



Benzie Conservation District Fall Seedling Sale Fundraiser & Newsletter

September 2009



We make caring for the environment easy for you!

OUR MISSION:

To encourage and assist people in preserving, managing and enhancing Benzie County's natural resources through services, education

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEEDLING ORDERS DUE: MONDAY **SEPTEMBER 28**
ORDER PICK-UP: FRIDAY, **OCTOBER 9TH**
9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Benzie Conservation District 64th Annual Meeting
November 17th (see back cover for details..)

This catalog is generously sponsored by area businesses committed to resource conservation efforts in Benzie County:



North Star Organics
1139 Forrester Road
Frankfort, Michigan 49635 USA



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A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR...

A little more than midway through the calendar year, the Benzie Conservation District finds itself teetering on the edge of many possibilities. While there are some scenarios out there that are less than favorable, I'll be focusing (mostly) on the positive possibilities and events. The following is by no means a complete rundown of all the activities in which the District has been involved.

The District had a successful Spring Seedling Sale with *close to ten thousand seedlings* passing through the office and finding their way into the various sandy loam plots and plantations around our county. Many thanks to those folks who looked to the District for their supply of seedlings, and to the volunteers that came out during that nice April weekend to help process the orders. We'll keep offering the Spring Sale (and fall) as a way to generate some revenue and also as a way to connect the Conservation District with the community. Earlier this year, Crystal Lakes and Watershed Association's own Stacy Daniels graced our doorway to present a *very informative presentation on the American Chestnut Tree*. Stacy, along with support from the District and many other corners of the county, is working to establish some healthy groves and landscaping accents using this beautiful species. Later in the spring, we invited Jim Barnes of Eco Building Supplies to *educate us on energy efficiency and 'living green'*. The lunch session was well-attended and Jim had some great suggestions for our daily living as we move into a more environmentally friendly mindset.

This early summer, thanks the ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) money, the Cooperative Weed Management Area, of which the District is a part, was able to coordinate several Garlic Mustard eradication sessions around the county. It was our good fortune that *Bob Weaver and the staff at Road Commission agreed to dispose of that invasive species*, having buried several hundred bags over the span of a few weeks. In addition, we hosted a Garlic Mustard Cook-off, *expertly facilitated in the Beulah Park by Suz McGlaughlin*, which was a great success. The District was also able to work in tandem with the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council and a Michigan Works! crew to brush back overhanging branches and other leafy obstacles on the Trail between Beulah and Thompsonville – a twelve mile stretch! So, we've been busy.

Finally, we've had the good fortune to have an intern on staff this summer, Connor MacHugh of Frankfort. Many of you may know Connor as the tall, bushy-haired wait-staff at the Manitou Restaurant, owned by his parents. But he's put in many hours here, as well, updating mailing lists, helping with the Michigan Works! crews and generally helping out in the office where needed. A stipend for Connor's internship has been generously provided by the *Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation*.

I can't let this summary end without mentioning the *fiscal health of this office*. In FY 2008-09, the state grant to each district was set at \$11,605. Midway through this year, and because of the state's budget woes, we were reduced to under \$10,000. For the new fiscal year starting October 1, we are slated to get nothing – zilch, zero, nada. It is for this reason that *the Board of Directors has authorized the District to ask the Benzie County Board of Commissioners for permission to hold a millage election in 2010*. A \$7.00/year (seven dollars) tax per \$100,000.00 of home value would enable us to keep our doors open and to provide the programs, services and advise that many in the community have come to expect and appreciate. The state has set up the Districts to be the leaders in local conservation efforts – and in Benzie County we have plenty of beauty to preserve. Now I ask you: is \$7.00 a year too much to pay for environmental stewardship?

All the Best,



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Cota, Chair
Sally Cook, Vice Chair
Doug Cook, Treasurer
Stephen Fouch, Director
Cheryl Kobernik, Director

STAFF

Tad Peacock, District Administrator
Dan Busby, Environmental Outreach Coordinator
Scott Hughey, NRCS District Conservationist
Connor MacHugh, Intern, U of M

Connor MacHugh

Tad Peacock



New Summer Intern Joins the Benzie Conservation District.

Joining the Conservations district this summer is twenty year old Connor MacHugh. Connor started as an intern with the Conservation District in May and will continue his work into the end of August. Connor is going to be a junior at the University of Michigan this year and hopes ultimately to pursue a career in environmental law. His duties at the Benzie CD have included office work, reception, upkeep of office, and field work projects such as brush clearing and maintenance on the Betsie Valley Trail, and water sampling in the Herring Lakes watershed.





Benzie Conservation District 2009 Fall Seedling Sale Fundraiser

Seedling & Transplant Species Descriptions

White Spruce

Height: 60 to 75'

Christmas-tree shape and blue-green needles compliment your yard. Holds branches to the ground for full windbreak and wildlife habitat. The best spruce for wet sites.

Picea glauca



Balsam Fir

Height: 40 to 60'

Aromatic tree with strong, soft needles. Popular uses include yard and Christmas trees. Plant in shade for color and cover in northern hardwoods.

Abies balsamea



Jack Pine

Height: 30 to 50'

The hearty jack pine lives where no other tree can survive! If you have a dry, barren area, jack pine is your tree. Be sure to provide it with plenty of sunlight.

Pinus banksiana



Common Juniper

Height: 2 to 5'

A sprawling shrub whose berry-like cones provide winter food for birds, deer and small mammals. Will grow in a variety of open, dry habitats.

Juniperus communis



Red Pine

Height: 60 to 80'

Fast growing pine for sandy soils. Straight, tall stems create natural fence or windbreak. Plant a red pine plantation as an investment!

Pinus resinosa



Hemlock

Height: 80 to 100'

Graceful, yet bold, appearance beautifies yard and woods. Plant under hardwoods for winter color and wildlife cover. Extremely shade tolerant.

Tsuga Canadensis



White Pine

Height: 80 to 100'

Michigan's State Tree! Soft needles welcome a variety of songbirds. Provides privacy and protection from wind. Favored by the turkey as a roost tree.

Pinus strobus



White Cedar

Height: 50 to 60'

Best tree for privacy screens. Fast growing in loamy sand soils. Known historically for medicinal uses, great for attracting Cedar Waxwing and other songbirds and deer.

Thuja occidentalis





Benzie Conservation District 2009 Fall Seedling Sale Fundraiser

Dunegrass, Seed & Conservation Product Descriptions

Dunegrass

Ammophila breviligulata

Excellent means of natural erosion control . Forms dense cover in sandy areas. Comes bareroot in bundles of 500 stems. Plant 8-10" deep, two or three stems per hole on an 18"x18" grid. Covers approx. 1,000 ft².



Sandy Wildflower Seed Mix

Eighteen wildflower and two grass varieties specially mixed to plant in sandy soils. Included in the perennial mix are: Lead plant, Butterfly weed, Sand tickseed, Prairie coreopsis, Catsfoot, Western sunflower, Rough blazing star, Wild lupine, Wild bergamot, Horsemint, Yellow coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Early goldenrod, Gray goldenrod, Showy goldenrod, Goat's rue, Common spiderwort, Hoary vervain, Little bluestem and Big bluestem.



Eco-Turf Grass Seed

Reduce lawn maintenance time and costs with this slow growing, deep-rooted fescue mix as an alternative to traditional turf grasses. No intense watering, mowing or fertilizing required. Best to plant mid-late August through September.



One pound covers 200 ft². For larger plantings, spread at 200 pounds per acre. Small quantities are available for immediate pick up!

Plantsydd Repellent

100% natural, environmentally friendly, non-toxic animal repellent can provide up to six months of effectiveness against deer, rabbits and other animals.



Powder Concentrate

A one-pound box makes four quarts of liquid repellent.. Spray on plants and shrubs and allow for 24 hours drying time to foster rain resistance.

Granules are shaken on the ground around gardens and homes to repel rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and other small mammals.

One-liter Spray Bottle sprays directly on foliage for long-lasting protection.

"Trees Planted" Signs

Protect your investment by showing others where you've planted your trees with this corrosion resistant aluminum sign. Available in orange or yellow.



Terra-Sorb Planting Gel

Terra-Sorb Planting Gel is a super-absorbent, potassium-based gel that significantly increases the water-holding capacity of soil. It absorbs up to 200 times its weight in water and slowly releases it to nearby plant roots. Terra-Sorb will repeatedly absorb and release water for several years.



Terra-Sorb helps prevent bareroot tree loss due to dry and dysfunctional roots, improves survival and growth rates of tree seedlings after planting, does not contain sodium and is easy to use. A one ounce packet will cover 1,000 seedlings.





**Benzie Conservation District
Seedling Sale Fundraiser - Fall 2009**
Orders Due: Monday, September 28, 2009
Pick Up Date: Friday, October 9, 2009

BCD Office Use Only	
Order #	
Paid	
Receipt	

The Benzie Conservation District is proud to offer only native Michigan tree species

Conifer Seedlings	Size	Number of Trees					Quantity	Cost
		500	250	100	50	25		
White Spruce, 2-0	6-12"	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$32	\$20		
Jack Pine, 2-0	6-12"	\$110	\$69	\$36	\$22	\$14		
Red Pine, 2-0	6-12"	\$125	\$85	\$50	\$30	\$19		
White Pine, 2-0	6-12"	\$135	\$102	\$55	\$32	\$21		
Balsam Fir, 3-0	6-12"	\$240	\$150	\$78	\$48	\$30		
Common Juniper, 2-0	6-12"	\$230	\$144	\$75	\$46	\$29		

Transplants	Size	Number of Trees					Quantity	Cost
		100	50	25	10	5		
Balsam fir, plug+2	10-20"	\$230	\$131	\$80	\$38	\$23		
Hemlock, plug+2	12-18"	\$202	\$125	\$75	\$32	\$21		
White Cedar, 2-1	5-10"	\$99	\$74	\$52	\$21	\$15		
White Pine, 2-2	18-24"	\$115	\$81	\$59	\$25	\$15		
White Spruce, 2-2	18-24"	\$105	\$60	\$42	\$30	\$21		

Dunegrass and Seeds	Size	Price	Quantity	Cost
Dunegrass (500 plants per bundle)	24-36"	\$53		
Sandy Wildflower Seed Mix	3.5 grams	\$4		
Eco-Turf Grass Seed	*Eco-turf grass seed	1 lb	\$10	
Eco-Turf Grass Seed	can be picked up	10 lb	\$75	
Eco-Turf Grass Seed	anytime!	25 lb	\$150	

Conservation Products	Size	Price	Quantity	Cost
Plantskydd Repellent - Powder Concentrate	1 lb. (Makes 4 Qts)	\$26		
Plantskydd Repellent - Granules	1 lb.	\$12		
Plantskydd Repellent - Spray Bottle	1 liter	\$23		
Terrasorb Planting Gel	1 oz.	\$4		

ORDERS DUE: Monday, September 28 TREE PICK UP DATE: Friday, October 9 <i>Phone: 882-4391</i>	Handling Fee:	\$3.00
	Subtotal:	
	Add 6% Sales Tax:	
	Donation:	
	Grand Total:	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail with payment to: Benzie Conservation District, P. O. Box 408, Beulah, MI 49617
PICK UP TREES AT BENZIE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE
Friday, October 13, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

HERRING LAKES WATERSHED UPDATE ~ 2009



Watershed-wide monitoring of total phosphorus and *E. coli* levels has continued this spring and summer, with the latest samples being taken on August 20. These new samplings will further contribute to the baseline of data already collected; the Watershed Council is well on its way to establishing information to help understand what's going on in the basin. The overarching goal of the testing is to determine what types and at what levels, pollutants are entering the watershed (and therefore, the Herring Lakes) and then to come up with an action plan to address those issues. Bill Henning, Fred Oeflein and Dave Long have led the charge, with a supporting cast of concerned members lending their insight to the project. With a little more data, the Council will begin the task of identifying points in and around the watershed that are cause for concern and begin to analyze what might be done to help lessen the effects on those beautiful bodies of water that so many enjoy. Funding for this project is provided entirely by private donations - thank you to all who have made contributions over the past year.



Considering updating to a new Iphone or Shimmer, going to toss the old model in the garbage? Well, before throwing away the old clunker for a sleek new phone consider that according to the Environmental Protection Agency the materials gathered by recycling old cell phones could power 18,500 U.S. households for a year. Currently only 10% of the 140 million cell phones replaced each year are recycled. It is urgent to recycle phones due to the toxic chemicals like lead and chromium, as well as useful plastics and metals such as copper that can be recovered. Despite all these benefits the populace in general has been slow to adopt the idea of recycling old cell phones. Apparently size can be blamed for this more than anything else, cell phones are easy to throw in a drawer and forget or to just toss in the trash because they are so small and lightweight. The environmental advocacy group INFORM estimates that up to 1 billion used phones are languishing in landfills or in peoples homes. The Benzie Conservation District is doing its part to help by serving as a drop off point for discarded phones, just bring them in and the good folks at the Benzie Conservation District will do the rest. They are also accepting used batteries and inkjet cartridges so make it a day and clear your home of all that old electronic refuse.

Conservation District Tackles Erosion Problems for Local Citizens.

Crystal Lake Township: The Benzie Conservation District and the Northwest Michigan Youth Conservation Core teamed up recently to tackle the prevalent problem of dune erosion. The site was the shoreline home of Dr. Elizabeth Hosick, located within the Crystal Downs Golf and Country Club. The problem of dune erosion is well known to Dr. Hosick and her landscape manager, general contractor and right-hand man Ted Liakopoulos, who originally contacted the Conservation District this early spring. The home of Dr. Hosick was moved from its original spot in 1979, fifty feet back from the edge of the drop-off due to the eroding dune. But even that move of many years ago was not enough ~ as much as six inches of dune is being lost every season, by Mr. Liakopoulos' estimates. With this information in mind it was decided that planting native dune grass would be the most efficient way to halt, or at least slow, the erosion process. To this end five thousand stalks of dune grass were planted along the ridgeline of the dune. When asked about the effectiveness of this method the head of the Benzie Conservation District, Tad Peacock, stated "The addition of dune grass to the site should act as a natural anchor slowing and hopefully halting the erosion of the dune. However, there are no guarantees when it comes to Mother Nature!". Dune erosion is not just a problem for Dr. Hosick; the Conservation District will be addressing more





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YES!

I support the Mission of the Benzie Conservation District and I believe that providing public natural resource assistance to private landowners in Benzie County is a vital service that should be maintained. I understand my contribution will aid District programming including, but not limited to: *Environmental Outreach & Education, Invasive Species Awareness & Control, Water Quality Management, Forestry Assistance and Recycling.*

NAME: _____

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STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

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- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____ |

Would you like us to publicly acknowledge your support? YES NO

Mail this form along with your check or money order to:

Benzie Conservation District • P.O. Box 408 • Beulah, MI 49617
Phone: (231) 882-4391 • Fax: (231) 882-9767 • www.benziecd.org

Your contribution is deductible from federal income taxes. A donation receipt will be mailed to you promptly. Please keep that receipt as a record of your charitable contribution for income tax reporting purposes.



Benzie Conservation District 64th Annual Meeting

Open House 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17, 2009
At the Conservation District Office
Light refreshments will be served.

Join the Benzie Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff as we celebrate 64 years of serving the community. We will have a brief business meeting during the open house; information on the year's accomplishments and upcoming challenges will serve as lively topics for the afternoon.

**This is a free event and all members of the public
are encouraged to attend.**



**Benzie Conservation
District**
P.O. Box 408
280 S. Benzie Blvd.
Beulah, MI 49617
Phone: (231) 882-4391
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