

# Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

*Representing Idaho's conservation districts as the primary entities to coordinate voluntary, locally-led efforts to sustain & enhance Idaho's natural Resources.*

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 4 - April/May

## SW/Pacific Regional Meeting

The SW/Pacific Regional Meeting will be held in Boise at the Boise Hotel & Conference Center on **Sept. 25, 26, and 27th.** Mark your calendar, and be prepared for great speakers and tours!

## Envirothon Sponsors

A big THANK YOU to the Idaho businesses who have donated to this year's Envirothon!  
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## Lemhi Soil Conservation District Turns 50!

The Lemhi SCD celebrates its 50th birthday this year. Supervisor Jane Sandstrom shares the history.  
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## Supervisor Training



How can a board go into executive session?  
Learn more on **Page 3!**

## In Memory of Claude O. Bruce

Claude passed away Saturday, March 31, 2012 at his home. He was passionately involved with Soil and Water Conservation.  
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## IASCD's Blog

The fastest way to get IASCD news is to subscribe to our blog. [Click here](#) to check it out & subscribe!



## IASCD Sends Letter to Federal Delegation Supporting Funding For Conservation

On April 11, 2012 the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) sent a letter to [Congressman Mike Simpson](#) (R-ID) to share our thoughts in the vital federal conservation programs used by the fifty soil conservation districts in Idaho. IASCD requested funding for NRCS Conservation Operations, the 319 Nonpoint Source grant program, and State and Private Forestry programs.

President Tillotson wrote, "We fully understand the difficult decisions the Appropriations Committee has to make in funding or eliminating federal programs. IASCD fully supports a federal budget that reduces unnecessary government spending, and properly reflects our nation's difficult economic situation. However, agriculture and natural resource spending almost always bears the brunt of



**US Capitol Fact: The Capitol is really located on a hill! Pierre L'Enfant chose Jenkins Hill as the site for what was then called the Congress House.**

spending cuts. For example, if we use the FY 2011 funding level adjusted for inflation, the NRCS Conservation Operations account in the FY13 Agricultural Appropriations budget would be \$904 million, representing a 6% reduction from the FY2005 appropriated level. We would request you support \$904 million in this account for this budget."

IASCD requested that 319 Nonpoint Source funding be set at \$227 million, and State and Private Forestry programs be set at \$355 million for FY '13. The 319 program has gained tremendous momentum in Idaho, especially in the southeast region. The program allows for further improvements in water quality, as well as reductions in sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorous into the streams. Districts in the northern part of the state use State and Private Forestry programs to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and improve water quality, and steelhead trout habitat.

President Kit Tillotson's letter to Congressman Simpson was written on behalf of the IASCD Board of Directors and member soil conservation districts. A similar letter was also sent to [Senator Mike Crapo](#), [Senator James E. Risch](#), and [Congressman Raul Labrador](#).

To read the letter in its entirety, [please click here](#).



Who's ready for a raft trip down Idaho's world famous Class IV rapids this summer?

**Short Message From President Tillotson**



The IASCD Board of Directors held a conference call on April 23, 2012 and discussed the function and structure of standing committees within the association. This year, the committees are to provide an informational or educational program. In addition, the committee's IASCD liaison will be working with the standing committee chairs to offer any assistance that might be needed to arrange for quality programs.

After our discussion, we feel the committee process can be improved. We will be dedicating time at our summer meeting in June to address this.

We welcome and encourage you to contact me or your division director with any and all ideas on how we might improve the structure and function of the committees during the IASCD conference.

Last, but certainly not least, if you're in Boise on June 8 and 9th, feel free to drop by our meeting! Your valuable input will help us continue to grow and strengthen IASCD.

Enjoy this wonderful spring weather,  
Kit Tillotson

**Lemhi SCD Turns 50!**



On May 22 the Lemhi SWCD will be celebrating 50 years of conservation in Eastern Idaho. It only took 6 months of meetings, hearings and a referendum in 4 communities; Salmon, Lemhi, Leadore and May before the Lemhi SWCD received their Certificate of Organization in 1962. In the first 4 months 28 ranchers & farmers signed up to be cooperators. This initial success has continued over the years as we worked with landowners to preserve natural resources while improving their agricultural operations.

The district encompasses about 2,749,000 acres with around 240,000 acres in private ownership. The population is around 8,000 making this a very rural area. Main industries include agriculture, mainly livestock operations, recreation and some mining.

Recent projects of the Lemhi SWCD include replacing culverts with fish friendly bridges, stream reconnects that include improved irrigation systems for landowners and fencing of riparian areas. Annual tours of projects, county fair participation and educational programs over the years have provided outreach and education for local producers and youth. Current support of an ongoing study of grazing riparian areas continues the Lemhi SWCD interest in an overall approach to projects for natural resource protection.

**Big Thanks To Our Envirothon Sponsors**



IASCD wants to extend a big THANK YOU to the following business for their financial support of this year's Envirothon:

- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [CHS Foundation](#)
- [United Dairymen of Idaho](#)
- [Idaho Sugarbeet Growers Association](#) (first time donor!)
- [Northwest Farm Credit Services](#) (first time donor!)
- [Lactalis American Group](#) (first time donor!)
- [Idaho Farm Bureau Federation](#)
- [Idaho Power](#)
- [Thompson Creek Mining Company](#)
- [Idaho Grain Producers Association](#)
- [Idaho Barley Commission](#)
- [Idaho Mining Association](#)
- [US Dry Pea & Lentil Council](#)
- [Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission](#)
- [National Wild Turkey Federation - Idaho Chapter](#)

Also, thank you to the nearly thirty districts who have sent in a donation or will be sponsoring a team at this year's competition! We hope to see you at Living Waters Ranch on May 7th and 8th!

# In Memory of Claude O. Bruce



Claude O. Bruce, 77, of Payette, passed away Saturday, March 31, 2012 at his home.

He lost his battle with cancer and died peacefully with his family surrounding him.

Claude was born to Cecil and Cathlene Bruce in the summer of 1934 and grew up with five other siblings.

Claude grew up on Mann Creek where he attended Mann Creek School and then finished his high school years in Weiser. He joined the Army at Pvt. 1st Class and was stationed in Anchorage, AK.

He married the love of his life on Dec. 28, 1957. Claude and Carol would have celebrated their 55th anniversary this year.

Claude was a member of Operating Engineers for 57 years. He taught at the AGC 5-craft Training Trust for 12 years. He was passionately involved with Soil and Water Conservation, 4-H as a leader, Historical Museum and a mentor to a lot of young men and women. He was awarded numerous conservation awards.

A wonderful photo gallery of Claude can be seen by [clicking here](#).

He is survived by his wife Carol; daughters, Johna Gabiola (Danny) and Suzanne Bruce; a son, Troy Bruce; grandchildren, Matea and Paige Gabiola, Caige and Keagan Bruce; and three brothers, Jerry Bruce, Bob Bruce, and W.T. Bruce.

Memorials may be made to Fruitland MSTI, c/o Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, P.O. Box 730, Payette, ID 83661. [Obituary was found here](#).

## Five Minute Supervisor Training

### *Executive Sessions -- When Are They Authorized?*

[Idaho Code 67-2345](#) sets when an executive session is authorized, and when members of the public are excluded. First, the motion to go into an executive session needs to identify the specific subsection (i.e. to hire an employee, communication with legal counsel). You are required to have a roll call vote on the motion, and two-thirds of the governing body needs to authorize the executive session. The vote will be recorded in your minutes.

#### Specific Reasons To Go Into Executive Session

1. To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent where their specific qualities need to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need.
2. To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.
3. To conduct deliberations concerning labor negotiations or to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency.
4. To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9 of Idaho Code.
5. To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies.

To read the full section of Idaho Code, [please click here](#).

## IASCD Board of Directors

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**Billie Brown** — Vice President  
**Steve Becker** — Treasurer  
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