



Conservation News

Winter/Spring 2009

Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), (507) 373-5607 Ext. 3

Freeborn SWCD Board of Supervisors select Joel Stensrud as Outstanding Conservation Farmer for 2008. . . .

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Staff:

- Don Flatness, SWCD District Manager
- Brenda Lageson, SWCD District Admin. Assistant
- Mark Schaezke, SWCD District Technician
- Ed Moffett, NRCS District Conservationist
- Brian Jensen, NRCS Soil Conservation Tech.
- Tony Reali, Ducks Unlimited Wetland Restoration Specialist



Joel with his wife Linda, daughter Jessica and son Chad.

Joel and Linda Stensrud who farm near Freeborn, MN were honored along with other "Outstanding Conservation Farmers" from each county across the state at the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation

District's Annual Convention held in December. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel. A special noon Luncheon was held in their honor. Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher was the guest speaker.

The Stensrud's were invited as guests of our SWCD in recognition of their extraordinary soil and water conservation efforts on their farms. They have a cash/grain operation growing corn & soybeans. They've installed several soil & water conserving practices and use No Till/Strip Till for planting

their crops. They also follow a Nutrient Management Plan and do some Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on part of their land.

We congratulate the Stensruds on their "Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award" and wish them continued success.



Joel standing next to one of his water and sediment control basins.

SWCD Board of Supervisors:

- Don Kropp, Chairman
- Cole Pectorious, Vice-Chair
- Dave Aussen, Treasurer
- Chris Dahl, Secretary
- Roger M. Nelson, Supervisor



Obert Haldorson

In Remembrance of Obert S. Haldorson. . . .

Obert passed away unexpectedly on October 5th, 2008 in a Rochester Hospital. He was first elected as a Supervisor on our SWCD Board in November of 1994 and began his 1st term in January, 1995. He continued in that position until his passing, having been re-elected several times. He represented Nomination District # 3 which includes

most of the southeast quarter of our county.

He brought first hand knowledge of SWCD's to his position being employed by the Mower County SWCD for over 25 years, prior to his retirement in 1993. Because of his work experience, Obert knew the local, as well as area and state structure of our

organization and its partners. This knowledge and experience was valuable to our board when dealing with many of the issues that arose while he was with us. His pleasant personality and willingness to serve, plus his experience made him an asset on our board. We respect his memory and appreciate his contributions to our organization.

Visit us on the web at www.freebornswcd.org

Roger M. Nelson becomes New SWCD Supervisor filling Haldorson's Un-expired Term. . .



Chairman Kropp performs swearing ceremony for Roger Nelson. (Kropp-left, Nelson-right)

As a result of Obert's un-expected passing, our board sought applicants to fill his un-expired term. Roger M. Nelson, who lives near the south shore of Albert Lea Lake responded to our

request and was later appointed to fill this un-expired term.

Nelson cited his interest in Soil & Water Conservation plus his involvement in previous Albert Lea Lake Clean-up

Efforts as his impetus for seeking our board position. He was officially "sworn in" at our January 8th SWCD Board Meeting.



Ausen-left and Dahl-right

David Ausen, Re-elected and Chris Dahl Elected for the first time in November. . .

Incumbent Supervisor David Ausen was re-elected and Chris Dahl who had previously been appointed to fill an un-expired term vacated by Jerry Demmer was elected

for his first term in the Nov. 4th, General Election.

Following board reorganization at our January meeting, the board officers for 2009 are as follows:

Don Kropp, Chairman; Cole Pestorius, Vice-Chairman; Chris Dahl, Board Secretary; David Ausen, Treasurer and Roger Nelson, Supervisor.

Arbor Day is April 24, 2009 - plant a tree!

Trees can reduce energy costs and increase property value. . .



Living Snowfence

With recent increases in energy costs and decreases in property values, trees can do double duty to help your bottom line. One study suggests that the net benefit after expenses is \$3 to \$76 per tree every year! That could be over \$3,000 for one tree over 40 years and many trees have life expectancies greater than 40 years! Rows of any kind of tree or shrub planted to the north and west sides of your home or livestock quarters can help stop those bitter cold winter winds from robbing your heat. Everyone has probably experienced how you can be comfortable standing in a sheltered location, but become cold quickly when fully exposed to the

wind. Your house experiences the same elevated heat loss when it is exposed to the cold winds. A properly placed windbreak can protect your home and reduce heating costs 10-20%.

In addition to heat savings, properly placed trees and shrubs can reduce the amount of snow you have to plow or shovel. In our area it is estimated that 40% of the snow that falls on the ground is moved by wind to another location. Trees and shrubs can help keep this snow from being moved onto your driveway and sidewalk.

During the summer a couple of deciduous

trees planted to the south and west can provide shade for your house. Your utility bills could be reduced 15% due to your air conditioner running less. In addition to helping to save energy, trees in your yard will probably allow you to enjoy using your yard more often. If you have a shady picnic table in the summer or a calm, sunny back yard in the winter, the weather extremes won't seem so bad.

There is still some cost share available for new shelterbelt plantings and tree plantings along roads to serve as living snowfences. We will also gladly **offer advice, conduct site visits, and create planting plans** when requested. Please contact our office for more information. **373-5607 Ext. 3**

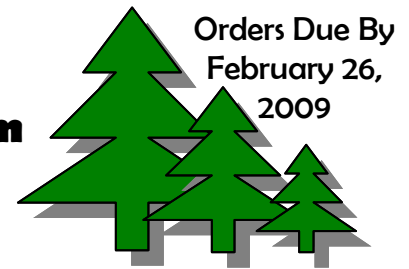


Trees sorted for distribution



Freeborn County SWCD Spring 2009 Tree Order Form

1400 W Main Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-373-5607 Ext. 3 or FAX 507-373-7654
email: brenda.lageson@mn.nacdn.net
www.freebornswcd.org



Name: _____ Date Ordered: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City, State, ZIP: _____ Check# /Cash: _____

Order bare root in multiples of 10, no minimum order for pots

Order bare root in multiples of 10, no minimum order for pots

Native Evergreens					Non-Native Evergreens				
	Size	Price ea.	Qty.	Total		Size	Price ea.	Qty.	Total
Arborvitae, American: bare root	12-18"	\$1.25		\$	Spruce, Black Hills: bare root	12-18"	\$1.25		\$
Arborvitae, Am.: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$6.95		\$	Spruce, Black Hills: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$6.95		\$
Cedar, Eastern Red: bare root	15-18"	\$1.25		\$	Spruce, Black Hills: 2 gal. pot	18-24"	\$10.95		\$
Pine, Red: bare root	7-15"	\$1.25		\$	Spruce, Colorado: bare root	12-18"	\$1.50		\$
Pine, White: bare root	7-15"	\$1.10		\$	Spruce, Colorado: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$6.95		\$
Spruce, White: bare root	7-15"	\$1.10		\$	Spruce, Norway: bare root	7-15"	\$1.10		\$
					Spruce, Norway: 1 gal. pot	15-18"	\$6.95		\$

Order in multiples of 10 or 25

Order in multiples of 10 trees or 25 shrubs

Native Deciduous Trees					Non-Native Deciduous Trees & Shrubs				
Ash, Green	3-4'	\$1.10		\$	Cherry, Nanking	18-24"	\$0.95		\$
Birch, River	2-3'	\$1.25		\$	Crabapple, Red Splendor	2-3'	\$1.00		\$
Cherry, Black	2-3'	\$1.10		\$	Honeysuckle, Arnolds Red	18-24"	\$0.95		\$
Chokecherry, Common	2-3'	\$1.00		\$	Lilac, Chinese	18-24"	\$2.50		\$
Hackberry	2-3'	\$1.00		\$	Lilac, Villosa	18-24"	\$1.00		\$
Linden, Littleleaf	2-3'	\$1.25		\$	Maple, Amur	2-3'	\$1.00		\$
Maple, Red (Rubrum)	2-3'	\$1.25		\$	Maple, Sugar	18-24"	\$1.25		\$
Oak, Bur	2-3'	\$1.00		\$	Oak, Pin	2-3'	\$1.50		\$
Oak, Red	2-3'	\$1.10		\$	Poplar, Norway	3-4'	\$1.10		\$
Plum, American	2-3'	\$1.25		\$	Walnut, Black	2-3'	\$1.25		\$
					Willow, Hybrid	2-3'	\$1.25		\$

Order in multiples of 25

Native Shrubs				
Arrowwood	18-24"	\$1.10		\$
Cranberry, Am. Highbush	18-24"	\$1.25		\$
Dogwood, Gray	18-24"	\$1.00		\$
Dogwood, Redosier	18-24"	\$0.95		\$
Hazelnut, American	18-24"	\$1.25		\$
Nannyberry	18-24"	\$1.25		\$
Other				
Tree Mats (one per tree) 3 x 3'	ea.	\$1.35		\$
Fertilizer Packets	ea.	\$0.20		\$
Tree Tubes and stakes available upon request				\$



Subtotal	\$
Sales Tax 7%	\$
Total	\$
Less Deposit	\$
Balance Due	\$

*If you want something not listed here
we may be able to order it for you.*

- ♣ The SWCD sells good quality trees, but offers no guarantee of survival or availability of items ordered.
- ♣ Our stock is limited to what our wholesale suppliers can provide.
- ♣ A 20% deposit is required on all orders over \$50.00 with the balance due at the time of pick-up.
Make checks payable to Freeborn County SWCD.
- ♣ We will contact you when the orders are ready to be picked up, generally around the
3rd or 4th week of April.

Evergreens		Deciduous Trees Continued	
<p><u>Arborvitae, American, Thuja occidentalis</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Also known as Northern White Cedar. Pyramid shaped tree with soft green scale-like needles. Excellent windbreak tree for homesites. Tolerates most sites.</p>	<p><u>Cedar, Eastern Red, Juniperus virginiana</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Native to IA. Sharp green scale-like needles. Good for wildlife. Tolerant of most light and soil conditions.</p>	<p><u>Maple, Red, Acer rubrum</u> – Height 40-70'. Native to MN. Saw toothed lobed leaves. Shade tolerant, grows in very wet to dry conditions, moderately fast growing. Leaves can turn red, yellow or orange in fall.</p>	<p><u>Maple, Sugar, Acer saccharum</u> – Height of 60-80' Produces dense, oval crown and bright fall colors ranging from yellow to orangish red. Slow-growing, needs well-drained, loamy soils. Not tolerant of wet soils. Shade tolerant. Used to make maple syrup.</p>
<p><u>Pine, Red, Pinus resinosa</u> – Height of 50 - 80'. Also known as Norway Pine. Long needled, pyramid shaped tree. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils. Popular Christmas tree species. Needs up to 20' spacing to avoid overcrowding of lower branches.</p>	<p><u>Pine, White, Pinus strobus</u> – Height of 80 - 100'. Fast growing, tallest conifer species in MN. Pyramid shaped when young, broadening with age. Prefers sand or silt loam soils, but will tolerate a wide range. Needs at least 20' spacing to avoid overcrowding of lower branches.</p>	<p><u>Oak, Bur, Quercus macrocarpa</u> – Height of 70-80+'. Simple lobed leaves and produces acorns and tree with corky appearance. Good for wildlife. Tolerates a variety of soil types. Long-lived but slow growing.</p>	<p><u>Oak, Red (Northern), Quercus rubra</u> – Height of 60-80+'. Simple lobed, bristle-tipped leaves. Red or brown fall leaf color. Good for wildlife. Prefers deep, rich soils, intolerant of drier alkaline soils. Long-lived and fastest growing oak. <u>Oak, Pin Quercus palustris</u> - Similar to red oak but drier and acidic soil.</p>
<p><u>Spruce, Black Hills, Picea glauca var. densata</u> – Height of 40 – 50'. Native to Black Hills, SD. Geographical strain of white spruce. Slow growing, conical tree with dark green needles. Hardy and more drought resistant than White Spruce.</p>	<p><u>Spruce, Colorado, Picea pungens</u> – Height of 50 – 100'. Native in Rocky Mountains region. Dense conical tree. Prefers moist soil but can do well in dry sites, and is intolerant of shade. Slow-growing. Susceptible to Cytospora canker.</p>	<p><u>Plum, American, Prunus americana</u> – Height of 12-25'. Fast growing small tree. Fragrant white flowers are followed by edible fruits, yellow or red in color suitable for jellies. Quite adaptable. Thicket forming.</p>	<p><u>Poplar, Norway, Populus deltoides x nigra</u> – Height up to 80+'. Grows very fast and tall. Good for windbreaks when used as a temporary species. Short lived. Norway is best adapted of the poplar species.</p>
<p><u>Spruce, Norway, Picea abies</u> – Height of 80 – 100+'. Native to Europe. Pyramidal tree with drooping branches. Fastest growing, and tallest species of spruce.</p>	<p><u>Spruce, White, Picea glauca</u> – Height of 40 – 80'. Native to north central U.S. and Canada. Bluish needles. Prefers fertile soils and is tolerant of most light conditions. Good for windbreaks and winter wildlife cover.</p>	<p><u>Walnut, Black, Juglans nigra</u> – Height of 50-60+'. Native to IA. Fast growing. Leaves are pinnately compound and produce a hard shelled nut. Good for wildlife. Prefers moist well-drained soils.</p>	<p><u>Willow, Hybrid, Salix matsudana/alba</u>, Large tree up to 75'. Single stemmed tree good for windbreaks. Avoid planting near other willows and in areas where uncontrolled spread is possible.</p>
Deciduous Trees		Shrubs	
<p><u>Ash, Green Fraxinus Pennsylvanica</u> – Height of 50-60'. Native to IA. Leaves are pinnately compound. Drought resistant, will tolerate a wide range of soils. Thrives in medium to coarse textured upland sands and loams. Yellow fall color. Susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer.</p>	<p><u>Birch, River Betula nigra</u> - Height of 40'-60'. Fast growing, but short lived. Tolerates wet areas. Shade intolerant. Light reddish brown bark with yellow leaves in the fall.</p>	<p><u>Arrowwood, Viburnum dentatum</u> – Height of 6-10'. Native of eastern and mid-western U.S. Produces cream colored flowers followed by small blue or purple fruits. Favors moist but well-drained soils of varying pH. Good food source for wildlife.</p>	<p><u>Cranberry, American, Highbush, Viburnum trilobum</u> – Height 10 – 16'. Produces white flowers and red edible fruit, with excellent fall color. When planted as a hedge, makes a good snow catch/screen in the winter. Good for wildlife. Tolerates a variety of soils.</p>
<p><u>Chokecherry, Common, Prunus virginiana</u> – Height of 15-20'. Produces edible reddish-purple or black cherries that ripen in late summer. Needs well drained soils. Pruning may be necessary. Excellent plant for wildlife food & cover.</p>	<p><u>Cherry, Black Prunus serotina</u> - height of 30-60' and moderately fast growing. <u>Cherry, Nanking, Prunus tomentosa</u> - Height 6-10'. Tolerates wind and dry soils. Dense twigs make good screen. Needs full sun. Both produce fruit for wildlife.</p>	<p><u>Dogwood, Gray, Cornus racemosa</u> height 8' and 5' wide. Grows well in poor soils. White fruit is eaten by a variety of wildlife.</p>	<p><u>Dogwood, Redosier, Cornus sericea</u> – Height of 8-10'. Fast growing native shrub. This shrub has bright red stems and produces clusters of white fruit. Good for wildlife. Prefers moist sites.</p>
<p><u>Crabapple, Red Splendor, Malus "red splendor"</u> – Height and spread of 15-25'. Leaves are green or reddish, flowers are white or pink followed by fruits ¼" to 1" in diameter. Full sun. Quality food source for wildlife.</p>	<p><u>Hackberry, Celtis occidentalis</u> – Height of 30-60+'. Tall, wide spreading crown. Has a scaly or warty bark. Produces dark purple fruit. Grows best in well drained, moist soils. Excellent cover and food source for wildlife. Intermediate shade tolerance.</p>	<p><u>Hazelnut, American, Corylus americana</u> - Height of 3-10'. Shade tolerant. Produces edible nuts eaten by birds and mammals. Variable fall color. Can reproduce by suckering.</p>	<p><u>Honeysuckle, Arnold Red, Lonicera tatarica</u> - Height 10-12'. Large round headed shrub. Has pink flowers that are replaced with orange berries which are eaten by birds. Tolerates drought and pH ranges</p>
<p><u>Little-Leaf Linden, Tilia cordata</u> – Medium tree with compact, cone-shaped crown. Roots are wide-spreading and deep, which makes it an excellent soil builder. Prefers loamy soils. Produces flowers with small nutlets on a hanging stalk.</p>	<p><u>Maple, Amur, Acer ginnala</u> - Small tree 15-18'. Often multi-stemmed tree with bright red or orange foliage in the fall. Shade tolerant but needs well drained soil.</p>	<p><u>Lilac, Chinese, Syringa x chinensis</u>- Height of 8-12'. Large, round-headed shrub. Profuse bloomer, with purple flowers in May. Prefers well-drained soils and full sun for best flowering effect. <u>Lilac, Villosa Syringa villosa</u> - later blooming.</p>	<p><u>Nannyberry, Viburnum lentago</u> – Height of 10-20'. Fast growing. Glossy leaves with cream flowers followed by blue-black berries. Tolerates wide range of soils and pH. Attractive for shiny foliage and red fall color.</p>

Plan Now For Conservation Funding Opportunities.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Freeborn County is accepting applications for conservation and land improvement projects. The funding is through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, called EQIP. EQIP is a competitive program to help agriculture producers apply needed conservation practices on their land and farmstead. Producers

will receive up to 50 percent cost-share with Limited Resources Farmers and Beginning Farmers receiving up to 90 percent to implement qualified conservation practices.

Conservation practices approved for funding are for crop, livestock, organic, and grazing farm operations. Examples of approved practices include: grassed waterway, pasture and hay

planting, fencing, watering facilities, irrigation improvement, composting facility, diversion, agricultural waste facility, no till and strip till, organic crop rotation and many others.

To apply for funding, landowners should visit the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center located at 1400 West Main, Albert Lea or call **507-373-5607 Ext. 3.**



Side Inlet Pipe being installed to provide a stable outlet for a grass waterway.

Clean Water Legacy Act – Grant Funds Available.

Landowners in the northwest part of Freeborn County are reminded that they have another source of cost sharing for conservation practice installation. Our county is a member of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) and this group has applied for and received funds through the Clean Water Legacy Act. These funds can be used to solve erosion problems and other projects that have a positive effect on water quality. Generally, the cost share rate is 75% with

the landowner picking up the remaining 25% of project cost. Traditional practices such as Grass Waterways, Terraces, Water & Sediment Basins and Erosion Control Structures are eligible for cost share.

The current grant timeline expires on June 30th, 2009. Funding dollars are still available that can be encumbered for your project. However, the project must be installed this spring and payment made before

June 30th 2009. A new grant application is in the works and hopefully, more funding will be available with an extended timeline.

In addition to cost share dollars, the grant also provided funds to hire an engineering technician, a nutrient management planner and an urban specialist working with small communities. Anyone interested in the services of one of these individuals is encouraged to contact our office.



Side Inlet protecting an open ditch bank. Note water flowing through.



Water & Sediment Basin ridge installed across the slope to control gully erosion.

Introducing the NEW Native Buffer Program.

Freeborn SWCD recently received a grant to assist landowners in creating buffers with native plants. Eligible properties include private, city, or county owned lands in rural or

urban settings. We can provide cost share for site preparation, seed, seeding, mulch, and other things that are needed for a successful buffer project. Plants used must be native to the area and the seed

must originate from a native stand. Our office is in contact with several vendors that can provide this type of seed/plants. We currently have no minimum or maximum project size limitations.



Scenic beauty of native grass and wildflower plantings.

**FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)**
1400 W MAIN STREET
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
507-373-5607 EXT. 3
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.freebornswcd.org



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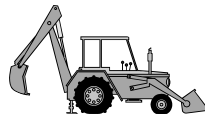
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