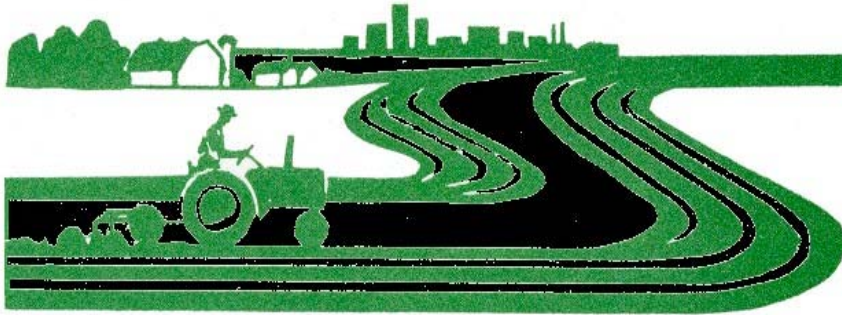


Sheridan County Conservation Notes



Conservation District

Jeff Wivholm - Chairman
Rom Hedges - Vice Chairman
Jon Bolstad - Supervisor
Tim Holte - Supervisor
Todd Marsh - Supervisor
Manuel Vazquez - Supervisor
Steve Hove - Associate Supervisor
Judy Benson - Administrator
Mickey McCall - Technician

NRCS

Monica Friedrich - District Conservationist
Tim Solberg - Soil Con.
Ryan W. Young - Soil Con. Tech.

Sheridan County Conservation District

119 N. Jackson
Plentywood, Mt 59254
406-765-1801

<http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org/>

VOLUME 53, ISSUE I

January—March, 2009

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Ode to March

Indoors or out, no one relaxes in March, that month of wind and taxes. The wind will presently disappear, the taxes last us all the year. ~Ogden Nash

Sheridan County Conservation District meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the USDA Building. The public is welcome to attend. For time and date verification, please call our office at 765-1801 ext. 101, or go to sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org

Your comments are always welcome and appreciated. Please let us know what you think. Just Drop us a note at: 119 N. Jackson Plentywood, MT 59254 or email us at judy.benson@mt.nacdnet.net

Did You Feel It ?

A minor earthquake struck north-west North Dakota and Northeast Montana in the early hours of Saturday, January 3, 2009.

According to the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology at Montana Tech of the University of Montana in Butte, a 1.5 magnitude earthquake was recorded 11.3 miles ESE of Dagmar at 6:53 AM MST on Saturday, January 3, 2009.

The quake was minor and virtually unnoticeable, but was recorded at several different seismograph locations, including three in Sheridan County located near Dagmar, Westby, and Redstone. The Dagmar station was installed in 2004. Westby and Redstone were installed in September of 2008.

According to Michael Stickney, Director at the Earthquake Studies Office at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in Butte "We feel we have a reasonably good epicenter location. The quake was tiny, with a magnitude of 1.5, but large enough to be recorded on the ANSS station at Dagmar, MT and 10 stations of the EarthScope Transportable Array. I would not expect that anybody in the epicentral area would notice such a small earthquake". The epicenter was located at Latitude 48.537°N, Longi-

(Continued on page 2)



Kent Nathe

Kent Edward Nathe, 60, passed away suddenly on December 26, 2008 in Billings of a heart attack with his wife Jeanne by his side.

Kent was born on February 19, 1948 in Doc Healy's office in Flaxville, MT. He was the 6th child born to Mike and Saralda Nathe.

He attended grade school in Redstone, MT. and high school at the Assumption Abbey boarding school in Richardton, ND. He attended college at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. and at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. He served in the United States Army and Reserves.

In 1972 he married Jeanne Lagerquist of Plentywood. Together they raised two children, Judd was born in 1976, and Tara, born in 1979.

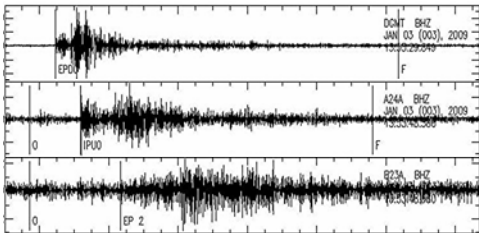
Kent was active in many community organizations, serving as President of the Montana Pioneer Manor Board, President of the Redstone Cemetery Board, President of the Sheridan County Saddle Club, and Secretary of the Redstone Grain elevator. He also served on the Sheridan County Planning Board, was firefighter for the Redstone fire Department, a member of the Sheridan County Stockmen's Association, and on the Board of Supervisors of the Sheridan County Conservation District.

Kent was first elected to the Sheridan County Conservation District Board of Supervisors in 1984. As a Conservation District Board member from 1984 until his death, he served as President, was appointed to numerous committees and represented the District on the Sheridan County Planning Board.

Kent will truly be missed by all he touched.

(Continued from page 1)

tude 103.946°E at a depth of 13.4 kilometers, or 8.3 miles, beneath the surface. Source of earthquake location was determined by MBMG - Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The EarthScope Transportable Array is a continental-scale seismic observa-



tory designed to provide a foundation for the study of the continental deep Earth structure over a wide range of scales. The array is being constructed, operated, and maintained as a collaborative effort with UNAVCO, the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS), and Stanford University.

The epicenter was first thought to be located along the Brockton-Froid fault zone, but was later pinpointed to a location in North Dakota. The Brockton-Froid fault zone is one of the major basement fault systems in the center of the continent, and has been interpreted by field mapping efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey as a northeast-southwest (N55E) trending fault zone more than 50 km (30 mi) in length.

It is believed an earthquake on June 24, 1943 was most likely centered along the Brockton-Froid fault zone. The estimated magnitude of the 1943 earthquake is about 4.5. The quake caused damage in Froid and elsewhere around the area. Local newspapers reported damage to chimneys and that a "well-constructed granary cracked so severely that wheat spilled out" at Froid. Plaster and chimneys also cracked at Homestead, Redstone and Reserve. Several other earthquakes have been associated with the fault, including 3.5 to 4.0 quakes in the 80s and 90s.

Stickney added, "I guess this earthquake goes to show that you never know what you might see when a seismic network moves into your neighborhood".

Northeast Montana Farm Expo

Mark your calendars for March 20 & 21, 2009 for the 26th Annual N.E. Montana Farm Expo at the Sheridan County Civic Center.

Each year KATQ Radio sponsors its annual Farm Expo, bringing in agricultural and household exhibits from Montana, North Dakota and Canada. Educational seminars are held daily. Friday night's banquet includes a featured guest speaker and the Conservation District's annual Cooperator of the Year Award. For more information, go to: www.katqradio.com.

Glendive Agri-Trade Exposition

The annual Glendive Agri-Trade Exposition (GATE), features commercial booths and exhibits, workshops and seminars, a bull sale, stallion show, food and drinks, banquet and dance. GATE emphasizes agricultural vendors and related workshops. The Cowbelles, famous for their wonderful cooking, provide food all day both days. The banquet features entertainment and a dance. Mark your calendar for February 13 & 14.

New Montana NRCS State Conservationist Announced



Bozeman -- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that Joyce Swartzendruber will serve as the State Conservationist in Montana, providing overall leadership for NRCS operations statewide. Ms. Swartzendruber will begin her duties in Montana in mid-February.

"Montana is a beautiful state and presents many challenges and opportunities for conservation," said Swartzendruber. "I am so happy to be coming to Montana to strengthen our conservation partnerships, provide employee leadership opportunities, and guide implementation of the new Farm Bill."

Ms. Swartzendruber comes to Montana from Maine where she has served as Maine's State Conservationist since 2004. Her prior service with NRCS includes Deputy State Conservationist in Columbus, Ohio, 2002–2004; Assistant State Conservationist in Boise, Idaho, 1995–2002; and District Conservationist in Fairbanks, Alaska, 1991–1995, and Nevada, Iowa, 1987–1991.

Ms. Swartzendruber graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Agronomy in 1984. Her interest in earning an Agronomy degree was stimulated by her work as a soil conservation technician and her membership in the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

"NRCS is faced with many challenges in the year ahead," said Swartzendruber. "We will have new leadership in Washington, and we will implement new and changed conservation programs. I look forward to focusing on western conservation matters, such as snow survey, irrigation, rangeland, and public land issues, as well as working with private landowners, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, commodity groups, and our conservation partners to find ways to best use and protect Montana's agriculture and natural resources."

Supervisors Re-Elected & Re-Appointed

Sheridan County Ranchers, Todd Marsh and Kent Nathe were re-elected by acclamation to 4-year terms in the November 2008 general election. Todd Marsh, Sheridan County Conservation District Supervisor since 2004, begins a second term. Kent Nathe, who passed away December 26, 2008, would have begun his 25th year as a Supervisor on the District Board in January. He dedicated his time and service to our CD Board since 1984. Kent will be missed by

(Continued on page 3)

Equipment for Rent

The Sheridan County Conservation District has equipment you can rent or buy.

You can purchase:

- Location flags for \$10.00 per 100.
- Paul Brown Moisture probes for \$40.00 each.

You can renovate your rangeland with the 15' Aerway Range Renovator. Or rent the 12' John Deere Grass Drill.

The renovator rents for \$5/acre with a \$250 deposit; and the drill for \$4/acre, and \$25 per day with a \$250 deposit.

Contact our office for information at 765-1801, stop in at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood or email judy.benson@mt.nacdnet.net.

It Is Time to Think About Tree Orders

With the snow on the ground and subzero temperatures, it seems a little presumptuous to be thinking of planting trees; but this is the time to order your plantings for Spring 2009. Nursery supplies are becoming limited, especially the potted varieties, so if you want to order trees, do so as soon as possible. Contact the Conservation District to place an order or if you need planning assistance. Keep in mind that we can order weed barrier and have a tree planter available. Stop by the office at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood or you can call or email at 765-1801, ext. 101 or judy.benson@mt.nacdnet.net.

Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday March 8. Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD! Or else you'll be Behind.

Visit Us on the Internet

Logon to the Sheridan County Conservation District web site at: <http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org/index.html>

State Oil & Gas Lease Sale March 3

HELENA, Mont. – The quarterly oil and gas lease sale conducted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is scheduled for March 3, 2009, in Helena.

DNRC received 149 nominations for the sale and is requesting written public comment by January 26, 2009, but will consider all comments received up until the March 16, 2009, meeting of the State Land Board in Helena.

"The only action proposed at this time is issuing leases for possible future exploration and production," said Monte Mason, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief. "Before any activity occurs, DNRC will prepare an environmental review." The state Board of Oil and Gas must also review and issue permits before any activity can occur, Mason added.

The March sale includes tracts in the following counties, with the number of tracts noted in parentheses: Big Horn (4), Chouteau (64), Daniels (36), Fergus (3), Glacier (1), McCone (1), Rosebud (14), Sheridan (14), Stillwater (4), Sweet Grass (1), Teton (2), Toole (1) and Treasure (4).

A map and a detailed list of tracts being considered by DNRC may be obtained by calling Mason in Helena at (406) 444-3843. The information is also available on DNRC's [Web site](#); a link for submitting public comment is also available on the site.

Written public comment regarding nominated tracts should be submitted to Mason c/o Montana DNRC, P.O. Box 201601, 1625 Eleventh Ave., Helena MT 59620-1601.

Snow & Water

According to the National Weather Service web site, Sheridan County had received approximately 25 inches of snow through December. The snow/water estimation is about 4 inches of water.

(Continued from page 2)

our board as well as the entire community.

Manuel Vazquez was re-appointed to serve a second 3-year term representing the City of Plentywood. The appointment was made at the City Council's January 2009 meeting.

Sheridan County Ownership Maps Available

New, updated ownership maps of Sheridan County are now available at the Sheridan County Conservation District office in Plentywood.

The maps come in booklet (\$30) and wall (\$20) versions as well as glove box size (\$15). The maps are produced by Cicon & Associates. They are updated annually and are also available at select area businesses.

If you are interested in obtaining a map, stop in the office at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood.

Conservation District Receives Grant

The Sheridan County Conservation District recently received a "223" grant from the Conservation Districts Bureau of the Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation (DNRC).

The grant was for a total of \$4,500 to help purchase and install a storage trailer at the District's compound east of Plentywood. Total cost of the project was \$5,500.

The "223" grant program was designated by HB223 in the 47th Montana Legislature, and provided to the conservation districts one half of one percent of the coal severance tax monies. DNRC distributes these funds on the basis of need to conservation districts for any purpose that they are authorized to perform pursuant to MCA, Title 76, Chapter 15, Part 4. Since 1981, conservation districts have used these funds for conservation related equipment purchases, saline seep and weed control projects, conservation education and information projects, soil survey, and various other water and soil conservation related projects.

CONSERVATION DATES

Jan.	1	New Year's Day—Office Closed
	13	SCCD Board meeting—9:00 AM
	19	Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed
Feb.	2	Ground Hog Day
	4	RC&D Annual meeting—Sidney
	10	District Board meeting—9:00 AM
	13 & 14	Agri-Trade Exposition—Glendive
	14	Valentine's Day
	16	Presidents Day—Office Closed
Mar.	8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
	10	District Board meeting—9:00 AM
	17	St. Patrick's Day
	20 & 21	KATQ NE Montana Farm Expo
	21	First Day of Spring

Please thank our sponsors for their support in bringing our Newsletter to you.

Visit Sheridan County Conservation

District's Web Site at:

<http://sheridan.mt.nacdn.net>

Our services and programs are provided without regard to race, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or religious affiliation.

NOTICE

NO PERSON MAY COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION ON ANY PROJECT FACILITIES OR APPROPRIATE WATER PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT BY THE DISTRICT AND RECEIPT OF A RESERVED WATER USE AUTHORIZATION. THIS IS TO PROTECT THE POTENTIAL IRRIGATOR FROM INVESTING MONEY IN A SYSTEM FOR WHICH LEGAL USE OF THE WATER CAN NOT BE APPROVED AND THUS CAN NOT BE USED

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