board
 

Presented by Chair S. Smallhouse Treasurer D. Looney resigned at Dec. meeting. Approval of receipts for the AACD Winter meeting attended by S Smallhouse L Helfrich and J. Dale

 motion to approve J Dykes  
 second L Helfrich  
 motion approved
5. Reports
  - a. AACD Winter Meeting L Helfrich reported concerns for lack of material available and conducting the meeting in a more timely matter. C Kent reported Dr Greg Garfin states the District is still in a drought. Funds are available for endangered species concerns and projects on private property etc. through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. S Smallhouse reports that drought monitoring is available thru the state drought impact web site. Water Protection Fund officials were present at the meeting and gave a presentation on possible WPF funding for projects. J Dale will be working with the University on possible projects for the Ed Center.
  - b. Fire Dept. L Helfrich reports J. Thomas is the new Treasurer also the Fire Dept has renewed the Az. State Land Dept Cooperative Agreement
  - c. S. Smallhouse presented the contract for the Ed Center Director, scope of work by the Ed center. J. Dale will be paid on a quarterly basis. Jacquie will maintain records etc. Clarification that the position is on a contract basis not as an employee of the District. There was a motion to approve the contract with the amendment to include a termination of contract clause.  
 motion to approve contract C Kent  
 motion to amend to include a termination clause  
 second L Helfrich  
 motion approved

**Representatives**

L Helfrich Reported on the road meeting held Jan 11. with the county Supervisor. The county is requesting that anyone with material available ( example water, clay etc) please contact them. M. Troutner asked that everyone should have notice of the Feb. 15 deadline for compiling comments about the road to be passed on to the Supervisor Searle. For instance particular dangerous areas etc.

L Helfrich also reports neighbor complaints concerning hounds running loose. Neighbors are asking for a community effort to help, possibility circulating numbers to cooperators of Animal Control , Game and Fish and the Sheriffs Office. Motion was made by C Kent for the District to write a letter to those officials stating the concerns.  
 Second L Helfrich  
 Motion approved  
 Jacquie Dale Ed Center report reminder of the Feb. newsletter deadline has been moved up to Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

Grant Drennan BLM states that there is currently 2000 acres of BLM land in the District. BLM would like to propose an update on the Cascabel Ecosystem Management Plan. They would like to work with land owners to resolve boundaries, management of riparian areas, ensure protection of cultural resources, protection of endangered species, maintaining productivity of lands for live-stock grazing, agriculture and recreation.

Representatives from the A-7 ranch presented the need to make the BLM Hollow T part of the ranch management plan to resolve trespass and fencing issues. This will be addressed in the planning process.

Public Comment: Maria Troutner addressed concerns for the Hollow T. to Mr Drennan. He stated that input was important on historical properties.

Motion made by L. Helfrich for the District to take an active role in assisting BLM in revising the 1996 Cascabel Management Plan. The District will facilitate meetings for public participation and provide information.  
 Second C Kent  
 Motion passed

S. Smallhouse informed the Board she was stepping down as Chair for personal reasons. S. Smallhouse asked for the nomination of Charles Kent to take the Chair.  
 Motion was made by J. Dykes  
 Second by L. Helfrich  
 Motion passed

S. Smallhouse suggests a check out form for anyone borrowing District equipment. J.Dale will draft a form for approval.

8. Call to the public None
9. Plan for next meeting Feb 26<sup>th</sup>
10. Meeting adjourned

**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.

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](mailto:david.matthews@az.usda.gov) (email)

[www.az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://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**

**Web Site: [www.redingtonnrzd.org](http://www.redingtonnrzd.org)**