

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2020

We began the year in 2020 with great optimism for outreach plans and watershed projects. Soon after a tree identification program sponsored by Calhoun Conservation District (CCD) was held at the Marshall District Library in late February, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted many plans for the year.

The Calhoun Conservation District has continued to operate remotely and by appointment. The spring tree sale and children's nature camp were unfortunately canceled. The tree seedling sale was rescheduled for October 8th and November 12th at the Calhoun County fairgrounds, with CDC and MDARD guidelines in place.

The engineering design and master plan for the Garfield Drain Restoration Project to restore a 1.5-mile stretch (3,500') of a Calhoun County Drain is complete. A permit has been approved by the Calhoun County Water Resources Commission and an EGLE permit is pending. Once the EGLE permit is granted, excavation work for the project will get underway.

In addition, the Nottawa Creek Watershed Management Plan – Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Branch, and St. Joseph Counties was approved for funding through the State of Michigan SAW Grant Program. The grant-funded project will begin once a project manager is hired.

With the obstacles aside, the Calhoun Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff continue to serve the public and make progress with watershed projects for the benefit of Calhoun County residents.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, thank you for your support towards conservation in Calhoun County, Michigan.

Thank you for supporting the Calhoun Conservation District. For more information on current programs and events, visit our website: www.calhouncd.org

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Calhoun Conservation District was created in 1945 and has been the leading local conservation entity for 75 years. The District partners with environmental and agricultural communities by coordinating conservation projects and programs throughout the Calhoun County and southwest Michigan.

Serving as a local source for individual and community assistance in natural resource management and education, the District strives to provide services and programs to meet the needs of the community.

Calhoun Conservation District

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ANNUAL MEETING Notice
- Canoe & Kayak Livery Finds New Home
- Fall Tree Seedling Sale planned for November 12
- Tree Seedling Order Form



CALHOUN CONSERVATION DISTRICT DONATES CANOE & KAYAK LIVERY

At the end of the summer in 2020, the canoe and kayak livery owned by Calhoun Conservation District was delivered to the Marshall Recreation Department (REC), with offices along the banks of the Kalamazoo River.

The vision and missions of the Calhoun Conservation District and the Marshall Recreation Department align with the common goal to serve the public and protect the natural resources.

A grant provided by the Kalamazoo River Community Recreation Foundation awarded the initial purchase of the livery. The over twenty canoes, kayaks, paddles and life flotation devices will enhance the current livery operated by the Marshall REC Department.

When spring arrives, the Marshall REC will have an expanded livery for the public to enjoy and study the aquatic life on the Kalamazoo River.

For more information on canoe and kayak rentals, call the Marshall REC Department at (269) 781-5166.

Kalamazoo Canoe & Kayak Guide; Paddling Through History in Calhoun County is available on the CCD website: www.calhouncd.org or by contacting the CCD office for a printed copy.

*“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”
- Christopher Reeve*



FALL TREE SEEDLING SALE PLANNED

NOTTAWA CREEK STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SAW GRANT AWARD

The Calhoun Conservation District was awarded a SAW grant in early spring 2020 administered by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

The main goal of the project includes creating a watershed management plan for the entire Nottawa Creek watershed to encompass all its designated uses.

Presently, the CCD Board of Directors is preparing the budget and a job description for a program manager.

For more information, please view the website at www.calhouncd.org or call (269)781-4867, ext. 5 to

When the Spring Tree Seedling Sale was canceled for the safety of volunteers and customers during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCD Board of Directors agreed to hold the tree seedling sale in the fall.

Many customers chose to keep their orders on hold. There were two pickup dates scheduled; based on when the seedlings were available by the growers. To plant tree seedlings in the fall, the stock must be dormant for successful growth in the spring.

The Conifer Tree Seedling Sale was held at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds on October 8th. The packaged seedlings were hand delivered to the customers in their vehicles. Additional seedlings not pre-ordered were available.

The planned date for the Deciduous Tree Seedling Sale will be Thursday, November 12th at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. Orders are accepted on a first-serve basis and the spring pre-paid customer orders will be honored

The tree seedling sales provide much needed financial support to conservation districts throughout Michigan. “We would like to thank the public who has been more than understanding with the changes. While we experienced a loss in sales and a non-refundable down payment for the spring seedlings, the responsibility for the safety of the public became our first priority. “

Maureen Reed, District Manager

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING “CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION”

Annual Meeting Election Notice

Marshall – Calhoun Conservation District (CCD) announced a one (1) open board vacancy to be filled at the Annual Meeting on **November 17, 2020**. Two candidates filed the Nominating Petition for the Conservation District Nonpartisan Election. Board candidates must be residents of Calhoun County and of legal age for eligibility to seek election to the four-year board term. In addition to proof of residency, a nomination petition, with at least five signatures of Calhoun County residents were required by September 18, 2020 to be placed on the election ballot.

Gregory Fountain and Margaret Oerther are the candidates whose names will be on the Annual Meeting Election Ballot to be held November 17, 2020. Absentee ballots for voting are available to all Calhoun County residents of legal voting age. The Calhoun Conservation District will provide each absentee voter with: A.) One ballot B.) One voter registration form and C.) One pre-addressed envelope to return the ballot and registration. Call the Calhoun Conservation District office at (269) 781-4867 ext. 5 or email at calhouncd@gmail.com to request a ballot today.

Calhoun Conservation District FALL DECIDUOUS TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING SALE									
								Website: www.calhouncd.org	
SPECIES	Size	Age	5 for	10 for	25 for	50 for	100 for	QUANTITY	PRICE
DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS									
Dawn Redwood	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Domestic Apple	18-24"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Sugar Maple	12-18"	2-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Northern Red Oak	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
White Oak	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
Tulip Poplar	12-18"	1-0,1-1	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Black Walnut	18-24"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
BROADLEAF SHRUB SEEDLINGS									
Highbush Cranberry	6-12"	1-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
Silky Dogwood	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
Common Lilac	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
Spicebush	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Winterberry	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
SMALL TREE SEEDLINGS									
Sargent Crabapple	6-12"	2-0 yrs.	\$16	\$26	\$44	\$62	\$94		
White Flowering Dogwood	18-24"	1-0,2-0 y	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Redbud	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$66	\$98		
Please include payment with order form.							TOTAL		\$
Write checks to: Calhoun Conservation District							6% SalesTax		\$
PAYMENT BY CHECK OR CASH ONLY							THANK YOU!	Total Enclosed	\$
NAME:									
ADDRESS:									
CITY, STATE, ZIP:									
PHONE:									
E-MAIL:									
Pre-order sales recommended for best selection.									
CCD reserves the right to cancel sale; if extenuating conditions exist.									
NOTE: Orders and pickup will follow CDC and MDARD Safety Guidelines									
Pickup Date: THURSDAY, Nov. 12th (10 am - 3 pm)									
Location: Calhoun County Fairgrounds, Marshall, Michigan									

FALL TREE SEEDLING PLANTING SUCCESS

Planting in the fall give trees an extra growing season before the stress of summer.

Cooler temperatures and fall rain allows trees to establish their roots, rather than foliage, and establish itself before winter.

-Arbor Day Foundation

Why its Great to Plant Trees in the Fall

arbordayblog.org

Tree-Planting Tips for Fall

How to Plant a Tree
in Your Garden

The Old Farmer's Almanac
almanac.com



AQUATIC EQUIPMENT BENEFITS ANNIE'S BIG NATURE LESSON

Every spring, Wilder Creek Conservation Club hosts Annie's BIG Adventure Nature Lesson for a week of outdoor learning.

Gordon Elementary School in Marshall began the yearly tradition, organized by science educators and staff, with the help of volunteers, to promote habitat awareness to young students.

To support the program, the Calhoun Conservation District donated waders, aquatic nets, and water sample test kits.

Though the Annie's BIG Adventure Nature Lesson was postponed for the spring of 2020, we all look forward to the return of the children and their educators next spring!

Visit Wilder Creek Conservation Club website for more information:

www.wildercreekconservationclub.org

CALHOUN CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROVIDES NO-TILL DRILL SPRING PLANTING

Marshall – Beginning in the summer of 2019, an innovative approach to protecting native habitat for pollinator birds and insects had the DNR-owned no-till drill on the road in a big way. Throughout qualifying Michigan counties, eligible landowners enrolled in a CRP conservation program to plant native wildflowers and grasses along the perimeter of their properties. The benefit of additional plantings contributes to saving ever-decreasing fields of flowers and grasses that attract the birds, bees, and butterflies for pollination.

After a successful planting year in 2019, the Calhoun Conservation District was provided a new no-till drill from the DNR to replace the older equipment. The no-till drill will be ready for use again in the spring of 2021 to participating landowners.

Four agencies worked together locally to promote the pollinators. Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Farm Services Agency, MI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Calhoun Conservation District partnered to coordinate the program. Landowners receive help with expenses, learn the best type of seeds and practices, and are loaned the no-till drill planter for a reasonable rental fee.

Calhoun Conservation District, located at 13464 Preston Drive in Marshall, promotes conservation practices locally. Call 269-781-4867 ext. 5 or visit www.calhouncd.org to learn more about conservation projects offered in your area.



CALLHOUN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE