



# the VIADUCT

Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources.

Spring 2000

Vol. 12 No. 3

## Wanahoo Receives \$1.2 Million in Environmental Trust Fund Grants

Lake Wanahoo, a dam project one mile north of Wahoo, has received a big boost from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

The Trust has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to the Lower Platte North NRD, one of the Lake Wanahoo sponsors, for two projects closely related to the lake.

Over a three-year period, the district will receive \$600,000 to construct seven smaller dams upstream of the 637-surface-acre Lake Wanahoo, and \$623,480 to create a wetlands area at the north end of the lake, said Mike Murren, the project coordinator.

The seven smaller dams, to be located on Sand and Duck creeks, will provide additional flood control, create wetlands and wildlife habitat, and protect Lake Wanahoo from siltation, Murren said. The dams will range in size from 12 to 45 surface acres.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied various scenarios for flood control and environmental restoration in the Sand Creek watershed, and identified the seven small dams and Lake Wanahoo as the best option.

"The Corps is taking a watershed approach to this project, rather than focusing on one nar-

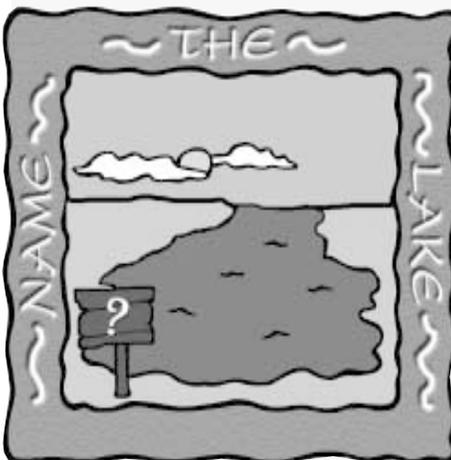


row area," Murren said. "Getting funds for the seven small dams is a big piece of the puzzle."

The total cost to construct the seven dams is estimated at \$1 million. The Lower Platte North NRD will make up the difference between the Trust grant and the total cost. The dams will likely be constructed at the same time as

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## NAME THE LAKE!



Skull Creek Site #55, a flood control project near Bruno, is set for construction in summer 2000. Now the Lower Platte North NRD needs your help to name the new lake and recreation area.

The NRD will accept entries for the "Name the Lake" contest until June 1. Anyone residing in the Lower Platte North NRD is eligible to enter, and there are no age restrictions. The NRD Board of Directors will choose the winner, who will receive a prize and recognition at the official lake dedication in fall 2000.

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- Cost-share Funds Still Available for Calibration Meters, Distribution Manifolds

Check us out on the Web!

<http://lpnnrd.nrc.state.ne.us>

# Web Site Receives National Award

The Lower Platte North NRD web site was named the top conservation district site in the nation for 1999 by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The annual NACD Outreach Awards honor conservation districts across the country for outstanding efforts in communication and public outreach. The awards are sponsored by NACD and the Equipment Manufacturer's Institute.

The web site award was presented at the NACD Annual Conference in Colorado Springs on Feb. 1.

The Lower Platte North NRD web

site, which can be viewed at <http://lpnnrd.nrc.state.ne.us>, was developed entirely in-house. In the awards program, NACD noted that the site "has an eye-catching graphic design with vivid photos and colorful buttons and links to aid in navigation. The design is matched by great depth of information for a variety of audiences."

The district also received Honorable Mention in the Special Publications category for its brochures. The Lower Platte South NRD, based in Lincoln, received Honorable Mention for its web site ([www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)). The Papio-Missouri River NRD, based in Omaha, received Honorable Mention for their newsletter, *The Spectrum*.



## Award Winners

Pictured at the NACD Awards Ceremony are, L-R: Dave Shelso, NRD Director from Fremont; Troy Thompson, NRD Information/Education Specialist; Dean Johnson, NRD Director from Fremont; and John Miyoshi, NRD General Manager.



<http://lpnnrd.nrc.state.ne.us>



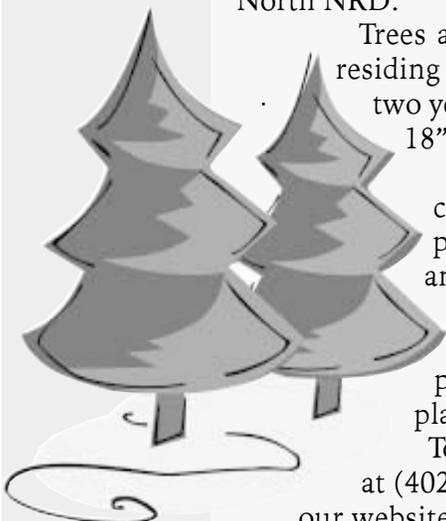
# Tree Orders Now Being Taken

Thinking about planting new trees or shrubs this spring? Get your order in now to the Lower Platte North NRD.

Trees are available for purchase for anyone residing in the district. Bare-root seedlings are two years old and are approximately 12" to 18" tall. Thirty-six varieties are available.

Seedlings are available for either machine or hand planting. For machine plants, a minimum order of 150 trees and/or shrubs is required. Handplant orders must be in multiples of 25 trees or shrubs per species. Machine plants are .85¢ per seedling and hand plants are .50¢ per seedling.

To request an order form, call the NRD at (402) 443-4675, or download a form from our website at: <http://lpnnrd.nrc.state.ne.us>



# Name the Lake

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Only one entry will be accepted per person. The only other guideline: be creative!

To enter, send your idea to the "Name the Lake Contest," care of the Lower Platte North NRD. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. The deadline is June 1.

## Enter by mail-

Lower Platte North NRD  
PO Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

## By fax-

(402) 443-5339

## By e-mail-

[tthompson@linux3.nrc.state.ne.us](mailto:tthompson@linux3.nrc.state.ne.us)

# Wanahoo Grants cont. from Page 1

Lake Wanahoo, in 2002 or 2003.

The created wetlands area is another important component of Lake Wanahoo, according to Murren. Earlier plans called for a small silt dam at the inlet of the lake, but engineering considerations ruled that out. Instead, the Sand Creek channel just upstream of the inlet will be dredged and modified so that it meanders extensively before it reaches the lake. That should help silt settle out before it enters the lake, and will create an extensive wetland area at the head of the lake, Murren said.

“Environmental restoration is an important consideration for the Corps of Engineers, so the wetlands area lets us kill two birds with one stone,” Murren said. “We can protect the lake from siltation and provide wetland mitigation and wildlife habitat at the same time.”

Land rights purchases for the project also have gone well. As of mid-February, purchase agreements had been reached for 16 of the 18 tracts of land needed for the project. In all, 1,600 acres of land are needed for the project.

In March, representatives for the project will testify before members of Congress to request that funding for the lake be included in the 2000 Water Resources Development Act. If they are successful, up to 65 percent of the estimated \$18 million project cost could come from the Corps of Engineers.

Other sources of funding include the Nebraska Department of Roads, the NRD, the city of Wahoo, and Saunders County. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has agreed to manage recreational facilities for the lake, which will include fishing, camping, and more.

# NRD Office Expanding

A long-awaited office expansion is underway at the Lower Platte North NRD.

Construction crews are hard at work at the NRD’s office building at 511 Commercial Park Road in Wahoo. The building is being expanded to provide much-needed office space for district staff members.

The project will add 2,000 square feet to the building and provide space for 9 cubicles, one new walled office and a new copy room. A 1,000-square-foot basement has been added under the addition for storage. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-summer.



### Under Construction

The NRD office building in Wahoo’s Commercial Park with the framing for the new addition in place. Work has progressed rapidly and is expected to be completed by mid-summer.

## the VIADUCT

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## Cost-Share Programs Extended

Producers who want to fine-tune their fertilizer application for the upcoming growing season still have a chance to apply for cost-share funds from the Lower Platte North NRD.

The NRD has cost-share funds remaining for fiscal year 2000 to purchase fertilizer calibration meters and anhydrous distribution manifolds.

The cost-share rate for fertilizer calibration meters is 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$1,100 (limit one per owner/operator). The rate for distribution manifolds is 50%, up to a maximum of \$300.

To qualify for cost-share funds for this year, applications must be submitted to the NRD by May 5. No equipment may be pur-

chased until after applications have been approved at the May Board of Directors meeting. Equipment purchased before then won't be eligible for cost-share.

The district will continue accepting applications for cost-share after May 5, but funding will be limited and equipment purchases will not be considered until January 2001.

To request an application form or for more information, contact the NRD at (402) 443-4675. Application forms are also available for download from our website at: <http://lpnnrd.nrc.state.ne.us>



### WATER BRIEFS

#### Chemigation Renewal

Renewal notices for chemigation permits have been sent to permit holders in the Lower Platte North NRD. If you didn't receive a permit renewal, contact Dan Becker at (402) 443-4675. Permit renewals must be returned to the NRD by June 1.

Any producer using chemigation must have a permit. New chemigation permits can be requested at any time from the Lower Platte North NRD.

#### Ultrasonic Flow Meter

The Lower Platte North NRD will again be offering ultrasonic flow meter tests to irrigators during the summer. The meter is a quick and easy way to check the output of a well in gallons per minute.

The fee for the flow meter is \$20 for the first test and \$5 for each additional well. However, if other field work is being done in the immediate area, a flat \$5 fee will be charged for each well, including the first.

To request a flow meter test, contact Scott Nelson at (402) 443-4675.