

SWCD Focus



Volume 36 Issue 1

Spring 2014

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Tullibee Lakes Forest Stewardship Program

Landowners who own 20 acre parcels or larger (at least 20 acres must have or will have trees) and live within 9th Crow Wing, 11th Crow Wing, Howard, Kabekona, Big Sand, LaSalle, Spearhead and Ten Mile lake watersheds are eligible for grant funds. The funds provide a low cost Forest Stewardship Plan to qualified landowners.

Tullibee are a rich and important food for larger game fish, but tullibee are in trouble from a warming climate and pollution from shoreline

development. Research shows that a lake's watershed (the land that drains into a lake) needs to remain at least 75% forested to protect the waters from runoff. The trees hold the soil to the land, and that soil acts as a filter, slowing, cooling and cleaning the runoff.

This program is intended to help private landowners make decisions that sustainably manage their forests in a way that will ensure quality fish-

ing habitat for many years to come. All aspects of this program are voluntary. Interested landowners will meet with a private forester. The forester will develop a forest stewardship plan based on the landowner's desires for the land, from managing for timber sales to grouse habitat, etc.

For more information, please call the office at 218-732-0121.

Come and Experience the Mississippi River

Did you know that it takes 90 days for a drop of water to travel the length of the Mississippi River? That there are 360 species of fish, 326 species of birds, 145 species of amphibians and 50 species of mammals that live along the Mississippi River? Come and find out for yourself. Experience this mighty river near its origin by participating in a canoe paddle of the upper Mississippi on June 7 and June 14, 2014.

The Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) along with Beltrami,

Cass, Clearwater and Itasca SWCD's are part of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) project. This is a 5 year study of the watershed. We invite you to come join us for half day paddles on the Upper Mississippi. June 7 we will meet at the Beltrami Co Rd 25 landing at 9:00 am for a paddle down to Lake Andrusia. June 14 we will meet at the Iron Bridge Landing on Beltrami Co Rd 7 at 9:00 am for a half day paddle that will end at Paul and Babe statues on Lake Bemidji. Dress for the weather, we will paddle rain or shine,

bring a sack lunch and beverages. If you have a canoe, paddles and life jackets please bring them, but if you don't we have a few extra canoes available. Come singles, couples or families. All paddling levels of experience are welcome. If you have never been on this river this is your chance. Come Join Us!

Please RESERVE your spot by registering with the Headwaters Science Center at (218) 444 - 4472.

ET Hotline number has been discontinued, please go to www.eotswcd.org for up to date information or call our number at 218-732-0121 for more information.

District Supervisors

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

- Don Rettinger, Chair
- Lynn Goodrich, Vice-Chair
- Bob Iles, Secretary
- Don Sells, Treasurer
- Ruth Grandy, PR & Information

District Staff

Julie Kingsley, District Manager (julie.kingsley@mn.nacdnet.net)

Melissa Koebernick, Admin Assistant (melissa.koebernick@mn.nacdnet.net)

Nate Sitz, Water Quality/Resource Specialist (nathan.sitz.swcd@gmail.com)

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Alicia Laturnus, Soil Technician (alicia.laturnus@mn.usda.gov)

On the web at: www.hubbardswcd.org

Let's Talk Cover Crops!

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

What is a cover crop? A cover crop is grasses, legumes, forbs or other herbaceous plants that are established for seasonal cover and conservation purposes.

Cover crops are making a comeback in Minnesota. Here's why. Cover crops can protect soil from erosion by covering it in the fall and sometimes through the spring. Fertilizer that crops were unable to use can be scavenged by cover crops and released back into the soil for the next crop to use. Cereal grains, annual rye grass and tillage radish are common cover crops for this purpose. Cover crops also provide protective vegetative cover for the soil which helps suppress winter annual weeds.

The additional organic matter cover crops provide will improve soil tilth, porosity and infiltration by providing the natural 'glues' that hold soil particles together.

Similar to high priced commercial nitrogen fertilizers, a legume cover crop could help "grow" some of your N needs the old fashioned way. In addition to providing nitrogen, you get benefits of erosion control and organic matter.

Compaction can be an issue. Annual ryegrass and radish can reduce compaction problems. Their root systems loosen the soil and improve infiltration of rain water.

Cover crops can be seeded with ground equipment like conventional & no-till drills, broadcast equipment, or aerially applied to get the cover crop started early enough to achieve the desired results.

Cover crops are ideal for planting after early harvested crops like wheat, sweet corn, seed corn, and silage corn. To find out the proper time of year to inter-seed into mature corn and soybeans for ample growth contact your local NRCS or SWCD office.

Cover Crop Benefits

- Reduce Soil Erosion
- Build Soil Tilth; Improve Soil Health
- Increase Soil Porosity & Infiltration
- Reduce Pests
- Improve Soil Microbiology
- Produce/ Scavenge Crop Nutrients
- Reduce Soil Compaction
- Increase Nutrient Recycling
- Help Winter Annual Weed Control
- Improve Yield Potential Over Time
- Protect Water Quality
- Good Forage Source

Nutrient Scavengers

Winter Barley
Winter Cereal Rye
Sorghum-Sudangrass

Sudangrass
Winter Triticale
Winter Wheat

Alfalfa

Nitrogen Producers

Alfalfa
Berseem Clover
Red Clover
Hairy Vetch

Nitrogen Producers & Scavengers

Buckwheat, Millets, Oats,
Winter Cereal Rye,
Sorghum-Sudangrass, Tillage Radish

Choosing Cover Crops

To get the maximum benefit from cover crops, they need to become an integral part of your cropping system. Whether you grow just corn and soybeans or you have a more diverse rotation that includes wheat or potatoes, livestock and manure, there are opportunities to include cover crops in your production system. When you select a cover crop, make sure it provides benefits that meet your farming objectives.

Cover Crop Funding Opportunities

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Ideal for first time cover crop producers.
- Payment rates based on seed mixture used.
- Must meet NRCS cover crop seeding requirements.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 5 year contract; annual payments.
- Payments for existing conservation system
- PLUS additional enhancements to existing conservation system.
- Maximum annual payment—\$40,000.

CSP Cover Crop Enhancement Options

- Continuous cover crops
- Cover crop Mixtures
- Deep-rooted, compaction-buster cover crops
- Cover crops to scavenge nitrogen

For more information or to apply for EQIP/CSP funding, contact Dan Pazdernik at the Park Rapids NRCS Office at 218-732-9723 or go to:

www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

MPCA Citizen Monitoring Program

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is recruiting volunteers to help track water quality changes in lakes and streams across the state. Minnesota's volunteer water monitoring programs are among the largest citizen science programs in the nation, but in order to reach all the lakes and streams across Minnesota, more volunteers are needed.

More than 1,300 Minnesotans volunteer to track the health of their favorite lake or stream through the Citizen Lake and Citizen Stream Monitoring Programs. As part of

the program, volunteers are asked to perform a short and simple test at their designated lake or stream once per week throughout the summer. Equipment and training are provided by the MPCA.

Volunteer data helps water resource managers to see trends in water quality and make watershed management decisions throughout the state. For some lakes and streams, volunteer-collected data is the only data available, making citizen involvement critical to ensuring the long-term health of Minnesota's waters.

Citizen Water Monitoring volunteers benefit from the program by learning more about their favorite lake or stream, connecting with their community, and helping to maintain and protect one of our state's most precious natural resources.

To become a volunteer or learn more about the program, visit the MPCA's [Citizen Water Monitoring web page](#), or call 800-657-3864.

**2013 Plat Books for sale
at the SWCD Office!**



"Behold my friends,
the spring is come; the
earth has gladly re-
ceived the embraces of
the sun, and we shall
soon see the results of
their love!"

– Sitting Bull



**Don't forget to pick up your tree order at
the Hubbard County Fairgrounds!**

Friday, May 2, 1-6 pm

Saturday, May 3, 9-3 pm

Sunday, May 4, 1-3 pm

Nitrate Clinic

This year's free Nitrate Clinic will be held at the Hubbard County Fairgrounds during the fair.

Bring in your sample on Friday, July 18 from 9am–6pm or Saturday, July 19 from 9am–2pm to the DNR building.

To take a sample, run your wa-

ter (before any treatment, i.e. water softener, filters, reverse osmosis) for 5 mins. Collect about one cup of water in a plastic baggie or clean jar. Make sure to keep the water cool until you arrive at the clinic.

We hope to see you there!

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail melissa.koebernick@mn.nacdnet.net, or call us at 218-732-0121.

Thank you for helping us defray mailing costs!



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

Phone: 218-732-0121
Fax: 855-547-8729
NRCS Phone: 218-732-9723

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.

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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

Across

- 2. A colored arc in the sky
- 4. The color of fresh leaves and new grass
- 5. The opening of flowers in general
- 8. Not too hot; not too cold
- 9. It makes our days bright
- 11. Put a seed in the ground
- 12. Defrost

Down

- 1. Put these in the ground to make plants grow
- 2. Become new again
- 3. The flower of a plant
- 4. A place to plant vegetables and flowers
- 5. To begin to grow
- 6. There are four of these each year; spring is one
- 7. It flies in the wind on the end of a string
- 8. Gust of air
- 10. Fresh, not old

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