



CONSERVATION CORNER

A quarterly publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP & SALE

The Jackson CD will host a native plant workshop and sale on Saturday, June 11th (see flyer on page 2). The workshop will be conducted by Vern Stephens from *Designs by Nature*, a business he founded to provide natural landscaping, design and consulting, environmental education,

and habitat management planning using Michigan native wildflowers and grasses.

The workshop will run from 9:00-11:00 am in the JCCD conference room, and costs \$5 per person for materials. Pre-registration is required by contacting Lori at 517-784-2800 x214 or

lori.fitzgibbons@mi.nacdnet.net.

The plant sale will take place in the JCCD parking lot beginning at 12:00 pm. A variety of native MI wildflowers, grasses, ferns, and rescued woodland plants will be available—come early for the best selection.

Summer 2011

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RESTORED WETLAND WELCOMES BABY BALD EAGLES

Wildlife biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found two eaglets when examining a bald eagle nest on a wetland in Jackson County. The fledgling bald eagles are the first confirmed in Jackson County since the revival of the species from near extinction in the 1960s.

“It’s a great success story,” said Matt Stuber, a wildlife biologist with the USFWS. “It’s a good sign for the rest of the ecosystem when you have top of the food chain predators present.”

Biologists climbed to the nest and found two fledglings. Bald eagles typically produce one or two young, and the

fledglings found were about 28 days old. The parents have nested at the site for at least two years, but this is the first time they have raised eaglets to the fledgling stage. The bald eagles will leave the nest when they are about 10 or 11 weeks old.

The USFWS estimates there are about 660 bald eagle nests in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources assists in locating bald eagle nests by doing aerial surveys of known nesting sites and areas offering good bald eagle habitat.

The bald eagle nest is located on a wetland site that is enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program

through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The 200-acre restored wetland provides plenty of food for the eagles, including waterfowl, small mammals, and fish.

There are about 1,000 acres of additional restored WRP land in the vicinity of the nesting.



Biologists took blood and feather samples of the eagles for genetic testing and to look for contaminants, such as mercury.



Jackson County currently has 2,623 acres enrolled in the program—the third most of any county in Michigan. WRP provides financial assistance to convert degraded wetlands back to their original condition. The landowner controls access to the property and can still utilize the land for recreational purposes like hunting or fishing.

For more information about the WRP, contact **Andrew Gust** at 517-784-2800 Ext. 3 or email him at

andrew.gust@mi.usda.gov.



Annual Native Plant Sale And Workshop

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Cost: \$5 per person (Pre-registration required!)

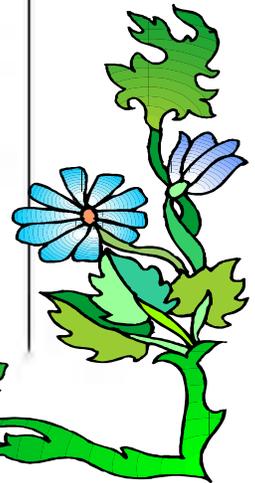
Call Lori at 517-784-2800 x214 for more details and to register.

Native Plant Sale from 12:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.
In the Conservation District parking lot at 211 W. Ganson St.,
Jackson, across from the Jackson County fairgrounds.

There will be a variety of native Michigan wildflowers, warm season grasses, ferns and rescued woodland plants. Prices start at \$6.00. No pre-orders. Come early for the best selection.

Listed below are some of the plants available:

Woodlands Rescued:	False dragonhead (Obedient plant)	Rattlesnake master	Grasses:
Cinnamon fern	Foxglove beard tongue (Smooth penstemon)	Rosin weed	Big bluestem
Interrupted fern	Gray headed coneflower	Rough blazing star	Bottlebrush grass
Jack in the pulpit	Golden alexanders	Round leaf ragwort	Canada wild rye
Lady fern	Great blue lobelia	Sand tickseed (Lanceleaf coreopsis)	Indian grass
Maidenhair fern	Hairy beard tongue	Showy coneflower	June grass
Ostrich Plume fern	Hoary vervain	Showy goldenrod	Little bluestem
Wild geranium	Horsemint	Sky blue aster	Prairie cord grass
Wild ginger	Ironweed	Spiderwort	Prairie dropseed
White trillium	Jacob's ladder	Stiff goldenrod	Side oats grama
Wildflowers:	Joe pye weed	Swamp milkweed (Red Milkweed)	Sweet grass
Bergemot	Lead plant	Sweet black-eyed susan	Switch grass
Black-eyed susan	New Jersey tea	Tall coreopsis	
Blue vervain	Nodding wild onion	Thimbleweed	
Boneset	New England aster	Western sunflower	
Butterfly weed	Marsh blazing star	White turtlehead	
Cardinal flower	Prairie coreopsis	Wild blue iris	
Compass plant	Prairie dock	Wild columbine	
Culver's root	Prairie smoke	Wild lupine	
Cup plant	Pale purple coneflower	Wild perunia	
False boneset	Purple coneflower	Wild senna	
	Queen of the prairie	Woodland sunflower	



**WEBSITE FEATURE:
MICHIGAN WATER
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
OFFERS ONLINE RESOURCES**

Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) now offers free online stewardship courses for Great Lakes residents, teaching resources for educators, as well as interactive educational games for youth.

Educator resources include lesson plans with details of Michigan's grade level curriculum expectations listed, hands-on activities, and fun assignments. Interactive games help children learn about environmental issues and how to make better decisions to protect Michigan's water and other natural resources.

*Taking care of our water
It's all about stewardship*

Educators are able to search for resources by grade/age from K-12 and adults, or by environmental topic. Educators also have access to presentations, environmental videos, music, and publications to supplement lesson plans and activities.

In addition to teaching resources, MWSP provides interactive, educational games for children. Games include Sweetwater Village and the Water Cycle Virtual Model. Students may play games directly from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program website. In the Sweetwater Village Game, players are elected as Sweetwater Village's mayor and are presented with series of situations where they must make the best decisions for the community. Players' decisions will have a direct impact on Sweetwater Lake and the happiness of the residents. To play the game, visit <http://www.MiWaterStewardship.org/YouthStewards/OurWaterGames/>.

The Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) is a partnership of organizations that provide educational assistance to Michigan's residents to identify and reduce contamination risks to water and other natural resources. For additional information, please visit <http://www.MiWaterStewardship.org>.

**CLEAN SWEEP PROGRAM
STILL PROVIDING FREE
PESTICIDE DISPOSAL
THROUGHOUT STATE**

The Michigan Clean Sweep Program helps protect the state's natural resources and prevent agriculture pollution by ensuring the safe and proper disposal of outdated, unused or unwanted pesticides in Michigan. Clean Sweep is made possible by a solid and unique partnership among state, federal, and local agencies, as well as industry representatives. Over the past fourteen years, nearly 1.7 million pounds (850 tons) of pesticides have been removed from circulation and properly disposed of via Clean Sweep collection sites. For the next two years, the program has received funding through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to enhance its collection efforts.

Participating Clean Sweep sites will accept pesticide product and mercury free of charge from any Michigan resident. While there are no sites in Jackson County, there are nearby sites in Ann Arbor and Lansing that Jackson County residents can utilize to dispose of their expired or unused pesticides. The sites are not, however, required to handle other types of household hazardous waste from residents outside of their respective counties. To learn more about the Clean Sweep program and the details for each drop-off site, visit www.michigan.gov/cleansweep or call 517-241-3933.



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WATERSHED?

By Cecilia Govrik, *Watershed Project Manager*

For the past few months, the Ingham Conservation District has been working on the planning and design of a bioretention basin (rain garden) at Russell Park in Leslie. Funded through the Upper Grand River Implementation Project, the rain garden will be installed in partnership with the City of Leslie.

Recently, engineering students from Michigan State University visited Russell Park and developed designs that will address erosion problems at the park. The bioretention basin will be accompanied by educational signage about the Upper Grand River Watershed that explains the benefits of using native plants for managing stormwater and controlling erosion and sedimentation. The resulting bioretention basin will help collect runoff from the park and surrounding areas, visually improve the site, and enhance the overall use of the park by directing foot traffic to the appropriate areas.

The project will be completed by the fall of 2011. In the future, the Ingham Conservation District will likely work with the City of Leslie to seek additional grant funds for other park improvements, such as installing porous pavement in the parking lots.



MSU engineering students visit Russell Park in order to develop designs for bioretention basins that will address erosion problems at the site.



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!



RIVER VOLUNTEERS AVOID HIGH WATER

The spring Adopt-A-Stream events took place in May, despite some high water levels that kept volunteers from sampling about half of the usual sites on the Grand River. Thirteen volunteers were able to collect macroinvertebrates at 6 river sites in Jackson and Ingham County, including a couple of sites on the Grand as well as sites on the tributaries of Sandstone Creek and Huntoon Creek.

The results of the spring collection will be distributed in the next issue of the Adopt-A-Stream's *Early Monitor* newsletter and will also be entered into the MiCorps data exchange at www.micorps.net, where you can view the data results from our past seasons or look at water quality data for other watersheds with volunteer monitoring programs.



Jim Seitz and Mark Kaczorowski collect in the Grand River by Liberty Road (above). Volunteers sort through bug samples from Sharp Creek at Wickwire Farm (middle). Gamal Abosamra identifies a macroinvertebrate using a microscope at Jackson Community College (below).



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
Not for Commercial, Business, or Agricultural Use
NO PROPANE CYLINDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!
NO LATEX PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Recycling Jackson will also be on site to collect E-waste such as T.V's, computers, printers, etc FREE OF CHARGE. Donations will be accepted!

When: Saturday, June 11, 2011 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: 1715 Lansing Ave.
Enter at drive south of bus stop
Exit at north drive

Cost: \$5.00 / Vehicle

What to Bring:

- ◆ Aerosol Cans
- ◆ Paint Thinner/Turpentine/Mineral Spirits
- ◆ Oil and Lead Based Paint
- ◆ Pesticides/Herbicides/Insecticides
- ◆ Automotive Products
 - ~ Brake Fluid
 - ~ Transmission Fluid
 - ~ Antifreeze
- ◆ Cleaners/Caustics/Solvents
- ◆ Flammable Liquids
- ◆ Household Batteries (not car batteries)
- ◆ Items containing mercury
- ◆ Motor Oil
- ◆ Road Flares

What is Not Accepted:

- ◆ LATEX PAINT
- ◆ Gasoline Containers
- ◆ Business/Farm Materials
- ◆ Smoke Alarms
- ◆ Car Batteries
- ◆ Explosives
- ◆ Infectious Waste
- ◆ Radioactive Material
- ◆ Propane Cylinders

Radon Test kits can be purchased for \$10.

For More Information Call
 Environmental Health Division ~ 788-4433
 Jackson County Resource Recovery ~ 788-4008
 or Recycling Jackson ~ 414-6142



Sponsored by the Jackson County Resource Recovery Facility, Liberty Landfill and the Jackson County Health Department

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY FOR RIVER RAISIN WATERSHED LANDOWNERS

By Lauren Lindemann, *Conservation Specialist*

There are so many opportunities for landowners who have active agriculturally producing ground, and very few people take up these opportunities. What opportunities do you ask? The answer is Farm Bill programs, which are available to people in the counties of Lenawee, Hillsdale, Jackson, Monroe and Washtenaw. These programs help control erosion, create wildlife habitat and improve water quality and are available on actively cropped ground.

In January of 2005, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) opened for continuous enrollment, along with an already open continuous sign-up program, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). In May of 2009, another continuous sign-up program under CCRP opened called Michigan State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Program (SAFE). CCRP programs are available options county wide as long as program criteria is met. CREP areas of availability are based on watershed areas (and other criteria): River Raisin, Ottawa Lake/Stoney Creek, and Tiffin River (also known as the Western Lake Erie Basin).

CREP practices include:

CP1: Introduced Grasses and Legumes on HEL ground within 1,000' of water (Counties available: Hillsdale, Jackson, Washtenaw and Lenawee.)

CP2: Native Grasses and Legumes on highly erodible ground within 1,000' of water (Counties available: Hillsdale, Jackson, Washtenaw and Lenawee.)

CP5A: Field Windbreak (In CREP it is a combination of multiple rows of trees and shrubs to meet wind erosion and wildlife habitat standards. Single row options are available in CCRP.)

CP21: Filter Strips (A filter strip is a vegetative strip of grass along a ditch, pond, wetland, etc., to help control surface water flow by slowing and filtering out sediment and other chemicals before going into our water system. In CREP the minimum width is 50' and the



A CREP windbreak with multiple rows of trees and shrubs.

maximum width of 150'; shorter widths are possible in CCRP.)

CP22: Riparian Forest Buffer (This is a combination of planting trees and grasses along a water source; widths vary from 50' to 180' wide. There is also this option in CCRP with shorter widths. Available for marginal pastureland.)

CP23: Wetland Restoration, Flood Plain (Restoring natural hydrology to a field, very little excavation is done, tile work is either destroyed or a gated system is added to stop tile from flowing. An option for this is also in CCRP.)

CP23A: Wetland Restoration, Non-Flood Plain (Same as CP23, but not in a flood-plain area.)

CP26: Sediment Retention Control Structure, a.k.a WASCORB (This practice is available in areas where concentrated flows have started erosion in fields. This is an option if the upper watershed is small enough to hold all water at a dike and drain into a tile system. The other option would be for a grassed waterway in CCRP. WASCORBs are usually seen with areas with some slopes in the topography, such as in Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties.)

Farm the Best, Conserve the Rest



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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.

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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.