

2011 Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest Winners

By: Tracy Arnold, Conservation Program Coordinator

The annual Wood County Conservation Speaking Contest was held on October 6th, 2011 at Pittsville High School. In the elementary division first place was **Jack Wenzel**, from Grove Elementary, with his speech “Stop the Invasion”. Second place in the elementary division was **Asia Khane**, from Grove Elementary, with her speech “Wisconsin’s Smallest Endangered Species Needs Our Help!” In the Junior Division first place went to **Adileen Sii**, from Wisconsin Rapids Middle School, with her speech “The Fading Ghost”. In the senior division, first place went to **Alexandria Viegut**, from Marshfield Columbus, with her speech “Purple Loosestrife: Beauty or Beast”. Second place in the senior division was **Veronica Kitzhaber**, from Marshfield Columbus, with her speech “A Resilient Forest”. The first place speech winners advanced to the area competition, which was October 27, 2011 at the Wausau School Forest. At that competition, Jack Wenzel placed first in the elementary division and advanced to the state competition, November 5th at the Best Western Grand Seasons, Waupaca. Adileen Sii and Alexandria Viegut both placed second in their division at the area competition.

The Wood County Conservation Poster Contest was held on October 7th, 2011. All posters had a theme of “Forest for People, More Than You Can Imagine”. Middle Division first place went to **Addison Baierl**, from Our Lady of Peace, Marshfield. Her poster advanced to the area competition, which was October 27, 2011 at the Wausau School Forest.

Next years poster topic is “Spoon to Soil” so get those ideas ready. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated in the 2011 Wood County Land Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest. If you are interested in participating next year, please contact Tracy Arnold at 715-421-8475 or tarnold@co.wood.wi.us.



Left to Right Adileen Sii, Jack Wenzel, Alexandria Viegut

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State Agencies and Partners Cracking Down on Sale of Invasive Species

By: Paul Skawinski, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Education Specialist, Golden Sands RC&D

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP); and Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. (RC&D) are contacting nurseries and garden centers across the area in an effort to stop the sale of known invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial.

The DNR's relatively new invasive species rule, NR40, established lists of "prohibited" and "restricted" species. Prohibited species are those that are known to exist in only very small populations in Wisconsin, could likely be eradicated, and are likely to cause ecological or economic harm, or harm to human health. Restricted species are those that are known to be widespread in Wisconsin, and are unlikely to be eradicated. This is a huge step forward in the battle against invasive species, to stop them before they become well-established. Nursery operators tend to understand the problem that invasive species cause, and they now have photographic lists of regulated species to help them filter out known invasive species from their inventory. Prohibited invasive plants include such well-known menaces as kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) (known as "the vine that ate the South"), yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), which can cause severe skin blisters if touched with bare skin.



Yellow floating heart, an NR40-prohibited species.

Consumers can fight back against invasive species by researching those species before they purchase them. A simple internet search for a prohibited species like Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*) will quickly reveal how problematic it has become in southern and western states. A quick and easy way to avoid likely invasive species is to be suspicious of species with names that start with another continent; they are unlikely to be native here and could act invasively if planted in our environment. Consider some well-known invasive examples – Eurasian watermilfoil, European buckthorn, Asian lady beetles, Asian carp, Japanese honeysuckles, etc. Consumers should also talk to the store manager if they see a plant that is a known invasive species. With the help of consumers and nursery owners, we can help protect our environment by stopping the introduction of invasive species into Wisconsin. Read more about DNR's NR40 rule at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification> and see the restricted/prohibited lists at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/speciesNR40.asp?filterBy=Classification>.

Paul Skawinski is the Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Education Specialist for Wood, Portage, Waushara, Waupaca, and Marathon Counties and can be contacted at skawinsp@co.portage.wi.us or 715-343-6278. Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)3 natural resources conservation organization serving Wood County and eight other Central Wisconsin Counties.

Wildlife Damage Program

Wisconsin has a program that assists farmers when wildlife including, wild deer, bear, geese, or turkey damage their agricultural crops. The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers when wild deer, bear, geese, and turkeys damage their agricultural crops. These agricultural crops include damage to commercial seedlings, crops grown on agricultural land, damage to crops that have been harvested for sale or further use but have not been removed from the agricultural land, damage to orchard trees or nursery stock, and damage to apiaries.

There are requirements that program participants must meet in order to become enrolled, if you are interested in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) please contact Tracy Arnold at the Wood County Land Conservation Department at 715-421-8547.

2012 Wildlife Tree and Shrub Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ Email Address (optional): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

SPECIES	# PER BUNDLE	QUANTITY (# of Bundles)	PRICE PER BUNDLE	SUBTOTAL
WILDLIFE SHRUBS				
American Plum (12" - 18")	25 per bundle		\$19.00	
Forsythia (24" - 36")	25 per bundle		\$16.00	
Nanking Cherry (24")	25 per bundle		\$16.00	
Snowberry (12" - 24")	25 per bundle		\$22.00	
TREES				
Black Spruce (15" - 24")	25 per bundle		\$18.00	
Red Pine (7" - 15")	25 per bundle		\$17.00	
Shagbark Hickory (6" - 12")	25 per bundle		\$24.00	
Sugar Maple (12" - 18")	25 per bundle		\$17.00	
White Birch (24")	25 per bundle		\$17.00	
White Spruce (15" - 24")	25 per bundle		\$18.00	
FRUIT				
Rubel Blueberry (6" - 12") (limited supply)	5 per bundle		\$10.00	
Wild Grape (6" - 12")	5 per bundle		\$10.00	
TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF TREES/SHRUBS ORDERED				\$ _____
SPECIAL ITEMS				
	QUANTITY		UNIT PRICE	
Generic Gel	_____	X	_____ =	\$ _____
Tree Shelters	_____	X	\$2.15 =	\$ _____
SUBTOTAL				\$ _____
5.5% SALES TAX (subtotal x .055)				\$ _____
ORDER TOTAL				\$ _____

Payment must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to: Wood County LCD

Please mail order along with payment to: Wood County Land Conservation Dept.,

P.O. Box 8095,

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

ORDER DEADLINE IS JANUARY 13, 2012. Some varieties may be in short supply & substitutions may be necessary, therefore, **PLEASE ORDER EARLY!**

2012 Tree Sale Descriptions

American Plum: (shrub) 10-18 feet mature height. Clusters of white flowers bloom in May producing edible fruit available from August to October. Source of food and cover for many species of wildlife. Will form thickets from root suckers. Resistant to drought. Prefers well-drained soil and partial to full sun. Recommended spacing is 10-20 feet.

Forsythia: (shrub) 8-10 feet mature size. Fast growing shrub often used for landscaping. Has profuse yellow flowers early in the spring. Will grow in full sun to partial shade. Will grow in a variety of soils, but prefers well drained soils. Recommended spacing is 6-8 feet, 4 feet for a hedge.

Nanking Cherry: (shrub) Attractive shrub that grows to 15 feet. Tolerates extreme heat or cold. One of the first shrubs to blossom in the spring with pink buds that open into white flowers. Produces edible cherries and has an orange-brown bark in the winter. Good as ornamental and wildlife shrub.

Snowberry: (shrub) 4 feet mature height. Prefers limestone and clay, but can grow in rocky areas. Both full sun and shade, sun will maximize fruit yields. Leaves turn a blueish green in autumn and fruit is completely white. Fruit attracts Ruffed grouse, pheasant, robins, and grosbeaks. Often used to control soil erosion.

Black Spruce: (tree) 30-50 feet mature height. Found in poorly drained soils and occasionally on well-drained slopes. Often associated with Tamarack, Balsam Fir and White Cedar. The crown is dense, narrow, and conical in form, with drooping branches extending nearly to the ground. Shade tolerant. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

Red Pine: (tree) 70-100 feet mature size. An evergreen tree characterized by tall, straight growth in a variety of habitats. Has been planted quite widely for both erosion control, water conservation, and some for farmstead windbreaks.

Shagbark Hickory: (tree)) 60-100 feet mature size. Provides food for wildlife including squirrels, turkey, deer, etc. Prefers full sun. Will tolerate a variety of soil types, but prefers moist, well-drained soils. Recommended spacing 10-15 feet.

Sugar Maple: (tree) Average 70 feet mature height. Grows best in moist fertile soils with partial to full shade. Produces winged seeds in the fall. The leaves turn a brilliant red, orange or yellow color in the fall. Highest sugar content in sap for Maple Syrup.

White Birch: (tree) 50-70 feet mature size. Small to medium-sized tree. Bark on branches and young trees is brown to bronze. Bark on mature trees white, peeling into long, narrow, paper-like strips. Birches are sun-loving, fast growing trees.

White Spruce: (tree) 60-80 feet mature height. Provides nesting, roosting and winter cover to a variety of wildlife species; also, good for windbreaks. Will grow in full sun to partial shade and moist to dry soils. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

Rubel Blueberry: (fruit - shrub) 4-7 feet tall mature size. Mid to late-season fruit. It is a true wild selection with deep blue, exquisitely sweet fruit. Where newer cultivars have traded their nutritive qualities for larger size, lighter color, and thinner skins, Rubel has retained its rich antioxidant content and unequalled, sweet, intense flavor. Produces high yields of smaller to medium berries. For zones 4-7.

Wild Grape: (fruit - vine) Grows as a vine so size will differ depending on conditions. Will grow well in shady areas, but for maximum fruit yields, prefers sun. Quite hardy, though intermittent frosts can reduce fruit yields. A wide range of birds rely upon wild grape for nesting and cover, and even more utilize its fruit for food throughout the fall months.

Prices may vary if we do not meet minimum order requirements for each species. We will notify you if this is the case. When the trees and shrubs arrive, we will notify you when and where to pick them up. Distribution normally takes place the second or third week of April.

2012 Prairie Grass and Wildflower Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Short Prairie Seed Mixes					Tall Prairie Seed Mixes			
Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil	Moist Meadow	Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soils	Medium Soils
1/4 pound	\$ 60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 pound	\$ 45.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 pound	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 pound	\$ 85.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 pound	\$160.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 pound	\$130.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subtotal (x.055) 5.5% Tax	\$ _____ \$ _____	→	→	→	+	Subtotal (x.055) 5.5% Tax	\$ _____ \$ _____	Order Total \$ _____

Short Prairie for Dry Soils: Perfect for creating short prairie meadows on dry sand and gravel soils. Why spend a fortune adding topsoil, just to plant lawn you'll have to mow? Save your money, and plant a prairie meadow instead! Contains at least 18 wildflowers, two or more grasses, and may include: Lavender Hyssop, Leadplant, Butterfly Weed, Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Aster, White Aster, Canada Milk Vetch, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, White Prairie Clover, Purple Prairie Clover, Pale Purple Coneflower, Roundhead Bushclover, Rough Blazingstar, Lupine, Dotted Mint, Beardtongue, Black Eyed Susan, Wild Petunia, Stiff Goldenrod, Showy Goldenrod, Ohio Spiderwort, Hoary Vervain, Sideoats Grama, Little Bluestem, Junegrass, and Prairie Dropseed.

Short Prairie for Medium Soils: Excellent for well-drained loam, sandy loam and silt loam soils. Plant adjacent to a lawn, or in a large area for an expansive prairie look. Contains at least 18 wildflowers, two or more grasses, and may include: Lavender Hyssop, Nodding Pink Onion, Butterfly Weed for Clay, Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Aster, New Jersey Tea, Canada Milk Vetch, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, White Prairie Clover, Purple Prairie Clover, Shootingstar, Pale Purple Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Rattlesnake Master, Roundhead Bushclover, Rough Blazingstar, Meadow Blazingstar, Prairie Blazingstar, Wild Quinine, Smooth Penstemon, Great Solomon's Seal, Black Eyed Susan, Brown Eyed Susan, Stiff Goldenrod, Ohio Spiderwort, Sideoats Grama, Little Bluestem, and Prairie Dropseed.

Moist Meadow & Rain Garden Prairie Seed Mix: A great seed mix for low moist areas that tend to stay damp throughout the growing season. This is also an excellent choice for establishing native plants in large rain gardens where the use of transplants may be cost-prohibitive. The species in this mix tolerate periodic flooding for a day or two, as well as dry periods between rainstorms. Recommended for medium soils such as loam, sandy loam, and clay loam. Not recommended for dry, sandy soils that drain rapidly and do not retain moisture. You'll be amazed how many birds and butterflies will be attracted to this planting! Contains at least 15 wildflowers, five or more grasses, and may include: Nodding Pink Onion, Red Milkweed, New England Aster, White False Indigo, Wild Senna, Joe Pye Weed, Boneset, Dogtooth Daisy, Ox Eye Sunflower, Wild Iris, Blue Flag Iris, Blazingstar, Great Blue Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, Monkeyflower, Bergamot, Wild Quinine, Smooth Penstemon, Yellow Coneflower, Black Eyed Susan, Green Headed Coneflower, Sweet Black Eyed Susan, Brown Eyed Susan, Common Arrowhead, Ohio Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Blue Vervain, Ironweed, Culver's Root, Golden Alexanders, Blue-joint Grass, Canada Wild Rye, Virginia Wild Rye, Bebb's Sedge, Bottlebrush Sedge, Porcupine Sedge, Awl Fruited Sedge, Fox Sedge, Common Rush, Dark Green Bulrush, and Woolgrass.

Tall Prairie for Dry Soils: A great mix for creating tall prairie habitat for wild turkey, pheasant and other wildlife on dry, sandy or rocky soils. The flowers in this mix provide summer-long color, and the grasses add winter-long cover! Contains at least 18 wildflowers, four or more grasses, and may include: Leadplant, Butterfly Weed, Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Aster, Frost Aster, White Aster, Canada Milk Vetch, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Purple Prairie Clover, Pale Purple Coneflower, Sunflower, Roundhead Bushclover, Rough Blazingstar, Lupine, Bergamot, Dotted Mint, Beardtongue, Yellow Coneflower, Black Eyed Susan, Stiff Goldenrod, Showy Goldenrod, Ohio Spiderwort, Hoary Vervain, Big Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canada Wild Rye, Little Bluestem and Indiangrass.

Tall Prairie for Medium Soils: Best suited for clay to deep loam soils. It thrives in seasonally moist conditions or more damp areas. This mix makes beautiful butterfly gardens or decorative backyard or landscape plantings. Contains at least 18 wildflowers, three or more grasses, and may include: Nodding Pink Onion, Smooth Aster, New England Aster, Canada Milk Vetch, Blue False Indigo, White False Indigo, Wild Senna, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Purple Prairie Clover, Purple Coneflower, Rattlesnake Master, Ox Eye Sunflower, Prairie Blazingstar, Bergamot, Wild Quinine, Smooth Penstemon, Yellow Coneflower, Black Eyed Susan, Sweet Black Eyed Susan, Brown Eyed Susan, Compassplant, Prairie Dock, Stiff Goldenrod, Culver's Root, Big Bluestem, Canada Wild Rye, Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass.

Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Offers Assistance to Farmers & Landowners

By: Shannon Rohde, CWWP Project Manager

The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners or CWWP is a non-profit organization that was developed back in the late 1980's and early 90's to help reduce and prevent soil loss from wind erosion. Based out of the Hancock Ag Research Station, the CWWP roughly covers an eight county area including Adams, Juneau, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood counties.

The vision of the CWWP is to use conservation and preservation methods to control wind erosion on cropland, and to protect farmsteads, residential areas, roads and highways in Central Wisconsin through the establishments of windbreaks, shelterbelts, and living snow fences. The CWWP seeks to assist farmers and landowners with wind erosion and snow control, landscaping, prairie grass seeding, wildlife plantings, and livestock protection through three primary activities: 1) Offering a full service windbreak establishment and maintenance program, 2) Proving services for wildlife habitat development, and 3) Providing information and education to customers through their experiences in these areas.

Each year it is the CWWP's goal to plan 15.5 miles of windbreaks. With how our fee schedule is set up, that is our magic number for the budget to balance out. There is a possibility that landowners could receive cost share assistance from the county Soil and Water Resource Management Program or the NRCS and their Environmental Quality Incentives Program if they are eligible. Cost sharing can range from 50% up to 70% of the total cost.

Back in 1997 the CWWP started using a fabric mulch weed barrier to help control the weed growth problem and with the combination of our maintenance program, we have been able to guarantee a 95 percent survival rate after the first three years of establishment. Our maintenance program includes hand weeding around each plant, replacing any dead or missing plants, and mowing around the edges of the fabric. After the three years are up, the plant should be established enough to survive on their own.



This windbreak was planted in 1999
(photo taken in 2005)

If anyone has questions regarding our program or the services we offer, please feel free to contact our office at 715-249-5424 or toll free 888-249-5424 or check out our webpage at www.co.portage.wi.us/planningzoning/Windshed/index.htm

2011 Conservation Tour Enjoyed by All

On September 13th the Land Conservation Department hosted 20 people on our annual conservation tour. The tour is used to highlight landowners that have utilized the Land Conservation Department (LCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) programs. We customize our tour every year, to make sure it is both educational and informative.

This year, four stops included the Brad Kremer farm where we observed two newly installed robotic milkers in operation. Wood County provided funding through its revolving loan fund program for the robotic milking operations. From the Kremer farm we traveled to the Marshfield U.W. Arboretum where we were able to walk through the arboretum and see the progress of the buckthorn eradication project. This is an ongoing project that was initiated by husband and wife team Don and Karen Haralson. Our next stop was the Robert & Cindy Pankratz Farm. This family owned farm had 345 animal units on site and very minimal crop acreage. We saw the various best management practices that were installed with cost-share provided by the Wood County LCD through DNR and DATCP grants. Practices included heavy use protection areas, livestock fencing, manure storage systems, reception tank & pump systems, roof runoff systems, barnyard sediment basins, underground outlets and diversion ditch. The final tour stop was a forestry stop at Mike Draxler's and the Village of Hewitt Properties. There we were able to stroll through Mr. Draxler's forest on the recreational trails and hear how he worked with the Village of Hewitt in providing and improving recreation opportunities for residents in north Wood County by incorporating the use of his property with those owned by the Village.

Thank you to all who agreed to allow us to tour their property on the 2011 Conservation Tour and thank you to all who joined us on the tour.

Tree Planting Aids Available

Tree Shelters

This year we are offering a new tree shelter that ships flat, pops up to a generous, leaf expanding 3.9 inch diameter, and installs quickly and easily with large tie holes for different staking options. The 4-foot tubes are vented to allow superior air exchange for efficient CO2 replenishment and assuring proper dormancy (harden off) before winter. Tree shelters protect newly planted deciduous seedlings from wildlife damage. They produce a greenhouse environment, resulting in high survival rates and faster growth. Tree shelters are available anytime throughout the year at the Wood County Land Conservation Department; please call 715-421-8475 so we can get them to the office for pick up. The tree shelters are \$2.15 + tax.



Generic Gel

Generic gel is a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods. The gel increases plant survivability. It comes in granular form and is mixed with water. Roots are dipped into the solution prior to planting. Generic gel is available throughout the year at the Wood County Land Conservation Department, call ahead to make sure we have the correct size you want. Sizes available are as follows:

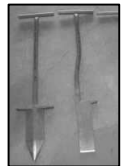
<u>Size</u>	<u>#Seedlings treated</u>	<u>#Transplants treated</u>	<u>Cost</u>
4 oz.	1,000	250	\$ 7.25 + tax
1 lb.	4,000	1000	\$ 12.25 + tax
3 lb.	12,000	3000	\$ 22.25+ tax

Tree Planters

The Wood County Land Conservation Department also has four tree planters for rent. The green planter operates off of tractor hydraulics and has a pin hitch. The yellow planter also operates off tractor hydraulics and has a 1 7/8" hitch. The red planter operates with hand pump hydraulics (no tractor hydraulics needed) and has a 1 7/8" hitch. The DNR also has a three-point hitch planter available for rent. Rental fee is \$20.00 per 1000 trees. If you are interested in renting these please call the LCD to schedule a time and get a contract signed.

Tree Spades

The Wood County Land Conservation Department also has three tree spades available to help you plant your seedlings. Tree spades can be rented for \$5.00 per day. If you loose or fail to return it you are responsible for the replacement cost. Please call the office to get on the schedule and get a contract signed.



Cost Share Funds Available to Wood County Landowners

The Land Conservation Department provides cost share assistance to landowners for approved conservation practices in Wood County. Cost share is available for a variety of practices including barnyards, waste storage facility construction and closure, grassed waterways, diversions, and streambank stabilization.

If you are planning to do a project next year, contact Shane Wucherpfennig. Shane can assist you in evaluating the problem and recommending best management practices. If your project is approved for cost share assistance, Shane can assist you with design and construction.

Also, if you have plans to construct, abandon or alter your manure storage facility, Please contact the Wood County Land Conservation Department at 715-421-8475 to apply for an Animal Waste Storage permit.

HELP US KEEP OUR MAIL LIST CURRENT

Please notify the Wood County Land Conservation Department of any change of address so we can keep our mail list current. Also, if you prefer to receive our newsletter by email, call 715-421-8475 or email lruss@co.wood.wi.us and we will add you to our email list.

**WOOD COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

400 MARKET STREET
PO BOX 8095
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54495-8095

PHONE-(715)-421-8475
FAX-(715)-421-8579
www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/LandConservation

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 127
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

2011 Venison Donation Program

New this year! If you don't want to donate a whole deer just donate a pound or two. When hunters pay for their own deer to be butchered by a participating processor they may donate a pound (or as many as they wish) to local food pantries for those in need.

To donate a whole deer, field dress the deer and register it at a Wisconsin DNR registration station. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please sign the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. We'll do the rest. The donated deer will be processed into hamburger and the venison will be distributed to charitable organizations to help feed Wisconsinites in need. For more information about the Venison Donation Program please contact Tracy Arnold with the Land Conservation Department at 715-421-8475.

Participating Processors in Wood County

A & B Butchering	715-435-3893	6971 State Highway 34, Rudolph WI
Hewitt's Meat Processing	715-676-3315	8300 Co V, Marshfield WI
Strictly Wild	715-421-0587	140 Buffalo St., Wisconsin Rapids WI