



Clearwater's Conservation Chronicles



IN THIS ISSUE:

-
- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1. 2021 Tree Sale | Page 2 |
| 2. New Sprayer | |

-
- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. New Happenings at the Conservation Farm | Page 3 |
|--|--------|

-
- | | |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. Surveys | Page 4 |
| 2. New Sign | |
| 3. Envirothon | |

-
- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Clearwater 1W1P | Page 5 |
| 2. Office Hours | |
| 3. Thank You | |
| 4. Lake Lomond | |

-
- | | |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. Rain Gauge | Page 6 |
|---------------|--------|

-
- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| 1. Puzzle Page | Page 7 |
|----------------|--------|
-

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2021 Tree Sale

Once again, it's time to start thinking about ordering trees for next year!

Each year we sell a variety of native conifers, shrubs, fruiting and deciduous trees. We also offer Orchard, Bird & Grouse, Jam & Jelly and Shoreline packs for variety.

Our bare root trees are typically 1-2 feet in height and are locally grown in Minnesota. All species come in bundles of 25 and range from \$15 to \$30 per bundle.

We will start accepting order forms January 2021. Please mail in (preferred due to COVID-19) or drop off your order form at the office. A check or cash value of your total amount is expected with your order form. Be sure to provide your email *and* phone number so we may inform you of any reminders or changes. There is no deadline to turn in the order form, but it is *first come, first served*. In addition, our car pick-up went so smoothly this year that we'll probably do the same thing next year as well!

2021 Tree Order forms are also available on our website www.ClearwaterSWCD.com and in Farmers Independent newspaper.

Ag Spray Sprayer

New Soil Health Equipment for Rent!

We recently purchased a new pull-behind Ag Spray Sprayer this year for all your herbicide and fertilizing needs! Our Sprayer can hold up to 350 gallons and has a ~35-foot spray width. It is light enough to be pulled by a 600cc ATV. You can rent the Sprayer for \$7 per acre with a minimum charge of \$70. The Sprayer is not available for cost-share.

We also have our No-Till Drill available for rent for \$14 per acre with a minimum charge of \$140 and our Aerator available for rent for \$10 per acre with a minimum charge of \$100. Both may be eligible for cost-share depending on your location.

As always, with all our soil health equipment, the Clearwater SWCD staff will provide hands on guidance and help with any questions. We will deliver our equipment to you and pick it up as well! Give us a call next spring to ask about renting any of our soil health equipment.





New Happenings at the Conservation Farm

First a timber sale...

Then a day use area!

After completing a timber sale to promote new forest growth on the South side of the conservation farm, Clearwater SWCD has decided to make some vast improvements to encourage the public to visit. We have decided to create a Day Use and Parking area and have already started construction for a parking lot located on the north side of the property roughly 800 feet East of the original driveway. Eventually the driveway will be closed to public vehicles, but we invite you to walk the driveway to visit the nearly 25-acre pollinator plot to smell the native flowers and watch the butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects. We also plan to redesign our trail system, especially on the South side of the farm. We hope to better our trails to connect to our new parking lot and take you to see the sights of the conservation farm. We plan to plant native trees next spring

and summer and perhaps even another orchard to nurture wildlife.

Did you know you can hunt on the conservation farm? Simply stop by our office in Bagley to fill out a permit for you and your fellow hunters this hunting season. We just ask that you follow our rules while hunting on the property which includes no motorized vehicles of any kind, no alcohol, no permanent deer stands, no camping and to keep out of all buildings. If you feel comfortable please feel free to send any photos to us to get the chance to appear here in our newsletter!

The conservation farm was established in 1994. The Soil and Water Conservation District's mandate in the acquisition and operation of the Conservation Farm is to protect and enhance soil and water resources, provide youth and adult resource education projects, conduct wildlife management activities and demonstrate forest management and agricultural demonstration projects. Over the years our activities on the farm have included hybrid poplar plantings, several wetland restorations, test plots for special conservation plant materials, wood duck and blue-bird houses, native species tree plantings, pollinator plots and a native orchard to name a few. The farm currently boasts roughly 5 miles of walking trails. We welcome all hikers, cross-country skiers, hunters and educational groups to visit and enjoy the farm!





Conservation Farm Surveys

Please fill one out!

Our new parking lot at the Conservation Farm also features a survey and suggestion box. If you visit our Conservation Farm please fill out our survey if you are hunting. We'd love to know how long you were there and what you harvested!

There is also room to leave a suggestion on the back of the survey so let us know what we can do to improve.



New Sign

Clearwater SWCD is now more visible than ever

We now have a brand-new sign! Our office building is now easier than ever to find thanks to JAG Body Shop LLC.



2020 Envirothon

The 2020 Envirothon has been canceled

Due to COVID-19 the 2020 area 8 Envirothon has been cancelled. The 2021 Envirothon, for now, is expected to proceed as usual.

Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership annual event for high school students (grades 9-12) to incorporate STEM principles, experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences. Each year Clearwater SWCD helps out the area 8 Envirothon from behind the scenes.



Clearwater River 1 Watershed 1 Plan

Clearwater River 1W1P is in its beginning stages by Chester Powell

The trend to manage water on a watershed level versus the judicial level will continue in Clearwater County as we have begun the planning process for our third and final plan. The Clearwater River Watershed that covers six counties, Red Lake Reservation and is part of the Red Lake Watershed Districts coverage. In June of 2020 the water planning members from each of these local government units submitted to the state of Minnesota a request for funding for the planning process. In August the group was excited to learn we have been awarded a planning grant in our requested amount. The group is currently collaborating and completing the necessary next steps to receive our granted funding and begin the planning process that will continue for the next 18 to 24 months. During this time the planning group will be holding outreach events where we ask the public to participate and inform the group on water related topics. We look forward to working with everyone to manage this pristine watershed.



Office Hours

Yes, we're open!

Our Office Hours are still the same (8am-4:30), but currently due to COVID-19 our office is open only by appointment and otherwise locked. Due to federal guidelines we are not allowed to let the public inside. We have recently installed a doorbell for the parking lot door so if you have an appointment, just ring the bell and a staff member will greet you. Otherwise please feel free to give our office a call if you have any questions.

Our staff will be on a rotating schedule to both work at home and from the office for the winter season.

Thank You!

We couldn't do this without you!

We want to issue a whole-hearted thank you to all our volunteers this year! From our rain gauge volunteers to our water sampling volunteers to our AIS volunteers and everyone in-between. Especially those who volunteer for more than one service! We appreciate your efforts to help us gather data to keep Clearwater County healthy. We know with COVID-19 pandemic going on it has been harder to volunteer. Once more for the people in the back: THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Lake Lomond

Only Lake in Clearwater with Zebra Mussels

Clearwater SWCD has continued our annual sampling to search for Zebra Mussel Veligers in Clearwater County. No additional veligers have been found this year, so Lomond's infestation has been contained and not spread to any other lakes in the county. Keep being diligent about your own personal water equipment and assisting in the education of our fellow boaters and we may be able to hinder AIS infestations in our county in years to come!



Clearwater County Rain Gauge

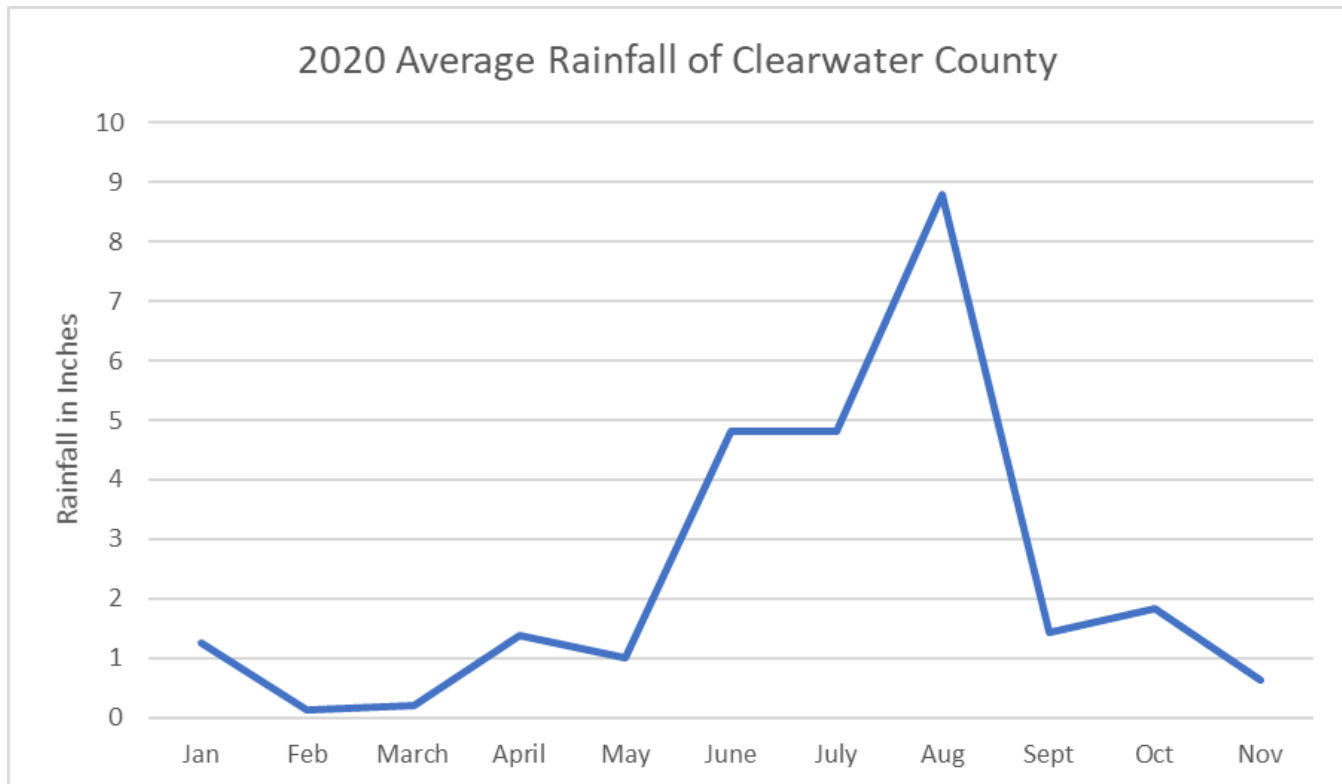
A look at rainfall for
2020 so far

2011-2019 Clearwater County Average Annual Rainfall:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Total
2019	.93	1.86	1.42	2.43	2.73	2.97	3.07	4.42	4.67	4.66	.96	2.22	32.34
2018	.41	1.25	1.26	.31	3.09	6.47	2.96	2.32	4.08	4.45	.97	1.14	28.71
2017	1.47	1.10	.57	1.84	1.69	4.77	2.21	3.45	3.88	2.17	.73	1.43	25.31
2016	.80	.80	.94	1.75	2.19	2.86	5.71	6.01	3.00	1.28	1.19	1.85	28.38
2015	.52	.55	.81	.75	5.39	3.82	2.83	2.63	1.32	2.70	2.23	1.11	24.66
2014	.90	.45	.65	2.54	3.90	7.52	2.62	1.67	1.44	.90	.76	.30	23.65
2013	1.48	1.72	1.85	1.91	3.35	3.79	3.05	1.20	2.56	3.11	.98	1.79	26.79
2012	.97	.81	2.24	1.52	2.24	2.49	2.40	2.84	.33	3.29	.75	.60	20.48
2011	1.20	.25	.74	.31	4.36	4.30	3.41	3.89	1.66	.42	.36	.43	21.33
2010	.93	.48	1.00	1.51	4.11	5.41	4.86	3.98	5.79	2.77	1.26	1.19	33.29

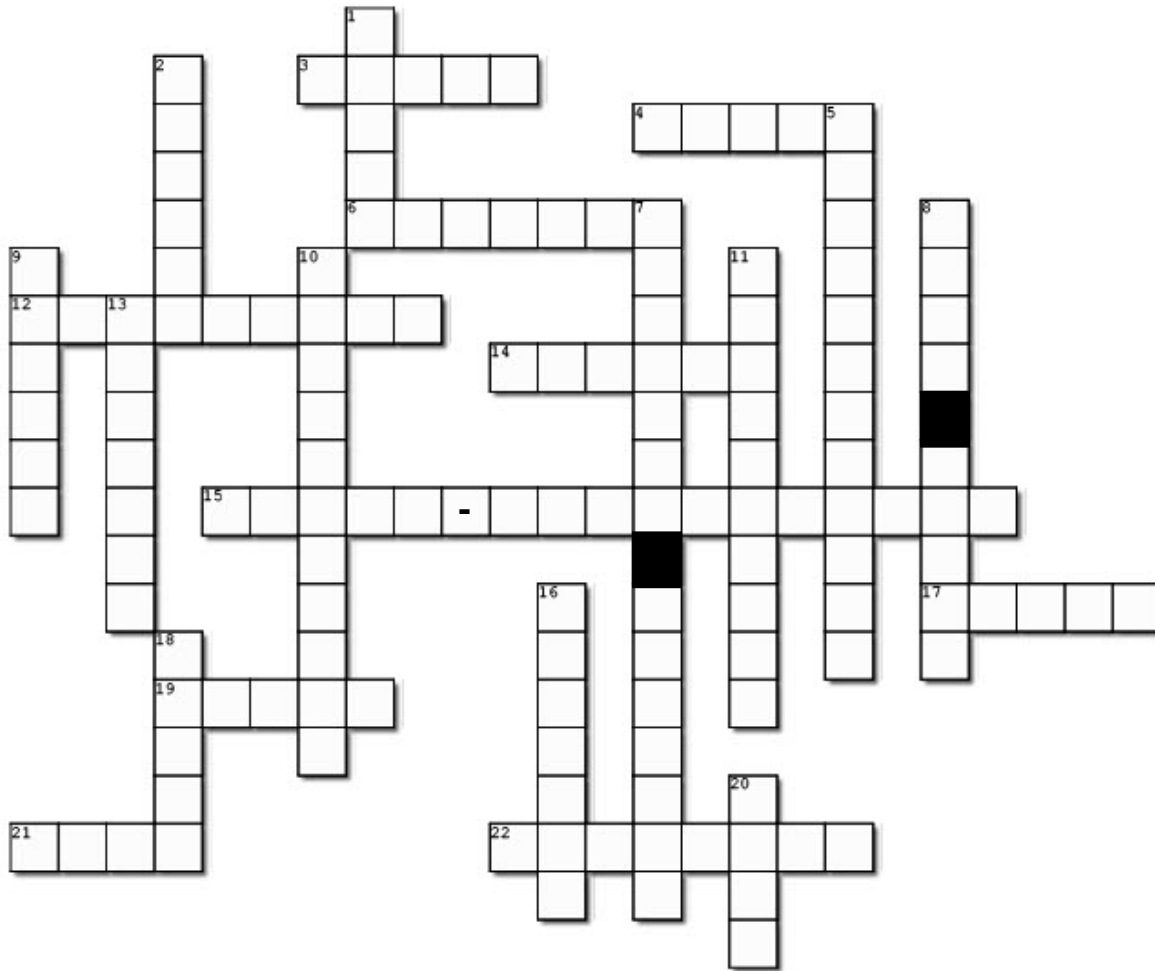
Clearwater SWCD, along with local volunteers, have been working with the Minnesota Climatology Network to gather rainfall data since 1978. We currently have volunteers collecting rainfall data in Copley, Falk, Greenwood, Minerva, Moose Creek, Popple, and Rice townships. If you or someone you know is in a township that does not have a volunteer and would like to become a part of our rain monitoring volunteers, give the office a call for more info.

Below is the precipitation data for Clearwater County from January to November 2020:



❖ Clearwater's Puzzle Page! ❖

This newsletter's event: **Tree Themed Crossword!**



Across

3. A type of tree that has paper like bark
4. The anchor of the tree that gathers nutrients
6. A young tree
12. A tree that bears cones and needle like leaves
14. An area of land dominated by multiple trees
15. When a tree needs the pollen of another tree to fruit
17. This part of the tree contains 5 main parts: the bark, inner bark, cambium, sapwood, and heartwood
19. A seed from an Oak tree, squirrels love them!
21. White Pines have ____ needles per bundle, while Red and Jack have 2 per bundle
22. A deciduous conifer where the needles turn yellow and drop in the fall

Down

1. You count the _____ to see how old a tree is
2. Trees that are specifically grown to produce wood for construction
5. The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests
7. The nickname of the largest (by volume) living single-stemmed Giant Sequoia (2 words)
8. The name of an old growth pine forest in MN due to a surveying error (2 words)
9. The main job of this part of the tree is to photosynthesize
10. The branch of botany that is concerned with the measurement of the various dimensions of trees
11. The seed of this tree is dispersed by the wind thanks to its fluffy white hairs
13. Trees play a big role in reducing soil _____
16. Trees provide food and _____ for many different animals
18. A type of tree that you harvest sap from in the spring
20. The external tissue of a tree



POSTAGE



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Soil & Water Conservation District

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Mission:

Our mission is simple - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.



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