



CONSERVATION UPDATE

YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

*To educate and assist the people of Washtenaw County
with the conservation and management of their natural resources.*

Conservation Update is published in spring, summer and winter and is available at no charge. To be placed on the mailing list, phone or send a request with complete address to:

Washtenaw County CD
7203 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor MI 48103-9506
Phone: (734) 761-6721 x 5

Board of Directors: Mary Beth Day, *Chairman*
Howard Sias, *Vice-Chairman*
Matthew Koenn, *Secretary*
Bill Van Riper, Jr., *Treasurer*
Donald Rentschler, *Director*

District Staff: Dennis Rice, *Executive Director*
Amy Gilhouse, *Groundwater Technician*
Lauren Lindemann &
Nathan McNett, *CREP Technicians*
Fred Schettenhelm, *Equipment Manager*

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff:

Stephen Olds, *District Conservationist*
Quincy Coleman, *Soil Conservationist*
Bryce Rinkenberger, *Soil Conservationist*

Web Access: www.washtenawcd.org

*All Conservation District programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.
The District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

All Aboard! Ann Arbor Railroad Historical Association President to speak at District Annual Meeting

David Harrell, President of the Ann Arbor Railroad Technical and Historical Association will discuss the history of the Ann Arbor Railroad and agriculture's involvement in its establishment at the Washtenaw County Conservation District's 62nd Annual Meeting.

Mr. Harrell is a lifelong resident of Ann Arbor, and spent much of his childhood living and playing near the Ann Arbor Railroad. He was a teacher of American history and sociology, and counselor at Ann Arbor High School, then became Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Education Association. He is now retired, but does temporary work for the Michigan Education Association.

He has been a member of the Ann Arbor Railroad Technical & Historical Association since its inception in the late 1970's and has been president for the past ten years.

The Annual Meeting will be held **Thursday, January 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m.** at the Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road. The public is welcome to attend.

A buffet dinner will open the evening. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under.

Reservations for the dinner are needed, but payment can be made at the door. **To make your reservations, call the District Office at: (734) 761-6721 x 5, by January 15, 2010.**

District Director Election

All residents of Washtenaw County who are of legal age may vote in the election of two district directors, by one of two methods following completion of a Voter Registration form and demonstration of residency by 1 piece of identification.

1.) **Absentee Ballots** can be completed by mail or at the Conservation District Office, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, by Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

2.) **At the Annual Meeting** on January 21, 2010.

Director Candidates

Two 4-year Director terms expire this year. Howard Sias, current Board Vice-Chairman, and William VanRiper, Jr., current Board Treasurer, both of Lima Township are seeking re-election.

Award Presentations

The meeting program will also include presentation of the 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year and Tree Conservationist Awards.

2009 CONSERVATION FARMERS OF THE YEAR

DuRussel's Potato Farms of Freedom and Sharon Townships will be presented the "Walter Wolfgang Memorial" Conservation Farmer of the year award for a variety of conservation practices.

The DuRussel's operate a 2,000 acre family vegetable and cash crop farm, growing, packing and shipping potatoes, and a wide variety of vegetables.



Howard, Mike & Pat DuRussel

Some of the conservation practices used by the DuRussel's include: nutrient management and soil testing; buffer strips; cover crops and cross wind trap strips to reduce wind erosion; integrated pest management—scouting their crops weekly; closure of abandoned wells; and construction of an agrichemical mixing facility for the safe mixing, preparation and clean-up of fertilizers and pesticides prior to and after application.

In addition, the DuRussel's have received Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verifications in the farmstead and cropping systems, showing they have voluntarily prevented or minimized agricultural pollution risks on their farm.

Another accomplishment is receiving the USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit certification for providing a clean and safe working environment for all employees, including 80-100 migrant workers employed for the summer harvest, while eliminating the potential for contamination of food products, and reducing food safety risks, plant disease and post-harvest losses.

The DuRussel family has farmed in Michigan for over 135 years—five generations. They have worked with the Conservation District since 1969 when they first requested help with tile drainage for the predominantly organic soils on the farm, which are excellent for growing vegetables.

Each year DuRussel's Potato Farms packs and ships over 60,000 cases of radishes, 17,000 cases of green onions, 2 million pounds of spinach and 10 million pounds of potatoes. DuRussel's is a "Select Supplier" to the

Campbell's Soup Company, and also supplies potatoes and other vegetables to Meijer and other grocery store retail chains, as well as the Michigan prisons system.

DEXTER MILL
3515 CENTRAL ST. DEXTER MI 48130

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2009 TREE CONSERVATIONIST



Camp Munhackle of the Great Sauk Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America, Lyndon Township and Camp Ranger Dee Slate, will be presented the 2009 Tree Conservationist Award to recognize excellent tree planting and forest management efforts.

The 118-acre Camp Munhackle, which was originally a sheep farm, was purchased by the Scout Council in the early 1950's and developed into a camp in the late 1950's. The camp has 15 camp sites, several cabins, a program center, campfire bowl, archery and rifle ranges and a nice waterfront on Bruin Lake.

Scouts planted pine trees in the 1950's and again in the 1960's. But little if any other tree planting took place until Dee became camp ranger in 1987. Since then, Dee has planted a minimum of 500 trees per year, initially at Camp Munhackle, then also at other camp properties beginning in 1993, for an estimated total of 15-18,000 trees planted since 1987. Species planted have included pines, spruce, butternut, sugar maple, red oak, tulip tree and black walnut. Most of these trees have been obtained from the Conservation District.

The Boy Scout Council became a Conservation District Cooperator in 1988, requesting assistance with development of a conservation plan which has been reviewed and updated several times over the years. And recently Dee had a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared that provides more detailed forest management recommendations for the camp.

Camp Munhackle was very open even 30 years ago. Today, the camp looks very different, as a result of tree plantings and management of the existing vegetation. Wildlife habitat abounds, evidenced by the deer, turkey, fox, raccoons, skunks and songbirds that are regularly seen around the camp grounds.

Forest management activities have included removal of dead trees which are cut and split for camp fire wood for 12-15,000 campers each year. There are also plans to remove mature pines for pole lumber; timber harvesting on other camp

properties; invasive species control; and maintenance of a 4.8 mile hiking trail that winds through camp and adjacent State lands.

Burhop
Forestry Consulting
(734) 426-6967
burhopforestry03@yahoo.com

TIMBER SALE PREPARATION
TIMBER APPRAISALS
TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Carl W. Burhop
Registered Forester #536

P.O. Box 362
Dexter MI 48130

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN 2009

TECHNICAL & OTHER ASSISTANCE	
Businesses, Community Groups & Individuals	1,220
Conservation Systems Planned (# plans / # acres)	15 1,580 Ac.
Conservation Systems Applied (# plans / # acres)	23 3,024 Ac.
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Written	2
Forestry & Wildlife Assistance Provided	126
Wildlife Habitat Management	860 Ac.
Wetlands created, restored or enhanced	16 Ac.
Groundwater Assistance Provided	58
Farm*A*Systs / Crop*A*Systs Completed	14
MAEAP Verifications Completed	1
Trees, plants & other items Distributed	56,485
Number of Orders Received	635
TECHNICAL REVIEWS AND/OR APPROVALS	
Public Act 116 & Purchase of Development Rights Applications Reviewed	13
State Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act Public Notices Reviewed	14
Subdivision / Site Condominium Plans Reviewed	0
NRCS Conservation Plans Reviewed	15
EDUCATIONAL	
Conservation Update Newsletter Issues Published	3
E-Conservation Update E-mail Issues Distributed	7
Educational Materials Distributed	746
Presentations, Demonstrations, Meetings & Tours	15
Number of Participants	256
District Web Site Home Page Visits	22,964

GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

Groundwater Technician, Amy Gilhouse achieved good results in 2009 through the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program serving Lenawee, Monroe and Washtenaw counties. Amy guided producers through farm assessments to help identify and reduce groundwater contamination risks associated with farming practices. She also assisted producers in becoming MAEAP (Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program) verified.

2009 accomplishments in the three-county program area included:

ITEM	QUANTITY COMPLETED
Farm*A*Systs	23
Crop*A*Systs	11
Small Farm*A*Systs	2
Livestock*A*Systs	4
Greenhouse*A*Systs	1
MAEAP Farmstead Verifications	2
MAEAP Cropping System Verifications	2
MGSP/MAEAP Presentations	26

In Washtenaw County, DuRussel's Potato Farms, Inc. of Freedom Township became MAEAP verified in the Farmstead System and several other producers are working toward MAEAP verification.

Amy made 10 presentations in Washtenaw County promoting the Groundwater Program and MAEAP using displays and making information available at community fairs, farmers day, and agronomy field days, including assisting 21 attendees at an emergency planning seminar and 20 attending a pesticide training meeting.

Also, through a partnership with Eastern Michigan University, 50 well owners received free bacteria well water testing. The partnership was recognized with the 2009 Dale Rice Award for Outstanding Academic Service for Learning and Community Service.

For more information about the MGSP, MAEAP or how to protect groundwater on your farm, contact Amy at (517) 673-1655.

YOUR HOMETOWN LENDER

- Home Construction
- Country Mortgages
- Vacant Land & Homesites
- Agricultural Loans
- Equipment Financing
- Crop & Life Insurance



GreenStone
FARM CREDIT SERVICES

734-769-2411
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3645 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor



Think Habitat!

For information on establishing food or habitat plots for pheasants and other wildlife, call **Norwin Raus at (734) 320-4177** or write:

**WASHTENAW COUNTY CHAPTER,
PHEASANTS FOREVER, PO Box
3478, ANN ARBOR MI 48106-3478**

2009 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

By Steve Olds, District Conservationist



Over the past year there has been strong demand from Washtenaw County residents for conservation planning and other technical assistance provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working in collaboration with the Washtenaw County Conservation District (CD).

The result has been just over \$2,795,500 of USDA Farm Bill Conservation Program monies being utilized in Washtenaw County to address soil, water and other existing resource concerns for qualifying participants. This was tops in Michigan and represented an almost \$300,000 dollar increase over 2008.

The monies are included in approved USDA Conservation Program contracts for federal conservation programs, including: Conservation Security Program (CSP); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP); and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

The new 2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs which were rolled out this year resulted in 10 new contracts approved on over 1,200 acres in EQIP and WHIP. Also introduced was the new CSP, which is a voluntary program that encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land.

To provide additional needed technical service, two new NRCS Soil Conservationists were assigned to the Ann Arbor Field Office this past year. They are Quincy Coleman and Bryce Rinkenberger. Their key emphasis will be on providing conservation planning/implementation assistance, and support with all phases of contract development and management.

Continued use of Contribution Agreements between the NRCS and CD has helped maintain an increased CD involvement in the delivery of Farm Bill programs in the county. Our cooperators have definitely benefited from these agreements.

The NRCS and our valued CD partner are looking forward to meeting your conservation planning and practice application needs for the coming year. For additional information on 2008 Farm Bill Conservation Programs, please visit <http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>, or call us at (734) 761-6722 x 3.

The Washtenaw Land Trust has a new name!

LEGACY

Land Conservancy

*Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan*

Established as a private nonprofit in 1971 to protect farmland and natural areas, we offer preservation options that:

- Respect your private property ownership
- Provide access to income, estate and property tax benefits
- Allow you to leave a legacy of land for future generations

★Contact us today! (734)302-5263, www.legacylandconservancy.org

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Washtenaw County Conservation District

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

REVENUES

Federal: Contribution Agreement Services	\$ 5,535.00
State: MDA Operations Grant	9,579.00
County Appropriation	30,000.00
Tree & Native Plant Sales	70,244.52
Other Product & Materials Sales	4,151.01
Interest & Rent	2,225.23
Other Revenues	1,914.29
Charges for Services	8,228.20
TOTAL REVENUES	\$131,877.25

EXPENDITURES

Employee Expenses	\$68,257.82
Director Expenses	1,753.81
Total Personal Services	\$70,011.63

SUPPLIES

Office supplies, Postage & Petty Cash	\$964.03
Credit card fees & Bank service charges	1,043.98
Sales Tax	4,190.57
Total Supplies	\$6,198.58

SERVICES AND CHARGES

Audit	\$600.00
Insurance & Bonding	420.00
Web Site	1,220.40
Telephone	58.82
Mileage – Staff	378.84
Community Promotion (Annual Meeting)	1,410.47
Newsletters	3,379.95
Dues/Subscriptions	1,150.00
Products & Materials Purchased for Resale	2,027.11
Total Services and Charges	\$10,645.59

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Depreciation – Office Equipment	\$338.92
Total Capital Outlay	\$338.92

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Forestry Assistance Program	\$8,656.04
Tree & Native Plant Sales	49,706.11
Total Program Expenses	\$58,362.15

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$145,556.87**

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUES **(\$13,679.62)**

FUND BALANCE / NET ASSETS, October 1, 2008 **\$124,953.85**

FUND BALANCE / NET ASSETS, September 30, 2009 **\$111,274.23**