



# Conservation News & Notes

Volume 116 Number 2 - Summer 2019

## Canyon SCD Funding

BY: Mary Rosen

Canyon Soil Conservation District currently has funding available to assist landowners with Best Management Practices (BMP's). The funding pays up to 60% of the total project costs. Funding will focus on reducing sediment, nutrients and bacteria levels in the Boise River. We are also focusing on Mason Creek, Conway Gulch, Dixie Slough, Sand Hollow, Indian Creek, Wilson Creek and Willow Creek. If you live near one of these water bodies and have a project in mind-please give me a call (208-779-3446). This is a great opportunity to improve agricultural practices that benefit your operation and water quality!

A few examples of projects:

- Filter strips-A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.
- Riparian buffers-Reduce sediment and other pollutants in surface runoff.
- Cover crop plantings-Reduce erosion and runoff. Keeping your soils covered.
- Conversion from surface irrigation to sprinkler.
- Fencing off waterways from livestock.
- Offsite watering.



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### Quotation:

Trials teach us what we are;  
they dig up the soil, and let  
us see what we are made of.

BY: Charles Spurgeon

## Caldwell Service Center Garden

By: Lori Kent

### Your Canyon SCD

#### Supervisors:

Mike Swartz, Chairman  
Robert McKellip, Vice Chair  
David Dixon, Sec./Treas.  
Mike Somerville, Supervisor  
Rex Runkle, Supervisor

#### Associate Supervisors:

Tom Johnson  
Rich Sims  
Matt Livingood

#### District Staff:

Lori Kent,  
Administrative Assistant  
Outreach  
Mary Rosen  
Soil Conservation  
Technician

#### NRCS Staff:

Amie Miller  
District Conservationist  
Erin Brooks  
Soil Conservationist  
Technician  
Bobby Hilton  
Soil Conservation  
Technician  
Martin Pena  
Civil Engineering  
Technician  
Rich Sims  
Earth Team Volunteer

District board meetings are held the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Call the office for exact times.

All programs and services of the Canyon Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital or familial status and political beliefs.

Canyon SCD Website  
[https://  
www.canyonsoilconservation.org](https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org)

The Caldwell Field Office Staff has been getting ready for this years garden. In May the staff cleaned up the garden and started planting starts and seeds. Rich Sims, Canyon SCD Associate Supervisor/NRCS Earth Team Volunteer donated garden supplies, seeds and plants, started the drip irrigation system, along with his time to Caldwell Peoples Garden.



Rich Planting



Eggplant — Drip System

Shauna Miller from Rural Development (Boise State Office) supplied plant starters, also.

This project began in 2012 and provided 1,970 lbs. of fresh produce has been donated to the Metro Community Services, Inc. Metro provides assistance to elderly, disabled, and financially limited individuals, through a variety of human service programs to promote self-sufficiency and to protect dignity, safety, and independence.

This is year three, for our pollinator garden. We are able to show landowners/public the importance of having a pollinator habitat. The habitat is a wonderful place for the butterflies and bees to enjoy. This year we have seen an increase in the bumble bee population in the pollinator garden.



Milkweed and Pollinator Garden



Milkweed Start

#### Mission:

The Canyon Soil Conservation District is committed to providing quality leadership, information, education, technical assistance and financial assistance for the conservation and wise use of natural resources.

# Governor Little tours Farmers' Co-Operative Ditch Company (FCDC) Water Quality Project

By: Rich Sims  
Pictures: Lori Kent

On May 20th the FCDC board of directors and Canyon Soil Conservation District Supervisors hosted Governor Little at the recently completed water quality project. The Benefits to the FCDC shareholders and Lower Boise Watershed was the main topic.

For the next two years water samples will be collected to document the change in water quality from the installation of a 9 acre sediment basin. This project would not have been possible without the positive attitudes of local partners, shareholders and the FCDC board. Stay tuned as we plan to share the results of the monitoring program.

There were 16 people attending the short educational presentation for Governor Little.



Governor Little arriving at RCPP



Left to Right: James Eller; NRCS State Resource Conservationist, Dave Dixon; CSCD Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Sandoval; NRCS State Engineer, Governor Brad Little, Bob McKellip; CSCD Vice Chair, Amie Miller; NRCS District Conservationist, Rod Nielsen; FCDC President, Kevin Miyasako; FCDC, Bill Hartman; FCDC Vice President, Tom Johnston; FCDC and Clint Eells; FCDC Manager.

\*\*Farmers Co-Operative Ditch Company (FCDC) \*\*Canyon Soil Conservation District (CSCD) \*\*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Farmers Co-Operative Ditch Company Sediment Basin-RCPP Site



Group Discussing RCPP Site

## NRCS PURCHASED A COMPOST BIN FOR THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN



This year as part of our Peoples Garden, NRCS has purchased a compost bin. We are collecting items for the bin. (see article below for do's and don'ts).

A landowner brought a trailer of compost for the garden. After harvest we will spread and till in the compost to improve the health of the garden soil.



### THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT PUT IN OUR COMPOST PILE

BY FARLEIGH BYERS

#### **Tea and Coffee Bags**

Coffee grounds and tea leaves definitely belong in a compost pile. They provide generous amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, which are elements that are essential to plants. However, coffee grounds and tea leaves should only be added to compost if they are *bag-less*, or *have been removed from their bags*. The bags that some coffee and tea products come in contain synthetic fibers that do not break down in a compost pile, and can contain chemicals you don't want in your soil.

Don't compost tea or coffee bags unless you are certain they are made from natural materials, like cotton or hemp.

#### **Citrus Peels and Onions**

While fruit and vegetables scraps from the kitchen are fundamental ingredients in a home compost pile, there are two iffy exceptions: citrus peel and onions.

"What?!" you say? Unfortunately, the natural chemicals and acidity in citrus peels and onions can kill worms and other microorganisms, which can slow down the decomposition in your pile. Plus, unless you chop them into tiny bits, citrus peels take forever to break down, which will delay how soon you can use your compost. If you only occasionally throw citrus peels and onion scraps into your compost bin, it's no big deal, but if you vermicompost or have worm bins (which is an amazingly convenient and odor-free way to compost if you are in an apartment), then citrus peels, onions and garlic scraps are a no-no, because they will harm your worms. (Personally, I usually put my onion scraps into the freezer to use when I make stock, and use citrus peels to make non-toxic DIY house cleaning sprays instead.)

#### **Fish and Meat Scraps**

While technically they will decompose just fine, you really don't want to add fish and meat scraps to the compost pile. Fish and meat are organic and will add nutrients to your garden, but unfortunately their smell will act like a magnet for any rats, mice, foxes, raccoons, or cats in the neighborhood (or even coyotes and bears, depending on where you live), who will ransack the compost to eat them.

The stink of rotting meat and fish could also really annoy you and your neighbors, too!

#### **Sticky Labels on Fruits and Vegetables**

Those obnoxious little sticky labels and price tags on fruit and vegetables are made of "food-grade" plastic or vinyl, and do not biodegrade. (See Glossy Paper, above.) They are also easy to miss, which means they often end up trashing up your compost piles.

Municipal composters can't handle them, either. In fact, at least one waste management company says PLU produce stickers are their biggest source of compost contamination.

Try to remove these stickers from fruit and veggie scraps before you put them in the compost pile.

ALSO, Farleigh purchased a compost bin for the kitchen as part of our Peoples Garden project.



## Caxton Printers Tour

By Lori Kent

The Caldwell Field Office Staff toured Caxton Printers for their team building outreach. Megan Pena, Production Specialist hosted the tour.

Megan educated us on the history of Caxton Printers. In 1895, Albert E. Gipson's moved his family from Colorado to establish a publishing company in Caldwell, ID. Albert E. Gipson's first enterprise was a horticultural magazine for Idaho farmers, The Gem State Rural. Within a year they adopted a new name and emblem of William Caxton.

We learned Caxton Printers have school/office supplies, they print many different textbooks/books, magazines, election ballots, newsletters and they package and ship other suppliers products.



## Coming Events . . .

### District Board Meeting

Caldwell Field Office  
2208 E. Chicago Street  
July 11  
August 8  
September 5

### Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group

Caldwell Airport  
4814 E Linden  
June 13  
September 12

### 2019 Natural resources Camp

June 24-29, 2019  
Central Idaho 4H Camp  
Ketchum, Idaho

### Canyon County Fair

July 25—28

### Canyon SCD Speech Contest

September 27

### Canyon SCD Poster Contest

October 1

### A Soil Health Workshop with Dr. Christine Jones

July 10, 2019 — 9AM-4PM  
College of ID—Room 103  
Caldwell

## Canyon SCD/319 Project Summer Tour

Every Summer Canyon SCD/Lower Boise Watershed Council holds a tour of their 319 projects/Best Management Practices (BMP's). BMP's are methods that have been determined to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing non-point source pollution to help achieve water quality goals. BMP's include both measures to prevent pollution and measures to mitigate pollution.

One of the common BMP's is converting from surface irrigation to installing sprinkler/pivots. Landowners also convert from surface irrigation to a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation is a method of controlled irrigation in which water is slowly delivered to the root system of multiple plants. In this method water is either dripped onto the soil surface above the roots, or directly to the root zone. This system helps reduce water evaporation.

This year the tour will be held in July or August (to be determined).

For more information see website —

<https://www.canyonsoilconservation.org/> or call CSCD office.

**Look For Milkweeds**

From: The Kids Nature Book

Milkweeds are among the easiest plants to identify. Break a leaf or stalk in two and out oozes a milky white sap. This sticky stuff gives the plants its name. It's not a particularly handsome plant although its flowers are quite lovey, but the monarch butterfly might disagree. Monarchs have a very special relationship with milkweeds.

Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweeds plants. The emerging larvae eat the plants, and none others. When they go into their pupal stage, monarchs hang their chrysalises from milkweed leaves. When the adults fly off, what are they in search of? More milkweeds!

All the milkweed the monarchs eat makes them taste bitter. This is their defense, and a mighty good one it is. Birds steer clear of the foul-tasting butterflies. A cleverly patterned look-alike, the viceroy butterfly, also benefits. The are mistaken for monarchs and are left alone, too!

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**“Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper”**

**Fill in the blank with these vocabulary words**

**Mottles (Mottling), Topsoil, Ped, Antibiotic, Clorpt, Platy, Bedrock**

\_\_\_\_-A chemical that weakens or stops bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms from growing.

\_\_\_\_-Mass of solid rock beneath the soil. Can be parent material if it is close enough to the surface to weather into soil.

\_\_\_\_-The Five Factors that influence what type of soil forms: climate, organisms, relief (landscape), parent material, and time.

\_\_\_\_-A soil structure. Soil particles are arranged into shapes that resemble flat plates.

\_\_\_\_-The structural unit formed when soil particles (sand, silt, and clay) bond together.

\_\_\_\_-Spots or blotches of color (s) in a soil that differ from that soil's dominant color.

\_\_\_\_-Mostly weathered minerals from parent material with a little organic matter added. The horizon that formed at the land surface.

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**2019 Poster and Speech Contest Theme**

**"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper".**

Taking good care of our soil is the best way to make sure that we have the soil we need for food, water, air, clothes and many other things. About 75% of Earth's surface is covered with water. Most of the remaining 25% is covered with soil and not all of that is fertile and suitable for farming. There are many types of soils and their profiles can vary in colors, depth of horizons and many other ways. We aren't the only ones who need soil and most of the living things in soil are so tiny you cannot see them. Thousands of living organisms can be found in one square inch of soil!

DID YOU KNOW? Only about 10% of Earth's land surface has suitable soil for producing our food supply, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, air to breath and more! Our healthy life above ground depends upon healthy soil below our feet!

CSCD Speech Contest is September 27, 2019. CSCD Poster Contest is October 1, 2019.



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*Recipe Spot . . .*

**Pea Salad**  
Pioneer Woman



**Ingredients**

- 1/3 cup Sour Cream
- 1 Tablespoon Mayonnaise
- Salt and Pepper
- 1 Tablespoon White Vinegar
- 4 cups Frozen Green Peas, Almost Totally Thawed
- 8 slices Bacon, Cooked Until Crisp and Chopped
- 1/2 whole Small Red Onion, Halved and Sliced Very Thin
- 6 ounces, weight Cheddar or American Cheese, Cut Into Small Cubes
- 3 Tablespoons Minced Fresh Parsley

**Instructions**

Mix the sour cream, mayonnaise, salt, pepper, and vinegar together to make the dressing. Add more salt and pepper to taste.

Stir 2/3 of the dressing into the peas until the peas are coated. Gently stir in the bacon, onion, cheese, and parsley until all combined. Taste and adjust seasonings. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 2 to 4 hours before serving. (Pop the extra dressing in the fridge, too.)

Remove from the fridge and stir in the rest of the dressing to your liking Sprinkle with more parsley before serving.

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