



The Conservation Corner

April 2008



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A publication developed to highlight conservation efforts, programs and events throughout Hamilton County
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April 2008



Earth Day Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Earth Day was founded by Wisconsin Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson in order to bring environmental issues to the political table and was celebrated for the first time in the U.S. on April 22, 1970. Twenty million people participated in the first event, and today, over 170 countries and half a billion people worldwide celebrate the conservation of our natural environment, the protection of our resources, and sustainable living.

Join us in celebrating Earth Day! Here is how you can help make our Earth a little greener:

- Ride a bike or carpool to work to reduce emissions
- Recycle to reduce waste
- Turn off lights, computer monitors and other equipment when not in use
- If possible, take the stairs instead of the elevator
- Buy local foods and goods to reduce fossil fuel emissions during transportation



- Look for new equipment that is energy efficient
- Buy reusable office supplies, such as undated, erasable wall calendars, instead of disposable supplies
- Report leaky faucets and toilets to building maintenance
- Use nontoxic, biodegradable cleaners. They contain low- or non-volatile organic compounds
- Reuse file folders many times by replacing the label and inverting folders

Paper Recycling Program

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) began a paper recycling program in early April in our county courthouse offices. Surveys

were completed by people interested in receiving a recycle bin, and shredded and computer paper, newspapers, and corrugated cardboard are collected on a weekly basis.

A huge thank you to our awesome maintenance staff who helped make this program possible and to the enthusiastic recyclers.



Arbor Day April 25, 2008

I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines.

~Henry David Thoreau

Julius Sterling Morton, journalist, newspaper editor, and President Grover Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture, understood the intrinsic value of trees. He wrote articles concerning sound agricultural practices as well as how trees function as fuel, building material, and shade and as a way to preserve soil. His love for trees resulted in the planting orchards, wind breaks, and shade trees on his farm. Morton's vision quickly spread through Nebraska, and the first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872. One million trees were planted on that day. In 1970, President Richard Nixon designated the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. Trees provide wildlife habitat, cleans the air, conserve water, lower energy costs, act as living memorials, provide privacy, enhance views, and possess healing powers. Instead of planting invasive plants that decrease the integrity of our natural environment, plant native plants that are beneficial to our Adirondack ecosystem.

Celebrate
Arbor Day
and plant a
tree!



HCSWCD's Tree & Shrub Sale

Even though the deadline to place orders for trees and shrubs has passed, the HCSWCD has ordered extras! Black Chokeberry, American Elderberry, Chokecherry, American Bittersweet, and Frost Grape are only a few examples of our wide selection. We offer only native plants that provide excellent erosion control, wildlife habitat, beautification, windbreaks, barriers against harsh weather, privacy, and wood production. Straw and Conservation Lawn Mix are also available. Browse our selection on the following dates:

Friday April 25, 2008

Brown Shed Building across the road from the New Lake Pleasant Fire Hall

9 AM—3 PM

Saturday April 26, 2008

1. Blue Mountain Fire Station
9 AM—12 PM
2. Brown Shed Building
9 AM—1 PM



Conservation Education

Conservation education is an increasingly important subject for today's society, allowing for the understanding how natural systems function, the political, social, and cultural components



of our environment, and the reciprocity that exists between human/nature interactions. The HCSWCD offers presentations are offered on a wide variety of topics, including Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Plants, Watersheds, Groundwater, Stream Biomonitoring using Benthic Macroinvertebrates, Aquatic Pollution, Geography of the Adirondacks, Soil Erosion, and Lake Monitoring. If your organization is interested in a presentation, please contact the HCSWCD office to establish a date and time. The Conservation Educator is available Monday—Friday 8AM—4:30PM but is also available for evening