

# Cass County Soil Conservation District Conservation News

Summer 2022

## Inside this issue:

Tree Planting Season	1
Tree of the Quarter	1
Partnerships	2
Calendar	2
In the News	3
New Board Member	3

## District Staff

**Jeffrey Miller**-Director

**Amy Cole**-Office Manager

**Eric Dahl**-Soil and Water  
Resources Manager

**Tony Peterson**-Programs  
Manager

## NRCS Staff

**Josh Monson**-DC

**Matt Shappell**-Soil Con

**Matt Wacławik**-Wetlands

**Blake Johnson**-Engineer

**Paul Flahave**-Designated  
Conservationist

## District Supervisors

**Terry Hoffmann**-  
Wheatland

**Brad Kellerman**-West Fargo

**Kelli Bowen**-Casselton

**Jan Russell**-Davenport

**Warren Solberg**-Horace

**Tree of the Quarter: Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)** is a native deciduous tree. The Hackberry is adapted to a wide variety of habitats, while doing the best along moisture-rich river bottoms. In ideal growing conditions, it can grow quite well under the shaded canopy of a forest, but it does best in full sun. The bark of the Hackberry is deeply ridged and furrowed with a round-topped canopy head. As wildlife prefer to eat the tree, the bark acts as protection. Leaves are slightly serrated and alternately arranged on the branchlets. Vivid green during the summer, the leaves segue into a light yellow before being cast to the ground. Flowers emerge in May and are polygamo-



monoecious, with three kinds (male, female and both). The fruit is a dark purple berry that hangs on well into the winter, providing wildlife with much needed nutrition as they are high in fat, carbohydrates and protein. Hackberry are wonderful boulevard trees and are effective in windbreaks and farmsteads. The SCD carries high quality conservation grade stock.

## The Tree Season That Almost Wasn't!

Every season presents its own unique sets of challenges. 2022 came out of left field as the Spring ushered in cool and rainy conditions. Despite receiving our tree stock later than usual and very wet conditions, we were able to get nearly every site planted. Once in the ground, the trees took advantage of the moisture! All in all, we planted over **150,000** linear feet of trees in Cass County and are installing over **135,000** linear feet of weed barrier fabric. A variety of funding sources accounted for the plantings. Some producers paid on their own, others had CRP funding and the rest were funded through the Cass Windbreak Planting Initiative (CWPI). Dan Iwen returned for his 19th field season and was joined by Nathan Storm, Brittany Linderman, Kendra Wiebe and Nathaniel Mjones. Mike Bush even came back to help with bundling. If you are interested in having trees planted, contact us today! There may be cost-share available! It's never too early to start planning for the future.



## Pocket Prairies and Partnerships



Conservation is very rarely done in a vacuum. Partnerships across agencies, non-profits and other like-minded organizations can help turn ideas into realities. We are proud to work with a wide variety of groups to get conservation on the ground. A great example of the work we do together is the Pocket Prairie program. The **United Prairie Foundation**, based in Sheldon, grows amazing plants that are ready to be put into the ground. Their native plant greenhouse is located in Enderlin. Every single one of our Pocket Prairies and native landscaping projects utilize UPF's grasses and forbs.

**Audubon Dakota** is a wonderful partner. They have the ability to reach far and wide which helps with the implementation of projects. They have a large volunteer base that can get lots of work done quickly! **Fargo Parks** is doing a fantastic job incorporating native plants into their parks and future plans, and **Riverkeepers**, a non-profit based in Fargo, partners with us to help plant thousands of

trees along the Red River each fall. We are so thankful for our partners and continue to work to build solid relationships with any organization that is interested in grass-roots conservation!

*Audubon Dakota volunteers from Marvin Windows planting a Pocket Prairie at Orchard Glen Nature Park*



### Quote of the Quarter

*"The beauty of that June day was almost staggering. After the wet spring, everything that could turn green had outdone itself in greenness and everything that could even dream of blooming or blossoming was in bloom and blossom. The sunlight was a benediction. The breezes were so caressingly soft and intimate on the skin as to be embarrassing." Dan Simmons, Drood*

### Upcoming Events

July 19th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

August 16th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office

September 5th-**Labor Day**-Office Closed

September 13th-15th-**Big Iron Farm Show**-Red River Valley Fairgrounds

September 20th-**Board Meeting**-Fargo Field Office



### New Board Member!

Board Member **Jodi Meisch** had to regretfully step down from her position as she has moved out of the area. **Jan Macdonald Russell**, Board Advisor, has accepted the offer to step into the Board Member role. Russell, a resident of Davenport township, is a graduate of NDSU with degrees in English and Journalism. Russell and her husband recently moved back to the family farm after her husband's retirement from the Army. She is a writer for the Cass County Reporter, covering agricultural practices and rural issues. We are excited to have Jan join the Cass County Soil Conservation District Board!

### In the News

**Don Kinzler**, author of the "Growing Together" column, and Fargo Forum photographer **David Samson** visited the tree planting crews on a beautiful early June morning. We discussed a variety of topics about the Soil Conservation District. The article appeared in the June 17th online Fargo Forum newspaper and the June 18th print copy. It can also be found at <https://www.inforum.com/lifestyle/preventing-another-dust-bowl-one-tree-at-a-time>



*Photo courtesy of the  
Fargo Forum*

Director **Jeffrey Miller** was a guest on the Gone Outdoors radio show on KFGO 790 on June 25th. He discussed wildlife habitat and conservation with hosts Scott Brewer and Kyle Agre. The podcast of the broadcast can be found at <https://kfgo.com/podcasts-gone-outdoors/>



Cass County Soil  
Conservation District  
1665 43rd St S, Suite 103  
Fargo ND 58103-3319

Phone: 701-282-2157 x 3  
Website: [casscd.org](http://casscd.org)  
Facebook.com/  
[casscountysoilconservation](http://casscountysoilconservation)



**Stewardship for Today &  
Tomorrow**

All programs and services of the Cass County Soil Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## *This Newsletter Has Been Sponsored By*

**4e winery**

Tasting room open  
May through October

3766 156th Ave SE  
Mapleton, ND 58059  
701-936-9693  
[4ewinery.com](http://4ewinery.com)

**AGASSIZ SEED & SUPPLY**

Chris (Chrispy) Prochnow  
Sales

445 7th Street NW • West Fargo, ND 58078  
Office 701-282-8118 • Fax 701-282-9119  
[chrisp@agassizseed.com](mailto:chrisp@agassizseed.com) • Cell 701-388-6323

[www.agassizseed.com](http://www.agassizseed.com)

**COTTONWOOD BEND FARM**  
[facebook.com/cottonwoodbendfarm](https://facebook.com/cottonwoodbendfarm)

Jeffrey Miller and Melanie Kraker  
Owners  
[jeffreymiller@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreymiller@hotmail.com)

5447 E River Road  
Kindred, ND 58051  
701-371-1060

**Prairie Brand**

Brooks Whitmore  
Prairie Brand Dealer

13498 12th St SE  
Hope, ND 58046

c: 701-730-0301

**COUNTY LINE SEED LLC.**  
COLGATE, ND

[countylineseedllc@gmail.com](mailto:countylineseedllc@gmail.com)

**GROW your PROMISE.**

**Peterson Farms Seed**

701-282-7476  
3104 164th Ave SE • Harwood, ND 58042  
[PetersonFarmsSeed.com](http://PetersonFarmsSeed.com)

**ELITE AUTOMOTIVE CENTER**

**BRIAN TEBERG**  
Owner

Phone: 701.277.3255  
3201 39th St SW  
Fargo, ND 58103  
[eliteautomotivecenter@gmail.com](mailto:eliteautomotivecenter@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook

**EMBDEN GRAIN COMPANY**  
QUALITY • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

701-633-5438  
[embdengrain@ictc.com](mailto:embdengrain@ictc.com)

[WWW.EMBDENGRAIN.COM](http://WWW.EMBDENGRAIN.COM)

**Bobcat**  
of Fargo  
A Division of Swanson Equipment

**DOOSAN**  
Portable Power

**Mason Persons**  
Sales Specialist

3450 W. Main Ave. • Fargo, ND 58103  
T 701-293-7325  
C 701-566-3266  
F 701-293-9468  
[mpersons@swanston.com](mailto:mpersons@swanston.com)

**Bobcat of Fargo**  
AUTHORIZED BOBCAT DEALER

[www.swanston.com](http://www.swanston.com)

