

Volume 107 Issued Quarterly

655 N. Scottville Rd.  
Scottville, Michigan  
49454

Phone: 231-757-3708,  
Ext. 3  
Fax: 231-757-4133



**OFFICE HOURS**  
M-F 9:00 am-4:30 pm  
We are a field office with  
limited staff, so it's best to  
call ahead!

**For more information, contact:**  
**Jordan.devries@mi.nacdnet.net**

District Board of Directors

Sarah Slater  
Paul Bigford  
Robert Ohse  
Tom Stakenas  
Scott LaPointe

The mission of the Mason-Lake CD is to provide leadership and technical assistance to aid individuals, groups and units of government conserve, improve, educate, and sustain our natural resources and environment.

All Conservation District programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs sexual orientation, and marital, family or veteran status.

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SCOTTVILLE, MI 49454  
PERMIT NO. 55

**Fish day/Aquatic Plants Form enclosed**  
**Native Plant Order Form enclosed!**

CURRENT OCCUPANT or

**Safe Food Risk Assessment workshop for Farm Market Vendors**

On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 am – Noon the Mason-Lake MAEAP program will be holding a Safe Food Risk Assessment Workshop for Farm Market Vendors at the Manistee National Golf Club. Please R.S.V.P. with the M-LCD @ 231-757-3708 x3. There will be an optional group lunch immediately following the meeting (\$9 per person). Market Managers from Scottville, Ludington and Manistee Farmers Markets will be on-hand to process vendor applications and answer potential questions.

**Free Drinking Well Water Testing for Nitrates**



Over one million Michigan households rely on private wells for their drinking water. Some of these wells are at risk from contamination by pesticides and nitrate. To address these risks, the MAEAP Water Stewardship Program is sponsoring a free drinking water

well sample screening for private wells. The Mason-Lake Conservation District is sponsoring two local sample drop offs. Mason and Lake County residents can deliver their water sample with completed forms between 8:00 am & 4:30 pm on **Tuesday, July 9th, ONLY at the M-LCD, 655 N. Scottville Rd.** just north of Scottville or on **Tuesday, July 9th, ONLY at the Lake County MSU Extension Office, 915 Michigan Ave. in Baldwin.** Bring them to the Baldwin site between 9:00 am & 12:00 noon or 1:00-3:00 pm. Call 757-3708 x3 for more information. Forms and sample bottles are available at these sites prior to the drop-off day, but special bottles are not required. Any small clean jar will work and only one ounce of water is needed. The form can be filled out during drop-off. If you live in Manistee or Oceana Counties call for their local drop-off dates.

**Mason, Manistee & Oceana  
Annual Clean Sweep/Household  
Hazardous Waste  
& Pharmaceutical Collection**

**3rd Saturday of August**

**August 17, 2013**

**9am-2pm**

**Mason County Collection Site:  
Mason County Road Commission  
510 E. State St. east of Scottville**

**One day Only!!**

For more information call Jordan, Pat or  
Murray @ 231-757-3708 x3





# MASON-LAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Jordan DeVries  
Administrator/MAEAP Tech

Murray Stall  
MAEAP Technician

Pat Fricke  
Administrative Assistant

Partnered with:  
Seth Earl  
NRCS District Conservationist

Ken Chaltry  
NRCS Farm Bill Specialist



Check out our website this spring for more information!  
[www.mason-lakeconservation.org](http://www.mason-lakeconservation.org)

## Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Notes

On February 12, 2013 the local MAEAP technicians held a Phase 1 educational meeting at the Methodist Church in Hart, Michigan. The meeting was arranged by technicians Lynda Herremans, Murray Stall and Jordan DeVries and it was attended by 81 persons. A variety of topics were presented by MAEAP verifiers, Conservation District representatives, MSU Extension experts, Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist, Local Emergency Planning Committee Directors and Food Hub members.

To become MAEAP verified a producer must complete three phases of MAEAP which are education, risk assessment, and third party verification. This meeting qualified producers for the educational portion of the program.

Cristina Curell from the Lake County MSU Ext. discussed irrigation scheduling, uniformity checks, water withdrawal permits, and the new wateruse reporting system. NRCS D.C.'s Mark Kelly and Seth Earl and Kathi Lerg of the Farm Service Agency explained the USDA programs cost-share which include EQIP, WHIP, and CSP. Phil Tocco from Jackson Co. MSU presented the group with information about the new Food Safety Modernization Act and general food safety issues for small producers and farm markets. Scott King from the Michigan Department of Agriculture Rural Development (MDARD), PPM Division discussed the need for producers to develop accurate pesticide drift management plans and to keep them up to date. Liz Reimink and Tom Osborn from the Local Emergency Planning Commissions explained to the group the need for farmers to develop emergency plans for their farms and to share this information with local emergency responders. Dan Busby MDARD, a third party verifier for MAEAP explained the program, its requirements, benefits, and process for farmers to become verified in one or all three systems. The three systems are Farmstead, Cropping, and Livestock. Farmers from Manistee, Mason, and Oceana counties attended this very informative meeting.



Seth Earl, NRCS explains USDA programs to participants of the MAEAP Phase 1 meeting.

<b>CD Monthly Board Meetings USDA Service Center</b>	<b>April 11th May 9th June 13th @ noon</b>
<b>Tree Sale @ Mason County Fairgrounds</b>	<b>April 19th (9-5) &amp; April 20th (9-12)</b>
<b>Safe Food Risk Assessment Workshop</b>	<b>April 23 Manistee National Golf Club 10:00—12:00</b>
<b>Pond Day @ USDA Service Center</b>	<b>May 4th 10 am—12 pm</b>
<b>Abandoned Well Plugging Demo</b>	<b>May 9th 10:00 am 8652 E. Anthony Rd. Branch</b>
<b>Native Plant Sale @ USDA Service Center</b>	<b>June 15th 10:00—12:00</b>

### TREE SALE APRIL 19th & 20th

We still have some trees and shrubs for sale for our annual tree sale. If you forgot to put your order in give us a call. We are out of some things so it is best to call ahead to make sure we have what you are looking for. You can also stop by the Fair Grounds on the 19th from 9:00 to 5:00 or Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 to see what we have available.

### FISH/POND DAY

Enclosed is our Fish Day order form and new this year on the other side is an order form for Native Aquatic Plants. To order Aquatic Plants fill out the form and send to the Mason-Lake CD office. To order fish call the toll free number to Harrietta Hills. Pick up will be here at the office on May 4th from 10am to 12 pm.

### 8th Annual Native Plant Sale - Sat., June 15, 2013 11:00 am until 2:00pm @ the Mason-Lake CD Office!

Vern Stephens of Designs by Nature will be on hand at the sale to answer specific questions and to help out with selection of plants. Check out the order form enclosed for a complete list of plants available for pre-order. These plants are all native to Michigan and include many prairie type species as well as woodland species and plants which will grow on lake-shores and dunes. Plants will also be available to purchase on sale day but some species go quick, so for best selection order ahead!

**Wildflower & Native Grass Seed** is also available to order from the district for large or small plantings. Call Jordan or Seth for more information on doing Wildlife or Pollinator Plantings on your property.