

APRIL 2021 CONSERVATION UPDATE

Your Source for Conservation News in Washtenaw County



Monarch Butterfly on Milkweed. Photo credit: Breda Dzedzic

Growing Native Plants that Butterflies and Moths Need

By Brenda Dzedzic, Author of *Raising Butterflies in the Garden*

At the end of March, I saw lots of bees nectaring on my Prairie Willow. I also saw a bumble bee and a Cabbage White butterfly. These are all signs that soon our gardens will be alive with pollinators, including butterflies and moths. If you would

like to encourage butterflies and moths to your garden, here are steps to take to create a habitat for them. [\(Continued...\)](#)

Meet the New Community Forester: Summer Roberts

I am very excited to be joining the WCCD team! I grew up outside of Columbus, Ohio, earned my bachelor's in environmental science in Colorado, and returned to the midwest to be closer to family. While earning my master's degree in conservation ecology and environmental informatics at the University of Michigan, I interned at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum where I performed natural area management and restoration techniques, including proper herbicide application practices, and furthered my plant identification skills. I fell in love with Ann Arbor and the beauty of Michigan's natural areas and decided to put down roots.



Following graduate school, I worked in Michigan as an environmental consultant to non-profits, schools, government agencies, private corporations, and public utilities. Using historic aerial photographs, soil maps, and available GIS data, I remotely assessed sites and conducted field verification surveys to collect GPS coordinates, photographs, species lists, and landform notes. This data was then compiled to determine best management practices given government guidelines and client goals. I also designed, installed, and monitored native plantings in a variety of habitats and managed a corporate headquarter property for invasive plant species. Additionally, I coordinated and led educational talks and hands-on workdays for volunteers, clients, high school students, foresters, and construction contractors on a broad range of topics, including invasive species identification and removal as well as threatened and endangered species identification.

Furthermore, I enjoy volunteering for environmental causes, so you may see me tending a county rain garden, monitoring a stream in the Huron River watershed, or collecting data on herpetofauna in City of Ann Arbor parkland. Even in my leisure time, I am likely to be gardening or hiking with my husband and Roosevelt, our black and tan coonhound.

FreeTree Giveaway in the City of Ann Arbor

By Sean Reynolds, Urban Trees Initiative Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor

The City of Ann Arbor's 10,000 Trees Initiative is excited to announce a FreeTree giveaway in celebration of Arbor Day! Through this giveaway event,

you can receive free conifer transplants to plant on your private property. We will have Norway Spruce, White Spruce, White Pine, and Arborvitae/White Cedar available.

All of the trees available through this event were donated to the City by the [Washtenaw County Conservation District](#), and were managed by Brines Farm, here in Washtenaw County. Multiple distribution events will be held across Arbor Day weekend, at various sites city-wide.

Delivery options are also available for those with mobility or access challenges. Check out [www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](#) for the registration form, and for updates on where and when you can receive your free trees! Tree care and planting information will be provided with every tree. The 10,000 Trees Initiative is a part of A²ZERO, the City's carbon neutrality plan.



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Cicada Brood X: 2021 Emergence in Washtenaw County

By Summer Roberts, Community Forester

Due to an influx of concern regarding the upcoming emergence of the 17-year Brood X cicadas, expert tips, handy tricks, and online resources have been compiled to assist you in determining whether additional protection for your trees and shrubs is warranted as well as answering some FAQs. ([Continued...](#))



Students install permaculture garden at Emerson School. Photo Credit: Matt Nolan

School & Community Habitat Grant Deadline: June 11th

The School & Community Habitat Grant Program is designed to provide plants, materials, design plans, and technical support for schools and community groups looking to establish natural areas.

Are you a School or Community organization? You can sign up for more information and updates or start your application now:

<https://www.washtenawcd.org/school--community-habitat-grant.html>

Upcoming Events

Don't forget your plants! Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution on April 23rd-24th!

If you've ordered plants or planting aids from the pre-sale, you'll be able to pick them up next Friday and Saturday, at the

Second Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

Saturday, June 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Native Plant Expo & Marketplace offers residents one convenient location to shop for

Fish Day 2021

Saturday, June 5th from 12-3 p.m. The WCCD, in cooperation with [Harrietta Hills Trout Farm](#), sponsors Fish Day events for the purchase of fish to stock ponds each spring.

Washtenaw Farm Council
Grounds.

Michigan native plants from
several Michigan native
plant growers, learn how
to establish and maintain
native landscapes and
connect with companies
specializing in planning
native landscapes.

Pre-order your fish with
the Harrietta Hills Trout
Farm for pick up on June
5th at the Farm Council
Grounds.

Reserve a (free) ticket for
entry [here](#).

Washtenaw County Conservation District

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