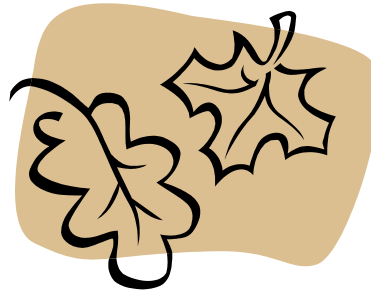


SWCD Focus



Volume 33 Issue 2

Fall 2011

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District Manager



Shane helping install a rain garden at Lake Emma.

Sadly, we bid farewell to Shane Foley, our District Manager for the past 3 1/2 years.

Shane was instrumental in bringing in new programs and grants to the SWCD. He never backed down from a challenge and always went the extra mile to help with

conservation awareness.

He worked extensively with the area lake associations, cost share and wetlands. He shared his knowledge and expertise with everyone he met.

Shane will now be bringing that knowledge and expertise to the agricultural field. He

accepted a job working with farmers in North Dakota and Western Minnesota with their tiling projects.

We all wish Shane the best of luck with his new career.

District Supervisors

The District Board meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 8:30 a.m.

- Lynden Nelson, Chair
- Bill Clausen, Vice-Chair
- Don Rettinger, Secretary
- Don Sells, Treasurer
- Carol Berg, PR & Information

District Staff

Melissa Koebernick, Staff Support (melissa.koebernick@mn.nacdnet.net)

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rick Berscheid, D.C (rick.berscheid@mn.usda.gov)

Alicia Laternus, Technician (alicia.laternus@mn.usda.gov)

On the web at: www.hubbardswcd.org

Conservation Apprentice

This summer the Hubbard County SWCD was awarded a grant that allowed us to have a conservation apprentice. Nathan Dennis from Park Rapids was chosen to be our apprentice. He is going to college to obtain a degree in . We were very fortunate to have Nathan. Because of this

grant, we were able to accomplish much more. Some of the larger projects that we accomplished with Nathan's help are as follows:

Over 500 trees planted around Big Sand and Pickerel lakes.

Vegetation mapping on Boulder and Spider lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species identification and training.

Thank you to the volunteers that also helped with these projects!

Seasonal High Tunnel Systems

A seasonal high tunnel is a greenhouse-like structure, at least six feet in height, which modifies the climate inside to create more favorable growing conditions for vegetable and other specialty crops grown in the natural soil beneath it. This pilot will test the potential conservation benefits of growing crops under these structures. Participating farms can receive funding for a high tunnel up to 2,178 square feet. At the end of the pilot, NRCS will assess the conservation impact of seasonal high tunnels.

NRCS provides financial assistance for the project through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the EQIP Organic Initiative program. Minimum eligibility requirements must be met to be eligible for funding. EQIP is a competitive program and applications will go through a ranking process. The highest scored applications will receive funding until funds are exhausted.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

Are Seasonal High Tunnel Systems the same as Greenhouses?

No. Seasonal high tunnel systems unlike greenhouses do not necessarily have electrical, heating or mechanical ventilation systems. The seasonal high tunnel system depends on the plastic covering to raise temperatures within the structure. Temperatures during the growing season are controlled by using manual roll-up side vents

and by opening end doors to provide ventilation. Unlike greenhouses, seasonal high tunnel systems as indicated by their name are seasonal and are considered temporary structures.

What are the structure requirements for a Seasonal High Tunnel System under EQIP?

Under EQIP the seasonal high tunnel system must be obtained as a pre-fabricated kit directly from the manufacturer or from a supplier. The frame shall be constructed of metal, wood, or durable plastic and be at least 6 feet in height. The plastic cover must be, at a minimum, a 6-mil greenhouse-grade, UV resistant polyethylene. Individuals must work closely with their manufacturer or supplier to plan, design and construct the structure in accordance with the manufacturer's specific recommendations.

If you would like more information on the high tunnel pilot, stop in and talk to NRCS or call 732-9723 and ask for Rick or Alicia.



"We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees."

Qwatsinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody), Nuxalk Nation

Poster Contest

We were invited to speak to Park Rapids 5th grade students about this year's theme "Forests for People—More than you can imagine".

The students learned how forests help us every day, from helping the environment, to the products that we use, food that we eat, and for recreational uses.

The students were anxious to start making their poster's, hoping theirs would be the winning poster.

The Board reviewed each poster looking for the three posters that best met the theme for this year.

This year's winners were: (l to r) Jaiden McCollum, Alycia Ronnebaum and Shania Farlee.



Using Fall Leaves

Take advantage of the abundance of leaves and create an environmentally friendly fertilizer for your spring garden.

The goal is to have the mulched leaves break down slightly over the winter months. The leaves are easier to shred when they are dry. You will want to shred the leaves because whole leaves do not break down fast enough. You can use a lawn mower or leaf shredder to shred the leaves.

After leaves are shredded, add them to your compost bin in 12-18" layers. Be-

tween each layer, you will want to lay down some form of nitrogen such as, urea, ammonium nitrate, bone meal, or grass clippings. The nitrogen is needed to help break down the leaves during winter. Then mix the nitrogen and leaves with water until leaves are wet, but not saturated. Repeat layers until your bin is full.

Cover your mulch bin with a tarp or plastic cover over the winter.

Your mulch will be ready to add to your garden or flowers in the Spring.

You may notice some white areas on the leaves. This is ok, it is a fungus and adds nutrient value to the mulch.

After one year, the leaves will have fully decomposed.

Do not use walnut or camphor laurel leaves, they inhibit plant growth.

For instructions, call us at 732-0121 or go to: www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/dg5553.html



“Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile.”

William Cullen Bryant



“Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower”

Albert Camus



Portable Wood & Wire Compost Bin

2012 Tree Orders

We have a new species available for order this year, honeyrose honeysuckle.

The honeyrose honeysuckle is a fast growing shrub with a mature height of 8-10'. It can tolerate shade, but will have more prolific blooms if planted in full sun.

The fuchsia pink flowers attract butterflies and bees. They provide fruit for song birds and browse for deer.

If you are interested in ordering this, or any of our other trees, please fill out the enclosed order form.

We are now taking orders for the 2012 tree planting season.

Please call 732-0121 with any questions.





212 1/2 2nd St W
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-0121
Fax: 218-732-3994
NRCS Phone: 218-732-9723

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Park Rapids, MN
Permit #21

2012 Tree Form Enclosed

EEO- All programs of the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

EEO-The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to help preserve surface and ground water quality, to encourage wise land use decisions throughout the district, and to foster a secure and prosperous community with agriculture, tourism, and industry working together in harmony for the general welfare of the people of the district.

Kids' Corner



Fall
Rake
Acorn
Orange
Yellow
Leaves
Harvest
Foliage
Squirrel
Scarecrow

