

Manistee Conservation District Summer Newsletter, 2019



8840 Chippewa Highway, Bear Lake, MI 49614

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR OUR...

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2019 NATIVE PLANT SALE & Workshop *by Susan Spencer*

Our 3rd year selling natives!



Since the first Native Plant Sale in 2017, the Manistee Conservation District has worked to increase

local interest growing native plants, annually offering diverse native species in flats and quarts. Native plant enthusiasts can order a surprising variety of wildflowers, from Cardinal Flower and Blue Vervain to New Jersey Tea and Wild Lupine, as well as various prairie grasses.

New native nursery in Traverse City

This year, most of our plants will be supplied by Birdfoot Native Nursery, a new Traverse City nursery dedicated exclusively to the sale and promotion of native plants. Owner Garrett Noyes opened the nursery in 2018 after working closely with fellow native

nurseryman, Vern Stephens, for a number of years. Garrett is a self-described transplant to Michigan, having moved to the area from northern New England about 8 years ago with his wife, Blythe. Since relocating to Michigan, he has been committed to starting a native nursery, allowing Garrett and his wife to combine their passions for natural resources and growing native plants.

On the 14th, the workshop portion of the day will begin at 10 am and the plant sale will follow the workshop at 12:30 pm.



Fostering appreciation of the "fragile natural environment of our region"

The value of planting native species has gradually increased in the awareness of local gardeners and growers. This is due, in large part, to the work of Plant it Wild, a group devoted to promoting Michigan's ecological environment using native plants. Plant it Wild's mission is to foster "greater awareness and appreciation of the fragile natural envi-

ronment of our region." The group hosts a number of workshops throughout the season on the value of native habitats and the hazards posed by invasive or exotic species. Find out about upcoming events on their website at <http://plantitwild.net/>. Plant it Wild has been a partner in the Manistee Conservation District's Native Plant Sale since the event was first offered at the MCD.

Why plant native?

Native plants typically adapt to poor quality soils due to their extensive root systems. They are also drought tolerant and can out-compete weeds without being aggressive. Even more important, once they are fully established, native plants require less maintenance. With proper installation practices, establishment can occur in less than 2 years.

This year, the online pre-order period for our Native Plant sale is now through June 9th. Specialty garden flats, single-species flats, and quarts can be ordered by visiting our [web-site store](#) and clicking on Native Plant Sale Inventory for 2019.

In addition to the pre-order option online, there will also be individual quart and gallon-sized plants at the native plant sale on June 14th. People are asked to RSVP for the workshop by calling 231-889-9666, x3. Click below for a copy of this year's [Native Plant Sale brochure](#), or visit our online store at www.manisteedc2.org.

AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY WORKSHOP & LUNCH, JUNE 29

On Saturday, June 29th, 2019, the Manistee CD will present an Aquatic Plant Survey Workshop, hosted by Bear Lake resident, Rich Russell, at his property on Bear Lake. The address for the event is 12851 Hopkins Forest Drive on the west shore of Bear Lake, 49614.

The central focus of the workshop will be citizen science and providing a primer on lakes and what riparian owners can do to protect and enhance their lakes. Topics covered will include lake ecology, aquatic plants, shoreland stewardship, Michigan's volunteer lake monitoring program, and much more!

The workshop will be led by Dr. Jo Latimore, aquatic ecologist and senior outreach specialist in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. She works closely with MSU Extension and Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations to promote the understanding and stewardship of aquatic resources. Her recent work focuses on volunteer monitoring of Michigan's streams and lakes, community-based approaches to watershed management, natural resources leadership development, and science communication, with an emphasis on aquatic invasive

species. She holds a Ph.D. in fisheries and wildlife from MSU and a M.S. in biological sciences from the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Latimore will be accompanied by Erick Elgin, aquatic ecologist and water resources educator with Michigan State University Extension. Erick works to promote and research the wise use, protection, and restoration of our freshwater systems. His recent efforts have focused on aquatic plants, lake management, natural shorelines, and improving the knowledge of decision makers to make sound water management decisions. Erick holds an M.S. in

aquatic ecology from the University of Calgary and a B.S. in natural resources management from the University of Minnesota.

The workshop is part of the Manistee Conservation District's commitment to increasing local Citizen Science initiatives in Manistee County. Recently, a Citizen Science Task Force was formed at the MCD, to assist with stream and water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate identification, invasive species issues, and empowering the local community to take an active interest in learning the science of the ecosystems in which they reside. The workshop will include a light lunch and refreshments, and will start at 11:00 am and continue until 3 pm. Please **RSVP** by 6/26 by calling 231-889-9666, x3.

HELPFUL PRODUCE SAFETY ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR FARMERS

BY MICHELLE JACOKES



"Produce Safety?" "What is that exactly?" "How do I know whether or not the Produce Safety Rule applies to my farm?" "What does it mean to be 'in compliance'?" "Am I going to have to change everything I do on my farm?"

These are questions typically asked in response to information regarding the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Most farmers also want to know how this is any different than what they've already been doing.

The advent of the Produce Safety Rule prompted many questions among growers and the agricultural industry in general. In the face of such questions, it was determined that state-by-state efforts would need to be developed to provide tools and resources to growers, both those covered under the rule and those not covered but wanting to follow the most current produce safety practices.

As a result, the On Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) took shape. It was created so that produce safety professionals could visit a farm on a *voluntary* and *confidential* basis to assess and identify current practices on the farm, and determine how they fit with the Produce Safety Rule requirements. The OFRR is an assessment tool that educates growers about produce safety on the farm, identifies areas of improvement, and helps growers prepare for an inspection if an inspection applies to that operation. The assessment is great for farms that already have some sort of produce safety plan in place with their operation, and have undergone the required Pro-

duce Safety Alliance Grower Training. Maybe the farm has undergone a GAP or PrimusGFS audit, for example, and just needs to make some minor adjustments to fit within the Produce Safety Rule.

Different agencies deliver the On Farm Readiness Review across the country. In Michigan, Conservation District Produce Safety Technicians, MDARD staff, and MSU Extension Educators deliver the OFRR jointly. But Michigan is the only state to provide grant funds to house Produce Safety Technicians at conservation districts around the state.

Produce Safety Technicians housed at various Michigan conservation districts are trained to offer, not only the OFRR, but also a tool known as the Produce Safety Risk Assessment (PSRA), another educational tool helpful to growers. Like the OFRR, the PSRA is also free, voluntary, and confidential, and is well suited for any growers looking to be compliant. Perhaps some farmers are just beginning to grow produce, or need a detailed refresher of produce safety requirements. The PSRA assessment can be done for anyone, but is especially helpful for emerging small farms.

After going through the PSRA with a CD technician, the grower is given the opportunity to develop a produce safety plan and make any needed adjustments on the farm, with the technician revisiting as needed. Once the PSRA is completed, the farm is awarded with a Certificate by the state.

Evaluating produce safety on the farm can be done efficiently and effectively using the PSRA and OFRR tools. Determining what works best for one's operation is an undertaking that does not need to be done alone! Here in Michigan, there are multiple resources to support farmers and help them complete this seemingly daunting task. For further information, reach out to your local Produce Safety Technician.

A brochure that fully explains the program will soon be ready for pickup in our office.

Michelle Jacokes is the Produce Safety Technician for Manistee CD and four other counties: Benzie, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Antrim Counties. She can be reached at: michelle.jacokes@macd.org or (231) 889-9666. x 3

MCD UPDATES



Even though Spring crept up on us with some hesitance this year, we're actually looking in our rear-view mirror at a substantial list of events already behind us in 2019.

These include a Tree Planting workshop, our Annual Meeting and Seed Swap, our Spring Native Tree Sale, Forest Mushroom Workshop, and Volunteer Stream Monitoring event. That's a lot of events and it's only mid-May. Here's what lies before us the summer months:

1. **Native Plant Sale** (online pre-order period is on now). June 14th, 12:30—3 pm
2. **Native Plant Workshop**, June 14th, 10 am—12 noon.
3. **Aquatic Plant Survey Workshop**, June 29th in Bear Lake. 11 am—3 pm
4. **River Paddle Clean Sweep at Tip-py Dam**, July 20
5. **Well Water Testing Day**, August 7
6. **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**, August 17, 9 am—1 pm
7. **Volunteer Stream Monitoring**, the 2nd Saturday in October, 9 am—2 pm

Invariably, other dates will present themselves before October, especially as our staff frequently receives requests to speak at local events.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing any or all of you at our events this summer, and we wish you a lovely, splendid summer season!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION 2019



Dispose of unused, unwanted, outdated cleaners, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, electronics and more!!

August 17, 2019

9 am – 1 pm

Collection Site:

Manistee Road Commission

8946 Chippewa Highway
(US-31 & 9 Mile Road)
Bear Lake, MI

HHW Brochures available on our website or in our office.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE UPDATE FOR 2019

This year's Household Hazardous Waste event will take place on August 17th, from 9 am until 1 pm at the Manistee County Road Commission. There are some changes in the program this year that participants should know about. Due to a sharp increase in recycling costs, the HHW committee has voted to shorten the



time-frame for the collection by one hour. It also voted to increase the suggested donation to \$10, again to help offset the skyrocketing cost of hazardous waste disposal. Though we no longer *accept latex paint*, we *still* accept car & household *batteries*, small appliances such as microwaves, small refrigerators, dehumidifiers, & window air conditioners. Manistee Conservation District also hosts a collection area for **large appliances** including refrigerators, stoves, and freezers. [Click here for this year's updated HHW brochure.](#) Or, stop by our Bear Lake Office.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY—YET ANOTHER INVASIVE MENACE

BY SUSAN SPENCER



Spotted Lanternfly, immature



Spotted Lanternfly, adult



Adult lateral view

A "pernicious" pest

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is alerting Michigan residents to another invasive species menace, this time an insect, the spotted lanternfly. While the pest has not yet been found in Michigan, an infestation is already underway in Pennsylvania, and there is general agreement among researchers that it is only a matter of time before it spreads to Michigan.

The insect was first spotted in the United States in 2014 in a county in Pennsylvania. It has since spread to more than 13 Pennsylvania counties. There is currently a quarantine in place to regulate and limit the movement of plants and other items outside the quarantine area.

What is the danger?

The greatest threat posed by the spotted lanternfly appears to be to the fruit industry, including grapes and hops, in addition to hardwoods and various ornamental trees and shrubs.

The spotted lanternfly, which is native to Indo-China, attacks plants by using its piercing mouthparts to feed on the woody parts of plants — such as tree trunks, branches and grape vines — where it excretes a substance known as "honeydew." This substance inflicts wounds that weep sap, which can attract other insects and provide a medium for growth of fungi, which eventually covers leaf surfaces and

stunts plant growth, resulting in death to the tree or plant.

According to MDARD, spotted lanternfly (SLF) has the potential to greatly impact the grape, hops and logging industries, so early detection is vital for the protection of Michigan businesses and agriculture.

What can be done?

MDARD encourages anyone who spots or suspects SLF, whether in immature or adult stages, to take pictures if possible, record the location, try to collect them in a container and then report it to the addresses listed below. It is also recommended that people not move firewood. Moreover, do not disturb suspected egg masses, or other signs and symptoms. report it to the following:

Email: MDA-Info@michigan.gov
Phone: MDARD Customer Service Center (800) 292-3939
Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: www.misin.msu.edu
Learn more: www.michigan.gov/exoticpests and www.michigan.gov/spottedlanternfly.

The above article is based, in part, on information from a Forest Pest Alert, published by Michigan Department of Agriculture and from information in Penn State University news, May, 2019.

FIREWOOD AND THE INVASIVE SPECIES CONNECTION: SOME CAUTIONS & FAQ'S

BY SUSAN SPENCER



The onset of summer often evokes images of crackling camp and beach fires. And locally sold campfire wood can be found

along roadsides everywhere. But the truth is that one sure—"fire" way to spread invasive species, including oak wilt, emerald ash borer, pests like spotted lanternfly, and many other insects, is to move infected wood.

The danger of transporting firewood is that pests and diseases can and do travel hundreds of miles, causing the spread of potentially devastating forest diseases. Without the assistance of transportation, many species, left to spread on their own, would be unlikely to get very far.

At bottom, moving firewood long distances becomes an economic issue, as invasive pests infestations transported by the wood have the ability to wipe out forests, destroy property values, and impair important natural resources.

A survey of 272 campers at 18 private and public campgrounds in 3 New England states was conducted in an effort to learn about campers' firewood movement behavior, including their knowledge and beliefs about invasive forest pests. More than 25 percent of respondents reported that they often or always brought firewood from home for camping.

Unfortunately, moving firewood any distance above 10 miles is not recommended. Pruning of oak trees during the spring and summer months is also discouraged.

Particularly in regard to oak trees, pruning is not recommended after April 1 or before November 1. Even though the risk of infection decreases somewhat after mid-July, it's best to be safe.

For a helpful resource, and to learn more about the dangers of moving firewood, and get access to local maps, guidelines, data and a wealth of general information, the website Don't Move Firewood.org provides useful guidelines.



Please...

Protect valuable forest resources...

DON'T MOVE INFECTED WOOD!

Questions?

Call us: 231-889-9666



MANISTEE CD WILL HOST GARLIC MUSTARD DUMPSTER IN MAY & JUNE OF 2019

Once again, for the summer of 2019, the Manistee CD will do its part in the fight against invasive species by hosting a **GARLIC MUSTARD dumpster** on site at its Bear Lake Office—8840 Chippewa Highway, Bear Lake, 49614. Each year, we receive calls from residents about how and where to safely dispose of invasive species, particularly garlic mustard. Since garlic mustard is most prolific in May and June of the year, our dumpster will be in place for the rest of May and through the entire month of June. Disposing of garlic mustard in designated containers can help arrest the spread of this noxious invasive. The service is provided in partnership with the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network. For more information, and to learn more about the Go Beyond Beauty program through ISN, please visit <http://www.habitatmatters.org>.

