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LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our natural resources

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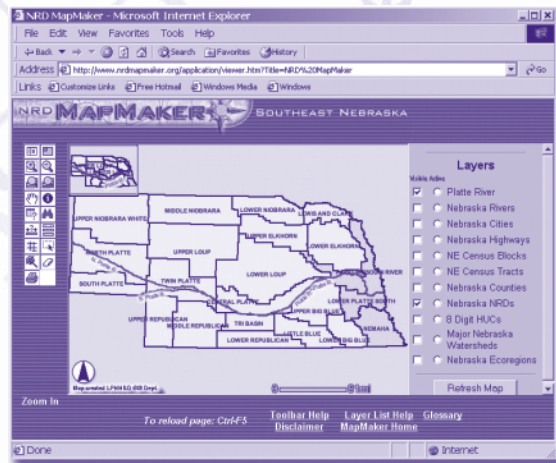
# NRD MAPMAKER

Interactive maps for southeast Nebraska, including the Lower Platte North NRD, are now available via the Web at [www.nrdmapmaker.org](http://www.nrdmapmaker.org).

The NRD MapMaker system allows users to create custom digital maps through their web browsers. Users can overlay different layers of information on their maps, such as aerial photos, highways, streams, and more. The maps are interactive, allowing users to pan and zoom the view, click on specific features to get more information, print maps, and more.

The MapMaker system uses Geographic Information System (GIS) data collected by NRDs and other agencies. The MapMaker site was developed to provide easy access to this data for cities and counties, landowners, farmers, and other interested parties, without the need for expensive GIS software.

Currently, geographic information is available for the southeast corner of Nebraska. In

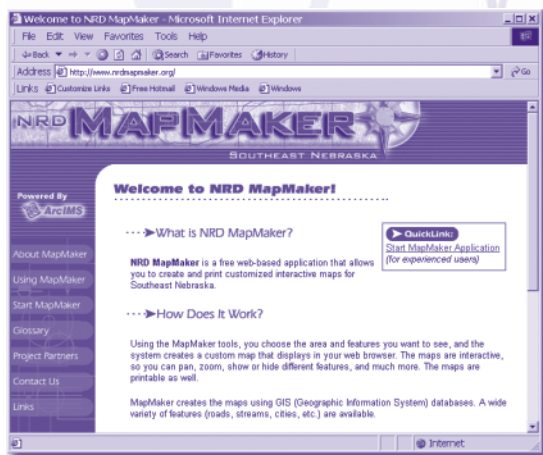


the future, coverage may be expanded to include other areas of the state as well.

Within the current coverage area of the system, a variety of information is available for use in generating custom maps, including: aerial photos; cities, counties, and township boundaries; streams and lakes; roads and highways; Census tracts and blocks; Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance boundaries; NRD boundaries; floodplains and floodways; and more. New coverages will be added to the system as they become available.

The MapMaker system was developed by a partnership including four NRDs and the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance. The Lower Platte North NRD designed and maintains the MapMaker website, which is hosted by the Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Visit the site at:

[www.nrdmapmaker.org](http://www.nrdmapmaker.org)



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# Area Conservationists Honored at NRD Annual Banquet

Conservationists of all kinds were honored at the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District's Annual Recognition Banquet Monday, Dec. 10 at the Fremont Golf Club.

The district gives awards for outstanding efforts in conservation, tree planting, water resources management, education, and volunteerism. Award winners are chosen by NRD staff and directors.

The 2001 Outstanding Conservationist Award went to the Beno Bartunek family of Butler County. The Bartuneks — Beno and Dorothy and their sons Bruce and Terry — farm between Abie and Bruno, and have a long-standing commitment to conservation. Eric Gottschalk, NRD Special Projects Coordinator, noted the many conservation practices that have been installed on the Bartunek's land over the past two decades. The family also has been of great

assistance in helping the NRD reach required levels of land treatment for the Skull Creek Watershed Project, Gottschalk said.

The Shell Creek Landowners Watershed Committee was named Volunteer of the Year. Carl Grotelueschen accepted the award on behalf of the committee. The committee has been very active in identifying and promoting needed conservation practices in the Shell Creek area. This strong local leadership is very helpful to the NRD in planning and prioritizing conservation work, said NRD Assistant Manager Tom Mountford.

Gayle Goering of rural Platte Center received the Tree Planter of the Year Award. Over the past twenty-three years, Gayle and his wife Carol have planted approximately 6,000 trees on their property in Platte County, and seventy of their 320 acres are currently grassland and trees. In the past two years alone, Goering planted more than 1,200 trees, demonstrating their continuing commitment to conservation forestry, said NRD Operations & Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann.

Keith Glewen, Saunders County Extension Educator, was named Water Resources Cooperator of the



## Conservationist of the Year

L-R: Beno Barutnek of rural Abie receives the Conservationist of the Year Award from NRD Special Projects Coordinator Eric Gottschalk.

## Volunteer of the Year

Carl Grotelueschen (center) accepts the Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of the Shell Creek Watershed Committee from NRD Chair Greg Wilke (left) and Assistant Manager Tom Mountford (right).



## Tree Planter of the Year

L-R: Gayle Goering of rural Platte Center receives the Tree Planter of the Year Award from NRD Operations & Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann.

Year. Glewen has been an invaluable resource for the NRD on a variety of water-related issues, said NRD Water Resources Manager Larry Angle. Glewen has also been instrumental in helping the NRD certify producers in nitrogen management. In 2001, 338 area producers were certified, and at least a third of those were directly attributable to Glewen's efforts, Angle said.

The Educator of the Year Award went to Tom Wheeldon of Schuyler Central High School. Tom, an Agricultural Education teacher, has been extremely active in teaching his students about conservation and stewardship, said Greg Weber, a soil conservationist in the Colfax County Natural Resources Conservation Service office. Tom involves his students in a variety of hands-on and real-world activities that go beyond the classroom, and has won numerous awards for his efforts, Weber noted.

Staff and directors of the NRD also were honored at the banquet. Brad Soncksen, District Conservationist for the Lower Platte North region, was chosen as NRCS Employee of the Year. Carol Prokesh, Saunders County NRCS Clerk, received the NRCS Field Office Award. The 2001 Customer Service Award went to Shaula Ross, NRD Water Resources Technician. Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to Sam Barlean, Operations and Maintenance Specialist, Ryan Axmann, GIS Specialist, and Dan Becker, Water Resources Specialist. A special award was pre-

sented to Sharen Minarick, former NRD receptionist, for her excellent work ethic and positive attitude during her time at the NRD.

The 2001 Director of the Year was Dave Shelso of Fremont. Dave has been an NRD Director since 1989 and has served in many leadership positions, including Vice-Chair and Chairman. In addition, Shelso has been an excellent representative for the NRD to many local and state organizations, including the Nebraska Unicameral, said NRD Manager John Miyoshi.

Jill Breunig, Administrative Manager, was the 2001 Employee of the Year. Breunig is a hard worker and will always put in extra hours to get the job done, said NRD Chairman Greg Wilke. Jill is instrumental in keeping the office running smoothly and helping new employees become acclimated, Wilke said.

Years of Service Awards were presented to directors Ted Bailey and Lumir Jedlicka (Five Years); Water Resources Specialist Shaula Ross (Ten Years); Water Resources Manager Larry Angle and Operations and Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann (15 Years); and Saunders County NRCS Clerk Carol Prokesh (20 Years).



Lower Platte Center receives the Tree of Life Award from NRD Operations & Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann.



#### Educator of the Year

L-R: Tom Wheeldon of Schuyler Central High School receives the Educator of the Year Award from NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Greg Weber.

#### Water Resources Cooperator of the Year

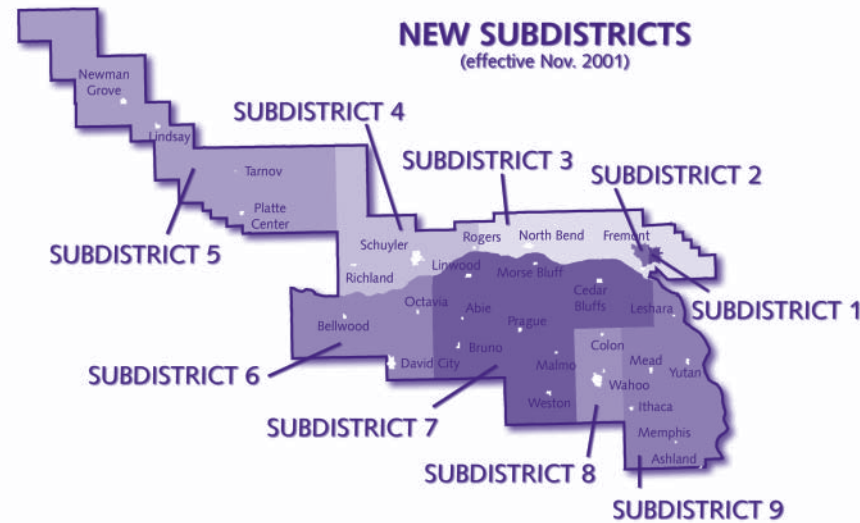
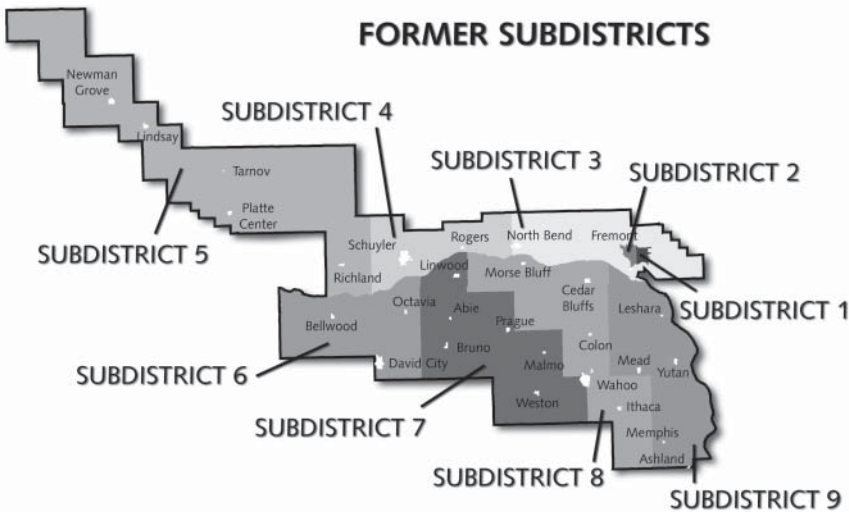
L-R: Keith Glewen of Saunders County Extension receives the Water Resources Cooperator of the Year Award from Larry Angle, NRD Water Resources Manager.

# NRD Adopts New Subdistricts

The Lower Platte North NRD adopted new subdistricts in November 2001 based on the results of the 2000 census.

The district will still have nine subdistricts with 19 directors, but the boundaries of some of the subdistricts have changed to reflect population shifts in the district.

Old and new subdistricts are shown below.



## IN BRIEF

### NRD Welcomes New Employees

Two new employees have joined the Lower Platte North NRD.

Mike Sousek is the district's new Wellhead Protection Coordinator. Mike, originally from Prague, Nebraska, will work with area communities to help protect their public water supplies.



Sousek

Karen Rezac is the NRD's new receptionist. Karen is a graduate of Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo and currently resides in Valparaiso with her husband and four children.



Rezac

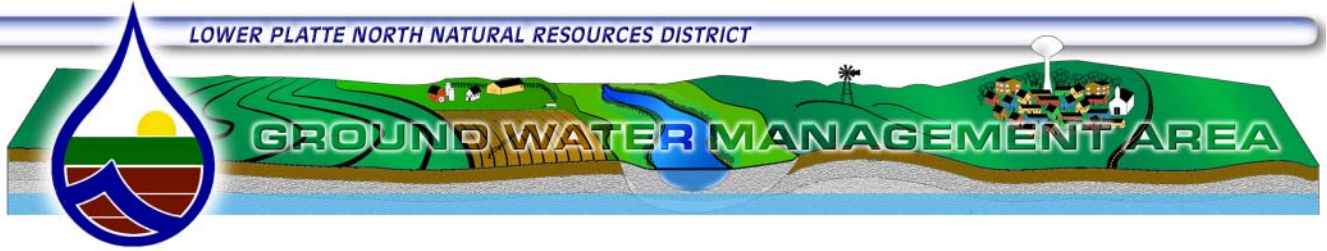
### NRD Celebrates Soil & Water Stewardship

To celebrate Soil & Water Stewardship Week, the Lower Platte North NRD makes free educational materials available to schools and churches throughout the district. Order forms are mailed to all schools and churches, and orders can also be placed online at [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org).

### Homestead Lake Recreation Facilities Completed

Construction of recreation facilities at Homestead Lake near Bruno was completed in late 2001. The area will be open for day use and will offer no-wake boating, picnicking, fishing, and more.

To accommodate the construction, the lake level was drawn down to a low level. With construction complete, the lake will be allowed to refill this winter and spring. A dedication ceremony will be held this spring to officially open the area for public use.



## Nitrogen Management Training Scheduled

Nitrogen management training sessions for spring 2002 have been announced for producers in the Lower Platte North NRD.

All producers in the district who use fertilizer are required to be certified in nitrogen management at least once every four years. Uncertified producers are not eligible for LPNNRD cost-share programs.

Producers who have never been certified must attend training this spring to remain eligible for cost-share programs. Producers

who were originally certified in 1998 should also attend to become recertified.

The training is free and no preregistration is required. Training sessions last approximately two hours and are conducted by NRD and Cooperative Extension staff. You are free to attend whichever session best suits your schedule.

For more information on nitrogen certification, contact Larry Angle or Russ Oaklund at the Lower Platte North NRD, 402-443-4675.

### *Training Schedule Spring 2002*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Feb. 7</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Saunders Co. Extension Office (ARDC near Ithaca)
<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Saunders Co. Extension Office (ARDC near Ithaca) Saunders Co. Extension Office (ARDC near Ithaca)
<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> <b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Columbus -- Agriculture Park Columbus -- Agriculture Park
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Newman Grove -- American Legion Hall Newman Grove -- American Legion Hall
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	David City -- Frontier Coop (Yanka)
<b>Feb. 25</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Schuyler -- Benedictine Center (North on Hwy. 15) Schuyler -- Benedictine Center (North on Hwy. 15)
<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Bellwood -- Community Hall
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Fremont -- Dodge County Extension Office Fremont -- Dodge County Extension Office
<b>March 7</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	David City -- Frontier Coop (Yanka)
<b>March 12</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Columbus -- Agriculture Park



is the quarterly publication of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District and is edited by Troy Thompson, Information & Education Specialist.

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Sam Barlean .....	O & M Specialist
Dan Becker .....	Water Resources Specialist
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 Web site: http://www.lpnnrd.org

# Order Trees for Spring Planting

The Lower Platte North NRD is now accepting tree orders for planting in spring 2002. Prices for 2002 will remain the same (50 cents per tree for handplants and 85 cents for machine plants). An updated list of tree species that can be ordered for 2002 is available on the district's website at [www.lpnnrd.org](http://www.lpnnrd.org).

Orders should be placed early to ensure tree availability. Place your order online at [www.lpnnrd.org](http://www.lpnnrd.org) or contact Operations & Maintenance Manager Bob Heimann at 402-443-4675.



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