



# Conservation Corner

Supplying ways of improving conservation efforts to make conservation pay

## Roberts Conservation District Newsletter

2018 SD Hwy 10 Ste A, Sisseton, SD 57262 • Telephone: (605) 698-3923



### Remontant flowering

#### John Ball- The Pest Alert September 4, 2024

There are a few lilacs, magnolias and mockoranges starting to bloom. This is remontant blooming, blooming twice in the same growing season. It occurs when a few flower buds confuse late summer with late spring and start to open prematurely. Spring flowering trees and shrubs set their flower buds in the summer the year before they bloom. This way they are ready to flower the following spring. But all it takes is a little stress, such as moisture stress and add a little rain and cooler temperatures and plants will begin to flower. Some spring-flowering shrubs do this every year, others just now and then when stressed. It does not seem to harm them. Most flower buds are not so easily fooled and stay put until spring.

### New District Manager

Roberts Conservation District has a new manager. Maggie Steiner started the end of April and jumped right into the tree planting season head-first. Maggie grew up on a farm in Marshall County. She has always had a love for nature and the trees (climbing trees especially). She shares these passions with her 3 daughters and takes every opportunity to get them involved with conservation practices from working in the garden to checking cover crops and of course planting and checking trees.

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### New Resource Technician

In addition to the new manager, RCD has a new Resource Technician, Ashley Mussetter. Ashley was an intern with NRCS from middle of May to end of August. She started immediately with RCD as the Resource Technician. Ashley has a great passion for conservation practices and has implemented them herself in her pollinator garden and the trees she has selected for her yard in town.



## Winter Watering for Trees

John Ball- The Pest Alert December 20-27, 2023

Watering young trees can help reduce winter desiccation injury. But only if the soil and stems are not frozen. If the air temperatures during the day are above freezing and the soil can still be worked with a fork or spade, then a little water can be added. Add just enough water that it soaks in within 30 minutes and water only twice a week. If it remains pooled on the surface- stop.

## Coteau Area Hosts

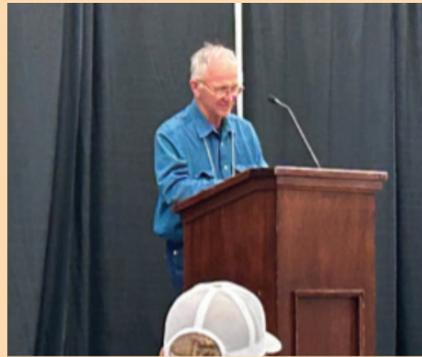
Coteau Area hosted the SDACD convention 9/15-17/2024 in Watertown, SD.

The convention was started with a dinner Sunday night and recognition program. Alden Hanson- Day County was remembered in the memorial recognitions. Alden was a Day County Conservation District Supervisor for 20 years. Alden was also honored as the Coteau Area Endowment Honoree for 2024.

Monday was a day of meetings or learning sessions. One of these meetings was the Conservation Commission meeting. Our very own, Duane Schneider is a member of the Conservation Commission board. Following the Commission meeting and lunch, we attended the SD Association of Conservation Districts meeting where our board chairman, Calvin Thompson took over as the Coteau Area Director.

Tuesday was a breakfast and annual meeting for Big Sioux Nursery. This was followed by a tour of the nursery.

Calvin Thompson, in his first official role



as Coteau Area Director, introducing speakers for Big Sioux Nursery and welcoming everyone to the last day of convention.



Potted tree stock at Big Sioux Nursery. The attendees of the State Convention were invited to tour the nursery and see how the trees are grown, packaged, and stored before coming to the districts in the spring.



Cover crop from Calvin Thompson planted early August. The cows are sure going to enjoy grazing on the entire mix!



1520 SD Hwy 10  
Sisseton, SD  
Ph: 698-3421

Manager Maggie Steiner and vice chair



Tim Gleason after finishing the tour at Big Sioux Nursery. As a new district manager, it was exciting to see the process of getting the trees going and how

they come to us. The staff take great care of the trees and take great pride in their exceptional work.

## Plant Walk

Resource Technician Ashley Mussetter and Day County Conservation employee Cory Zirbel and DCC District Manager Josh Wagner along with others from the area asking Charlotte about the Pheasant Back mushroom. These walks are put on by Sisseton Wahpeton College and GFP State Parks. This was a fabulous opportunity to identify forageable plants within Sica Hollow State Park.




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SISSETON WAHPETON COLLEGE EXTENSION PROGRAM & SICA HOLLOW STATE PARK PRESENT

# GUIDED PLANT WALK

Wednesday Oct. 9th at 10am with Ella

RESCHEDULED THURSDAY OCT. 31ST at 10am with Charlotte



Join us for guided plant walks at Sica Hollow State Park led by our local plant experts. Enhance your plant identification skills while immersing yourself in the beauty of the park.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Erica, Extension Outreach Coordinator 605-698-3966 Ext.1148 efischer@swcollege.edu

Rebecca, Assistant Park Manager 605-470-0709 Rebecca.Hedlund@state.sd.us

There are two final dates for the plant walks. They will focus on Winter forage plants. They are worth checking out as they are very educational!

## Upcoming Dates and Events

- November 11- Office closed for Veterans Day
- November 28- Office closed for Thanksgiving
- December 25- Office closed for Christmas
- December 27- Tree order forms due