



Bridging the Gap

Your link to natural resource topics affecting Lake of the Woods County.

Fall 2009
Volume 5, Issue 2

A peek inside...

Spring Tree Sale Order Form

Judicial Ditch 28 Construction

Information on the Emerald Ash Borer

Rain Gauge Report

Outstanding Conservationist Nominated



Shoreline Buffer Cost Share

We are assembling a roster of shoreline owners who may be interested in taking part in a shoreline buffer planting project.

The project concept is to plant native flowers, grasses or shrubs along shorelines which have been ripped. This would replace traditional turf grass and would create more natural looking shoreline, increase habitat value and provide water quality benefits.

If you would be interested in hearing more about this, or about other shoreline stabilization cost share opportunities, please give us a call at 634-1842 x.3

Recent Accomplishments

Watershed Management

- The SWCD Supervisors and County Commissioners met to discuss weed management, ditch maintenance issues, and further partnership opportunities. A ditch committee will be assembled this winter to set future water management goals for the county.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service Water Resources Staff is investigating erosion, sedimentation and flooding issues in the Bostic Creek and Zippel Bay watersheds. A public meeting was held this summer to talk about the project (see page 4).
- MN Conservation Corps completed the county-wide culvert inventory project.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Pests

- District staff put together a “weed awareness” booth at the County Fair.
- Ashley Grundtner, our summer intern, worked with the County Weed Inspector to install 25 gypsy moth traps in the county. No moths were detected. This was a partnership project with the MN Dept. of Ag.

Water Monitoring

- Summer sampling as part of the second phase of the Williams Creek TMDL and the Baudette Bay TMDL projects was completed.

Historical Photo Retention

- The SWCD has received invaluable office assistance through the MN CEP job training program. With their help, we have scanned all historical USDA aerial photos from the 40's and 60's. The photos are now being digitally referenced so they can be used with GIS mapping programs. (Thanks Gang!)

District Supervisors

Marshall Nelson,
Chairman
Roger Krause,
Vice-chair
Russell Hansen,
Treasurer
John Sonstegard,
Secretary
Scott Pieper,
Public Relations

District Employees

Josh Stromlund,
County L&WP and
SWCD Director
Mike Hirst,
Resource Technician
Corryn Trask,
Resource Technician

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Partners

Kelly Voigt,
District Conservationist
Vacancy
Conservation Technician

Mission Statement

"The purpose of the District is to provide for the adoption of sound water quality, proper land use, and soil conservation practices on all lands in the District, to assist with the development of a prosperous agricultural economy, and to foster other community development for the general welfare and security of the people of the District."

EEO—All programs of the Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA, and NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Border State Bank is 2009 Outstanding Conservationist

Border State Bank has partnered with the Soil and Water Conservation District to deliver the AgBMP Low-Interest Loan Program. This program funds projects and equipment which demonstrate water quality benefits.

In 2005, the SWCD was looking to breathe new life into the AgBMP Program which provides low-interest loans for water quality improvement projects. The program was traditionally in place to serve the ag community. As time progressed, the legislature endowed the program with more flexibility. Non-ag practices now qualify, providing that they fit into a county's local water management plan.

For the AgBMP program to work for rural landowners, there must be a participating local lender. Border State Bank agreed to fill this role on a trial basis. Their main focus would be septic system upgrades. Other projects, such as shoreline erosion control, would be considered depending on success or failure of the new program.

Success has led the way, and since the program's inception, Border State Bank



In this photo, from left to right, are Border State Bank employees Joe Ulwelling, Amanda Risser and Roseann Swenson.

has expanded its participation by taking on more loans and by accepting alternative projects which benefit water quality.

Thank you to the employees of Border State Bank for your commitment to bettering our community and helping protect one of the county's greatest resources...our water.

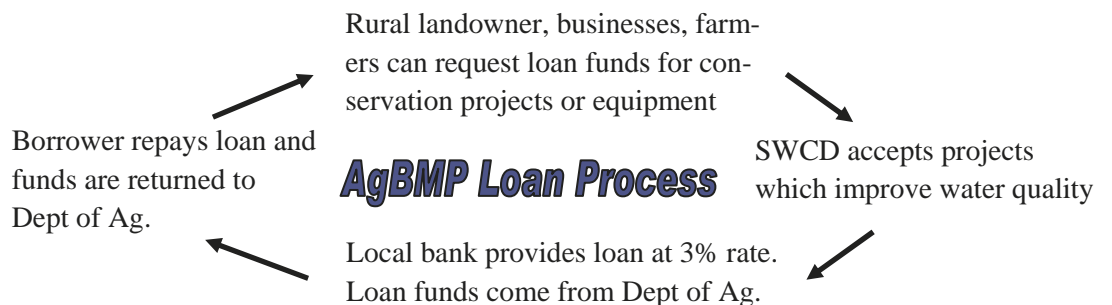
The AgBMP Loan Program—funds are still available

Funded projects within county:

- No-till Drill
- Chisel plow
- Large-scale septic upgrade for resort
- Septic upgrade for single family homes
- Shoreline stabilization

Untapped potential of program:

- Land purchase for large-scale septic upgrades
- Low-impact logging equipment
- Ag waste projects
- Stormwater retention ponds





The Rain Gauge Report

Rain Gauge Data is collected daily by our volunteers throughout the county. It is passed on monthly to the State Climatology Office.

This information provides a more accurate picture of the rainfall amounts throughout our county. It has been used for disaster declarations and in rating drought severity.

Township	Sec.	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Zippel	15				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*1.39	1.68	1.95
Zippel	9				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*1.19	1.91	2.72
Zippel	15				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*.24	1.66	
Chilgren	24				1.82	3.09	2.54	1.95	1.85	1.90	2.14
Chilgren	6	1.15	1.34	3.6	1.25	3.76	3.11	1.42	3.90	2.32	1.52
Lakewood	30				0.70	3.69	2.45	1.53	3.02	2.32	1.28
Myhre	13	0.72	1.26	3.6	0.51	2.88	2.16	1.65	2.42	1.80	.91
Norris	8	0.72	1.13	3.27	1.40	2.38	3.08	1.84	2.29	*	1.73
Prosper	19					3.24	3.40	1.71	2.32	2.24	
Spooner	1				1.04	2.26	2.03	3.66	2.56	1.14	2.03
Spooner	2	0.99	1.07	2.96	1.67	2.50	1.93	2.92	2.57	0.99	.67
Swiftwater	9					*1.91	1.41	3.58	2.82		
Wabanica	12				0.81	2.40	2.62	2.07	2.20	1.78	2.71
Wheeler	24				1.00	2.37	2.30	2.15	1.80	1.71	2.28
*Normal Rainfall		.56	.41	.66	1.17	2.62	3.69	3.38	3.34	2.68	2.14

*NOAA, Baudette Station. From 1971-2000 monthly norms

Visit the Climatology Working Group website@ www.climate.umn.edu for more historical and regional climate data.

NOXIOUS WEEDS: THE COUNTY'S LEAST WANTED

Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa* *Non-native, invasive plant*



Wisconsin State Herbarium, Kitty Kohout

It has yellow "umbel" flowers or clusters of flowers shaped like an upside-down umbrella.

Rosettes grow around 6 inches high and are present through the growing season.

The flowering stalk grows up to 4 feet high, and has a stout, grooved stem.

Leaves are made up of individual "leaflets" which are sharply toothed and somewhat egg shaped.

Fast Fact

This plant causes Phytophotodermatitis.

What does that mean?

Plant (phyto)

+

Light (photo)

+

Skin (derm)

=

Inflammation (itis)

So, in a nutshell, when juice from this plant gets on your skin in the presence of sunlight, it may cause a reaction.

Reactions can be severe (blisters and burns) or they can be more mild (rashes and skin discoloration).

Repairing Judicial Ditch 28

Before

Large slumps like this were common along a nearly one mile stretch of Judicial Ditch 28.



After

The ditch was reconstructed using a two-stage ditch design.



The two-stage ditch design used to repair the ditch allows regular water flows to meander back and forth through the main channel. During high flows, water will overtop the main channel and spill out into the upper shelf.

Part of an ongoing process...The Bostic and Zippel Creek Watershed Assessment Project

The NRCS Water Resources Staff has been assembling and gathering data over the past six months. This data will help pinpoint the causes of erosion and sedimentation in both the Bostic and Zippel Watersheds. A public meeting was held this past summer and landowners in these watersheds received invitations to attend and present their concerns.

The study will take close to two years to complete. The desired end result is to identify long-term, cost effective solutions to fixing issues in these two watersheds.

We have been publishing information regarding the project at www.lakeofthewoodsswcd.org/Projects/BZCWAP.htm

November Day

The old haggard wind has plucked the trees
Like pheasants held between her knees
In rows she hangs them bare and neat
Their brilliant plumage at her feet.

~Eleanor Averitt



Partners involved



- Public Works Department
- NC MN Joint Powers Board Engineer
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- Land and Water Planning Office
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- Private Landowners

Spring 2010 Tree Order Form

Lake of the Woods SWCD
 PO Box 217, Baudette, MN 56623 634-1842 x.3

Office Use
 Paid in full? ___ Date _____
 Attach receipt or invoice
 Special Order

Name _____ Date _____
 (Please Print)

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Specialty Mix	Size	Price/ Bundle of 25	# of Bundles	=	Total
Wildlife Shrub Combo	various	\$30	X	=	\$
<i>A mix of dogwood, chokeberry, plum, hazelnut, and highbush cranberry</i>					
Shrubs and Small Trees	Size	Price/ Bundle of 25	# of Bundles	=	Total
Glossy Black Chokeberry	12-18"	\$25	X	=	\$
Common Chokecherry	18-24"	\$23	X	=	\$
Highbush Cranberry	12-18"	\$25	X	=	\$
Red Osier Dogwood	18-24"	\$23	X	=	\$
Hazelnut (American)	12-18"	\$30	X	=	\$
False Indigo	18-24"	\$23	X	=	\$
Juneberry (serviceberry)	18-24"	\$22	X	=	\$
American Plum	18-24"	\$23	X	=	\$
Deciduous Trees	Size	Price/ Bundle of 25	# of Bundles	=	Total
Basswood (American Linden)	12-18"	\$40	X	=	\$
Paper Birch	18-24"	\$30	X	=	\$
Bur Oak	18-24"	\$25	X	=	\$
Red Oak	18-24"	\$25	X	=	\$
Red Maple	18-24"	\$25	X	=	\$
Silver Maple	18-24"	\$23	X	=	\$
Sugar Maple	12-18"	\$25	X	=	\$
Quaking Aspen	12-18"	\$30	X	=	\$
Coniferous Trees	Size	Price/ Bundle of 25	# of Bundles	=	Total
Jack Pine	6-12"	\$15	X	=	\$
Norway Pine (Red) - transplants	12-24"	\$20	X	=	\$
White Pine	7-15"	\$25	X	=	\$
White Spruce - transplants	8-18"	\$20	X	=	\$
White Cedar (Aborvitae)	5-10"	\$20	X	=	\$
Tamarack	6-12"	\$15	X	=	\$

Trees sold in bundles of 25.

Delivery Information, Terms and Conditions on back of order form.
Thank You for your order!
All tree and shrub orders directly support the Lake of the Woods SWCD.

Sub-Total	_____
Tax + S&H	_____ included
Discount (if any)	_____
	(10% on orders of 500 trees or more)
Total	_____

Tree Delivery: Pickup in Baudette in late April or early May. You will be notified two weeks in advance of exact pickup time, dates and location. Arrangements for cold, long-term storage must be made *in advance*. **Quantities are limited**, orders accepted until stock is depleted. No special orders after April 1, 2010. Refunds only if desired trees are unavailable. Size may vary depending on nursery availability. The SWCD is not responsible for tree survival or replacement. **No cancellations after February 15, 2010.**

Tree Specifications

Shrubs and Small Trees	Wildlife				
	Soils	Moisture	Growth	Value	Comments
Glossy Black Chokeberry	sand-clay	dry-wet	slow	high	edible berries, white flowers
Common Chokecherry	sandy loam-silty clay	dry-wet	fast	high	edible berries, white flowers, shade tolerant, suckers
Highbush Cranberry	sandy loam-clay	moist-wet	moderate	high	flowering, berries edible
Redosier Dogwood	sand-clay	moist-wet	fast	high	bank stabilization, flowering
Hazelnut	sandy loam-clay	dry-wet	moderate	high	produces nuts, good for naturalizing old fields
False Indigo	sand-clay	dry-wet	fast	moderate	white, purple, blue flowers. Fixes nitrogen
Juneberry (shadblow)	sand-silt	dry-wet	moderate	high	low wet areas, spring flowers
American Plum	sandy loam-silty clay	dry-wet	moderate	high	flowering, creates thickets
Deciduous Trees	Wildlife				
	Soils	Moisture	Growth	Value	Comments
Basswood	sandy loam-clay loam	moist-wet	moderate	moderate	large tree, upland sites
Paper Birch	sand-silty clay	moist-wet	moderate	moderate	beautiful tree, needs cool, protected sites
Bur Oak	sand-clay	dry-wet	slow	high	sturdy, long lasting tree, good for wildlife
Red Oak	sandy loam-silty clay	dry-moist	moderate	high	high timber value, fall color display
Red Maple	sand-clay	dry-wet	moderate	high	beautiful fall leaves, will sun scald
Silver Maple	sandy loam-silty clay	moist-wet	fast	high	large, flood tolerant tree, fast growth
Sugar Maple	sandy loam-silty loam	moist	slow	high	needs fertile, well drained soils
Quaking Aspen	sand-clay	dry-wet	fast	high	good tree for reforestation, valued for pulp wood
Coniferous Trees	Wildlife				
	Soils	Moisture	Growth	Value	Comments
Jack Pine	sand-sandy loam	dry-moist	fast	high	use in shelterbelts and reforestation and on dry sites
Red Pine (Norway)	sand-silty clay	dry-wet	fast	high	salt spray intolerant, excellent timber value
White Pine	loamy sand-clay loam	dry-wet	fast	high	excellent timber tree, soft needles
White Cedar (Arborvitae)	sandy loam-clay	moist-wet	slow	high	beautiful tree, wildlife cover, dense foliage
White Pine	loamy sand-clay loam	dry-wet	fast	high	excellent timber tree, soft needles
White Spruce	loam-clay	moist-wet	moderate	high	good windbreak tree
Tamarack (Larch)	sand-clay	dry-wet	fast	moderate	beautiful fall color, fast grower and long lived

Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in St. Paul

So what? Why be concerned about a little bug that can only fly 100 yards or so? At that rate we're looking at decades before it reaches here, right? Wrong.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a notorious hitchhiker. This is why there are quarantines being placed on infected counties, and why transporting firewood is so taboo.

EAB arrived in the U.S. in the 1990's and has already killed millions of ash trees. Minnesota has the second largest concentration of ash in the country, making EAB an even bigger issue.

Ash trees are important to northern MN

*Ash are valuable shade trees, and were commonly used to replace the elm tree after it fell victim to Dutch elm disease.

*They are planted in many shelterbelts and windbreaks through conservation programs.

*Black ash don't mind getting their feet wet, and are one of northern MN's most valuable lowland trees. They act as water reservoirs, and total loss of ash in a swamp may cause irreversible changes to the hydrology and ecology.

*Ash is a valued timber and a specialized forest product.



Tiny, green and makes holes shaped like a “D”. That’s how you know your EAB.

Help Stop the Spread and Reduce the Impacts

- *Buy local firewood. Sell local firewood.
- *Don't bring firewood on your next camping trip.
- *Become an authorized DNR local firewood vendor.
- *Don't panic. Removing all ash trees isn't necessarily the best solution.
- *Plant diverse stands of trees.
- *Encourage tourists and seasonal visitors to the area to follow these suggestions.
- *Participate in the ash seed collection program and save ash seeds for your next community service project.

For more info, visit www.emeraldashborer.info

New Law Affects Contractor Liability for Wetland Impacts

County Land and Water Planning Office

Do you move dirt for hire? Install septics, riprap, make trails? If so, you need to know about the new State law changes to contractor liability under the Wetlands Conservation Act.

State law now reads: “an agent or employee of another may not drain, excavate or fill a wetland, wholly or partially, unless the agent or employee has obtained a signed statement from the property owner stating that a wetland replacement plan for the work has been obtained, or that a replacement plan is not required; **AND** this statement is mailed to the local government unit.” For Lake of the Woods County, this form would be sent to the County Land and Water Planning Office.

A replacement plan is required for any wetland draining, filling or excavating activity that is not exempt under the Wetlands Conservation Act.

To avoid being liable for wetland impacts, contractors should make sure the new “Contractor Liability Form” is filled out by both the landowner and the contractor and mailed to the County prior to beginning work. Work now conducted in violation to this new law is considered a misdemeanor, punishable by up to \$700 or 90 days in jail.

Notification was sent to all contractors on our mailing list. These new forms will be available at the County Land and Water Planning or SWCD offices or online at www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wca/index.html

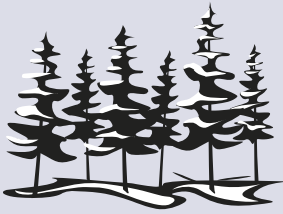


www.lakeofthewoodsswcd.org

PO Box 217, 119 1st Ave NW
Baudette, MN 56623
218-634-1842 x.3
218-634-1726 (fax)

2010 Spring Tree Sale Order Form

Look inside!



(Order form is also available on our website)

Water Quality Data on Website

Water quality data from monitoring sites in Lake of the Woods County is now available on the SWCD website. When you visit the interactive map, you can choose a specific monitoring point by clicking on that spot. This will redirect you to a page that contains photos of the site, location information and water quality data. The acceptable data range is listed as well so you can compare the actual data vs. the typical range.

Students from the Lake of the Woods High School were out sampling again this summer as part of the Rainy River Basin River Watch Program. This program is in its 3rd year.



Position Vacancy in Baudette Field Office

The Natural Resources Conservation District has a Soil Conservation Technician position vacancy in the Baudette Field Office.

The position requires a 4 yr natural resources degree, equivalent experience in a related field or combination of both. Soil Conservation Technicians assist the District Conservationist in planning conservation practices, perform field checks, and work directly with private landowners.

This job will be posted on the USAJOBS website. To watch for this position, you can go directly to the NRCS search page at <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9nrcshqp.aspx>

The search agent under "Occupational Series" is 0458-Soil Conservation Technician.

Once posted, a copy of the vacancy announcement will also be available at the Conservation District Service Center.