

# SWCD Focus



## Welcome our new staff!



Alicia Gohmann joined Hubbard SWCD this spring as a full-time Water Resource Technician. Alicia’s duties include lake monitoring, learning the rules and regulations for the Wetland Conservation Act, and checking buffers for the 2015 Buffer Law. She grew up on a dairy farm in Clearwater, Minnesota where they milked about 100 cows. She graduated from Bemidji State University this past May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies with two emphases, one in Geohydrology and one in Health and Toxicology as well as a minor in Geology. Alicia comments, “I grew up enjoying the time I got to spend outdoors while doing my chores and developed a love for the nature around me including the many lakes, wetlands, and rivers nearby. I enjoy fishing year-round and really love bow hunting.” She looks forward to getting to know the great communities in Hubbard County.

Pete Jacobson also joined our staff at the Hubbard SWCD in May. He is recently retired from DNR Fisheries where he was a Fisheries Scientist for 32 years in Detroit Lakes and Park Rapids. Pete was heavily involved in developing methods for protecting water quality and fish habitat in lakes across the state. The research that he and others completed showed that excellent water quality can be maintained in lakes that have at least 75% of their watershed in forested cover. That recommendation is being used in many lake and watershed protection efforts throughout the state. Pete’s research on tullibees has also formed the basis for water quality programs for many deep, clear lakes around the state. Hubbard County is the home for many of those kinds of lakes!



Pete is excited to work with the people and resources of Hubbard County. He knows that Hubbard County has some of the best lakes and streams in the state – treasures worth protecting! Specifically, he will be involved in implementing water quality plans for lakes and streams working with the many private landowners who also want to preserve the wonderful water resources of Hubbard County. Funding is becoming available for conserving private forest lands using conservation easements and forest stewardship planning. Feel free to give Pete a call to discuss these exciting new initiatives.

**Free Drop-Off Nitrate Clinic** will continue to be held the first Friday of each month at the SWCD office located at 603 Central Ave N Park Rapids, MN. As weather permits staff will continue to bring results out to our clients. As winter rolls in, staff can forward results on to clients with the email address provided on the form when dropping off their sample. Please call 218-732-0121 ext. 101 if you have any questions.

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### District Supervisors Hubbard County SWCD Board

meets the 2nd Wednesday, monthly, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom, or at:  
603 Central Avenue North  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

**(PLEASE NOTE: November meeting is Thursday, November 12, because of Veterans Day)**

- Marcel Noyes, Chair
- Don Rettinger, Vice-Chair
- Lynn Goodrich, Secretary
- Don Sells, Treasurer
- Candy Malm, PR & Information

### District Staff

Crystal Mathisrud, District Manager  
(crystal.hcswd@gmail.com)  
(218) 732-0121 ext. 105

Annette Olson, Admin. Assistant  
(annette.olson@mn.nacdnet.net)  
(218) 732-0121 ext. 101

Alicia Gohmann, Water Res. Tech.  
(alicia.hcswd@gmail.com)  
(218) 732-0121 ext. 112

Peter Jacobson, Water Quality Resource, Research & Easement Spec.  
(pejacobs.hcswd@gmail.com)

[www.hubbardswd.org](http://www.hubbardswd.org)

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dan Pazdernik, D.C  
(daniel.pazdernik@mn.usda.gov)

Alicia Laturmus, Soil Technician  
(alicia.laturmus@mn.usda.gov)

## Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mn/technical/cp/cta/>

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) draws on a long history of 'helping people help the land'. For more than 80 years, NRCS and its predecessor agencies have worked in close partnerships with farmers and ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes.

This assistance can help land users: maintain and improve private lands and their management, implement better land management technologies, protect and improve water quality and quantity, maintain and improve wildlife and fish habitat, enhance recreational opportunities on their land, maintain and improve the aesthetic character of private land, explore opportunities to diversify agricultural operations and develop and apply sustainable agricultural systems.

This assistance may be in the form of resource assessment, practice design, resource monitoring, or follow-up of installed practices.

Although the CTA program does not include financial or cost-share assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs.

All owners, managers, and others who have a stake and interest in natural resource management are eligible to receive technical assistance from NRCS. To receive technical assistance, the individual may contact their local NRCS office or the local conservation district.

The working relationships that landowners and communities have with their local NRCS staff are unique. One-on-one help through flexible, voluntary programs occur every day in local NRCS offices across the country.

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

## Fiscal Year 2021 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

By: Dan Pazdernik

Every year the Natural Resources Conservation Service announces a program signup period for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Interested individuals and entities may apply at any time but will only be considered for the upcoming program funding if the application is received by the submission deadline. Once applications are received and the planning process has begun, they are scored and ranked according to a variety of factors. The process of selecting applications for funding is competitive as the highest scoring applications are funded. It is never too early to start planning for the next program signup which will ensure that you are considered for the next possible signup period.

The EQIP program has been around for a long time. It has been a major contributor to voluntary conservation across the United States on agricultural land. The program can provide financial assistance with something as simple as a fall

seeded cover crop to as complex as a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

The program also covers landowners with non-industrial private forestland. There is opportunity for forestry practices such as tree plantings and forest stand improvement projects. EQIP also may provide financial assistance for having forest management plans written.

Other common conservation practices that may be of interest include: filter strip, grassed waterway, high tunnel system, irrigation sprinkler conversion to low pressure, nutrient management, pollinator planting, residue management, rotational grazing system, well decommissioning, and wind break establishment to name a few. If interested in more information please visit our website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact our staff at the NRCS Field Office in Park Rapids at (218) 732-9723 ext. 3.

## Lawns & Lakes - There is a Connection!

We live in the heart of the waters here in Minnesota. Our lakes, wetlands, streams and rivers face challenges, ranging from invasive species to pollinator decline, and threats to our water quality. Healthy waters begin on our lands. As a private landowner, your planting, care and feeding of the biodiverse native vegetation in the shoreland zone increases the natural aesthetic, provides wildlife habitat and helps water quality. You're a model for your neighbors as attitudes change waterside!

In September 2020 Hubbard County University of Minnesota Extension and Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Asso-

ciations (HC COLA) sponsored two workshops on 'Lawns & Lakes - There is a Connection!' workshops. Recordings can be found at: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>. The workshops were developed and taught by Karen Terry, retired from Water Resource Management, UMN Extension and has also prepared curriculum and trained Shoreland Advisors in 2019 for Itasca County.

You may choose to invite a trained volunteer shoreland advisor to visit with you/your family by walking with you through your lakeshore lot, listening to your ideas and sharing insights potentially for your mini-watershed to

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Lawns & Lakes: continued from page 2)*

prevent runoff, erosion and promote water quality. To reach out for a 'shoreland advisor' in your lake area, free of charge, please email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) and indicate your lake, township and county along with the best email address to reach you. Emails for potential shoreland advisor(s) for your area will be provided from the HC COLA shoreland advisor list. Your first visit should be by email about your ideas, then you may mutually agree to visit by phone or get together on your lakeshore property for a short walk-through. You are in control of when or if you decide to share your phone number or address. Social distancing and masks are required during the pandemic.

Perhaps your project is something you will want to visit with the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to gain their expertise and investigate any funding assistance that may be available. Hubbard SWCD employees are specialists in water and soil conservation best management practices as well as wetlands. Through grants, SWCD can offer cost-share funds for projects that directly impact a water resource and implement fundable best management practices as defined by NRCS. Hubbard SWCD cost-share application deadlines for available funds will be September 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

This coaching concept applies to your urban or country lot. We are all in a watershed! We can each positively impact water quality!  
*(HC COLA & Hubbard SWCD)*

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**2021 Tree Sale**

We have again arrived to the tree ordering season and are including a copy of our **2021 Tree Order Form**. As always, if you are planning to order trees for next spring, your best chance of getting what you would like, is to order by the end of the year. We are requiring all orders under \$100 to be paid in full when placing your order and orders over \$100 can to be paid in full or half at time of ordering and the full balance before May 1, 2021.

This year we are happy to announce that we are trying two mid-size standard/semit-dwarf apples. We have chosen the standard Yellow Transparent apple and the semi-dwarf Zestar (red) apple. Because the apple trees require a pollinator we will be selling a single 5 foot bare root standard or semi-dwarf apple tree with one Red Splendor Crabapple and one Dolgo Crabapple tree. Trying to keep our prices as low as possible, we are offering either apple pack, of three trees, for a bargain price of \$50/pack.

This year we added 2 new seed packets, 'Songbird' (100 sq ft) and 'Bee Lawn' (1,000 sq ft) coverage. We also added the new 'Backyard Prairie' and 'Short & Tidy' plant kit trays to our order form. A complete description and list of all seed packets and plant plug trays we're offering are available on our Hubbard SWCD 'Tree Order Form' website page at:

<http://www.hubbardswcd.org/tree-order-form/> .

Other seed or plant plug tray choices can be found on the Minnesota Native Landscape Nursery website at:

<https://mnnativelandscapes.com/products/> .

# Why Forests Matter

By: Crystal Mathisrud

Trees connect the resources of the sky with the resources of the earth. Even small trees reach upward with their leaves to transform photonic energy from the sun into food which is always destined to provide shelter and food for thousands of other types of life. In the forest, the roots of all trees grow woven and interconnected so that the giants, with their extensive canopies and roots, can draw up water and nutrients from afar to share with their youthful counterparts. This mechanism of water retention and redistribution is what makes the collective forest so good at improving both water quantity and water quality.

Imagine this with me. We are standing in a forest, the roots below our feet extend through the soil in a web that is as extensive as the canopy above. It is raining. Raindrops stick to the branches and needles above and drip one-by-one to the leaf covered ground. We are barely wet. The network of roots below our feet takes the fallen water up, holds it and moves it like a slow seeping river to wherever the forest needs it most. As the water moves through the cellular pathways of the trees, the trees transport and harvest nutrients that the forest needs while cleaning the water. Passing through cells is something like passing through thousands of tiny filters. When the trees are done with the water, those with the deepest roots infiltrates the now clean water into the ground water aquifers that we use for our wells.

Forested watersheds around the world manage to exhibit a slower flow of water during wet seasons and increased flow during dry seasons compared to non-forested watersheds. This is because trees are able to both hold and move water. They also reduce erosion and improve the overall water quality in the watershed when considering both surface water and ground water.

We have a unique situation in Hubbard County: the only water that flows into our county flows in drops from the sky. We have the source waters here so we also have a significant amount of control over the quality of our water and the water that flows out of our county to other parts of the state. That's why the Hubbard County and Hubbard County SWCD have been working hard to collaborate with other local partners to ensure that the new Leech Lake River, Mississippi Headwaters River and Crow Wing River One-Watershed-One Plans bring funds into our county to help us plant more trees and manage our forests for the health of our waters and our communities.

Each tree matters, each person matters, each act matters. We invite you to join us in our efforts to plant trees and make our world better via our annual tree sale and forest stewardship programs.



**HUBBARD COUNTY**  
**Soil & Water**  
**Conservation District**

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

603 Central Avenue N Suite 100  
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.*

**2021 Tree Order Form is enclosed!**

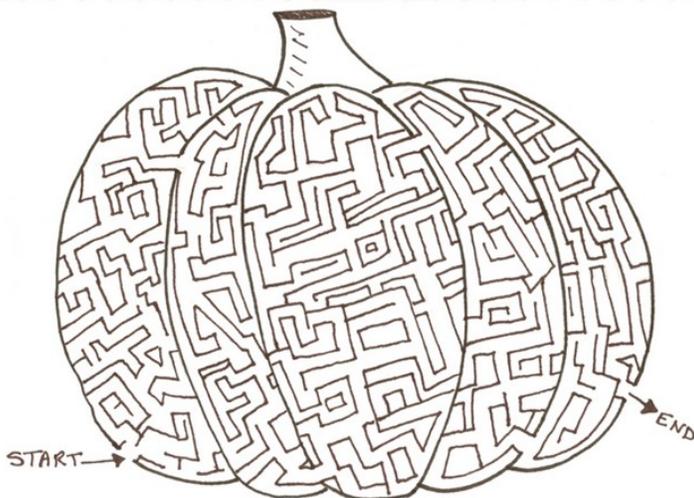
**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership, education, technical advice, financial assistance to landowners, cooperating agencies for various programs and projects with the goal being the whole community working together in harmony to pursue the sustainable management, wise-use, and protection of the District's soil, water, forests, wildlife, and recreational resources.

**Kids' Learning Corner**

**Did you know...**

- Soil BACTERIA are key for soil fertility and plant health.
- EARTHWORMS are a farm's architects for building healthy soil.
- Healthy soil builds HOPE for a healthier future.  
Thank you, farmers!
- Healthy soil works harder and does a better JOB at boosting a farm's productivity.
- Soil health management builds ORGANIC matter, increasing the soils water holding capacity.



**2020 Annual Freshwater Festival**

Our 2020 Freshwater Festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our staff has been working diligently to bring a virtual lab into production for children, young adults and adult residents to enjoy as an alternate lab to learn the importance of a clean water supply while having some fun with educational games. We are close to pilot stage and have chosen several area teachers to check out what we have lined up to view. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook pages for further information and details on what is happening with our virtual lab. We are hoping to hold our 2021 Fresh Water Festival as usual.

**Rain Monitors**

**Do you have a few minutes to spare each day?**  
Hubbard County SWCD would like to have someone monitoring our precipitation in each of our townships. We are looking for monitors in the following townships: Arago, Badoura, Clay, Clover, Fern, Helga, Lake Alice and Thorpe. Several other townships could use a second monitor within the township. It only takes a few minutes to daily check the gauge and record your findings on the monthly sheet we provide and then turn your results to our office. If you are interested in helping us collect rain or rain and snow data, please call our office at **(218) 732-0121 ext. 101**. All materials are supplied.

**Please like us on Facebook!**

