

Clearwater Soil
and Water
Conservation
District

The Clearwater SWCD Conservator



Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2014

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.

Inside this issue:

NRCS Happenings	2
Recycling Changes	2
Insert: Tree Order Form	
Spotlight on Yellow Birch	3

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

Ph: 218-694-6845, ext. 4
www.clearwaterswcd.org

Clearwater SWCD: Our Mission is to Work with YOU

By Nathan Nordlund, Program Technician, Clearwater SWCD

The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local unit of government established in 1954, with the mission 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.*

To accomplish this, we work closely with private landowners and other units of government to increase conservation efforts on the ground.

There are a couple tools we employ to conserve our soil and water resources. The first is education. The Clearwater SWCD is a great place to come for information on how to protect or improve soil and water resources. We also

produce this quarterly newsletter which addresses current conservation issues, delivers updates on opportunities provided through the SWCD and shares news from our agency partners. Educational activities such as speaking with local classes, holding the annual Envirothon competition for students in grades 6-12, and providing a display at the county fair are other ways we educate school aged citizens and others. We have sponsored workshops on shoreline protection, manure management, wildlife habitat development and forest

management practices.

We also protect and enhance soil and water resources by providing financial assistance to private and public entities who install conservation practices on their land. These projects are generally funded through the Minnesota

(Continued on page 3)



A grant from the Clean Water Fund supported this beautiful shoreline restoration project on Pine Lake.

"A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of doing anything else" ...or is it????

By Kathy Rasch District Manager, Clearwater SWCD

Thousands of people will go to a lake this winter to experience the wonders of ice fishing. Perhaps it will be the snowmobile or 4-wheeler pulling the ice house out to the perfect spot. Some dedicated fishermen/women

will even be so brave as to drive their vehicles on the ice to their fish houses to post for their trophy. With so much going on above the water, it's easy to miss the potential of compromised water quality after the ice melts.

With so many people and fish houses on our lakes, vehicle-

related pollution has become a concern. One quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water, and one gallon of gasoline can pollute 750,000 gallons of water! Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in lakes, streams and rivers. Americans spill 180 million

(Continued on page 3)

Conservation at Work: Ever wonder how you can best care for you family's forestland? Then mark your calendar for the **Minnesota Family Woodlands Conference** in Bemidji on March 14-15! You will gain woodland management skills and insights from experts on trees, insects, wildlife, estate planning and more. For more information go to the "My Minnesota Woods" website at:

www.mymnnesotawoods.umn.edu

NRCS Happenings

NRCS is currently accepting applications for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

By Cari Roepke, District Conservationist, Bagley NRCS Field Office

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has 2 programs available for producers and landowners. NRCS is currently accepting applications for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

The EQIP program is the agency's largest Farm Bill conservation program. The program helps producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations and achieve other environmental benefits. EQIP provides financial assistance for a variety of conservation activities such as drainage water management, tree

establishment, tillage reduction, field buffers, rotational grazing systems and much more. The deadline for the next sign up is February 21, 2014. Additional signup deadlines include March 21, 2014.

The CSP program is available for producers and forest landowners. The program helps establish conservation stewards by taking their level of natural resource management to the next level. Landowners are able to improve both their agricultural production and provide valuable conservation benefits such as cleaner and more abundant water, as well as healthier soils and better wildlife habitat. The program emphasizes conservation performance. The producer earns higher payment for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, plant resources, animal resources and energy. Eligible

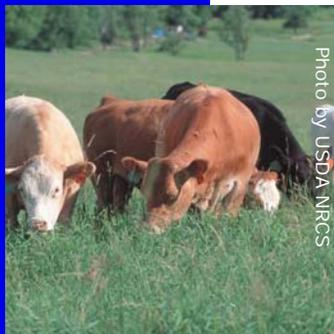
landowners and operators can enroll in CSP through February 7, 2014. A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. For the checklist or to learn more about CSP, visit the NRCS CSP website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

For more information about these programs or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS please contact us at 312 Main Avenue North in Bagley or call us at 218-694-6584, ext. 3.



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Rotational grazing systems support healthy beef cattle and healthy soils.

Recycling - An Easy Investment in Clearwater County

By Dan Hecht, Administrator, Clearwater County Environmental Services

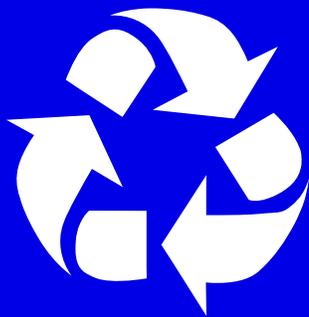
Those who use the recycling drop-off stations in Bagley and Clearbrook will notice different collection bins and different signs the next time you drop off your recyclable aluminum, tin, plastic, cardboard and paper. These new bins are owned by Listrom's Disposal of Bagley and serviced on a weekly route through a contract between Listrom's and the County. Listrom's will service these containers with a dedicated packer truck, so even though it looks like a garbage truck, this one is used only for recycling collection! You will notice the signs say "co-mingled" recyclables - this means that you no longer have to separate your various

materials at home; instead all the recyclables can stay mixed. Tin and aluminum, paper, flattened cardboard and plastic bottles are all collected together and the separating is done at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) over in Fosston at Polk County's Waste-to-Energy Facility (incinerator) to which Clearwater County has been a partner since the late 1980's.

Polk County's MRF is very efficient at separating recyclables, marketing the recovered material and thereby reducing the amount of revenue Polk needs from its partner counties to run the incinerator. We're not talking pocket change here either, as Polk's revenues range from \$200,000 to over \$500,000 annually from the sale of recyclables on a total facility budget approaching \$4 million,

so recycling is indeed meaningful to the cash flow in our solid waste system. This efficiency shows up in Clearwater's solid waste budget and in turn on all of our property tax statements because Polk uses the MRF to offset tipping fees for the rest of the incinerator operation. Provided that residents don't abuse this service by throwing regular trash in the recycling bins, Polk County will not charge Clearwater a tipping fee on the clean recyclables because of their value, so I urge you to use this recycling service, use it properly and tell others to do the same.

If you have questions, ideas or concerns on this subject please feel free to call or stop in at our office: Clearwater County Environmental Services, 218-694-6183, 2nd floor Courthouse.



2014 Tree Order Form

Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Ave N, Suite 3, Bagley MN 56621

Phone/Fax (218) 694-6845, ext. 4 ■ www.clearwaterswcd.org

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Street or Box

City

Zip

Email _____

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

Please provide your email address if you have one. We will use it to remind you when trees are in & also for our e-newsletter.

NEW: MULTI-VARIETY NATIVE SPECIES PACKS

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

SHRUBS, SMALL TREES, ETC.						
Species	Drought Tolerance - Site Drainage	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
Climbing Vine: Grape, Riverbank (10)	T - P, M, E	12 - 18"	\$13.00			
Cherry, Nanking (25)	T - M, E	18 - 24"	\$27.50			
Cherry, Pin (25)	A - M, E	12 - 18"	\$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	12 - 18 "	\$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 - 14"	\$26.00			
Fir, Balsam (25)	A - S, P - M	TR 8 - 14"	\$26.00			
Pine, Jack (25)	T - M, E	5 - 8"	\$14.75			
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	6 - 12"	\$14.75			
Pine, White (25)	S - M	TR 8 - 16"	\$26.00			
Spruce, Black (25)	A - P, M	5 - 18"	\$20.00			

CONIFERS, continued

Spruce, White (25)	S - M	6 - 12"	\$14.75		
Spruce, White (25)	S - M	TR 8 - 16"	\$26.00		
Tamarack (25)	A - P, M	4 - 12"	\$25.00		

TALL TREES

Species	Drought Tolerance, Site Drainage	Size	Price/Bundle	# of Bundles	Total Cost	Packed
Ash, Green (25)	A, P - E	12 - 18"	\$27.00			
Birch, Paper (25)	S - P, M	18 - 24"	\$27.00			
Birch, Yellow (25)	S - P, M, E	6 - 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, 60"		\$3.75			
Stakes for tree tubes	call Clearwater SWCD to find out stake prices				

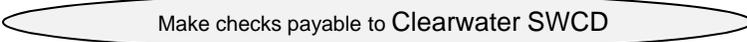
DEER REPELLANT	SIZE	Plants Treated	COST	# of Boxes	Total Cost	Packed
Plantskydd Powder	1 lb. Box	200-400	\$25.00			
Plantskydd Powder	2.2 lb. Box	400-800	\$44.00			

CLEARWATER COUNTY PLAT BOOKS		SHIPPING	COST	Quantity	Total Cost	Packed
2011 Plat Book (add \$5.00 and we will mail book to you)		\$5.00 (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.

** Denotes species which may not be entirely hardy in the county.

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	
TOTAL =	_____
	

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. 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.nacdn.net Pickup times and dates are as follows:

Thursday, April 24th 4-6 / Friday, April 25th 3-7 / Saturday, April 26th 8-1. Due to staff shortages, prior arrangements must be made to pick up trees outside scheduled hours.

SWCD SERVICES & INFORMATION

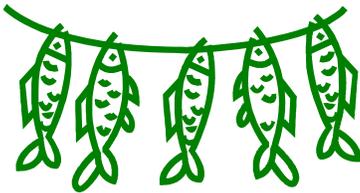
If you would like info on any of the following items please contact our office at 218-694-6845: Financial Assistance for Conservation Projects; Tree Species Information; Tree Planter Rental; Quotes for Custom Tree Planting; Tree/Plant Buffers Along Waterways and Wetlands; or Field Windbreak Information.

Ice Fishing Impacts

(Continued from page 1)

gallons of used oil each year into the nation's waters. This is 16 times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska. Studies have found that oil and petroleum products last a long time and stick to everything from beach sand to bird feathers, thus oil does not dissolve in water. These pollutants are toxic to people, wildlife and plants.

Debris left on the ice also can



have a serious impact on the water quality of any lake. Cigarette butts, trash, even pet and human waste may be left on the ice. Unfortunately, this contamination does not disappear when the ice does. These materials pollute our waters when the ice thaws and may even wash ashore in the spring.

Water "residence time" refers to the length of time required for water and other elements to "flush" through a lake. A lake with a short residence time, say less than one year, will react quickly to changes in pollution levels. If a lake has 6.5 years of residence time - whether positive or negative -

it means that the water in the lake takes that long to change. Calculations show that residence times for nutrients can be much longer. Too many nutrients fuel algae blooms making the water green and scummy. These extra nutrients may pollute the water for 30 to 40 years!

So when you head out to the lake this winter, make sure your vehicle is running well with no oil or fluid leaks and remember to leave the lake with everything you brought with you. Do your part to protect our lakes and keep them beautiful through all the seasons. Good luck fishing!



Cigarette butts, trash, even pet and human waste are left on the ice. These materials pollute our waters in the spring.

Conservation at Work: The Clearwater SWCD is proud to offer 40 tree species for sale for planting in Spring 2014. Call our office with questions about sites or species and place your order today!

Clearwater SWCD wants to work with you!

(Continued from page 1)

Erosion Control and Water Management Program, Clean Water Fund grants or various state grants. These partnerships allow us to install projects that protect and enhance water and soil resources in Clearwater County.

If you have a resource concern you would like to address on your property, please contact us to see how we can help you. Below are practices and services we offer to help you in your pursuit to conserve soil and water resources for your family and friends.

Practices potentially eligible for financial assistance:

•**Buffers on streams, lakes or wetlands** – using plants and trees to filter pollutants

from runoff

•**Exclusion fencing** – controlling livestock access to waterbodies to limit *E. coli* and sedimentation

•**Streambank restoration** – stabilizing streambanks to limit erosion

•**Lakeshore restoration** – limiting lakeshore loss with rip rap and specialized landscaping

•**Field windbreaks** – reducing soil loss from wind erosion

•**Unused well sealing** – protecting ground water from contamination

•**Side water inlets** – stabilizing vulnerable field edges from water erosion

•**Grassed waterways** – protecting field drainages with permanent vegetation

•**Rain gardens** – capturing

runoff and filtering pollutants with beautiful native plantings



Photo by Clearwater SWCD

Additional Services:

- Forest Stewardship Planning
- Windbreak design
- Custom tree planting
- Annual tree and shrub sale
- Water test kits available

A streambank restoration in Winsor Township protects water quality in the Lost River.



Introducing a Birch of a Different Color: Yellow Birch

Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Ph: 218-694-6845, ext. 4
www.clearwaterswcd.org

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.

By Kathy Rasch, District Manager, Clearwater SWCD

When talking about birch trees, most people think of the iconic paper birch tree with its distinctive papery white bark. Another birch tree present in the north woods of Minnesota, although less common than it used to be, is the Yellow Birch.

Yellow Birch is generally longer lived than its cousin, paper birch, with mature trees easily reaching 150+ years old and many reaching the age of 300 years. Mature yellow birch will reach heights of 90 feet and 45 inches in diameter when measured at about 4.5 feet from the ground.

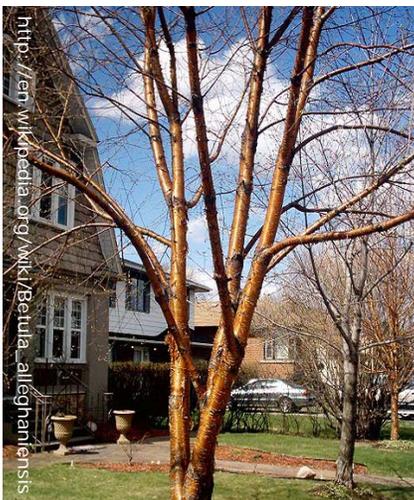
A unique characteristic of yellow birch is the wintergreen scent of the young twigs when they are scraped or crushed. Another identification feature that helps distinguish it from paper birch is the yellow to copper tone of its bark.

squirrels, ruffed grouse and many songbirds readily eat the seeds. Deer and snowshoe hares browse on seedlings, leaves and younger stems throughout the year.

If you are thinking about planting some trees in the spring, consider planting some yellow birch. Ideal sites for the establishment of this beautiful tree are rich, loamy soils with reliable moisture, although it will grow on a range of sites from rocky, drier sites to wet bottomland sites. It is moderately tolerant of shade as it becomes established. Seedlings can be purchased from the Clearwater SWCD through our annual tree sale.

For more information on this or any of the tree species we sell, please review our tree order form or call the SWCD at 218-694-6845, ext. 4.

Wildlife such as



A Yellow Birch in Thunder Bay, ON

Yellow birch is used by both people and animals. The wood of yellow birch is heavy, strong, close grained and even textured which makes it a good choice for furniture and cabinetry making, interior finishing, veneer wood, tool handles, woodenware and interior doors.



Yellow Birch foliage

Conservation at Work: Has the recent blast of winter weather left you shivering in the wind, stuck in the drifts or helplessly watching your soil blow away? Maybe what you need is a shelterbelt or windbreak to stop the wind and snow! A well placed windbreak or shelterbelt can also save dollars on monthly heating bills and cattle feed too. Clearwater SWCD has limited funding available to help with the cost of planting a windbreak or shelterbelt on eligible sites. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact the Clearwater SWCD soon to get more details, 218-694-6845, ext. 4.