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May 2015 Newsletter

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Check out our Summer Events at the Manistee CD--see attached brochure

Join Us for the Arbor Day Celebration in Onekama, May 9!

The Onekama Parks & Recreation Committee invites you to join us at North Point Park at 10 AM on SATURDAY MAY 9TH to Celebrate Arbor Day!

The day will begin with Josh Shields, Manistee CD forester, discussing forest diseases and invasives, followed by a planting of several larger trees in our new arboretum. Please join us for this project, and bring "work gloves and a shovel." The Portage Lake Watershed Forever will again distribute free trees and native bushes for you to take home. So, join us for a fun and informative day at North Point Park in Onekama.



May 16th GARLIC MUSTARD COMMUNITY WORKBEE AND LUNCHEON

Calling all volunteers. Don't miss the Pick-and-Eat Garlic Mustard Workbee, only a week away!

Saturday, May 16th, marks another annual garlic mustard pull at Magoon Creek, followed by a wonderful garlic mustard luncheon and two featured speakers--Katie Grzesiak, Invasive Species Network Coordinator, and Josh Shields, Manistee Conservation District Forester. The event is sponsored by the Invasive Species Network and its partners, including the Manistee CD. Please join us, as many volunteers are needed to help us remove a persistent and aggressive invasive that chokes out important native plants in high quality



natural areas. Volunteers will assemble at 9 am at the United Methodist Church in Manistee, 387 First St. From there, we'll proceed to Magoon Creek where we'll work in teams until 11:30, and return to the United Methodist Church for a free garlic mustard luncheon and presentations by our featured speakers. All are welcome, and the luncheon is free of charge to all volunteers, \$10 to the public.



EARTH DAY RETROSPECTIVE

Despite wind, rain, and snow, many Manistee residents turned out for our Earth Day Celebration, tree planting, and signage inauguration at our 40-acre plot in Kaleva on April 22. John Urka spoke about the history of the plot and the benefits of selectively harvesting the red-pine forest, first donated to the



Conservation District in the middle of the last century. At the time, it appeared resistant to any kind of forestation, so beach grass was

planted first, followed by red pine seedlings. Since 1952, there have been 3 harvests of the plot, yielding close to \$30,000.



John Urka

Josh Shields, MCD forester, followed with a brief overview of how to use a planting bar, and those in attendance then dispersed in pairs to plant white pine seedlings.



Marv Reed

May Events Calendar

5/9: Arbor Day Celebration, North Point Park in Onkama, - pm

5/16: Garlic Mustard Workbee & Luncheon Meet at United Methodist Church, 9 am & proceed to Magoon Creek, returning to the church at noon for a garlic mustard luncheon and presentations by Katie Grzesiak & Josh Shields.

5/11: MCD Board of Directors meeting at AES offices, 5:30 pm.

5/12: "Wildflower Walks in Pete's Woods," 10 am-noon. For more information, go to [Plant It Wild!](#)

5/20: "Prairie Power: Reducing Your Lawn with Native Plants," 7 pm. For more information, click the Plant It Wild link above.

Plant Your Wildflower Seed Mix NOW



Early May through early June is the optimal time to plant a pollinator habitat in your garden or on your acreage. Mother's

Day through Father's Day is the general rule of thumb for wildflower seed planting. The Manistee Conservation District carries a custom mix of native wildflowers especially designed for sandy soils. In fact, it's affectionately referred to by our seed company the "Manistee Mix." You can order your mix directly from our website store at www.manisteecd2.org

No-Till Drill Rental Here!!

Call us about renting our no-till drill for the summer. The cost is \$10 per acre; \$80 minimum. Questions? Call the district and ask for Scott Hughey or Susan Spencer: 231-889-9666, ext. 3

CONSUMERS AND MI INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY SEEDLING DONATION

This spring, Consumers Power and Michigan International Speedway (MIS) partnered with Michigan Association of Conservation Districts to help promote the planting of eastern white pine seedlings throughout Michigan, as part of the "On Track to a Greener Michigan" program.



Consumers Energy and Michigan International Speedway have teamed up with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts to plant 50,000 white pine seedlings across Michigan. In Manistee County, 650 eastern white pine seedlings were provided to local organizations as part of tree planting events. Consumers and MIS, the sponsors of this program, paid for these seedlings and Manistee Conservation District distributed them in Manistee County. The goal of this partnership was to support conservation efforts across the state.

In Manistee County, three organizations received eastern white pine seedlings through *On Track to a Greener Michigan*. On April 21st, 500 eastern white pine seedlings were donated to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). GTRLC planted these seedlings in non-forested areas at Arcadia Dunes: the C.S. Mott Preserve, located at the Manistee and Benzie County Line, just north of Arcadia. On April 23rd, 50 seedlings were donated to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI). The LRBOI planted these seedlings as part of their Earth Day Celebration at Aki Maadiziwin residential area. Finally, on April 29th, 100 seedlings were donated to the Big Bear Sportsmans Club. These seedlings were planted as part of a forestry educational event with 6th grade students from Kaleva. Seedlings were planted at the Big Bear Sportsmans Club property in Kaleva. Josh Shields, forester with the Manistee Conservation District, helped with the planting efforts during all three events.

Why have Consumers and MIS become involved in conservation practices such as planting tree seedlings? To quote a representative from Consumers Energy, "Consumers...has adopted sustainability as a company-wide goal. That means we operate with a fundamental commitment to leave our company and state better than we found them. We strive to fulfill the needs and wants of our generation without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same." To quote MIS President Roger Curtis, "MIS takes great pride in knowing that our green initiatives have made a significant, positive impact to the environment and sport of auto racing, and we continue to do different things to move forward with those initiatives. It's the right thing to do to protect our environment. Our brand at MIS is very much an environmentally friendly one."

Visit our website at www.manisteecd2.org.

Wishing you a safe, splendid Memorial Day!