



# Corner

Spring is on its way! At least I hope it is. This has been a long winter – full of snow and cold weather. Don't get me wrong. I like winter, but I have to say this winter is starting to last a little too long for me!

In this issue I've included an article about Ice Jams. Did you know the NRD is a stakeholder and helps monitor the ice on the Platte River? Be sure to read the article for some good pictures and information.

Also included, as always, are some great resources the NRD offers to help further your environmental education efforts. Take advantage of the Kits we've designed to supplement your curriculum and be sure to check out the Earth Day tips we've included. Thinking of warmer weather? Don't forget the NRD offers outdoor classroom grants.

And...drumroll please! The NRD is pleased to announce the new look of our website. OK, I'll be honest – it is set to debut sometime this spring! Be sure to check it out at [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org) to see our new look.

Contact me at [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org) or 476-2729 for more information on any NRD programs.

Mckenzie's

## celebrate earth day

Earth Day – April 22, 2010 – is a great time to look at ways we can all conserve natural resources and protect the environment. Here are a few helpful tips to get you on your way!

- Use a rain gauge in your lawn to measure rain and irrigation. This will help prevent over-watering.
- Install a rain barrel. Use the collected water for plants and garden.
- Switch to an ultra low-flow shower head. This could save you as much as 2.5 gallons every minute you shower.
- Scrape the food off your dishes into the garbage instead of using water to rinse it down the disposal or compost it.
- Unplug cell phone chargers and electronic devices when not in use. Even when they are not on, they are still using small amounts of energy.
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.

# natural resources

conserve

## NRD Classroom Kits... the perfect fit for your curriculum

NRD Classroom Kits are designed for you – teachers! Each Kit contains student literature books, educator resource and activity books. Kits can be checked out for 2 weeks at a time.

The following Kits are available for check-out:

### Birds – Early Childhood

This kit includes numerous children's books, consumable projects like bird feeders, puzzles, Audubon Birds, and numerous age-appropriate activities revolving around birds!



### Worms – 1st grade

Filled with books, puzzles, magnifying lenses, and educator resources, this kit will help you wiggle your way into studying about composting, worms, and recycling.

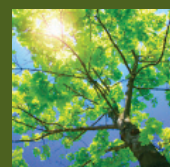
### Butterfly – 2nd grade

Teaching about life cycles, metamorphosis, or butterflies? With numerous literature books, puppets, puzzles, and educator resources, this kit will definitely add to your student's exploration.



### Trees – 3rd & 4th grade

Field guides, tree cookies, paper-making kit, and several children's books... what more do you need to make your Tree or Arbor Day unit a success?



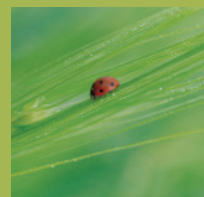
### Lewis & Clark – 6th-12th grade

This kit is full of resources including plant presses, skulls, pelts, and a classroom set of compasses in addition to the student and educator books.

### Water Kit – 6th-12th grade

Studying water has an amazing ability to connect your students with the environment – and this kit has all the resources you need to create a wonderful water unit – two water quality testing kits, a Secchi disk, macroinvertebrate nets and containers, and numerous books.

To reserve an NRD Classroom Kit, call the NRD today at (402) 476-2729 or [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org).



### Answers:

### Test Your Knowledge

- 1 - Monarch Butterfly
- 2 - Seeds
- 3 - Male Goldfinch
- 4 - Butterfly Milkweed
- 5 - Female Goldfinch
- 6 - Butterfly Chrysalis
- 7 - Moth Cocoon
- 8 - Common Milkweed
- 9 - Viceroy Butterfly

Please share your Resource Corner with other interested Educators!



# CORNER

RESOURCE

SPRING 2010



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LOWER PLATTE SOUTH  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

# Test Your Knowledge!

Outdoor Classrooms are Fun & Educational

Below are numerous pictures of plants and animals which can be found in an Outdoor Classroom. Try matching the picture to its name!



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viceroy Butterfly   | <input type="checkbox"/> Male Goldfinch    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Milkweed     | <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Chrysalis | <input type="checkbox"/> Monarch Butterfly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female Goldfinch    | <input type="checkbox"/> Moth Cocoon       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly Milkweed  |  |

Outdoor Classrooms are a great way to engage your students in learning about life cycles, plants & seeds, soil & worms, animals & habitats, ecosystems, and natural resources!

**For more information, visit [www.lpsnrd.org](http://www.lpsnrd.org)**

(Answers on Back)

# Your NRD:

## Monitoring the Platte for Ice Jams

Did you know your NRD is a cooperater with other agencies in monitoring the ice on the Platte River? From November through "ice out" NRD staff makes periodic trips to check ice conditions at Highway 6 near Ashland and Hwy 50 by Louisville.



NRD staff member measures ice thickness to determine threat to area flooding.

Why monitor the thickness of the ice? The thicker the ice, the larger the ice chunks will be when the ice starts to break up. Big chunks are more likely to jam and block the river's flow thus creating an ice jam. With the flow of the river blocked, water can rise quickly and flooding occurs.

When the ice is thick and flooding is a high probability, ice dusting is typically done by the state. Coal ash is used, and the dark color on the ice attracts sunlight which in turn helps to melt some of the ice so water can flow better. In January and February ice thickness on the Platte River varied from 13 to 22 inches thick. In an effort to improve the flow, efforts began in February with a crop dusting plane that flies at tree top level at 100

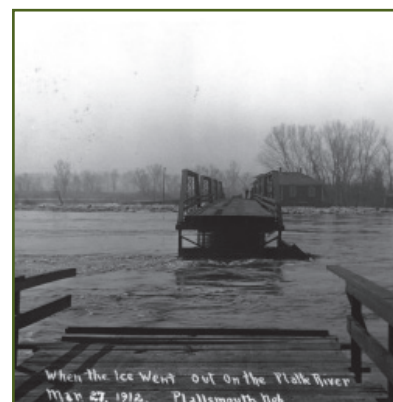


Plane flying over the Platte River to dust the ice with coal ash.

mph to spread coal ash on the Platte River at 10 different sites. These sites start at the I-80 bridge near Mahoney State Park and end upstream by North Bend.

Once the ash is spread, the wait begins and agencies hope there is enough sunlight to melt the ice down so that ice jams and flooding will be prevented.

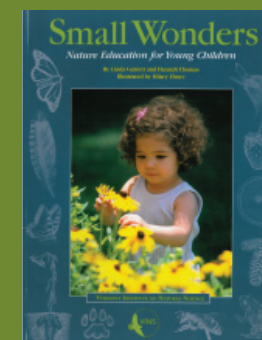
Your NRD is working everyday to protect lives, protect property, and protect the future!



March 1912, damage to a bridge in Plattsmouth, NE when the ice went out on the Platte River

# Resource Lending Library Resources at Your Fingertips!

The Lower Platte South NRD's Resource Lending Library (RLL) has numerous books and guides to help you incorporate nature and environmental education into your curriculum. One of the many books in the RLL is "Small Wonders: Nature Education for Young Children." This book highlights ways to engage young children ages 2-5 in nature and the environment. Other early childhood nature education resources available from the RLL are: "Worms, Shadows, and Whirlpools," "Exploring Water with Young Children" and "Discovering Nature with Young Children."



Resource Lending Library books are available for check-out on a two-week basis. To checkout a book from the RLL, contact the NRD at (402) 476-2729 or [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org).

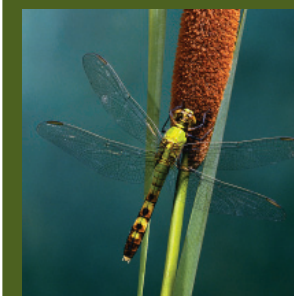
## Outdoor Classroom Grants

Outdoor Classroom grants, up to \$2,000, are available for District schools. Outdoor Classrooms engage students in learning and help meet state standards.

Interested in receiving an Outdoor Classroom Grant Application Packet? Contact McKenzie at [mbarry@lpsnrd.org](mailto:mbarry@lpsnrd.org) or 476-2729.



## Dates to Remember



April 11-17 – National Environmental Education Week

April 22 – Earth Day

April 23 – Arbor Day

May 8 – International Migratory Bird Day

## NEW Website Coming Soon!

The Lower Platte South NRD is pleased to announce that we are in the process of completely updating our website. We encourage you to check-out the website often for new information and environmental education happenings!