



Nemaha Natural Resources District

Insight



Summer 2007

It's Summer... It's Time To Come Visit The Parks!

With sunny days ahead of us, the Nemaha NRD invites you to come and visit the parks available in our District. Some things to note as you visit the parks:

Kirkman's Cove

Because of increasing demand, six new recreational vehicle pads with electrical hookups have been added near the 10 existing hookups this spring. All 16 sites were full over the Memorial Day weekend. Total cost for the additional sites was about \$15,000 with a portion of the funding coming from park permit fees. The District has considered adding electric hookups on the west side of the lake; however, the cost to bring in the electric service line is prohibitive.



Six new electrical hookups and pads were installed just west of the existing 10 pads.

Park users will also notice that the traffic pattern in the area around the electric RV pads and beach has changed. There is now a separate loop for both the camping area and beach area, which should help reduce the amount of traffic through the RV area. Area users should pay attention to the new traffic control signage as they enter that area of the park. Campers are also reminded that vehicles and/or equipment may not be left unattended; also, camping fees of \$10/night are due within 30 minutes of arrival and regardless of whether electricity is being used or not.

If you've seen the "2007 Nebraska Boating Guide" published by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, once again there is an error regarding the boating policy for Kirkman's Cove. Contrary to the guide, boating on Kirkman's Cove is NOT limited to 5 mph; it IS limited to 35 mph in designated areas. Please note, however, that personal watercraft (aka jet skis) are not allowed on any of the Nemaha NRD's lakes.

Iron Horse Trail Lake

Another new, concrete restroom facility has been added at Iron Horse Trail Lake since last season. In addition, work has begun to

replace the old, wooden steps leading from the boat parking area to the dock.

During the past year Nebraska Game and Parks stocked 75,000 walleye fry into Iron Horse Trail Lake. Game and Parks regularly monitors fish in Iron Horse and periodically stocks the 85-acre lake. In addition to the walleye, channel catfish and sauger have been stocked in recent years. Because of turbid water in Kirkman's Cove, some of which is due to the use of larger speed boats, Game and Parks does not regularly stock Kirkman's Cove. For more fish stocking information, check out the link on the Lakes/Campsites page of our website (www.nemahanrd.org). You can find out what fish were stocked over the years by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in reservoirs around the state.

Wirth Brothers Lake

For the first time in several years, Wirth Brothers Lake north of Tecumseh is completely full. Both the beach and dock are open and accessible. Seepage is an ongoing problem for the 35-acre reservoir, so some water level declines are expected over the summer months.



Recent heavy rains filled Wirth Brothers Lake beyond capacity for a period of time in May.

The NRD will continue to monitor all four public recreation reservoirs (including Prairie Owl near Dunbar) for toxic algae this year. Lakes with levels above the state established safety level will be closed to water contact activities. To find out the latest status of the NRD lakes, you can call the NRD office at 335-3325; a recorded message will be available after office hours.

Don't forget to get your NNRD park permit; any vehicle entering Kirkman's Cove, Iron Horse Trail Lake, or Wirth Brothers Lake must have one. NNRD personnel will be at the parks again this summer on various weekends and holidays, in addition to weekdays, to check for compliance and to answer questions from park visitors. You can obtain a permit either at the parks or at the NRD office in Tecumseh weekdays from 8-4:30. Note: the State Park permit issued by the Nebraska Game & Parks is not valid at Nemaha NRD parks.

Steamboat Trace Trail's Open

One of the most appealing features of the Steamboat Trace is its direct connection with the Missouri River. Trail users enjoy the opportunity to get a view from the bank of the river as it rolls along its way to St. Louis. However, the downside of having a trail in the floodplain of a major waterway became apparent this spring as floodwaters caused extensive damage to sections of the trail between Peru and Brownville.



Debris washed onto the trail from flood waters.

It was estimated that portions of the trail were submerged in 2 to 3 feet of water, which left the rock surface covered with silt. A portion of the trail was washed out along with a small levy that protected both the trail and neighboring cropland. In addition to flooding, fallen trees and mudslides covered the trail for several miles. As a result the NRD was forced to close the trail from Peru to Brownville for an extended period of time to allow for cleanup and repairs. The trail was reopened in mid June; however,



After waters receded a heavy layer of silt remained over many areas of the trail.

additional repairs will take place throughout the summer. Users are asked to be alert to rough areas along the trail.



Water, trees, and debris cover the trail in Brownville earlier in May

Roland Sherman Memorial Area Dedicated

Another distinguishing characteristic of the Steamboat Trace is the array of carvings in the sandstone bluffs south of Peru. The carvings, which range from the Peru State College bobcat mascot to a life sized genie, are the creation of the late Roland Sherman.

Mr. Sherman, who died in 2006, was a native of Peru and in addition to his artistic talent, was a self-taught botanist. Roland, along with his wife, Jean, donated many hours to the trail and to developing the trailhead facility at Peru. In May the Nemaha NRD board officially designated a 1,000-foot section of



This genie is just one example of the many hours Roland Sherman put into his carvings along the Steamboat Trace.

the Steamboat Trace near the carvings as the "Roland Sherman Memorial Area" to honor his contributions to the trail as well as to make the public more aware of the carvings he created. The area was officially dedicated on June 23. Along with members of the Sherman family, Scout Troop 325 of Peru unveiled the new informational gazebo that was constructed by Mark Spangler as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The memorial area is located approximately 1 mile south of the Peru Trailhead.

Duck Creek History Unveiled



Visitors watch as archeologists continue searching for artifacts.

Archeologists from the State Historical Society will soon be wrapping up a two-month, controlled excavation to collect artifacts located near the Duck Creek dam site west of Peru. Native American artifacts ranging from projectiles to small pieces of pottery have been collected as part of the excavation. Originally it was believed that the site may be a permanent camp which included lodges constructed 800 years ago. It is now believed that the site may have been a transitional hunting camp dating back to around 1,200 AD.

An open house was held on June 3, and approximately 170 people came to view the pits excavated by the archeologists and learn more about the site and material that is being collected. The intent of the excavation is not to remove all the artifacts but rather to collect enough to document the history of what occurred at the site.

Pam Joy Is New Clerk In Falls City

On June 1 Pam Joy joined the Nemaha NRD staff as the Clerk in the Falls City NRCS office. You might still see Lori Foster, who held the position for the past four years, helping out on a part-time basis; however, she resigned from the full-time clerk's position at the end of April.

Pam is a graduate of Southeast Consolidated High School and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology/business administration from Peru State College. Her most recent experience includes employment with Kanza Mental Health in Hiawatha, Kansas, as well as secretarial work and substitute teaching at Falls City Public Schools.

Pam grew up on a farm, and currently she and her family live on a farm near Salem. She indicated that she liked the connection this job has to the farm

From the Manager's Desk —→ by Bob Hilske

Paris Hilton Says the NRD is Like Really Hot

I'm informed by the editor that we need to make an effort to increase readership of the newsletter. After careful consideration and reading covers of tabloids in the grocery store checkout line, I have concluded that this gives me two options: either incorporate more references to Paris Hilton in my article or tell you a bunch of tall tales about what's going on at the Nemaha NRD. In the name of honesty, I felt that the first option was the better route. So with apologies to the offspring of hotel magnates everywhere, here is an update of what is happening at the NRD:

Portions of the Steamboat Trace were closed for almost a month as the District cleaned up and repaired damages from flooding in early May. I really appreciate the efforts of our staff that spent many hours on the trail. Paris Hilton had offered to help; however, she called in with some flimsy excuse about being in jail.

We continue with efforts to update the Groundwater Management Plan, and our water resources committee is looking at ways to address problems in areas of the NRD with limited supplies or overextended aquifers. Some of the options that are being considered include increased well spacing, permanent well moratoriums in critical areas of the NRD, and requiring the use of irrigation management practices. Paris Hilton was asked for her input, and she suggested importing water from a glacier in France.

Our annual sign-up for Soil and Water Conservation Funds has just been completed; and as usual, we received many more applications than we will be able to fund. As expected, the most popular practice was terraces with tile outlets. Paris Hilton did sign up this year saying that Italian tile would look good in her new bathroom.

If you get to our recreation areas this summer, you will notice a number of improvements. We installed a new concrete restroom at Iron Horse adjacent to the RV camping area. In addition a new group picnic area is under construction in the day-use area. We added six new electric RV pads at Kirkman's Cove, and the staff did spend a considerable amount of time repairing the beach area, which was damaged because of the high water in May. Users of the NRD parks are reminded that vehicle permits are required, and please follow all rules posted in the parks. For some reason we still get occasional questions regarding appropriate attire on the beach. To the dismay of our park crews, I must remind everyone that you're in Nebraska, not the French Rivera, so appropriate beachwear is required. When asked for a comment, Paris responded "Wearing clothes in public -- who came up with that stupid rule?"

That's my update for summer 2007. Let us know what you think of my new format to increase our readership. Be honest; would you have read this article if the headline read: "NRD installs new restroom in park"? If this works I'm confident that we'll be able to get plenty of comments from celebrities spending time in jail for upcoming issues of the newsletter.

A Few Good Volunteers Still Needed For NeRAIN

The Nemaha NRD is still looking for about 9-10 volunteers to measure rainfall for the NeRAIN program. NeRAIN volunteers are provided with a rain gauge to use in measuring and reporting rainfall on a daily basis. While Internet access is preferred, it is not required. Volunteers will receive training on how to measure and report precipitation, which is used by climatologists and others to establish precipitation patterns.

Volunteers are sought from each township within the NRD, and the following areas are still available: Porter, Nemaha, & Salem in Richardson County; Miles & Pawnee in Pawnee County; Vesta West/Sterling South in Johnson County; Peru, Bedford, & Lafayette in Nemaha County; and North Branch in Otoe County.

If you're interested or would like more information, contact the NRD at (402) 335-3325.



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NRDs Celebrate 35 Years

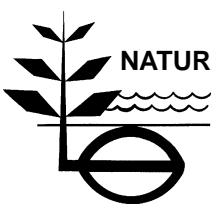
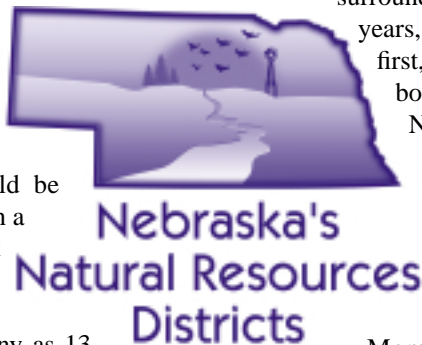
On July 1, the 23 Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska will have reached another milestone – 35 years of existence! Though the law that established the NRDs was actually passed in 1969, it wasn't until three years later that 154 special purpose districts were merged into today's NRDs. The evolution of the NRDs did not occur overnight; in fact, its origins could be traced back to 1939 when a legislative committee first studied the problem of multiple, special purpose districts. Because as many as 13 different types of resource related districts were formed individually over a period of years, overlapping authorities and duplication of responsibilities became an increasing problem.

It was once said that reorganizing Nebraska's conservation district system would require a revolution. While there was no revolution, much of the opposition

to the idea originated in southeast Nebraska. Interestingly, this same area had waged opposition to formation of the soil conservation districts in the 1930s

Despite opposition and controversy surrounding the first couple of years, in January, 1975, the first, permanent 21-member board of directors for the Nemaha NRD convened. Prior to that time, an "executive committee" selected from all the directors of the merged districts had presided over District matters.

Members of that first permanent board were: Paul Antes, Edwin Bergmann, Arden Bredemeier, Ernest Bredemeier, Eston Clarke, Elmer Gellerman, Ralph Griepenstroh, Ronald Hazard, Clarence Hilgenfeld, Wayne Johnson, Ivan Lamb, Billy Miller, Albert Niedfeldt, Richard Pella, Cecil Reafs, Elmer Rexroth, Enus Rippe, Herman Royal, Ernest Staack, Dean Vonderschmidt, and Lorin Wusk.



nemaha

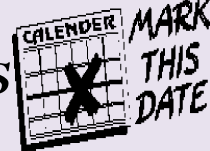
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July

- 4 Independence Day Holiday,
NRD Office Closed
- 12 NRD Board Meeting,
Tecumseh – 8 p.m.
- 7/29-8/4 Canon Envirothon,
Geneva, NY

August

- 9 NRD Board Meeting,
Tecumseh – 8 p.m.

September

- 3 Labor Day Holiday,
NRD Office Closed
- 13 NRD Board Meeting,
Tecumseh – 8 p.m.
- 23-25 NARD Annual Conference,
Kearney

The Nemaha NRD's **Insight** is a publication of the Nemaha Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the **Insight** mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant, 62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450. Phone (402) 335-3325