



CONSERVATION UPDATE

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

SUMMER 2010

Volume 42, Number 3

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Our Mission

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

Web Access

www.washtenawcd.org

*Conservation Update is
published in April, July &
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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 ext. 5



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Fall Tree Sale / Programs & Services Survey / Web Site Updates

A Fall Tree & Native Plant Sale will be offered by the Conservation District. The District Board and staff have been weighing whether or not to have a fall sale because of lower spring sales, and the costs associated with conducting a sale during this time of deficit budgets.

Based on responses from tree customers to a recent on-line survey, and other comments received, it was decided to offer the fall sale.

There will be some changes, however, to how the sale is conducted to reduce costs, as follows:

- There will be NO separate order form mailing or inclusion of the form in an issue of "Conservation Update."
- Publicity of the sale will be through this newsletter, the "E-Conservation Update" e-mail newsletter sent to past tree sale customers and those on the e-mail mailing list, and news media releases.
- Order forms will be available several ways: from the Conservation District web site as a downloadable pdf document; by e-mail, fax or regular mail per request by phone or e-mail; or at the District office.
- No order forms will be available at local businesses or township offices.
- There will be a limited selection of trees, native plants, and planting aids.
- There will be only a few extra trees and plants available for purchase on tree pick-up day, first-come, first-serve.

Order forms will be available in early August from the District web site at: www.washtenawcd.org A link to the form and sale information will be available in the "What's New" box on the home page.

Order forms can also be requested by calling the District office at: (734) 761-6721 ext. 5; or by e-mail at: dennis.rice@mi.nacdn.net to be delivered by e-mail, fax or mail.

Programs & Services Survey

The District is seeking input via an on-line survey on some new educational programs and services that are being considered. "Conservation Update" readers are encouraged to complete the survey which will be available through August 31st.

Let us know what you think by completing the survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/J2RH86M

Web Site Updates

Take a look at two new pages on the Conservation District web site under the "Forestry & You" section that can help landowners with woodlot and tree concerns. "Common Tree Diseases & Insects", <http://washtenawcd.org/you/treediseasespests.php> includes information and links to a number of common disease and insect problems you may encounter with your trees.

Also, the new "Timber Sales" page, <http://washtenawcd.org/you/timbersales.php> has a number of links to information that can help with planning and conducting a timber sale.

Seasonal High Tunnel Pilot Program

The Ann Arbor Field Office has been very busy the past 6 months. One of the main reasons for this is our new pilot conservation practice, Seasonal High Tunnels. On January 20th, 2010 the Michigan Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began participating in a 3-year pilot program that will verify if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, maintaining vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields, and providing other benefits to growers.

What is a Seasonal High Tunnel? It is a seasonal, polyethylene-covered structure with no electrical, heating, and/or mechanical ventilation systems, used to cover crops to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

Financial assistance for this practice is through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which is administered and financed by NRCS. The financial assistance for this pilot program will cover 75 percent of the estimated cost of constructing a high tunnel up to a size of 2,178 square feet. The amount of financial assistance is determined on a square-foot basis with a limit of \$4,166. Historically-underserved producers and beginning farmers can receive 90 percent of the estimated cost for a maximum of \$4,944.

Although the funding limit for Seasonal High Tunnels has been reached for the 2010 fiscal year, the Ann Arbor Field Office accepts applications year round for not only this pilot program, but for other conservation programs as well. If you have an interest in Seasonal High Tunnels, EQIP or other conservation programs, please call us at: (734) 761-6722 ext. 3.



Wildlife Ways—Did You Know. . .

- More than 70% of the land in the United States is privately owned; accordingly, most wildlife in the country depends on private citizens for their habitat.
- It's a myth that raccoons dip food in water to wash it or clean it before eating. The purpose is to moisten the food before eating.
- Not only do bats see as well as other animals, they use "echolocation" to detect objects as fine as a human hair in total darkness.
- Hummingbirds, the smallest birds in North America, are the only birds that can fly backwards. Their wings are adapted to helicopter-like flight—a circular whirl that allow them to hover, move ahead, sideways or backwards.

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The Washtenaw Land Trust has a new name!



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Be on the Lookout for Wild Boars

Wild boars or feral swine pose a serious threat to the health and welfare of domestic swine, cause crop damage, endanger humans, impact wildlife populations, and impact the environment by disrupting the ecosystem. New legislation in Michigan allows for the opportunistic take of feral swine running at large in all counties in Michigan. There have been 21 sightings of wild boar in Washtenaw County between 2008 and 2010, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE).

Reports of kills, sightings and damage caused by feral swine are being collected by the MDNRE. Please report any of the above to Julie Rose at (517) 336-5030. You may also contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) by calling 800-292-3939 and press "4" for the Animal Industry Division; or USDA Wildlife Services at (517) 336-1928.

For more information on wild boars, visit the MDNRE web site at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_55230---,00.html

Here are some frequently asked questions about Feral Swine:

What is a Feral Swine? A Feral swine is a free-ranging pig. Feral swine are considered exotic, nuisance species and cause damage to agricultural lands and the environment. Feral swine can also have negative impacts on wildlife and livestock.

Is it legal to take Feral Swine? Yes, if you are legally hunting game during an open season (of any type) and see a feral swine you may pursue that animal if you wish, following all the regulations of the open season which you are hunting.

What is the new law, House Bill 5822?

The new law does not establish a hunting season on feral swine but declares feral swine a nuisance species and allows for the opportunistic take of any free-ranging pig running at large. Under this law, a person with a concealed pistol permit (CPL) or valid hunting license can kill swine running at large on public property; landowners or other authorized persons can kill swine running at large on private property; and local animal control officers and law enforcement can kill swine running at large on either public or private property.

When can I legally shoot a feral swine?

Any time during regular hunting hours and when actively night hunting Raccoon, Opossum, Fox and Coyote. (Please be sure to follow all day and night hunting regulations for the season in which you are hunting game. Refer to the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.)

What type of hunting license do I need to pursue Feral Swine?

Any type of valid hunting license or a concealed pistol permit is needed on public property. Possession of either of these allows the holder to be in legal possession of the firearm associated with the license or permit on public land.

Can I shoot feral swine on private property?

If you are the land owner or have permission of the landowner, you may shoot feral swine on private property at any time. It is not necessary to possess a hunting license or CPL to kill feral swine on private land.

Can I shoot feral swine on Public land?

You must have a valid hunting



license (of any kind) or a CPL to shoot feral swine on public land.

What can I use to shoot feral swine?

You can only carry with you the firearm or bow and arrows allowed for that open season in which you are hunting. There are restrictions on the use of high powered rifles during the firearm deer season, November 15th-30th. For a detailed listing of all the regulations, please view the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

For additional frequently asked questions and information visit the MDNRE web site at:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_55230---,00.html

PAPER OR E-MAIL??

Is foregoing the use of paper in order to "save a tree" worth it? It may actually work in reverse. International Paper has launched a new web site, www.down2earthonline.com that contains information comparing environmental and economic effects of paper vs. electronic media. Without a market for pulpwood, which is used to make paper, landowners may opt to sell their land for development. While there can be some benefits to not using paper for printing, using only electronic media does not necessarily generate all the benefits it has been claimed to have. Check it out for yourself. Trees are a renewable resource.

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FALL FISH DAY PLANNED For October 2nd

Buy fish to stock your pond at FISH DAY, sponsored by the Conservation District in cooperation with Harrietta Hills Trout Farm, Saturday, October 2, 2010, 12 noon – 3 pm at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

How FISH DAY works:

- Phone you order to Harrietta Hills at least 3 days in advance of Fish Day. **Call Toll Free: 1-877-389-2514.**
- Minimum order: 25 for any species except Koi, no minimum on Koi. **Cash or checks only** will be accepted for payment of orders at Fish Day.
- Meet fish truck on Fish Day during the hours noted.
- Only the species & sizes listed will be available at Fish Day.
- Oxygen bags and Oxygen will be provided to transport your fish home. Bring one 5-gallon bucket for every 25 fish ordered to set bags in to help get your fish safely home.
- Harrietta Hills reserves the right to substitute smaller or larger sizes at an adjusted price, if necessary.

- For more information call the District Office: (734) 761-6721 ext. 5 or visit our web site at: www.washtenawcd.org

Species	Size	Price per Fish
Rainbow Trout	5-7"	\$ 1.50
Hybrid Sunfish	5-7"	\$ 1.70
Largemouth Bass	5-7"	\$ 2.37
Channel Catfish	4-6"	\$ 0.79
Yellow Perch	3-5"	\$ 1.10
Koi	4-6"	\$13.75
Fathead Minnows	N/A	\$49 / gallon

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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
Web Site: www.washtenawpf.org