



2019 Tree Sale Catalog and SCD Winter Newsletter

300 Walnut St., Room 216

Manistique, MI 49854

Phone: (906) 341-8215

Email: schoolcraftcd@macd.org

Web site: www.schoolcraftcd.org

ORDER DEADLINE IS APRIL 12th

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“Help the Earth ... Plant Trees!”

Tree Sale Pick-Up Dates

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Worthy Tree-Related Quotes:

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.” Chinese proverb

“A society grows great when old men plant trees under whose shade they know they will never sit.” Greek proverb

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Order Form	Center Insert
Invasive Species Information	pg 3-4
Seedling care and tree spacing	pg 4-5
Hardwood species	pg 5-6
Conifer species	pg 6-7
Wildlife shrubs	pg 8-9
Fruit trees	pg 9-11,14
Supplies and equipment	pg 13
Resource Needs Assessment Survey...	pg 15-16
Conservation District Newsletter	pg 17-19

LOOK OUT For These INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS:

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Commonly referred to as “bamboo”, these plants can seem attractive to amateur gardeners but they are infamously difficult to contain or remove once established. We have heard and seen horror stories of the damage these plants can do, including cracked foundations and water pipes. With funding and the help of concerned citizens, we have been able to map and treat many infestations in Schoolcraft County, but there is much yet to do. We will continue to work with landowners and other concerned citizens to help remove this menace from our private and public lands before it spreads further. Many of the people we talk to about this plant have known about it for years without realizing what it was, so please learn how to identify it by going to www.misin.msu.edu and report any sightings to the Schoolcraft Conservation District.

WILD PARSNIP: Saving Your Skin!

Wild Parsnip is a particularly nasty invasive plant that can cause severe burns on the skin of those who come into contact with it. Unfortunately, it is also a very common weed along roadsides and fields of Schoolcraft County. Thanks to recent grants, the Conservation District has been able to step up efforts to combat this scourge. We’ve spent many hours and miles mapping infestations, and analyzing this data to come up with recommendations for a roadside mowing schedule that will help keep the species in check rather than furthering its spread. Additionally, physical and chemical treatment of this plant has been conducted on some areas where they pose a clear danger to people. It’s important for everyone to learn how to identify this plant, to keep from getting burned and so that you can report infestations to us. Learn more about this nasty plant and other invasive plants at www.misin.msu.edu.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE and PHRAGMITES: Wetland Weeds

L2L CISMA (Lake-to-Lake Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area; Alger, Delta, Marquette, and Schoolcraft counties) staff and volunteers have in the past participated in mapping and treatment of Purple Loosestrife and *Phragmites*. Both species tend to be found in inhospitable, mucky areas along shorelines, ditches, and swamps, but they can spread to take over yards and beaches. These are among the highest priority invasive plants in our area due to their ability to spread quickly and aggressively. We urge everyone to report infestations as soon as possible since the most efficient and effective treatments take place on smaller patches, and as they get to a certain size, they can require treatment by tracked vehicles and even helicopters, both of which are expensive. Please visit www.misin.msu.edu for more information, and report any sightings of these plants to the Schoolcraft Conservation District.

TREE SPACING RECOMMENDATIONS

Landowners putting in large plantings should consult with the Conservation District prior to tree planting for more detailed information.

<u>Type of Planting/Tree</u>	<u>Spacing</u>	<u>Quantity to Order</u>
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Reforestation:

Red/White Pine	7' x 8'	780/acre
Spruce or Fir	6' x 8'	910/acre
Hardwoods	12' x 12'	300/acre

Windbreaks:

Conifers	7' x 9'	15/100' row
Shrubs	6' x 10'	17/100' row

Christmas Trees:

All Firs and Spruces	5' x 5'	1,740/acre
Scotch Pine	6' x 6'	1,210/acre

Wildlife Shrubs:

Scattered clumps (6') or 3'-8' spacing

Fruit & Wildlife:

Standard Apple	25'-30' spacing	50-70 per acre
Peach, Plum & semi-dwarf Apple	15'-20' spacing	110-190 per acre
Crab Apple & Pear Trees	20'-25' spacing	70-110 per acre

Beach Grass for Erosion Control

12"x12" to 18"x18"	500-1,000 culms per 1,000 sq. ft.
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CARE OF SEEDLINGS

- * Seedlings should be packed and shipped in wet moss or other medium, kept cool (less than 37 degrees F), and kept moist throughout the planting process. Bare root exposure to sun and wind can kill a seedling in less than 30 seconds.
- * Plant seedlings as soon as possible after they are received, keeping the roots moist throughout the planting process.
- * If storage is necessary, store seedlings in a cool, moist, shaded location, and for no longer than 7 days. If longer is needed, refrigerate. Do not stack bundles for a prolonged period of time.
- * If planting is delayed longer than 7 days after receipt, "heel-in" the seedlings in a shaded area and keep them moist, or refrigerate.
- * To "heel-in" seedlings, dig a trench in the soil, place the seedlings in the trench and cover the roots with soil. If done properly, they can remain heeled-in for a year.
- * Avoid dipping roots into water as moisture retaining particles will be washed off. Mist seedlings to keep them moist, or use Tera-Sorb®.

A Note on Bare-Root (B-R) vs Containerized Seedlings:

Many of our species offerings come in both types. Containerized "plugs" tend to be slightly more expensive, but they offer the benefits of being easier to plant and generally have better survival rates. You will like them! If offered, please indicate the type and appropriate cost when ordering.

HARDWOOD SPECIES

Exciting New Offering:

Bucks Unlimited Oak® (Swamp White, *Quercus bicolor*)

This specialty swamp white oak is specially bred and grown to produce acorns within a few years of planting. Plants are a containerized type, and are ~3 feet tall and in a 3-gal pot. These trees offer earlier flowering and fruiting, have greater survivability, faster growth on a variety of sites, and superior mast production! These trademarked trees are zoned for our area, but due to the manner in which they were developed and grown, their cost is higher than normal. We have already sold 75% of our available quantity, so place your order quickly. Best in full sun or partial shade, and in average to well-drained to moist or wet soils. SCD plans to survey buyers of these trees to track the success of early acorn production. **Price Each \$26.50**

(5)

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

A symmetrical, medium sized tree. Develops a short massive trunk in the open, with a broad crown. Does best on deep, rich loamy soils, but does well on sandy soils and wet sites. Needs full sun. Wildlife cover and an acorn food source.

Price (B-R 2'-3'):	\$3 ea	5 for \$12	10 for \$18	25 for \$34
Plugs (12"):	\$3 ea	5 for \$12	10 for \$19	25 for \$36

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

A stout tree with very large acorns, making it good for wildlife. Is also a good timber tree, and grows on a wide range of sites, and does well on dry, gravelly, sandy soils. 12"-18" seedlings; 12" Plugs.

Price (either)	\$4 each	5 for \$12	10 for \$19	25 for \$38
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Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Another good tree for wildlife, timber or shade. Needs a little better site with more moisture, and grows best in full sun in moist to wet deep acidic soils. Moderate growth maturing at 50'-75' tall, and 40'-70' spread. Good shade tree! Root system allows it to grow well in areas that are flooded in spring but markedly dry in summer. Trees provide cover for birds and mammals, and the acorns are sweet and are an important wildlife food for squirrels, mice, deer, beaver, black bear, and a variety of birds including ducks and turkey. 12"-18" seedlings.

Price:	Each \$4	5 for \$14	10 for \$21	25 for \$40
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White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Shade intolerant, fast growing.. Typically grown in clumps of two or three for ornamental purposes. This species is suited to large area plantings.

Price (B-R 2'-3'):	Each \$3	5 for \$12	10 for \$18	25 for \$34
Plugs (~12"):	Each \$3	5 for \$8	10 for \$12	25 for \$20

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

A favorite native northern hardwood. Shade tolerant, relatively fast growing, and long-lived. Sprouts vigorously. Used for maple syrup and lumber, and is a preferred deer food. 12"-18" B-R seedlings.

Price:	Each \$4	5 for \$14	10 for \$22	25 for \$41
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CONIFER SPECIES

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)

Likes sun to partial shade, moist well-drained soil. Prefers cool conditions. Conical shape with narrow crown making it a prized Christmas tree. Needles 3/4" long, dark green, with rounded ends. Very fragrant, and moderately fast growing.

Price (B-R 12"-18"):	Each \$4	5 for \$17	10 for \$30	25 for \$59
Plugs (3"-4"):	Each \$2	5 for \$8	10 for \$13	25 for \$25

(6)

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Michigan state tree! Lush, soft-needled pine grows rapidly and well under many site conditions. Used for privacy, wildlife, timber, and Christmas trees. 14"+ seedlings.

Price: Each \$3 5 for \$9 10 for \$13 25 for \$24

Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

This medium-sized tree grows to a height of 25 to 50 feet, and a diameter of 1 to 2 feet. Leaves are evergreen, scale-like and abruptly pointed with a spicy fragrance when crushed. Likes sun, but is fairly shade tolerant. Excellent cover and food for deer. Prefers cool, moist, nutrient-rich sites. Plugs 3"-4".

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$7 10 for \$10 25 for \$18

Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

Does well on a wide range of soil types from well-drained sandy soils to heavier clay soils, in full sun to partial shade. Beautiful ornamental and Christmas trees. Excellent for windbreaks, soil stabilization, and wildlife cover. 10"-15" bare root seedlings.

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$7 10 for \$12 25 for \$23

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

Needles are 1" long. Limbs hang downward giving the tree a graceful look. Fastest growing of all spruces. Easily transplanted, does best in loamy soils of average moisture, tolerates full sun to full shade conditions. Beautiful hedges, wildlife cover and highly recommended for windbreaks. B-R 10"-15", Plugs 12".

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$7 10 for \$12 25 for \$22

Plugs: Each \$2 5 for \$6 10 for \$9 25 for \$15

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

Native Michigan spruce, generally hardier than Norway spruce. Beautiful green color, and grows narrow, straight, and tall. Tolerates most soil conditions and can withstand wind, heat, cold, drought, crowding, and some shade. Good for windbreaks, pulp, and timber. 10"-15" B-R seedlings.

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$7 10 for \$12 25 for \$23

Eastern Larch (Tamarack) (*Larix laricina*)

Nice, soft-needled small to medium sized tree (30'-60' in height). Deciduous - its green needles turn a beautiful gold color before they are lost in the fall. Makes good shade in summer while allowing sunlight in winter! Tends to be a fast grower. Prefers full sun.

Price (Plugs 6"-18"): Each \$2 5 for \$6 10 for \$9 25 for \$16

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Lush soft-needled evergreen and is important for wildlife as cover. Tolerates full sun and shade, but prefers partial shade. Grows to good size. Plugs 6"-10".

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$8 10 for \$13 25 for \$23

Red or Jack Pine (*Pinus resinosa* or *banksiana*): 3-0, 8"-16" B-R seedlings

Price: Each \$2 10 for \$7 25 for 11 100 for \$36
(7)

WILDLIFE SHRUB SPECIES

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Common throughout the state in open, wet places; lake shores, stream banks, swamps, marshes, and sand dunes. Valuable as a landscape plant because of its showy red stems. One of the most highly preferred deer food. 1'-2' B-R seedlings.

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$8 10 for \$14 25 for \$26

Lilac (*Syringa* sp.)

Fast growing, height 15'. Will not tolerate wet soils. Needs full sun to bloom. Long lived. Drought resistant. Large fragrant flowers. 1'-2' B-R seedlings.

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$8 10 for \$14 25 for \$28

American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*):

Fairly productive native shrub of the eastern U.S. and a great wildlife food provider. Thicket-forming shrub that grows to a height of 8 to 15 ft. Yellowish-brown catkins are showy in late winter and early spring. Edible nut with ragged papery husk. Fall color varies from bright yellow to deep wine-red.. The tasty nuts are highly prized by cooks for their easy-to-crack shells and small, sweet kernel. Hazelnut hedges can be used as windbreaks, visual screens, and to attract wildlife. 2'-3' seedlings.

Price: Each \$4 5 for \$15 10 for \$28 25 for \$55

Serviceberry (Juneberry, Shadbush) (*Amelanchier alnifolia*):

This handsome shrub has outstanding blue-green foliage, delicate 2" flower clusters and brilliant red and yellow fall color. The pea size, purple fruits make fantastic pies and preserves. Reaches 6 to 10 feet in height and are highly esteemed and used to improve the flavor of less desirable berries. Not only humans love these fruit - wildlife of all varieties will come for a taste! Strongly recommended for all native plant gardens. 8"-12" seedlings.

Price: Each \$3 5 for \$12 10 for \$21 25 for \$40

Cranberry, High-Bush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Deciduous border, hedge, or screen shrub that reaches 8'-12' in height. Red fruits and colorful fall foliage. Prefers full sun to partial shade, and moist, acid soil. Fruit is highly prized by wildlife. 2'-3' tall seedlings.

Price: Each \$2 5 for \$9 10 for \$17 25 for \$33

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Another great wildlife shrub with showy red fruit in the fall and holding on through the winter. Grows in average, acidic, medium to wet soils in full sun to partial shade. Good tolerance for poorly drained soils. It is a deciduous holly with no insect or disease problems. 6"-12" plants.

Price: Each \$3 5 for \$12 10 for \$18 25 for \$35

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

Shade-tolerant species useful in landscape plantings as shrub borders, taller barriers, hedges, and windbreaks. It produces good seasonal displays of flowers, fruits, and fall leaf color. The fruits are sweet and edible and are eaten by many species of birds and wildlife. 12"-18" seedlings

Price: Each \$3 5 for \$12 10 for \$18 25 for \$35

(8)

Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*):

A great northern flowering small tree (10'-30' tall, 15' spread) that has showy white flowers, great fall colors, and produces a fruit that is desirable to birds and wildlife. 12"-24" B-R seedlings.

Price Each \$2 5 for \$8 10 for \$14 25 for \$28

POLLINATOR SEED MIXES

These pollinator seed mixes are a composite of native Michigan seed with no invasive species. Formulated for the Upper Peninsula, and each mix is comprised of numerous types of wildflowers to give benefits to many kinds of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. 1 ounce packages. **Price \$18 each.**

Please specify the quantity and type of seed mix desired (Dryland/Upland, or Lowland) when ordering.

FRUIT TREES

NOTE: Two varieties of pear/plum/apple trees are needed for good pollination unless noted otherwise.. Please check the species description when deciding what to purchase, or contact our office for help.

NOTE: If you are ordering any combination of fruit trees totaling 10 or more, you may take \$1 off per fruit tree!

CRAB APPLE TREES (*Malus*)

5' to 6' Trees Priced as Shown

Red Splendor

Foliage is glossy reddish-green turning reddish purple in fall. Fruit makes excellent food for wildlife. Small bright red fruit is persistent through winter. Extremely cold hardy for northern regions. Drought tolerant. Prefers full sun. **Price \$31**

Thunderchild

Very popular! Foliage is deep purple with pink flowers. Fruit makes Excellent food for wildlife. Extremely cold hardy for northern regions. Drought tolerant. Resistant to fire-blight. Prefers full sun. **Price \$37**

APPLE TREES (*Malus*)

Cortland

S-M&, 11/16". An older, well-known variety. Medium-sized and bright red with a sprightly flavor. White flesh holds its color well after being cut. Excellent for eating and cooking. **Price each \$30**

Fireside

Std, 11/16", Large red-striped fruit with a sweet pleasant flavor that is excellent, and good for eating. Resistant to cedar-apple rust. **Price each \$32**

Freedom

S-M7, 11/16", The red fruit is large and good for eating, sauces, and juice. Flesh is crisp and juicy with a slight tart flavor. Vigorous and productive tree which wa developed for disease resistance. Immune to apple scab and resistant to mildew, cedar-apple rust and fire blight. **Price each \$30**

Honeycrisp

Std., 11/6", An exciting apple variety that is exceptionally crisp and juicy. Flavor is sweet and well-balanced. Excellent storage life for up to 7 months. **Price each \$33**

Honeygold

Std, 11/16", Medium to large yellow apple with a crisp, juicy and sweet fruit. Excellent for eating and cooking. **Price each \$32**

Jonathan

S-M7, 9/16", Fruit is medium-sized, round and bright red. Good for dessert or cooking. **Price each \$29**

Liberty

S-M7, 11/16", A productive variety resistant to apple scab and cedar-apple rust. Fruit keeps well into mid-February. **Price each \$30**

McIntosh

Std, 7/8", Another well-known older variety that has a sprightly flavor and a medium storage life. Heavy bearer of nearly solid bright red-skinned fruit. Good for eating and baking. **Price each \$30**

Red Prairie Spy

S-M7, 11/16", A very productive variety that is best for baking. Long storage life. **Price each \$30**

State Fair

S-M7, 9/16", Medium sized red striped fruit that is good for eating and baking. Good texture, an all-purpose apple. **Price each \$28**

Wolf River

Std, 11/16", An old variety, hardy and long lived. Best known for large size fruit - up to 5" diameter. Primarily used as a cooking apple. **Price each \$29**

Yellow Transparent

A long-time favorite of many. White flesh with a clear yellow skin. Early season apple (late July) that is a heavy producer. Best for cooking. Pick before maturity for better storage life. Scab resistant. **Price each \$28**

Zestar

S-M7, 11/16", Wonderful new apple cultivar from the Univ. of MN. An early apple that is crisp and juicy. Good storage life for an early season apple and is excellent for fresh eating and cooking. **Price each \$32**

****The best production comes from apple orchards with at least three varieties****

CHERRY TREES (*Prunus*)

Evans Bali

Deep, dark red fruit 1" in diameter and excellent for baking and fresh eating. The fruit is much sweeter than other sour cherries. Extremely hardy buds. Self-fruitful. **Price each \$35**

Lapin

A deep beautiful dark mahogany red cherry with some of the largest and juiciest cherries. Wonderful for baking and cooking. Self-fruitful. **Price each \$27**

PEAR TREES (*Pyrus*)

5'-6' Tall with diameter $\geq \frac{1}{2}$ "

Luscious — Produces a medium to small bright yellow pear with a beautiful red blush. The fruit is very juicy, and deliciously sweet. A very vigorous grower will mature at a height of 20-25'. It prefers full sun & well drained soil, is fire-blight resistant and extremely hardy. Requires pollinator. **Price each \$33**

Early Gold — A variety of Ure pear with improved vigor, chlorosis resistance, and iron-clad cold hardiness. Abundant white flowers in spring produce yellow fruits. Use Ure for pollination. Trees may be 11/16" or 1" diameter. **Each \$32**

Ure — Fruit is green-yellow, very juicy, and about 2" in diameter. Has sturdy branching and is good for eating and canning. Use Golden Requires a pollinator. **Price each \$32**

PEACH TREES (*Prunus*)

Contender

11/16". A freestone peach with bright yellow flesh. Sweet, extra-juicy fruit is an absolute delight for fresh eating, canning, baking and freezing. Self-pollinating. **Price \$38**

Redhaven

7/8". One of the finest early peaches with a beautiful red and golden yellow color. Flesh is firm, smooth-textured, medium size, round, uniform and appealing. Good for freezing, canning, and shipping. Disease resistant, and one of the hardier peaches. Fruit seeds heavily and must be thinned to reach size. **Price \$35**

SCD 54th Annual Meeting

The 54th annual meeting of the Conservation District, as described in the SCD Winter Newsletter later in this catalog, will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at the First Baptist Church in Manistique. The dinner is being catered by Linda Smith of the Upper Crust Bakery and Deli. Tickets are \$13.50 each, and are available from the SCD office or from any SCD Board member. Please join us for a brief meeting, an interesting presentation by Mr. Bill Banzhaff, a great meal, a terrific Silent Auction, and as always a good assortment of door prizes! Doors open at 5:30, with music and socializing until dinner at 6:30 with meeting, speaker, and prizes to follow.

SCD 2019 Board Meeting Schedule

(Fridays at 9:30 am, 2nd floor conference room of the Schoolcraft County courthouse)

February 15

March 8

April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

August 16

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

**Schoolcraft County Conservation District
Resource Needs Assessment**

We believe that decisions on conservation issues should be made at the local level by local people. Completing and returning this survey to our office by April 12 will help us work on the most important needs as identified by our residents.

OPTIONAL: By providing your contact information, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 certificate towards items from the Tree Sale Catalog:

Name: _____

Email or phone: _____

1. In which township(s) of Schoolcraft County do you own property?

Check the top 3 Water Quality topics on which you feel the Conservation District should focus:

- City / Village stormwater runoff Drinking water
 Farmland water runoff Groundwater
 Aquatic Invasive species Lakes Rivers / streams
 Septic systems Wetlands Other (please explain):

3. Check the top 3 Forest topics on which we should focus:

- Invasive species Management options
 Wildlife (what species: _____)
 Recreation / hunting access Other: _____

4. Check the top 3 Quality of Life / Human Behavior topics on which we should focus:

- Household chemicals (proper use and disposal)
 Invasive species / native plants Lawn and garden
 Parks and open space Recycling / proper garbage disposal
 Septic systems Water runoff/soil erosion
Other: _____

5. Please list any topics not listed above, that you would like to see the Conservation District address?

6. The Schoolcraft Conservation District provides the following programs and services. Which are you aware of? (Check all that apply.)

- Forestry Assistance Program Tree Sale Annual Meeting
 Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)
 Wildlife / habitat planning Soil Erosion/Sediment Control permits
 General information/referrals on natural resource questions

7. What programs and services would you like the Schoolcraft Conservation District to add to help you, your land, and the community?

Continued on back of this page (pg 16)

SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SCD) WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

The conservation district is beginning 2019 with a greater sense of opportunity than in the past, thanks to improved funding from the recently passed millage. A two-phase project is critical to the success of Schoolcraft CD at this time, as we work to organize ourselves to operate on a larger scale in the future.

Our project begins with a Resource Needs Assessment (on previous two pages): a survey and interview process used to understand the needs, issues, and desires of our community with regards to the wise use of natural resources in Schoolcraft County. This assessment should be completed by the end of spring.

Following the Resource Needs Assessment, we'll be working on a Business Plan; a high-level plan to address the needs in our conservation district that were identified and prioritized with the assessment. The Business Plan documentation should be completed by the end of summer. When the district works on fiscal year 2020 budget planning in September of this year, we will be guided by this business plan. But 2019 will see more than planning for the future!

SCD will hold our annual tree sale this spring. We're excited about some new offerings, especially a selection of Swamp White Oak that produces acorns in abundance at an early age. After the loss of hard mast in our forests due to Beech Bark Disease, these trees represent an attempt on our part to encourage the planting of a viable alternative to beech until we can restore native beech with disease resistant strains.

We have begun work to apply for the Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative grant again this year. In the previous two years, we've improved deer habitat in Schoolcraft county by building food plots near winter range areas within the county. We hope to be approved for a more extensive project this year.

We will hold the grant-funded Scrap Tire Drive again this year too. We're sending a teacher to the DNR Academy of Natural Resources. We're offering a small cash scholarship to graduating seniors from Schoolcraft county who are continuing their education in the area of natural resources with the goal of a certificate, an Associate degree, or Bachelor's degree. We are also looking at an opportunity to cooperate on the DNR's Wildlife Habitat Grant later in the year.

Thank you for supporting your conservation district!

Best regards,

Tom White

Schoolcraft Conservation District Board

Careers in Natural Resources

The SCD is encouraging local students to consider a career in natural resources. We are offering two \$500 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree in a natural resources field. Also, as details become available later this spring, we will be publishing information about two career-exploration camps for high school students, one held in Eagle River, WI and one in Roscommon, MI. These can be a great way for students to find out if a natural resources career is right for them.

In addition, the SCD has planned a panel discussion for Manistique students on February 25. The following speakers will be discussing their careers and the training that led to their work: Corey Barr, Superintendent of Water and Wastewater for the City of Manistique; Sheila Clark, Wyman Nursery Manager; Randy Espinoza, Thompson Fish Hatchery Biologist; and Tori Irving, MDNR Forester.

SCD Battles Invasive Species in Schoolcraft County

The 2018 field season was a busy one for invasive species work in Schoolcraft County.

Phragmites has been managed since 2013 in the county. Of over 50 infestations mapped on the Lake Michigan shoreline, almost all have been treated and significantly reduced. In 2018, 'mop-up' treatment was conducted on many properties in the Thompson area. The total area treated was about an acre -- a great improvement over the 30+ acres originally mapped. Another two and a half acres was also treated on newly-discovered sites, and we thank landowners for reporting these sites that we would not have known about otherwise. We have good information about *Phragmites* on the lakeshore and at sites visible from the road; but we need your help to find other patches. *Phragmites* can flourish in out-of-the-way wetlands, on your back 40, or on sites where construction, grading, or timber harvesting equipment has brought in soil contaminated with invasive plant fragments. Please report these to us if you find them! Some additional funding to continue our *Phragmites* program has been secured, and we want to put it to the best use possible.

Japanese knotweed, and its cousin, giant knotweed, is another high-priority invader which can damage concrete and house foundations as well as spread unchecked across fields and forests. In 2015, crews surveyed Manistique city streets and roads throughout the county. They discovered nearly 100 infestations, far more than the available grant money could treat. Crews have been chipping away at the list every year since then. In 2018, 25 sites received either new treatment or repeat treatment. As with *Phragmites*, we are asking landowners to report any sites our crews would not have seen during their surveys

Wild parsnip, an invasive plant which can cause severe skin burns, was also treated at 15 different sites, mostly near roadsides where it could be easily spread by mowing equipment. In addition, over 40 acres of management was conducted at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, mostly on glossy buckthorn, a scourge of wetlands.

Schoolcraft Conservation District is a member of the Lake to Lake Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (Lake to Lake CISMA), a coalition of partners from Schoolcraft, Alger, Marquette, and Delta Counties sharing resources to more efficiently manage invasive species. This partnership has made these great strides possible.

Even with the best efforts of SCD and its CISMA partners, though, there is never enough funding to hit all of the invasive species and sites in the county. Your Conservation District staff makes difficult decisions on which sites are highest priority, where limited funding can be used to do the most good. Often, grantors strictly limit what species or sites are eligible for treatment. For these reasons, SCD can't promise they will be able to assist all of the landowners who would like help with their invasive species. However, in order to be considered, you must file a signed, current permission form. If you are interested and have not sent in a permission form, please submit one to the Conservation District office well in advance of the field season.

SCD and its partners are always seeking more funding to continue battling invasive species on land and water. Keep an eye on our website for updated information!

Annual Meeting- March 11, 2019

Our District's 54th annual meeting is coming up soon. It will be held at the First Baptist Church in Manistique, and the meal is being catered by Linda Smith of the Upper Crust Bakery & Deli. Tickets are \$13.50 each and are available from the SCD office, or from any of our Board members. Our speaker this year is Mr. Bill Banzhaf with the title of his presentation being "A Young Forester Comes to Manistique in 1922." Bill has extensive forestry background, has historical family ties to the Manistique area, and lives in the area after retiring from various forestry roles in the Washington D.C. area.

There will be folks present to answer questions you may have on invasive plants, NRCS assistance, or forestry assistance. There will also be informational brochures for you to take home to read or study. As usual, there will be a great Silent Auction with many nice items to bid on, and an assortment of door prizes for those who attend. There will also be a brief business meeting which will include elections for three board members. Please plan to attend, and get your tickets soon!

Forestland Financial Assistance and Upcoming Area Meetings

Now that the Federal Farm Bill has been approved the Conservation District is ready to continue with sign-ups for financial assistance to private forest landowners for forestry, wildlife and stabilization/restoration projects. For those of you who already have contacted us, we didn't forget you, we will be contacting you shortly. For those of you who haven't yet, you haven't missed a thing. Contact our office at (906) 341-8215 and someone will take down initial information. After that we will contact you for a personal office visit to establish what forestland projects you want to do and the best/easiest financial program to meet your needs.

There will be a pair of forestry education meetings coming up on May 7 and May 14. This is a great local opportunity to find out about free or low-cost forestry programs available to help you manage your forest land. These two meetings will be the same, so attend whichever one is most convenient for you. Contact our office to register for or get more information on these meetings.

New Wetland Bills Approved for Michigan

Did you know that three independent boards have now been created in Michigan to provide oversight to the DEQ & the states wetland regulations have been rewritten?

Environmental Rules Review Committee (SB 652) – this committee reviews any administrative rules that the DEQ wants to adopt.

Environmental Permit Review Committee (SB 653) – this committee would hear disputes related to permits and/or permit applications. Also, under this specific law – if a landowner wants to further appeal a permit application decision, he/she can appeal the unfavorable decision to an environmental permit review panel by submitting a petition to the DEQ director. This panel would consist of different members than the original review committee.

Environmental Science Board (SB 654) – this board would advise the governor and any state offices, department, or agency on issues affecting the environment or the management of natural resources in the state.

All business conducted by the three review groups mentioned above must take place at public meetings held in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Rewrite Wetland Legislation (SB 1211) – The discussion of this bill's changes in Michigan's wetland legislation is too large to discuss in this newsletter. The most important parts that private landowners should be excited about are (1) the new definition of a wetland, and (2) the change in regulations for forest roads in wetlands.

Whenever any work is done in potential wetlands, deciding if it is a wetland, or what regulations may pertain, can be confusing. The Conservation District offers this service to any private landowner who needs help. Please contact our office for assistance - (906) 341-8215.