



# CONSERVATION CORNER

*A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District*

## FALL TREE SALE IS COMING—GET YOUR SHOVELS READY!

Just when you've finally been able to get the dirt from spring tree planting out from under your fingernails, it's time to start planting again!

Fall is the best time to get conifers in the ground. JCCD will be offering five species this fall: Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, White Pine, and White Spruce. All of the fall trees are three-year old transplants

and are roughly a foot tall.

Other products, such as Plantskydd deer repellent, Right Start fertilizer, and tree mats and collars will be available at the fall sale as well. We also still have rain barrels and tumbling



composters, which we were able to offer for the first time at our sale this past spring.

Visit our website for more information on these products—and remember the purchase of all of these items helps support natural resources conservation efforts right here in Jackson County!

The fall order form is included at the end of this newsletter. **Orders are**

## Summer 2010

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**due by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**—but order as early as possible, as supplies are limited.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

The USDA-Farm Service Agency recently announced that applications are being accepted for the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP. CRP is the USDA's largest voluntary conservation program that provides landowners with an

annual rental payment for converting sensitive agricultural land into conservation cover. Conservation cover helps provide valuable habitat for wildlife, reduce erosion, and improve air and water quality.

To be eligible for CRP, landowners must have

owned or operated the land for one full year prior to the sign up date. In addition, the land must have been planted in crops for at least four years between 2002 and 2007.

The sign up is **open from August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>.**



For more information or to apply for the program, please contact Farm Service Agency as soon as possible at 517-789-7716 Ext. 2.

## WORKING FOR A CLEANER JACKSON COUNTY

This past spring, JCCD joined the Adopt-A-Highway program through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program began in 1990, and over 6400 miles of State highways are currently being cleaned up by volunteers from various organizations. However, recent years have seen a decline in the number of groups that are able to make a commitment to the program.

JCCD felt that the Adopt-A-Highway program fit in perfectly with our organization's mission, so we are now responsible



*Our sign on I-94.*

for cleaning up a two-mile section of I-94 between Race Road and Mount Hope Road. In April, JCCD staff sent out a request for volunteers to help with the cleanup—and 14 brave people answered the call. We

armed ourselves with the neon yellow vests, trash bags, and metal grabbers and headed out to the roadside.

Currently, our adopted section of I-94 is under construction. We were not able to hold a summer cleanup event. In September, however, we expect to be able to wear those fashionable yellow vests again—and we want you to join us!

JCCD sends out a huge

THANK YOU to the volunteers who made our first highway cleanup a success:

- *Andy Govrik*
- *Arlene Taylor*
- *Bryon Ennis*
- *Chris Chames*
- *Jenny Kubiak*
- *Kenny Price*
- *Mary Chames*
- *Matt Laux*
- *Nick Chames*
- *Rob Fitzgibbons*



*Working hard at our first Adopt-A-Highway (Left to Right: Zac Smith, Alison Rauss, Andy Govrik).*

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR FALL HIGHWAY CLEAN UP

**Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-4:00pm**

We need lots of helping hands to keep our stretch of highway clean. If you can join us, please RSVP to Lori by Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 517-784-2800 x214.

We will meet at Fitzgibbons Fleet Fabricators (3325 Cisco Rd, Exit #145 off I-94). Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Bring your own gloves. Safety vests and trash pickers provided.



## KIDS CORNER

Hey kids! See if you can find the words below in this Conservation Word Find.

																		
	D	Z	R	G	C	K	Z	X	N	D	Z	C	K	N	L			
	N	O	I	T	U	L	L	O	P	T	O	T	O	L	I			
	O	Z	D	I	F	V	P	E	Y	N	J	I	D	F	O			
	Y	G	E	N	G	R	E	J	S	A	S	W	T	Q	S			
	R	W	F	Y	A	W	E	E	C	O	M	P	O	S	T			
	S	R	I	W	B	L	R	V	R	S	E	E	R	T	J			
	M	T	L	A	R	V	M	E	I	D	P	H	X	W	X			
	Q	M	D	O	A	E	W	R	P	R	L	E	A	Y	Y			
	U	H	L	T	U	A	C	T	A	Y	A	T	D	T	Y			
	U	B	I	X	T	Y	P	Y	L	F	N	N	W	X	H			
	U	O	W	E	S	L	X	X	C	Z	T	C	P	U	O			
	N	Z	R	S	S	O	A	N	P	L	S	W	J	Y	D			
	I	X	R	U	R	V	R	A	N	A	E	E	P	R	U			
	H	I	E	O	S	X	J	D	V	N	Z	D	O	G	Y			
	A	T	E	B	V	M	D	C	J	C	W	N	M	A	X			
	AIR	COMPOST	CONSERVATION															
	EROSION	FARMLAND	PLANTS															
	POLLUTION	RECYCLE	RIVER															
	SOIL	TREES	WATER															
	WILDLIFE																	
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		
																		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Jackson County Fair

Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Visit JCCD at our booth in the Events Center.*

### Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival

Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>  
 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
*Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.*

### Adopt-A-Stream Habitat Day

Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>  
 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
*Meet at the Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.*

### Porous Pavement Webcast

Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
 12:00 pm-2:00 pm  
*Jackson City Hall, 10th floor conference room  
 161 W. Michigan Ave.*

### Grand River Cleanup

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
*Meet at the Consumers Energy lot off Cooper St.*

### Adopt-A-Stream Volunteer Training

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
 6:30 pm-8:30 pm  
*Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.*

### Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day

Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
*Meet at the Dahlem Center, 7117 S. Jackson Rd.*

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

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

It's been a busy spring and early summer in the Upper Grand, with many opportunities to get people involved in both protecting and enjoying the watershed.

Spring brought another successful season of the Adopt-A-Stream volunteer monitoring program. What makes it *successful*? We gauge our success by the number of new volunteers that attend training and participate in the monitoring events, the return of seasoned river volunteers, and the actual data results from our efforts. All of our river

sites this spring, except for one, ranked as "Acceptable" or "Excellent" according to the state standards for macroinvertebrates. The site that ranked poor in Onondaga had deep water



*Mike Adriaansen, a.k.a. "The Dragonfly Whisperer", volunteered at the spring collection. Note: Volunteers are NOT required to put macroinvertebrates on their faces—don't let that scare you away from joining us!*



*Casey Abbott collects samples from Sandstone Creek.*

and was difficult to collect bugs at, which we take into consideration when interpreting our data. Check out the spring results in the summer issue of *The Early Adopter*, which is available on the Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance's website: [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org).

Things got even busier in the late spring and early summer with the arrival of the Grand River Expedition 2010. An opening ceremony for the event, bus tour of natural areas in the headwaters, and an outdoor River Fest at the Farmers Market in downtown Jackson all took place toward the end of July. We even helped promote the Grand River and the Expedition events with a float in the Rose Parade in July, where we handed out over 1000 Upper Grand River stickers to parade watchers!



This spring some local Girl Scouts celebrated completing a series of watershed-related activities and earning the Water Drop patch through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Concord Cadette Troop 245 Girl Scouts began working on the patch in 2010, and finished the patch requirements this past winter by creating a watershed stewardship banner. The banner was on display at the downtown River Fest in July, and will be at the Jackson County Fair in August.



*Our new sticker design.*



▲ *Girl Scout Troop 245 working on the watershed banner at the Dahlem Center.*

▼ *The “Lending a Hand to Keep it Grand” banner includes stewardship messages about proper lawn care, using native plants, and even picking up pet waste.*



▲ *The Water Drop patch through the E.P.A.*

**Upper Grand River  
Film Festival  
CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Want to be a famous director? Here’s your chance! The Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance is hosting a contest for Public Service Announcements and short educational films about water stewardship. Films can cover any aspect of water quality and watershed protection—get outdoors and get creative! Submit your film in one of these categories:

- ◆ 30-second PSAs
- ◆ Short Film (< 5 min.)—Adults
- ◆ Short Film (< 5 min.)—Youth, *Elementary-High School*

Films must be submitted by November 30, 2010. Winners will be shown at the Michigan Theatre in downtown Jackson in February 2011! Visit [www.uppergrandriver.org](http://www.uppergrandriver.org) for details and entry forms.

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!

## PRODUCT FEATURE: DEER REPELLANT—DOES IT REALLY WORK?

You spend hours and hours in your garden over the spring and summer, lovingly tending to your flowers and shrubs, and then the furry four-legged bandits enjoy the fruits of your labor! It can be frustrating, but it also puts you in a difficult position. You love your yard and garden—but you also enjoy wildlife and don't want to “permanently” take care of the problem.

Non-lethal wildlife repellants may be your perfect solution. Several different brands are available at home improvement stores. The Conservation District carries Plantskydd and has it available for sale all year long—and if you purchase it from us, the proceeds go back into natural resources conservation!

Plantskydd repels wildlife by emitting an odor that browsing animals associate with predator activity. Even though it is



Photo Credit: [www.flower-gardening-made-easy.com](http://www.flower-gardening-made-easy.com)

made from dried blood (pig or cow), it is non-toxic and it not harmful to humans, animals, plants or the environment. Plantskydd is 100% natural, has no synthetic additives, is approved for organic gardening use, and is exempt from pesticide registration through the federal Environmental Protection Agency. It has a vegetable oil base, and adheres very well to leafy surfaces so that it can last up to 6 months—and even through the winter.

JCCD has both pre-mixed and powdered

Plantskydd for sale. You can mix the powder in any clean spray bottle. The following sizes are available:

- 2.2 Lb Box – Soluble Powder Concentrate [\$39.00]
- 1 Lb. Box – Soluble Powder Concentrate [\$24.00]
- 1 Quart – Pre-mixed Spray Bottle [\$21.00]
- 1.32 Gallon Pre-mixed [\$54.00]
- 1 Lb. Easy to Use Shaker Granular [\$15.00]

If you want to keep those hungry critters out of your flowerbeds, then come down to our office and pick up some Plantskydd!



### Benefits of Plantskydd

- Proven effective against deer, rabbits, and elk.
- 100% natural
- Not harmful to humans, animals, or the environment.
- Works equally well on conifer and broadleaf plants.
- Effective in your home garden.
- Lasts up to six months & even through the winter!



MANAGING  
OUR  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES



# JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## FALL TREE SALE *October 9, 2010*

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 30, 2010. 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. \$ .25 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: _____						Order Total	\$ _____
Address: _____							
City/Zip: _____							
Phone: (where you can be reached daytime and Saturday) _____						Tax	\$ _____
<b>Method of Payment:</b> Cash _____ Check _____ Amt. _____ Credit Card: Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Exp date: _____ Card Number: _____ **Make checks payable to JCCD**						Donation To District	\$ _____
						Total	\$ _____

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, Scott Maurer, Vice-Chairman  
Lathe Claflin, Treasurer, Richard Ekins, Secretary  
and Don Foster, member

**OFFICE USE ONLY**  
 Order# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CC Appr #: \_\_\_\_\_



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](http://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**  
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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.*