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# VIADUCT

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources

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www.lpnrd.org

# It's a Go!



## Wanahoo/Sand Creek Project Approved by Corps of Engineers

After more than a decade of planning and preparation, Lake Wanahoo and the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project are poised to become reality.

The project took a key step forward in early January, when it received final approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The green light came after more than two years of additional studies and reports that were required when "conditional approval" was granted in December 2000.

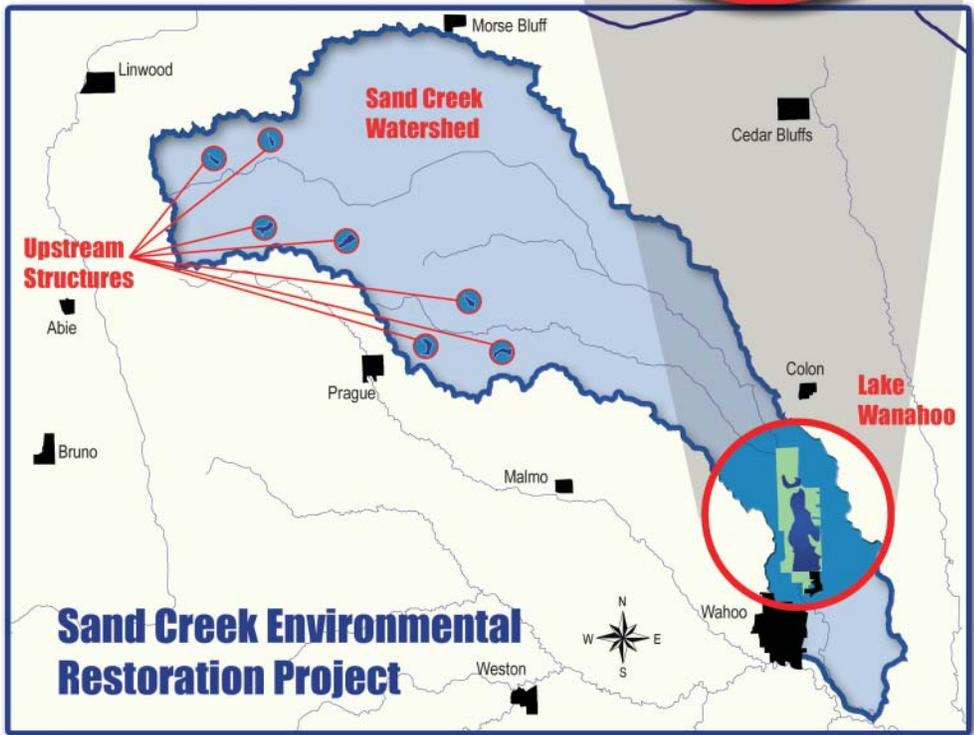
"This news is a very big relief," said Mike Murren, the project coordinator for the local sponsors. "It helps reenergize what this project means to the whole community. We want to thank everyone who helped us get to this point, and we're looking forward to their continued support to see the project through to completion."

The next step for the project sponsors is to secure the release of funds from the federal Office of Management and Budget. Representative Doug Bereuter is working with OMB to facilitate the process so final design and engineering work can proceed.

The project sponsors are initially seeking \$875,000 in start-up funds, with preliminary construction planned to begin in late 2003 or early 2004.

The total project cost will be \$30 million, with 65% of that total coming from federal sources. The remainder will come from a combination of state and local sources, including up to \$1 million each from the local project sponsors (the Lower Platte North NRD, the City of Wahoo, and Saunders County).

The project will create the 637-surface-acre Lake Wanahoo just north of Wahoo, *continued on Page 2*





thirty years of making  
the Good Life better  
1972-2002



## NRD Directors Nelson and Kavan Recognized for 30 Years of Service

NRD Directors LeRoy Nelson (above left) and Don Kavan (above right) were recognized at the Lower Platte North NRD's Annual Banquet for their 30 years of service on

the Board of Directors. Both men were original members of the NRD Board when it formed in 1972, and previously served on watershed districts that were

merged into the NRD. Their commitment to conservation is an inspiration to all of us at the Lower Platte North NRD, and we thank them for their dedicated service.

## Sand Creek

*continued from Page 1*

along with seven smaller upstream dams. Environmental restoration is the primary purpose of the project, and will involve the creation and restoration of wetlands, grasslands, and hardwood forest areas, as well as measures to improve water quality in the Sand Creek watershed. Flood control and public recreation are additional benefits of the project.

The Highway 77 bypass project, currently under construction between Ceresco and Wahoo, also has a part to play in the Sand Creek project. The bypass, which will swing west and then north of Wahoo, will run along the top of the Lake Wanahoo dam just west of the current Highway 77/92 junction. The bypass is scheduled for completion in 2005.

### Project Funding

<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b>	<b>\$17 million</b>
<b>State of Nebraska</b>	<b>\$6.5 million</b>
<b>Nebraska Department of Roads</b>	<b>\$2.23 million</b>
<b>Nebraska Environmental Trust</b>	<b>\$1.8 million</b>
<b>Lower Platte North NRD</b>	<b>\$1 million</b>
<b>City of Wahoo</b>	<b>\$1 million</b>
<b>Saunders County</b>	<b>\$1 million</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30 million</b>



2003

Finalize design and engineering  
Begin preliminary construction on Wanahoo embankment (clearing and grubbing) in fall

2004

Complete construction of Wanahoo embankment and bridges  
Begin work on NRCS upstream structures

2005

Pave Highway 77 bypass over Wanahoo embankment  
Complete work on upstream structures and wetlands

2006

Complete Wanahoo recreational facilities

(2003 schedule contingent on release of funding from Office of Management and Budget.)

“To plant a pine, one need be neither God nor poet; one need only a shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree - and there will be one. If his back is strong and his shovel sharp, there may eventually be ten thousand.”

-Aldo Leopold

# Tree Planting for 2003

The Lower Platte North NRD is now accepting orders for tree seedlings for the spring 2003 planting season.

Anyone residing in the Lower Platte North NRD can purchase tree seedlings. Seedlings are two years old and approximately 12" to 18" tall.

Seedlings can be purchased as “handplants” (planted by the purchaser) at .50¢/seedling, or “machine plants” (planted by the NRD) at .85¢/seedling.

Handplant orders are usually purchased for small windbreaks or ornamental purposes. Handplant orders must be made in multiples of 25 seedlings per species. To order handplant seedlings, fill out the order form at the bottom of the page and return it to the NRD, or place your order online at [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org). When your order is filled

in the spring, it will be delivered to the nearest Natural Resources Conservation Service office for you to pick up.

For machine planting, there is a minimum order of 150 seedlings. District staff can help purchasers with a planting plan and species selection. Contact Bob Heimann at (402) 443-4675 or [bheimann@lpnrd.org](mailto:bheimann@lpnrd.org) for more information.

The NRD purchases the majority of its stock from Bessey Nursery in Halsey, Nebraska. Trees are picked up and ready for delivery or planting each spring. Orders are first-come, first-served, so ordering early is highly encouraged.

For pictures and more information about many of the species available through the tree planting program, visit [www.nrdnet.org/trees](http://www.nrdnet.org/trees).



visit [www.nrdnet.org/trees](http://www.nrdnet.org/trees) for pictures and information about conservation tree species

## HANDPLANT SEEDLINGS ORDER FORM

### Conifers

- Red Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Austrian Pine
- Eastern White Pine
- Jack Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- Scotch Pine
- Col. Blue Spruce
- Norway Spruce

### Deciduous Trees

- Crab Apple
- Manchurian Apricot
- Green Ash
- Cottonwood
- Black Cherry
- Kent. Coffee Tree
- Russian Olive
- Hackberry
- Hawthorn
- American Hazel
- Honeylocust
- False Indigo
- Silver Maple
- Bur Oak
- Red Oak
- Swamp White Oak
- Black Walnut
- Diamond Willow

### Shrubs

- Silver Buffaloberry
- Caragana
- Chokecherry
- Sandcherry
- Cotoneaster
- Golden Currant
- Elderberry
- Honeysuckle
- Lilac
- Amur Maple
- American Plum
- Dogwood
- Redosier
- Skunkbush
- Sumac

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver to \_\_\_\_\_ NRCS County Office

Total trees and shrubs ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per tree or shrub: \_\_\_\_\_ x .50

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

x 6.5% Sales Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### Mail order form and check to:

Lower Platte North NRD  
P. O. Box 126, Wahoo, NE 68066-0126  
(402)443-4675 toll-free 1-888-764-0543

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**Board Member ..... Subdistrict**

Ralph Holstine .....	1
David A. Shelso .....	1
Dean Johnson, Chair .....	2
Marv Eden .....	2
Dave Saalfeld .....	3
Ted Bailey .....	3
Clint Johannes, Vice Chair .....	4
Lumir Jedlicka, Secretary .....	4
Ralph Piekie .....	5
Greg Wilke, Chair .....	5
Annette Mastny .....	6
R. J. Sabata .....	6
Daryl Reitmaier .....	7
Ronald Sabatka .....	7
Donald Kavan .....	8
Ron Larsen .....	8
Eric Alm .....	9
Ervin Bull .....	9
Chris Langemeier, Treasurer .....	at large

**Staff Member ..... Position**

Larry Angle .....	Water Resources Manager
Sam Barlean .....	O & M Specialist
Jill Breunig .....	Administrative Manager
Ann Brodd .....	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Steve Cacioppo .....	GIS Specialist
Eric Gottschalk .....	Special Projects Coordinator
Bob Heimann .....	O & M Manager
Marla Milliken .....	NRD/NRCS Technician
John Miyoshi .....	General Manager
Tom Mountford .....	Assistant Manager
Mike Murren .....	Lake Wanhoo Coordinator
Russell Oakland .....	Water Resources Specialist
Karen Rezac .....	Secretary/Receptionist
Shaula Ross .....	Water Resources Specialist
Joe Sabata .....	O & M Specialist
Mike Sousek .....	Wellhead Protection Coord.
Troy Thompson .....	Info/Ed Specialist
Roger Woita .....	Recreation Facilitator

**NRD/NRCS Clerks ..... County**

Susie Leu .....	Butler County
Carol Prokesh .....	Saunders County
Kristin Uhing .....	Dodge County
Brenda Wardman .....	Colfax County

**To receive *The Viaduct*, contact:**

Lower Platte North NRD  
 511 Commercial Park Road  
 P. O. Box 126  
 Wahoo, Nebraska 68066-0126  
 Phone: 402-443-4675  
 Toll free 1-888-764-0543  
 Fax: 402-443-5339  
 E-mail: lpnrd@lpnrd.org  
 Web site: www.lpnrd.org

# Hellos and Goodbyes

2003 is bringing changes to the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors, as four directors depart and four new members join.

## Departing Directors

**Mary Sendgraff** of Fremont, a director since 1991, was an active member of the Water Committee and served as Chair for 3 years. Mary also served six years on the Personnel Subcommittee. Her business experience and savvy were a valuable asset to the board, and her leadership and cool approach helped her fellow directors focus on solutions when controversial issues caused emotions to run high.



**Jim McDermott** of Colon resigned from the board in February of 2002 after 18 years of service due to occupational changes. Jim was a very active director, spending time on the Operations and Education Committee, Projects Committee, Lake Wanhoo Committee and the Personnel Subcommittee. Jim also served two years each as District Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman, and always pushed to keep the district progressive and a leader among Nebraska's NRDs.



**Steve Greuber** of North Bend served 20 years as a director to become the district's 5<sup>th</sup> most tenured member. He served on the Operations and Education Committee and two years each as the District's Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman. With his business sense, his ability to look at the big picture, and his talent for asking the important questions, Steve always brought a valuable perspective to the board.



**LeRoy Nelson** of Mead is one of the NRD's two 30-year board members. He came to the district as a member of the Clear Creek Watershed District and was reelected to his position seven consecutive times. Soil conservation and flood control have always been LeRoy's top priority and thus he served his entire 30 years on the Projects Committee.



LeRoy has been a life long champion for soil conservation. To recognize his dedication, the board voted to name him a Director Emeritus for the district. This is only the second time the district has bestowed this title.

## New Directors

**Ralph Holstine** of Fremont was born in Missouri and is an Army veteran who served in Korea. He received a degree in Ag Economics from the University of Nebraska and worked as an ag loan officer for many years in Nebraska and Minnesota. He has lived in Fremont since 1969. He and his wife Rhoda have five children, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Ralph is very interested in water issues and says he looks forward to serving on the NRD board.



**Ron Larsen** was born and raised in Wahoo. He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated with a degree in Ag Economics. Ron has farmed in the Wahoo area since 1973. In February 2002, he was appointed to take Jim McDermott's place on the NRD board. As a board member, Ron said his priorities are flood control and soil conservation. Ron and his wife Mary have four children and one grandson.



**Ralph Piekie** was born and raised in Madison County and is an Army veteran who was stationed in Berlin after World War II. Ralph has been farming in the Shell Creek area since the late 1950s and is one of the founding members of the Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group. Ralph and his wife Virginia have four children and 10 grandchildren. One of Ralph's priorities on the NRD board will be continuing to promote more land treatment and conservation programs for the northern part of the district.



**Eric Alm** of Wahoo was born and raised in Saunders County and graduated from Wahoo High School. He has been farming near Wahoo since 1964. Eric and his wife Elaine have one son, Robert, who is also part of their farming operation. In addition to the NRD Board, Eric serves on the Saunders County Board of Adjustments and the Cemetery Association. As an NRD director, Eric said his main focus will be on water issues.



# NRD Honors Conservationists

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District honored conservationists from across the district at its Annual Recognition Banquet Monday, Dec. 9 at the Fremont Golf Club.

Each year, the NRD gives awards for outstanding efforts in conservation, tree planting, water resources management, education, and volunteerism. Award winners are chosen by NRD staff and directors. This year, the theme of the banquet was "30 Years of Making the Good Life Better," in recognition of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NRD system.



## Outstanding Conservationist

**L-R:** Eric Gottschalk, NRD Projects Coordinator, presents the Outstanding Conservationist Award to **Ernie Jensen** of Newman Grove. Ernie has planted more than 3,000 acres of CRP ground, grassed waterways, field boundaries, and alfalfa on his land and for other landowners.



## Tree Planter of the Year

**Margaret Struck** (L) and **Jeff Struck** (R) accept the Tree Planter of the Year Award from NRD Operations and Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann (center). The Strucks have been planting trees on the 235 acres they manage near David City since 1978. Over the past 24 years, the Strucks have planted an estimated 3,000 trees and shrubs.



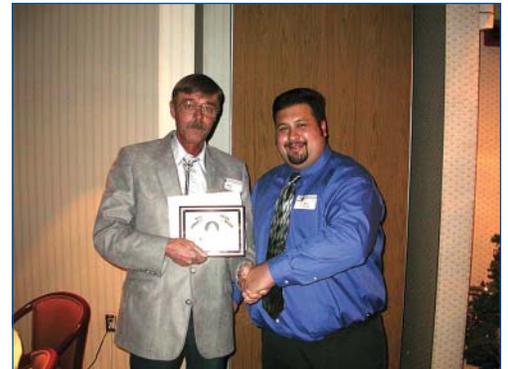
## Director of the Year

**L-R:** **Lumir Jedlicka**, NRD Director from Schuyler, accepts the Director of the Year Award from NRD Manager John Miyoshi. Lumir, a director since 1997, has been an active member of the NRD's Water Committee and is currently the district's Treasurer. He is also currently serving on the state Water Task Force Executive Committee.



## Volunteers of the Year

**Verne Thomsen** (L) and **Jack Aspy** (R) accept the Volunteer of the Year Award from NRD Operations and Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann (center). Verne and Jack, landowners in the Rawhide Creek area in Dodge County, were instrumental in organizing a landowner-led project to improve drainage on the creek's north branch.



## Water Resources Cooperator of the Year

**L-R:** **Brad Cate**, Yutan Utility Supervisor, accepts the Water Resources Cooperator of the Year Award from NRD Wellhead Protection Coordinator Mike Sousek. Brad, a city employee for nearly 20 years, was instrumental in Yutan's successful completion of a Wellhead Protection Report, which will help protect the city's water supply against contamination.



## Employee of the Year

**L-R:** **Russell Oaklund**, NRD Water Resources Specialist, accepts the Employee of the Year Award from NRD Chairman Greg Wilke. Russell was recognized for his exceptional work with the Abandoned Well Program and water quality and quantity programs, and his positive "can-do" approach to everything he's involved in.



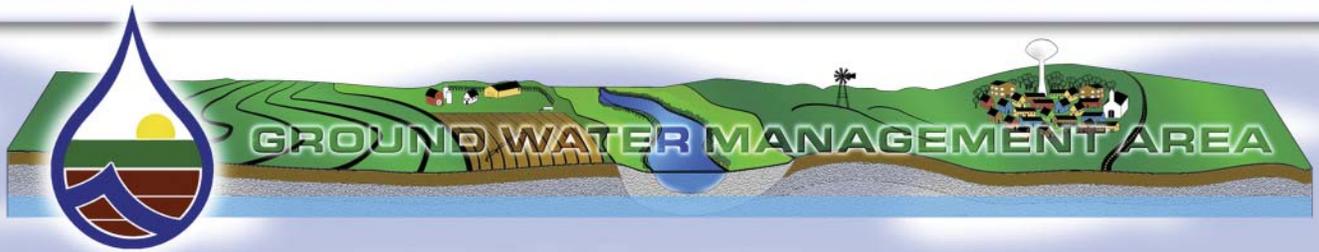
## Educator of the Year

**L-R:** Tom Mountford, NRD Assistant Manager, presents the Educator of the Year Award to **Gene Wissenburg**. Gene taught at Newman Grove High School for 34 years before retiring in spring 2002, and continues to put his educational skills to good use in the Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group.



## NRCS Employee of the Year

**L-R:** Tom Mountford, NRD Assistant Manager, presents the NRCS Employee of the Year Award to **Ken Kotera**, a Civil Engineering Technician stationed in Wahoo. Ken oversaw the scheduling, prioritizing, design assistance, training, and quality review needed to complete 173 conservation projects in 2002.



# Bellwood Area Enters Phase II

On January 1, 2003, the Bellwood area in Butler County entered Phase II of the NRD's Ground Water Management Area (GWMA).

Water sampling over the past few years has shown nitrate levels in the Bellwood area averaging above 8 parts per million — the trigger level for entering Phase II.

High nitrate levels in drinking water can be dangerous for infants, pregnant or nursing mothers, and people with respiratory or immune problems. The district's GWMA is intended to help prevent nitrate contamination of groundwater.

Under the Phase II designation, there are new requirements for producers who apply nitrogen fertilizer:

- Groundwater analyses, deep soil samples and fertilizer application reports re-

quired annually.

- Commercial nitrogen fertilizer permitted on non-sandy soils from Nov. 1 to March 1 **only** if an approved inhibitor is used at recommended rates (operators must furnish certification from their dealer that an approved inhibitor was used).

- Water applications must be monitored to allow for better management of fertilizer application and to control leaching of nitrate (phased in over 6 years).

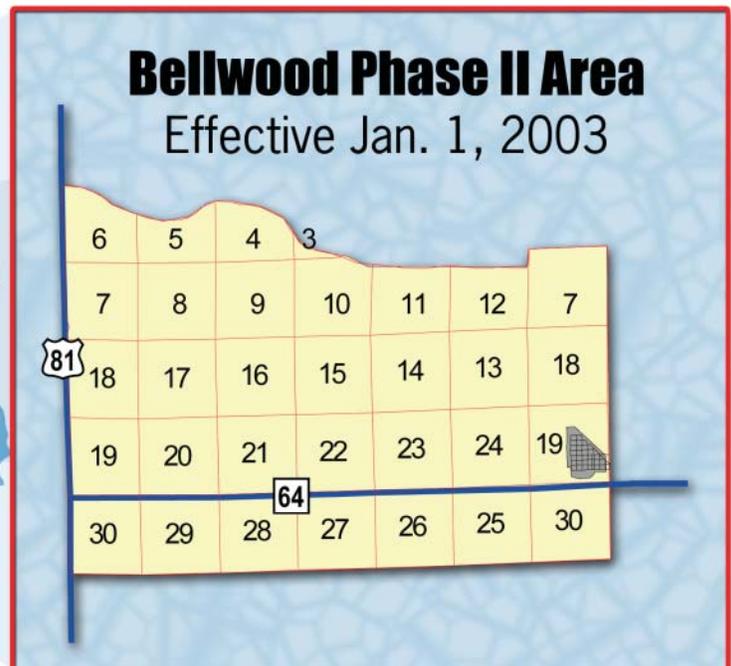
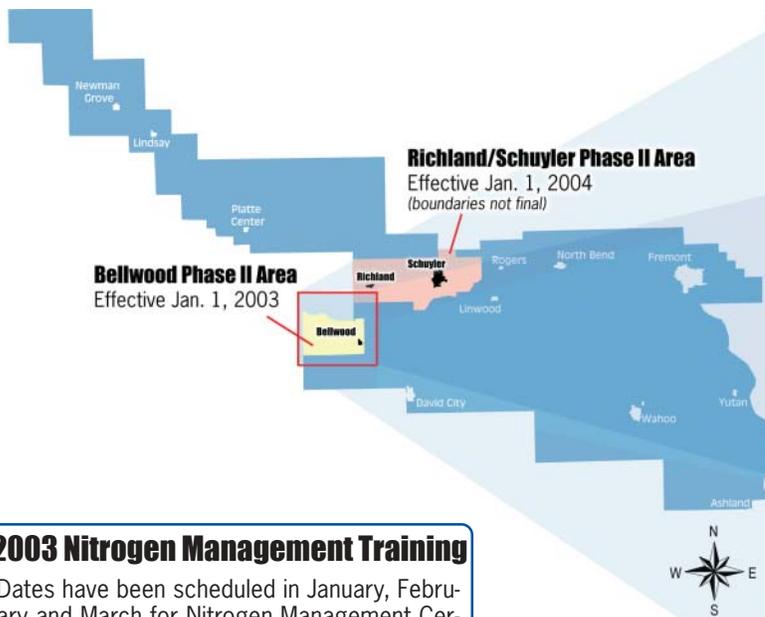
- Amount of organic fertilizer (liquid or dried manure, sludge, or composted organic waste) allowed per acre per year will be based on: method of collection and storage; land application method; types of crops or cover crop; soil types; landscape features; source of manure; and previous manure application

rates. Amount and timing of applications must be adjusted to the nitrate concentration in the soil profile and groundwater content. Application allowed on frozen soils on a site-by-site basis only.

Producers are also required to become certified in nitrogen management once every four years, as they were in Phase I of the GWMA.

In January 2004, an area between Richland and Schuyler will also enter Phase II of the GWMA. Public meetings and hearings will be held later in 2003 to provide residents of that area with more information.

For more information about the Ground Water Management Area and requirements in the various phases, visit our website at [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org), or call (402) 443-4675.



## 2003 Nitrogen Management Training

Dates have been scheduled in January, February and March for Nitrogen Management Certification Training. Producers who use fertilizer in the Lower Platte North NRD are required to attend the training once every four years. For the schedule and more information, visit our website at [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org) or call (402) 443-4675, and watch for ads in your local paper.