

Washtenaw County Conservation District

May 2018 Newsletter



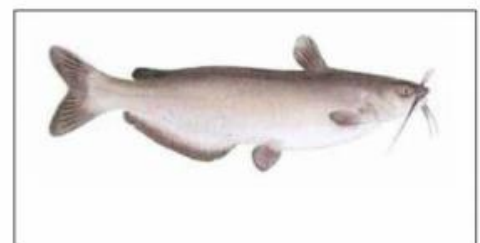
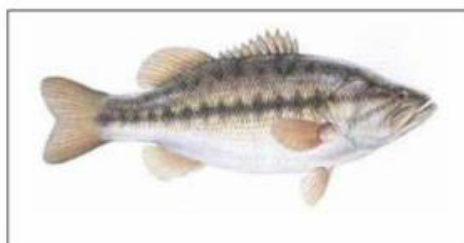
Thank YOU

We would like to extend a big “thank you” to all of those who helped support the district by purchasing trees at our annual spring tree sale! A guide to planting a care for your new trees can be found in last month’s newsletter, but here are a few quick tips.

- Protect trees from wind and from pests & weeds.
- Irrigate! Keep track rainfall and water as needed.
- Fertilize your trees to help them grow.

Stock Your Pond for the Season

Fish Day 2018 will be on Saturday, June 2nd from 12PM to 3PM at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds (5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd). Fish stock is available for pre-order sourced from Harreita Hills Trout Farm. Species available include Rainbow Trout, Hybrid Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, and Fathead Minnows. The minimum order for any species is 25 fish. Oxygen bags and oxygen will be provided for fish transportation. Please bring one five gallon bucket for every 25 fish purchased to put the bags in. We accept cash or check only. For more details on fish species, pricing permit requirements please visit www.harreitahills.com. Please place your order directly with Harreita Hills by calling **(877) 389-2514** at least one week before fish day.



Native Plant Sale Pick-Up

This year's Native Plant Sale is already here! Friday May 18th from 9AM to 6PM, orders will be available for pick up and any extras will be available for purchase. Plants come in two-inch pots with one plant per pot. This year, 15 varieties of wildflower, six types of prairie grass, and ten different daylilies were available to order. Also available for pick-up on plant day will be rain barrels and rain barrel accessories, which can be ordered by visiting www.washtenawcd.org/store.



Field Guides for Invasive Species

With springtime in full swing, it's time to look out for Michigan's Invasive species. The conservation district has lots of information on what you can do to identify and prevent the further spread of invasive species in Michigan. Waterproof pamphlets, posters, and more are all located in the District Office on **7203 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103-9506**. More information on invasive species can be found on our website www.washtenawcd.org.



Rain Barrel Guide

Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from roofs that can be used for gardening and other outside chores. Rain barrel water is better for your plants, better for the environment, and better for your water bill. Rain barrels reduce storm water pollution and provide naturally chemical-free water for gardens. Additionally, residents of the City of Ann Arbor can receive a Storm Water Tax Credit by installing a rain barrel on their downspout. Rain barrels that are available from the conservation district are made from recycled, food-grade, high density polyethylene plastic that is thoroughly cleaned and assembled in the USA. Rain barrels have a screw on lid with holes for water entry, as well as an aluminum screen to help keep out leaves, debris and mosquitos. There are two options for installation.



1. Standard installation with the end of a downspout pointed directly towards the rain barrel top. For this type of installation, a 55-gallon rain barrel can fill up in as little as 15-20 minutes. Because of this, an overflow hose must be connected to the barrel and should be directed away from the foundation of the house or structure.

2. Another option for installation is the use of a diverter hose. Only part of the water is directed into the rain barrel, with the rest going down the downspout. It takes about an hour for this type of installation to fill a rain barrel, and after the barrel is full, the water directs itself through the downspout, eliminating the need for an overflow hose.





Rain barrel pedestal

3. Both options for rain barrel installation should be set about 12" above the ground on either a pedestal, cement blocks, or another creative heightening apparatus. Pedestals, as well as downspout diverters, linking hoses, and rain barrels themselves (three colors available!) are all ready to purchase on the District's website, www.washtenawcd.org, for pick up May 18th.

Welcome Hannah Bradshaw!

Hannah is a sophomore at the University of Michigan joining us as an intern for the summer. In addition to helping with the native plant sale, she will focus on policy and outreach. Since starting at the beginning of May, Hannah has been busy with the tree sale, but she will soon be working on ways to increase our community presence and secure the funding to do so. Her interests include policy research and advocacy, local government work, and nature, all of which she will be working with at the Conservation District this summer. You can contact Hannah by emailing wccdhanahbradshaw@gmail.com



“Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.” - Wendell Berry

Important Dates

**May 18th – Native Plant Sale and Rain Barrel
Pick up**

June 2nd – Fish Day

**July – Coffee and Conservation: Topic and
Location TBA**

October- Fall Tree Sale

Questions?

Contact District Manager Megan DeLeeuw by calling **734.761.6721 ext. 5**
megan.deleeuw@macd.org

Visit our website

www.washtenawcd.org