East Torrance District News

East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District

January 17, 2017 to March 28, 2017

Due to the upcoming Legislative Session /meetings/ trainings, site visits and leave taken as needed, the District Manager may not be in the office during business working hours from January 17—March 28, 2017. In her absence you can call her on her cell at 505-980-7573 or e-mail her at cheri.lujan@nm.nacdnet.net to make an appointment with her for a time that is convenient to meet. Other Staff will be in the office during this time to take any paperwork, tree orders, etc as needed.

**Just a reminder:**
During inclement weather tune to 770 AM KKOB on the radio or KOB-TV 4 on the television for the most up to date information regarding school closures or delays. East Torrance SWCD staff follow recommendations from the Estancia Municipal School District notifications.

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**NRCS USDA Announces Applications Available for Conservation Stewardship Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept and process applications for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the nation’s largest conservation program. NRCS has made several updates to the program this year to help producers better evaluate their conservation options and the benefits to their operations and natural resources. NRCS offices will be processing applications for the program with sign-up running through February 3, 2017. People interested in the additional opportunities the updated CSP will offer can find information on the new CSP portal, located at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp). This one-stop shop, which provides information to help producers determine whether CSP is right for them, will be continually updated as more information becomes available. Changes that producers can expect to see include nearly double the enhancements and conservation practices offered and better reporting tools to tell producers the results of their conservation efforts on their land. Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat—all while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. CSP is for producers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them to deliver multiple conservation benefits on working lands, including improved water and soil quality and enhanced wildlife habitat. Producers interested should Contact the USDA-NRCS Service Center in Estancia, NM to apply for the program or any other programs that are available at 505-384-2272 ext.3
The East Torrance SWCD will begin taking orders for the annual spring tree program beginning the end of January 2017. Please see the enclosed list and price order sheet for the Bare Root Trees coming in.

Please return your order form with payment to East Torrance SWCD, PO Box 58, Estancia, NM 87016, or stop by the office located at 715 South 5th Street in Estancia at the USDA Service Center. **Deadline to place and pay for your order will be 03/24/17 or until supplies last. Orders will come in the end of April, 2017.**

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**Annual Tree and Seed Program**

**Annual Meeting Held November 2, 2016**

East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District held its 73rd annual meeting.

We would like to thank everyone who braved the cold weather and attended this year’s annual event.

We want to thank our guest speakers who attended and gave well informed presentations.

Happy New Year from the staff and board members of East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District.
With hardly any Snow in and all around New Mexico here is a little fun.

Make a Crystal Snowflake!

Learn how to make a snowflake using borax and a few other easy to find household items. Find out how crystals are formed in this fun crystal activity, experiment with food coloring to enhance the look and keep your finished crystal snowflake as a great looking decoration!

What you'll need:
- String
- Wide mouth jar
- White pipe cleaners
- Blue food coloring (optional)
- Boiling water (take care or better still get an adult to help)
- Borax
- Small wooden rod or pencil

Instructions:
Grab a white pipe cleaner and cut it into three sections of the same size. Twist these sections together in the center so that you now have a shape that looks something like a six-sided star. Make sure the points of your shape are even by trimming them to the same length.

Take the top of one of the pipe cleaners and attach another piece of string to it. Tie the opposite end to your small wooden rod or pencil. You will use this to hang your completed snowflake.

Carefully fill the jar with boiling water (you might want to get an adult to help with this part).

For each cup of water add three tablespoons of borax, adding one tablespoon at a time. Stir until the mixture is dissolved but don’t worry if some of the borax settles at the base of the jar.

Add some of the optional blue food coloring if you’d like to give your snowflake a nice bluish tinge.

Put the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the small wooden rod or pencil is resting on the edge of the jar and the snowflake is sitting freely in the borax solution.

Leave the snowflake overnight and when you return in the morning you will find the snowflake covered in crystals! It makes a great decoration that you can show your friends or hang somewhere in your house.

What's happening?
Crystals are made up of molecules arranged in a repeating pattern that extends in all three dimensions. Borax is also known as sodium borate, it is usually found in the form of a white powder made up of colorless crystals that are easily dissolved in water.

When you add the borax to the boiling water you can dissolve more than you could if you were adding it to cold water, this is because warmer water molecules move around faster and are more spread apart, allowing more room for the borax crystals to dissolve.

When the solution cools, the water molecules move closer together and it can’t hold as much of the borax solution. Crystals begin to form on top of each other and before you know it you have your completed crystal snowflake!

http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/snowflake.html
East Tewaukon Soil and Water Conservation District ****** 2017 Spring Order Form ******

Anticipated delivery dates are scheduled for the week of April 24, 2017. All prices are subject to change because of availability. We will advise you of any price changes. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED; ORDER EARLY to get what you want. Some selections are in short supply and we update our supply orders. Once again, we do not anticipate having many extra trees and shrubs available this year during the tree sale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;LEAF BARKING TREES &amp; SHRUBS&quot;</th>
<th>Size Available &amp; cost of Trees</th>
<th>Number ordered</th>
<th>Bundle Price</th>
<th>Number bundles ordered</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Purple Lilac</td>
<td>BR 3-4' @ $5.00</td>
<td>10 in bundle @ $45.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Ash</td>
<td>BR 5-6' @ $8.00</td>
<td>5 in bundle @ $37.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lombardy Poplar</td>
<td>BR 3-4' @ $4.00</td>
<td>10 in bundle @ $35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austrian Pine Seedlings</td>
<td>BR 12-15&quot; @ $3.00</td>
<td>10 in bundle @ $25.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;WILDFLOWER MIX&quot;</th>
<th>PRICE PER POUND</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Magic Wildflower Mix</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Butterfly Mix</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;NATIVE TURF GRASS SEED MIX&quot;</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total cost of trees & Essentials $_____

PRINT NAME: ____________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________
HOME#: ____________________ WORK PHONE: ___________________ EMAIL: ____________________________
_Populus nigra 'Italica'_
**Lombardy Poplar** To 90’ columnar, Zone 3. Hybrid, fast growing tree, often used as a screen or windbreak.

_Pinus nigra_
**Austrian Pine** To 90’, Zone 4. Fast growing, widely planted species in landscaping, for dense windbreaks or screens and commercial Christmas tree plantations. Very adaptable to wind, cold, smog, salt and from heavy clay to sandy soils.

_Fraxinus pennsylvanica_
**Green Ash** To 60’, Zone 2. Vigorous, pyramidal to rounded shape, excellent for dense shade. Very hardy. One of the most adaptable trees in urban or suburban sites along roads and streets or in the landscape. Suitable for use wherever Emerald Ash Borer is not a factor.

_Syringa vulgaris_

_Native Grass Turf Blend_

33% Blue Grama
67% Buffalograss

**Precipitation Range:** All Areas >8,000 ft. elevation  
**Planting Rate:** 2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. / 40 lbs. per acre

**Details:** This native warm season turf blend grasses: - Provides an excellent alternative to high water use lawns- Does not need mowing as often as other traditional lawns - Lowers the cost of having a beautiful lawn - Extremely drought tolerant - Will grow on a wide range of soil types

_American Magic Wildflower Mix_


_Bird & Butterfly Flower Mix_

**Perennial Lupine, Siberian Wallflower, California Poppy, Annual Candytuft, Rocket Larkspur, Sweet Alyssum, Black Eyed Susan, Blue Flax, Scarlet Flax, Gayfeather, Showy Milkwheat, Lemon Mint, Dwarf Fodetia, Purple Coneflower, Perennial Gallardia, Dwarf Coneflower, Annual Gaillardia, Dwarf Red Coneflower, Dwarf Plains Coreopsis, Lance Leaved Coreopsis**
FAQs

What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

A soil and water conservation district (SWCD) is authorized by the Soil and Water Conservation District Act (73-20-25 through 73-20-48 NMSA 1978) to conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of New Mexico. SWCDs coordinate assistance from all available sources ~ public and private, local, state and federal ~ in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to local natural resource concerns. There are 47 SWCDs covering the majority of New Mexico.

A soil and water conservation district is not:

* a conservancy district, which delivers or supplies water for irrigation or other purposes;
* the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), a federal agency which provides technical assistance to SWCDs and others to implement conservation practices;

What does a Conservation District do?

Among other things, conservation districts help:

• implement conservation practices to keep farm and ranch lands productive;
• protect water resources;
• plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
• help developers and homeowners manage the land in an environmentally sensitive manner; and
• reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

How does a Conservation District operate?

A board of elected and appointed supervisors, who are themselves residents and/or landowners of the district, meets regularly (usually once a month) in a public meeting to make decisions on local conservation programs. The districts work in partnership with NMDA, other state and federal agencies, and various organizations to advance conservation on private and public lands in their area. If authorized by voters in the district, SWCDs may collect a mill levy on lands in the district, up to a maximum of one mill. Many SWCDs also compete for grants from the government and private sector to fund district programs.

East Torrance SWCD MEETING DATE

The board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in the USDA Service Center, 715 South 5th Street, Estancia, N.M.

PROGRAMS

* The district has an annual cost-share program, which reimburses at current NRCS cost share rates of conservation practices*, up to $5,000 per person, per year. Covered practices include, but are not limited to: Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA), irrigation pipeline, land leveling, livestock pipeline, water storage facilities, brush control, water harvesting measures, and windbreak plantings. Farmland, rangeland, and urban land are all eligible for assistance through this program. Group project assistance to homeowner associations or other community groups is also available on a case-by-case basis.

*Funding available for Brush Management including fire breaks, Earthen, Rock and Brush Water diversions, Critical Area Plantings.

*Funding available for small drip irrigation projects, low flow water devices and water harvesting units.

The district has an annual tree program. Bare-root and containerized trees, flower seeds and native grass seed mixes are also sold to area landowners at minimal costs.

Annual Water Fair, with Free well water tests are also performed during the county fair when NMED is available.

East Torrance SWCD Assists schools and local governments to obtain grants for tree planting projects such as past projects completed at the Arthur Park, Estancia Schools, the Torreon Community Center, Estancia Fire Department, the Torreon Cemetery, the McIntosh Senior Center, McIntosh Cemetery and the Estancia Community Baseball Field, and Estancia Cemetery.

East Torrance SWCD Supports the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee goals and objectives.
East Torrance SWCD has participated in the Estancia High School’s School-To-Work Program for incoming Seniors for fifteen years. We would like to thank our outgoing student worker Miriam Cazares for a great year. Her last day was mid September 2016.

Our incoming student worker is Isabel Valdez
Isabel Valdez is the daughter of Manuel and Catherine Valdez. She is the youngest of three children and is currently a senior at Estancia High School. After Graduation, she plans on attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins to double major in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering.

We would like to welcome Isabel to the office. She will work throughout the school year and into the summer of 2017.

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UPCOMING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION


To all registered voters situated within the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District, county of Torrance, State of New Mexico.

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st Tuesday of May, 2017, The positions to be filled are position #3 currently being filled by Jim Berlier, and position #4 currently being filled by Ryan Schwebach. Positions 3 and 4 may only be filled by resident owners of land within the district.

Please look for more details on Declarations of candidacy and polling locations and times which will be posted in the local papers between

February 26th-March 12, 2017, and then again between March 26th-April 9th, 2017
The Function of the Conservation District:

To take available technical, financial, and education resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ryan Scwhebach, Chairman
Bill Wrye, Vice-Chair
Jim Berlier, Secretary/Treasurer
Fronia Jaramillo, Member
Jason Brumley, Member

PHONE: 505-384-2272 Ext. 5
WWW.EastTorranceSWCD.org

STAFF

Cheri Lujan, District Manager
Isabel Valdez, Student Clerk

NRCS SUPPORT

Vacant at this time
District Conservationist
Fronia Jaramillo
NMACD Farm Bill Specialist
Joshua Archuleta
Soil Conservationist
Position to be filled soon
Soil Conservationist Tech

NMDA SUPPORT

Katie Mechenbier
Soil & Water Conservation Specialist

All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.