

SWCD Focus



Volume 37 Issue 2

Fall 2015

Water Quality/Resource Specialist

Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District's has a new Water Quality/Resource Specialist: Jamin Carlson. Jamin has a background in conservation in addition to a degree in environmental science from Bemidji State University. After graduation, he gained valuable experience in Cass County working in the Environmental Services Department. This temporary position allowed him to hone his skills in watershed & resource management, land-use planning, and GIS technology. Before coming to work for Hubbard SWCD, Jamin also worked as an Aquatic Invasive Species watercraft inspector for Beltrami County. The experience he obtained as an AIS inspector par-

layed well into Jamin's new duties at the SWCD. Jamin now coordinates Hubbard County's AIS inspector program. Most recently, Jamin has completed wetland delineation training to become proficient in determining wetland classification. Jamin's educational & work background is serving this office well as there are many different responsibilities that the Water Quality/Resource Specialist position demands.

In addition to his professional qualifications, Jamin's genuine passion for conservation makes him a great addition to the SWCD team. He is passionate about preserving our limited

natural resources and conserving our precious lake country for future generations, the mounting stresses from water use to land conversion will be what motivates Jamin now and into the future.

Jamin has a variety of hobbies, he is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, grouse hunting, maple syrup making, and sitting around the fire with family and friends. To keep busy, he also plays outdoor & indoor league volleyball, and is a life-long Minnesota Vikings football fan. He currently resides just north of Lake Plantagenet with his wife Alyssa, 4 year old son Oliver, and another son due to arrive February 2016.

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, 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 fishing 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.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| NRCS Programs | 2 |
| AIS Watercraft Inspectors | 3 |
| 2016 Tree Order Information | 3 |
| Kids Corner | 4 |

District Supervisors

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

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

District Staff

Julie Kingsley, District Manager
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Jamin Carlson, Water Quality/
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Alicia Laturnus, Soil Technician
(alicia.laturnus@mn.usda.gov)

On the web at:
www.hubbardswcd.org

NRCS Programs

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

Funding available for Seasonal High Tunnels

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. Participants may receive funding for a high tunnel up to 2,178 square feet.

NRCS provides financial assistance for the structure through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). 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.

Criteria for Seasonal High Tunnels include:

- Must be sited on cropland.
- Crops must be planted in the natural soil profile. Raised beds, benches, growing racks, etc. are not eligible.
- Participants must purchase, plan, design, and construct the structure in accordance with the commercial manufacturer's recommendations.
- As a minimum, the structure requires 6-mil greenhouse-grade UV resistant polyethylene cover.
- These are intended to be "seasonal" structures which are not designed to sustain a snow load. The participant can decide if the plastic should be removed at the end of the season.
- Must be maintained for a minimum of four years.

Please contact the Hubbard County NRCS Office at 218-732-9723 for more information regarding Seasonal High Tunnels.

Pollinators

Pollinators are a crucial part of healthy agricultural and natural landscapes. They include birds, bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, bats and some other mammals. In the United States, the pollinators which we depend on for the majority of our pollination services are bees, including the non-native European honeybee and over 4,000 species of native bees. Evidence of population declines of bees has prompted scientists to encourage changes in ecosystem management. Pollinators are a reminder that of the 100 crop species providing 90 percent of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees. Improving existing and providing new habitat for pollinators has become a major focus for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in working with our many partners and private land owners.

The 2014 Farm Bill retains all of the pollinator conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and adds targeted support for the creation of honey bee habitat. Please contact the Hubbard County NRCS Office at 218-732-9723 for more information on pollinators and what options are available for your property.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

AIS Watercraft Inspector Program

We are just about done with year four of our watercraft inspector program. This season we conducted inspections on 37 water accesses in Hubbard County. We have seen an increase in the use of our decontamination station. We had 130 decontaminations this year and 38 last year. Our inspectors were trained by the DNR on how to conduct inspections and how to detect aquatic invasive species. We also had 8 inspectors that were level 2 trained which allows them to conduct decontaminations of watercraft.

The purpose of our watercraft inspection program is to inspect watercraft while educating the public on watercraft laws, what to look for regarding AIS, and what could happen if a lake becomes infested. As of September 7, we have conducted 21006 inspections with over

13706 hours spent at accesses. Of the 11902 watercraft inspected upon entry, 1041 (8.75%) were last in infested waters, 1694 (14.2%) had out of state registration, 330 (2.8%) had their drain plug in.

State law requires boaters to remove aquatic vegetation, zebra mussels, or other invasive species, and prohibits launching a boat or trailer with these species attached. Boaters are also required to remove drain plugs when traveling on public roadways and drain water holding devices when leaving boat accesses. We encourage boaters to dry out any remaining water that may be in their boat. Juvenile zebra mussel veligers are free floating and microscopic and can be transported in water from lake to lake. State law also requires that boat lifts,

docks, swim rafts, and related equipment be placed on shore to dry for at least 21 days before going to another water body.

We want to thank the lake associations, townships, cities, and Hubbard County for taking a proactive approach to protecting our pristine lakes.

Interested in our Irrigation Scheduler Program? Please contact Wade Salo at 218-631-2876 x-4.

Free Nitrate Clinic held the first Friday of the month at the SWCD office located at 212½ 2nd St W, Park Rapids, MN. Please call 218-732-0121 if you have any questions.

2016 Tree Orders

We are now taking orders for the 2016 tree planting season.

We have two new species available for order this year, Butternut and Golden Currant. Also, new this year are two native seed packets and one native plant kit. Each seed packet covers 500 square feet and the plant kit contains 36 plugs of 6 different species and

covers 36 square feet.

All prices on the tree form include tax and you can order tree supplies along with your tree order.

If you are interested in ordering any of the new species or other trees and products we offer, please fill out the enclosed order form.

Please call our office with any questions and visit our website to view the tree guide for descriptions of the trees.

Order early to ensure you get the species you want!

Butternut



Golden Currant





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

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

Return Service Requested

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

2016 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

Autumn Scramble

1. uilqt _____
2. slavee _____
3. svrtaeh _____
4. tecthuns _____
5. ireofbn _____
6. qsauhs _____
7. atolflob _____
8. oacnr _____



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