



BVID News

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**Browns Valley
Irrigation District**

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We made it!

Through the conservation efforts of District members like you, we will make it through yet another drought year providing water delivery to meet the needs of the community. Your efforts have paid off and we are ending the season still above 2007 levels in Collins Lake. This is a huge success particularly because we were able to supply a full schedule of delivery.

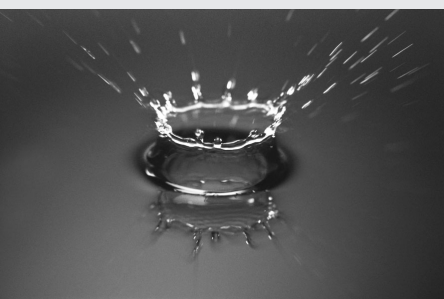
Much of the success of this year has to do with you. Plain and simple, conservation efforts this year played a major role in our success. We would like to thank the good people of the foothills for closely monitoring their water usage. In the past people may have figured that just because the water was available at their front door that the tendency was not to conserve it. Now it appears that BVID members understand that conservation efforts benefit all of us.

The District is currently working on various plans for next year depending on the water year type. Our goal is insure that the water supply left over in Collins Lake is adequate inventory to provide a good start for the next season. This was the same scenario that confronted us in the fall of 2008

and due to planning efforts helped us survive this year.

The District has recently ended water service due to the heavy rainfalls we recently experienced; however it is important that with each new season members realize the importance of water conservation.

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Meet your district employee: Dan Ward

The dedication of BVID employees is impressive. Dan Ward's dedication is no exception. He has been an employee of the district for the last 21 years. "They are all part of the team that helps deliver water," said Walter Cotter, General Manager of BVID, "they enjoy their work and understand the importance of what they do on a daily basis." Dan is an important part of that team.

While his job description is Utility Worker II/Lead Man it hardly does justice to the important role he plays. "Dan is the lead man on the crew," said Cotter, "of the miles of pipeline buried by BVID in the last twenty years Dan knows each inch of it." He also leads the team on difficult pipeline repairs and has an intricate knowledge on the infrastructure of the District such as pump stations, valvings, safety spills, etc. His skills as a large equipment operator are also well known among the team as he is called upon for the most critical or delicate jobs.

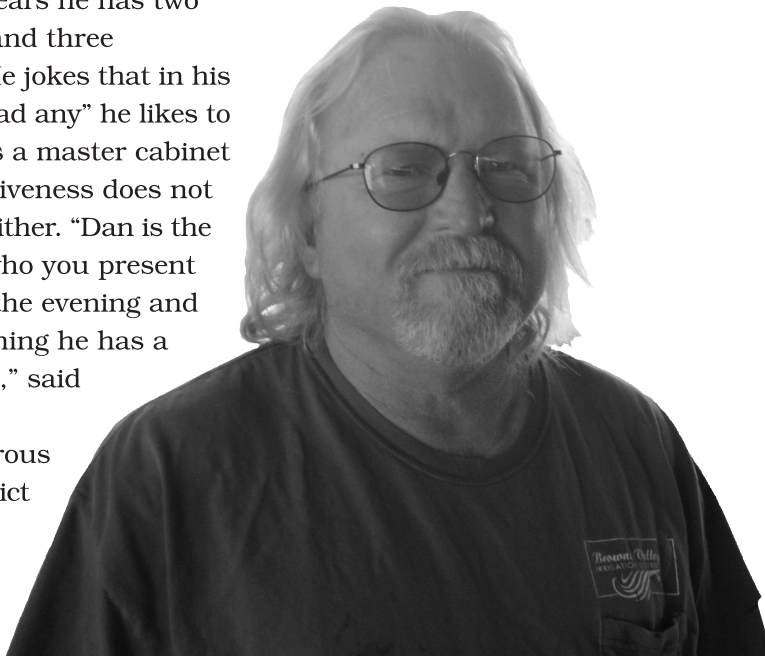
Married for 33 years he has two grown children and three grandchildren. He jokes that in his spare time "if I had any" he likes to woodwork and is a master cabinet maker. His creativeness does not stop with wood either. "Dan is the kind of person who you present a problem to in the evening and by the next morning he has a solution in mind," said Cotter. Dan has developed numerous tools for the District that are specific to our needs and unique to water

pipelines and valves. "His skills and creativeness in this area have been essential to the district," said Cotter, "he is the idea guy and is full of elegant solutions to problems."

Dan takes his job seriously and enjoys how each day is different with unique challenges and duties. About the crew Dan says "this is a great bunch of guys to work with, we all try to do the best job we can everyday."

His words of wisdom come from someone with a lot of experience in handling problems and situations. "I've learned over the years that if you don't do things right the first time that you are usually the person who ends up fixing it."

If you meet Dan while he is working on a project, at the District office or just performing his job make sure to say hello, he always welcomes the opportunity to meet the friendly faces in the area.



“Dan is the kind of person who you present a problem to in the evening and by the next morning he has a solution in mind.”

Do you want more information more quickly on what your water District is doing, as well as our history, most recent publications, forms, and information?

You can also see the Collins Lake Rain Gauge and Collins Lake Status.

Visit our website at
www.BVID.org
and explore!

Why is there a BVID assessment on my property tax bill each year?

The short answer is for the construction of the Virginia Ranch Dam (that created Collins Lake) and its associated facilities as well as its care and up keep.

The long answer is a little more complicated. In September 1960, BVID voters authorized the Bureau of Reclamation loan for construction of Virginia Ranch Dam and approved a tax for the repayment of the loan and operation of the dam and irrigation system. The interest free USBR loan was for \$4,839,371. The dam was completed and put into service in 1963. The project also included the building associated facilities, various infrastructure improvements, the pump line canal, diversion, and a pump station. This was similar to way other dams had been financed

including Shasta Dam to the North.

Through Bureau of Reclamation Program the cost of the dam construction was very inexpensive for the voters of the district. The assessment was originally 20 cents per \$100 of assessed land value

only (not including improvements or structures). 18 years ago the board worked to pay off and refinance a portion of that bond which lowered land owners assessment to 10 cents per \$100 of assessed land value.



“These funds are very important to the operation and maintenance of the facility at Collins Lake and help insure that our water supply will be available for years to come.”

Ask Flo...



Flo, how did the Yuba River get its name?

What a great question! The answer is both historical and interesting. In the early years when Mexican settlers came to the area they camped along the river. During this time there were grapes growing in various locations along the river banks. The word for grapes in Spanish is uvas. With some passage of time the word uva morphed into Yuba by other settlers to the region and thus gave the name to the river famous for the grapes along its banks. Later of course, Yuba County and Yuba City were named after the river.

Flo, if you had a Top Ten list what would it be?

Water conservation tips of course... here we go.

10. If you don't need it turn it off
9. Water storage tanks

8. Rain water barrels under drain pipes
7. Use a broom
6. If water puddles on your grass or plants and is not absorbed immediately you are over-watering.
5. Use sprinklers for large areas of grass. Water small patches by hand to avoid waste.
4. Rather than following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two to three inches below the surface before watering.
3. Teach your children how to turn off the water.
2. Check your sprinklers for leaks.
1. Plant a cactus garden!

Have a question for **Ask Flo**? Write your question on a piece of paper and mail it to:

BVID

Attn: Ask Flo

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