

January 2023



# Calhoun Conservation District Winter Newsletter 2023

Fiscal Year October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023

## Calhoun Conservation District Highlights

### **Board of Directors**

Brian Huggett, Board Chair

Kent VanSickle, Treasurer

Linda Kubiak, Director

Paul Egnatuk, Director

Mark Karaba, Director

Gregory Fountain  
Associate Director

### **Staff**

Maureen Reed  
District Manager

Isiah Strand  
Watershed Coordinator

Jarrod Rhoades  
MAEAP Technician  
Calhoun-Jackson Counties

### **Partners**

Jack Knorek  
Regional Coordinator,  
SW Michigan Conservation  
Programs-Environmental  
Stewardship; MDARD

Colleen Reynolds, EA  
Barry Associates Inc.

Chris Corgan,  
District Conservationist  
Natural Resource  
Conservation Service

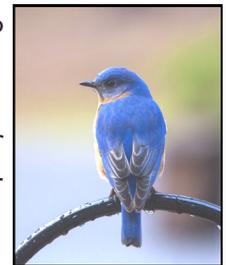
Megan Fawcett  
Conservationist  
NRCS

Zach Whitacre  
BCK CISMA Coordinator

### **Educational Video for Truax Flex II Drill Filmed in October 2022**

After much preparation, a perfect Michigan fall day provided the backdrop for a video filming of a no-till drill that took place in Calhoun County.

Depth Media filmed the video, while Tim Hauxwell, Pheasants Forever member and conservationist, provided the narrative instruction for proper operations of the no-till drill equipment.



Since 2019, over 400 combined acres have been planted to establish pollinator habitat in Calhoun County. Landowners work with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Calhoun Conservation District to coordinate the plantings.

The Truax Flex II Drill, owned by the Michigan DNR coordinates with conservation districts throughout Michigan, which provide the scheduling and oversight of the equipment.

“What we did realize was that more instruction was requested by the landowners for operation of the drill, noted Greg Fountain, board director. “When a landowner is ready to plant, the instructional video will show how to transport the drill to the fields, hitch it to a tractor, and calibrate the seed boxes to spread the seeds proportionately. “

Funding for the video was provided by the Marshall Community Foundation through a grant award. With special thanks to Tim Hauxwell for the instruction and Ben Reed, Depth Media creative director, for producing the educational video. The video can be viewed on the Calhoun Conservation District Website under Drill Rental.

### **Calhoun Conservation District**

13464 Preston Drive, Suite 120  
Marshall, Michigan 49068

Phone (269) 781-4867, ext. 5  
e-mail [calhouncd@gmail.com](mailto:calhouncd@gmail.com)  
[www:calhouncd.org](http://www.calhouncd.org)



# Calhoun Conservation District



## Hummingbirds Prepare for the Long Journey Back to Michigan

When the wild Columbine blooms in May throughout woodlands and gardens of

southwest Michigan, Ruby-throated hummingbirds are close behind. The migration back to Michigan for the Ruby-throated hummingbird occurs by the first week of May during breeding season, with the males arriving first to establish their feeding territories.

The tiny birds are attracted to the crimson and cadmium red colors of native and cultivated plants. Strategically placed hummingbird feeders provide nourishment for the tiny birds and entertainment for observers. Like acrobats in perpetual motion, hummingbirds soar effortlessly through the air. Their days are spent feeding from flower to flower, catching insects in mid-air, and visiting garden feeders.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are described in the Roger Tory Peterson Field Guide to Birds as “the smallest of all birds; iridescent, with long needle-like bills for sipping nectar from flowers.” Ruby-throated hummingbird

(*Archilochus colubris*), has a range that includes northeast and southern Canada, and are the most common hummingbird species found in the Great Lakes region.

Website research credits note “the hummingbird migration to Michigan is incredible—the tiny birds weigh only 0.1 oz (3 g) but can fly for 1,500 mi (2,400 km), including a 20-hour non-stop flight above the Gulf of Mexico. Nature bestowed the tiny bird with superpowers, including a rapid wingbeat (the remarkable 80 beats per second) and heart rate (1,250 beats per minute when active).”

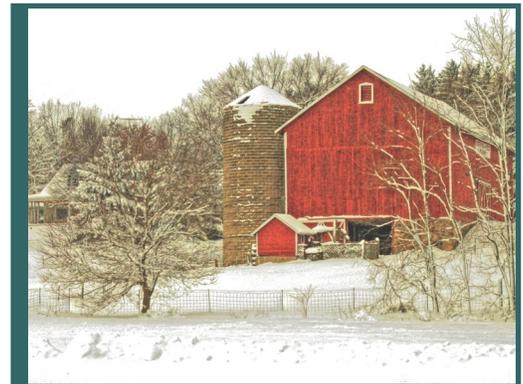
Garden feeders can be set as early as mid-April to prepare food supplies for the earliest arrivals. Feeders can be filled with a sweet nectar-like drink of granulated sugar dissolved in water (ratio 1:4) and filled to 1/3 capacity. Commercial packets are available at local nurseries and hardware stores. Feeding tubes or basins should be routinely cleaned and filled with fresh nectar to prevent mold. Fuchsias, petunias, begonias, impatiens, geraniums, honeysuckle, and butterfly bushes are among hummingbirds’ favorite flowers to frequent for food supply. To learn more about hummingbirds and programs, visit your local library and Michigan State University, Michigan Audubon Society, Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Websites.

## Publication Spotlights Michigan Agriculture & Rural Communities

Since established 77 years ago, the Calhoun Conservation District has provided a wide range of services including educational resources publications. Programs are often highlighted in the yearly Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) publication, a complimentary magazine titled “Michigan Agriculture.”

Articles in the 2022 Edition range from Digital Marketing in Agriculture to Pivoting in the Pandemic, highlighting businesses that found alternative way to serve their communities.

Contact Calhoun Conservation District at (269) 781-4867, ext. 5. to request a complimentary copy of Michigan Agriculture,



## Nottawa Creek Watershed Plan Well Underway

Beginning in October 2021, newly hired watershed staff began the arduous task of studying environmental components of Nottawa Creek. Waters of Nottawa Creek flow through four counties that include Calhoun, Branch, St. Joseph, and Kalamazoo.

Calhoun Conservation District was awarded the grant to develop the Nottawa Creek Watershed Management Plan by the Environmental Great Lake & Energy (EGLE) of Michigan. The Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Grant (SAW Grant) is designed to help communities develop an asset

management plan for stormwater and wastewater collection systems.

Isiah Strand, Lead Watershed Coordinator worked with Renee Walden, former Lead Watershed Technician over the summer months with a steering committee comprised of environmental professionals. They interviewed landowners, and spent considerable time wading the banks and hiked the fields surrounding the watershed.

Brian Huggett, Board Chair views this grant as “a great opportunity to move forward with watershed management studies for our region of the state.”



### **Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Held Fall Conference**

After two years of holding conferences virtually, the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) held the Fall Annual Convention at the Boyne Mountain Conference Center in early December. Dan Moilanen MACD Executive Director was instrumental in planning the workshops and trainings for the benefit of conservation districts throughout Michigan

MACD is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1937 through the monumental Soil Conservation District Law in response to the Dust Bowl and extreme drought across the country. The Association consists of 75 locally-led Conservation Districts that assist farmers, producers, and foresters with implementing conservation practices across Michigan's 83 counties. To learn more about the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, visit [macd.org](http://macd.org).

Special Thanks to Calhoun Conservation District Board of Directors, Staff and Partners for their dedication and support in 2022. Best Wishes for the New Year 2023 to the public served by local conservation districts around the state of Michigan.

# What Conservations Districts Do...

Locally led conservation is local people, with leadership from conservation districts, assessing natural resource conditions and needs; setting goals; identifying programs and other resources needed to meet these goals; developing proposals and recommendations; implementing solutions; and measuring their success.



**Michigan Association of Conservation Districts** offers state-wide programs, and trainings during the year for their 75 Conservation Districts.

Calhoun Conservation District directors and staff attend conferences and trainings to gain knowledge and relevant information to promote conservation practices.

## Spring Tree Sale - April 21, 2023

Calhoun Conservation District plans to hold a Spring Tree Seedling Sale with pre-orders beginning in February. Traditionally, the distribution of the tree seedlings is held in April. When the tree order forms are ready, the information will be posted on the CCD website at [calhouncd.org](http://calhouncd.org). For more information, contact the Calhoun Conservation District (269) 781-4867 ext. 5 or email: [calhouncd@gmail.com](mailto:calhouncd@gmail.com).

The sale of tree seedlings and native wildflowers has been a long-standing tradition for Michigan Conservation Districts to raise funds and awareness for conservation. Help support local conservation efforts by supporting the annual tree sale.

## Spring Walk Series Planned



A series of spring walks planned for hikers to enjoy early woodland blooms and birds will be held at local nature areas.

Dates and times for the walks will be announced on the Calhoun CD website and local newspapers.

Walks are open to the public.

### Calhoun Conservation District

13464 Preston Dr., Suite 120  
Marshall, Michigan 49068

Phone 269-781-4867 ext. 5  
E-mail: [calhouncd@gmail.com](mailto:calhouncd@gmail.com)  
Website: [calhouncd.org](http://calhouncd.org)

**April**—Alongside the Lake at Grever's Nature Center, located on Verona Road, west of Marshall, owned and managed by the Marshall Public Schools.

**May**—Wildflowers & Warblers at Brandt Woods, located on H Drive North, east of Marshall, owned by Calhoun Conservation District.

**June**—Sandhill Cranes & Trumpeter Swans at Baker Sanctuary, north of Marshall in Convis Township, owned and managed by Michigan Audubon Society and Kiwanis Club of Battle Creek.

Dates and times TBA

## Calhoun Conservation District SPRING 2023 TREE SEEDLING SALE

SPECIES	Size	Age	5 for	10 for	25 for	50 for	100 for	QUANTITY	PRICE
<b>CONIFER TREE SEEDLINGS</b>									
		Years							
White Pine	7-10"	2-0 yrs.	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68	\$95		
White Pine	18-24"	3-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$72	\$105		
Colorado Blue Spruce	8-15"	2-1 yrs.	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68	\$95		
Concolor Fir	10-15"	2-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65	\$90	\$120		
Dawn Redwood	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65	NA	NA		
Douglas Fir	10-18"	2-0 yrs.	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68	\$95		
Norway Spruce	10-18"	2-0 yrs.	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68	\$95		
Norway Spruce	18-24"	3-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65	\$90	\$120		
White Cedar	3-6"	2-0 yrs.	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68	\$95		
White Cedar Transplant	8-14"	2-1 yrs.	\$5 EACH						
White Spruce	10-18"	2-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$72			
White Spruce	12-24"	2-2 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65	\$90			
<b>DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS</b>									
White Oak	18-24"	1-0,2-0	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$68			
Black Walnut -Seedling	6-12"	1-0 yrs.	\$18	\$30	\$48	\$72			
Black Walnut - Liners	2-3'	Liners	\$5 EACH						
<b>BROADLEAF SHRUB SEEDLINGS</b>									
Butterfly Bush	6-12"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65				
Highbush Cranberry	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65				
Pussy Willow - Liners	2-3'	Liners	\$5 EACH						
<b>SMALL TREE SEEDLINGS</b>									
Domestic Apple	18-24"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65	\$90			
Dolgo Crabapple	12-18"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65				
White Flowering Dogwood	6-12"	1-0 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65				
Shagbark Hickory	6-12"	2-0,3-0	\$20	\$35	\$65				
Redbud, Eastern	12-18"	2-1 yrs.	\$20	\$35	\$65				

Please include payment with order form.

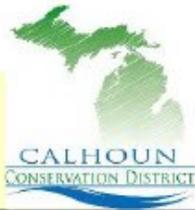
**Write checks to: Calhoun Conservation District**

**PAYMENT BY CHECK OR CASH ONLY** *THANK YOU!*

<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>Add 6% SalesTax</b>	
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>Calhoun Conservation District</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	13464 Preston Drive, Suite 120
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP:</b>	Marshall, Michigan 49068
<b>PHONE:</b>	Phone (269) 781-4867, ext. 5
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	e-mail calhouncd@gmail.com
	Website: calhouncd.org

Pre-order sales recommended by April 1st for best selection.  
 CCD reserves the right to cancel sale; if extenuating conditions exist.  
**PICK-UP DATE: April 21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**LOCATION for Tree Sale: Calhoun County Fairgrounds, Marshall, MI 49068**



**NOTICE: Orders and pickup will follow CDC and MDARD Safety Guidelines.**