



Great Salt Lake
Resource Conservation
and Development
(RC&D) Council, Inc.

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**Rooted in Our Past,
Reaching into the
Future!**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.GREATSALTAKERCD.ORG

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

GSLRC&D Board Member: Jim Lawrence, 2nd Vice Chair

Jim Lawrence has been on the Great Salt Lake RC&D Board since February 2005. Until recently, he has been an at-large board member. At the last GSLRC&D Board meeting, however, Jim became the 2nd Vice Chair.

Jim grew up in Tooele, where his great-grandfather started a greenhouse in Erda in 1926. The greenhouse eventually became a floral shop and was passed down from generation to generation until the family sold the business when Jim's dad retired.

When Jim was in high school, he became interested in Civil Engineering because of the opportunities it gave him to work both in and outdoors. He went to Utah State Uni-

versity and graduated Cum Laude in 1999. He spent six years working with UDOT, where he got his professional engineering license. When the opportunity came to work as the Tooele County Engineer, he jumped at the chance. Jim enjoys the urban and rural lifestyle of Tooele and loves living, working, and serving the Tooele community.

Jim enjoys hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, and working in his yard. In fact, the first thing Jim does when he comes home from work during the summer is dead-head the roses and pull weeds from his backyard. His greatest passion, however, is his kids.

Jim is excited about all the GSLRC&D projects because he says that by



Jim Lawrence with his wife and three children on a fun-run outside Tooele, UT.

working together and uniting our voices, the GSLRC&D can preserve and extend natural and cultural resources for our families and communities.

Over the next couple months, Jim would like the GSLRC&D to become stronger and more influential. He hopes that an increase in membership and Council activity will help forward the cause of the GSLRC&D.

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The Lake Effect



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GSLRC&D Sponsors Four CSA Open Houses

In February, the Great Salt Lake RC&D sponsored four open houses for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). The open houses took place at Highland High School's Little Theater in Salt Lake City, ArtStop in Ogden, the Red Moose Lodge in Eden, and the Davis County Courthouse in Farmington. These open houses were free and open to the public; approximately 150 people came to these events.

At each open house, a GSLRC&D member welcomed the crowd and explained the mission and projects of the GSLRC&D and encouraged people to get involved with the Council. A short PowerPoint presentation about CSA followed. The remainder of the evenings were focused on specific CSA programs. Jeremy East from East Farms and John Borski from Borski Farms each outlined their specific CSA and answered questions about growing practices, shareholder costs, field events, types

of produce included, the length of the growing season, and drop-off locations.

As the evening concluded, people were encouraged to meet and talk with the CSA farmers individually and sign up for a CSA program. Both John Borski and Jeremy East reported that many people joined their programs through the course of these four GSLRC&D sponsored events.

CSA is a way for local community members to connect with the local farmers. At the beginning of the growing season, community members pay a fee to a CSA farmer and then receive weekly deliveries of fresh produce. This system enables farmers to have money at the beginning of the growing season to buy equipment and seed. It also provides financial security stability to the unpredictable nature of farming.

This is the fourth year the GLRC&D has sponsored these CSA open



Top: CSA Shareholders participate in a pepper transplanting field event at East Farms. **Bottom:** John Borski talks about his CSA program at the SLC CSA open house, sponsored by the GSLRC&D.

houses. For more information, visit the GSLRC&D website or call their office at 801-263-3204, 104.

Great Salt Lake RC&D Council Meeting, April 14

The next GSLRC&D Council meeting will be on April 14th at the Tooele County Courthouse (47 S. Main Street, Tooele, UT 84074) at 10:00 am.

On the agenda is a presentation from Kyle LaMalfa, from the People's Market. This is a new market that will be at the Northwest Facilities Center in

Salt Lake City. It will begin on July 2nd and go until September 3rd, 2006. The Great Salt Lake RC&D is proud to be the fiscal agent for this exciting new community project.

Other agenda items for the upcoming meeting include a treasurer's report, 2005 taxes, a discussion about the GSLRC&D Board, and

nominations for the Board's at-large position.

If you need directions, special assistance, or have any questions, please call Alison Rogers at 801-263-3204, 104. This meeting is free and open to the public.

We hope to see you there!

Special Mercury
Newsletter!
See Pages 2-3.

Calendar of Events:

- **April 14: GSLRC&D Council Meeting at the Tooele County Courthouse (47 S. Main Street, Tooele, UT 84074) at 10:00 am.**
- **April 15th: Beginning of the UT Weed Awareness Campaign**
- **April 25: PRATT meeting. 11:30am -1:00pm. Forest Dale Clubhouse, 2275 S 900 E. in SLC. PRATT meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.**
- **May 19 Board Meeting, 10:00 am, GSLRC&D Office (5370 S. 1030 W. Murray, UT 84123).**
- **June 16 Board Meeting, 10:00 am, GSLRC&D Office**
- **July 2nd: First People's Market. Northwest Community Facilities Center at 1300 W. 300 N. Please visit www.slcpoplesmarket.org for more information.**
- **July 14 Council Meeting, location is still TBD. Call 801-263-3204, 104 for more information.**

Utah Weed Awareness Campaign Starts in April 2006

Have you ever wondered what a noxious weed is? Or how to identify noxious and invasive plants in your backyard or while on a hike? On April 15th 2006, the Utah Weed Awareness Committee (UWAC) will launch a Weed Awareness Campaign to bring about greater awareness of noxious and invasive weeds and their impacts in Utah.

In February of 2005, UWAC and the Utah Weed Control Association drafted "The Utah Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious and Invasive Weeds". The plan establishes a statewide mission to "appropriately manage existing and invasive weeds in

Utah". (Utah Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious and Invasive Weeds, February 2005 draft).

In support of the management plan and the priorities outlined in it, a UWAC Committee was formed to develop an awareness and education campaign for noxious and invasive weeds. The committee is made up of representatives from federal, state, and local weed management and conservation entities throughout the state, and is charged with developing a marketing strategy to promote statewide weed awareness.

In May of 2005, the group began meeting monthly to develop a campaign strategy and action plan that addresses how noxious weeds degrade the environment, recreation, agriculture, and public health; costing taxpayers much more than just a dollar value, with major impacts to biodiversity.

This year's Campaign will target outdoor recreation with radio ads, billboards, a website, and an ad in the upcoming 2006 Hunter Proclamation.

To learn more about the Utah Weed Awareness Committee and this year's weed campaign visit www.ob-noxious.org.

By Sage Fitch, Noxious Weed Consultant.



The Parley's Creek Corridor Trail, along with the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and the Jordan River Parkway will provide residents a world-class bicycle/pedestrian trail, a showcase for Salt Lake Valley.

The Parley's Rails, Trails and Tunnels (PRATT) Coalition, holds regular monthly public meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Forest Dale Clubhouse, 2275 S 900 East. PRATT has a website at www.parleysttrail.org where the County master plan is available to review.

By: Lynn Olsen, PRATT Chair



A View of the Wasatch Front from Farnsworth Peak in the Oquirrh Mountains.

ual discharge of industrial emissions or effluents such as coal-fired power generation, precious metal mining, refining chlorine production, and waste water treatment.

The following articles discuss health and environmental implications of mercury contamination. By Jeff Salt and Alison Rogers

Mercury Contamination and Utah

In 2003, USGS and USFWS scientists detected high concentrations of mercury compounds, especially organic methylmercury, in salt brine, eared grebe livers, and brine shrimp from the Great Salt Lake.

In 2005, Kennecott Utah Copper scientists detected mercury concentrations in Great Salt Lake brine samples that surpassed the 2003 mercury levels. These discoveries have prompted Utah officials to initiate mercury investigations and issue health advisories.

Mercury contamination threatens vital public resources and community assets in Utah. Utah is located downwind from a group of Nevada gold mines that release large amounts of mercury pollution to the atmosphere; this may be a probable source of ongoing mercury pollution. Furthermore, Utah has a long history of coal-fired power generation and precious metal mining that may have created historic mercury contamination.

Human caused mercury pollution is

generally controllable through changes in industrial processes, substitution or removal of mercury-laden source products, or installation of mercury control technologies. However, controlling anthropogenic mercury is problematic because traditional mercury-polluting industries typically resist regulatory programs or changes in public policy that mandate controls, emissions reductions, or elimination of mercury compounds.

Control and reduction of mercury contamination in Utah involves public policy, regulatory and resource management issues. These include sampling and monitoring of mercury compounds, identification and control of pollution sources, assessment of health risks to human and wildlife populations, analysis of economic impacts and costs, public outreach and education, cleanup, remediation and mitigation; funding; and development of policy and regulatory programs.

Utah has done little towards addressing mercury contamination, and lags behind other states in determining the extent and

sources of mercury contamination, protecting human and wildlife populations and community interests, and developing adequate policies and regulatory programs. Utah was the 46th state to issue fish consumption advisories for mercury contamination. Utah is also one of the last states to develop a mercury monitoring program. To date, no dedicated funds have been appropriated or budgeted to support statewide mercury research.

Despite sobering mercury data collected from Great Salt Lake, no studies have been done to determine probable sources of mercury contamination in the lake.

However, positive steps have been taken to address mercury contamination. In 2005, Utah officials initiated aggressive fish and waterfowl tissue sampling projects, issued fish and wildlife consumption alerts, and established a statewide mercury work group. The 2006 Utah Legislature also passed a mercury switch removal act.

By Jeff Salt, Great Salt Lake Keeper

The Health and Environmental Implications of Mercury

Reports of elevated mercury levels in Utah game fish have made anglers think twice before frying up their favorite recipes.

But officials with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) say the risks should be placed in perspective. Only three waterways in the state have tested positive for elevated mercury levels that warrant limiting consumption. Risks of any problems from mercury are also very low if consumption guidelines are followed.

So far, environmental monitors have tested about 159 sites statewide and only three locations have needed fish consumption advisories. Unacceptable mercury levels have been found in about 10% of the fish. Results are available from about 45% of the tests.

"This doesn't mean people should stop fishing, and eating fish," said John Whitehead, assistant director of the UDEQ and chairman of the Statewide Mercury Work Group. "The fish advisories are meant to alert the public so

they can make informed choices and where needed, simply limit the amount of fish you are eating."

Anglers should exercise caution if fishing for largemouth bass at Gunlock Reservoir in Washington County, brown trout in Mill Creek in Grand County, and channel catfish in the Green River in Desolation Canyon. Tests have shown mercury values that exceed U.S. EPA levels of concern if these fish are eaten more than a few times each month for a long period of time. UDEQ and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) have issued fish consumption advisories for those waters. Please visit for more advisory information.

More Utah fisheries may be added to the advisory list as more test results come in. Officials are planning a broad testing strategy for Lake Powell.

Concerns have also risen about the cumulative effects of mercury in the natural food chain. Some species of waterfowl - northern shovelers and common goldeneyes - on the Great Salt Lake have tested positive for elevated levels of mer-

cury. Investigations are underway to determine the source of the mercury contamination. Whitehead said one common source is air pollution, both inside and outside of Utah. Air emissions of mercury occur as a result of natural phenomena, like volcanoes, forest fires and geothermal activity. It also can result from man-made activities like incinerator burning, scrap metal recycling and mining processes.

Mr. Whitehead also said that UDEQ is working with neighboring states to learn more on how release of mercury from nearby states, including Nevada, may be impacting Utah.

Mercury contamination is a nationwide problem and UT officials are taking it seriously. A diverse Mercury Work Group has been created to develop a standardized sampling strategy for collection and analysis.

By: Donna Spangler, UDEQ Public Information Officer

Mercury Resources

- Mercury Disposal and Recycling: www.deq.utah.gov/issues/Mercury/index.htm.
- "Mercury Calculator" for fish eaters: www.nrdc.org
- Fish Consumption and Mercury Advisory in UT: www.deq.utah.gov/issues/Mercury
- Mercury Health Affects: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts46.html
- National Mercury Advisories: www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/admehg3.html
- Mercury contamination: www.waterquality.utah.gov and www.epa.gov
- For more information on Utah's Mercury Work Group, call John Whitehead at (801) 538-6053.
- For more information on the Great Salt Lake Keeper, please email jeffsalt@greatsaltlakekeeper.org or call him at 801-485-2550.

To Nominate Someone to be GSLRC&D's At-Large Board Member, call 801-263-3204, 104 for more information.

PRATT Makes Progress with Trail

In 2005, Salt Lake County unveiled a Master Plan for the Parley's Creek Corridor Trail; an eight-mile bicycle/pedestrian pathway between the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) and the Jordan River Parkway.

Salt Lake Valley's first east/west urban trail will provide access to trails in West Valley City as well as to other major trail systems outside the County.

Plans to construct Parley's Trail have leapt ahead in recent months, thanks to the successful efforts of the Utah's Congressional Delegation to include the project in last year's Transporta-

tion bill, SAFETEA-LU With \$10.5 million in federal funds authorized for the trail, state, county and city planners are working out details of an interlocal agreement for its design and construction.

A key portion of the trail will be completed this year with a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over I-215 freeway, connecting Parley's Historic Nature Park to the BST near 30th South.

As this project progresses through the environmental study phase, planners will be asking for public input to learn about residents' preferences and concerns regarding the trail.

Special Mercury Issue

Mercury contamination is a local, regional, national, and a global issue of concern. The GSLRC&D hopes this newsletter will shed some light on this important topic.

Mercury compounds are released to the environment primarily by localized sources. Once released to the environment, they are subsequently transported and dispersed regionally and globally by natural forces, such as wind and flowing water. Eventually, mercury compounds are deposited locally by wet and dry deposition processes, where they often accumulate and cause localized impacts. Of particular interest is the potential for mercury

compounds to bio-accumulate in wildlife species that are eventually harvested for human consumption.

Mercury compounds naturally occurring and are widespread in the environment. They are easily volatilized and can be released through volcanic eruptions, geothermal activity, evaporation of oceans and large water-bodies, erosion of and seepage from geologic formations, and wildfires. Natural sources release the largest amounts of mercury and are impossible to control.

However, mercury is also released to the environment through anthropogenic or human caused sources such as contin-