



# The Clearwater SWCD Conservator

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Winter 2013

**Our mission is simple** - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.

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Clearwater SWCD  
312 Main Ave N, Ste 3  
Bagley, MN 56621

Phone: 218-694-6845  
www.clearwaterswcd.org

## Think Spring: Order Trees for Spring Planting Today!

**It's time to order trees for 2013!** Whether you are looking to plant a couple dozen lilacs for a flowering border or several hundred spruce as a windbreak, we have the trees for you! We also offer special packages to attract birds, grouse and other wildlife.

We sell almost 40 different species that will be ready for pick up in April. We sell many established favorites such as Norway Pine and Red Maples as well as recently added species such as Black Currants and Riverbank Grapes. Trees are sold on a first come first serve basis.

Two interesting species we are offering this year, the Hackberry tree and Chokeberry shrub, are described on page two of this newsletter. A full order form is also inside!



Trees and shrubs clean our air, hold our soil in place and provide homes for many species of wildlife

## The Key to Water Quality is You



By Nathan Nordlund, Program Technician, Clearwater SWCD

**Conservation on private lands** often provides the greatest opportunity to restore and protect the waters we are blessed with. Installing buffers along streams and lakes, planting trees and utilizing good agricultural practices all help to keep our water clean. Ag producers, lakeshore owners and others partnering with the Clearwater SWCD allow us to fulfill our mission. Participation by private individuals is the key to addressing issues that are identified on our public waters.

The Clearwater SWCD has an annual lake monitoring

program to identify areas of concern. It was easy to complete all of our monitoring in 2012 due to the many calm, sunny days we experienced this summer. We found ourselves monitoring on Johnson, Peterson and Falk Lakes in the northeast quarter of the county and Minerva, Moose and Rockstad in the southeastern portion of the county. We also had great help from volunteers to collect data on Deep, Stony, Nels Olson, Daniel and Dahlberg.

Monitoring on these lakes was done with funding from a Surface Water Assessment Grant awarded to the Clearwater SWCD by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The Clearwater Lake Area Association also continued their yearly monitoring on Clearwater Lake as it has done most of

the past 20 some years.

The focus of our monitoring efforts is to assess water quality in our lakes. Total phosphorus is used as the indicator chemical. We compare the total phosphorus levels in each lake to levels set by the MPCA. If excess phosphorus is present, it reduces the recreational value of the lake by encouraging weed and algae growth. In these cases, we look at the contributing watershed to try and identify areas of concern that may contribute to the harmfully high nutrient levels. Most often, the results from our annual lake monitoring supports that we are blessed with exceptional water quality. However in cases where problems are identified, we rely on YOU as landowners to partner with us to restore and protect the waters we love and enjoy!

**Conservation at Work:** Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District recently won a Clean Water, Land and Legacy grant worth over \$119,000. ***This grant will allow us to prevent over 250 pounds of phosphorus and 130 tons of sediment from contaminating Clearwater County lakes and rivers!***

# Trees to Try in 2013



A young hackberry tree provides shade and wildlife habitat



Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage of the chokeberry shrub



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you are interested in Financial Assistance or would just like some technical assistance, please visit the NRCS office at 312 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN 56621. Or you may call 218-694-6584 ext 3. There are multiple steps and forms to fill out in the application process so please don't delay until the application deadline.

## Hello Hackberry!

Hackberry trees have so many great attributes and values that they should be considered for your planting project. Hackberry trees are native to Minnesota, but generally more common throughout central Minnesota and south. They are hardy through zone 3 which makes Clearwater County an ideal environment! Hackberry trees are a tough, moderately

fast growing tree. They can tolerate a wide range of soil and moisture regimes from wet to dry and still do well. Wildlife also utilize hackberry trees, eating the fruit and nesting in the strong branches. As mature and snag trees, hackberry trees last a long time and make good cavity trees for nesting and shelter. If you burn firewood, you will appreciate having the hard, dense wood in the stove

for hours of winter comfort.

With the recent arrival of the emerald ash borer threatening to kill nearly all of the ash trees in Minnesota, people are looking for species to replace the ash. Green ash trees have a well deserved reputation for being tough, resilient and tolerant. Hackberry is a great species to fill that expected void.

## Black Chokeberry — a Super Shrub

A little-known shrub that has recently been gaining some well-deserved press is the humble chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa*. The reason for its newfound fame is its extremely high concentration of antioxidants, flavonoids and anthocyanins. These compounds have shown to have remarkable health benefits. The food industry has also discovered chokeberry. Several companies are now including 'aronia' juice in their juice blends. Others are using chokeberry extracts as a natural source of very red and long-lasting coloring for food products.

The berries can also be processed and canned at home as juice, jelly or jam. The fruit is somewhat bitter and lacking in natural sugar so some sweetener may have to be added. Birds also like the berries. Grouse and many songbirds readily eat the berries in the winter. Because of their somewhat bitter taste, chokeberries are often left until winter. This can provide desperately needed food at a critical time for wildlife.

full sunlight. Chokeberry thrives on lower sites that are moist but well drained. They will tolerate moderate shade, various soils and moisture conditions except droughty sites. Chokeberry seldom grows to more than 4 feet tall.

Along with its gastronomical and nutritional delights, chokeberry is an adaptable, resilient and useful shrub to consider planting in the landscape.

Chokeberry is native to northern Minnesota although not especially common in our plant communities. It is very cold hardy. The best growth and fruit production occurs in

Tree species spotlight by Kathy Rasch, District Manager



## EQIP Funding Available for Tree Planting

**Do you have** a snow drifting problem? Would you like to shelter your house, barn or livestock from the wind? Would you like to save money on heating and cooling? A well-designed tree planting can help with all these issues. Furthermore a tree planting can provide a visual screen, buffer the noise of a blaring train, protect soil from erosion, beautify an area and even provide nuts and berries for wildlife and/or your own personal use.

Financial assistance is available for large tree plantings and the establishment of windbreaks and shelterbelts. To receive cost sharing, visit the NRCS

office to see if you are eligible for the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) program and fill out an application. EQIP applications are scored and ranked. Then they are compared to other applications in the area. Higher ranking applications are awarded contracts first. We have multiple ranking periods coming up for these EQIP applications. The deadlines to receive applications for each ranking period are as follows:

Ranking Period 1: Applications due 1/18/2013.

Ranking Period 2: Applications due 2/15/2013.

Ranking Period 3: Applications due 3/15/2013.

Ranking Period 4: Applications due 4/19/2013.

EQIP funding can also help with other practices such as fixing erosion issues by installing side water inlets, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins and filter strips. EQIP funding can also help you purchase a seasonal high tunnel, economically utilize your farm nutrients, set up a prescribed grazing system for your cattle or burn an area for grouse habitat.

By Brooke Knick, Soil Conservation Technician  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# 2013 Tree Order Form

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Ave N, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621

Phone/Fax (218) 694-6845 ■ www.clearwaterswcd.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Box

City

Zip

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your email address if you have one. We will use it to remind you when trees are in.

**This column  
is for office  
use only.**

## NEW: MULTI-VARIETY NATIVE SPECIES PACKS

Species	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
<b>Bird &amp; Grouse Small Pack:</b> Cranberry, Highbush (5); Dogwood, Gray (5); Hawthorne, Downy (5); Hazelnut (5); Nannyberry, Viburnum (5); <b>25 total</b>	same sizes as listed below	\$31.50			
<b>Bird &amp; Grouse Large Pack:</b> Cranberry, Highbush (25); Dogwood, Gray (25); Hawthorne, Downy (25); Hazelnut (25); Nannyberry, Viburnum (25); <b>125 total</b>	same sizes as listed below	\$132.50			
<b>Jam &amp; Jelly Small Pack:</b> Cherry, Pin (5); Chokecherry, Common (5); Grape, Riverbank (5); Plum, American (5); Serviceberry/Juneberry, Alleghany (5); <b>25 total</b>	same sizes as listed below	\$31.50			
<b>Jam &amp; Jelly Large Pack:</b> Cherry, Pin (25); Chokecherry, Common (25); Grape, Riverbank (15); Plum, American (25); Serviceberry/Juneberry, Alleghany (25); <b>115 total</b>	same sizes as listed below	\$123.00			

Multi-variety tree packs are in limited supply, order soon for best availability. **NO SUBSTITUTIONS.**

**Call us with  
any  
questions!**

Drought tolerance: T= tolerant; A= average tolerance; S= sensitive to drought; Acceptable site drainage:

Species	Drought Tolerance - Site Drainage	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
<b>Climbing Vine:</b> Grape, Riverbank (10)	T - P, M, E	12 - 18"	\$13.00			
Ash, American Mountain (25)	A - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Cherry, Nanking (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Cherry, Pin (25)	A - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Chokeberry, Black (25)	T - P, M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Chokecherry, Common (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Crab, Midwest Manchurian (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Crab, Red Splendor (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Cranberry, Highbush (25)	T - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Currant, Black (25)	A - P, M	12 - 18"	\$27.50			
Dogwood, Gray (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Dogwood, Red Osier (25)	A - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Elderberry, American (25)	A - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Hawthorn, Downy (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Hazelnut (25)	A - M, E	8 - 18"	\$27.50			
Lilac, Common (25)	A - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Lilac, Vilosa (25)	A - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Nannyberry, Viburnum (25)	T - P, M, E	12 - 18"	\$27.50			
Ninebark (25)	T - P, M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Plum, American (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Serviceberry/Juneberry, Alleghany (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.50			

## CONIFERS

Species	Drought Tolerance - Site Drainage	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
Cedar, White (25)	A - P, M	TR 8 - 16"	\$28.50			
Pine, Jack (25)	T - M, E	8 - 14"	\$20.00			
Pine, Red (Norway) (25)	S - M, E	6 - 12"	\$14.75			
Pine, Red (Norway) (25)	S - M, E	TR 8 - 24"	\$26.00			
Pine, White (25)	S - M	5 - 12"	\$14.75			
Pine, White (25)	S - M	TR 8 - 16"	\$26.00			
Spruce, Black (25)	A - P, M	5 - 12"	\$20.00			

**CONIFERS, continued**

Spruce, White (25)	S - M	5 - 12"	\$14.75		
Spruce, White (25)	S - M	TR 8 - 18"	\$26.00		
Tamarack (25)	A - P, M	6 - 12"	\$25.00		

**TALL TREES**

Species	Drought Tolerance - Site Drainage	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
Birch, Paper (25)	S - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Birch, Yellow (25)	S - P, M, E	5 - 12"	\$27.00			
Cottonwood, Siouland (25)	T - P, M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Hackberry (25)	T - P, M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Maple, Red (25)	S - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Maple, Silver (25)	T - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Maple, Sugar (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Oak, Bur (25)	T - M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Oak, Red (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Poplar Cuttings, Hybrid (25)	S - M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Walnut, Black (25)	T - M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			

TREE TUBES			COST	Quantity	Total Cost	Packed
Tree Tubes, 48"			\$3.75			
Stakes for tree tubes	call Clearwater SWCD to find out stake prices					

DEER REPELLANT	SIZE	Plants Treated	COST	# of Boxes	Total Cost	Packed
Plantskydd Pre-mixed Spray	1 Liter	100	\$20.00			
Plantskydd Powder	1 lb. Box	200-400	\$24.00			
Plantskydd Powder	2.2 lb. Box	400-800	\$44.00			

CLEARWATER COUNTY PLAT BOOKS		SHIPPING	COST	Quantity	Total Cost	Packed
2011 Plat Book (add \$3.00 and we will mail book to you)		\$3.00 (optional)	\$28.00			

I understand the Clearwater SWCD does not guarantee survival, size, or replacement of tree stock. Due to the perishable nature of the stock, the Clearwater SWCD will not be responsible for the condition of trees after pick up or if picked up after the scheduled dates. It is not the intent of the SWCD to compete with private nurseries.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost of Trees, Deer Repellants, Plat Books, & Shipping				_____
Add MN Sales Tax 6.875% (total cost x .06875)			+	_____
Example 1: \$27.50 x .06875= 1.890625 so your tax is \$1.89				
Example 2: \$108 x .06875= 7.425 so your tax is \$7.43			<b>TOTAL =</b>	_____
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     Make checks payable to Clearwater SWCD                 </div>				

Planting Site:  
 County \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMS**

Payment must accompany all orders unless other arrangements have been made with the Clearwater SWCD office. For assignments of payment through NRCS and FSA programs please contact our office to make arrangements. Tax-exempt individuals or organizations must have a tax-exempt certificate completed and filed with this office.

**TREE PICK-UP INFORMATION**

The SWCD office will notify you of any changes to the scheduled pickup dates. Please check our website for updates at [clearwaterswcd.org](http://clearwaterswcd.org). The pickup site is located at the DNR Forestry storage building north of Bagley on Hwy 92. Questions please call 218-694-6845 or email [kathy.rasch@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:kathy.rasch@mn.nacdnet.net) Pickup times and dates are as follows:

**Thursday, April 25th 4-6 / Friday, April 26th 3-7 / Saturday, April 27th 8-1. Due to staff shortages, prior arrangements must be made to pick up trees outside scheduled hours.**

**SWCD SERVICES & INFORMATION**

If you would like info on any of the following items please contact our office at 218-694-6845: Cost Share Opportunities; Tree Species Information; Tree Planter Rental; Custom Tree Planting Bid; SWCD Conservation Farm Educational Trails; Buffer Strip or Field Windbreak Information.

# Property Tax Reduction Through Forest Protection



Ever rising property taxes can make owning wood and forestland expensive when the tax statement arrives in the mail. As the cost of ownership rises it can become more difficult for individuals to keep up, particularly with larger acreages of wooded land. This can lead to sub-dividing and selling of parcels to reduce the tax burden or conversion from forestland. The resulting effect of these challenges can be fragmented and fractured forestland with reduced benefits.

Intact and well-managed forests and woodlands are important and offer many benefits to us. They provide habitat for many of our favorite and well known

wildlife including song birds, several frog species we enjoy in the spring, and mammals large and small. Forests provide valuable watershed protection. Wooded buffers along creeks, streams, lakes and wetlands prevent tons of soil, phosphorus and other pollutants from running into our favorite waters. Trees and woodlands are also very good at reducing flood damage in the spring and from big rainfalls. The tree and shrub canopy intercept the rain before it reaches the ground and reduce overall runoff into already full streams and rivers. These many functions make forests an asset to the individual landowner as well as the community at large.

Recognizing the benefits of forested land to all of us, the Minnesota Legislature created several programs to offset the property tax cost for owners of forestland who engage in sustainable forest management. The SFIA (Sustainable Forest Incentive Act) program and the 2C

property tax class are the two most used programs in our area. Both offer a substantial savings for landowners. While the details of the programs vary, common points they share include a minimum of 20 acres of mostly wooded land not used for agricultural production and the land can only be enrolled in one such program. Both programs require a current registered Forest Stewardship Plan from a Minnesota DNR-certified plan writer. This requirement is to ensure that standards of sustainable forest management are met.

For more information on these programs contact the Clearwater County Assessor (218-694-6260) or the Clearwater SWCD. For assistance with a forest stewardship plan you can contact Kathy Rasch, the certified plan writer at the Clearwater SWCD (218-694-6845), or contact the DNR Forestry office in Bemidji (218-308-2065) for a list of private certified plan writers.



Intact and well-managed woodlands are important and offer many benefits. Recognizing the benefits of forested land, the Minnesota Legislature created several programs to offset the property tax cost for owners who engage in sustainable management.

**Conservation at Work:** Clearwater SWCD has funding to help landowners install plant buffers along lakeshore, streams, wetlands and ditches. We can cost share and also pay incentives to qualifying partners! Call us to evaluate your site: 218-694-6845

## Links and resources for additional information

### Sustainable Forest Incentive Act Fact Sheet

[http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/propertytax/factsheets/factsheet\\_09.pdf](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/propertytax/factsheets/factsheet_09.pdf)

### Rural Preserve Property Tax Program (Fact Sheet 15) Minnesota Statutes, section 273.114

[http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/propertytax/factsheets/factsheet\\_15.pdf](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/propertytax/factsheets/factsheet_15.pdf)

### All Minnesota Department of Revenue Property Tax Fact Sheets

[http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/tax\\_prof/Pages/all\\_factsheets.aspx](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/tax_prof/Pages/all_factsheets.aspx)

### My Minnesota Woods – Property Tax and Incentive Programs for MN Forest Landowners

<http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/2011/03/property-tax-relief-minnesota-forest-landowners/>

### My Minnesota Woods

<http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/>







## Calling all River Rats—Canoe Route Proposed on Clearwater River

We have the opportunity to develop a great recreational resource in our own backyard: the Clearwater River. Clearwater and Beltrami County officials have expressed interest in developing a canoe route on the Clearwater River, but we need to enlist the help of volunteers like you who can guide the development of this route. If you have an interest in canoeing, kayaking or the outdoors in general, we need your help to develop this opportunity to its full potential.

Minnesotans are blessed with a myriad of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the state, but we often forget that some of the greatest places to explore are only minutes away. A float down the Clearwater River will bring you thorough some of the most pristine portions of our area. The Clearwater meanders its way through miles of beautiful North Country with many changing personalities. Landscapes vary from high country with giant pine trees to miles of wetlands intertwined with wild rice beds. Abundant wildlife including bears, wolves, bald eagles, deer, waterfowl and songbirds can be observed on a quiet float down this river. It is a naturalist's dream.

The challenge with the Clearwater River is that much of the river is very difficult, if not dangerous, to traverse. Deadfalls and log jams create an obstacle course of sorts, often forcing canoeists or kayakers into precariously dangerous situations. We intend to have just enough of the snags and log jams cleared to make a trip down the river a safe adventure, while preserving the habitat along the water's course. We have been in contact with the DNR to obtain permits if



necessary and to listen to their recommendations on how to proceed. Our ultimate goal is to ask for designation of part of the river as an official Canoe Route.

Maintenance of the river channel is one of the challenges to be addressed. Another is establishing access points along the river for people to utilize in the exploration of the river. The exact stretch of river to be developed is yet to be determined, but several good starting points have been established. There is already an established entry point along County Road 24 upstream of Clearwater Lake. Also, private landowners immediately below the Clearwater Dam have given their consent to launch vessels from that location. Further downstream a landowner has expressed interest in establishing an access point before the channelized section of the river as well. Abundant county-owned land along the river may also provide good candidate locations for parking and access point development.

The Clearwater River is a beautiful resource in our area needing your help to develop it to its full potential. Your input on the establishment of this canoe route would be much appreciated. Interested persons should contact Les Torgerson, Clearwater County Manager of the Red Lake Watershed District at [lestorgerson@yahoo.com](mailto:lestorgerson@yahoo.com) or by phone at 218-689-5533.

Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

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**Our mission is simple** - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.

**Conservation at Work:** The Clearwater SWCD is proud to offer 39 tree species for sale for planting in Spring 2013. Call our office with questions about sites or species and place your order today!

## Local Grant to Fund Septic System Fix-Ups!

**Clearwater County Environmental Services** has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to offer cost-share with low-income homeowners for the replacement of failing septic systems on homesteaded single-family home property in Clearwater County. It is likely that Clearwater County will receive funding sufficient for only 5 or 6 projects at a 50% cost-share level, and these projects will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis. Homeowners must demonstrate they meet low-income criteria of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and there must be a formal Notice of Non-Compliance issued by a licensed contractor for the septic system being replaced. Watch for advertisements in local newspapers to be published once funding is secured. **Submitted by Clearwater County Environmental Services**