

64th ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Meeting, Annual Election, and Open House

The Manistee Conservation District will be holding an Open House on October 27, 2009. Voting for the Annual Election will take place during the Open House and will draw to a close with the Annual Meeting that will be taking place at 6:30 pm.

Staff

- Jay Raupp, Administrator*
- Murray Stall, Groundwater Technician*
- Scott Hughey, NRCS, District Conservationist*
- Jill Jones, Administrative Assistant*
- Ray Johnson, Volunteer*
- Lyle Linsemier, Volunteer*

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CONSERVATION FROM THE CHAIR

Today I finished harvesting my garden. It has been an odd year. My tomatoes were very late in ripening; but on the other hand I got a tremendous crop of peppers. Go figure! While doing this year-end chore, I was reflecting on our Conservation District. I feel that the Manistee Conservation District (MCD) is now more important to the county than it has been in the past. It performs a number of essential services for the farmers, the citizens, and the environment.

In the beginning the MCD mainly concentrated on reforestation, soil erosion, and farm programs. Now we have taken on or are looking at additional tasks; for example, the Household Hazardous Waste program, Garlic Mustard eradication, Phragmites eradication, review for the DEQ permitting that affect the critical dunes and

wetlands. These new programs are essential to preservation and conservation of our county's natural resources.



Because the MCD exists in Manistee County, thousands of dollars come into the farm community through the United States Department of Agriculture. Without MCD, these dollars would not be available thus farm conservation and our environment would suffer.

You can be proud of your Manistee Conservation District. It works very hard for the people and the county.

Glenn T. Lottie
Chair
Manistee Conservation District

NRCS Bear Lake Field Office Annual Report

by, *Scott Hughey*
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The fiscal year of 2009 was a different year for the Natural Resources Conservation Service work in Manistee County. On January 2, 2009, Ben Loosemore, who had served as the District Conservationist for Manistee County for 28 years, retired from his position. Scott Hughey became the new District Conservationist serving the Manistee County on June 22, 2009. Scott had most recently been serving as the District Conservationist in Chippewa County, Michigan.

This was the first full year under the 2008 Farm Bill. In this year \$167,451.00 came into Manistee County under the auspices of conservation programs which are de-

signed to assist landowners with resolving conservation concerns on their land by offsetting the cost of installing these practices. This money is spent locally to purchase the supplies needed to construct and/or implement new conservation practices. The Natural Resources Conservation Service also hosted the first sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP is unlike other conservation programs that offer financial assistance, since CSP provides funds to landowners to maintain the good conservation that has already been implemented. Funds are used to offset costs of maintaining structures used in controlling erosion or protecting water quality, and to offset the costs of maintaining higher levels of management for example; soil testing,



leaf tissue analysis, manure testing, or pest scouting. During the sign-up for 2009 we had 5 landowners in Manistee County apply for this program.

If you have any conservation concerns on your land get into contact with the Manistee Conservation District at (231) 889-4761 or the local NRCS Field Office at (231) 889-9666.

What is the Natural Resources Conservation Service?

by, *Scott Hughey*
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

“since the achievement of our independence, he is the greatest patriot who stops the most gullies” Patrick Henry

Even during the infancy of our nation, erosion of the soil on farmland was recognized as a problem that needed to be addressed. As our nation moved forward, that problem seemed minimized by the “always abundant land” available through westward expansion of the nation. With the general mindset by the majority of citizens that we, the citizens, of the United States of America were so richly blessed with an abundance of natural resources that those natural resources were inexhaustible. Throughout the 19th century this mindset guided the majority of policy and decision making for American agriculture. Today looking back we understand that this mindset did not foster sustainable agriculture production, which in turn jeopardized the existence of the nation. Today we understand that stewardship of our nation’s natural resources is directly linked to the success of the nation, and the success of its people. That through stewardship we promote prosperity to another generation providing for them the tools to succeed. During the 19th century these ideas were just murmurs among American agriculture, however by the halfway point of the 20th century a revolution concerning the ideas of stewardship took hold within American agriculture.

As the dawn of the 1930’s arrived, the nation found itself witnessing the collapse of its economy, a collapse that it would not fully recover from until the Second World War. American farmers also found themselves at the beginning of the decade facing the worst drought in the nation’s history. This compounded also with the woes of the economy sent many farmers to farm more land to maintain revenue at the levels of the previous year. The tillage of more acres compounded by the drought led to large increases of erosion of the topsoil on the nation’s farms. These problems and their compounding negative impacts on the land, producer, and the citizens resulted in an outcry for a change in mindset toward the soil resources and resultant the air, water, plants, and animal resource of the nation. Congress responded by passing the Soil Conservation Act on April 27, 1935, which allowed for the creation of the Soil Conservation Service. The Soil Conservation Service was brought about as a technical agency of the United States Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and rural landowners with the technical know-how to solve their individual soil erosion problems. The agency employees; agronomist, biologist, soil scientist, civil engineers, and many other technical experts would be at the disposal of farmers and rural land owners to assist them in addressing a conservation problem on their land.

Congress, while writing the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, did not want to create another agency that would force farmers to comply with laws, they wanted an agency that would teach conservation to the people, to provide momentum to a new movement, and support the local leaders of conservation. By creating local county conservation districts the leadership of conservation change on the landscape would take place at the local level. The Soil Conservation Service when created was to provide technical staff to the residents of each conservation district to support the needs of the landowners in completing their conservation goals for their land. This new idea from congress of “locally led conservation” provides that conservation would not be forced upon farmers, but that farmers and landowners could come to their local conservation district to seek advice on how to solve a particular conservation problem on their land.

In 1994 Congress changed the name of the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This was done in response to the changing conservation needs of landowners, and to emphasize the bonds between all aspects of land stewardship and not just the soil.

Today the Natural Resources Conservation Service is still providing the same service to America’s rural landowners as they did in 1935. The agency is directly tied to local conservation districts all over the United States providing technical support for district programs to the landowners living in that district. Locally led conservation has been proven to be a great success, and is one of the reasons for the adoption of conservation practices and the idea of land stewardship across the American landscape.

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Get Farming! Announces Workshops for New and Longtime Growers

Classes will help start-ups, build marketing, business skills for veterans

TRAVERSE CITY—The Michigan Land Use Institute's *Get Farming!* program is gearing up for another series of classes and workshops designed for aspiring and experienced farmers.

Get Farming's Entrepreneur Series will offer eight classes covering farm businesses issues like legal concerns, financial planning, soils and pests. The *Entrepreneur Series* begins in March, 2010 at Michigan Works in Traverse City.

The series is designed to help a new generation of farmers, but it will also prove to be highly valuable to experienced growers who want to improve their established operation's business and marketing practices.

The Institute has assembled a broad group of experts for the series via partnerships with the region's Small Business and Technology Development Center, Telamon Corporation, USDA Risk Management Agency, and Michigan State University Extension.

"The turnout was great last year, and so was the diversity in the classes," said Jim Sluyter, a veteran farmer who is managing the Institute's *Get Farming* program this year.

In fact, the turnout confirmed that the face of farming is indeed changing; attendees included Latino farm workers transitioning from laborers to owners, aspiring vintners, people with graduate degrees in agriculture, women, and veteran farmers looking to learn more.

"For a lot of Latinos, this is the first time they've had the chance to participate in something like this," said Abel Sanchez, regional manager of Telamon, a non-profit agency that provides services to farm workers and low-income families. The firm will provide in-class translation equipment for the series, so that Latino participants with limited English skills can understand their teachers.

The *Get Farming! Entrepreneur Series* is part of the Institute's *Taste the Local Difference* program, which builds local food markets and farm profitably to keep land in active agriculture. The *Get Farming!* project also includes an online matching service, www.LocalDifference.org, which, among many other things, helps new and existing farmers find opportunities for transferring land and sharing expertise and resources. The online service also includes forums about local food, healthy eating, and produce sales and purchases.

This workshop is part of a series that MLUP's *Get Farming* project is hosting on a variety of subjects. Sessions that we are assembling include:

- Women in Agriculture: November 5 from 6-9 pm at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station.
- CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) mini-school: November 21 at the Michigan Works Conference room.
- Hoop for the Future: Hoophouse management and construction: December 4 at Black Star Farms.
- Renewable Energy on the Farm.
- Whole Farm Planning.
- Food Safety and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audits.
- Cranberry Production

Direct Marketing

Complete schedules for workshops will be released soon. Given last year's strong attendance, Mr. Sluyter urged those who are interested contact him promptly, so they can be notified when the final schedule is announced. Watch www.localdifference.org for details on these and other programs.

Project coordinator Sluyter is vice chair of the Manistee Conservation District. Contact him at 231-941-6584 or jimsluyter@mlui.org

About the Institute

The Michigan Land Use Institute is an independent, nonprofit research, educational, and service organization founded in 1995. More than 2,400 households, businesses, and organizations have joined the Institute in support of its mission to establish an approach to economic development that strengthens communities, enhances opportunity, and protects Michigan's unmatched natural resources.



Household Hazardous Waste / Clean Sweep Collection Day Results

by: Jay Raupp, Administrator

This year the sun shown on all the 265 cars of bringing 25,873 pounds of Household Hazardous Waste / Clean Sweep materials to the County Road Commission garage in Manistee County on Saturday, August 15th. We do appreciate



all the people that agreed to volunteer at this year's collection that also enjoyed the weather and allowed this collection to be successful again this year by removing in excess of 12.5 tons of hazardous material from Manistee County, and ultimately assisting in the protection of our county's water resources.

Results From 2009

- 100% of the Manistee County municipalities, along with the County Commissioners and donations from private individuals or concerns, financially supported this effort which offset the \$1.08 per pound disposal costs.
- At least one resident of 100% municipalities within Manistee County took advantage of disposing of some Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep materials.
- There was 265 cars offloaded on August 15th which had Hazardous Waste from 314 families
- The waste collected on August 15th consisted of the following poundage's:

1. Household batteries	1,005
2. Auto/Marine batteries	2,320
3. Used oil	7,390
4. Pesticides	2,429
5. Household Hazardous Waste	<u>12,729</u>
Manistee County Total	25,873
Mason County Total	19,364
Oceana County Total	<u>15,836</u>
Total collected	61,073

Why is this program important? Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) / Clean Sweep collects unused or left over materials that, if disposed incorrectly, can cause environmental damage by contaminating ground and surface waters, thereby threatening our wildlife and human health.

What are some examples of HHW / Clean Sweep Products? The following is a partial list of materials considered to be hazardous and ones that will be acceptable to bring in for proper disposal; antifreeze, gasoline, diesel fuel, deck stain, oil and lead based paint, turpentine, insect repellents, mouse and rat poison, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, cleaning solvents, oven cleaners, rust removers, metal polish, household batteries, automotive batteries, lighter fluids, outdated medication, pool chemicals, and mercury thermometers or thermostats.

The Partnership: The Manistee Conservation District, along with the Oceana and Mason-Lake Conservation Districts are continuing the program to provide a means of disposing of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) / Clean Sweep collections in Manistee, Mason, and Oceana Counties. A HHW Partnership has been formed with representatives from all 3 counties. This Partnership includes the 3 Conservation Districts; The Michigan Groundwater Stew-

"Financial support from 100% of Manistee's City, Villages, & Townships"

ardship Program in the 3 counties; AFFEW; Amor Signs; Dow Chemical - Ludington Plant; Department of Public Works of Oceana County; District Health Department #10; Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians; Michigan State University Extension - Manistee & Mason; Interstate Batteries; Future Environmental; Road Commission of Manistee County; Road Commission of Mason County; Department of Public Works of Oceana County; county, township and municipal representatives; and other interested individuals. The partnership has started planning for next years' Disposal Day, which will be the third Saturday of August (21, 2010). Fundraising will continue to be a high priority, as disposing of these wastes is expensive (currently approximately \$1.08 per pound). Advertising and education will also be an important job for members of the HHW Partnership.



Helping: Anyone interested in helping out with any aspect of this program is encouraged to contact Jay Raupp at 889-4761. The next partnership meeting has not, as of now, been scheduled. All are welcome!



2009 GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The West Central Groundwater Stewardship Program in Manistee County

by Murray Stall

2009 FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The West Central Groundwater Stewardship Program area includes Manistee, Mason, Oceana, and the west ½ of Lake County and is administered by the Mason-Lake Conservation District. During fiscal year 2009 the emphasis of the program was assisting and encouraging producers to become MAEAP verified in one or all of

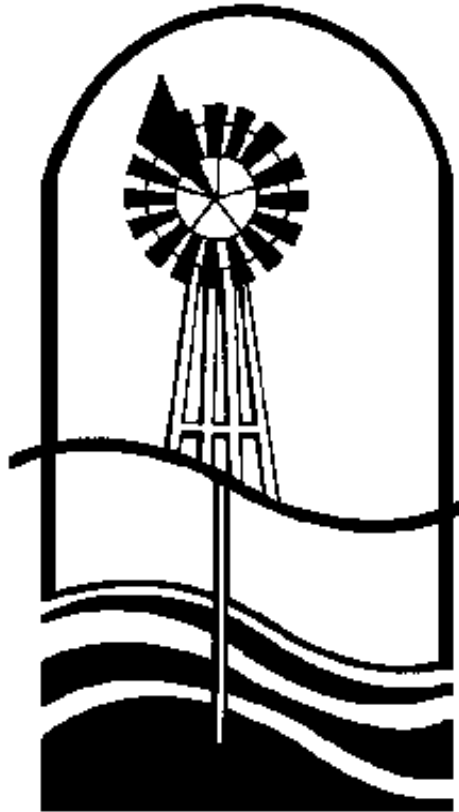


MAEAP Farmstead & Cropping Signage

the three systems which are farmstead, cropping, and livestock. The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) was developed by a coalition of farmers, commodity groups, state and federal agencies, conservation and environmental groups to assist farmers with enhancing the quality of their natural resources. MAEAP provides a structure under which Michigan farmers can be assured they are following Right-To-Farm guidelines and Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs). During fiscal year 2009 there were 22 MAEAP verifications certified throughout the groundwater stewardship program area. To date there have been approximately 700 verifications throughout the state. Groundwater technicians Jack Lake and Murray Stall conducted 76 on-farm assessments during the year for farmstead and cropping systems. Assistance was also provided to producers conducting irrigation uniformity



Irrigation System



Fuel Storage

evaluations, fuel storage tanks labeling, pesticide drift management plans, nutrient management plans, and farmstead emergency plans. There were two MAEAP phase # 1 meetings conducted in 2009 in Hart and Fountain, Michigan with 114 persons attending. Phase # 1 attendance is the first of 3 phases required for verification.

This year 386 Water samples were collected for screening at Ag-Expo during July

of 2009. The samples were taken in at the three Conservation District offices and delivered to East Lansing by the groundwater technicians. The screening of these samples detects the presence of triazines, nitates and nitrites in drinking water from private wells.

Encouraging producers to properly label, dispense and protect fueling stations on their farms resulted in several fuel dispensing pads being installed during the program year.

Another highlight of this year's program was the Clean Sweep/Household Hazardous Waste collection day that was held on August 15. The three collection sites were in Bear Lake, Hart and Scottville where 61,000 lbs. of hazardous materials were collected, of which 8,466 lbs. were pesticides.

On September 24, 2009 the groundwater stewardship program and the Conservation Districts conducted a twilight field day and tour near Fountain, MI. in Mason County. In attendance were 62 people that visited four farms in the Fountain area. Highlights of the tour included a stop at a MAEAP verified farm, no-till Alfalfa seedlings, agrichemical storage building and a



Farm Visit

dairy farm using plate cooler water reuse. The tour ended with a complimentary lunch at the Farm View Resort on U.S.-31 North. The lunch was sponsored by Scott Carruthers of Crop Production Services in Bear Lake, MI.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Groundwater Stewardship Program may call the Manistee Conservation District or contact Murray Stall at 231-889-4761.



Help Pollinators Help You

by, *Scott Hughey*
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For most Americans, pollen means allergies and bees mean stings-- but to farmers, when one out of every three bites of food people take is made possible by a pollinator, bees and pollen mean much more. Pollinators play a tremendous economic role. The problem is, too many people see the pollination process as a free service from nature; most people don't know the unprecedented threats facing wild and managed pollinators worldwide.

Managed honey bee colonies have shrunk by 25 percent since 1990, and there are fewer bee hives now in the United States than at any time in the past 50 years. For more than a decade, biologists have documented declines in populations of migratory pollinators including butterflies, bats and birds. Habitat loss and excessive exposure to agrichemicals, as well as spread of diseases, parasitic mites, invasion of Africanized honey bees, and elimination of government subsidies for beekeepers are most often mentioned for what's been called an impending pollination crisis.

Pollinators are particularly important to fruit, vegetable and nut growers, with crops valued in the billions. California producers rent half a million bee hives a year for almond trees alone. On your land, there are several things you can do to help pollinators.

Don't disturb wild areas.

Bumblebees nest in grass in old mouse nests, for instance, and other bees nest in dead wood.

Plant pollinator friendly crops.

Clovers, alfalfa, trefoils and other legumes enrich and protect the soil and are pollinator favorites. Native wildflowers such as the asters and goldenrods provide excellent fall nectar and pollen sources.

Use conservation buffers.

Current USDA programs offer annual rental payments to plant grasses or trees on qualifying cropland. These contour strips, grassed waterways, hedgerows, filter strips and windbreaks offer some of the best habitat to pollinators, and they can be within the crop field that needs their pollination service.

Let plants bloom.

Try to time mowing, tilling or grazing management decisions so that plants have the opportunity to bloom.

Time pesticide application.

Your pesticide label lists bee toxicity and residual time. Follow the label direction and select pesticides which have the least impact on pollinators.

For more information, stop at our office at 8840 US-31 in Bear Lake, or visit the NRCS web site at

<http://www.plantmaterials.nrcs.usda.gov/news/features/pollinatorconservation.html>

Pollinator-friendly plants include many native wildflowers. An excellent place for them is in streamside buffers next to crop fields.

Wildlife Ways

Did you know....

A bee's wings vibrate about 435 times a second. More than 75 percent of the crop plants that feed the world, and many plant-derived medicines in our pharmacies rely on pollination by insects or other animals for healthy fruit development.



From Around the Neighborhood

Manistee Conservation District

Fall Tree Sale— October 2, 2009

Annual Meeting/Open House—October 27th at the Manistee Conservation District office starting at 6:30 PM, public is invited

Spring Tree Sale—April 16 & 17, 2010

Benzie Conservation District

Fall Tree Sale— October 9, 2009

Annual Meeting/Open House— November 17th at the Benzie Conservation District office running from 4 pm to 6 pm, public is invited

Spring Tree Sale—April 16 & 17, 2010

Wexford Conservation District

Fall Tree Sale— Not scheduled

Annual Meeting/Open House—October 30th at the Wexford Conservation District office public is invited

Spring Tree Sale—April 23 & 24, 2010

Mason/Lake Conservation District

Fall Tree Sale— October 9, 2009

Annual Meeting— In February 2010 the specifics are to be announced

Spring Tree Sale—April 16 & 17, 2010



Manistee Conservation District's

Profit and Loss Statement

Manistee Conservation District Profit and Loss

October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009

Note: these are preliminary figures prior to any auditing

Revenue

State Operations Grant	9,579.00
Manistee County Allocation	16,236.00
Advertising Income	1,800.00
Fruit—Sales	5,152.18
Critical Dunes Assurance	125.00
Tree Sales-Reforestation	18,985.36
Merchandise Sales- Topo Maps, Silt Fence, Books, etc.	218.67
Interest Income	529.91
Rent Income	29,709.52
AmeriCorp/Groundwater Reimbursement	131.56
Household Hazardous Waste	44,552.15
CWMA	2,673.30
Timber Harvest	15,310.00
Misc. Income and Donations	646.12

Total Revenue **\$145,648.77**

Expense

Employee Wages	32,884.20
Fringe Benefits-Retirement, Workers Comp	893.76
Payroll Taxes-FICA/MESC	2,520.75
Office Supplies	256.54
Merchant Services	516.54
Contracted Services-Critical Dune	120.00
Contracted Services-Accounting	656.00
Contracted Services-Trees	832.00
Contracted Services-Web Page	550.88
Contracted Services-Janitorial	2,240.00
Office Equipment	694.12
Dues & Fees	1,307.25
Directors Expense-Travel, Per Diem, etc.	220.35
Training and Travel	2,778.23
Postage	1,669.51
Printing	4,581.56
D & O Liability Insurance	750.00
Employee Dishonesty Bond	321.21
Liability Insurance-Building	593.00
Utilities-Heat & Lights	4,480.29
Repairs & Maintenance-Building & Grounds	5,999.15
Interest Expense-Mortgage	4,251.21
Depreciation Expense	11,689.51
Mdse. Purchases for Resale/Topo Maps, Books, Fruit	4,255.90
Mdse. Purchases-Trees	12,777.26
Annual Meeting Expense	33.52
Misc. Expense	558.80
Household Hazardous Waste Expense	44,421.94
CWMA Expense	2,110.80

Total Expense **\$144,964.28**

Net Profit/(Loss) **\$684.49**

Annual Minutes

Manistee Conservation District

Annual Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2008

6:32 p.m.

The meeting, held at the Manistee Conservation District's meeting room was called to order by Chair Glenn Lottie at 6:32 pm.

After Glenn Lottie reviewed last year's minutes from the Annual Meeting which had been published in the Annual Report, Jeanne Lenz offered a motion to accept these minutes as published. This motion was seconded by Jeanne Crampton and subsequently passed.

Following the review of the published FY 08 financial data (Profit and Loss Statement), John Urka made a motion to accept these finances as published, was supported by Jeanne Crampton seconded this motion which passed.

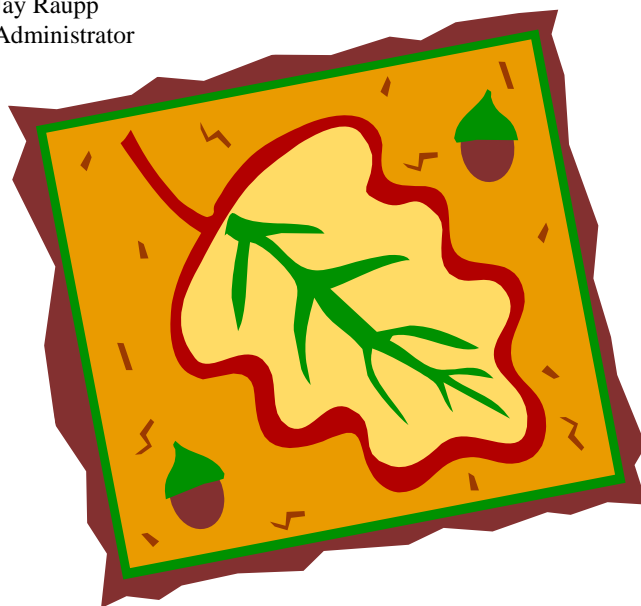
Ray Johnson, the Election Chair, conducted the Directors election. The two candidates elected to a 4 year term seats were Glenn Lottie and Carol Pasco.

At 6:50 pm Carol Pasco made a motion to adjourn the meeting which Jeanne Crampton seconded. The motion passed.

These minutes stand to be approved.

Respectively submitted by,

Jay Raupp
Administrator



Meet Your Manistee County MSU Extension Staff

by Elaine Bush, Manistee County MSU Extension director,

A variety of services and programs are offered to area residents through your local MSU Extension office located right across the hall from the Manistee Conservation District office.

Office secretary, Terrie Williams, a trained Advanced Master Gardener, can assist residents with questions about their lawn, trees, fruit and vegetable gardens. If there are issues that Terrie cannot personally address with the resource materials in our office, she will consult with Extension colleagues in other offices to assist clientele.

Soil testing is also available through our Extension office. If interested in having your soil tested, residents can obtain the necessary sample container and form from our office for \$10. You then mail the sample to our soil lab at MSU and will receive a written report by mail in 2-3 weeks. The report indicates what basic nutrients are lacking and recommends the specific type and amount of fertilizer needed for what is planted on the sampled soil.

Each year in May, our office produces a grower and greenhouse guide including con-

tact information, hours of operation, agricultural products sold, and a map showing the location of participating farms and greenhouses. Four thousand of these brochures are printed and distributed throughout Manistee County and the adjoining area. A copy is also available on our website.

Benzie County Extension director Steve Fouch works with Manistee County fruit growers, holding weekly meetings in our office during the growing season. He is available for consultation and farm visits as needed throughout the year.

Our 4-H youth development program continues to flourish under the leadership of Debra Laws. In addition to working with local 4-H clubs and councils, Debra organizes the annual Magoon Creek Days with Nature for all county 4th grade classes each May. 2009 was the 25th year this program has been offered. The Manistee County plat book is the major fundraiser for our 4-H program and is available at our office and several other locations including the treasurer's office at the county courthouse, Saddle Up, MacBeth's, Norman township hall, Dublin General Store, and Mesick Hardware. The 2009 edition of the plat book is \$30. If unable to visit one of

these locations to make your purchase in person, please send a check for \$35 (includes shipping & handling) made out to Manistee County 4-H to our office at 8840 Chippewa Hwy, Bear Lake, MI 49614.

Our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) has seen a bit of a change this year. Benzie Extension educator Patty Roth is now serving Manistee in addition to her duties in Benzie County. She oversees program associate Cyndi Jacobi, networks with community partners, and completes the amazing amount of paperwork that the program requires. Funded by the USDA food stamp program, individuals and families must be income eligible to receive the nutrition, food safety, and budgeting education the program provides for Manistee County adults and youths. Group presentations can be made at schools, senior centers, and other sites as long as 50% of participants are food stamp eligible.

This was the second year that the Senior Project FRESH program was available to Manistee County enabling over 285 income-eligible seniors to receive \$20 in coupons to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Manistee Council on Aging took the lead for administering the program and along with Manis-

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Manistee County 4-H Begins A New Program Year

The local Manistee County 4-H program, like so many other projects and endeavors, counts the beginning of September as the start of a new year. It's a lot like "back to school," as we take what we learned in the past year and move ahead with a renewed commitment to our motto, "To make the best better!" From now through December, the calendar will be full with 4-H members and leaders meeting reenrollment requirements and attending orientation meetings. During this same period, all current 4-H councils and developmental committees – Advisory, Livestock, Horse Speed & Action, Horse Show, and Companion Animal – will conduct their annual elections for new members and officers and will also take time to evaluate their plans and priorities for the coming year.

Success continues for the more recently developed 4-H Horse Show Committee, 4-H Horse Speed & Action Committee, and 4-H Companion Animal Committee. The summer series of Speed & Action horse events at Rockin' R Ranch continues to increase in participation and the 2009 4-H Horse Show was one of the most memorable ever. The Companion Ani-

mal Station and Companion Animal Interviews at the fair continue to receive tremendous public support. The number of puppies being raised as part of the committee's 4-H Leader Dog project has remained steady with puppy raisers from other counties now joining the group. On a note regarding much-needed improvement, the future of the Youth Live Performances event is in great peril. The need to develop some kind of a performing and literary arts committee is more urgent than ever. We are currently looking for qualified adults who have an interest in and experience with any and all aspects of the performing arts or the world of literature, who would be willing to establish the foundation of the group.

We invite all youth ages 5 – 19 to become involved in Manistee County 4-H clubs, and an extra special request goes out interested adults who can fulfill roles as registered 4-H volunteers. There is a great need for experienced and knowledgeable adults to lead in such program areas as horse and livestock, dog and cat care, gardening, photography, fine arts, and performing arts. In fact, many fairgoers continue to let us know how much they miss the 4-H Dog Show, which will only return when we

find a knowledgeable and committed 4-H volunteer who can teach the kids the ins and outs of a typical AKC dog show. There is also a special place for adults with other skills, to help as council members and officers, assist with various 4-H educational events, and to serve as trip chaperones. Enrollment forms for new leaders and members are accepted until March 1st each year.

If you or someone you know has talent or expertise to share with the youth in this area, we invite you to contact the MSU Extension office in Manistee county. A background check, interview session, and orientation process are required. In some cases, applicants who are new to the community or lack sufficient background in youth related activities are invited to join existing clubs for the training and experience before becoming registered leaders and establishing clubs of their own.

For more information about the Manistee County 4-H program, please contact Debra Laws at MSU Extension of Manistee County at 231-889-4277, or e-mail at laws@msu.edu. We also invite you to visit our website at www.msue.msu.edu/manistee.



What is the Natural Resources Conservation Service?

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Residents of Manistee County have a local Natural Resources Conservation Service office located in Bear Lake, Michigan. The address is 8840 Chippewa Highway (US – 31) and is just south of the intersection of Nine Mile Road and Chippewa Highway. You can contact the office directly by phone at (231) 889-9666 or you may contact the Manistee Conservation District at (231) 889-4761

Meet Your Manistee County MSU Extension Staff

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tee Housing Commission helped provide the necessary matching funds.

During 2009, breast-feeding peer counselor Toni Swinehart provided support to new mothers in both Manistee and Mason County. Collaboration with district health department #10 made it possible to offer this program in our area for the first time. As of October, Toni will now be devoting all her time to Mason County and Benzie program associate Therese Povolo will work with Manistee moms. We are pleased that MSU Extension can continue to offer this valuable service as years of research confirms the health benefits of breast-feeding for both infants and mothers.

County director Elaine Bush continues to offer educational wildfire prevention presentations to adult and youth groups as part of the Michigan Firewise Communities program. Nationally, the Firewise program is a consortium of wild land fire organizations and agencies helping homeowners understand wildfire behavior and preventative measures to take in protecting their property. With the many large fires that occurred nationwide during 2009 and several smaller ones in Michigan, Bush urges residents to make use of the informative materials she has available. To schedule a presentation or obtain educational materials, contact Bush at 889-4277 or via email at bush@msu.edu.

In addition to these staff members housed in the Manistee office, regional and statewide extension specialists can be contacted as needed to assist residents with their needs.

For more information about programs and services available through your Manistee County MSU Extension office, call, visit our office, or check our website www.msue.msu.edu/manistee. We are open Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m.

Director's Election of One Board Seat

Who Can Vote

All residents of Manistee Conservation District (Manistee County), are hereby given notice that on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 between the hours of 6:30 pm and 7 pm at Manistee Conservation District office in Bear Lake, Michigan an annual meeting and a directors election will be held. Absentee ballots may be obtained at the District office during regular office hours through October 27th.

Residents who are of legal age and can demonstrate their residency in the Conservation District via

one (1) piece of identification are eligible to vote in this election.



One Candidate is Seeking The Open Board Seat

Running unopposed for re-election for the Four (4) year term seat is **James Sluyter**. The election will take place at the District's Annual Business Meeting at 6:30 pm on October 27, 2009.

"25 Years of Excellence" with Magoon Creek Day with Nature

Every year, the Manistee Conservation District donates approximately 500 trees to the Manistee County 4-H sponsored program, "Magoon Creek Day with Nature." This past May, the event celebrated its 25th year, with the Manistee Conservation District playing a vital role in each and every one of those years. This year's event hosted nearly 300 fourth grade students from every public and parochial school in Manistee county. Students, accompanied by their teachers and chaperones, were treated to a day-long hike, with various guest presenters located at various stops along the trail of the Magoon Creek Nature Area in southern Manistee county. Presentations were given on various topics, including: soil studies, birds, wildlife, plant

life, water conservation, Indian culture and music, and tree planting. At the end of the day, each class received a supply of tree seedlings for students to plant at their schools and homes. Over the years, more than 50 speakers from more than 15 local, state and MSUE agencies have participated as guest presenters and speakers. A special guest this year was recently retired USDA/NRCS district conservationist Ben Loosemore, who shared his memories about



Todd Siegert, Forester—Packaging Corporation of America demonstrating how to plant trees

the very first event and the establishment of the Magoon Creek Natural Area back in 1983. To further commemorate the occasion, every student, teacher and parent that attended received a silver anniversary edition of the Magoon Creek program brochure and a specially packaged 2009 Washington D.C. quarter. Magoon Creek "Day with Nature" is planned by 4-H program staff of MSU Extension of Manistee county, and is sponsored by the Manistee County 4-H Advisory Council. We are always looking for new guest presenters with expertise in wildlife and conservation issues. Please contact Debra Laws at MSU Extension of Manistee County at 231-889-4277 or e-mail at laws@msu.edu.



*You are cordially invited
to attend the
Annual Meeting and Election of the
Manistee Conservation District
on Tuesday, October 27, 2009
at 6:30 pm at the offices of the
Manistee Conservation District
8840 Chippewa Highway (US 31)
Bear Lake, Michigan*

Board of Directors

*Glenn Lottie, Chair
Carol Pasco, Treasurer*

*James Sluyter, Vice Chair
Jeanne Crampton, Secretary*

*John Urka, Director
P. Samuel Robey, Honorary member*



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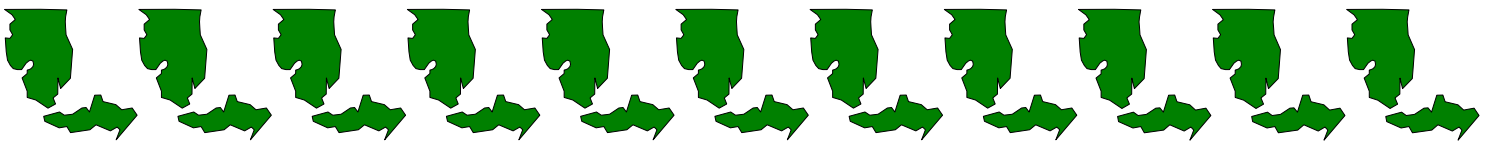


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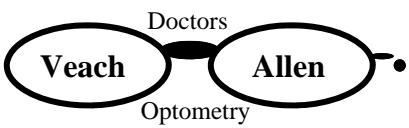
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