



# CONSERVATION CORNER

*A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District*

## LAST CHANCE FOR “THINK GREEN” RAFFLE TICKETS

Fall 2010

The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)—the umbrella organization representing all of the county Conservation Districts throughout the state—will soon be wrapping up its 2010 “Think Green” raffle.

Tickets are \$5.00 each, or 5 for \$20.00. The raffle supports putting conservation on the land, and proceeds from tickets

sold by JCCD go to conservation efforts right here in Jackson County!

This year’s raffle has some fun prizes:

**Grand prize** (choice of)

▶ **John Deere X700 ULT TURF 2WS 54-inch Shaft Driven Mower Deck (\$9600 value!) or**

▶ **John Deere Gator HPX 4x4 Gas (\$9300 value!)**

**Second Prize**

▶ **Stihl MS 180 Chain Saw**

**Third Prize**

▶ **Stihl FS 45 Trimmer**

A minimum of 2500 tickets will be sold statewide. The drawing will be held on December 16, 2010. All tickets **must be purchased from JCCD by Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. We can accept cash or a check made out to “MACD.”

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Call our office today to order your “Think Green” raffle tickets. Good luck!

## RURAL ENERGY GRANT OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCED

The USDA recently announced that grants are available under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The program provides grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance, as well as funding to

agricultural producers and rural small businesses to conduct a feasibility study for a renewable energy system.

What types of projects may qualify for funding? Eligible feasibility studies for renewable energy systems include projects that will produce energy

(heat, electricity, or fuel) from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, or hydrogen-based sources.

The project must be located in a rural area and grants cannot exceed 25% of the total project cost, up to \$50,000. For more information or to



apply for funding, please contact the USDA’s Rural Development office at 517-324-5190 or visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

## SIMPLE STEPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR RAIN BARREL

Whether or not we want to admit it, freezing temperatures and snowy weather will be here before we know it! If you have a rain barrel, there are a few very basic steps you should take to get ready for the unavoidable winter season.

1. Empty out the water. Don't try to tip over a heavy barrel filled

with water. Instead, use the spigot and fill some other buckets to use as rinse water.

2. Thoroughly rinse out any sediment and all hoses and connectors. If you have any mold, you can rinse with a vinegar-water mix or add a Tbs. of bleach to about a gallon of rinse water.
3. Store the barrel in the garage or shed, or store it outdoors on its side or upside

down with all of the valves open. You may want to store it with the lid on to prevent any warping—just make sure moisture can get through the lid (i.e. you have a screen or opening on your lid).

4. Re-connect your downspouts to keep water draining away from your home's foundation.

Feel free to call our

office if you have any questions.



## MAKE TREE PLANTING A LOT EASIER WITH OUR RENTAL EQUIPMENT

JCCD's Forrester is a heavy-duty planting machine designed to provide an effective and economical means of planting thousands of tree seedlings. The Forrester attaches to the 3-point hitch of tractors with category 1 and 2 hitches. With a weight of about 500 pounds, approximately 25 horsepower is required depending on soil conditions.

The fee for renting the planter is \$20.00 per day, plus \$10.00 per every



*The Forrester seedling planter behind a tractor.*

1000 trees being planted. The payment is due within 30 days of using the planter. The renter is also responsible for transporting the planter. A rental agreement must be completed, which is available on our website

under "Products/ Services" and "Equipment Rental." If you need an agreement mailed to you instead, please call our office. Information about JCCD's no-till drill that is available for rent is also on the website.



## KIDS CORNER

Hey kids! November 15<sup>th</sup> is “America Recycles Day!” Fill in the blanks below to figure out what items can be recycled in Jackson County. Visit <http://recyclingjackson.com> for more information about recycling in our area.



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**G \_ \_ \_ S S**

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Answers  
Paper  
Glass  
Cardboard  
Plastic  
Styrofoam

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Meet at the Dablem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.

### Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night

Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

5:30 pm-8:30 pm

Jackson Community College, McDivitt Hall  
2111 Emmons Rd.

### Fall Tree Sale

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Jackson CD office parking lot

### Innovative Stormwater Management Webcast

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Jackson City Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> floor conference room  
161 W. Michigan Ave.

### Upper Grand River Film Festival— Submittal deadline

Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

Visit [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org) for entry form and submittal details.

### Please Note:

The Jackson County Conservation District will be closed for Federal holidays on October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup>, and November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WATERSHED?

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

The leaves are falling and the Upper Grand River Watershed glows with orange and gold hues. The fall season is the perfect time to get outside and enjoy the river—and there is still an opportunity for you to do that this year! The fall volunteer monitoring season is here and we need river enthusiasts to help collect and identify aquatic macro-invertebrates (i.e. “bugs”) at our Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and our Bug I.D. Night on October 5<sup>th</sup>. To view the event flyers, visit

[www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org).

In August, the first Habitat Day was held for the Adopt-A-Stream program. Instead of our usual bug collecting, volunteers used meters to take water quality measurements and also filled out habitat data forms. Under Adopt-A-Stream, habitat data needs to be collected for a site every five years. Volunteers were able to complete the assessments for six river sites this time around, and will go out to different sites next spring or summer.

After the fall monitoring



*High school student Matt Konieczki estimates where the highest water mark is on the Portage River.*

season winds down, the focus will switch over to many new projects in the Upper Grand that will be completed during the final year of the Upper Grand River Implementation Project. Land use planning resources and assistance to local townships, a



porous pavement demonstration site, a lakeshore restoration project, a school rain garden, and much more are scheduled for 2011. Furthermore, JCCD staff and partners are planning ahead and applying for grants for potential projects in 2012 and beyond. The final year of UGRIP will be a very busy one, and the public will have a opportunity to learn all about what's been happening in the watershed at the “State of the Upper Grand” conference that will be held in early spring of 2011.



*New volunteer Dana Emerson uses a meter to measure the dissolved oxygen, temperature, and pH of the Grand River.*

To learn more about the Upper Grand River Watershed and upcoming events, visit [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org) or become a friend of the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance on Facebook!

## DON'T KILL THAT BEE! THE BENEFITS OF POLLINATORS

By Dave Komorowski, *Acting District Conservationist*  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

There are many other pollinators in the world besides the famous honey bee. There are numerous bee species, butterflies, moths, birds, and bats that are also prolific pollinators. Over the past few years scientific data has been collected stating that pollinator populations, specifically the honey bees, are dwindling. The easiest thing that you can do to help this problem is not to kill that "pesky" bee. The other thing that you can do is start raising your own honey bees. This will not only increase the honey bee population which will help pollinate nearby crops, but it will also give you a fresh supply of honey every year.

An apiary, which is also known as a bee yard, is a place where beehives of honey bees are reared and kept. Beekeepers are also known as apiarists. Apiculture (derived from the Latin word *apis*, meaning bee) is the maintenance of honeybee hives by humans. Plan an apiary by ordering

bees, hives, and other supplies and equipment well in advance. Protective gear such as overalls, gloves, masks, veils and smokers are also important to protect against bee stings and facilitate easy handling of bees. Fall is the best time to buy all the supplies you need. All the equipment should be assembled in the winter in order to make arrangements for bees to be placed after arrival. Then place the hive at the designated place for the apiary. At this juncture, you can become a member of the local apiary association to gain further information about beekeeping. South Eastern Michigan Bee Keepers Association has a great website at [www.sembabees.org](http://www.sembabees.org) where you can find out about local meetings. This will also allow you to share your problems with more experienced apiarists who will eagerly



Honey Bee Photo Credit:  
[www.espp.msu.edu](http://www.espp.msu.edu)

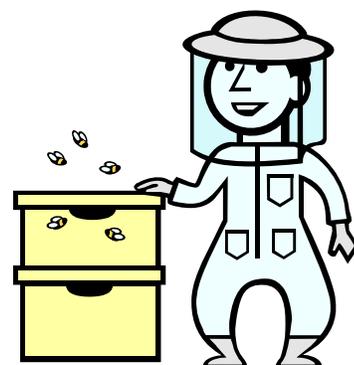
help you out.

Location of the apiary is very important. It is advantageous to place an apiary where there is a pollen and nectar source such as flowers, corn, ornamental trees, and fruit trees. An apiary should also be near a good source of clean water. It is prudent to provide a water source to prevent bees from moving into a neighbor's area in search of water. A bee apiary must face south or southeast and have a windbreak behind it. The area must not be damp and must have sufficient shade. The apiary must be easily approachable in order for you to work around it.

Take precautions against the spread of disease.

You can use Terramycin twice every year before and after the honey flow to prevent foulbrood disease. Use Fumadil "B" (Fumagillin) to control Nosema disease which afflicts adult bees. The hive needs to be tilted slightly so that water does not accumulate inside, and should be properly ventilated from the top. Food supply should be ensured to prevent bees from dying due to hunger.

Any other questions on beekeeping—from beginner to expert—can be directed to the South Eastern Michigan Bee Keepers Association website at [www.sembabees.org](http://www.sembabees.org).





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[www.jacksoncd.org](http://www.jacksoncd.org)



*Printed on paper with recycled content.*



***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*

Scott Maurer *Vice-Chairman*

Lathe Claflin, *Treasurer*

Dick Ekins, *Secretary*

Don Foster, *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.*