



Department Update

County Work Orders

- ✦ Conservation Education and Technical Assistance

Soil Erosion & Sediment Control (SESC)

- ✦ Increased fee schedule—June 2024
- ✦ 543 total permits processed in 2024

Community Engagement

- ✦ National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest
- ✦ 5th Grade Field Day—Veronica Valley County Park
- ✦ Annual Plant Sales—three sales = 16,245 plants

Milestones

- ✦ 80th Annual Meeting—recognized by Congressman Bergman's office and announcement read into the official US Congressional Record

Staffing

- ✦ Retirement of Tom Adams, Natural Resource Specialist and Steve Christensen, SESC Control Officer
- ✦ Succession plan for Executive Director

Equipping communities to sustainably manage and protect our natural resources through innovative solutions, collaborative partnerships, and environmental stewardship for the benefit of current and future generations.



annual events

spring seedling sale

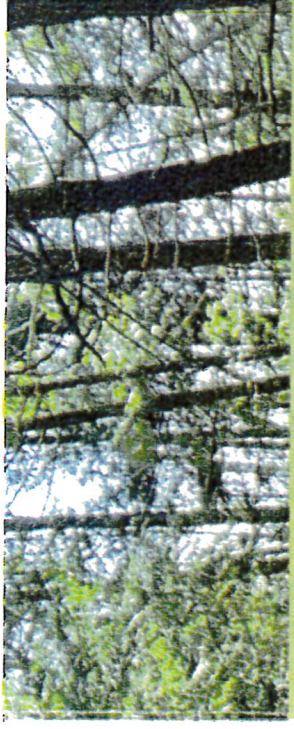
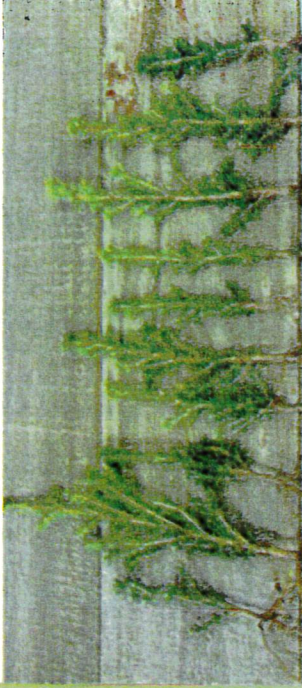
summer native plant sale

5th grade field day

fall conifer sale

annual meeting

winter webinar series



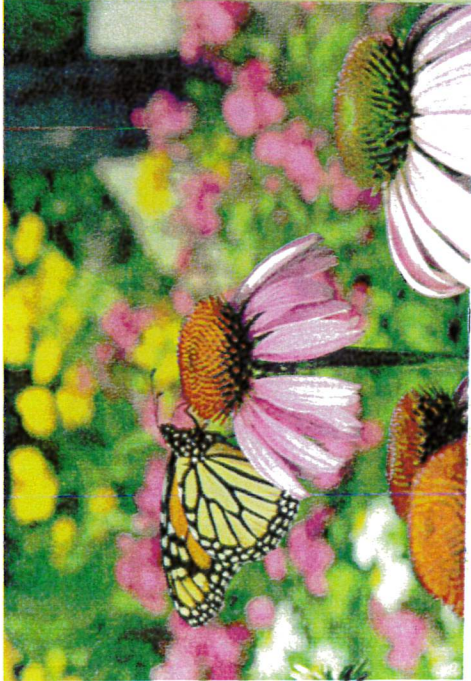
Forestry Assistance Program

The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is a grant-funded program through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Over half of the forestland in Michigan is in private ownership, and a survey by Michigan State University concluded that only 20% of privately owned forest is actively managed. This program was established to educate and embolden landowners to be active forest stewards by offering free technical assistance.



Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a voluntary program that recognizes farmers who are top stewards of their land. MAEAP helps farmers adopt cost-effective practices that reduce erosion and runoff into ponds, streams, and rivers. This, in turn, helps farmers comply with state and federal laws.



services

Natural Resource Technical Information & Assistance

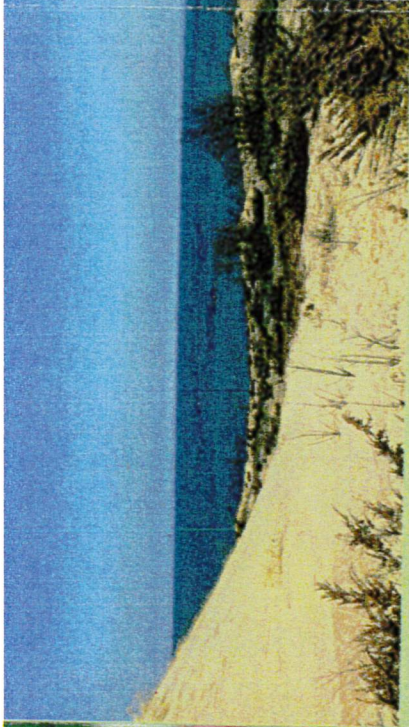
Assist forest landowners in cultivating sustainable management practices through voluntary programs and verification. Provide all community members with a wide range of wildlife information, assistance, and program delivery to address wildlife habitat and species management.

Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control

Accept and review applications for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permits. Conduct site visits to address questions or concerns about soil conditions, erosion hazards, wetlands, or the SESC permitting process.

Agricultural Support

Provide cutting-edge land management resources through programs like the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and USDA's Farm Bill that help our farmers realize long-term environmental sustainability. Offer a no-till planter for rent to county residents.



about us

The Leelanau Conservation District was established in 1943, through a petition to the State Government signed by 617 county residents—its purpose was to provide assistance to farmers to reduce soil erosion. Today, the Conservation District has expanded its emphasis to include all natural resources and to provide technical assistance to all community members. In addition, the Conservation District works alongside other governmental agencies and community organizations to accomplish many conservation related projects.

contact us



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preserving nature

nurturing communities

SEASONS

✦ a quarterly newsletter ✦

LEELANAU
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Fall 2024



PORT ONEIDA

A hot, dry and BUSY summer...followed by orange leaves and yellow buses—it's fall in Leelanau!

Welcome to the second issue of Seasons—a quarterly newsletter produced by the Leelanau Conservation District (LCD) to inform community members of **what has happened** and **what's to come** while also highlighting our mission to equip communities to sustainably manage and protect our natural resources.

These past months have been spent working alongside county residents and organizations across the region. From one-on-one visits with homeowners to capacity attendance at field days, each interaction with community members is indicative of the *true work* happening here—connecting people to one another, to place, and to the importance of environmental stewardship.

A recent event that illustrates these connections was the

American Tree Farm System Field Day held in August. LCD Forester, Ellie Johnson, along with colleagues from the American Bird Conservancy and Invasive Species Network spent an afternoon on a Leelanau landowner's property with event attendees to discuss management considerations and concerns for northern hardwood forests. The gathering brought area residents together to hear from specialists but also invited participants to share their own experiences and to learn from one another.

As LCD celebrates its 80th year of service to the community, we are reminded that conservation relies on the individual actions of many. We are thankful for your partnership and the work we've accomplished together.

Enjoy the Seasons!

*Leelanau Conservation
District Team*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community News

From the Field

Event Spotlight

Director Highlights

Community Partners

The Long View

Notes to Remember

Ruminations



Community News

The Leelanau Conservation District will be holding a board member election on November 22, 2024, during its Annual Meeting. Board members serve a standard term of four years with duties that include attending board meetings/district functions, establishing district priorities, and developing policy implemented by district staff. District board members have strong conservation ethics, management skills, and leadership abilities—these qualities along with others ensure the district’s relevance and connection to the community that we serve.

From the Field

LCD is hiring a technician to carry out the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). The MAEAP Technician is responsible for delivering on-farm technical assistance in Leelanau and Benzie Counties. Technical assistance includes conducting farm-specific risk assessments; coordinating local, state, and federal agency resources to help farmers reduce environmental risks; and assisting farmers in making progress toward MAEAP verification, which recognizes farms as top environmental stewards.



Event Spotlight

Make plans now to join us on Friday, November 22nd, for a special evening as we celebrate our **80th year of service** to the community! Learn more about the LCD along with the programs and services we provide throughout the year. See you there!

When: November 22 • 6:30—9:00pm
Where: The Leland Lodge • 565 Pearl Street
Tickets: \$35/person

The evening will include:

- Door Prizes
- 50/50 Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Cash Bar
- Appetizers—begin at 6:30
- Buffet Dinner—served at 7:15
- Special Presentation
- Board Elections
- And more!!!





Director Highlights

Hello, my name is Lynn Bakker and I have been an active member of the Leelanau Conservation District Board of Directors since 1991. As a director, I assist the board in establishing the priorities for the district while also supporting our staff to implement LCD's mission and goals. Many of our priorities have remained the same since our inception—to be stewards of this land for the benefit of the good.

While a board member, I am also a Leelanau County resident who makes use of the services LCD provides our community. As a farmer, LCD has supported my family and I with our own conservation efforts by becoming the first MAEAP verified farm in Leelanau County—this certification recognizes Bakker's Acres as an environmentally sound operation while also highlighting my family's values in practice. In addition to farming, I'm also a forester that benefits greatly from the up-to-date information shared by LCD's District Forester, Ellie Johnson, and her on-going efforts to provide relevant information to landowners and professionals alike. These are just a few examples of how community members can engage with the many services the conservation district provides.

Looking ahead there are numerous issues facing those of us who manage the natural resources of Leelanau County—increased pressures on the landscape, farmers facing the downward spiral of income and the upward spiral of costs and regulations, and more. There is a huge need for educating folks about the value of Leelanau's resources. I believe LCD can be at the forefront of this charge while demonstrating the value and beauty of this place and of its people.

Community Partners

On a crisp morning in early September, a group of volunteers along with staff from the National Park Service and Leelanau Conservation District ventured from Fishtown across the crystal waters of Lake Michigan to South Manitou Island. The group was tasked to continue the efforts of an ongoing collaboration to seek out and identify antique apples that had been planted by the island's farming community during the late-1800s. This unique project has garnered attention from county residents learning about the partnership along with its importance in preserving the regions agricultural heritage. "Everyone that I have spoken to about this always wants updates—there's an appreciation for the work that's being done," says Jacob Moord, LCD staff member. "People like the idea of holding an apple that's connected to this place and its story." The NPS and LCD will continue on with the project early next spring when they will collect scion wood from trees visited in September—those cuttings will be used for the annual grafting workshop in May.



Welcome to LCD!

Join us in welcoming our newest team member—**Erica Embury**, *Soil Erosion Tech/Office Assistant*. We're impressed with Erica's ability to adapt to a new office while remaining client-focused in her role with SESC. She has quickly become an asset to the SESC team and benefit to LCD!

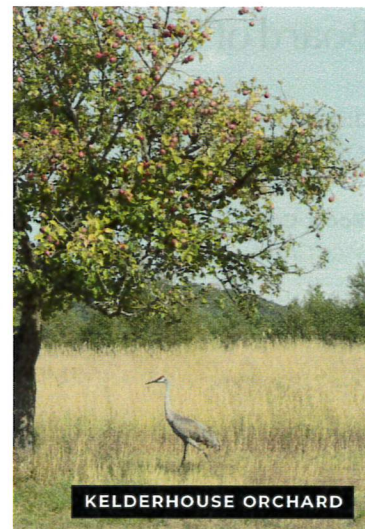
A few quick question to get to know Erica better...

You are a self-described rock hound. What's your favorite beach find?

Erica: My favorite finds are beach glass and chain coral—both are rare and difficult to locate, plus I like the challenge!

What's your favorite season in Leelanau County?

Erica: Every season in Northern Michigan is unique, but my ultimate favorite is fall. I love being able to see the Color Tour and the dramatic changes from day to day.





The Long View

For 16 years, I've had the opportunity to serve as the executive director of the Leelanau Conservation District and partner with like-minded organizations to promote the practice of environmental stewardship. Partnerships are a key component to the effectiveness of the services we provide our community—whether it be local individuals and groups or NGOs and state-run agencies, these relationships extend our reach and capacity to serve our neighbors and residents of Leelanau County.

The conservation district has always considered itself a service that partners with local residents—in the beginning it was with farmers to combat soil erosion. Today, we continue to offer free technical assistance and education to all community members—always with an attitude of partnership and collaboration rather than presumption. This approach has served us and our mission well while also establishing a solid reputation within our county and beyond.

LCD also plays a supportive role for organizations that have a corresponding mission and goals. As an example, we are currently working alongside the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) and their Wild Roots Program—CRA coordinates with LCD to provide vouchers for native tree and shrub seedlings with the purchase of tree protectors. This program encourages Leelanau County residents to participate in the Spring Seedling Sale while also benefitting the newly planted seedlings with protection from deer and other potential browsers. Learn more at <https://www.rivercare.org/wildroots/>.

Partnerships remind me of that old adage: many hands make light work. Well, the work is never done but LCD has many partners and we are thankful for each of them and their shared efforts in preserving this beautiful place many of us call home.

Buzzy

Board of Directors

Jim Lautner
Chair

Lynn Bakker
Director

Scott Collins
Vice Chair

John Werner
Director

Denis Garvin
Treasurer

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Notes to Remember

OCTOBER

- 25 NACD Poster Contest—submission deadline
- 29 Poster Contest—County winners selected

NOVEMBER

- 04 Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Government Center
- 06 MACD Annual Convention—November 6-8
Bellaire, MI
- 11 Veterans Day—Office closed
- 22 LCD Annual Meeting—80th Anniversary
Leland Lodge
- 28 Thanksgiving—Office closed
- 29 Office closed

DECEMBER

- 04 Board Meeting at 7:00pm
Government Center
- 24 Christmas Eve—Office closed
- 25 Christmas—Office closed

Visit www.leelanaucd.org for latest updates

Ruminations

Neighbors in October

by David Baker

All afternoon his tractor pulls a flat wagon
with bales to the barn, then back to the waiting
chopped field. It trails a feather of smoke.
Down the block we bend with the season:
shoes to polish for a big game,
storm windows to batten or patch.
And how like a field is the whole sky now
that the maples have shed their leaves, too.
It makes us believers—stationed in groups,
leaning on rakes, looking into space. We rub blisters
over billows of leaf smoke. Or stand alone,
bagging gold for the cold days to come.

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