

2020 Spring Events

February 19 Municipal Training @AgroLiquid

February 22 OTG Work Day @Maple River State Game Area

February 27 Workshop @NCRS AgroLiquid Field Station

February 29 QDMA Annual R.E.A.C.H. Banquet @Most Holy Trinity in Fowler

February 29 Quiet Adventures Symposium @MSU Pavillion

March 21 Clinton Co. Pheasants Forever Banquet @Most Holy Trinity in Fowler

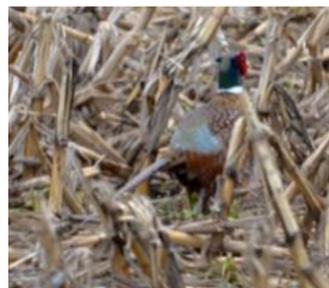
March 23 Tree sale orders due

March 24 Clinton CD Annual Meeting @AgroLiquid

April 17 Ducks Unlimited Banquet @Smith Hall in St Johns

April 23-24 Tree Sale Pickup @Clinton County Fairgrounds

Habitat Projects Update



Coming up on 1 year since the prescribed burn, the Clinton Lakes Prairie is doing magnificent. Keep a look out this coming year — you won't want to miss seeing it bloom! All the pheasant habitat restoration sites around the county are looking great heading into 2020, we'll be wrapping up in 2020 with a few small projects in the Clinton Lakes Pheasant Co-op, the Muskrat Lake State Game Area and the Rose Lake State Game Area.

Thanks to Michigan DNR's Wildlife Habitat Grant program and our partners including the Clinton Lakes Pheasant Co-op, Clinton County Pheasants Forever and the Drummer Fund/Ruffed Grouse Society for making this work possible!

Join MUCC and the DNR Wildlife Division at the Maple River SGA to clear the dikes of woody brush and do maintenance on wood duck nest boxes. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the DNR barns located on Crapo Road, just south of Ranger Road in Ashley.

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 9 AM – 2 PM

9858 S Crapo Rd, Ashley, MI 48806-9757, United States

Volunteers are encouraged to dress in warm layers for the cooler weather. MUCC will provide all equipment and associated PPE. MUCC will also provide lunch, refreshments and t-shirts to all volunteers.

Register by going to www.mucc.org/on-the-ground or giving our office a call.

Happenings on the Maple

The Maple River Watershed is the #2 sediment contributor to Lake Michigan, which is alarming given that it is not even a primary tributary. In addition to the sediment, stopping excess nutrients and bacteria from reaching the waterway are goals that the Conservation District pursues. There are currently funding sources available to producers within the watershed to help reduce their impact.

- Try cover crops or change your mix
- Grassed waterways where water rushes through your field
- Convert to no-till or reduced till
- Nutrient Management- apply the right amount at the right time
- Plant pollinator habitat
- Filter strips to line a ditch that floods
- Structures for water control
- Add a crop to your rotation, like wheat or alfalfa
- Sprinkler systems on specialty crops
- Add a riparian forest buffer on the edge of your field



Interested in one of these for your farm? The first step is to contact our office to see if you qualify.

After the erratic weather and excessive water we received, it is more important than ever to think about how you can protect the soil and water on your farm. Major rain events, all too common in 2019, can cause nutrient and sediment runoff and leaching. Clean water, fertilizer and good ground is expensive, let's protect it.

Stony Creek Watershed

The District received funding to write a watershed management plan for the Stony Creek, currently the only watershed in the county without a management plan. The management plan can be used to acquire implementation funds to complete vital projects in the watershed. Partners from throughout the watershed will meet with the District to ensure that the plan meets local priorities. The partners will include county commissioners, local school groups, Olive Township, Riley Township, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, the Michigan DNR, the Institute of Water Research and many more.



The project team will be looking at current water quality of the Stony Creek to inform project priorities. Data collected during the project will be compiled with historical data to ensure future projects will have the highest return on investment. The plan is currently scheduled to be completed in December 2021 which would make the Stony Creek eligible to apply for implementation funds in 2022. Interested in participating? Call our office to for more information!

Invasive Species Training

The Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area will host a Municipal Invasive Species Training on **Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 from 9:30 am-2:45 pm at the AgroLiquid Conference Center in St. Johns.** MDARD pesticide applicator recertification credits for Private and Commercial CORE and Category 6 (Right-of-Way) will be available.

These trainings help you learn about invasive species in Mid-Michigan, how these species can negatively affect people, neighborhoods, parks, and infrastructure, and what proactive steps can be taken to reduce the spread of invasive species. These trainings are great for all facets of local communities- public works, utility workers and contractors, road and drain commissions, forestry, city planning, parks and recreation, garden clubs, and more. Lunch will be provided. To register, please call our office or visit www.inghamconservation.com/mm-cisma

We would like to thank AgroLiquid for providing support for our training space. The Mid-Michigan CISMA is funded in part by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (www.michigan.gov/invasives).



Did you know that MAEAP-verified farms are eligible for a liability discount through the Farm Bureau Insurance Agency? Call today to learn more and to schedule a field visit!

MAEAP is an innovative, proactive and confidential program helping farms of all sizes.

MAEAP Matters

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a program that assists farmers with generally accepted agricultural management practices and helps to minimize or prevent agricultural pollution risks. The Conservation District MAEAP Technician will work with you to reduce risks and become MAEAP verified.

Last year, Clinton County had **five** new verifications and **seven** reverifications along with many risk reduction practices. Thank you to all of the producers in Clinton County that are MAEAP-verified and among this elite group. Please encourage fellow farmers and landowners to get involved in the MAEAP program, promoting stewardship and protecting the environment.

If you would like to receive information about the MAEAP program, please contact Eric Bak by calling the Clinton Conservation District office or visit the newly designed MAEAP webpage: www.maeap.org



Gloria Miller, MAEAP Verified in 2019, Forest, Wetland & Habitat System



Clinton Conservation District
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 St. Johns, MI. 48879
 (989) 224-3720 ext. 5
www.clintonconservation.org

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 St. Johns, MI
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2020 Spring Tree Sale Order Form Enclosed
 Orders due by March 23rd.

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Or current occupant

Clinton Conservation District

www.clintonconservation.org

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 Elaine Brown, Treasurer
 John (Bud) Schulz, Director
 Gary Boersen, Director

Staff: Kelcie Sweeney, Executive Director
 Eric Bak, MAEAP Technician
 Kurt Wolf, Farm Bill Biologist
 Seth Gibson, Water Resources Coordinator
 Rebekah Faivor, CTAI Technician
 Katie Hafner, NFWF Soil Conservationist
 Linda Klooster-Smith, Administrative Assistant

NRCS: Joe Woodruff, District Conservationist
 Juanita McCann, Agricultural Engineer

“A land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity.” **Aldo Leopold**

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The Clinton Conservation District strives to provide information and technical assistance for Clinton County citizens to better understand, plan, manage, protect, and use natural resources.



Clinton Conservation District

2343 N. US-27 • St Johns, MI 48879 • (989) 224-3720 Ext. 5 • Spring 2020

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Annual Meeting to Welcome Dr. Jen Owen

The Clinton Conservation District will host its 66th Annual Meeting and Elections on the evening of Tuesday, March 24th. As always, this meeting will be FREE and open to the public and include a dinner provided generously through local sponsors. For Clinton County residents 18 years of age and better, please bring proof of residency to participate in the election. We will be filling three seats on the Clinton Conservation District Board of Directors. Doors will open at 5:30 with dinner being served at 6pm.

Staff and board directors will provide an update on the District’s activities in 2019. Then, keynote speaker, Dr. Jen Owen Director of the Michigan State Bird Observatory and Center Coordinator for Corey Marsh (Clinton County, formerly the MSU Muck Farm), will provide a discussion on how food availability impacts migrating birds.



For more information and to RSVP, call our office or email Seth at seth.gibson@macd.org **RSVPs are appreciated by March 19th.**



Farming and Food—February 27th



Clinton Conservation District and MSU Extension are partnering with AgroLiquid’s North Central Research Station to host a workshop on February 27, 2020 from 11am-1pm. This lunch & learn event take place at the AgroLiquid NCRS, 5605 North Findlay Rd, St. Johns. It will feature a hot lunch and a program focusing on cover crops and the various cost share programs available.

Monica Jean, Field Crops Educator for MSU Extension, will talk about how to integrate cover crops into your current rotation and operation. She will also talk about the environmental benefits associated with your cover crop choice.

Katie Hafner and Seth Gibson, from the Clinton Conservation District, will lay out the basics of cost share programs available for local farms. It can seem overwhelming to navigate through the process of cost-share dollars, we can break it down step by step and answer any questions.

AgroExpo 2020 will focus on soil health and cover crops. Find out what the AgroLiquid staff has planned for one of the biggest agriculture demonstrations in the state.

This event is for farmers and landowners of all experience, management systems, and size. **RSVPs are required by February 21st** - Call the Clinton Conservation District office or email Seth seth.gibson@macd.org to reserve your spot now!

“As a nation we need to renew our acquaintance with the land and reaffirm our faith in its continuity of productivity—when properly treated. If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known—not only for the war, but for the peace that is to follow.” **Hugh H Bennett**