

**Stevens SWCD**

# Conservation News

**Fall 2022**

## SWCD

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**Micayla Nelson**  
Watershed Project Coordinator

**NRCS Staff**  
**Aria Schuett**  
Acting District Conservationist

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**Contact Stevens SWCD**  
320-589-4886 ext. 4  
[www.stevensswcd.org](http://www.stevensswcd.org)

## *Congratulations, Henrichs Farms!*

Brian Henrichs and his son Darrick are pictured here along with Darrick's wife Amber and their son Jace. Henrichs Farms, LLC has been named as Stevens County's Outstanding Conservationist for 2022. The farm has been in operation in Stevens County since 1965. They raise corn and soybeans near Donnelly and use a variety of conservation practices to help increase both their soil health and crop yields. Their conservation practices include water and sediment control basins, cover crops, no till, soil grid testing, variable rate fertilizer application, and variable seeding rates. They install buffer strips along all their lakes and ditches, many of which are enrolled in the CRP program, and utilize NRCS's EQIP and CSP programs. This year the Henrichs completed two large projects on some of their highly erodible land, installing five water and sediment control basins over one 40-acre piece and eight of them over another 100 acres. Conservation of wildlife habitat is also important to them. They are members of the Donnelly Rod and Gun Club and maintain a monarch butterfly planting as well as a wildlife food plot. The Henrichs are always looking for new ways to implement conservation practices and are working on becoming a Minnesota Ag Water Quality certified farm.

Congratulations to Henrichs Farms, LLC for their dedication to conservation! They will be honored at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Convention held in Bloomington in December.





## *Aria Schuett joins Stevens County NRCS*

Hello! My name is Aria Schuett, and I will be in the Morris NRCS office filling in for Melissa McCann as acting District Conservationist while she is on detail. My home office is in Elbow Lake, and I have been with the NRCS for almost a year and a half. I graduated from UMN Crookston in the spring of 2021 with a degree in natural resources management. I was born and raised in Little Falls, right in between St. Cloud and Brainerd. I am recently married, and my husband works in Alexandria. We enjoy anything outdoors and want to travel all over! We live in Evansville and are currently house hunting to no avail as of yet. I'm excited to act in Morris, learn more about CSP and EQIP, and to meet all the hard-working producers of Stevens County. Contact me at 320-589-4886 ext 3.



## *Envirothon for high school students*



The Envirothon, an outdoor learning event for high school students in grades 9-12, is one of the state's largest environmental education competitions. Teams consisting of five students from the same school/organization visit six different learning stations covering Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a current environmental topic that changes every year. Students are given a 25-point exam relating to the station's topics. At the sixth station, the students are required to give a brief (8-10 minute) pre-determined oral presentation to a panel of judges, also based on the current environmental topic for the year. In 2023 the topic is "Adapting to Climate Change." The Area 2 Envirothon will be at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer. The Minnesota State Envirothon for High School students will be at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls in May of 2023.

Natural resource professionals from across the state are presenters at each of the stations. They use the outdoor setting, as well as their own props, to add to the experience. Students learn about careers in environment and natural resources, and often this event will help lead them on their career path.

In Minnesota, teams participate in various regional Envirothons, which are organized by Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) personnel. The top three teams from each of these regional events advance to the Minnesota State Envirothon, where students compete for the chance to represent Minnesota at the National Envirothon.





12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2  
Morris MN 56267  
(320) 589-4886 ext. 4  
www.stevensswcd.org

## 2023 Order Form

Prices subject to change. Order by March 15 to ensure availability.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ TWP: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Species

Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Price	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Price
<b>Shrubs</b>			<b>Potted Trees</b>		
American Cranberry	\$ 2.00		Black Hills Spruce 1 gallon	\$ 12.00	
American Hazelnut	\$ 2.00		Colorado Blue Spruce 1 gallon	\$ 12.00	
Buffaloberry	\$ 2.00		Techny Arborvitae 1 gallon	\$ 12.00	
Chokeberry	\$ 2.00		Ponderosa Pine 1 gallon	\$ 12.00	
Common Lilac	\$ 2.00				
Coloneaster	\$ 2.00				
Nanking Cherry	\$ 2.00		<b>Bare Root Evergreens</b>		
Redosier Dogwood	\$ 2.00		Black Hills Spruce	\$ 2.00	
Silky Dogwood	\$ 2.00		Colorado Blue Spruce	\$ 2.00	
Villosa Lilac	\$ 2.00		Ponderosa Pine	\$ 2.00	
			Techny Arborvitae	\$ 2.00	
<b>Small Trees</b>			<div>Other species and sizes may be available upon request.</div> <div>Bare root trees should be ordered in multiples of 25 trees per variety.</div>		
American Plum	\$ 2.00				
Chokecherry	\$ 2.00		<b>Related Products &amp; Services</b>		
Juneberry	\$ 2.00				
Midwest Crab	\$ 2.00				
Nannyberry	\$ 2.00				
Red Splendor Crab	\$ 2.00				
<b>Large Trees</b>					
American Linden	\$ 2.00				
Bur Oak	\$ 2.00				
Cottonwood Male	\$ 2.00				
Golden Willow	\$ 2.00				
Hackberry	\$ 2.00				
Hybrid Poplar	\$ 2.00				
Hybrid Willow	\$ 2.00				
Laurel Willow	\$ 2.00				
Paper Birch	\$ 2.00				
Silver Maple	\$ 2.00				

**Thank you  
for your order!**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All tree orders & pricing are subject to species availability. Trees must be used for conservation purposes only.  
Due to numerous factors beyond our control, the Stevens SWCD is unable to provide a guarantee on the trees we sell.  
Payment due when ordering. We will notify you when trees are available for pick-up (late April).

SUB TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sales Tax 6.875% if applicable \_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Plant trees

Now is the time to start thinking about planting trees in the spring of 2023. We have shrubs, deciduous trees and conifers available for your conservation needs and we will be taking orders until March 15, 2023. Availability of some trees is limited, so ordering sooner than later is best to ensure we can get the varieties you want.

You can purchase trees from us and plant them yourself. Stevens SWCD can advise you on the best tree species suitable for your site based on soil types and we can even help develop a planting plan for you. The District also provides services that include site preparation, machine tree planting, laying fabric around the trees for weed control, and installation of tree tubes to protect against animal damage.

**We will be having an open house on December 1 from 12:00- 5:00 p.m.** For additional information, please contact John at 320-589-4886 ext 4.

## Organics Recycling in Stevens County!

Household Organics Recycling Kits are still available for pickup. You can stop by the Stevens County Auditor/Treasurer/Recorder's office in the courthouse during regular business hours to pick up a kit in English or Spanish. Kits include a 3-gallon bucket, a stash of locally purchased compostable bags, household organics guides, and stickers to label your household bins.





## Walk-In-Access on private lands

Hunting season is upon us. Many of you have probably seen the yellow Walk-In-Access (WIA) signs posting public hunting areas throughout the county and state. Walk-In-Access (WIA) is a voluntary program you can enroll your conservation land into and receive an annual payment for those acres. It is a great way to help pay taxes on any conservation land that is not generating a profit by being farmed. There is no insurance liability to the landowner and this is a great way to promote hunting and sportsmanship throughout the state of Minnesota. This year WIA was paying a flat rate of \$18.00 per acre. The parcel must be a minimum of 40 acres or adjacent to other public hunting land if less than 40 acres.

This program is partially funded through a \$3.00 endorsement hunting licenses must have in order to hunt on Walk-In-Access land. The landowner and family do not need to purchase the \$3.00 stamp.

If you have any questions about the WIA program, contact John at Stevens SWCD (320) 589-4886 ext. 4



## MAWQCP brings benefits for producers

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

Through this program, certified producers receive:

- Regulatory certainty: certified producers are deemed to be in compliance with any new water quality rules or laws during the period of certification
- Recognition: certified producers may use their status to promote their business as protective of water quality
- Priority for technical assistance: producers seeking certification can obtain specially designated technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality

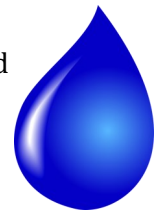
Through this program, the public receives assurance that certified producers are using conservation practices to protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams.

MAWQCP producers do receive ranking points for programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Another benefit they added this year is if you are a certified producer and have a child going to college for Agricultural Business, they have the opportunity to receive a 75% tuition scholarship in year one and 50% scholarships in following years.



## Water testing kits available at Stevens SWCD

Stevens SWCD has partnered with RMB Environmental Laboratories to provide a convenient and reliable way to test your water. Pick up an easy to use water testing kit today to ensure your water is safe from bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead, fluoride & secondary contaminants.



It's never been easier to test your water. Kits are available to pick up five days a week at the Stevens SWCD office. Kits include complete instructions for taking samples, and simple instructions to return by mail within 24 hours to RMB Environmental Lab.

Several testing kits are available and pricing varies depending on which tests you would like done. The average cost of testing your water sample is \$20-\$30 per test. If you're not sure what to test for, call RMB at 1-888-200-5770.

### Water Fest for 6th graders

Over 375 6<sup>th</sup> grade students got to learn about a variety of topics through hands-on interactive learning at the Pope County Fair Grounds in September. Sessions included: the water cycle, a rain fall simulator, water treatment plant, macro invertebrates, what water do you drink, and they even had a chance to be scientists for the day. Students also played a few games such as the fish journey and the incredible journey of a water drop.

Thanks to our many sponsors who made this day possible for our 6th grade students!



***A little rain did not hurt us! No worries!***

### Stevens & Pope Conservation Day at SWELL

5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Pope and Stevens counties experienced learning and hiking in the outdoors during the 2022 Conservation Day at SWELL early in October. Outdoor sessions included waterfowl, mammals, mirrors of Minnesota, composting, wetlands, nature's stock market, nature journals, trees, and water quality. The feature sessions came from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, who brought with them an owl, eagle and American kestrel; and the Osprey Center of the North Woods, who brought reptiles for students to see.



***Learning in the outdoors!***

Special thanks to our many sponsors from Stevens and Pope counties who have been making these days possible for our 5th graders for over 15 years. Support from our outdoor conservation groups has been amazing!







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## Holiday Tree Open House

SWCD Office (next to Subway in Morris)

December 1, 2022

12:00-5:00 p.m.

**Order trees for 2023**

**Free conservation tree planting  
plan design & planning**

**For more information call  
320-589-4886 ext. 113 and  
ask for John**

