

## Spring To-Do Requirements

### Annual Crop Report Due March 31

Update your Crop Reporting Form for Nitrogen Management at [cpnrd.gisworkshop.com](http://cpnrd.gisworkshop.com) by March 31. When forms are successfully submitted, a receipt will be sent to your email address. Cease & Desist orders will be mailed to producers who fail to submit forms by the deadline following the May board meeting.

*Violations will be enforced prior to the 2020 irrigation season.*

### Nitrogen Certification

Nitrogen certification is valid for 4 years. If your certification expires in 2020, you should've received a certification test to be completed and returned to the CPNRD office. Certification from other districts is accepted. *Note: Producers who attended the Water Programs Update in Lexington are not required to complete the Nitrogen Management test.*

*Your Contact: Tricia Dudley (308) 385-6282 or [dudley@cpnrd.org](mailto:dudley@cpnrd.org)*

### Chemigation Permits Due June 1<sup>st</sup>

Current renewal permits expire on June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Renewal permits can be issued without an inspection at a cost of \$20. Applications received after June 1<sup>st</sup> must comply with provisions for new permits, including a \$60 permit fee and a required inspection before the permit can be issued. Once a system is inspected, the system will be inspected every 3 years. If changes are made to any part of the system, such as a new pump or a new pivot, reinspection of that system is required.

The Nebraska Chemigation Act rules are administered by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts and the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE). CPNRD inspects the required safety equipment on chemigation systems, receives permit applications and fees, and issues chemigation site permits. UNL Extension provides the training and exams. NDEE issues chemigation applicator certifications; which are good for four years, after which renewals are required.

### Local training dates:

March 26	Kearney	1:30	Buffalo County Extension	(308) 236-1235
April 2	Holdrege	1:30	Ag Center – Fairgrounds	(308) 995-4222
April 27	St Paul	9:00	School Library Meeting Room	(308) 754-5422

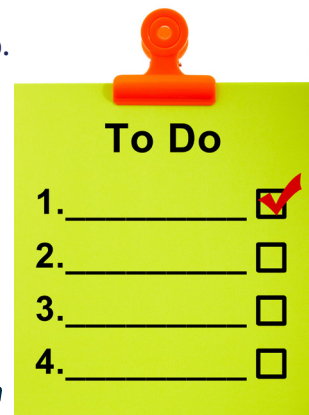
Your CPNRD contact: Tricia Dudley (308) 385-6282 or [dudley@cpnrd.org](mailto:dudley@cpnrd.org)

## College Scholarship Apps Due April 15

The CPNRD-Ron Bishop College Scholarship Program provides \$1,000 to five junior and senior college students pursuing degrees in the natural resources field. Applications for the 2020-2021 academic year must be postmarked by April 15, 2020.

Applicants or parent(s) must reside within CPNRD boundaries; which reach from Gothenburg to Columbus along the Platte River. Applicants are ranked on qualifications and essay. Career fields that qualify are agriculture, natural resources, hydrology, natural science, geography, field biology, environmental education, and wildlife.

Applications are available on the CPNRD website at: [cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org) under the Student|Teacher Resources link or by contacting **Marcia Lee at (308) 385-6282 or email: [lee@cpnrd.org](mailto:lee@cpnrd.org)**.



## Important Dates

- \* **January 1** Nitrogen Certification test due.
- \* **March 31** Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program
- \* **April 1** Last day to order trees and weed barrier
- \* **April 15** CPNRD-Ron Bishop College Scholarship applications due
- \* **May 12** Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island- Volunteers Needed
- \* **June 1** Chemigation applications due
- \* **September 1-March 1** Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
- \* **September 15** Chemigation reinspections must be completed
- \* **November 3** Election Day

### Board of Directors

At-Large Keith Ostermeier, Grand Island

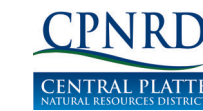
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2. Dwayne Margrit, Lexington
3. Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek
4. Lon Bohn, Gibbon
5. Deb VanMatre, Gibbon (Secretary)
6. Jim Bendfeldt, Kearney (Chairman)

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Easement Habitat Specialist: Ele Nugent  
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GIS Image Analyst: Luke Zakrzewski  
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Range Management Specialist: David Carr

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Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard  
UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator: Dean Krull  
Water Quality Programs Assistant: Tricia Dudley  
Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement  
Water Resources Technician: Courtney Widup

Nebraska's NRDs: **Protecting Lives** | **Protecting Property** | **Protecting the Future**



Volume 23  
No. 4  
March 2020



# IN PERSPECTIVE

## NEWSLETTER

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE

(308) 385-6282

[cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org)

## Upgrades Planned for Crane Viewing Site



March 23, 2018: Over 100 crane watchers utilizing the Richard Plautz Crane Viewing Deck.  
Photo credit: John Thorburn, Tri-Basin NRD

The Richard Plautz Crane Viewing Site near Gibbon will be getting some upgrades with funds awarded through two grants. Located at the intersection of Elm Island Road and Lowell Road, the site has two elevated wooden crane viewing decks, a 1,650' nature trail, and a parking lot.

This site provides a safe area for the public to view Sandhill and Whooping Cranes as they migrate through Nebraska in the spring. In the mid 1990's, Central Platte NRD was a partner in building the site to increase public safety by reducing the extra in-flow of traffic and cars parking on nearby county roads; which are heavily used by local residents. The site also increases public awareness of Nebraska's Platte River wildlife.

### GRANTS RECEIVED

The Recreational Trails Program administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission recently awarded CPNRD \$259,500 for the site. The NRD will contribute a 20% matching share to the award. Nearly 1,660 LF of deteriorated asphalt on the nature trail will be removed and replaced with an 8' wide, 6" thick concrete trail and the parking lot will be paved with 8" thick concrete.

In February, the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) announced their recommendation to award \$50,000 for the restoration project with the funds to be officially awarded in April. The NET funding will allow the NRD to make needed repairs on the streambank near the viewing decks. The NRD will remove two large trees, install 2,700 LF of erosion control silt fencing, install 803 ton of quartzite riprap on the southeast side of Lowell Road bridge, install 600 willow stakes (live pole plantings) for a natural, ecologically-friendly bank stabilization, and 0.6 acres of seeding and mulching once the new nature trail has been reconstructed.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery and has awarded more than \$305 million to conservation projects in Nebraska since 1994.



Sandhill cranes landing on the Platte River in 2018.  
Photo credit: Eric Bakke

### In This Edition

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## Mark Czaplewski to Retire in March



After 23 years with the Central Platte NRD, Mark Czaplewski, biologist, will retire. Many of Mark's duties centered around the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, a basin-wide effort to aid in the conservation of endangered species using the central Platte River. Mark was a member of the Land and Technical Advisory committees and also served on the Governance Committee.

He worked with the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition and the Platte Basin Water Coalition handling instream flow issues, wetland projects, and other endangered and non-game species matters. Mark served on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Environmental Quality Council, and Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force.

Mark and his wife Rita plan to travel and spend time with family.

## 2019 Flood...NRDs Share Experiences

A year has passed since the historic flooding we had in March 2019. We all remember it. Our NRD along with the Lower Elkhorn, Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Papio Missouri NRDs are all in an agreement to monitor river conditions along the Lower Platte River.

We are boots on the ground. We're sharing our story about the events that unfolded here in our own District and partner Districts. Listen to the podcast and view some of our pictures at: <http://cpnrd.org/flood-control/>



## Reminder: Check Pastures for Noxious Weeds

The most commonly found noxious weeds within the Central Platte NRD are:

**Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, Purple Loosestrife, Saltcedar, Phragmites**

Most of these emerge and need to be treated in April. If they were treated last year, it's a good idea to check the area for regrowth. Find more detailed information at:

**Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA)** <http://www.neweed.org/>

**NWCA Web Map** <http://www.neweed.org/WebMap.aspx>

**UNL Herbicide Guide** (\$15 for print and/or download) <https://marketplace.unl.edu/extension/ec130.html>

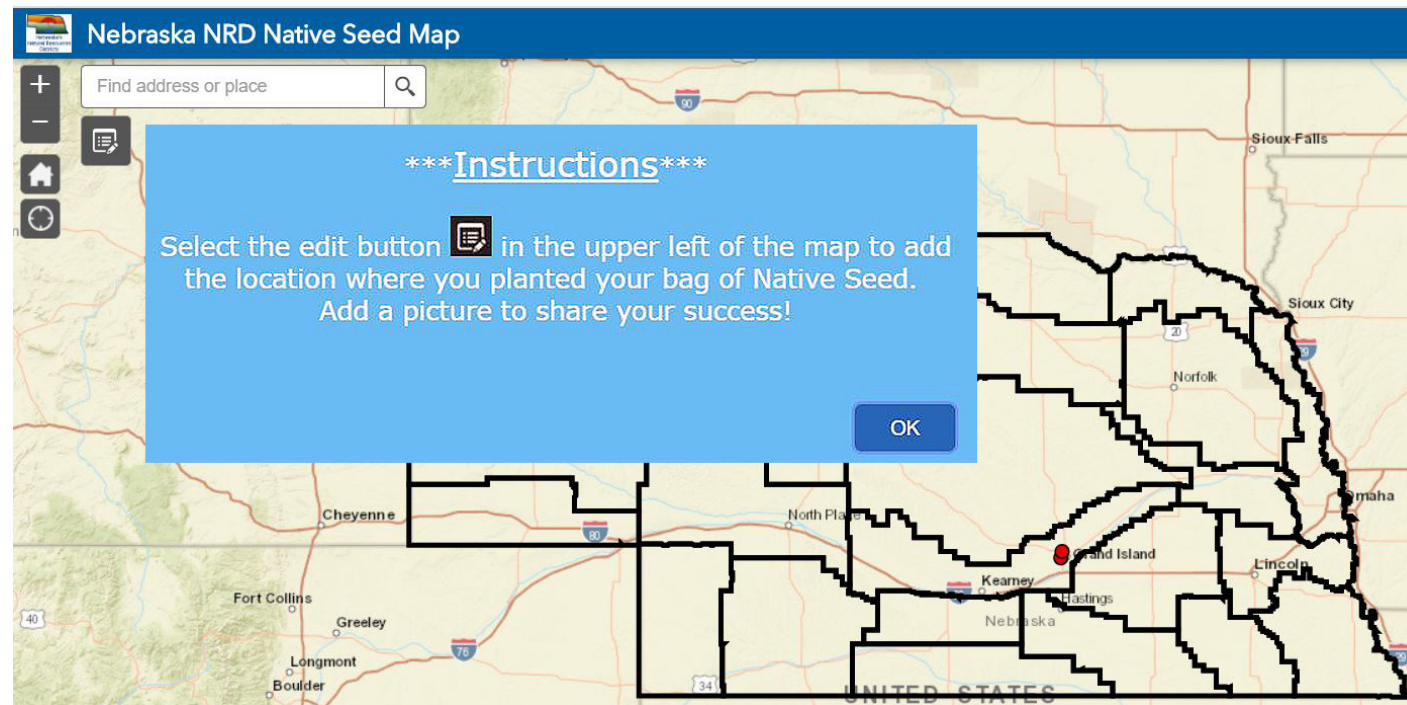
**Nebraska Dept. of Ag – Noxious Weeds**[http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/noxious\\_weeds/index.html](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/noxious_weeds/index.html)

## Husker Harvest Days & Pollinator Project

### Show Off Your Planted Prairie!

Native grassland and pollinator habitat conservation is vital to agriculture and to Nebraska wildlife. If you're one of the thousands of folks who have visited the Natural Resources building at Husker Harvest Days, you may have picked up a packet of the Native Prairie or Pollinators seed from the NRDs. If you received and planted some of our native prairie or pollinator seed, we need you to show off your hard work!

Central Platte NRD has created a special website to upload pictures of your planting for this project. Simply click on the map, insert a pin, upload your prairie photo...and show your stuff!



The website also allows you to place a "pin" on the map to show where you have grown your native prairie or pollinator habitat. It would be amazing if we can fill up the state with "pins" and pictures showing the extent of everyone's efforts.

**Link to the website at: <http://cpnrd.org/grassland-conservation>**

If you have any questions about the native seed project or the website call (308) 385 6282.

## Employee Spotlight: David Carr



Range Management  
Specialist

David has been employed by CPNRD since 2004. He manages the NRD's prescribed fire and safety programs. David works primarily with private landowners and organizations to plan, implement, and monitor prescribed fires to improve the rangeland and wildlife habitat within the District.

He also plans and coordinates fire training and public education involving the safe use of prescribed fire. On the off-season, David takes water samples and depth to groundwater measurements, chemigation inspections, and collects gallons per minute measurements on irrigation wells.

You may contact David at [carr@cpnrd.org](mailto:carr@cpnrd.org) or call (308) 385-6282..

## Only 2 Weeks to Order Trees & Shrubs

Time to check your windbreak. Do you need to replace some trees or add a new windbreak? CPNRD will take orders until April 1<sup>st</sup> for tree and shrub seedling to be planted this spring.

Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 for \$22.50 + tax.

If you'd like a smaller number of trees, we have Small Acre Packages. Each package includes five species with 10 seedlings of each specie. The packages include trees tailored for Eastern Nebraska, Western Nebraska, Wildlife, and Flowering plots.

**Small Acre Packages- 50 seedlings for \$55:**

**Eastern NE:** Colorado Blue Spruce, Ponderosa Pine, Swamp White Oak, Nanking Cherry, Black Chokeberry-  
**Western Nebraska:** Ponderosa Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Bur Oak, Nanking Cherry, Silver Buffaloberry

**Wildlife:** American Plum, Woods Rose, Elderberry, Nanking Cherry, McKenzie Black Chokeberry

**Flowering:** Nanking Cherry, Midwest Crabapple, Common Lilac, Red-Osier Dogwood, Caragana

**Quantities are limited - be sure to place your order right away.**

**Photos and descriptions of trees at: <http://cpnrd.org/conservation-tree-program>**

**Your CPNRD Contact: Kelly Cole (308) 385-6282 or contact your local USDA-NRCS office.**



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts are seeking volunteers to help with the NCF-Envirothon, an international environmental competition for high school students.

The NRDs are excited to welcome more than 500 guests from the U.S., Canada and China to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln July 26-31, 2020.

**SIGN UP TO HELP  
[NRDNET.ORG/EVENTS](http://NRDNET.ORG/EVENTS)**



## ACRONYMS

### **CPNRD:**

Central Platte Natural Resources District

[cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org)

**DHHS:** Department of Health & Human Services

[dhhs.ne.gov](http://dhhs.ne.gov)

### **NARD:**

Nebraska Association of Resources District

[nrdnet.org](http://nrdnet.org)

### **NDEE:**

Nebraska Department of Energy & Environment

[deq.state.ne.us](http://deq.state.ne.us)

### **NeDNR:**

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

[dnr.nebraska.gov](http://dnr.nebraska.gov)

### **NRCS:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)