



# NEWSLETTER

Volume #57

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## A NOTE FROM THE FATMAN

At Jones Farms we have had a good winter. Sales of steel and tractor parts have been strong. We sold 30 semi trailer loads of scrap steel to make room in the yard to pile more incoming scrap. We also shipped about 40 old cars that will probably make old car collectors cringe. I guess they can come and buy them before cleanup time. My lifting magnet has been broken for a couple of years and I have acres of small pieces of scrap that needs cleaned up. What a mess! So, we have ordered a used one and waiting patiently for it to be delivered.

North Central RC&D and Loup Basin RC&D sponsored two alternative energy forums in Ord and Ainsworth. The presenters, booths and materials were great. I heard many good comments about this from people I talked with there and later.

Lots of activities going on...the RC&D Council renewed the lease on our office building for another five years. The legacy fund is starting to show some interest. If we can keep this growing we will have funds to work with for future projects. If you have any questions about any of our projects, please visit the office and talk to the staff. You're also welcome to come to our meetings the first Wednesday of the month. We have reports on our ongoing projects and any potential new projects.

Please take note of the logo change for the North Central RC&D. Jessica Keller of Keller Imagery, Raymond, Illinois, donated her time and talent to this project, and what great results! The Council is very appreciative to Jessica for all her hard work. Jessica is the granddaughter of Jane Keller, North Central RC&D Council treasurer. We are very proud of our new logo!!

David E. Jones, President

An optimist is the human personification of spring.

*Susan J. Bissonette*

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.

*Doug Larson*

A little madness in the Spring is wholesome even for the King.

*Emily Dickinson*

Spring is a true reconstructionist.

*Henry Timrod*

O, how this spring of love resembleth  
The uncertain glory of an  
April day!

*William Shakespeare*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RC&D IN NORTH CENTRAL NEBRASKA

## 237 Attend Alternative Energy Forums in Ainsworth and Ord

Two hundred and thirty seven individuals from across Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri and Kansas, attended two alternative energy forums held March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Ord and Ainsworth.

The two day forums provided those attending an opportunity to learn more about the variety and the flexibility of alternative energy and the role it can play in homes, businesses and on farms and ranches. Presentations on wind, solar, biomass, bio-fuels along with alternative energy legislation, 2005 farm bill, tax incentives and tax credits were highlighted by 14 speakers from Nebraska, Colorado, Wisconsin, Kansas and Iowa.



Fourteen companies, colleges, and individuals had informational booths at the forums.

A tour of the Ainsworth Wind Farm concluded the forums on March 30<sup>th</sup>. One hundred three individuals attended the Ord session and one hundred thirty four attended in Ainsworth.

The forums were sponsored by the North Central Nebraska RC&D, Loup Basin RC&D, Middle Niobrara NRD, Upper Elkhorn NRD, Lower Loup NRD, Nebraska Forest Service and USDA NRCS.

For more information on the forums contact the North Central Nebraska RC&D at 402-684-3346 or the Loup Basin RC&D at 308-728-3393.

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### **SHOOTIN' THE BREEZE..... EXPLORING THE OUTLAW TRAIL** *(By Marita Placek)*



### **CEDAR COUNTY**

Named for the many cedar trees found in the area, Cedar County was first organized in 1857, and redefined a few years later after Pierce County "stole" a precinct. Hartington was established near the center of the county in 1883 as a "suitable location" for the county seat. Other towns include: Belden, Coleridge, Fordyce, Laurel, Magnet, Obert, Randolph, Saint Helena, Wynot, and Laurel, and the unincorporated town of Bow Valley. Coleridge, Randolph and Hartington, were named for English lords.

The Couser Barn located north of Laurel is a twelve-sided frame barn built about 1912-13 and is the only 'round' barn recorded in Cedar County.

Maskell has the smallest City Hall in the United States and just maybe in the world. It is 10' x 10' and only large enough to fit the Village Clerk and the 5 board members. The village only has two streets connected by a cross street, a beauty shop and one church.

*Continued.....*

*Continued, Cedar County.....*

Obert, the smallest incorporated village in Cedar County, began its existence as “Oberton.” The name was shortened because of the confusion with a town named Overton in Dawson County. Obert has the distinction of having telephone service from the time the town was settled in 1907. The old Baptist Church is now the Hilltop Museum proudly displaying the town’s history.

The Wiseman Monument stands as a mute reminder of the brutal deaths of the five Wiseman children. Mr. Wiseman was serving with the U. S. Army in the Dakota Territory during the Civil War and his wife had left the children home while she made a two day trip to Yankton, South Dakota, for supplies.

Other interesting spots to visit are Brooky Bottom Park, Goat Island and Rattlesnake Road. Goat Island is located in the Missouri River and is named for the wild goats that once inhabited the island.

The skeleton of an old steamboat lies on the edge of Goat Island and is visible during times of low water. Rattlesnake Road is a beautiful, snaky drive but not recommended in bad weather.

St. James is a town determined not to die. St. James Marketplace was founded in the former Catholic School building by five local farm women. This unique market is open on weekends from May to December offering homemade jams and jellies, arts and crafts, woodworking, rugs, potted violets, pies, bread, rolls and other baked goods, books, cards – all made by local craftsmen. A bed and breakfast and a hunting lodge now call St. James home.

Starting at St. James you will find signs and chainsaw statues of Pvt. Shannon featuring the Historic Shannon Trail in 16 communities. Find Shannon in each town and collect a Shannon stamp. Collect all 16 and receive either a limited edition print or map. These names will be entered into a drawing for \$500.00 in 2006. For more information, check out the [www.shannontrail.com](http://www.shannontrail.com) website.

Private Shannon was the youngest member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. On August 26, 1804, Shannon and interpreter George Drouillard were sent out to round up the expedition’s horses near present-day Wynot, near Goat Island. They were instructed to stay on the highlands and follow the expedition upstream.

The following day, Drouillard returned, saying that he could not find the horses – or Private Shannon! For several days, men were sent out to look for him, with no luck. During that time, a woefully lost Shannon was exploring northeast Nebraska. On September 11, the keelboat crew finally spotted him on the shore, barely alive, waiting for a trade boat to pass and pick him up. During his 16 – day ordeal, he had eaten only wild berries and a rabbit he shot with a stick from his gun because he had run out of ammunition.

We are approaching the last town in Cedar County sitting along the Outlaw Trail – Wynot. In selecting a name, it is said that when one struck the fancy of the elderly gentleman from whom the land was purchased, he responded “Ja,vy not? Wahrumnicht?” The brogue sounded strange to one of the listeners, who laughingly remarked, “...why not, Wynot?” Thus the name was selected. Wynot will be 100 years old in 2007. Camping facilities and a park are available for travelers.

St. Helena sits north of Highway 12 but within the 30-mile corridor of the Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway and is approaching its 150th anniversary. A group from Minnesota settled St. Helena in 1857. A natural stone landing on the Missouri River made an ideal ferry landing for the big paddle wheelers. St. Helena became the county seat of Cedar County in 1857 with many tales of trials and hangings. Flooding on the ‘Big Muddy’ cut a new channel leaving St. Helena high and dry and slowing dying. Completion of the Gavins Point Dam stabilized the river and today, St. Helena is a fisherman’s paradise.

To be continued in July newsletter.....

**\*\*\* COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS\*\*\***

## **BARGAIN BUYWAY PLANNED!** **THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP**

*(By Marita Placek)*

The Ultimate Road Trip a/k/a the Bargain Buyway is set for the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Get a carload of your friends together and make plans to drive the 160 mile Bargain Buyway looking for bargains, lots of goodies and a great weekend at the many rummage and garage sales, flea markets, arts in the park, community suppers, fresh baked goods, and other fun events being planned in the sixteen towns participating. Take in as many or as few as you wish. Watch for the LIME GREEN signs along the route and enjoy the ultimate road trip.

The Bargain Buyway follows the Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway, Highway 12, from Niobrara to Butte, south along Highway 11 to Atkinson, thence to highway 20 through O'Neill to Inman, jumps to Page, then to Orchard to Royal and up Highway 14 to Niobrara – a nice round trip with plenty of opportunities for shopping along the way. Visit the Outlaw Trail website at:  
[www.nebraskaoutlawtrail.org](http://www.nebraskaoutlawtrail.org)

The Bargain Buyway coincides with Highway 14's Spring POP IN's. POP IN stands for "Products on Parade in Nebraska", which showcases and promotes entrepreneurs, crafters, artists, small businesses and cottage industries. All products for sale must be grown, made, produced, or value added in Nebraska. Highway 14 runs from Nelson, near the Kansas border, north to Niobrara, on Nebraska's northern border.

Supporters believe that holding the Bargain Buyway on the same weekend as the POP IN's will provide shoppers continued shopping opportunities after they reach the end of Highway 14 at Niobrara and are looking for something more to do.

Catalogs, listing what is available and directions on how to reach each location in each town may be ordered in advance for \$2.00. Catalogs may be purchased that weekend for \$1.00. T-shirts in the Bargain Buyways colors of lime green and black are on sale for \$10.00. To order catalogs or shirts

contact Diane Ober at 402-893-2880; Paul Fisher at 402- 583-0092; Janie Fisher, 402-569-2107.

Listed below are towns along the Bargain Buyway and their offerings for the Bargain Buyway weekend:

**NIOBRARA** – homemade kolaches, old school desks, souvenirs, finished ceramics, quilts, elk & buffalo tours, old west saloon, t-shirts, caps, crocks & calendars, and Memorial Day wreaths and flowers.

**VERDEL**– Custom made golf clubs and meals will be available at the Dew Drop Inn.

**MONOWI** – food, drinks, t-shirts, caps, LIVING HERE magazines, browse Rudy's Library in the smallest incorporated town in Nebraska.

**LYNCH** -- gigantic rummage sale at the Community Hall; walking tacos and super nachos; antiques, salt & pepper shakers, golf clubs, see the weaver weave rugs & rugs for sale, lots of dated things—including clothes, cars, car lift for wheel chair, exercise equipment.

**SPENCER** – homemade rolls, pies and coffee; Indian Tacos and Funnel cakes; ornamental iron design, Avon, homemade greeting cards, prom dresses, baked goods, crafts, knitted washcloths, scratchers, ceramics, precious junk collectibles, wildlife & scenery photographs.

**BUTTE** – A roast beef and mashed potato dinner will be serve Saturday and Sunday, multi- family garage sale, quilts, Rada cutlery, barbwire wreaths,

*The Ultimate Road Trip, Continued.....*

windmills, sporting goods, hunt and fishing equipment, saddles & riding gear.

**ATKINSON** -- rummage sales; garage sales, homemade rolls, soy candles; used books; gently used, quality merchandise, 75 Chevy Caprice

Classic Convertible; craft and bake sales; hand painted china.

EMMET -- anything from soup to nuts but mostly antiques and harness parts, horse collars, hames, tugs and bridles.

O'NEILL -- garage sales; frozen chickens, fresh eggs, baked goods, quilting supplies, plants.

CHAMBERS -- antiques available on Saturday ONLY at the Golden Age Center, in O'Neill.

INMAN -- huge flea market and live music on Sunday starting a 3 PM.

PAGE -- Potato bar, quilt show, flea market with lots of books, antiques, collectibles & junk, tractor show, custom engraving, digital decorating & button design.

ORCHARD -- Avon, 40 passenger city bus, new & used lawn mowers, motorcycles, trucks, woodworks, furniture, oriental rug, scrapbook & stamp supplies, fudge & candy, pottery, jewelry & furniture from Central & South America, refinished oak furniture, redwood planters & window boxes, homemade pie, several flea markets.

ROYAL -- New animal exhibits at Zoo Nebraska, 4-wheeler & motorcycle sales & parts, refreshments, several multi family garage sales, Ober's Original BBQ sauce, fire equipment & bunker gear, antiques, handmade jewelry, decorative stamp sets & accessories, demonstrations of the fine art of hand spinning yarn & knitting, tube type CD radios, woodcraft tools, custom chainsaw carvings, Indian tacos.

WINNETOON -- Flea market, useful junk, discounted new merchandise, noon and night specials at Elaine's Tavern, 13 rooms of antiques at the Old Brick School; Antiques.

Contact Persons in the towns on the Bargain Buyway are: Winnetoon, Gayle Neuhaus, 402-847-3368; Niobrara, Kim Swanson, 402-857-3515; Verdel, Mary Eiler, 402-229-3249; Monowi, Elsie Eiler, 402-569-3600; Lynch, Janie Fisher, 402-569-2107; Bristow, Julie Dennis, 402-583-0072; Spencer, Norma Boettcher, 402-589-1097; Butte, Kathy Peppel, 402-775-2489 or Jane Brewster 402-775-2534; Atkinson, Janell Rossman, phone 402-925-2834; O'Neill, Pat Fritz, O'Neill Chamber of Commerce Office, 336-2355; Page, Deb Heiss, phone 402-338-5598; Orchard: Bud Godel, phone 402-655-2200; Royal and Verdigre: Gary and Diane Ober, Phone 402-893-2880.

Bargain Buyway is going to be a success because of the effort each one has put forth! We really thank you all for your help and support!

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the best-kept secret of God's country and let people know what is available in our communities. Money spent at these events during the Bargain Buyway weekend stays in our communities and benefits everyone.

### \*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*

#### Ainsworth

**June** 6-8 "Middle of Nowhere" Carnival Days  
24 Alumni Banquet  
**July** 8 K-BAR Bike Ride

12 Sand Hills Discovery Experience Tours  
13 Sand Hills Discovery Experience  
14 Sand Hills Discovery Experience Tours  
22 National Day of the Cowboy Celebration

**Atkinson**

- April** 15 Easter Egg Hunt & the City Park
- 22 West Holt Post Prom, Community Center
- 22-23 Bargain Buyway (Diane Ober 402-893-2880)
- 27 Community Celebration, 1 – 5, Community Ctr.
- 29 City wide clean-up
- May** 7 WH High School Graduation, WH High School Gym
- 27 Alumni Banquet @ the Community Center
- 28 FFA Soup Supper, WH High School
- June** 3 City Wide Garage Sale
- 3 Downtown Sidewalk Sales
- July** Christmas in July

**Bassett**

- April** 15 Hospital Auxiliary Bake Sale 9 – 1
- 21 Chamber Ribbon Cutting, 1 pm, High Plains Realty, Sandhills Power Sports & Performance Auto, main st. of Bassett
- 22 Meet the Candidates, Rock Co. High School Gym, 3-5pm
- 23 Bassett Hospital Foundation Ice Cream Social/info tours, Rock Co. Hospital, 2 – 4 pm
- 28 Arbor Day Program, Grade School, 10 am & at Meadow View Homes at 2 pm

**May 3 NORTH CENTRAL RC&D MTG. 1:30 PM**

*The North Central RC&D would like to publish your schedule of upcoming events. Please send your listings by July 1<sup>st</sup> for publication in the next newsletter.*

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**RC&D COUNCIL OFFICERS:**

- Dave Jones - President**
- Larry Halstead - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.**
- Don Kloppenborg - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres**
- Jane Keller – Treasurer**
- Mary Schelkopf – Secretary**

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- May 4 NEBRASKA LEAFY SPURGE WORKING TASK FORCE MEETING, RC&D MTG. RM. 12:30 PM**
- June** 2 Bassett/Rock Co. Chamber golf tournament
- 7 NORTH CENTRAL RC&D MTG. 1:30 PM**
- 14-15 Ranch Expo
- 14-15 Sandhills Quilt Guild Quilt Show, RCHS
- July 5 NORTH CENTRAL RC&D MTG. 1:30 PM**
- Butte** July 4 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks @ Butte Golf Course & BBQ
- 6-7-8 Pancake Days, free pancakes, tractor pull, parade, free entertainment, D C Lynch Amusements on the midway all 3 days

**Johnstown**

- May 29-June 1** Senior Rodeo Bible Camp
- June** 4-5 Pee Wee Rodeo Bible Camp
- 5-7 Junior Rodeo Bible Camp
- 9-10 Long Pine Days & Bluegrass Festival
- 23 Alumni Banquet, "Oldies & Goodies" Car Show

**Long Pine**

**May** 27-29 Alumni Weekend

**Measville**

**July** 4 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

**STAFF LOCATED IN RC&D OFFICE:**

- Eugene R. Lehnert – RC&D Coordinator**
- Donna Wright – RC&D Program Support Assistant**
- Joyce Leshner – Office Assistant, Experience Works**
- Heidi Phillips – Executive Director, CNEDD**
- Evelyn Ost - Administrative Assistant, CNEDD**

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