



CONSERVATION CORNER

A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

Fall 2011

GET YOUR FALL TREES NOW!

You may not want to admit it, but the summer is coming to an end. It's time to think about your fall tree planting. This year, JCCD will be selling 5 species of conifer transplants: Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, White Pine, and White Spruce.

Transplants are 1 or 2 years

older than seedlings. They have a more developed root system which allows for a higher survival rate and faster growth than seedlings.

All of JCCD's trees come



from Michigan nurseries, and purchasing them through the Conservation District helps put money back toward conservation projects and education right here in Jackson County!

See the tree sale order form on page 5. The deadline for ordering your trees is Thursday, September 29th.

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NEW HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM KICKS OFF IN JACKSON COUNTY

The Jackson and Calhoun County Conservation Districts, in partnership with the MI Department of Natural Resources, invite hunters and landowners to an informational meeting on Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP). The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 13th, 2011 from 7-8:30 pm** at the Whitehouse Nature Center on Farley Dr. in Albion. DNR Biologist Mike Parker, will explain the program, which is designed to reinvigorate hunter recruitment and retention in Michigan.

Representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will also be available to answer questions about Farm Bill programs.

HAP leases land in southern Michigan from landowners and farmers to provide new opportunities for hunters. HAP pays up to \$20/acre for high quality habitat with an additional \$5/acre for land enrolled in a Farm Bill program, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Landowners can select from a variety of hunting

options: all species, youth and apprentice only, deer only, turkey only, or small game only. In order to be eligible for HAP, a parcel must be at least 40 acres in size, 20% of which must be wildlife habitat (forest, wetland or grassland) and capable of providing good opportunities for hunting. Landowners do not have to live on the property or enroll their entire farm.



Conservation District staff will place signs to delineate the leased land and safety zones.

Landowners can set a limit to the number of hunters allowed on the land at one time and may also choose to have a mandatory check-in or a self check-in for hunters.

State statute provides liability protection to landowners enrolled in HAP. HAP has been successfully providing hunting access to private lands since 1977.

For more information or to RSVP for this meeting, please contact Lori Fitzgibbons at 517-784-2800 x214 or lori.fitzgibbons@mi.nacdnet.net.

Attention Landowners! \$ for you, Land for Hunters

A financial opportunity
that helps preserve
Michigan's hunting heritage

The Hunting Access Program (HAP) offers landowners payment in exchange for providing hunters access to your property.

- Increase and diversify your farm income. HAP pays landowners up to \$25 per acre.
- Help control deer damage or nuisance wildlife.
- Introduce young people to farming and hunting.
- Help preserve Michigan's hunting tradition – give hunters a place to hunt near home.
- Help support Michigan's rural economy.

Liability is covered by state law, and the program is flexible - you may choose to allow all hunting, youth and apprentice hunting only, small game only, deer only or turkey only or a combination.

Interested in enrolling in HAP?
Call 517-641-4903, ext. 228 or
email parkerm5@michigan.gov.

www.michigan.gov/hap



HELP US PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE COUNTY— FILL OUT THE RESOURCE SURVEY

Every five years, the Jackson County Conservation District distributes a resource survey to individuals who live in Jackson County. The purpose of this survey is to learn more about what residents think are the natural resource issues in our area. The survey results help guide decisions regarding natural resource projects and funding in our local area.

You may complete the survey via the Survey Monkey website link on our webpage, www.jacksoncd.org, or through this paper copy. Please return by September 19th.

* * * * *

1) What is your zip code? _____

2) How long have you lived in Jackson County?

- Less than 1 year*
- 1-5 years*
- 6-10 years*
- More than 10 years*

3) How much property do you own in Jackson County?

- None (renter)*
- Less than 1 acre*
- 1-5 acres*
- 6-10 acres*
- 11-40 acres*
- 41-100 acres*
- Over 100 acres*

4) How would you describe the setting in which you live?

- Urban/City*
- Suburban*
- Rural Residential (non-farm)*
- Farm*

5) How close do you live to the nearest lake or river?

- Waterfront—my property borders a lake or river*
- Less than 1 mile*
- Between 1-5 miles*
- More than 5 miles*

6) What are your main sources of staying informed on natural resource issues in Jackson County? Choose up to 3 answers.

- Jackson Citizen Patriot*
- Other local newspapers*
- Local television*
- Radio stations*
- Meetings of local government agencies*
- Membership in local environmental organizations (Dahlem Conservancy, Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, GREAT, Audubon, etc.)*
- Membership in agricultural organization (Farm Bureau, Ag Council, etc.)*
- Internet*
- Other: _____*

7) Please select the top 3 land use issues that you think will be of the most concern in Jackson County over the next 5 years.

- Agricultural preservation*
- Natural areas/open space preservation*
- Urban sprawl/development issues*
- Adequate planning & zoning by local government*
- Downtown revitalization*
- Flooding/drainage issues*
- Poor soil quality/soil degradation*
- Other:* _____

8) Please select the top 3 water quality issues that you think will be of the most concern in Jackson County over the next 5 years.

- Stormwater management*
- Erosion/sedimentation*
- Drinking water/source water protection*
- Failing septic systems/bacterial contamination*
- Residential fertilizer/pesticide use*
- Agricultural fertilizer/pesticide use*
- Loss of wetlands*
- Lake management/water quality of lakes*
- River management/water quality of rivers*
- Other:* _____

9) Please select the top 3 wildlife and habitat issues that you think will be of the most concern in Jackson County over the next 5 years.

- Loss of native habitat/fragmentation*
- Overpopulation of wildlife*
- Decreasing wildlife numbers/biodiversity*
- Invasive animal species control*
- Invasive plant species control*
- Forestry—diseases, pests, etc.*
- Wildlife damage to property*
- Wildlife/habitat focused recreation opportunities*
- Protecting threatened and endangered species*
- Other:* _____

10) What programs/services do you think the Jackson County Conservation District should focus more on over the next 5 years?

* * * * *

Contact Information (optional)—please fill in if you would like to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card to the store of your choice.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

MANAGING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES		<h2 style="margin: 0;">JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT</h2>
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FALL TREE SALE *October 8, 2011*

**Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Conservation District Office
211 W. Ganson, across from the Jackson County Fair Event Center**

Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, White Pine and White Spruce transplants are available. Transplants are 1 or 2 years older than seedlings. They have a more developed root system which allows for a higher survival rate and faster growth than the seedling. Please take a moment to fill out the order form below, and mail or bring it with your payment to the Conservation District at 211 W. Ganson, Jackson, MI 49201 by Thursday, September 29, 2011. Supply is limited!! Don't miss out on this great opportunity. **ORDER EARLY!!**

Keep this portion as your reminder. No invoice is mailed!

SPECIES	AGE/SIZE	5	10	25	50	QTY	AMT DUE	
BLUE SPRUCE	3 yr 10-14"	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$46.00	\$64.00	_____	\$ _____	
DOUGLAS FIR	3 yr 10-14"	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$46.00	\$64.00	_____	\$ _____	
NORWAY SPRUCE	3 yr 10-14"	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$46.00	\$64.00	_____	\$ _____	
WHITE PINE	3 yr 8-14"	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$46.00	\$64.00	_____	\$ _____	
WHITE SPRUCE	3 yr 10-14"	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$46.00	\$64.00	_____	\$ _____	
Right Start Fertilizer	Use one per tree. \$.30 each or bag of 100 for \$20.00						_____	\$ _____
Deer Repellent	1 lb. granular shaker \$15.00 _____, 1qt premix \$21.00 _____						_____	\$ _____
	1 lb box \$24.00 _____, 2.2lb. Box \$39.00 _____, 1.32gal premix \$54 _____						_____	\$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/Zip: _____
 Phone: (where you can be reached daytime and Saturday) _____

Order Total \$ _____
 Tax \$ _____
 Donation To District \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Method of Payment: Cash _____ Check _____ Amt. _____
 Credit Card: Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Exp date: _____
 Card Number: _____
****Make checks payable to JCCD****

JCCD is not responsible for orders not picked up on the scheduled distribution date. Survival rates are not guaranteed. **LIABILITY CEASES UPON DISTRIBUTION.** Any remaining stock will be sold during pickup.

DISTRICT BOARD OFFICERS
 James Spink, Chairman, Dick Elkins, Vice-Chairman
 Lathe Claffin, Treasurer, Steve Noble, Secretary
 and Don Foster, member

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Order# _____
 Date Received: _____
 Cash: _____
 Check#: _____
 CC Appr #: _____

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WATERSHED?

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

This summer has kept the watershed project staff and volunteers very busy with different opportunities to provide outreach and education in the community. A watershed informational display was set up at the Learning Fair in July and at the Jackson County Fair in August. In addition, kids were able to make watershed crafts—water protection bracelets and edible aquifers—at the Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival held at Dahlem.

Outreach and education are an important component of the Upper Grand River Implementation Project. During the past three years of UGRIP, over 3100 adults and 5900 children in the watershed have been reached through workshops, presentations, and booths at special events!



Kids enjoyed watershed crafts and games at the Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival held at Dahlem in August.



A very hot and humid day at the Learning Fair in Jackson.



To learn more about the Upper Grand River Watershed and upcoming events, visit www.uppergrandriver.org or become a friend of the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance on Facebook!

DEQ AWARDS NEW RIVER MONITORING GRANT

Last April, the Jackson County Conservation District applied for a grant from the MI Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division—and we just found out that we will be awarded the grant in September!



The new Upper Grand River Monitoring Project will measure *E. coli*, dissolved oxygen, and Total Suspended Solids at 17 sites in the watershed over the next year. The \$56,000 project includes \$39,000 in funding from DEQ, much of which will cover lab analytical costs for water samples. Partners on the project include the Jackson County Health Department, Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, ASTI Environmental, and Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT).

Over 41 miles of the Upper Grand River and the Portage River fail to meet water quality standards for biota, dissolved oxygen (due largely to sediment oxygen demand), and *E. coli* bacteria. An additional 3 miles of Albrow Creek fail to meet water quality standards for *E. coli* bacteria. Total maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations were developed for these sections of the Upper Grand River and Albrow Creek in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

Much work has been done to address these water quality issues in recent years. The urban communities have completed investigations of outfalls to the river, and identified and removed a number of illicit connections in the urban area. A project to reduce erosion and waterfowl *E. coli* contributions in R.A. Greene Park is currently underway. Numerous agricultural BMPs have been implemented by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in the agricultural areas of the watershed.

However, there is still a lot that needs to be done to improve the quality of the Grand River and its tributaries. This new monitoring project is intended to measure progress made in the 8 years since the TMDLs were established and to determine if portions of the TMDL area may be de-listed, and will then help direct future efforts to improve conditions in the watershed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand River Cleanup

Saturday, Sept. 10th, 2011

9:00am-2:00pm

Meet at CMS Energy Band Shell

Hunter Access Program Informational Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 2011

7:00pm-8:30pm

Whitehouse Nature Center in Albion

Center for Watershed Protection Web-cast—*Rainwater Harvesting*

Wednesday, Sept. 14th, 2011

12:00pm-2:00pm

Visit www.ppergrandriver.org for details

Watershed Bus Tour

Wednesday, Sept. 21st, 2011

1:00pm-5:00pm

Meet at Jackson CD office

Fall Tree Sale Order Deadline

Thursday, September 29th, 2011

Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day

Saturday, Oct. 1st, 2011

9:00am-1:00pm

Meet at Dablem Center

Center for Watershed Protection Web-cast—*Illicit Discharges*

Wednesday, Oct. 5th, 2011

12:00pm-2:00pm

Visit www.ppergrandriver.org for details

Fall Tree Sale Pickup

Saturday, Oct. 8th, 2011

9:00am-12:00pm

Jackson CD office

Center for Watershed Protection Web-cast—*Stream Restoration*

Wednesday, Nov. 16th, 2011

12:00pm-2:00pm



Jackson County Conservation District
 211 W. Ganson St., Suite 200
 Jackson, Michigan 49201
 517-784-2800 x 5
 Fax: 517-789-7886

YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN.



Visit our website:
www.jacksoncd.org



Printed on paper with recycled content.

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

Office: 517-784-2800 x 5
Fax: 517-789-7886
www.jacksoncd.org

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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 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.