

Resourceful Waves

Save the Date! February 26th, 2015 RC&D Annual “Celebration of Success”

Upcoming Events/ Meetings...

- Lapeer Conservation District Annual Meeting 01/22/2015 @ 6:30 p.m.—John T. Rich Building, Lapeer
- RC&D Executive Board Meeting 01/29/2015 @ Bay County C.D. 10-12 p.m.
- Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop 01/29/2015 (Gladwin Conservation District)
- (Tuscola C.D.) Timber & Taxes Forestry Workshop 02/04/2015
- Celebration of Success 02/26/2015 @ Delta College Planetarium 9-3 p.m.
- Arenac Conservation District Annual Meeting 02/19/2015
- Shiawassee Conservation District Annual Meeting 03/5/2015 @ Knights of Columbus, Owosso

Saginaw Bay Resource, Conservation & Development Area, Inc. would like to remind and invite folks to our “Celebration of Success” on **February 26th, 2015**. The meeting will be held at the Delta College Planetarium (100 W. Center Ave. Bay City, MI 48708). The planetarium is located across from the Doubletree hotel in downtown Bay City. Please note that if you register for our meeting and plan to attend that overflow parking is available in the Doubletree parking garage, free of charge. The registration fee is **\$25 until 2-25-15, registration will be \$30 on the day of the event** and registration fee includes: lunch, breakout sessions and refreshments. Please note* those who have their membership dues paid before the meeting will

receive **ONE FREE** registration. There will also be limited display space available. Display space is **\$20 until 2-25-15 and \$30 on the day of the event**. The display space includes: 8’ table with or without skirting and power sources are available at your request. The tentative meeting agenda goes as follows:

9-10 a.m.

Welcome w/coffee & rolls

10-12 p.m.

RC&D Annual Meeting

12-1 p.m.

Lunch and Awards

1:15-2 p.m.

Breakout sessions

2-2:15 p.m.

Afternoon break w/refreshments

2:15-3 p.m.

Breakout sessions

Safe trip home!

The breakout session topics will consist of:

The Kawkawlin River Watershed ongoing initiatives, Invasive Species Management, Water Trails, Land Resource Planning, Purchase Development Rights and the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed/Office of the Great Lakes discussion on the Area of Concern and Delisting of Beneficial Use Impairments.

Invitations to this meeting with registration information will be sent out in the beginning of January, so keep your eyes peeled! We look forward to seeing you in February! For more information, please contact us at:

saginawbay@aol.com



Additional Funding for Habitat in the Cass River Watershed received.

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 29, 2014

Contact: Jim Hergott 989-450-0567, Tiffany Foco 989-324-0244 or Robert Zeilinger rjzei@aol.com

The Saginaw Bay Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area and the Cass River Greenway Committee recently received a Christmas present of sorts with the announcement that the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) has allotted an additional \$20,000 to stream bank stabilization in the lower Cass River. "These funds double the amount of work which can be done," said Jim Hergott, Executive Director of the RC&D. "We will focus our efforts in the Lower Cass River Watershed, which starts at Vassar and extends downstream to the Saginaw River." Hergott said. "It includes Cole, Perry, Dead and Millington Creeks, as well as the main channel of the Cass River. There have been 23 stream bank erosion sites identified in Cole Creek alone!" Initial

efforts will be focused on conducting field visits, developing plans and securing permits with plans for construction in coordination with the Frankenmuth Dam upgrades next summer, which WIN is also associated with. WIN is a volunteer organization which includes citizens and organizations focusing on the social, environmental and economic aspects of projects, which improve and sustain the quality of life in the Saginaw Bay and its' Watershed. Local Community Foundations and Corporations provide funding to WIN, which in turn distributes the funds and includes: Bay Area Community Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, Harry A. and Marget D. Towsley Foundation, Midland Area Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, Saginaw Community Foundation, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The SC Johnson Fund, The Cook Family Foundation, C.S. Mott Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Foundation. The RC&D and Cass River Greenway

Committee recently received funding from various groups including: Bay Area Community Foundation (under the Saginaw Bay Restoration Fund) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, with commitments from Star of the West Milling Company and Frankenmuth Conservation Club. Stream bank stabilization efforts reduce sedimentation, improve fish habitat and enhance recreational activities in the Cass River Watershed. To learn more, please contact: Cass River Greenway Committee at www.cassriver.org, Saginaw Bay RC&D at www.saginawbayrcd.org or email the RC&D at saginawbay@aol.com. To contact by telephone, please see above contact information. We would personally like to thank those currently involved in these efforts and those who will be involved in the future!



Rifle River Restoration Committee update!

As the Rifle River Restoration Committee continues to restructure, it is our pleasure to announce that a grant has been awarded through the Arenac Community Funds, which is part of the Bay Area Community Foundation, in the amount of \$750. This funding will provide the Rifle River Restoration Committee with the ability to develop a brochure and a website to use

for education and outreach in the future. For more information on the Rifle River Watershed and/or the Rifle River Restoration Committee, please contact: saginawbay@aol.com.





Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Collaborative effort established with the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

Beginning November 1st, 2014, the RC&D and the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed (PSBW) have developed a Memorandum of Understanding for the RC&D to provide administrative services to PSBW. The deliverables to be completed by the RC&D over a 6 month period are: operating and maintaining an internet web-site, producing/distributing a newsletter, organizing/conducting 1 seminar, conducting up to 6 and not less than 2 teleconference/board meetings and updating/distributing 6 AOC fact sheets. The objectives of the Partnership include: providing comprehensive resource management and educational services to sustain or restore the ecological integrity of the Saginaw Bay and its watershed and to en-

sure regional economic viability and high quality use by future generations. Furthering these objectives the Partnership serves, as recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Great Lakes Commission, as the Public Advisory Council for the Saginaw Bay/River Area of Concern as designated by the International Joint Commission under the Great

Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1972, as amended. To learn more about the Saginaw Bay/River Area of Concern, please visit: www.psbw.org. We look forward to working with the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed to achieve common goals and objectives.

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world!”
-Nelson Mandela



Welcome Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance!

Saginaw Bay RC&D would like to introduce an up and coming group in the Saginaw Bay Watershed called Saginaw Bay Water Trail Alliance, Inc.

(SBWTA) SBWTA is a non-profit organization working towards implementing water trails in the Saginaw Bay Watershed, with their focus being primarily on developing plans for identifying and improving access points, signage, interactive mapping, writing grants and implementing such projects. Recently, the RC&D and SBWTA developed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a working relationship regarding the water trail project. The RC&D

will act in the fiduciary role and provide periodic oversight related to the projects. We look forward to promoting these recreational projects throughout this year and years to come! For more information on SBWTA, Please contact: Frank Starkweather at frank_starkweather@hotmail.com.



Saginaw Bay Cooperative Weed Management Area seeks funding opportunities with many partners!



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“Saginaw Bay RCD”

“Saginaw Bay Americas Great Outdoors Initiative”

Given the extent of the Saginaw Bay Watershed, the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Weed Management Area has partnered with many organizations on a regional approach to invasive species control. As a team, the CWMA has worked to set priorities for prevention, detection, eradication and control of invasive Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), Pale swallow-wort, Japanese and Giant knotweed, European frogbit, Chinese Yam and Flowering rush. The Saginaw Bay CWMA plans to develop a four person strike team that will help to implement many of their goals for this project. This strike team approach will allow us to quickly identify and eradicate invasive species throughout this large watershed. The strike team can work together or be split up to focus on different priority areas or sites within the watershed. Members of this team will be trained on identification and treatment options and will be certified as pesticide applicators with one team member appointed as the team’s leader. They will also be trained on the use of the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) mobile app and database. Information gathered through this pro-

ject will be recorded in the MISIN database, as well. The Strike Team approach has been successful for Huron Pines in the northeast portion of the state and in many other areas Michigan. We are confident that this approach is appropriate for this project, as well. The CWMA will also work with our regional partners to implement the goals of this project which include:

GOAL 1: Continue Phragmites inventories and treatment in county road ditches and county drains as prioritized below:

1st priority– Arenac and Iosco Counties.

2nd priority– Gladwin, Clare and Gratiot Counties.

3rd priority– Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

GOAL 2: Monitor and Inventory areas around previously identified sites in the MISIN database for Pale swallow-wort, Flowering Rush, European frogbit and Japanese and Giant knotweed.

GOAL 3: Eradication of 50 early detection sites for Pale swallow-wort, Japanese knotweed, European frogbit, or Flowering rush and Chinese Yam. Previous invento-

ries as recorded in MISIN show over 50 sites with Flowering rush, 200 sites with Pale swallow-wort and 5 sites with European frogbit.

GOAL 4: Education and Outreach. There are approximately 1.4 million people in the watershed and our goal is to reach 10 percent of the population, or 100,400 citizens, over a 2-year period.

GOAL 5: Treatment of approximately 300 acres of Phragmites.

Goal 6: Regional collaboration for prevention, detection, eradication and control in Saginaw Bay Watershed.

A banner for Saginaw Bay CWMA. It features a background image of tall grasses or reeds against a warm, orange-toned sky. The text 'Saginaw Bay CWMA' is overlaid in a white, serif font.