



Salcha-Delta Soil and Water
Conservation District

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Board meetings are scheduled for the first
Tuesday of every month in the CES
conference room on the first floor of the Jarvis
Office Center in Delta Junction. To confirm
meeting date, location, and time, call Bryce
Wrigley.

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Conservation Corner

Conservation Power

Finding hidden treasure in the Community



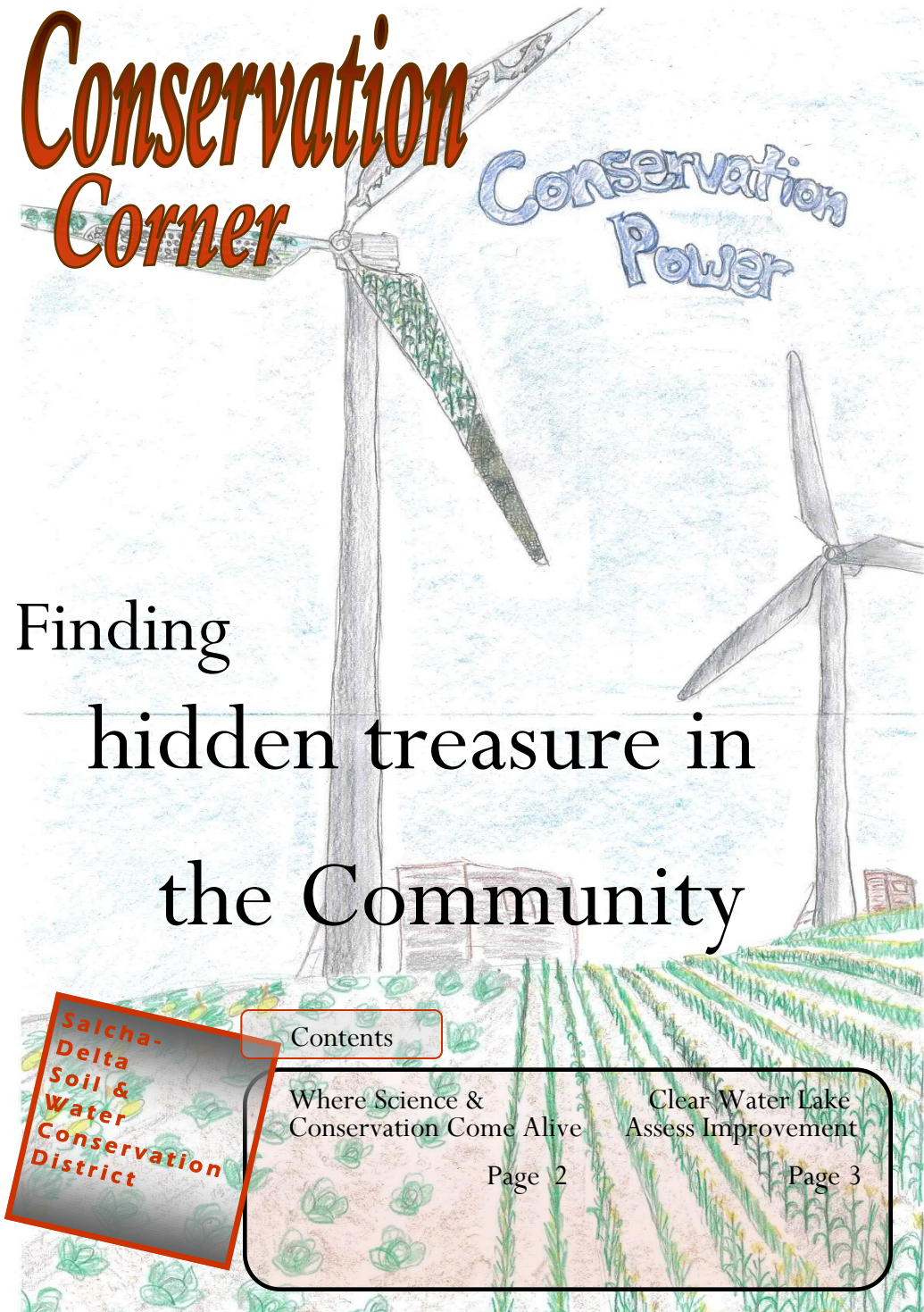
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Finding Hidden Treasure

Finding hidden treasure is always exciting, the lure of the unknown mystery of what lies within. The treasure is the locally grown foods. More and more consumers are shopping smarter, eating healthier, and enjoying an abundance of locally-grown foods.

The appeal of locally grown is that it can be on your table days or even weeks sooner than their imported cousins. This means produce that has ripened as nature intended it, not while being shipped 2200 miles to the local supermarket. Another benefit of eating locally is helping the local economy. Farmers on average receive only 20 cents of each food dollar spent, the rest going for processing, packaging, refrigeration and marketing. Farmers who sell food to local customers receive the full retail value, a dollar for each food dollar spent. Additionally, eating locally encourages the use of local farmland for farming, ensuring a community's food stability for the future.

Yet finding edible treasures can be as challenging as finding a good berry patch. To assist consumers in locating local grown foods the Cooperative Extension Service and Salcha-Delta Soil & Water Conservation District have a current list of what products are available throughout the year.

There is great news for those interested in baking or creating wholesome soups. Locally grown spring wheat and a newly released variety of hullless barley are now available. For more information and sources on locally grown foods contact the Salcha-Delta District office at 895-6972 or the Cooperative Extension at 895-4215

Clear Water Lake Access Improvement

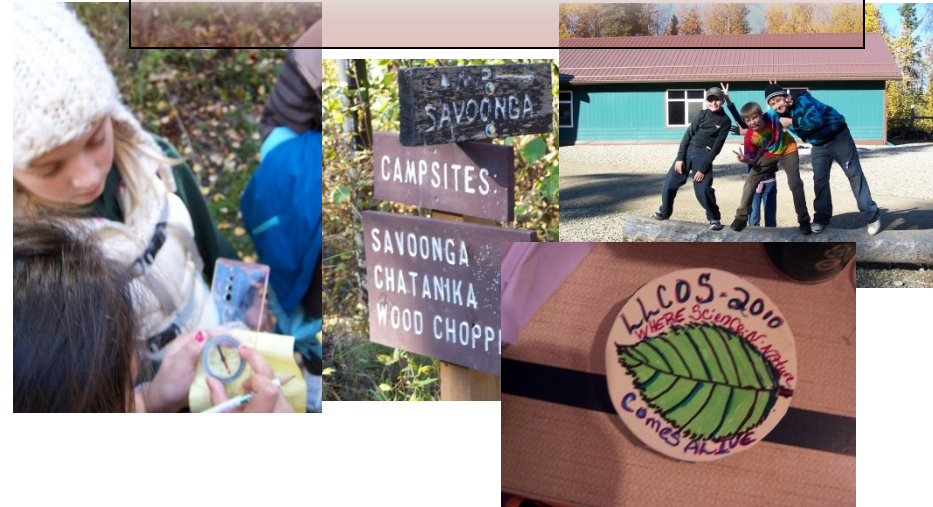
Fishing and recreational boating is quite popular in the Delta Junction area, with much of the boat traffic focused on accessing the Tanana River. One hot spot to launch from is Clear Water Lake. Over the years the access road to

launch has become an obstacle course of deep ruts and mud holes. On occasion the road has swallowed up boat trailers and small cars tires leaving users stranded. The cause of water draining and collecting along the road was due to the original road being cut below grade, allowing sedimentation into the lake. A demonstration project was implemented this fall to evaluate

three different grade levels to reduce sediment flow without further disturbance to the surrounding vegetation. Funding for the project was through the Conservation Technical Assistance fund with NRCS and the Salcha-Delta SWCD designed and implemented construction.



Where Science and Conservation Come Alive!



Lost Lake Conservation Outdoor School has offered an educational experience for 6th grade students in the Salcha– Delta Conservation District for fourth year running. The mission of the Conservation Outdoor School is to introduce students to environmental stewardship and a sense of place so that, they may better care for their own lands and the great state of Alaska.