



The Trail Blazer

Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District

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Meet the New District Manager!

Joe Dinnocenzo was born and raised in Kodiak.

He graduated from the University of Fairbanks in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Joe has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Fisheries Management regulating commercial fisheries in herring and salmon.

He has worked around the state in Kotzebue, Cold Bay and Kodiak for 27 years.



Joe Dinnocenzo, the new Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District Manager.

Photo by Blythe Brown

Joe has also been a commercial fisherman for crab, salmon, halibut, herring and cod.

He started working for the District on May 1, 2012.

His duties will include supervising projects conducted by the District.

He will also research opportunities to further the KSWCD conservation mission supporting agriculture and other natural resource projects in Kodiak.

Joe is married and has grown children attending college. He likes to hunt and fish and enjoy our unique Kodiak environment.

Welcome aboard Joe!

KSWCD Buffalo Hunt Raffle



Buffalo Raffle Drawing

Photo by Dave Kaplan

The Buffalo Raffle drawing was officially conducted at the Kodiak High School on April 23.

There were 626 tickets sold for this fundraiser.

The winning ticket belonged to Maria Clark of Fairbanks.

A total of \$12,250 was raised.

The profits were contributed to the local Kodiak FFA and the Alaska State FFA and Envirothons.

Spring Newsletter

May 2012

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Special points of interest:

- **Poster Contest**
- Winners!**
- *What KSWCD does.*

The poster contest theme for 2012 is "Soil to Spoon"

Log on to www.nacdnet.org/education/resources/poster.

Or call KSWCD for more information at 486-5574.



Last year's Hoophouse Clinic

Photo by Blythe Brown

"A highlight of the event was a handbook outlining board member ethics, roles and responsibilities"
-Dave Kaplan.



Kodiak Raised Beds

Photo by Dave Kaplan

NRCS High Tunnel Contract Checklist

The NRCS Homer office reports that it has sent a High Tunnel Growers Checklist to every EQIP High Tunnel program participant in the Homer and Kodiak Service Areas.

There are a total of 231 High Tunnel Contracts in the Homer and Kodiak areas to date with more likely as we go into fiscal year 2013.

FY 2013 begins October 1, 2012.

Any high tunnel participant

who did not receive one of these in the mail is encouraged to contact the Homer or Kodiak office as soon as possible so we can get one to you.

There are several steps outlined in the checklist that are important to contract holders. This is in order to assure that they meet the targets and deadlines required to receive scheduled Nutrient and Pest Management payments.

Soil tests prior to planting a crop and recordkeeping with an NRCS provided handbook and an attached example are key requirements to successfully filling the provisions for these annual practice payments.

For more information please contact the Homer field office at 907-235-8177. You can also email Mark Kinney at mark.kinney@ak.usda.gov.

AACD Spring Conference

The AACD Spring Conference was held March 16-17 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Anchorage.

KSWCD attendees were Chris Flickinger, Chairman, Charlie Dorman, Vice-Chairman and Dave Kaplan, Project Coordinator.

Conference events included Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service updates,

the Farm Bill review, the introduction of Tribal Conservation Districts, Conservation Innovation Grants and the Clean Water Actions Grant Program.

Another activity included a government access communications presentation by Clive S. Thomas.

The AACD Board Meeting concluded the conference.



AACD and KSWCD board members

Photo by Dave Kaplan

Conservation Planning Workshop

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Planning Workshop was held in Fairbanks at the NRCS building on University Avenue, March 26-30.

The KSWCD attendee was Dave Kaplan, Project Coordinator. The purpose of this event was to prepare Dave to

be able to independently apply the NRCS planning process to assist clients in making decisions.

This will result in conservation plans that protect, conserve and enhance the resources and meet the client's needs for land ownership and special interests on the Kodiak Archipelago.

Once Dave is certified, he will be the Primary Conservation Planner for Kodiak.

National Poster Contest Winners!



Awarding honors to Deborah Bitanga and Rafael Bitanga are the KSWCD Chairpersons and Supervisors.

Photo by Blythe Brown

What Does Your Soil and Water Conservation District Do?

The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District has been busy supporting the local community with natural resource related projects since 1964. Here is a list of some of our most recent activities.

Weeds Program

This invasive species program has been active since 2004 with funding from grants through the Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Programs, the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Fish Passages

How does a fish cross the road? This was a two year project funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Programs. Culverts were assessed on roads and trails to determine whether they met the needs of juvenile salmon. The US Coast Guard is planning to remove three culverts on their property above Buskin Lake.

Wetlands

The District is partnering with the Kodiak Island Borough for this project funded through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. Phase One is assessing current status of wetland mapping in Kodiak and the villages. Phase Two will update maps using field visits, aerial photography and GIS technology.

Farm to Schools

Project funding was received through the 2011 State of Alaska Capital Projects. The Kodiak High School and four elementary schools are planning school gardens and will implement Alaska Ag in the classroom curriculum.

Mercury Monitoring

The collection station located at the Kodiak Fairgrounds is part of a nationwide network of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. The Kodiak Station is supported by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Weekly rain gauge data from the site is sent to the University of Illinois and rain sample

bottles are sent for analysis to a Seattle area laboratory.

Conservation Technical Assistance

A major partner and supporter of the District is the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with funding through the National Farm Bill program. The District office has become the "go to" place for High Tunnel/Hoophouse applications and soil testing information. A District employee is training to become a certified conservation planner which will allow us to expand our services to the agricultural community of Kodiak including new Hoophouse farmers.

Agricultural and Outreach Education

Funding through the NRCS allows the District to support activities with Kodiak High School's FFA and the annual Envirothon competition. Grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the Alaskan Leader Fisheries Foundation allowed the District to continue these activities.

Deborah Bitanga placed second for grades 7-9 and Rafael Bitanga earned the Honorable Mention for grades 4-6 in the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.

The posters had to earn their way to the national competition. They both won first place in the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District competition and the Alaska Association Conservation District state contest.

The Label is the Law!

Spring has sprung and orange hawkweed is growing!

An herbicide label is not only the law, it guides the user for the most effective treatment using that product.

For example, follow the label for the most appropriate weather conditions and the best growth stage to time the application.

If you choose to use an herbicide for this aggressive plant remember to follow the label instructions.



Orange Hawkweed

Photo by Blythe Brown

A grant from the Alaskan

Leader Fisheries

Foundation helped pay for the popular Kodiak

Envirothon "hoodies."



2012 Kodiak Envirothon

Photo by Blythe Brown



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Board Supervisors:

Chris Flickinger, Chairman
Charlie Dorman, Vice-Chairman
Bill Burton, Supervisor
Marie Rice, Supervisor
Craig Stratman, Supervisor
Bob Mudd, Alternate
Todd Dorman, Alternate

Staff:

Joe Dinnocenzo, District Manager
Blythe Brown, Project Coordinator
David Kaplan, Project Coordinator
Stephan Bodnar, GIS Technician
Corinne Estelle Ferre` MASST Administrative Assistant

NRCS Field Office:

Mark Kinney, District Conservationist
Craig Sanders, Resource Conservationist



Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District



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Kodiak Archipelago Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District assists land managers and supports cooperators by coordinating and implementing programs for the conservation, use and sustainable development of soil, water and related resources throughout the Kodiak Archipelago.

Check out the Facebook pages for the Kodiak Growers and Homer High Tunnel Growers to ask questions or join the conversations!