

Koochiching Conservation

NEW! 2012 Koochiching Plat Map Books

Koochiching County Plat Map Books are here! After some updates to the 2011 version, the 2012 books have arrived and are currently available for \$30 plus tax at the following locations: Koochiching SWCD, Polkinghorne's Hardware, Junker's Lumber, Northome Rental & Hardware, and First State Bank of Big Fork.

An electronic version will also be available soon on our website at

www.koochichingswcd.org

We would like to give a big **"THANK YOU"** to our advertisers for helping us keep our costs low and the Plat Map Book affordable!

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Winter **2012/2013**

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Tree Program 2013

It's Tree Time!

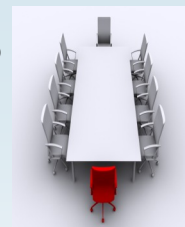
Look inside for the 2013 tree order form for the upcoming season. We've brought back some favorites from last year including the Wildlife Packet (a mix of Cherry, Cranberry Bush, Plum, Crabapple, Dogwood, and Juneberry). For the best selection, be sure to get your orders in early as quantities are limited. A 10% discount will be given on orders totaling \$250 or more.

We also carry a broad selection of Plantskydd® deer repellent products to protect your investment.

A huge **THANK YOU** for your continued support!

Koochiching Conservation

The Koochiching SWCD regularly meets on the first Monday of each month in the County Courthouse Board Room located at 715 4th St. in International Falls unless otherwise posted.



Regular meeting times:

May to October: 7:00 p.m.

November to April: 6:30 p.m.

**For a complete calendar of events, please visit our website at:
www.koochichingswcd.org**

Northome Team Takes 2nd in 2012 North Central Envirothon

Each year, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) around the nation take part in an event called the “**Envirothon**”, an outdoor learning event where high school students (grades 9-12) attend five sessions on environmental issues such as: Aquatics, wildlife, forestry, soils, and current events. In 2012, the event was also opened up to students grades 6-8 in the Junior Envirothon.

Led by science teacher Jim Schneider, the Northome School took Koochiching County’s first-ever team to the North Central Envirothon held at Bemidji State Park last May (pictured right). Proud of their second place finish, the Northome team went on to compete at the State Envirothon held in Savage, MN.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our 2012 sponsors for their generous contributions to this event: Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Peter Graham Auxiliary, VFW #2948, and Bremer Bank of International Falls. Without local support of area businesses, this event would not be possible.

The 2013 North Central Envirothon will be held in Bemidji State Park on Wednesday, May 1st, and will be showcasing two teams from Northome this year and two new junior teams from St. Thomas School in International Falls led by Barbara Youso and Anthony Stone.



Pictured left to right: Front Row: Brandon Schmid Back Row: Jim Schneider (Envirothon Coach), Carrie Carrigan, Tanyssa Olafson, Justine Frenzel, Caleb Schneider, Tristan Williams

Preventing Shoreline Erosion

By Kelly Eljio, NRCS Baudette

In a county with clay layers that inhibit soil infiltration, there are many practices that we can employ to reduce shoreline erosion as much as possible.

1. Do not remove trees from the riverbank or shoreline – they tie the layers of soil together and keep them from moving independently from one another (slumping) and prevent shoreline erosion from wave action. If you must have a view, strategically remove a few trees, leaving all the shrubs. If trees have already been removed, plant some back where they will be least obstructive of the view.
2. Plan new septic systems or septic upgrades on the opposite side of the house from the river rather than between the house and the river. The additional water the septic releases into the soil layers above the impermeable clay layer, increases the probability that the layers will move.
3. Capture all roof runoff and route it through non perforated drain tile down to the level of the water. Like septic systems, rainwater coming off of roofs can saturate the soil, making it heavier and more likely to slide against the impermeable clay layer. Outlet sump pump water the same way.

***Conservation is a state
of harmony between
men and land.***

~Aldo Leopold

Cost-share funding may be available through the Koochiching SWCD. Call 218-283-1174 for more information.

Progress on the Rat Root River

Work to remove log jams will continue this winter, while stream bank erosion control practices and spawning rock installation will begin this summer.

Funding for this project was provided through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.



A snowmobiler on the Rat Root River driving under a log jam.

New SWCD Supervisor

After four years of dedicated service, District II Supervisor Wayne Meyers has chosen to step down from office. The SWCD would like to thank Wayne for his time and contributions over the past four years.

Wayne.....we will miss you dearly!

At their January board meeting, the Koochiching SWCD Board of Supervisors filled the newly created vacancy by appointing George Aitchison as the new District II Supervisor. George is a hobby and tree farmer and is excited to serve on the Koochiching SWCD board. Please join us in welcoming George!

Water Monitoring Update

During the spring of 2012 the SWCD was successful in securing project funds from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to complete a watershed assessment on both the Littlefork and Big Fork River watersheds. The project was strategically focused on collecting water chemistry samples during periods of rising and falling water levels.

Starting with spring snow melt, SWCD staff used specialized collection equipment at four separate locations, three on the Littlefork and one on the Big Fork, to collect and record various water quality measurements. The data collected through this project, which will continue its second year of sampling shortly, will be used to evaluate the amount of nutrients & sediment traveling downstream during those periods of rising and falling water levels. Findings will be published once the review and analysis process is completed.

Cost-share available NOW for Forest Management Plans

By Kelly Eljio, NRCS Baudette

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) now has funding available to assist landowners in obtaining a Forest Management Plan for their property. A Forest Management Plan is similar to a Forest Stewardship Plan. It provides landowners with information and management options for their property. Having a plan also enables a landowner to register for tax incentive programs and further forest management cost-share activities.

Koochiching SWCD



Courthouse, 715 4th St.
International Falls MN

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www.koochichingswcd.org



Climatology

Currently, we are looking for additional rain gauge observer volunteers in the Big Falls, Ray, and Mizpah areas.

A BIG thank you to our volunteers for all their years of service!

Sherry Tilander	19 years
Jody Reller	2 years
Wayne Meyers	4 years
Gary & Pam Saunders	17 years
Gary Whitnabe	8 years
Dave Kramer	2 years
Ralph Lewis	12 years
John Ungerecht	35 years

**And a warm welcome to our newest volunteers
who started this fall:**

Richard Fancher & Lyndon Anderson

If you are interested in collecting and recording daily precipitation information in your area, please contact:

Jolén Sindelir
Program Assistant
218-283-1180
jolen.sindelir@koochichingswcd.org

District Supervisors

I **Ralph Lewis**
II **George Aitchison**
III **Eldon Voigt**
IV **Chris Pfeifer**
V **Al Linder**

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