



# CONSERVATION CORNER

*A publication of the Jackson County Conservation District*

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

DECEMBER 2011

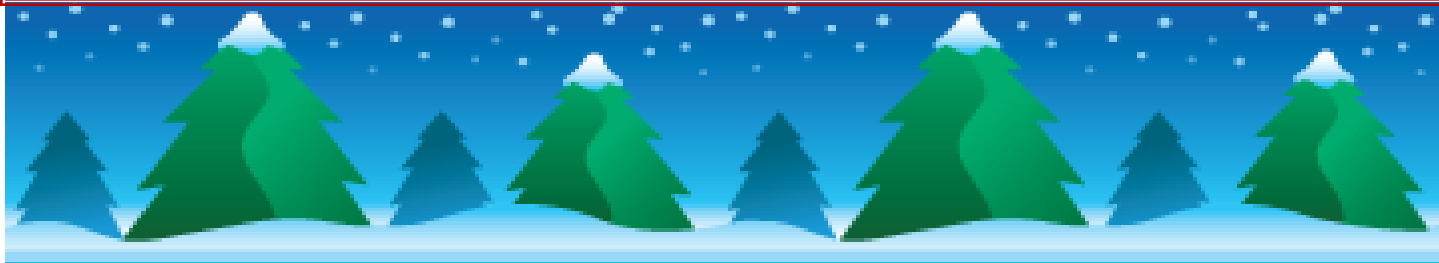
*SPECIAL EDITION*

For the past year, JCCD has continued to work hard to carry out its mission of “promoting wise land-use decisions, based upon the natural resources of Jackson County, through technical assistance and education.”

### JCCD Activities Summary

*This report reflects activity for Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011).*

- ◆ Assistance provided to almost 1100 customers in the office and over the phone.
- ◆ Nearly 30,000 trees and hundreds of native plants sold.
- ◆ “*Conservation Corner*” newsletter distributed to 500 people.
- ◆ More than 100 volunteers contributed 555 total volunteer hours at tree sales and special events.
- ◆ Educational materials distributed to 500 people.
- ◆ Three new grants/projects initiated.
- ◆ Resource Assessment survey and report completed (see results in Winter 2012 newsletter).
- ◆ Participation in planning and carrying out special events in Jackson County:
  - *Earth Day Festival at Cascades Park*
  - *Project RED (Rural Education Day)*
  - *Regional and State Envirothon Competitions*



*Happy Holidays from the Jackson County Conservation District!*

## JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

### Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Year Ending September 30, 2011

REVENUES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES (continued)
<b>County Funds:</b>	<b>Program Expenses:</b>	<b>Promotion:</b>
Jackson County           \$ 10,000.00	UGRIP                         \$ 32,681.00	Community Promotion     \$ 617.67
<b>Grant Funds:</b>	MiCorps                    \$ 1,558.07	Advertising                \$ 250.44
CTAI (Conservation Tech. Assistance)   \$ 41,885.96	Tree/Native Plant Sales   \$ 18,057.27	Misc. Expenses/Fees      \$ 296.03
UGRIP (Upper Grand River Project)   \$ 116,147.40	HAP                         \$ 216.91	<b>Organization Activities:</b>
MiCorps                    \$ 9,722.22	MAEAP                     \$ 2,065.98	Fees/Dues                  \$ 20.00
HAP (Hunter Access Program)         \$ 1,500.00	<b>Office Expenses:</b>	Annual Meeting            \$ 1,690.51
MAEAP (Greenhouse Technician)       \$ 2,238.67	Payroll & Employee Benefits   \$ 131,708.57	Directors' Expenses      \$ 524.88
<b>Local Sources:</b>	Office Supplies            \$ 1,114.78	<u>Training</u> \$ 553.38
Contribution Agreement                \$ 0.00	Insurance                  \$ 157.71	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> <b>\$196,605.48</b>
Tree/Native Plant Sales                \$ 37,006.61	Newsletter                 \$ 702.50	<b>NET INCOME</b> <b>\$ 26,175.74*</b>
Equipment Rental                       \$ 1,117.61	Drill Maintenance         \$ 14.00	
Meetings/Workshops                    \$ 1,152.00	Website                    \$ 0.00	<b>*\$11,775.00 of money received is currently allocated for pending implementation projects under the UGRIP grant in 2012.</b>
General Interest                        \$ 117.43	Copier Lease                \$ 335.19	
Conservation Products                  \$ 1,478.32	Audit                        \$ 2,100.00	
<u>Miscellaneous Income</u> \$ 415.00	Postage                     \$ 1,173.21	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b> <b>\$222,781.22</b>	Bank Charges                \$ 767.38	



*This year's  
spring and fall  
tree sales served  
386 customers.  
Rain barrels  
continued to be  
a popular item,  
as well.*



## JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO GREENHOUSES



*Dean Krauskopf was hired in fall 2011 as the new part-time greenhouse technician serving Southeast Michigan.*

by Dean Krauskopf, *MAEAP Greenhouse Technician*

I feel privileged to serve as the MAEAP greenhouse technician in Southeastern Michigan since it continues my 33 year involvement with the industry. I retired from Michigan State University after almost 30 years teaching greenhouse management and production courses on campus and working in Southeast Michigan as the MSU Extension Greenhouse Specialist. During that time I was heavily involved in water quality issues since my specialty is greenhouse plant nutrition, particularly nutritional monitoring and increasing nutritional efficiency. I was part of the great team that developed the Greenhouse-A-Syst tool and have been involved with MDARD and other state agencies on questions of best practices related to the greenhouse industry. I look forward to working with greenhouses in Jackson and the other counties so they can minimize their risk of contributing to groundwater pollution and become MAEAP Crop verified.

### Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) Summary

by Mike Rubley, *former Water Stewardship Technician*

The MWSP activities for Calhoun and Jackson Counties in 2011 have focused on reaching new producers, and working with them to achieve MAEAP verification. During FY-2011, the program worked with over 43 individuals/facilities to accomplish 16 Risk Assessments, a total of 81 risk reductions, and accumulate 195 deliverables for the year. This sets the program at 130% of the required deliverables for FY-2011. A breakdown of the deliverables includes the completion of:

- ◆ *Farm\*A\*Systs – 8*
- ◆ *Crop\*A\*Systs – 7*
- ◆ *Livestock\*A\*Systs – 1*
- ◆ *MAEAP Farmstead Verification – 0*
- ◆ *MAEAP Cropping Verification – 1*
- ◆ *MAEAP Livestock Verification – 0*
- ◆ *Drift Management Plans – 3*
- ◆ *Conservation Plans – 3*



### NEW MWSP TECHNICIAN

In September 2011, Sharon Williams was hired as the new Water Stewardship Technician for MWSP. Check out the Winter 2012 issue of *Conservation Corner* to learn more.

# JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

## Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP)

by Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

Another year has passed for the Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP), and the last few tasks in the grant's work plan are underway. July 2012 will bring the end to 3 1/2 years of work under UGRIP.



UGRIP's Accomplishments during FY-2011 include:

- ◆ *Hosted a watershed bus tour with 31 participants.*
- ◆ *Held 6 educational workshops/presentations attended by 311 people.*
- ◆ *Reached 710 people through educational displays at special events.*
- ◆ *Mailed informational materials about conservation programs to 150 landowners.*
- ◆ *Delivered educational programs to 2217 students in the watershed.*
- ◆ *Completed a "4-Step Planning & Zoning Review" with one township in project area.*
- ◆ *Planned and installed a bioretention basin at Russell Park in Leslie.*
- ◆ *Began design stage for two restoration projects in watershed.*
- ◆ *Held a river cleanup with the help of 11 volunteers.*

Painting wooden fish at the Learning Fair in July.



Planting the rain garden at Russell Park in Leslie.



## **JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM**

A winter Stonefly Hunt, and spring and fall macroinvertebrate collections were held during FY-2011 and involved 78 river monitoring volunteers!

In July 2011, the MiCorps grant for the Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream Program came to an end and the program coordinator, Alison Rauss, completed her two-year position with JCCD. Luckily, the program will continue in 2012 with funding from the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance and the MS4 communities.



*Spring Collection Day volunteers.*

### **Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI)**

by Mark Kaczorowski, *Soil Conservationist*

Projects completed during FY-2011 under the Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative included:

Practice Name	Units	Cost Share Amount	Cost Share Source
Agrichemical Handling Facility	1	\$35,856.00	AWEP
Agrichemical Handling Facility	1	\$33,750.00	AWEP
Fencing (prescribed grazing)	7654 ft.	\$11,699.00	AWEP
Grade Stabilization Structure	1	\$2,400.00	CRP
Grassed Waterway	.6 Ac.	\$1,859.00	CRP
Native Grassland Planting	16.8 Ac.	\$5,256.00	CRP
Native Grassland Planting	34.9 Ac.	\$8,521.00	CRP
Native Grassland Planting	36.8 Ac.	\$11,373.00	CRP
Pasture Planting	41.2 Ac.	\$4,275.00	AWEP
Roof Runoff Structure	350 ft.	\$3,427.00	AWEP
Seasonal High Tunnel	2178 sq. ft.	\$5,092.00	EQIP
Waste Facility Cover	5,500 sq. ft.	\$49,665.00	AWEP
Waste Storage facility	29,330 cubic ft.	\$41,356.00	AWEP
Well	1	\$5,832.00	AWEP
Well Decommissioning	1	\$628.00	AWEP

*(continued on page 6)*

## **JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI)

*(continued from page 5)*

Additionally, the projects below are currently in progress:

Practice Name	Units	Cost Share Amount	Cost Share Source
Agrichemical handling Facility	1	\$5,850.00	EQIP
Agrichemical Handling Facility	2400 sq. ft.	\$56,497.00	AWEP
Fence (prescribed grazing)	1983 ft.	\$2,698.00	AWEP
Fencing (prescribed grazing)	13,739 ft.	\$18,686.00	EQIP
Heavy Use Area Protection	916 sq. ft.	\$2,684.00	EQIP
Pasture Planting	24.8 Ac.	\$2,229.00	EQIP
Pasture Planting	3.3 Ac.	\$278.00	AWEP
Pipeline	890 ft.	\$4,630.00	AWEP
Pipeline	133 ft.	\$475.00	AWEP
Roof Runoff Structure	210 ft.	\$3,150.00	EQIP
Underground Outlet	210 ft.	\$1,074.00	AWEP
Waste Facility Cover	1800 sq. ft.	\$13,374.00	AWEP
Waste Storage Cover	5,624 sq. ft.	\$41,787.00	AWEP
Waste Storage Facility	51,815 sq. ft.	\$65,806.00	AWEP
Waste Storage Facility	8,000 sq. ft.	\$10,160.00	AWEP
Watering Facility	1	\$720.00	AWEP
Watering Facility	1	\$525.00	AWEP
Well	1	\$2,535.00	AWEP
WRP application	22.7 Ac.	\$67,237.00	WRP

A rock chute is installed to prevent erosion.



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### USDA-NRCS Jackson Field Office Fiscal Year 2011 Summary

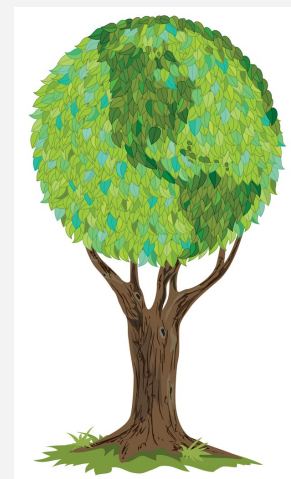
by Andrew Gust, *District Conservationist*

During the past fiscal year, applications in Farm Bill programs have grown significantly in Jackson County. We received over 30 applications for programs managed locally by NRCS including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Of these applications, we were fortunate enough to have eight of these funded this year.

This was the second year in which there was a special allocation of funds available to those producers within the Kalamazoo watershed focusing on improving ground and surface water quality and quantity. This watershed based initiative is called the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). Being the second year of enrollment, we implemented several practices through this program including nutrient and pest management, secondary containment for fertilizer and pesticides, and manure storage facilities to protect the ground and surface water quality of the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

Other notable accomplishments include:

- ◆ *Conservation Plans written for 4800 acres of land within the county*
- ◆ *4750 acres of cropland with conservation applied*
- ◆ *5300 acres of conservation applied to improve water quality*
- ◆ *900 acres improved for fish and wildlife habitat*
- ◆ *275 acres of wetlands restored or enhanced*
- ◆ *160 acres of conservation applied to improve vegetative condition of forestland*





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**YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN**



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***Our office is open 8:00am—4:30 pm, Mon. through Fri.***

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The Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD) is a locally elected nonpartisan entity of state government, whose purpose is to promote wise land use decisions, based upon the capability of the natural resources of Jackson County, through technical assistance and education.

**JCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jim Spink, *Chairman*

Dick Ekins, *Vice-Chairman*

Lathe Claflin, *Treasurer*

Steve Noble, *Secretary*

Don Foster, *Member*

JCCD Board meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am at the JCCD office and are open to the public.

*All Jackson County Conservation District programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.*