

Otsego Conservation District The Otsego Conserver & Annual Report Summer & Fall 2023

Working toward greater harmony with our natural resources



800 Livingston Blvd.
Suite 4A
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 732-4021
facebook.com/otsegocd
www.otsegocd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Kinney
Melinda Study
Bill Blanz
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OFFICE STAFF

Patricia Osburn
District Manager, Native
Plant Nursery Manager &
Soil Erosion Inspector

Tara Jans
Administrative Assistant
& Recycling Coordinator

Libby Benjamin
Education Specialist

Amber Fleming
CTAI Program Assistant

Ryan Wysocki
USDA-NRCS District
Conservationist

Otsego Conservation District Mission

The mission of the Otsego Conservation District (OCD) is to assist the people of Otsego County in the wise use and management of their natural resources, for a healthy environment and sustained economic growth.

Water Quality Education Program

Protecting Water Quality in Otsego County

Libby Benjamin, Environmental Education Specialist

Every 5 years, the Otsego Conservation District conducts a Resource Needs Assessment, to determine what natural resource issues are most important to people in Otsego County. With 370 lakes and the headwaters of 5 major rivers (Au Sable, Black, Manistee, Pigeon, Sturgeon) it's no surprise water quality ranked as the top concern. The goal of this summer's Water Quality Education Program was to provide recreational boaters, lakefront property owners, and the general public with the information they need to make choices to protect water quality in Otsego County. This program was made possible with support from the Deerfield Computer Associates Fund of the Otsego Community Foundation, and the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are plants or animals that live in the water, are not native to northern Michigan, and cause harm. Invasive plants like Eurasian watermilfoil, and invasive mollusks like zebra mussels, can easily be transferred from lake to lake on boats, kayaks, fishing gear, and inflatables. Once introduced to a new body of water, these organisms can become established quickly, outcompeting native species, degrading fish habitat, and generally being a nuisance to people trying to enjoy the lake or stream. Prevention is the best and most cost-effective method for dealing with aquatic invasive species, and it's pretty simple: CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY your boat and all equipment before entering a body of water. Boating or fishing at Otsego Lake State Park? Use the new Boat & Trailer Invasive Species Cleaning Station installed at the boat launch this summer to remove any plant or animal material from your boat or trailer! Visit <http://www.otsegocd.org/aquatic-invasive-species.html> for more information.

Continues on Page 4.

HELP STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Avoid spreading aquatic invasive species.
Recommended Actions:

- ✓ CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment
- ✓ DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water
- ✓ DRY boats and equipment
- ✓ DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash

IT'S THE LAW
Violation of the law is a state civil infraction. Violators may be subject to fines.

DO NOT touch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.
DO NOT transport a watercraft without cleaning, drying, and draining it of water from bilges, hull, tanks, and live wells.
DO NOT release unwanted bait from the water.

Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies

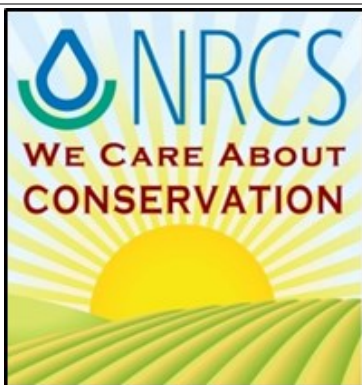
EGLE Michigan AGRICULTURE



Fall Tree Sale Fundraiser
Friday, October 6 & Saturday October 7, 2023
Pre-orders are due by September 22, 2023



See inside for
information and
order form



Free technical and financial assistance is available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for landowners wishing to implement conservation practices on their land. Over the past year since I've come on board as the new District Conservationist at the NRCS Gaylord Service Center covering Otsego, Crawford, and Roscommon counties.

Gaylord Field Office numbers for 2022/2023:

Total contract dollars currently obligated:

\$773,434.54

Total contract dollars paid for 2022 and 2023: \$389,132.54

Total acres currently enrolled in NRCS programs: 8,481.9 acres

Common practices we can assist landowners with:

- Forest Stand Improvement practices
- Tree Plantings for Reforestation & Wildlife Habitat
- Wildflower Seedlings for Pollinator Habitat
- Cover Crops on Cropland for Soil Health
- Hoops Houses for Crop Season Extension
- Forest Management Plans
- On-Farm Energy Audits
- Fencing & Watering Systems for Prescribed Grazing
- Pasture Seedlings
- Invasive Species Removal

If you are interested in any of the above practices, please call my office at (989) 732-6526 x111 and schedule a free site visit. Technical assistance is available to all private landowners, however, to be eligible for financial assistance programs you must meet certain eligibility requirements. More detail on our USDA eligibility can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/michigan#assistance>.

Ryan Wysocki, District Conservationist
Gaylord Field Office-Otsego, Crawford, and Roscommon Counties

Email: Ryan.Wysocki@usda.gov

Office Phone: (989)-732-6526 ext. 111

Work Cell Phone: (989) 318-4020

FAX: 855-701-4367

The USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

Recycling in Otsego County

One great way to help keep the environment clean is to recycle. It reduces waste by reusing material and cuts down on the carbon footprint of mining raw materials. Gaylord residents have been increasing their recycling efforts. Over the years the total amount of material being recycled has only increased!

The recycling program started in March of 2012. There was a huge effort to bring recycling to the Otsego County residents and all that hard work has paid off. Just look at the numbers. In the year of 2013-2014 a little under 500 tons was recycled in Otsego County. There was steady progress recycling more and more each year as the word has spread. From June 2019 - December 2019 Otsego County recycled 710.62 tons, which is when American Waste/GFL Environmental received the recycling contract. Otsego County residents began to use the Single Stream Recycling Method, placing all recyclables in one bin. For 2020, Otsego County, recycled 1,325.38 tons. In 2021, 1,518.41 tons were recycled, a 193.03 ton increase from the previous year. In 2022 Otsego County recycled 1,641.81 tons, an increase 123.4 tons. For 2023 we have recycled 1,004.15 tons as of July. This is an average increase of 12.1 tons per month from January to July for the year. Otsego Conservation District thanks all those who recycle! If you have any questions on what can be recycled please call us. We are here to help!

By Tara Jans
Recycling Coordinator

Questions? Call (989)732-4021

or email tjans@otsegocountymi.gov



KIRKPATRICK, SLOUGH, DUITSMAN-COY, & MOTT, PLC

145 N. Otsego Ave.
Gaylord, MI 49735
(989) 732-2912

Wm. Paul Slough
Jennifer Duitsman-Coy
Katherine E. Mott

paul@gaylordlaw.com
jennifer@gaylordlaw.com
katie@gaylordlaw.com

Together We Are Stronger



Community isn't just part of our name, but the core of everything we do.



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Forestry Programs

The **Forestry Assistance Program (FAP)** is grant funded through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. This program is **FREE** to landowners. This program allows the District Forester to provide information to landowners regarding timber management, forest health, wildlife habitat, tree planting, cost-shares, tax-exemption programs, and more. If you would like assistance to reach your forest goals, feel free to call our office to schedule a site evaluation from the district forester.



The **Qualified Forest Program (QFP)** is a tax-savings program for forested properties of 20 acre or more. Eligible non-homestead properties can save up to 18 mills on their school operating tax. In return, landowners must manage their land sustainably for timber, wildlife habitat, and improvement of non-timber resources. Learn more at michigan.gov/QFP.

The **Michigan Tree Farm Program** is an opportunity for landowners who are committed to sustainably managing their forest for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. Enrolled properties get access to information and tools for managing their land, including periodic visits and advice from a Tree Farm inspector. You also get the coveted Tree Farm sign to hang at your property!



To learn more about these programs contact the Otsego Conservation District at (989)732-4021

NOW HIRING Full-time Outreach Forester

We are seeking an Outreach Forester to work with the Forestry Assistance Program, the purpose of which is to provide private forest landowners with technical assistance regarding forestry, wildlife habitat, and related natural resource concerns. The Forester will be based in Gaylord, MI and work in Otsego, Crawford, and Roscommon counties. Requires B.S. degree in Forestry from an SAF-accredited university. Salary ranges from \$45,000 to \$48,000/year depending on experience. Visit www.otsegocd.org for complete position description and application instructions.

 PORTABLE TOILET RENTALS

SPARTAN
Sewer & Septic Tank Service LLC
"The Purple Poop Pumper"

989-732-5766 • 989-732-3288 • FAX 989-731-2558

3385 Behnke Road
Gaylord, MI 49735

JOE & BOB BURGENDORF

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8AM-4:30PM
989-732-4021 ~ www.otsegocd.org
We're always adding to our calendar; visit our website for updates throughout the year

September 4	Office Closed—Labor Day
September 14	Conservation District Board Meeting 9AM Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center
September 22	Fall Tree Sale pre-orders due
October 3-4	Volunteers needed for tree packing, Nature Center
October 6-7	Fall Tree Sale, Nature Center
October 9	Office Closed—Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 12	Conservation District Annual Meeting, 9AM Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center
November 9	Conservation District Board Meeting 9AM Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center
November 10	Office Closed—Veterans Day
November 23	Office Closed—Happy Thanksgiving
December 14	Conservation District Board Meeting 9AM Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center
December 25	Office Closed—Merry Christmas
January 1	Office Closed—Happy New Year
January 11	Conservation District Board Meeting 9AM Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center
January 15	Office Closed—MLK Birthday
February 19	Office Closed—Presidents' Day

In February 2024, we will begin seeding native plants for the 2024 season. Volunteers are needed and appreciated!

Thank You!

To the volunteers and donors who generously give their time, talents and financial support.

Thanks to our volunteers for helping plant thousands of native plants in our Native Plant Nursery, assisting with the packing of thousands of seedlings during our tree sale, and getting the garden ready for summer. We especially appreciate Community Financial Credit Union and Gaylord Walmart Leadership Academy for all of the volunteer assistance they provided this year. Our new volunteer t-shirts have arrived so please contact the office if you wanted a shirt and we didn't have your size.

Thank you so very much to everyone who volunteered—we couldn't do it without your support!



TODD R. MALL
PRESIDENT

TRENDWELL
ENERGY
CORPORATION

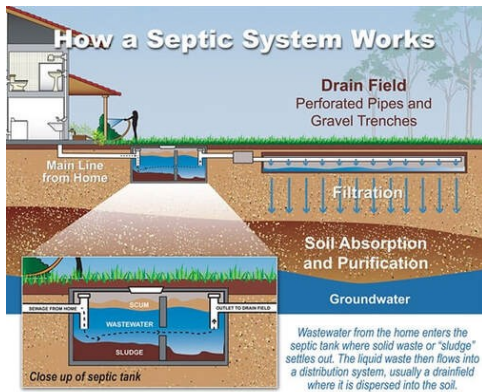
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PO BOX 560
ROCKFORD, MI 49341
PHONE: 616 866-5024
FAX: 616 866-3750

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Protecting Water Quality in Otsego County (cont.)
Libby Benjamin, Environmental Education Specialist

Septic System Maintenance

Did you know Michigan is the only state in the nation without a statewide septic code? In Otsego County, water wells and septic systems are regulated by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. A permit is required for installation, but once a septic system is installed it's up to the owner to make sure it's functioning properly. There are over 10,000 septic systems in Otsego County alone! When a septic system is failing or in need of maintenance, bacteria and nutrients can enter the groundwater and surface water, contaminating our water wells, lakes, and streams. Septic tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years, and a homeowner should call their septic company if they notice surfacing sewage, lush, bright green vegetation, or wet spots near the drainfield, plumbing backups or slow-draining fixtures, or gurgling sounds in the plumbing system. A septic system may need to be replaced if it is more than 30 years old, more people live in the house than when the system was designed, or water usage has significantly increased. Visit <http://www.otsegoed.org/septic-systems.html> for more information.



Natural Shorelines and Greenbelts

According to the National Lakes Assessment, the loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat to the overall health of lakes in Michigan. Near-shore habitat including trees, shrubs, and plants play a crucial role in protecting water quality and providing habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. Native plants have extensive root systems that hold soil in place, preventing erosion. They also absorb pollutants that may run-off from yards, driveways, and roads. Even a small section of natural shoreline, or greenbelt, is better than none. Otsego Conservation District sells a variety of native wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs to help restore your shoreline to a more natural state, and staff is happy to help make recommendations that will grow well based on your site conditions. Visit <http://www.otsegoed.org/natural-shorelines.html> for more information.

OTSEGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures &
 Changes in Fund Balance

General Fund for the Year Ended September 30, 2022

General Fund	
Revenue	2021-2022
State Grants	\$220,010.40
Contribution from Local Units	\$4,100.00
Charges for Services	\$4,050.49
Soil Erosion	\$23,630.00
Interest, Donations	\$10,541.28
Plat book Sales & Ads	\$1,004.65
Tree Sale	\$58,892.98
Native Plant Nursery	\$28,251.22
Other Revenue	\$1,597.11
Total Revenue	\$393,252.20
Expenditures (By Activity)	
281 Operation	\$184,840.93
289 Soil Erosion	\$1,441.20
281 Recycling Program	\$6,253.35
295.954 Native Plant Nursery	\$7,887.46
286 Forester	\$64,030.90
288 CTAI Program Assistant	\$49,791.19
296 CTAI -Engineer	\$42,896.99
Total Expenditures	\$357,142.02
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$23,902.92
Beginning Fund Balance	\$36,110.54
Ending Fund Balance	\$60,013.46

White Pine • White Cedar • White Oak

OTSEGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 Fall Seedling Fundraiser
 WALK-INS WELCOME!

Improve the wildlife habitat of your land by planting today!

Friday, October 6th 9:00-5:00
 & Saturday, October 7th 9:00-1:00

At the Nature Center
 459 Livingston Blvd.
 Gaylord, MI 49735
 Just south of the Alpine Center

Blue Spruce • Red Pine • Highbush Cranberry

Norway Spruce • Arrowwood
 Black Chokeberry • Wildflowers-More

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MKT-5894M-A

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

To all residents served by the Otsego Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on October 12, 2023 at 9 a.m., in the Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center, 800 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI, 49735 an annual meeting will be held. The District will be conducting an election to elect one Director. Mary Kinney was appointed to the Otsego Conservation Board last year and is seeking to be elected this year. Mrs. Kinney, a 5 year resident of Otsego County, has enhanced her land along the banks of the Sturgeon River by installing a riparian buffer of native plants to protect against soil erosion, restore habitat, and improve water quality. She is a beekeeper and harvests the honey and enjoys being active in her community. She believes in the mission of the Conservation District, which is to assist the people of Otsego County in the wise use and management of their natural resources, for a healthy environment and sustained economic growth.

If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors, contact the Otsego Conservation District office.

On August 30, 2023, being forty-five days prior to the date of the annual meeting, absentee ballots will be available at 800 Livingston Blvd., Suite 4A, Gaylord or by calling (989) 732-4021, 8:00am-4:30 pm., Monday-Friday.

A Conservation District is an entity of state government with statutory powers and responsibilities to carry out conservation programs and encourage wise land management. As locally elected public officials, Directors are responsible for the operation and management of the conservation district. All residents concerned with natural resource issues are encouraged to attend the meeting.



Annual Report Year End Review

Forestry Assistance Program

**Management Plans and Qualified Forest Program Workshop
(November 2022)**

Conservation District Forester Joellen Saugrich and NRCS District Conservationist Ryan Wysocki hosted a workshop to teach landowners about forest management plans, available cost-share assistance, and programs they can enroll in.

**Demonstration Garden & Nature Center
Events and Activities**

**Winter Wildlife Track ID Walk
(February 2023)**

Education Specialist Libby Benjamin and Kids Outdoors Otsego hosted an event in the garden to teach young kids how to identify wildlife tracks in the snow, then went snowshoeing to look for tracks. We saw deer, squirrel and racoon tracks, then had hot chocolate around the fire.



**Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop
(March 2023)**



Consumer Horticulture Educator Nate Walton from MSU Extension Leelanau County spent the morning at the garden teaching residents all about Fruit Tree care and pruning. Nate gave a great presentation, then attendees braved the snow and cold

for a hands-on apple tree pruning demonstration in the garden.

**4-H Spring Break Extravaganza
(March 2023)**

As part of Otsego County 4-H's Spring Break Extravaganza, children visited the Native Plant Nursery to decoupage a clay pot. They also learned about the parts of a plant and what they need to grow, then planted a seedling to take home in their pot.



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& Wendy L. Huston**



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Wendy Cell: 989-390-2101

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Annual Report Year End Review

Demonstration Garden & Nature Center Events and Activities, continued

Garden and Native Plant Nursery Tours

In 2023, District Manager Patricia Osburn gave tours to: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Restoration Team (April)

Alcona School (May) with help from Keith “Boots” Martell
Leadership Otsego County (May)



Grow your Mental Health Garden Clean-up with North Country Community Mental Health (May 2023)

Staff from North Country Community Mental Health in Gaylord spent an afternoon in the garden helping rake and deadhead to get the garden ready for summer. The public was also invited to the garden for a walk-through mindfulness activity, gardening craft, refreshments and snacks, and a presentation on the four sacred medicines from tribal elder Jack Chambers of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

4-H Otsego County Junior Master Gardeners (May 2023)

Junior Master Gardeners worked hard in the Children’s Garden to get their beds ready for planting. With help from District Manager Patricia Osburn, the children weeded their beds and added compost. They have done a great job maintaining their gardens this season, and planted a wide variety of flowers and vegetables.

Native Plant Nursery Open House and Pollination Workshop for Kids and Families (June 2023)

Otsego Conservation District’s Native Plant Nursery opened for the season on a hot, sunny Saturday in the beginning of June. Pre-orders were picked up, and members of the public came to buy plants and ask staff for planting recommendations. Kids and families joined Education Specialist Libby Benjamin to learn all about pollen and why pollinators are so important. They played games then went for a walk in the garden to look at different flowers and think about what pollinators they would attract.

Everyone who attended got to take home a free native wildflower to attract pollinators at home! The nursery has a great selection of over 50 species of native wildflowers and grasses. This year, we provided plants to a variety of agencies and nonprofits for their restoration projects. We still have a great selection available for fall plantings!



11th Annual Art in the Garden Festival (June 2023)

Supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, this year’s Art in the Garden Festival featured musicians Lee Ann Whitman, Terry Coveyou, Will Engleman, and Bruce and the Originals at the outdoor stage. Patrick Barrigar also did a live chainsaw carving demonstration; the eagle he carved is now on display in the garden. Thanks to funding from the Rotary Club Fund of the Otsego Community Foundation, the festival had great workshops like acrylic painting, butterfly wings, and flower pound art. There was yummy food, great educational booths from community organizations, and many wonderful artists displaying their work. Art in the Garden Festival wouldn’t be possible without support from our many business sponsors and volunteers—thank you!



Youth Conservation Day Camp (July 2023)

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Community Financial Credit Union, Conservation Day Camp featured a fun presentation on reptiles and amphibians by Nature Discovery. Campers also explored the garden and forest, learning about the plants and animals that live there, and created beautiful nature-themed crafts.



Level 1 Invasive Species Training with Huron Pines (August 2023)

Huron Pines Stewardship Program Coordinator Shelby Bauer and Huron Pines AmeriCorps member Victor Ma led an interactive invasive species training. Participants learned how to identify, survey, report, and mechanically treat invasive species.

Thank you Girl Scouts and Crossroads Industries

Otsego Conservation District would like to thank the Girl Scouts for doing a great job in the Children’s Garden this year—the flowers they planted are beautiful! We would also like to thank Crossroads Industries for removing the old, rotting raised bed and replacing it with a new, wheelchair accessible garden bed.

Annual Report Year End Review (cont.)

Community Outreach Programs Fall (October 2022) and Spring (April 2023) Tree Sales

Spring and Fall Tree Sales are one of the most important things we do! This past year, with the help of a hard-working group of volunteers, we sold over 27,000 tree seedlings! Check out the Fall Tree Sale order form in this newsletter. Pre-orders are due September 22, and the sale is October 6 and 7.



Kids Outdoors Otsego Winter Fun Day (February 2023)

Education Specialist Libby Benjamin taught kids about wildlife in winter as part of this fun annual event at the Otsego Environmental Learning Site, behind Gaylord Middle School.

Small-Batch Maple Syrup Workshop (March 2023)

Jack Marlette, Chairperson of the Otsego Conservation District Board of Directors, hosted a maple syrup workshop at his home. Despite a snow squall, we had a great group come check out Jack's backyard sugarbush and equipment, and make a batch of syrup from start to finish. Of course, everyone got a jar of fresh maple syrup to take home!



Otsego County Recycling at Family Fun Fair (April 2023)

Recycling Coordinator Tara Jans talked to over 100 people about recycling! Kids enjoyed tootsie pops and a Recycling Relay Race. This event is a great way for families to learn about a wide variety of community resources.

Girl Scout Tree Planting at Groen Preserve (May 2023)

District Manager Patricia Osburn, with help from Board Chairperson Jack Marlette and Groen staff member Jacob Meyer, planted 80 tree seedlings with Otsego County Girl Scouts at the Groen Nature Preserve in Johannesburg.

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal,

Electronics and Scrap Tire Day (July 2023)

Otsego County residents and landowners came out to the Otsego County Road Commission in force to recycle their scrap tires, electronics, and hazardous waste. We filled a one-and-



a-half semi trailers with scrap tires and collected 16,700lbs of electronics to be recycled. We also collected 39,768lbs of hazardous waste such as batteries, paint, oil, antifreeze, and much more for recycling or safe disposal. This important program is funded by the Otsego County Recycling Millage and EGLE grants.

Alpenfest Art Tent Kid's Day (July 2023)

Libby Benjamin and Tara Jans joined in the Alpenfest Fun, Otsego Conservation District style! Kids (and adults!) got to decoupage a clay pot, then plant a seedling to take home.

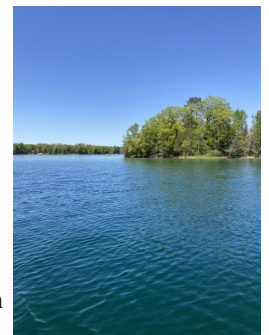
Presentations

Native Plant Presentation for Daughters of the American Revolution (March 2023); Native Plant Presentation for Master Gardeners (March 2023); Otsego Conservation District programs for Otsego County Townships Quarterly Meeting (April); Native Plants and Invasive Species Presentation for Mio Garden Club (May 2023); Otsego Conservation District programs and Native Plants for Otsego County Democrats (May 2023); Otsego Conservation District programs for State Employee Retiree Association (June 2023)

Water Quality Education Program Events

Lake Association Annual Meetings (May and August 2023)

Libby Benjamin was invited to speak at the annual meetings of Big Lake Association, Otsego Lake Association, Opal Lake Association, and Douglas Lake Association on water quality issues like aquatic invasive species, septic system maintenance, and natural shorelines. Folders with comprehensive information were provided to association members thanks to a grant from the Deerfield Computer Associates Fund of the Otsego Community Foundation.



Mobile Boat Wash at Otsego Lake County Park (June and July 2023)

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters mobile boat wash crew and Education Specialist Libby Benjamin spent two days at the county park boat launch offering free boat washes and talking to boaters about preventing aquatic invasive species.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters table at Otsego Lake State Park (July and August 2023)

Libby Benjamin spent two Saturdays at the Otsego Lake State Park boat launch talking to boaters and other park users about preventing aquatic invasive species. She also showed people how to use the newly installed Boat & Trailer Invasive Species Cleaning Station. Funding was provided by the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, and by the Deerfield Computer Associates Fund of the Otsego Community Foundation.



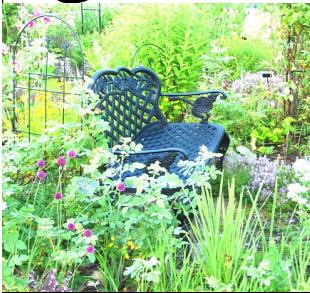
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GAYLORD, MI 49735

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If you wish to be removed/added to our mailing list or prefer to have your newsletter sent by email, please call 989-732-4021 or email tjans@otsegoctym.gov

Friends of the Garden



Consider Becoming A Member

The garden has become a valuable green space and educational preserve within the community with hundreds of visitors each year for 26 years. Our vision for the garden is to invite YOU to become part of its future. Through Friends of the Garden, we can be certain our garden continues to grow. **Whether you wish to dig right in and help volunteer with various projects at the garden, provide insight and ideas at meetings, or offer a monetary gift to show your support, we welcome and appreciate your interest.**

As a "thank you" for becoming part of Friends of the Garden, enjoy 10% off your purchases from the Otsego Conservation District and a native plant grown from our nursery! Please call the Otsego Conservation District office at 732-4021 for a brochure and more information.

To learn more about the demonstration garden visit www.otsegocd.org and click on the Gardens button.

Looking for a beautiful venue for your upcoming event?

The Otsego County Demonstration Garden, amphitheater and Education Center are available at reasonable rates for weddings, family gatherings, meetings and more. *Please call the Otsego Conservation District at (989)732-4021 for information.*

Funding the Future.



Give a gift that keeps giving!

The Otsego Conservation District has an endowment fund through the Otsego County Community Foundation so we may continue to offer educational opportunities to our residents for years to come. If you would like to give a gift that keeps on giving please call the Community Foundation at 989-731-0597 for details.



OCD board meetings are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, Alpine Center, 800 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI 49735

All programs and services of the Conservation District and NRCS prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status.



Otsego Conservation District Seedling Sale Fundraiser



October 6th & 7th, 2023

Friday - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Saturday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Seedling Sale will be held at the Otsego Conservation District Nature Center
Located at 459 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI 49735

Walk-ins welcome, pre-orders recommended. **ORDERS DUE: Friday, Sept. 22, 2023**

2023 PRICE LIST

Please note: ☞ denotes this species is native to Michigan

CONIFERS-BAREROOT

	SIZE	5	10	25	50	100	250	500	1000
☞ Eastern White Pine 2-0	6-12"	\$13	\$20	\$36	\$57	\$86	\$178	\$328	\$599
☞ Red Pine 2-0	12-18"	13	20	36	57	86	178	328	599
☞ Jack Pine 2-0	12-18"	11	16	29	47	71	147	270	494
Colorado Blue Spruce 2-0	6-12"	12	19	33	53	80	166	305	557
Norway Spruce 2-0	6-12"	11	18	31	50	75	156	288	525
Norway Spruce 3-1	12-24"	29	45	81	129	194	403	742	1355
☞ White Spruce 2-0	6-12"	13	20	36	57	86	178	328	599
☞ White Cedar 2-0	6-12"	13	20	35	56	84	175	na	na

HARDWOODS

	SIZE	5	10	25	50	100	250	500	1000
☞ White Oak	6-12"	18	28	51	81	122	253	466	851

WILDLIFE SHRUBS

	SIZE	5	10	25	50	100	250	500	1000
☞ Arrowwood Viburnum	12-18"	\$26	\$40	\$72	\$115	\$173	na	na	na
☞ Black Chokeberry	6-12"	22	34	61	97	146	na	na	na
☞ Highbush Cranberry	6-12"	20	32	68	113	180	na	na	na

WILDFLOWER SEED

Native MI Wildflower Seed Mix \$22-1 oz. \$80-¼ lb. \$145-½ lb. \$270-1 lb.

Includes 16 perennials, 5 grasses, species list & directions. 1 oz. covers 200 sq. ft.

Native Plant Nursery

The Otsego Conservation District is dedicated to raising awareness of the benefits of planting native wildflowers and grasses. Native plants help to restore lakeshores and stream banks, prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, attract pollinators, provide wildlife habitat, and accent landscaping. Otsego CD grows over 50 species as a fundraiser for district programming.



Plant Prices:

Plug (2" x 2" x 4")	\$3.00
Quart (3" x 3" x 6")	\$5.00
Full Tray (single or mixed species, 16 quarts)	\$75.00
Full Tray (single or mixed species, 36 plugs)	\$85.00
Full Tray (when purchasing 5 or more trays of same species of plugs)	\$65.00



For a complete list of native plants available visit our online store at www.otsegocd.org or call (989) 732-4021.

SILVICULTURAL AIDS

Bamboo Stakes - 3'	1-50 40¢/ea.	51+ 35¢/ea.	Bamboo is strong and weathers well. Use for staking or marking plants and seedlings.
Bat House		\$27.00	Attract bats by providing shelter. Place 15' from the ground by attaching to a pole, tree or building out of wind. Under normal conditions, bats can eat 600-1,000 mosquitoes per hour! Locally made!
Bird House		\$22.00	Bring Eastern Bluebirds to your property by putting up a bluebird house. Locally made!
Fertilizer Tablets	50 - \$10.00	250 - \$45.00	Use one tablet per seedling at time of planting or put tablets in at the drip edge of existing trees.
Flags	Pack of 10	\$3.50	Flags are bright orange. (2½"x3"). Flag are 18" tall. Good for marking small trees.
Garlic Sticks	5 - \$6.25	10 - \$10	These unique sticks contain garlic oil and chili pepper to keep animals from browsing on plants.
Mesh Tree Guards - 2'	1-50 \$1.25ea.	51+ \$1.15ea.	These yellow rigid plastic mesh tubes protect seedlings from rodent and deer damage.
Tree Mats	3'x3'	\$2.50	Woven poly mats block 99% of light to keep weeds out for up to 5 years & encourages faster growth. Lets air and water through. Easy to install. Includes 5 large staples to hold in place.
Soil Moist Root Moisturizer (Similar to Terra Sorb)		\$1.50	Granular powder mixes with water to create a gel that adheres to roots to absorb and retain water like a sponge. Reduces shock and stress. Increases aeration. Helps reduce soil compaction. Lasts 1 year in soil. 1oz Treats approximately 500 seedlings. Recommended for sandy soil.
Planting Bars	For Sale For Rent	\$85.00 \$80.00 deposit+\$5	Planting bars increase the speed and convenience of planting seedlings. Insert blade with foot pressure to move aside soil and provide a hole for the seedling. Not intended for transplants.
Plantkydd Ready-To-Use Deer Repellant Spray		\$25.00	Safe, organic protection of plants from deer, elk, rabbits, squirrels, voles and more! Rain-resistant. 1 application lasts 3-4 months during growing season or 6 months over winter. Built-in fertilizer.
Signs "Trees Planted"		\$2.00	11.25"x7.5" Black and yellow metal signs that say "Trees Planted, Keep Off".

XX

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Make checks payable and send to:
Otsego Conservation District
 800 Livingston Blvd. Suite 4A
 Gaylord, MI 49735
 (989) 732-4021

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY	DEPOSIT*	AMOUNT
			Deposit Total*	
				Subtotal
				Add 6% tax
				Donation
				TOTAL

NOTE: Trees and shrubs may not be resold with roots attached.

*Deposits are for tree bar rentals only.


There is a limited supply of some species. Order early!


Donations to OCD are tax deductible. ID #38-2074258


ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9-22-2023

Use blank paper or copies
 of order forms if
 additional lines are needed.
Thank you for your order!

PAYMENT METHOD: Check enclosed, Visa, Master Card, Discover







Card Account Number

Name _____ **Exp. Date** _____

(Name as it appears on the credit card. Please print.)

Sign _____ **Billing Zip Code** _____

CVV Code
(on back of card)