

Newwaygo CD December Newsletter ❄️

From: Newwaygo Conservation District (newwaygcd@macd.org)

To: goodwill.clerk@yahoo.com

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Newwaygo Conservation District December Newsletter

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Events



**Please join us at the Kropscott Farm Environmental Center for
Newwaygo Conservation District
Open House!**

Help us kick off our 76th year of service at our winter open house! Join us for an Open House event on **Saturday, January 25th, from 12 pm to 4 pm.**

Come for family fun, games, and crafts. Learn about how we serve our Newwaygo County neighbors and how you can be involved!

TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT PLEASE SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO:
<http://www.newwaygcd.org/upcoming-events.html>

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? CONTACT:
jen.burfield@macd.org
231-225-3189



NEWAYGO
Newwaygo Conservation District

KROPSCOTT FARM
environmental center

This event is brought to you by Nature is Our Educator

NCD Winter Open House

Saturday, Jan 25th, 12PM-4PM at Kropscott Farm Environmental Center. Free event for family fun, games, snacks, and to learn more about what we do and how you can get involved. We will also be honoring our current volunteers for all the hard work they do!

Register for free here

INVASIVES 101

Muskegon CD and Newaygo CD would like to get the Newaygo community aware about invasive species in the area. Come join us at the Fremont District Library for the free workshop to learn the basics about invasive species. We will go into detail on what is an invasive, invasives we deal with on a day to day basis, and different ways you can prevent and help stop the spread.

We ask for you to please sign up through if you are interested.

If you have any questions please contact Sabrina Huizenga at: sabrina.huizenga@macd.org

Register for free here



MUSKEGON
Conservation District

NEWAYGO
Newaygo Conservation District

INVASIVES 101 WORKSHOP

**UNLEASH YOUR CURIOSITY ON WHATS LURKING
IN YOUR BACKYARD!**

Come and join Muskegon Conservation District and Newaygo Conservation District at the Fremont District Library to talk about the basics of invasives species.

FREE EVENT

104 EAST MAIN STREET, FREMONT MI 49412
JANUARY 30TH, 2025
5:30 PM - 6:30PM

HOW TO SIGN UP
Go to <https://muskegoncd.org/events>
and select the event
If you have questions please contact
Sabrina Huizenga at
sabrina.huizenga@macd.org
231-828-5097



COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Come join Muskegon Conservation District and Great Lakes Mushroom Company for an informative hands on composting presentation.

Sign up today on our Website
muskegoncd.org/events/composting-workshop

What you will learn:

- Basics of composting
- Specific compost for certain plants
- Composting worms

Whats included:

- Hands on composting
- Snacks
- Food Scrap Collector for your kitchen
- A free gift from Great Lakes Mushroom Company

TICKET FEE \$35.00/PERSON

9.FEB.2025
 @2pm
 At Muskegon Conservation District
 4735 Holton Road Twin Lake, MI 49457

QUESTIONS?
 Email Sabrina Huizenga
sabrina.huizenga@macd.org
 231-828-5097
muskegoncd.org

Compost Cycle

Composting 101

Sunday, Feb, 9 2025: Join Muskegon CD and Great Lakes Mushroom Company for an informative and hands on composting workshop. Our Produce Safety Technician will also be there to answer any questions and provide resources for applying compost to fruit & vegetables in a safe manner.

If you have any questions please contact Sabrina Huizenga at:

sabrina.huizenga@macd.org

\$35/person, register here

Spotlight: Winter Bird Feeding



Featured image: American Goldfinch and Evening Grosbeak. Photo by Susan Smith | APA

[By Michigan Audubon, Jan 5, 2024.](#)

Now is the time of year to consider your winter bird feeding options. Although many of you may be thinking it's time to take down, clean-up, and store your bird feeders for the winter, now is the perfect time to restock, refill, or even expand your bird feeding station. Feeding the birds, although not necessary, is a great supplement to their naturally available diet. This is even more true during the harsh winter months. Additionally, feeding birds in the winter is a great way to enjoy the outdoors from the comfort of your home. As we approach the cold months ahead, please consider the following tips for feeding the birds.

Food type is critical

During the winter months, birds need food that is high in fat or oil content. This provides them with sufficient and long-lasting energy to keep them warm and moving. As we start to experience especially cold spells in mid to late winter, this food becomes even more important as other food sources become more scarce. Black oil sunflower and nyjer (thistle) seed are all great options for needed nutritional content for various species. Fill your tube or sock feeders with these and leave seed mixes,

peanuts, or cracked corn on the ground or in platform feeders. Suet is also crucial during the winter months.

Water is highly beneficial

Although it takes extra care, providing water for birds in the winter is beneficial for their health and wellbeing. Any birdbath left out during the winter should be heated to prevent freezing. Great care needs to be taken with ceramic birdbaths because they are likely to crack or break in the cold. Plastic is usually the best option for the winter.

Maintenance is key

It's critical to care for your bird feeders year-round properly. This can be easier said than done during the winter due to the weather. It's always important to keep seed fresh and dry and keep feeders clean. Feeders may be harder to get to during the winter, so it may be necessary to shovel or clear a path. It's also beneficial to clear or pack snow around your feeder's base for any ground-feeding species. This can also help with pest control by keeping away unwanted critters. Depending on the style of bird feeders you have and the amount of snow you get, you may also need to clear snow from perches or platforms.

NCD Partner Updates



Holiday Hike Challenge, Land Conservancy of West Michigan

This holiday season, busy elves from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan have hung a big red bow on one tree at a number of our nature preserves. If you find them, you have the chance to win some cool prizes!

[Learn more](#)



THE WILDLIFE CENTER
AT LEGENDS RANCH

PRESENTS

WILD GAME Dinners

2025

Join us for a unique wild game dining experience in the breathtaking Wildlife Center. After your tour of The Wildlife Center, you'll enjoy gourmet wild game dishes from our Executive Chef Jason Jones. After dinner you have the option to stay inside the WLC and enjoy live music, warm up around the campfire, or enjoy our lighted 1.1 mile snowshoe / hike through the spectacular Legends Ranch property.

VENISON / BISON / KANGAROO ELAND / PYTHON / AXIS DEER

- ▶ **JAN 18 DINNER**
BENEFITS 1ST TIME HUNTER
- ▶ **FEB 15 DINNER**
BENEFITS SCHOOL TOURS
- ▶ **MAR 22 DINNER**
BENEFITS WLC SCHOLARSHIPS
- ▶ **APRIL 12 DINNER**
BENEFITS YOUTH CHALLENGE HUNT
- ▶ **MAY 3 DINNER**
BENEFITS VETERANS' RETREAT

TICKET OPTIONS
PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE 20% GRATUITY

- ▶ **\$150**
DINNER TICKET
▶ 2 DRINK TICKETS
- ▶ **\$550**
LODGE PACKAGE
▶ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOM
▶ BREAKFAST
▶ 2 DINNER TICKETS
▶ UNLIMITED DRINK TICKETS
▶ AFTER PARTY 10PM-12AM
- ▶ **\$50**
SOCIAL PASS
▶ 7:00PM-10:00PM
▶ 2 DRINK TICKETS

RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

CONTACT INFO

2022 West 14 Mile Rd
Bitely Michigan 49309

SCHEDULE

- ▶ **4:30PM** DOORS OPEN
- ▶ **5:00PM** GUIDED TOUR OF WLC WITH HORS D'OEUVRES
- ▶ **6:00PM** DINNER
- ▶ **7:00PM** LIGHTED HIKE, CAMPFIRE, LIVE MUSIC, CASH BAR
- ▶ **10:00PM** DOORS CLOSE

RAFFLES

SILENT AUCTION & ART FOR SALE

SCAN HERE



NCD Program Updates

Produce Safety - Recordkeeping in the Offseason



The offseason is a great time to get reorganized and set yourself up for success for the next growing season. Some things to consider are updating your food safety plan and any records. The FSMA Produce Safety Rule requires that records are kept for at least 2 years past the date the record was created. This number may differ from what is required from your third-party auditor.

All records required by the PSR must contain certain information including:

- The name and location of the farm
- Actual values and observations obtained during monitoring
- An adequate description of covered produce, if applicable to the record (e.g. the commodity name, or the specific variety or brand name of a commodity, and any lot number or other identifier)
- The location of a growing area or other area, if applicable to the record (e.g. a specific field or packing shed)
- The date and time of the activity documented

Also make sure to update your food safety plan if you have changed any of the farm's standard operating procedures since the previous season (i.e. new cleaning / sanitizing products, personnel changes, new soil amendments used, etc.)

If you have any further questions or want help updating your food safety plan or records, please reach out via email at allissa.conley@macd.org or by phone/text at 989-295-5661. Thank you, and happy holidays!

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Special Funding Initiatives



NRCS addresses resource concerns across all local, state, regional, and national levels. Together, we can make a positive impact on our natural resources!

In Michigan, NRCS works in close collaboration with local conservation districts, state agencies, commodity groups, and nonprofits. It's this collective effort that helps us identify and tackle these important issues.

NRCS offers a diverse range of programs to private landowners, each designed to address specific resource concerns. These include seasonal high tunnels (greenhouses or hoop houses), organic growing or producing, and Great Lakes Restoration, among others.

Interested in learning more about the special initiatives your community has? Please contact us at:

Kelly Bishop, USDA NRCS District Conservationist

Email: kelly.bishop@usda.gov

Phone: 231-924-2060 x3

Jen Burfield - Outreach Coordinator

Email: jen.burfield@macd.org

Phone: (231) 225-3201

[Learn More About the Special Initiatives](#)

Forestry - Prune Oaks in Winter to avoid Oak Wilt



Red oak group – pointed lobes



White oak group – rounded lobes

Now until April is a great time to do trimming work on your oak trees. This is the time of year when the bark beetles that can carry the disease are not active. Oak wilt is most likely to spread from April to July when the beetles are most active and can carry the fungus to fresh cuts or wounds.

Oak wilt can be deadly to oaks in the red oak group (Northern red oak, black oak, and Northern pin oak in our region). Oaks of the white oak group (white oak, bur oak, swamp white oak etc.) can be infected but it seldom kills the tree.

Also, be careful when you use oak as firewood. If wood has oak wilt spores on it, they can spread to your live trees. To prevent this, cover infected firewood with a plastic tarp and bury the tarp's edges underground to prevent the beetles from getting access to the wood. Keep the wood covered 6 to 12 months until the bark sloughs off. After this the wood should be safe to use.

For more information see www.michiganoakwilt.org or contact our District Forester.

Rod Denning, District Forester

Email: rod.denning@macd.org

Phone: [231-861-5600](tel:231-861-5600)

Outreach - Events & Workshops Community Input

Newaygo Conservation District is always seeking input from our community for 2025 events and workshops. If you have an idea for a conservation based event or workshop, please let us know!

Jen Burfield - Outreach Coordinator

Phone: (231) 225-3201

Email: jen.burfield@macd.org



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Newaygo Conservation District

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