

Planting, watching trees grow like family

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

The winners of the Windbreak Award, Robin and Carol Deeds, say that planting a windbreak and watching it grow is like watching your kids grow.

The windbreak was planted on the Raymond and Berniece Peters' place the couple purchased in 1995. It runs along the north and west side of the farmstead.

Robin said there was a windbreak there but it needed help. "We pulled out the old Chinese elm trees but left the evergreen and pines," he said. Then over a two-year period the couple, with their young children at the time, planted 385 pines into three rows of around 1200 feet each.

He said they laid the drip line and laid down weed barrier before the gallon-sized two-foot tall trees were planted.

Carol said the first year after the trees were planted, the area had a blizzard and they went out and dug the trees out of the snow. She said snow-buried evergreens and pines suffocate and die. When the trees get bigger, she explained, a heavy snow can cause limb breakage because of the weight on the branches.

Robin said they didn't lose three trees that first year.

The windbreak helps protect the farmstead and the equipment, he said. It also looks good

and provides privacy. The trees need a lot of maintenance, Thistles and corn shucks blow in and need to be cleaned out.

Both Robin and Carol grew up in Goodland and graduated from Goodland High School — Robin in 1979 and Carol in 1982. His parents are Ed and Sharon Deeds and her mother is Mildred Gutsch.

The couple has been married 26 years and have three sons. Nathan is the youngest and is a junior at Goodland High School. The next son is Aaron and he is a sophomore at Kansas State University at Manhattan majoring in biology and pre-med. The oldest is Dexter and he will graduate in May from Kansas State University with a degree in architectural engineering.

Robin said he has been farming since 1979 and plants dryland and irrigated crops — mostly corn and wheat. Before that he helped his dad farm. Other crops he has grown are pinto beans, kidney beans and sunflowers. Before that he said his dad grew sugar beets.

He said he has ground but farms for his retired parents and for others. Carol is his business manager and bookkeeper.

On dryland he grows wheat, corn and then lets the land lay fallow. On irrigated land he grows corn.

He said that part of their corn was hailed out

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Carol and Robin Deeds stand in front of the trees they planted in their windbreak. They say the trees protect the farmstead and looks nice too. Photo by Sandy Rodgers

District annual report

REPORT, from Page 12

Western Prairie RC&D, and the Kansas Association of Conservation District's Employees Organization.

The District works closely with their conservation partners, including State and National legislators, NRCS, County Commissioners, K-State Extension, Wildlife and Parks, FSA, Groundwater Management District #4, High Plains Roosters chapter of Pheasants Forever, and many others to reach mutual conservation goals. The District continued their Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife and Parks concerning cost share funds. Sandy Rodgers serves as the Conservation District's representative to the Western Prairie RC&D with Fred Hall serving as alternate. Sandy Rodgers is currently the President of the Western Prairie RC&D. Greg Nemechek represents the Sherman County Commissioners and serves as Vice President. Greg Nemechek, Sandy Rodgers, Mary Volk, Janet Rumble, and Fred Hall serve on the local advisory committee for Western Prairie RC&D and Fred Wedel serves as an advisor to that group.

The Sherman County Conservation District Manager, Sandy Rodgers, continues to participate in the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance. This group consists of District Managers representing eight County Conservation Districts. Their objective is to search for funding through grants and foundations to enhance and ensure a quality environment for future generations in Northwest Kansas. The group is planning their 4th Annual Conservation Roundup for 4th graders in April. Sandy was re-elected president of the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Ihrig, Fred Wedel and Sandy Rodgers attended the KACD Convention held at Wichita in November. Courtney McBride was the State Limerick Winner and Jonah McClung placed in the State Poster Contest.

The District reviewed their long-range program and also reviewed the memorandums of understanding with all cooperating agencies.

The Sherman County Conservation District's objective is to promote locally led conservation and to assist landowners and operators apply conservation practices to the land with the technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Conservation Office is available for assistance to anyone needing help solving his or her conservation needs. The District Board meets the first Thursday after the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of July.

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State Poster Honorable Mention



Jonah McClung's poster received an Honorable Mention at the State Convention for Grades four to six. He is the son of Gary and Laura McClung.

Congratulations to all the Conservation District Poster, Limerick, Essay and Computer Winners. We salute the efforts of these young people!

CONSERVATION TREES

SPRING PLANTING

REMINDER

Deadline to order containerized Deciduous and Pine Trees is March 15!

Deadline to order earth-attached Eastern Red Cedars is April 9!

Sherman County Conservation District
210 West 10th Suite 1, Goodland, Kan. 67735
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Congratulations to the Conservation Winners!

Windbreak Award
Mr. & Mrs. Robin Deeds

Bankers Award
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Nemechek

Friends of Agriculture
Greg Nemechek and Steve Evert

1st Place State Limerick
Courtney McBride

Honorable Mention State Poster
Jonah McClung

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