



## Rez Recycler Editorial: Recycling on the Reservation –the Surprising Resistance

It's been nearly two years since we initiated the new curbside recycling and disposal service. We've experienced many challenges and in turn, made some mistakes along the way. While we tried to plan for difficult weather, mechanical issues, safety concerns and our own human error, admittedly there were and will continue to be some bumps in the road. ***Our service will always be a work-in-progress and one that we will strive to improve upon.***

Since the inception of the service, no challenge has been more unexpected than the too frequent recycling resistance. While we are proud to serve the many faithful and earnest recycling customers, we are surprised when confronted by those that adamantly object to the Nation's curbside recycling efforts.

Some customers may not realize that our community's recycling efforts today will affect the affordability of our service in the years to come. Currently, the PBPB community trash is conveniently hauled to Rolling Meadows landfill only 10 miles away. That is why we are able to provide such affordable service. However, it is estimated that the Rolling Meadows landfill built in 1978, has approximately 15 years of usable life left. If after 15 years we have to haul our trash any further, perhaps 50-100 miles further, we can all expect much higher costs. When we RECYCLE we reduce the waste headed straight to the landfill, therefore doing our part to extend the life. All of Shawnee County is on board and doing their part with a service much similar to ours.

Over the course of two years, we have heard a sample of the following concerns from customers that have yet to take advantage of the curbside recycling service and in turn offer our persuasive response:

*Customer: That's too hard. I'm just going to throw it all away*

*Our Response: It's actually very easy to get started. Simply place a bag, container, or box next to your indoor trash can and then take out to your blue container when full. No sorting or separating required.*

*Customer: I'm not going to waste my trash bags on recyclables*

*Our Response: Yes we require recyclable to be bagged BUT many awesome and resourceful customers reuse old plastic "Walmart" bags for their recyclables.*

*Customer: I'm not going to waste my time sorting and bagging my recyclables*

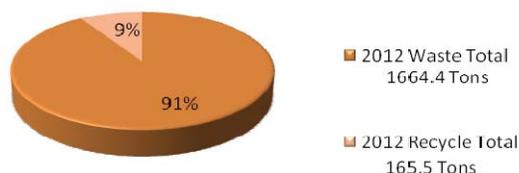
*Our Response: All items can be mixed in one bag. Although many avid and experienced recyclers sort their items in separate bags, it is NOT required.*

*Customer: You're making money from selling my recyclables*

*Our Response: We are currently not a self-sufficient operation and are very fortunate that our Tribal leadership cares so much about the preservation of our land and environment. They provide financial support for our recycling program.*

Again, we stand firmly on the desire to improve our service, as well as improve Reservation recycling efforts in general. We are not alone. We have many amazing community members that not only support the available curbside recycling program but many that have been recycling and protecting our land since before the inception of this program. Thank you for your efforts and support!

**2012 PBPB Waste Disposed  
Vs. Recycled (Tons)**



**PBPB 2013 GOAL: INCREASE  
RECYCLING BY AT LEAST 6%**

## Recycling and Trash Service

### CUSTOMER NOTICE

Please be aware that the Division of Planning & Environmental Protection is reinforcing the Tribal Council approved policy of picking up ONLY the waste inside the designated waste container. If you have additional containers or items outside of the designated green container, you must PRE-PAY an additional fee in order to have them picked up by our staff. We appreciate the exemplary efforts of our customers that reduce their waste by recycling. We encourage all customers to do their part to keep this service affordable and keep our beautiful community clean. All recyclables, except cardboard, must be bagged. The recyclables do not have to be separated, only bagged. This practice is required in order to prevent excessive litter as the containers are

dumped, or litter that occurs when containers are tipped and rolled by the wind. We appreciate your business, please contact 785-966-2946 if you need additional information on recycling.

### RECYCLING ITEMS:

- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans
- Plastic/plastic bottles number 1-5
- Mixed paper
- Cardboard.

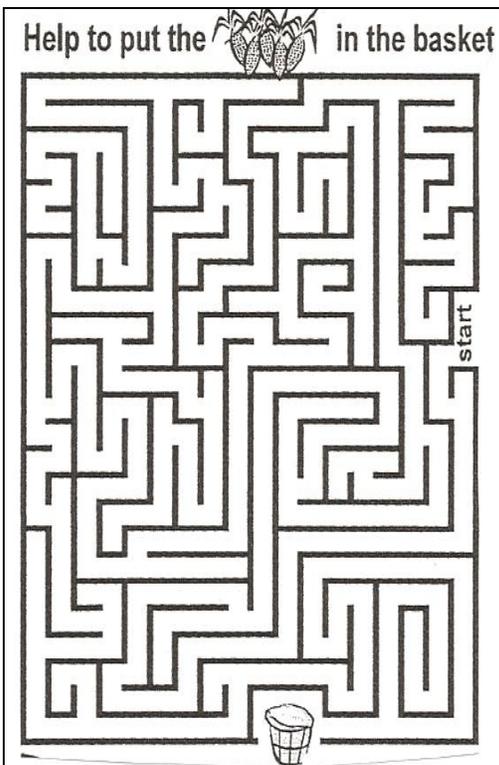
### Items NOT ACCEPTED:

- Glass
- Plastic wrap
- Waxed paper/cardboard
- Feminine hygiene products
- Aluminum foil
- Styrofoam
- Food waste
- Also, if plastic doesn't



have a recycling logo & number 1-5, it's not acceptable plastic

**SEPARATING/ OR SORTING OF RECYCLABLES NOT REQUIRED! JUST BAG, THANKS!!!!**



### Educational Wetlands

Located right behind the Boys & Girls Club is a wetland site that was initiated in 2002 as a collaborative effort with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the PBPB Planning & Environment Dept. One of the primary purposes of this wetland project is to create an area that can be used as an environmental educational site. This area has several wetland ponds that are open for public viewing. If you would like to schedule a tour,

please call 785-966-2946. Sharon Bosse, Wetland Coordinator and Kyle Miller will be overseeing the PBPB Wetland Program for the Planning and Environment Dept. Come on out for a visit!!



### KID'S CORNER:

Hey Kids did you know????

- There are always an even number of rows in an ear of corn!
- PRODUCTS MADE OF CORN:

PLASTIC  
DIAPERS  
SWEETENER  
DE-ICER  
ETHANOL



WOW!!! Corn is awesome!

Hello my name is Shaina White and I am the new Environmental/GIS Technician with the Planning and Environmental Department. I am Navajo and my hometown is Ts'ah Biikin, AZ. I graduated from Page High School in Page, AZ in 2007. I then received my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Haskell Indian Nations University in December 2011. My hobbies include hiking, camping, playing tennis, basketball, and disc golf, drawing, and trying new things. I look forward to working with the Potawatomi People and making an impact within the Air Quality Program. Thank You.



## CAUGHT IN THE ACT!!!!

Dumpsters that are located on the Reservation are for household trash only. It is illegal to dump tires, appliances, furniture, and construction materials at any dumpster. If you have items that are listed above, we can pick up these items for you, with the exception of tires (We DO NOT accept TIRES). In order for us to provide this service, you MUST fill out a "Request for Assistance Policy" form and pre-pay a minimum fee of \$10. **NOTE: STAFF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASSESS THE LOAD SIZE AND RE-EVALUATE THE COST FOR SERVICE.** Rolling Meadows Waste charges our department by the weight.

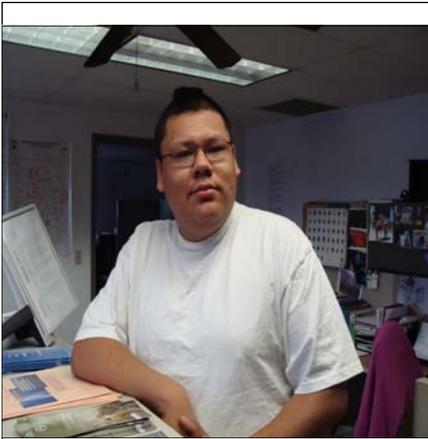
Illegal dumping can result in a \$250 penalty- Potawatomi Law & Order Code-Title 21-1-2(H): Solid Waste Management and/or \$2,500 penalty or imprisonment- Potawatomi Law and Order Code-Section 15-5-17(A) Title 15: Criminal Offenses. Please review the following options that are available:

### Options for dumping:

- Request for Assistance- available thru the PBPB Planning & Environment- \$10 minimum fee.
- Community Use Trailer- PBPB Planning & Environment- fee \$50.
- Abandoned Vehicle- PBPB Planning & Environment will pay \$50.
- Jackson Co. Landfill- 966-2652. Open Thursday-Saturday 8am-4pm. Dumping fee required.



The PBPB Planning & Environment Dept. appreciates and would like to thank the community for their continuing efforts in recycling and helping to keep our community pristine and beautiful for all to enjoy!!!!



**ALBERT BELAIRE**

### ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

The Planning & Environmental Protection Department would like to congratulate Albert for his outstanding contribution to our recycling program. "I really enjoy working with Albert. He's good company to be around, very talkative and makes the workday better. Albert is a hard worker. He's a good addition to our Solid Waste crew. Thanks Al for your services."- Kyle Miller

### ORCHARD UPDATE:



The honeybee colony at the orchard has been doing very well this past winter. In order for the bees to do their job and remain active and viable, it is imperative that orchard visitors DO NOT DISTURB the hives. They are considered property of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. The bees not only pollinate the orchard but will travel miles to collect pollen. Therefore, pollinating many local crops & gardens. We are looking forward to a bountiful orchard, thanks to the bees!!

## Ongoing DROUGHT-V. Potts

What exactly is a drought? A drought is defined as "a period of abnormally dry weather sufficiently prolonged for the lack of water to cause serious hydrologic imbalance in the affected area."-Glossary of Meteorology (1959). A drought is a period of unusually persistent dry weather that persists long enough to cause serious problems such as crop damage and/or water supply shortages-National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Droughts can last for months, years and even decades. Prairie Band Potawatomi Elder, Roy Hale, recalls the drought of the 1930's and said that the entire Big Soldier Creek went dry! During this

drought, Reservation residents relied upon community wells. People would have to travel miles, usually on foot, to collect water daily from the nearest well. Today we rely upon our local water supplier, Rural Water District #3-Holton, Kansas to provide us with our water. And all we have to do is walk, probably a few feet, to the nearest faucet. When water supplies are under drought conditions, there are measures that each water district considers when implementing water conservation practices. According to the Municipal Water Conservation Plan for Jackson Co. RWD No.3, there are 3 stages (watch, warning, and emergency). And each stage has accompanying triggers, goals, and actions. As a consumer, there are practices



that we all can do that will conserve water. For instance, repair any leaks, place aerators on faucets, hand wash dishes are just a few ideas to conserve water. Please be aware that the drought in Kansas is expected to persist through this year as well.

## PRESCRIBED BURNING - Shaina White

Spring is just around the corner and with that comes the prescribed burning season. Prescribed burning is defined as "the skillful application of fire under exacting conditions of weather and fuel in a predetermined area, for a specific purpose to achieve specific results" (State of New Jersey Forest Fire Service, 2008). The results we strive for on the Potawatomi reservation are to enhance the native plant community, increase pasture production, and improve wildlife habitat.



Long before man started prescribed burning, lightning strikes were nature's way of starting wildfires. A range of two to five wildfires occurred every decade and helped the land thrive. Fires on the prairies control non-native and woody plants as well as invasive weed species while improving the health of native grasses and wildflowers. The ash from fires also provides a blanket of warmth for new seedlings which encourages more to survive whether it is native plants or hay fields. Burning also helps wildlife by opening up the prairie and creating more areas to browse for food which can be hidden by thick brush if not burned. Fires are not just beneficial to prairie life but are absolutely necessary to keep it flourishing.

The Land Maintenance Office will start conducting these burns towards the end of March to the beginning of April. They perform the burns based on a rotating schedule and as needed. The department is directly responsible for prescribed burning on Tribal Tracts, Tribal Trust Tracts, and those enrolled with the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP) Filter Strip Program. The Land Maintenance Office also assists the BIA with Allotment Tracts.

For those concerned about the health effects prescribed burning can cause here on the reservation, there is no need to worry. Occasional exposure to the low concentrations of "drift smoke" is merely an inconvenience rather than a problem. For those with respiratory illnesses or eye sensitivity to smoke, limit your time outdoors if near a prescribed fire.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration

Sunday, April 21, 2013

8am-1pm

Prairie People's Park

- Environmental and Program Information Booths
- Shrub/plant giveaway
- Predictor's Walk/Bike event
- Raffles, Run Event and MORE!



Free earth day T-shirt will be available to all registered participants on a first come, first serve basis

**Food and Craft vendors wanted. No vendor fee, only requirement is that waste reduction techniques must be utilized in all vendor stands. Vendors please set up around arena. For more information or to register as a vendor call: 785-966-2946**

**EVERYONE WELCOME FOR A DAY OF EXCITING EVENTS AND GOOD TIMES!!!!!!**



## Upcoming Projects to Address Water Resources on the Reservation

By Heidi Mehl

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has many beautiful creeks, streams, and rivers running through the Reservation. Unfortunately, these vital resources have been changed and degraded by certain agricultural practices, and by the channelization of Soldier Creek through the urban area at Topeka. A graduate student from Kansas State University and Friends of the Kaw, a local non-profit agency, have received funding to study these water resources, and to collaborate with the tribe and local landowners to improve stream quality. Over the spring and summer, they will be holding meetings to receive input about management priorities. Friends of the Kaw will also conduct workshops to promote best management practices (BMPs). When implemented properly, BMPs reduce sediment and pollutants in runoff, improve stream quality, and improve the land to support crop production. The overall goal of these meetings and workshops is to collaborate for better land management practices, in order to restore and preserve water resources for present and future generations.

There are two events scheduled for this project this spring. Please join us!

## Management Plan Discussion

April 2, 2013

Rock Building (east of Government Center, 16281 Q Rd)

4:00pm- 7:00pm

**Free BBQ will be served!**

The purpose of this meeting is to interview Reservation residents about their management priorities for water resources. What have you noticed about the streams and rivers on the Reservation? What has changed? What would you like to see restored? What species are important parts of the stream ecosystem to you? This is your chance to make your voice heard! Please join me for this meeting - BBQ will be provided for dinner!

Questions/RSVP: Contact Heidi Mehl, 785-424-4164 or [heidim28@k-state.edu](mailto:heidim28@k-state.edu).



## Soldier Creek Tour

March 28, 2013

Starting Location: Soldier Community Building, Main St, Soldier, KS

9:00am-4:00pm

This is a daylong BMP workshop for land owners/managers. The meeting will progress through many locations throughout the day, from Soldier to Topeka. Lunch will be provided. There will also be \$100.00 cover crop seed gift certificate drawing. Sponsors Include: Middle Kansas WRAPS, Friends of the KAW, KSU Forest Service, Jackson County Conservation District, Shawnee County Conservation District, NRCS, Together Green Grant Program and Meadowlark Extension District. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to: 785-364-4638, ext. 136 by March 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information or for the entire day's schedule, please contact Michael Rawitch, 913-638-9088 or [mjrawitch@gmail.com](mailto:mjrawitch@gmail.com).



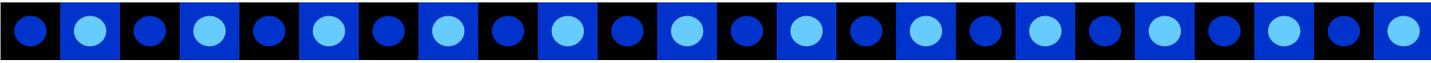
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
-Planning & Environmental  
Protection Dept. 15434 K Road,  
Mayetta, KS 66509

PRSR STD  
US Postage PAID  
Mayetta, KS  
Permit No. 10

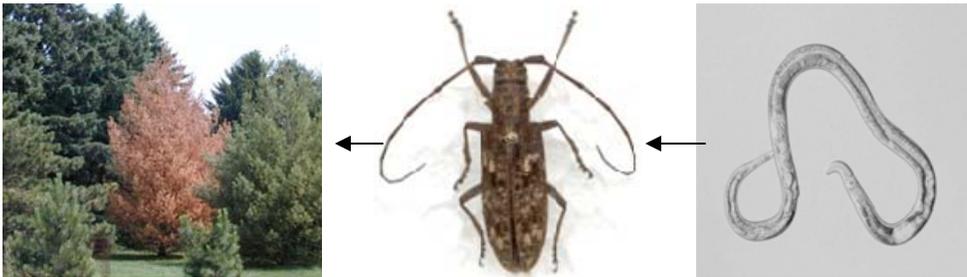
PHONE : 785-966-2946  
FAX: 785-966-2947



Resident  
Rural Route 2  
Box Holder  
Mayetta, KS 66509



## Pine Wilt Disease-V. Potts



Have you ever notice that some conifers will turn yellow & brown and eventually die? The causal agent for pine wilt disease is the pinewood nematode (parasitic worm) which is spread by the pine sawyer beetle. Symptoms of infection are usually seen in late summer to winter. The pine needles will turn yellow and then brown. If environmental conditions are hot and dry, this will exacerbate the infection and causing the pine tree to die relatively quickly. Otherwise, an infected tree can remain alive for months. The pine sawyer beetle will emerge in late spring and the parasitic worm (pinewood nematode) will leave the respiratory system of the beetle and enter the wound site of the pine tree and begin its destruction. Scot and Japanese Black pine trees are highly susceptible to the nematode. And once one tree is infected, surrounding pine trees are likely to develop pine wilt disease. Control measures include: 1.) Destruction of infected pine trees before the pine sawyer beetle emerges in spring and burn. 2.) Promote tree health-stressed trees under drought conditions are prime habitat for the beetle. 3.) Don't transport susceptible pine trees. Another measure to consider is to plant native species of conifer. The Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, is a native conifer and makes an excellent windbreak. The Red Cedar is a very hearty plant that withstands drought conditions and cold weather. And if you travel around and look closely, pine wilt disease doesn't affect Red Cedar trees.

