

# WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall, 2016

PO Box 486, Kearny, AZ 85137 WNRCD.org

## From the Frog Pond by Bill Dunn

Unlike most of you, I forget what I'm supposed to be doing. Luckily I have our district clerk, Chris Postel to remind me of district business, like writing this article.

Our Quarterly Meeting was attended by about thirty people. We had a presentation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about creating a Clean Water Plan for the Aravaipa and Gila Rivers within the district. The Aravaipa is impaired by E Coli. and the Gila by sediment. In order to be able for the district to qualify for federal funding to help alleviate these problems we need to have a plan in place. We are still studying the process.

Also on the Aravaipa, there is concern among some of our cooperators and others that the river is drying up in the summer. We identified some of the possible causes: pumping, drought, lots of new trees growing in the river since the big summer flood several years ago, pumping above the canyon. We didn't hear of any data that anyone has; so, we are going to have to search for that first and contact the Gila Valley NRCD who border the upper Aravaipa and meet with them.

We are still waiting on the FEMA grant to begin creating a defensible fire space for Kearny and property owners above/below it. We should know something this winter. It would be good to get some work done on that before the next fire season and the Willow Flycatcher breeding season begins.

You probably know that Pinal County has a new Range and Livestock Specialist. Ashley Hall has been named by the U of A CALS to be shared by eastern Pinal and Gila Counties. Ashley is a recent graduate from the U of A. She and her husband have been looking for a permanent home here where she can service both counties. She is busy this fall with the Reading The Range program for

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Steve Carol Bill Francie Gary

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

the Tonto NRCD, monitoring allotments on the Tonto Forest. She has put together a Needs Assessment we are sending out to all our cooperators to inform her and CALS what the producers want and need from Cooperative

Extension. This is the first time in at least twenty years we have had a county agent for our side of the county; so, please fill out the Assessment and send it back.

Hope everyone has a good wet holiday season.

Until next time. Bill

**Clean Water Plans** by Chris PostelBackground Information

In September, Bill asked me to investigate what would be involved to get a grant from ADEQ for removing old septic systems along the Aravaipa Creek. After doing some research, I talked to Samuel "Jake" Breedlove (ADEQ - Grant & Watershed Coordinator) about applying for a grant. He said that the Aravaipa watershed was an area that ADEQ was very interested in, especially in terms of E.Coli. Did we have an "EPA" approved Clean Water Plan? I said that we didn't; so, he gave a presentation on Oct 25 at CAC (Aravaipa) about ADEQ's Water Quality Grant Improvement Program covering key components such as Clean Water Plan development steps, EPA requirements, grant funding, etc. So far, we've talked about developing 2 plans: Aravaipa Creek for E.coli and Gila River (Winkelman to 8 miles south of Kelvin) for sediment.

After Jake's presentation, it was apparent to me that this project was going to be very involved and time consuming. Working with ADEQ, a Clean Water Plan will take about 6-9 months for development and approval. Jake said that the most time consuming step was to have the key stakeholders (ADEQ & a local watershed coalition) develop a water sampling plan and have local volunteers (Citizen Scientists) take water samples. I copied/edited from ADEQ's website and Jake's presentation the following information on Clean Water Plans & their development steps, EPA's Requirements, and the Water Quality Improvement Grant program. Link for more information. <http://www.azdeq.gov/programs/water-quality-programs/watershed-protection>

**Clean Water Plans**

Clean Water Plans are documents designed to protect and restore a watershed by identifying priority projects and strategies to mitigate specific impairments. The plans provide a careful analysis of water quality problem sources, contributions to the problems and alternatives to solve those problems, as well as proactive measures to protect water bodies. Clean Water Plans are developed by local watershed partnerships in conjunction with support from ADEQ and the University of Arizona. The following areas have plans: San Francisco River/Blue, Granite Creek, Oak Creek, and Upper San Pedro River. In summary, strategies and projects are identified that can be implemented to reduce nonpoint source pollution to meet on-the-ground water quality standards. Upper San Pedro web page: <http://www.azdeq.gov/node/675>

**Plan Development Steps (Continued on Page 5)**

- Scoping meeting
- Begin field reconnaissance
- Development of a Watershed Improvement Council
- Develop sampling plan and share with WIC for review and comment
- Conduct monitoring trainings
- Data collection (water quality data, physical watershed surveys, social surveys)
- Data analysis, modeling
- BMP and project selection, modeling
- Project prioritization and research (potential partners, funding sources, etc.)
- Draft watershed plan
- Public comment
- Finalize plan and submit to EPA
- Begin implementing projects

## Movin on Down the Trail



Stanley C. Yoder 1924 - 2016



The District recently lost a long-time local resident and good friend, Stanley Yoder. Stan was born in Winkelman on January 24, 1924, and passed away in Tucson on May 11, 2016. Stan lived in Winkelman and Hayden for most of his life. However, he spent a short time living with his sister in California and graduated from high school there. In 1949, Stan went to work for ASARCO in the power house. It used waste water heat from the furnace to make steam for the turbines.

That same year, Stan met a sweet mountain girl from Eagar, Arizona, Molly Haws, on a blind date. They were married the next year and had two children, Steve and Julia, who both preceded him in death. The Yoders lived in Hayden in a company house until the 1960's when they built a new house and moved to Dudleyville. Stan worked for ASARCO until his retirement at age 62.

Stan had many interests and accomplishments during his life. He loved reading and visiting

about local history, rock hounding and rock polishing and silver smithing and was a very accomplished self-taught woodworker. He built beautiful cabinets and other furniture and had his own woodworking shop. He taught woodworking at CAC Aravaipa campus for years. But Stan most loved to be outdoors and in the open. He liked hunting deer, quail and javalina but often forgot about the hunting and just enjoyed looking at the country and all the plants and animals.

Stan loved to garden and, despite some health problems, he grew a big one every year. He grew all kinds of vegetables but he was most proud of his chilies and cantaloupes which were his favorites. According to Molly, "the other vegetables were just to fill up space". Stan experimented with varieties to learn which were best for our area. He kept all his neighbors and friends stocked up with summer vegetables. Stan and Molly hauled many loads of manure for the garden. On one of those manure trips to the Meyer's ranch, they learned about the Winkelman NRCD. They soon became cooperators and really enjoyed coming to the district meetings, which were a highlight of Stan's retirement. Stan and Molly loved learning about all the issues and visiting with the people they met. Stan leaves behind his loving wife of 66 years, grandchildren and great grandchildren and many friends who will miss him terribly.

## Movin on Down the Trail



Dale R. Gibson 1921 - 2016



Dedicated friend of agriculture, Dale R. Gibson, was born in Snowflake, Arizona, on September 17, 1921, and "slipped the bonds of mortality and into eternity" in Phoenix on October 23, 2016. Dale graduated from Snowflake Union High School where he was particularly interested in farming programs as part of the Future Farmers' of America. From his youth, his goal was to teach vocational agriculture. Dale joined the Arizona National Guard in 1939 and was called to active duty in 1940. After completing infantry officer training, he served in combat in Africa and Italy where he earned the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster for his actions during World War II. According to his son, Charlie, Dale claimed that infantry soldiers never said good-by, only "see you later".

After the war, he married Leoma "Lee" Cheek in 1943. She preceded Dale in death after they were married for 66 happy years. Dale attended the University of Arizona where he earned his bachelor's degree. He also earned his master's degree from the U of A and his doctorate from Arizona State University. Upon graduation from the U of A in 1948, he and Lee moved to Florence where Dale taught vocational agriculture at Florence Union High School for many years. In 1967 he began service as associate dean of Occupational Education at Central Arizona College until his retirement in 1983. In addition to his role as an educator, Dale was a member of Lion's Club and a life-long member of the LDS church where he held many leadership positions.

Dale was a devoted teacher and mentor to so many young people, many of whom are older folks now and still live within the Winkelman NRCD. Dale was instrumental in the successful future of kids who may not have done so well if it had not been for his dedication to their futures. His quiet, calm, laid-back demeanor earned respect from all his students, in fact, from everyone who came in contact with him. Dale exposed his students to welding, electrification, masonry, farm practices, animal husbandry and a multitude of other learning opportunities. The skills he taught his students have been useful to them their entire lives. His influence on his students lasted well beyond high school. He remained friends to many of them throughout his life and was always available to help.

Dale leaves behind three sons, District friend and Pinal County Extension Agent, Richard D. Gibson from Casa Grande, Franklyn D. Gibson from Lake St. Louis, Missouri, and Charles D. Gibson from Whittier, California, and a sister Bernadene Gardiner of Mesa, Arizona. He also leaves many grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as many friends. So, in honor of our friend Dale Gibson - "see you later"

**Plan Development Steps (continued from Page 2)**

- Needs
  - Identify areas of concern in the watershed
  - Document (sampling) areas of concern
  - Prioritize project areas
  - Identify & prioritize projects to improve water quality
  - Development specific projects within the watershed
- Funding Priorities (ADEQ's Targeted, Impaired Watersheds)
- On-the-ground watershed implementation emphasis
- Education and outreach components
- 40% non-federal match

**EPA's required elements for Watershed plans**

To be eligible for Nonpoint Source funding, watershed plan projects must contain:

1. ID's causes of impairment and pollutant sources
2. Estimates the expected load reductions that will result from plan implementation
3. Describes the nonpoint source management measures that need to be implemented to achieve load reductions, and the critical areas where they are needed
4. Estimates the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities needed to implement the plan
5. Includes an information and education component that will enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing management measures
6. Includes a schedule for implementing the nonpoint source management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious
7. Describes interim measurable milestones for determining whether nonpoint source management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
8. Provides a set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards.
9. Includes an effectiveness monitoring component to evaluate the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under item 8 above.

**Water Quality Improvement Grant (WQIG)**

This ADEQ program allocates U.S. EPA funds for the implementation of nonpoint source management and watershed protection. Projects are funded that address polluted runoff, are also known as "non-point source pollution." This type of pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation picks up pollutants and carries them to rivers or lakes. Some common pollutants in Arizona are bacteria, nutrients and sediment, with potential sources that include agriculture, forestry, grazing, septic systems, recreation, construction and physical changes to stream channels. The primary objective is to implement conservation practices that will improve watershed health, improve water quality, and reduce downstream flood damages. Practices are specifically aimed at reducing soil erosion and water runoff, increasing ground cover, and improving wildlife habitat to reduce negative economic impacts. These partnership's purpose is to coordinate/cooperate in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies and projects to assist in improving water quality and quantity. Information link: <http://www.azdeq.gov/node/315>



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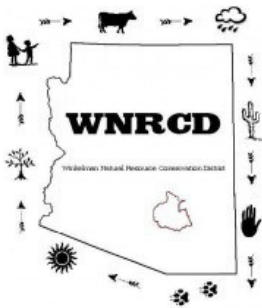
**Loans** - Auto (GAP Insurance Available), Signature, Debt Consolidation, Mortgages

**Services** - ATMs (Kearny, Hayden), Notary, Money Orders, Cashier Checks, ACH Origination, Wires

### **Mark Your Calendar**

WNRCD Quarterly meeting on February 15 at 10 am, location to be determined.

Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Winter Meeting, January 25-26, Gilbert, AZ



PO Box 68  
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