



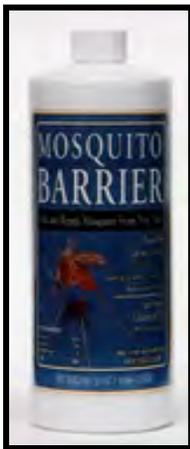
CONSERVATION CORNER

A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

Spring 2012

NEW MOSQUITO BARRIER NOW AVAILABLE

We've had some unusual weather so far this year, and people are already talking about how bad the mosquitoes are going to be in 2012. JCCD is pleased to



now offer an all-natural product that repels mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and black flies. The barrier is sprayed onto foliage around the yard and does not harm humans or pets because it's made from 99.3% garlic extract. Luckily, the smell is

undetectable to humans within minutes of application. A single application lasts about a month, and four applications are typically enough for the entire season. JCCD sells Mosquito Barrier for \$25/quart and \$80/gallon. A quart covers 1.25 acres and a gallon covers approximately 5 acres. Stop by JCCD during regular office to

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purchase this new product.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is actively providing assistance to organic producers in Jackson County. Applications for EQIP's Organic Initiative are now being accepted through June 1st. Under this initiative, NRCS provides assistance to eligible producers for installation of conservation practices on organic or agricultural

operations transitioning to organic production.

Assistance through EQIP's Organic Initiative helps producers achieve increased conservation benefits on their operations. This financial and technical assistance from NRCS addresses concerns with soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources.

The organic component of EQIP is specifically allocated to *conservation practices* related to organic production, rather than standard production costs. Assistance is limited to \$20,000 per year and \$80,000 during a six year period. Producers

are required to develop and carry out an Organic System Plan, or carry out practices consistent with a plan, in order to qualify for technical assistance and funding. To learn more about EQIP's Organic Initiative, please contact the NRCS at 517-784-2800 Ext. 3.



ANOTHER ANNUAL MEETING COMES AND GOES . . .

The 63rd Annual Meeting Banquet of the Jackson County Conservation District was held on January 24th. Seventy people were in attendance to hear about the District's accomplishments over the previous year, vote for two new board members, and enjoy good food and live bluegrass music from *The Village Acoustics*.

JCCD presented the "2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award" to Darold Ebersole for being a dedicated volunteer at the spring tree sale for the past eight years. Darold—better known as "The Fruit Tree Guy"—is always the first volunteer to arrive and the last to leave. He packages the fruit trees, supplies feed bags and shredded paper for the packing, prunes the trees the customers have purchased, and will even sharpen your pruning shears if you have them on you! Despite health issues and a busy schedule filled with many volunteer obligations, Darold is a strong supporter of JCCD's mission and shows up at each spring tree sale with even more energy and enthusiasm than the year before.

JCCD is pleased to honor Darold Ebersole as the "2011 Outstanding Volunteer." Congratulations and thank you, Darold!



"2011 Outstanding Volunteer,"
Darold Ebersole



Join the Jackson County Conservation District for the spring Adopt-A-Highway volunteer cleanup. . .

Sunday, April 15th, 2012

1:00-3:00 pm



Help us pick up trash along a stretch of I-94. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Please bring your own gloves. Beverages will be provided.



We will meet for a brief safety meeting before heading outside at:

Fitzgibbons Fleet Fabricators

3325 Cisco Road (Exit #145 off of I-94) in Jackson

Please RSVP to Lori at 517-784-2800 x214 or lori.fitzgibbons@mi.nacdnet.net by 4/13.

WE SAY GOODBYE TO GUST

After nearly 5 years as the District Conservationist with NRCS in Jackson County, Andrew Gust has moved on to a new position with the agency at their area office in Grayling. During his time in Jackson, Andrew enrolled 300 acres into the Wetland Reserve Program, completed designs for over 1400 acres of wetland restorations, developed Conservation Plans for 25,000 acres, and helped allocate over \$2 million for conservation practices throughout the county. When asked what he enjoyed most about working in Jackson, Gust responded, “the varied workload—from large scale WRP easements to small scale vegetable producers, and the challenges of working with such a diverse clientele.” Best wishes in your new position, Andrew!



Volunteers Wanted!

Gardening Lovers Needed

Love to garden? Love the environment? The Russell Park Rain Garden in Leslie needs you! We will be meeting at the park periodically this spring and summer to weed and do some routine maintenance. Master gardeners and anyone with experience with native plants would be especially useful, but we welcome anyone to lend a hand and learn on site. We will have some extra gloves and hand shovels available, but please bring your own if you can.

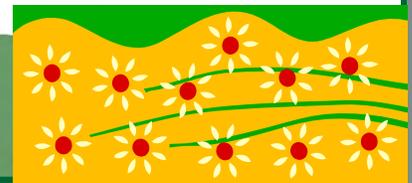
First gardening date :

Saturday, May 19th, 2012 from 9–11 am

Second gardening date :

Saturday, July 28th, 2012 from 9–11 am

Contact the Ingham Conservation District at 517-676-2290 or michelle.beloskur@macd.org if you would like to participate.



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WATERSHED?

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

On February 18th, 40 people gathered at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in downtown Jackson for the first “State of the Upper Grand” conference. The free event—modeled after a conference regularly held in our neighboring watershed, the Huron—was sponsored by the Jackson County Conservation District under the Upper Grand River Implementation Project, the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The event was designed to give attendees an overview of past and recent water quality data results. The conference also



Attendees at the “State of the Upper Grand”

featured presentations from multiple organizations that are working in the Upper Grand to manage and protect the health of the watershed—with topics including rain garden design and installation, natural shoreline establishment, invasive plant



species management, and more. Presentations from the conference are now posted on www.uppergrandriver.org

To learn more about upcoming programs and events in the watershed, join the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance page on Facebook.

SPRING 2012 ADOPT-A-STREAM EVENTS

New Volunteer Training

Thursday, April 26th

6:00-8:00 pm

Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.

or

Wednesday, May 2nd

6:30-8:00 pm

Ingham Conservation District, 1031 W. Dexter Trail in Mason

Spring Collection Day

Saturday, May 12th

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.

Bug I.D. Night

May 15th or 16th (TBD)

5:30-8:30 pm

Jackson Community College, McDivitt Hall
2111 Emmons Rd.



To RSVP for any of these events, please contact Cecilia at 517-784-2800 x208 or cecilia.govrik@macd.org

ENTER THE MICHIGAN BIG TREE HUNT CONTEST

The hunt is on! Do you have an amazingly HUGE tree in your yard, or know where one is located nearby? Nominate it to become a state or national champion under the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. Entries must be submitted by August 1st, 2012. Entry forms and instructions on how to measure the tree are available at www.globalreleaf.org/treehunt.htm.

The Big Tree Hunt recognizes the winners of the largest tree in each county, the largest tree entered overall in the state, the largest White Pine (Michigan's state tree), and the largest tree nominated by a student age 15 or younger. Winners will receive a certificate and a gift at a ceremony held in September.

The Michigan Big Tree Hunt is sponsored by ReLeaf Michigan, Michigan Botanical Foundation, Michigan Botanical Club, Hanes Fund, Lapham Associates, Arboriculture Society of Michigan, DTE Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.





**SUNDAY,
APRIL 22, 2012**
1-4 pm
*Sparks (Cascades)
Foundation Park
in Jackson*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kid's crafts & hands-on activities
- Canoe & kayak rides
- Bike Round Up—donate an old bike
- Educational displays & materials
- Garlic Mustard Pull (2:00 pm)
- and More!

You are invited to attend the 6th Annual
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
It's Free!
Fun for the whole family!

Sponsored by:
Emmons Service Inc. (title sponsor), MACI, Little Caesars Carryout, The Dahlen Conservancy, Johnny's Tree Service Inc., Aspen Heating & Cooling Inc., The Book Exchange, City of Jackson Department of Parks & Recreation

Hosted by the Jackson Area Outdoor Coalition
Supporting & promoting cooperation among Jackson's environmental and outdoor organizations

Visit JCCD's booth at Earth Day this year. Kids can play a fun frog game and win prizes!



Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin.

Nelson saw the devastation caused by the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California and was inspired to start a movement that would increase public consciousness about air and water pollution and launch environmental protection onto the national political agenda.

NEW FACES ON THE BOARD



Greg Sanford grew up on a family farm in Parma and worked summers on his grandfather's farm in Rives Junction. Greg currently lives in Springport with his wife and daughter. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and Applied Economics from The Ohio State University, and is employed as the Agronomy Manager at Eaton Farm Bureau Coop in Charlotte. Greg Sanford is active in the Jackson County Farmland Preservation Committee and is also a Certified Crop Advisor, both of which we presume will be quite useful during his term on the JCCD Board. Welcome to the Board, Greg!

Kenny Price is not really a new face at JCCD, as he's been active with District for many years through his role with the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT) and their partnership in our watershed projects. Kenny is a native of Texas (in case you haven't heard), but has lived in Michigan since 2001. Kenny Price is currently the president of GREAT, serves on the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, and is a member of The Dahlem Conservancy, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and more. It's safe to say that Kenny has a strong interest in natural resources and will bring a lot of enthusiasm to JCCD!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Saturday, April 15th, 2012

1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Meet at Fitzgibbons Fleet, 3325 Cisco Rd.

Earth Day Festival

Sunday, April 22nd, 2012

1:00 pm—4:00 pm

Cascades Park

Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Training

Thursday, April 26th, 2012

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.

Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day

Saturday, May 12th, 2012

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.

Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night

Tuesday, May 15th, 2012

5:30 pm—8:30 pm

Jackson Community College, McDivitt Hall

Rain Garden Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 19th, 2012

9:00 am—11:00 am

Russell Park in Leslie

Rain Garden Workshop

Saturday, June 2nd, 2012

9:00am—11:00am

Location TBD

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, June 2nd, 2012

12:00pm—3:00pm

Location TBD

JCCD is now on

facebook

KEEP IT GREEN WHEN YOU TACKLE YOUR SPRING YARD WORK

Spring came early this year, so many of us got a head start on lawn and garden work. The Conservation District urges you to keep the environment in mind when doing your spring and summer yard work. Over-fertilizing or misuse of pesticides can greatly impact local water quality. You don't need to live near a lake or stream to harm our waterways, either. Every storm drain or drainage ditch is a direct connection to our rivers and lakes. Here is some information for ensuring that your lawn and garden chores are environmentally-friendly.

Help Protect and Preserve Water Quality in Michigan Use Phosphorus Free Fertilizer

Beginning January 1, 2012, Michigan law restricts phosphorus fertilizer applications on lawns.



www.michigan.gov/mda-fertilizer

The Phosphorus Law

Michigan Fertilizer Law (1994 PA 451, Part 85, Fertilizers) restricts the use of phosphorus fertilizers on residential and commercial lawns, including athletic fields and golf courses statewide. Both homeowners and commercial applicators must follow the phosphorus application restrictions.

What fertilizers do I use?

Look for lawn fertilizers with zero phosphorus in them. On the bag or box of fertilizer is a row of three numbers. These numbers indicate the amount of total nitrogen (N), available phosphate (P_2O_5) and soluble potash (K_2O) in the particular product. The middle number is available phosphate and should read "0."



Clean Up and Avoid Water

- Fertilizer cannot be applied to frozen soil or soil saturated with water.
- Any fertilizer released onto a hard surface, such as a sidewalk or driveway, must be cleaned up promptly.
- Maintain at least a 15' application buffer from surface water (lake, river, stream).

- If a spreader guard, deflector shield, or drop spreader is used, then maintain at least a 3' buffer.
- If a continuous natural vegetative buffer separates the turf and surface water, then maintain at least a 10' buffer from the water.



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517-784-2800 x 5
Fax: 517-789-7886

YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN.



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*

Don Foster, *Vice-Chairman*

Steve Noble, *Treasurer*

Kenny Price, *Secretary*

Greg Sanford, *Member*

JCCD Board meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 8:30 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.