



# Socorro SWCD

## Spring 2011 Newsletter



**Spring Action Plan** - Spring is here. As you plant and begin irrigating, ramp up slowly. First, bear in mind your water needs and how they can be conserved and utilized. Socorro SWCD supports conservation measures, and though the city & county does not participate in any community water conservation programs, you may want to consider our northern neighbors "Water by the Numbers" water saving efforts. Bernalillo county is promoting the 1-2-3-2-1 formula: water once a week in March, twice a week in April & May, then three times a week June-August, and reverse back to twice a week September & October and once a week November. By watering less often and for a duration of 15 minutes or less per zone, this simple plan provides lawns & landscapes enough water and promotes water savings-.



**Xeriscape** makes sense in the desert southwest. If you are planning to replace a few trees or shrubs that were damaged by the severe cold this past winter or planning a whole new landscape this spring, take a look at the new water conserving plant list on the NM State Engineer website, <http://wuc.ose.state.nm.us/Plants/> Other conservation & plant ideas can be found at <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/a-waterwise-guide-to-trees/file> You may want to consider new drip irrigation or a water harvesting catchment system. Schedule a meeting with Will (575.418.5979), our range technician, who can help you with trouble shooting & designs for an efficient drip system. Check out our 2010 winter newsletter for lists & more information on drip resources ([www.socorroswcd.com](http://www.socorroswcd.com)).

**Spring Clean Up Day** along the Riverine Parks. Volunteer and help clean up our bosque, meet new friends & other community members. As a member of *Save Our Bosque Task Force* Socorro SWCD & other community agencies will join other volunteers to rid our river of rubbish Friday, April 29. Contact Doug at 835-9359.



**Parrot Feather:** Socorro SWCD is looking to get your input on the effects and concerns you have regarding the aquatic weed Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) found locally in the irrigation drains and low flow channels. Contact us at [socorroswcd@qwestoffice.net](mailto:socorroswcd@qwestoffice.net), put **Parrot feather** in the subject line and we will add your comments and concerns to our upcoming study in eradication of this noxious weed. (the *real* Parrot feather —>)



**The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)** is celebrating the 56th year of Stewardship week during April 24 – May 1, 2011. The 2011 Stewardship Week is themed "Forests For People – More Than You Can Imagine."



Citizens are looking for ways to be involved at their homes, local schools or with community conservation projects. Forests are found all across North America and around the world. Right outside your backdoor and in your community, forests can be found in the mountains and along our Rio Grande, which we know as *bosque* or river forests. Forests, and the trees found within, provide us with shade, wood products, fuel, as well as help clean the air we breathe. Trees are part of the forest habitat that help conserve water, provide shelter for animals, birds and insects, as well as increase their food supplies. "Understanding the importance of forests in our daily lives is the key connection of the 2011 NACD Stewardship theme," says NACD President Gene Schmidt. "Forests play a critical role in providing clean water, healthy wildlife habitat, as well as jobs for our citizens and products that we use every day."

**The Socorro SWCD** was formed to assist people in the Socorro district to lead beneficial conservation efforts and to encourage the responsible development of natural resources. During Stewardship Week, Socorro SWCD, in partnership with other members of *Save Our Bosque Task Force* is participating in **Bosque Parks Spring Clean Up Day**. Bosque Parks Spring Clean Up Day is **Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>** and provides educational and community opportunities for the enhancement of our Riverine parks. This activity is a great way for community members to interact and increase environmental awareness while supporting the historical and recreational uses of the river and bosque. Conservation of our natural resources is important in every community.

**Teachers and Educators:** New this year, students K-12 can participate in a poster contest, with "Forests For People – More Than You Can Imagine!" as a theme. **Socorro SWCD** provides presentations, instruction, class activities and demonstrations on soil, water and conserving natural resources on a class by class, grade level or school wide basis. Curricula is tied to NM Education Standards and Benchmarks. Does your class or organization need speakers, activities or help with environmental issues this spring semester? Contact Belle at (575)838-0078 or [belle@qwestoffice.net](mailto:belle@qwestoffice.net) to schedule integrated curricula presentations & activities for K-12. Please contact us if you and your class would like help in making the most of 2011 Stewardship Week.

**Spring it Forward —SAVE TREES... AND WATER!!**

**Get your newsletter electronically! Email us at [socorrosxcd@qwestoffice.net](mailto:socorrosxcd@qwestoffice.net) and simply put Newsletter along with your name in the text. Go to your computer now and help yourself (and us!) reduce water waste!**

**Don't forget to visit our web site: [www.socorrosxcd.com](http://www.socorrosxcd.com)**

If you no longer would like to receive the Socorro SWCD newsletter, please contact us via email or phone (575.838.0078) and we'll take you off our mailing list.

**Socorro Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

103 Francisco de Avondo  
Socorro, NM 87801

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***Socorro SWCD News & Information:***

- **Calling All Students & Teachers!** K-12 students are invited to participate in 2011 Stewardship Week Poster Contest (theme: *Forests For People-More Than You Can Imagine*). Call us at (575)838-0078 or [belle@qwestoffice.net](mailto:belle@qwestoffice.net) for more information.
- **Kids, Cows and More...** Grades 3-4, Socorro Fairgrounds. Thursday, April 21. Contact Teresa Dean (835-0610). Socorro SWCD will exhibit the *Rolling Rivers* water trailer and provide hands-on opportunity for students to learn about water conservation.
- **Sustainable Ag Management Workshop**— Do you want to know more about soils, nutrients, water and plant health & quality? Wednesday May 18th is for you! Sponsored by NRCS & NMSU Socorro County Ext. Contact Tom Dean (835-0610) or Brandon Bishop (835-1710 x:3) for more information.
- **Irrigators & Landowners:** 2010-2011 Cost share programs have ended. Apply early for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Applications will be available June 2011 for the coming fiscal year.
- **Socorro SWCD** board meetings are open to the public. The April meeting will take place on April 19th in lieu of the regular scheduled meeting, same place, same time. Regular schedule will resume in May, on the second Tuesday of every month, 5:30 p.m. at the district office.