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Rooted in Our Past,  
Reaching into the  
Future!

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

### Sharon Grgich, New Great Salt Lake RC&D Council Member

Hi, my name is Sharon Grgich and I currently serve as the "at large" board member of the GSL RC&D. This is my second time serving on an RC&D board and love the opportunity.

I have been married for almost 40 years to a farmer and we work the same land that his grandmother purchased in 1902 when she immigrated from Yugoslavia. I have 6 children (4 girls, 2 boys) and 12 grandchildren (6 of each).

I love doing crafts, but first and foremost I love being involved in volunteer work involving education of the public on the importance of preserving our natural resources and, in particular, agriculture. I currently service on the Tooele County Natural Resources Work Group board as secretary, the Tooele County Weed Board, education specialist for two conservation districts, and in my spare time I am a Tooele County Planning and Zoning Commissioner.



Sharon Grgich staffing the booth at the Tooele County fair for the local SCD Boards and the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council.



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

# The Lake Effect

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#### Calendar of Events:

- September 15th: Great Salt Lake RC&D Council Meeting at Ogden NRCS Office, 10am
- August 14th: Bonneville CWMA meeting at Murray NRCS Office, 9am
- September 18th: Bonneville CWMA meeting at Murray NRCS Office, 9am.
- November 9th: Great Salt Lake RC&D Council Meeting at Joint UACD/Utah RC&D Association meeting at the Park City Marriott, 1pm
- Western RC&D Association Conference, January 21 to 24, 2007 in Colorado Springs, CO

### Success Story presented at National RC&D Conference

The Great Salt Lake RC&D was one of two Councils in Utah selected to present a success story at the 2006 National Association of RC&D Councils in Savannah, Georgia, June 18 to 21st.

Jim Lawrence was able to take time from his busy schedule to travel to this historic part of the South ++to give a presentation on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to this national audience. With the help of Jeff Williams, the RC&D Coordinator, Jim discussed the role the GSL RC&D played in facilitating the fourth annual open house and workshop designed to increase the number of CSA operations along the Wasatch Front. The GSL RC&D Council identified farm preservation and viability as a goal in their Strategic or Area Plan in 2003 and is brought forward

each year in the Annual Plan of Work with results discussed in the Annual Report since 2004.

The GSL RC&D Council members and staff helped produce Public Service Announcements on local radio stations, draft press releases for newspapers and magazines, coordinated four different facilities in three counties, invited local farmers and growers to the events, prepared introductory materials about CSA for potential shareholders, and distributed materials about the various operations.

The GSL RC&D Council's presentation was well attended with audience members from around the country. Many of the participants were eager to ask questions of the presenters and how they saw their role evolving as the project continues



Top: Jim Lawrence and Jeff Williams present CSA story to National RC&D audience. Bottom: View of the Savannah River and Convention Center.



Thanks again to the NARCD for inviting the GSL RC&D Council to present their story about CSA at this national conference.

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### Cottam's Oak project: update

For the last four years, the Bear River RC&D and the Great Salt Lake RC&D Councils have been partnering to preserve an almost forgotten horticultural experiment by Dr. Walter Cottam. This orchard is located in the western part of the Red Butte Garden on the University of Utah Campus. Scott Ferguson and Jeff Williams have been visiting this orchard and collect-

ing acorns, photo-documenting the individual trees and recording the various hybridization crosses. The acorns have been planted in pots with the hope of growing them for sale and sharing them with the general public. It is hoped that this effort will increase public awareness of this important botanical work.





## Great Salt Lake RC&D receives NRCS Grant to address Myrtle Spurge

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council has been awarded a grant for outreach and control of Myrtle (or Donkey Tail) Spurge by offering an exchange program to local residents. In partnership with the Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Great Salt Lake RC&D is finishing a mapping effort concerning this weed that has been detected early along the Wasatch Front. Building on this project, the RC&D has secured a fifty percent cost share grant for \$5,000. This work is consistent with the RC&D's Annual Plan of Work by promoting improvement of natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, local agriculture production

and rangeland health and will meet the specific NRCS program goal of "Healthy Plan and Animal Communities". The primary objective of the project is to provide noxious weed awareness to the general public through education (a hands on experience) regarding the invasion of Myrtle Spurge into the local environment.

The final project consists of purchasing 500 native plants and then working with the nurseries to replace existing Myrtle Spurge with those native plants, including the production of an informational brochure educating not only the

public, but the nurseries as well, from buying and selling this invasive plant. The educational benefits of the program result in a broad base of support for weed control in general.

Since a list of the area's property owners are compiled, letters can be distributed giving them an opportunity to exchange their plants. The benefits would also educate nurseries and growers of the problem with this invasive plant. Announcement of the program takes place in April and plants are replaced in May, when the program ends for the year. News coverage of the project takes place April through May.

**The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council promotes partnerships that improve and protect communities and the environment. Call Jeff at 263-3204, 104 to find out how you can make a difference.**

## Conservation Partnership Initiative: Update

Progress continues on the Deep Creek Sensitive Species Assessment funded by the federal Conservation Partnership Initiative grant secured by the GSL RC&D Council in 2005.

Brigham Young University reported new findings including a new Pygmy Rabbit location with the use of a GIS predictive map, walk transects, and remote cameras. After a predictive suitable habitat analysis was completed, cameras were installed to monitor activity, hopefully of pygmy rabbits. Several hundred hours of camera hours were recorded, pictures of black-tailed jackrabbit, cot-

ontail, coyote, badger, long-tailed weasels, and pygmy rabbits were taken. South of Ibapah, around greasewood springs, new burrow complexes were documented. In addition, habitat sampling was performed, which included: slope, GPS location, aspect, distance habitat edges, vertical obscurity, horizontal obscurity, canopy cover, distance to nearest shrub,

shrub density, under story percentage and composition.



A pygmy rabbit seeks cover in a burrow (below). A long tailed weasel, a common predator of pygmy rabbit (above).



## People's Market in full bloom

A new group of local growers and vendors have planted roots at the Northwest Recreation Center in Rose Park on Sunday mornings to create the newest (and perhaps most ambitious) market. Encouraged by the past success of last year's West Side Swap and Sale, a small group of entrepreneurs and gardeners offer Salt Lake City and surrounding communities the opportunity to purchase locally grown produce and a variety of locally produced goods from aspiring craftsman. Organized by Kyle LaMalfa, the People's Market has started from a humble beginning with a handful of participants. The market offers very

reasonable rates for local producers. After a number of challenges including insurance and permit issues the People's Market is in full bloom with a full bouquet of goods and services for residents to eat, purchase and experience. This intimate group of merchants already has their sights set on next year's market with even more ambitious plans to grow from the seeds of success of this year's efforts. If you'd like to learn more about the People's Market go to:

<http://www.slpeoplesmarket.org> to find out how you can participate in this



Shoppers find a shady place in the shade to cool off from the Summer heat.

community's market, which also offers information in Spanish or drop Kyle a note at : [slpeoplesmarket@gmail.com](mailto:slpeoplesmarket@gmail.com).

## New UACD Zone Coordinator, Heather Johnson

Heather Johnson has replaced Ken Mills as the Zone 2 Coordinator for the Utah Association of Conservation Districts. She will be stationed in the Murray office located on 1030 West and 5370 South.

Heather received her bachelors degree in Biology at the University of Utah and later obtained a Master's degree from Utah State in Landscape Water Conservation.

With a background in water conservation, Heather previously worked for Jordan Valley Water

Conservancy. She first worked in the demonstration gardens and later on in residential and commercial conservation programs such as the Slow the Flow campaign and Water Checks. Now working for the UACD, Heather is happy to focus her efforts on helping producers and landowners to conserve natural resources on agricultural lands.

Heather loves gardening, designing landscapes and photographing Utah native plants. She is very excited to be working for the Soil Conservation Districts and hopes all will feel welcome to stop by and say hi when they are in the Murray area.

Heather Johnson and the Salt Lake Soil Conservation District Board on a tour of a project on the Jordan River.



## New Strategic Plan for NRCS: What it means for RC&D

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has completed a new strategic plan this summer and is available for review and download at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/strategicplan/>.

Some of the highlights include:

**Vision:** Productive Lands—Healthy Environment

**Mission:** Helping People Help the Land

• *Guiding principles:*

1. Service,

2. Partnership, and

3. Technical Excellence: Business Lines include: Conservation Planning and Technical Consultation, Conservation Implementation, Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment, Natural Resource Technology Transfer and Financial Assistance

• *Overarching Strategies:*

1. Cooperative Conservation
2. Watershed Approach
3. Market-based Approach

- *Foundation Goals:* High Quality, Productive Soils, Clean and Abundant Water, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
- *Venture Goals:* Clean Air, an Adequate Energy Supply, and Working Farm and Ranch Lands
- *Management Initiatives:* Ensuring Civil Rights and Improving Internal Management

## RC&D Association News

The National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils has recently provided many materials to address many of the challenges and opportunities that RC&D Councils face at the local level. Materials include a CD on developing and maintaining small businesses in rural communities, which provides information on starting small business, business resources, understanding business finances, as well as government regulation associated with starting a small business. In addition, NARCD has published

a CDs on Bioenergy, Wildland-Urban Interface Community Planning Tool Kit, Drought and Water Protection.

The NARCD has also provided fact sheets concerning employment issues facing RC&D Councils, sample code of conduct, writing press releases and op-ed pieces, website creation and maintenance, and explanations of NRCS financial and technical assistance programs (such as Conservation Technical Assistance or CTA). They have also provided a workbook for understand and improving partnerships with Native Americans.



Jeff Williams beneath one of the National Association of RC&D banners in downtown Savannah, GA in June 2006.

### Got an Idea?

Want to see if the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council can help make your dream a reality?

Check out our website and fill out the Project Idea Development form.

<http://www.greatsaltlakercd.org/GSLRCDDProjectIdeaDevelopmentForm.pdf>