



CONSERVATION CORNER

A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

SUMMER COMING TO AN END... TIME TO PLACE YOUR FALL TREE SALE ORDER

Fall 2009

We all know that the economy is not in the best shape right now, and investing for the future may have slipped off the radar for many of us. Yet, one low-cost investment you can make right now—that will benefit your kids and grandkids—is simply to plant some trees. Whether in urban or rural areas, trees help remove pollutants from the air,



control stormwater runoff and improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, produce energy savings through cooling the air and creating shade, and even increase property values.

Every year, the Conservation District holds spring and fall tree sales, which are the

biggest fundraiser for our office. All of our trees come from Michigan nurseries. This fall we will be offering the following species:

- Blue Spruce
- Douglas Fir
- Norway Spruce
- White Pine
- White Spruce

All of the trees are 3-year old transplants and are between 8-14 inches in size. Information about

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the tree species and order forms are available at the CD office or on the web: www.jacksoncd.org. **Orders are due by September 30, 2009.**

ATTENTION PRODUCERS—SIGN UP NOW FOR CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Agricultural producers and forest owners can now sign up for the U S D A ' s new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This new

voluntary program offers payments for existing conservation practices and the adoption of new practices. Lands that are eligible for the program include cropland, grassland, improved pastureland, rangeland, and non-industrial private

forestland. A wide variety of conservation practices fall under this program, such as the use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source or the application of controlled release nitrogen fertilizer. Producers who are interested in this program are encouraged *(cont. on page 2)*



A NEW FACE IN THE OFFICE

Well, you actually may have already seen her face once or twice before. Lori Fitzgibbons joined the District staff in November 2008 as an administrative program assistant. In that position, Lori helped both the Conservation District and the USDA-NRCS with various tasks. Lori officially took over as the CD Administrator at the beginning of August.



Lori Fitzgibbons is the new administrator for JCCD.

Lori earned a Bachelor of Science in Conservation at Northern Michigan University. She is a long time resident of Jackson County, having grown up in Vandercook. She and her husband Rob and two children have lived in Leoni Township for eleven years.

Lori will face many new challenges in the upcoming months, especially those related to budget cuts. However, she is ready to work hard and help fulfill the CD's mission.

JOIN THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of 2009, there will be two vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Conservation District. Board members are elected by the public at the CD's Annual Meeting in January, and serve a 4-year term on a volunteer basis.

If you have an interest in natural resources protection and agricultural preservation, you could be a great fit for the CD Board. You must be a resident of Jackson County, be willing to attend monthly board meetings (4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am), and be enthusiastic about representing the CD and its goals to the public and local government. Contact Lori at 517-784-2800 Ext. 214 to find out more about running for a position on the JCCD's Board of Directors.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

(cont. from page 1)

to complete a self-screening checklist that will help them decide if CSP is the right program for them. Applicants may also wish to read more about the program at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html. To obtain the self-screening checklist or to pursue an application for this program, please contact Andrew Gust at 517-784-2800 Ext. 3.

JCCD STAFF:

Lori Fitzgibbons, Administrator	lori.fitzgibbons@mi.nacdnet.net
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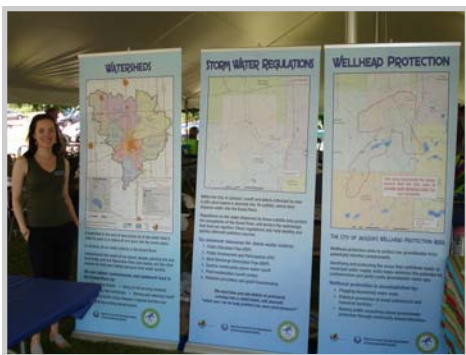
Our office is open
8:00am—4:30 pm,
Monday through Friday.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WATERSHED?

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Coordinator*

The second 3-year stage of the Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP) is well underway. This second part of UGRIP will continue many of the programs that began during 2006-2008, such as the "Our World of Water" youth education program co-sponsored by The Dahlem Conservancy, and the Adopt-A-Stream volunteer monitoring program co-sponsored by Dahlem and the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance. In addition, there are many new projects that will be pursued in upcoming months, including a demonstration rain garden and a land use symposium in Jackson County.

Public outreach has been a focus over the past few months. New watershed educational displays have been making the rounds at fairs and other events. The displays were designed by the City of Jackson Department of Public Works under the Wellhead Protection Program.



These watershed displays, and the corresponding watershed handouts, are useful tools for educating both adults and youth about watershed problems and also encouraging participation in watershed events.

Girl Scouts from the Springport area were able to experience the watershed firsthand back in June. The Scouts visited Sandstone Creek and tried their luck at collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates, while also learning what they can do to help protect the watershed and all of the aquatic organisms that live within it. The girls had a great time scooping around for bugs, and left that day with an exciting story about a snake in the creek that startled everyone!



Not to be left out, the Boy Scouts have also been having some fun in the watershed. In August, Scouts from the Leslie area joined the Ingham Conservation District and Leslie Public Works for a volunteer cleanup of Huntoon Creek. The



Scouts pulled on their boots or waders and helped clean up trash in the creek bed and along the banks. This was the first cleanup held in the Ingham County portion of the watershed under UGRIP, so a big "thanks" goes out to the Ingham CD, City of Leslie, and the Leslie area Boy Scouts!



We may be sad to see the summer come to an end, but the fall season still offers several opportunities for getting involved in the Upper Grand River Watershed. Join the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) at their river cleanup on September 12th, or become a volunteer for the Adopt-A-Stream monitoring program. Hope to see you out in the watershed!

To learn more about the Upper Grand River Watershed and upcoming events, visit www.uppergrandriver.org.



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Visit our website:
www.jacksoncd.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat. 9/12** **Grand River Volunteer Cleanup sponsored by GREAT**
 9am—2pm. Visit www.great-mi.org for details.
- Sat. 9/19** **Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Training at the Dahlem Center**
 Visit www.uppergrandriver.org or contact cecilia.govrik@macd.org for details.
- Wed. 9/30** **Deadline for Fall Tree Sale orders**
- Sat. 10/3** **Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day**
 Meet at the Dahlem Center at 9am.
- Wed. 10/7** **Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night at Jackson Community College**
 Visit www.uppergrandriver.org or contact cecilia.govrik@macd.org for details.
- Sat. 10/10** **Fall Tree Sale Pickup at JCCD office**
 9am—12pm

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

- Gaylord (Butch) Lincoln, *Chairman*
 Jim Spink, *Vice-Chairman*
 Lathe Claflin, *Treasurer*
 Dick Ekins, *Secretary*
 Scott Maurer, *Member*
 Don Foster, *Associate Member*

JCCD Board meetings are held on the 4th 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.