

Tree Numbers and Drill Numbers

SWCD Staff planting trees



Trees:

2019 started off as a strange year for Douglas SWCD and the tree sales. Our first Tree open house got delayed and rescheduled due to the wonderful winter bliss. The accumulation of snow in a short time frame caused our tree shed roof to collapse. That led the SWCD to purchasing and moving into a new tree shed top priority.

Once Spring finally sprung, the trees were selling fast! We sold out of all the trees we preordered, and successfully got all the plantings done. In total, there were just over 20 plantings, and fabric mulch sites.

Overall there were 26,360 trees, of which 880 were potted trees, that were sold and planted in Douglas County.

2020 Tree sales will start up again closer towards December/January. Check out our website, and Winter newsletter for more information on varieties of trees being sold and pricing. If interested in a tree plan, the staff will be more than happy to help you out!

No-Till Drill:

Douglas SWCD has a 10' Haybuster no-till drill for rent again this year. This drill works well for seeding native grasses, pasture mixes, hay mixes, alfalfa, soybeans, and small grain. The rental rate is \$9.00 per acre in Douglas County. The SWCD will deliver the drill, calibrate it for your seed and pick it up when you are finished. Call the SWCD to reserve the drill.

The District's No-till drill was pretty busy as well. It planted a total of 701 acres during the 2019 Spring, Summer and Fall planting seasons.



Local Farmer using District No-Till Drill

Check it out!

Upcoming events and activities

September 9 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

September 16 - Volunteer Lake Monitoring - cooler drop off day

October 14 - SWCD Office Closed (Columbus Day)

October 15 - SWCD Board Meeting (7:30 AM)

November 11 - SWCD Office Closed (Veterans Day)

November 12 - SWCD Board Meeting (8:00 AM)

November 28-29—SWCD Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

December 8-10—SWCD staff at State Convention

December 11—SWCD Board Meeting (3 PM)

December 24—SWCD Office Closed 1/2 day (Christmas Eve)

December 25—SWCD Office Closed (Christmas)

December 31—SWCD Office Closed 1/2 day (New Years Eve)

Douglas SWCD Tree sales will be kicking off later this winter. Check out our Winter Newsletter for more information!



Find us on Facebook: DouglasSWCD



SWCD Supervisors

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Area 1 Representative
Chairmen

Mike Cleary

Area 2 Representative
Treasurer

Rod Froemming

Area 3 Representative

Bill Dropik

Area 4 Representative
Secretary

Ken Rutten

Area 5 Representative
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Fall 2019

Newsletter



2019 Conservation Bus Tour Group Photo

to protect and improve their soil and water resources.

August 10 officially marked 65 years of conservation for our district. Douglas SWCD celebrated by hosting a Conservation Bus Tour around the county on August 6. The group left the office at 9AM and returned around 3PM.

This free event was to help showcase and highlight all the fun and exciting conservation practices and projects that have been implemented in the county over the years. The projects highlighted on the bus tour were:

- Ag. Waste
- Buffer Strips
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Conservation (CRP) Tree Planting
- Grazing Systems
- Gully Stabilization
- High Tunnels
- Lakeshore Restoration
- Living Snow Fence
- Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification
- Native Grasses
- No-Till Practices
- Pollinator Plantings
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)
- Streambank Restoration
- Terraces
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Wetland Restorations

Participants and staff enjoyed fresh grilled burgers and locally grown corn on the cob at Chippewa Park for lunch.

There were 13 staff, 2 County support, 2 supporting agencies and 14 community members for a grand total of 31 on the bus!

Learning about Conservation Practices



High Tunnel Stop



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Water Quality Monitoring Grants

Douglas SWCD has been working hard all summer on their SWAG. What is this SWAG you may ask, it's not quite what you think. SWAG stands for Surface Water Assessment Grant. Douglas SWCD sought out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) last fall and applied for this grant that provides funding for water quality testing. Starting in May of this year SWCD staff have been sampling six different lakes and one stream in the Chippewa River Watershed. These lakes include Moon, Moses, Stowe, Devils, Little Chippewa, and South Oscar. The stream is County Ditch 60, north of Brandon. Sampling will continue during the summer months until September 2020.

The MPCA will use the data collected to determine if the water bodies tested meet the state standards for designated uses such as swimming and fishing. If any of the waters do not meet the standards they will be identified for protection or restoration in the next Chippewa Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) report that will be completed by the MPCA.



Monitoring County Ditch 60

Soil Health Chats

The Douglas SWCD partnered with Stevens, Swift, Kandiyohi, Pope, Chippewa, West Ottertail, and Grant Counties to host three soil health chats. It was a great opportunity for farmers, local business owners,

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and SWCD staff to get together and discuss the importance of soil health. Some of the other speakers and guest presenters included local farmers/producers, local crop consultants, U of M Extension staff, and the Chippewa Watershed Conservation Planner.

The topics and practices highlighted were best management practices to increase soil health, cover crops, strip/no-till practices and more! Keep an eye out in our future newsletters for more information on other up and coming Soil Health Chats that will be near you!



Soil Health Chat

Soil Health Chat Handouts



Lake Ida Ditch 23 Investigation

The wetland along County Ditch 23 is offloading a significant amount of phosphorous directly into Lake Ida, increasing the risk of algae in the lake. Douglas SWCD secured a grant in 2017 to investigate what is happening in the wetland and upstream in CD 23.

Barr Engineering has also completed a culvert study and surface water flow modeling for the Lake Ida Watershed to identify other potential pollutant sources. Douglas SWCD got results and suggestions from Barr Engineering to potentially move forward. The results came in towards the beginning of August, and staff met with the Lake Ida Association and other landowners and held their SWCD Board Meeting where concerned citizens came to hear about the improvement possibilities. Douglas SWCD will be applying for two additional Clean Water Fund grants to cover up to 75% of the total cost of the projects.



Lake Ida Ditch 23 Wetland

Douglas County Fair

Once again Douglas SWCD had a booth in the Fish and Game Building. This year's theme was more focused on water aspect of soil and Water. It highlighted a miniature dock and a bunch of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that are currently infesting our Douglas County Waters, to help bring home the importance of Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose.

There was also information on Ag. Water Quality Certification Program, Kids Groundwater Festival, Youth Outdoor Activities Day, Poster winners, and Water Quality Monitoring/Sampling the office does throughout the year. Staff were available to help answer questions that might come up as people went by.

The kids got to pick a fish, and were given a prize depending on the color of fish they chose. Prizes included coloring books, comic books, bobbers, temporary tattoos, hot/cold packs, fishing/hunting license holder, stress ball fish, sunglasses, collapsible flying disks, and t-shirts.

The adults that visited the booth got to put their names in a drawing for a chance to win a bundle of 25 bareroot trees of their choice during the 2020 tree season.



2019 SWCD Fair Booth Display

Youth Outdoor Activities Day

This annual event is a free, family-friendly event intended to provide youth a fun environment in which to learn about outdoor recreation. Activities included trap shooting, archery, hunting, angling and many other related skills. Over 45 hands-on activities and demonstrations were planned. This public event is made possible through a consortium of participating volunteer organizations, businesses, individuals, and donors. This event takes place at the Alexandria Shooting Park. Both Douglas SWCD and Douglas County Land and Resources partner to be donors, and also have staff helping with the event. This is a great way to get kids outdoors, learning new and fun outdoor recreational activities, and most importantly putting the electronics down!

This year there were a total of 2,105 youth that participated in the event! Although the rain wouldn't stay away and caused the over all event to be shut down early, it was still a lot of fun and a huge success.

Education with our youth is so important, especially with natural resources, and aquatic invasive species (AIS), even though there might not be a booth set up explaining it, the county's AIS message is hidden throughout the entire Youth Outdoor Activities Day experience. The logo and information is on the free t-shirts every participant gets for volunteering, advertised on the website, and throughout the event at the various booths through promotional items.

If interested in volunteering, participating or what other awesome activities this event has to offer visit the website! www.youthoutdooractivityday.org. It is always the last Sunday in August, so mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!



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