



Summer 2022



Conservation News

Summer care for trees and plants

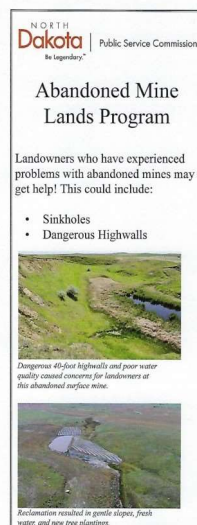
Summer is here! With the warm weather, the flowers are in full bloom and the trees are providing us with valuable shade.

How can we assist these valuable assets in these hot conditions?

- **Mulching** – helps stabilize the soil temperature, reduce the growth of weeds, and keep your trees safe during the hot summer months.
- **Irrigation** – is essential during the summer season to ensure the proper growth of trees. It helps to know how much to water them and how frequently you should water the specific trees and plants on your property.
- **Fertilization** – helps to provide the nutrition for your trees and plants so they can ward off diseases and thrive in the hot temperature.
- **Pruning** – during the summer months, pruning is necessary to remove any damaged, diseased, or dead limbs and ensure safety. It helps to know that the ideal time to prune flowering trees in summer is as soon as they finish blooming.
- **Tree Inspection** – a professional arborist can help identify any potential issues with the trees. Also, they can come up with suitable preventive measures.
- **Natural Damage Prevention** – is necessary to prevent damage to your property during summer storms. It helps to remove the weak branches and limbs that are a threat to the safety of your house.

Abandoned Mine Lands Program

The North Dakota Public Service Commission Abandoned Mine Lands Division (AML) reclaims hazardous abandoned coal mines at no cost to landowners. The following flyer was developed in coordination with the FSA/NRCS state offices to inform producers of the AML program and how it can help solve problems caused by abandoned coal mines.



About the program...

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program works to reclaim abandoned surface and underground coal mines that pose health, safety, and general welfare hazards. Abandoned mines can lead to serious safety hazards and expensive repairs when underground mines collapse or when dangerous highwalls erode or fail. The program receives all of its funding through federal grants and areas that qualify are reclaimed at no cost to the landowner. Lands located in a mining permit do not qualify.

How do I know if there are abandoned mines in my area...

Typical features of abandoned mines include sinkholes, highwalls, and water-filled pits. The AML program has information on about 1,700 abandoned coal mines in North Dakota. However, many sites are poorly documented and not all sites are known.

Contact us...

If you are a landowner with concerns about an abandoned mine, please contact us! We can conduct a site investigation and determine if your property qualifies for reclamation.

Public Service Commission - AML Division
State Capitol, 13th Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0408
Phone: 701-328-2400
e-mail: ndpsc@nd.gov

Scholarship Winners

The Morton County Soil Conservation District is pleased to announce the winners of the MCSCD scholarship.

Each winner will be receiving a \$500 scholarship award paid directly to them.



Breanna Hosman



Cassidy Strommen



Kara Schantz

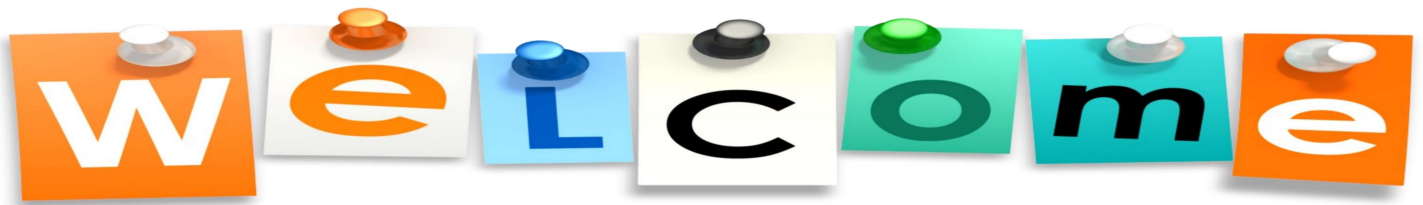
The Morton County Soil Conservation District has established a scholarship opportunity for high school senior/college students that are residents of Morton County, North Dakota.

The applicant must be enrolled or currently pursuing a degree in an agricultural/natural resource management/environmental or related field at a two or four year accredited college or university. Multiple scholarships, each totaling up to \$500, may be awarded.

Interested applicants are required to complete the application form and compose an essay of no more than 500 words on a topic chosen by the Morton County SCD. Essays will be judged by the Morton County SCD Board and staff.

Applicants will need to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be a full time college student.

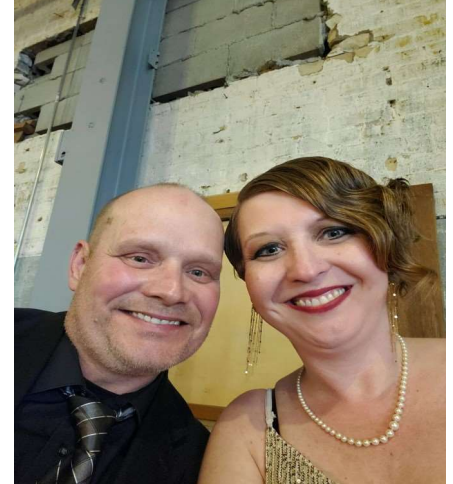
The scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient.



Morton County Soil Conservation District Secretary

Hello my name is Malissa McKee and I am the new Morton County District Secretary. I have lived in Bismarck since 2005, however, I grew up on my family farm in Webster City, IA. Growing up, I was active in 4H, helping on the farm, and my father was active in Cattleman's association as well as selling seed with Northrup King. My first summer job in high school was with a testing office for Northrup King in Webster City. I enjoy all things out doors, time with my significant other Mark, cooking and baking, and learning all types of interesting tid bits of information along the way.

I am excited starting my new adventure with the district!



2022 Tree planting season

During the 2022 tree sale season, a total of 3700 trees were sold by the Morton County Soil Conservation District. The surplus sale occurred at the New Salem shop on June 10-11 with a great turn out! Thank you to everyone that attended and for your patience with the wait on those days.

Many customers took advantage of the districts' ability to plant these trees, as well as fabric barrier their sites. Pictures to the left are the crew on a site north of Mandan working the fabric. Due to the late blizzard this year, planting and fabric laying was not finalized for all sites until the first week of July.



WORK SHOPS

Crops, Covers, and Cows

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9 am to 8 pm
Beginning at Menoken Farm, 1107 171st St NE, Menoken
Opening at 8-9 with coffee and registration

3 featured speakers, 3 featured sites

- Speakers—Greg Judy, Cody Kologi, Jerry Doan
- Site visits—Menoken Farm, Prairie Hills Ranch in Moffit, Black Leg Ranch in McKenzie
- Free to attend, registration required by 10pm August 1, 2022
<https://crops-covers-andcows.eventbrite.com>

This day long event is sponsored by Burleigh & Morton Co Soil Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition. For questions, contact Darrell Oswald at 701-391-5830 or darrell.oswald@nd.nacdn.net

SUPERVISORS:

AARON STECKLER
RICHARD TOKACH
ROCKY BATEMAN
GEORGE FERDERER
STEVE TOMAC

ADVISORY SUPERVISORS:

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SHARON POTTS-SAYLER

FARM BILL SPECIALIST:

BLAKE SOGGE



North Dakota designated the **wild prairie rose** (*Rosa blanda* or *Rosa arkansana*) as the official state flower in 1907.

* Wild roses are found throughout North Dakota and bloom from June through late summer. The flower, in varying shades of pink, is set off by many yellow stamens in the center. Prairie Wild Rose is rhizomatous; it spreads aggressively and therefore may not be suitable for small landscape plantings. .

The state of North Dakota produces almost 50% of the country's spring wheat. Wheat is produced in all 53 counties in North Dakota. It is also one of the leading producers of barley, oats, flaxseed, canola, durum wheat, lentils as well as edible beans. About half of all the cropland in the state is planted with this cereal grain.
<https://thefactfile.org/north-dakota-facts/>



“Blister beetles tend to be more numerous when grasshopper populations are high because the immature stage of blister beetles feeds on grasshopper eggs, and we have higher numbers of grasshoppers in drought years like 2021,” NDSU Extension entomologist Jan Knodel says.

Adult blister beetles are attracted to blooming alfalfa fields and weeds (goldenrods, dandelions). Adults are active June through September and will feed on nectar and pollen, and devour leaves, stems and flowers.



“Blister beetles produce a poison called cantharidin, which is toxic to people and livestock, especially horses, but cattle and sheep also can be poisoned,” Knodel says. “Cantharidin oil is released when beetles are crushed, and even dead beetles have high levels of the toxin.”

Here are some ways to reduce the threat of blister beetles:

- Control blooming weed hosts near or in alfalfa fields.
- Cut alfalfa at less than 10% bloom and/or late in the season (mid-August to early September).
- Check fields 24 hours prior to cutting to ensure that new swarms of blister beetles have not re-infested the fields.
- Allow cut hay to fully dry before raking to encourage the beetles to move out of the hay. Raking may dislodge dead beetles from hay; however, the potential still exists for cantharidin in the hay.
- Scout harvested hay and underneath windrows closely for blister beetles and allow blister beetles to move out of drying hay before baling. Turning the windrows may be helpful to get blister beetles to move out. Use equipment without hay conditioners or crimpers that may crush blister beetles because the crushed beetles can contaminate the hay.

Morton County Soil Conservation District
2540 Overlook Lane
Mandan, ND 58554-1593
www.mcsd.com
Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

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tion**
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Permit No. 433

All Programs and Services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, or handicap.



Sponsors

The Morton County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the following sponsors:

Agassiz Seed & Supply—Mandan, ND
Flasher Community Credit Union—Flasher, ND
Gartner Seed Farm—Mandan, ND
Western Cooperative Credit Union—Hebron, ND
Farm Credit Services of Mandan
Chesak Seed House—Bismarck, ND
Dakota Community Bank—Mandan, ND
K2S Engineering Inc.—Ypsilanti, ND
Farmer's Union Oil Company—Glenn Ullin, ND
Rud Oil & Propane —New Salem, ND
Duppong's Inc—Glen Ullin, ND
West River Telecommunication—Hazen, ND
Opp Well Drilling & Supplies Inc.—Glen Ullin, ND
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Prairie Nutrition Center—Hebron, ND
Capital Credit Union —Bismarck, ND
RDO Equipment Co.—Bismarck, ND
Pulse USA—Bismarck, ND

Upcoming Events

July

4th— holiday, office closed
6th—Country Fest, Morton County Fairgrounds
SCD Board Meeting—7th at 9:00 am
23rd—Gardening 101, 8-3 hosted by Menoken Farm
28th— Morton Co Agriculture Improvement Tour,
hosted by Gietzen Plot , 6:30 am– 9 pm

August

SCD Board Meeting @ TBD
9th—Jr Beef Producers Workshop, NDSU Carrington Research
Extension Center
10th—Crops, Covers, and Cows
25th—Gardening 101, 6-8:30 pm, hosted by Menoken Farm

September

5th— holiday, office closed

“Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds.” -Thomas Jefferson