

## Norbeck Society March 2020 Newsletter

### Calendar: Membership Outings, Programs, Volunteering

- March 11: NFAB (date was changed from Mar. 18)
- March 12: NO Norbeck meeting – instead see next item -
- March 20: Black Hills Botany and Ecology Workshop all day at the Outdoor Campus, RC
- April 3 (Friday 1 – 4:00) Timber sustainability meeting for discussion of depletion trend of timber on the forest. Presentation of very latest data and assessments by the scientists –limited seating; those interested should email [info@norbecksociety.com](mailto:info@norbecksociety.com) for more info.
- April 15: NFAB
- April 9 or 16 or 23: Pending Norbeck Society public meeting
- April 18: Regional Climate Change Conference (partially sponsored by Norbeck Society)

### March 20: Black Hills Botany and Ecology Workshop

The Black Hills Area Botany and Ecology Workshop is a free, no-registration gathering for anyone genuinely interested in the botany and ecology of the Black Hills and surrounding plains. This year it is on March 20 and as usual is at the **Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City**. Coffee and snacks start at 8:00 a.m., and the program begins at 8:30 with contributed talks. The middle of the day (before and after lunch) will include a symposium on sweet clover and a World Cafe-style small-group period of discussion on a wide variety of topics, including some demonstrations of apps people find useful. The workshop will close with more contributed talks. The Nature Conservancy is hosting a post-workshop Naturalists' Chili Feed at Hay Camp Brewery.

### Seeking candidates for West Dakota Board of Directors

Candidates are needed to serve on the Board of Directors (4-year terms) for the West Dakota Water Development District in voting areas 4 and 8. Area 4 includes the northeastern part of Rapid City and area 8 includes parts of Rapid Valley and a large part of Pennington County east of Rapid City. A map of the voting areas can be obtained at

<http://www.westdakotawater.com/pdf/GenPDFs/WDWDD2013MapLarge.pdf> and details can be found at

<http://www.westdakotawater.com/pdf/2020/generalElectionInformation2020.pdf>.

The short story is that (1) petitions must be submitted by March 31; (2) a minimum of 25 signatures from registered voters within the voting area are needed, (3) reporting of campaign finance information is not needed for water development district elections, and (4) the Pennington County Auditor's office can provide blank petitions and all necessary candidacy information.

West Dakota has taxing authority (mil levy of 0.024) within Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River. West Dakota's primary role is to utilize its tax revenues in

supporting conservation, development, and management of water resources. More information regarding West Dakota operations can be found at its website at <http://www.westdakotawater.com/index.html>.

Anybody wanting additional information regarding potential candidacy is urged to contact Dan Driscoll (West Dakota area 3 Director) at [wdwdd3@gmail.com](mailto:wdwdd3@gmail.com) or 605-348-2557.

### **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Norbeck Organic Act**

2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Norbeck Organic Act, which authorized the establishment of what is now the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. The Forest Service and partners are making plans to commemorate it with public events both fun and informative, focused on the weekend of June 6-7. Gina Nania is representing Norbeck Society on the planning committee.