

Spring, 2022

Insight

Nemaha Natural
Resources District

Arbor Day Turns 150!



Pictured (left to right): Chuck Wingert, Eldon Snoke, Kyle Hauschild, Randy Fox, Tomas Chalè Akè, Rob Bohling, Mark McDonald, Jane Kuhl, Dan Hodges, Russel Moss, Ken Hatten, Orval Gigstad, Vernon Speers, Steve Bartels, Kevin Thorne, Dan Stukenholtz, Ashley Rippe

across the state. That equates to about 50 trees per Nebraska resident. The passion Morton had for trees is shared by Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts. Each year Districts plant and sell trees as a part of their statutory responsibilities to promote forestry management, wildlife habitat, and erosion prevention.

In Nebraska City, Morton's passion for trees is on full display at his home - Arbor Lodge State Park. The Lodge has 270 varieties of trees and shrubs on its grounds. Last December, a large Norway Spruce that stood on the front lawn of the mansion blew over in a windstorm. This Arbor Day, Nemaha Natural Resources District partnered with Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce to plant a replacement Norway Spruce. The tree is smaller in size, to represent one that the Mortons would have planted. The tree is symbolic of the commitment shared in conservation and stewardship and represents the first tree to the next 100-million to be planted by the NRDs!

The tree planting holiday with roots in the Nemaha NRD celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. It all started with a vision by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, to set aside a day to encourage Nebraskans to plant trees in their communities. The first Arbor Day was held in 1872 and nearly a million trees were planted. Fast forward to 2022 and what started as an idea that spread across Nebraska has now spread around the world!

Since its formation 50 years ago, Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts have planted 100- million trees

**Watershed of
Wonders**
DAY CAMP
DUCK CREEK REC AREA

Kids ages 10-12 living in the district - get registered for WoW Day Camp at Duck Creek Recreation Area on June 15th as soon as possible! Call 402-335-3325 or email arippe@nemahanrd.org Space is limited!



Norris' Envirothon Team: Grace Kohler, Anna Van Brocklin, Heather Riensche, Anna Rohrer, & Zach Pittman

Norris Titans Take Second Place!

14 Qualifying high school teams from across Nebraska met in Cozad for the 30th annual Nebraska State Envirothon April 27. The Nemaha NRD was proudly represented at the State competition by Norris' team of Anna Rohrer, Anna Van Brocklin, Heather Riensche, Zachary Pittman, & Grace Kohler coached by Cindy Larson-Miller. The team finished second overall, taking home a \$1000 scholarship, and first place in the wildlife category.

Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. This year's competition was hosted at Camp Comeca near Cozad.

"Envirothon allows students to get outdoors and learn about natural resources in a hands-on environment," said Orval Gigstad, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts president. "The activities are designed to help students become environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults, but also exposes them to many exciting career opportunities."

During the state competition, five-member teams were tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, policy, range, soils, and wildlife, as well as prepared and

delivered an oral presentation focusing on a current environmental issue. The 2022 oral presentation theme "Waste to Resources" challenged teams to propose a solution on a complex problem before a panel of judges. Congratulations Titans!

NeRAIN

Are you ever curious how much rain different regions of the district got, and you don't have a friend there to call and ask? Worry no more, NE Rain is here to help! The Nemaha NRD started training volunteers to enter precipitation data into the NeRain system back in 2006. The amazing team of volunteers will measure and enter precipitation quantities to the online database and anyone can look the information up. Check out <https://nednr.nebraska.gov/NeRain/Maps/maps>



If you are already a volunteer and have equipment that needs replaced call the office at 402-335-3325



This May, the Nemaha Natural Resources District welcomed two new summer help employees. Payton Beckmann & Caden Rush are both seniors at Peru State College studying Wildlife Ecology. This summer, they are hoping to learn skills they can apply to their future jobs!



Parks Season is in Full Swing!

Nemaha Natural Resources District's park permits have been selling quickly this spring. With over 1100 permits and counting already sold we are planning on a busy camping season! Electrical and trash services resumed at the parks April 1st.

If you haven't had a chance to get a park permit yet, don't worry it isn't too late! Permits are available on our website, at our office in Tecumseh, or at the entrance of the parks. They are \$15 for an original and \$8 for a duplicate (one duplicate per each original) for persons living at the same address.

Beach monitoring has resumed. For the most recent results visit our website www.nemahanrd.org and click the Beach Monitoring Results tab at the top of the page.

Rules Reminder

- Vehicle permits required for all NRD parks but Prairie Owl.
- You may have a tent up in a camper spot **ONLY IF** you also have a camper there.
- 14-day maximum stay is by park – **NOT** by spot.
- Camping spots cannot be reserved
- Camping fees must be paid up front
- Absolutely no ATV/UTV use
- No fireworks or firearms
- Even if you are a good swimmer, please remember to always have a flotation device with you on the water
- Beaches do not have a lifeguard on duty so keep an eye on children and teach them about water safety.



This spring 14,380 tree and shrub saplings will be planted by area landowners and the NRD. The Staff would like to thank all the folks who purchased trees for their patience this spring as we dealt with unexpected delays due to weather and shipping.

Steamboat Trace

Nemaha NRD crews began placing screenings on portions of the trail between Nebraska City and Peru this April. Once work is completed on the north section, crews will move to the closed section of the trail between Brownville and 2 miles south of Peru to work on re-opening it. Please be patient and do not attempt to enter closed sections of the trail for your own safety!

Upcoming Events



- May 21st and 22nd: NRD Free Park Permit Weekend
- May 30th: Memorial Day Holiday – NRD Offices Closed
- June 9th: Nemaha NRD Board of Directors Meeting
- June 15th: Watershed of Wonders Day Camp
- June 18th: Radler Bike Ride @ Steamboat Trace Trail
- July 11th through 15th: NRDs 50th Anniversary Week!
- July 14th: Nemaha NRD Board of Directors Meeting

Insight is a publication of the Nemaha NRD. Requests to be placed upon the Insight mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Ashley Rippe at 62161 Hwy 136 Tecumseh, NE 68450 or at arippe@nemahanrd.org. To view the newsletter in color please submit your email address as indicated above or visit our website www.nemahanrd.org

Spring, 2022

Southeast NE Birding



Nebraska Game and Parks hosted the 2022 Southeast Nebraska Birding event at Iron Horse Trail Lake and Loes Branch Wildlife Management Area. A crew of bird enthusiasts gathered early in the morning to take inventory on which birds were utilizing the areas. Collectively, 70 species of birds were identified! Unique species included Pileated Woodpecker, Summer Tanager, Scissor Tail Fly Catcher, and a myriad of Warblers.

Check out the Nemaha NRD website at www.nemahanrd.org for information about each of the recreation areas and what they have to offer. Did you know that Iron Horse Trail Lake has a 2.7 mile walking trail around the lake?



Nemaha NRD
62161 Hwy 136
Tecumseh, NE 68450

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future – Since 1972
For a listing of staff and directors please visit our website at www.nemahanrd.org/about