

**A N T R I M**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Annual Report**  
*2018*



4820 Stover Rd. Bellaire, MI. 49615  
231-533-8363 · [www.antrimcd.com](http://www.antrimcd.com)

# Meet our Team



Wendy Warren,  
District Manager  
wendy.warren@macd.org



Mike Meriwether,  
County Forester  
mikemeriwether61@gmail.com



Heidi Shaffer,  
County Soil Erosion Officer  
heidi.shaffer@macd.org



McKenzie Fox,  
Conservation Program  
Assistant  
mckenzie.fox@macd.org



Ed DeRosa  
CAKE Strike Team Leader  
cakeisst@gmail.com

*Benjamin VanDyke,  
CAKE Coordinator  
(starting in Dec.)*

**Office Phone:  
(231)533-8363**

## What Do Conservation Districts Do?

### *A Note from the Director*

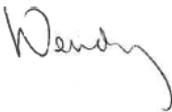
We often get the question, “what do Conservation Districts DO?” The answer is multi-faceted and variable depending on the district and its funding resources. Heidi describes it best when she states, “in 1937 Michigan enacted the Soil Conservation District Law by a vote of the people making District staff the liaison between the government and the people. Conservation District staff help property owners understand environmental rules and meet necessary standards using a common-sense approach.” We are successful when private landowners and the public learn how to protect, regenerate and utilize natural resources in a productive manner. We help protect the natural resources that are the foundation for the quality of life in Antrim County that is the envy of many who don't live here.

The new Conservation Program and AmeriCorps staff helped expand upon the amazing work that has been done for years by our longstanding staff Heidi Shaffer, Soil Erosion Officer and Mike Meriwether, District Forester. Education and outreach activities reached contractors, residents & part-time residents, tourists, students, contractors, and others.

Recycling and household hazardous waste disposal services are coordinated by District staff and continue to grow in participation and in volume of waste disposed & recycled. The Tree Sale assists residents in the community to help regenerate their own forested lands that makes up over half of the county's land use.

The focus for 2019 will be collaborative and beneficial partnerships to help us achieve our mission without duplication of effort. New funding resources are being sought to expand the number of boots on the ground (and in the water) to implement conservation activities and encourage others to join in. Please feel free to share your concerns and wishes to make the county an even better place to enjoy.

With Gratitude,



## **Board of Directors:**

Joe Pomerville, Chairman

Mary Schoenherr, Vice Chairman

*Vacant*, Treasurer

Libby Hiser, Personnel Director

Kelly Ferguson, Outreach and Education Director

# Year End Financial Position

<b>Antrim Conservation District Financial Position Year End 2018 (As of October 31, 2018)</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>	
County Allocation	\$ 340,679.44
Local/State/Federal Grants	\$ 121,437.65
Reforestation/Tree Sale	\$ 26,869.13
Plat Book Sales/Adv. Income	\$ 1,704.72
Workshops/Events	\$ 4,271.74
Donations	\$ 15,876.78
Interest Income	\$ 441.78
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,086.89
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 513,368.13</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 201,485.43
Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits	\$ 40,047.61
Contract Services	\$ 792.00
Operations & Grant Expense	\$ 69,593.54
Grant Expense	\$ 17,977.00
Reforestation/Tree Sale	\$ 18,388.54
Travel and Meetings	\$ 8,223.88
Utilities	\$ 3,438.03
Office Equipment	\$ 13,428.96
Business Insurance	\$ 4,918.64
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 378,293.63</b>
Net Revenue	\$ 135,074.50
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 32,320.01</b>
<b>Fund Balance - End of October</b>	<b>\$ 167,394.51</b>

# District Programs

## **Forestry Program**

Providing Antrim County residents technical assistance for managing trees and forested land, including insect and disease identification, designing custom forest and wildlife management plans, tree planting, referrals to private and governmental sectors, and other conservation goals.

## **Soil Erosion Control Program**

Providing water quality protection through issuance and oversight of permitted sites for earth work done over an acre in size, or within 500 feet of state waters (rivers, lakes, streams, etc.).



## **Invasive Species Management**

Providing identification and control of invasive species for Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet county residents and organizations.

## **Natural Resource Education Program**

Providing a hands-on learning experience of natural resource protection and conservation for people of all ages and knowledge bases.

## **Solid Waste & Recycling Program**

Hosting 3 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days to provide Antrim County residents safe disposal of hazardous materials. Managing 8 residential recycling drop-off locations throughout the County.

## **Hunting Access Program**

Providing hunters more access to hunting opportunities by offering financial incentives to private property owners in Antrim County.

# Solid Waste Program

## Household Hazardous Waste

*The ACD held 3 HHW days in Antrim County in 2018.*

3 semi-trailers full of tires

322 + households



Ron Oyer, Recycling Site Maint.

### 2019 HHW

#### Collection Locations & Dates:

5/4/19 - Elk Rapids

8/3/19 - Bellaire

9/14/19 - Mancelona

Collection includes items such as paint, aerosol cans, herbicides and pesticides, propane, expired medicines, batteries, and tires!

31,879 lbs. of HHW

1971 lbs. of pesticides

## Recycling Bins

The red recycling bins throughout the County are used for

**RECYCLING ONLY.**

Please remember that leaving anything outside of the bins is considered *littering* and is a *misuse* of this service.



*Thank you for helping keep our sites clean!*

# Forestry

## *Some highlights of 2018:*

- Walked and talked through the management of **3,684 acres** (47 parcels) of private lands.
- Made **112 referrals** to the private sector for forest services.
- Inspected **44 yard trees in local backyards**.
- Completed over **220 conservation calls**.
- Completed **trail maintenance, signage and expansion of Cedar River Natural Area**.



## *Through the annual tree sale...*

- 49 acres of trees were planted commercially
- The Conservation District sold 80,000 seedlings

*Look for the 2019 tree sale catalog in Jan. with orders due early April.*

## **Spotlight Project - Leonard Rd. Timber Sale**

The Leonard Road parcel is an 80 acre parcel in Custer township. This year 236 trees were selected for harvest by the forester, generating \$31,470.00 in revenue to Antrim County general fund. Total revenue from timber sales in 2018 will be \$87,670.



# Soil Erosion Control Program

Water is one of our most precious and most vulnerable resources. Soil erosion is possibly the greatest threat to the water bodies in our region. Pollutants attach themselves to soil particles and those nutrients degrade lakes, streams and wetlands. Sediment destroys fish habitat and increases stormwater impacts. One of the most powerful tools in Antrim County's water protection toolbox is the prevention and control of soil erosion.



The Conservation District is contracted by the County to provide the soil erosion control officer for the administration of the soil erosion control program. The State sets the standards for the program (through NREPA Act 451) and the County pays for the program by collecting fees for permits, covering any shortfalls with general fund monies. Part 91 of State Law requires anyone doing earth work within 500' of a river, lake or stream or if disturbing more than one acre of ground, is responsible to secure a permit and ensure that no sediment washes into State waters or onto adjacent properties.

In 2018 there were 210 permits issued. Of the permits issued in 2017, 70 were carried over to completion in 2018. Most sites require a minimum of three inspections, though many require additional inspections – especially after a major rain event.

## Spotlight Project: Wetlands

By: Heidi Shaffer



I had one young couple who were so excited about the wetlands on their property, they planned their home 300' from the lake. They have installed a raingarden at the beginning of their property to capture runoff water from a field above them to filter and clean it before it reaches their property. A

boardwalk meanders through their wetlands and provides them access to the lake. They have planted many native wildflowers and trees on their property to diversify the habitat and enhance their privacy. Instead of manipulating their property to fit a certain expectation, they respected what was there and worked to only enhance it. It is beautiful! They love being up north where the water is clean.

# Invasive Species Management



CAKE CISMA Strike Team Member, Ann

April—Sept. 2018, the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Emmet (CAKE) Coop Invasive Species Mgmt Area (CISMA) team...

- Surveyed **250** private and publicly owned properties totaling **1700** acres
- Treated **141** sites for a total of **303** acres
- Completed **5** outreach events with **138** attendees

CAKE will be conducting surveys for the hemlock wooly adelgid starting in Dec. 2018.



# AmeriCorps



This year, we hosted a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member, Brian Talsma. Brian's work included maintenance and signage of Cedar River Natural Area, as well as volunteer coordination, outreach, and education. Thank you, Brian, for your service!

Interested in AmeriCorps?? We are looking for someone passionate about natural resources to join our team as an AmeriCorps member next year. See <https://huronpines.org/ameriCorps/>



# Natural Resource Education Program

In 2018, staff organized many events on various topics including:

- Wildlife Management Workshop
- Essay Contest
- 2018 Tree Sale
- Lancer Leap Program with Ellsworth High School
- Garlic mustard pull
- Healthy Farms, Healthy Profits Field Day



ACD also assisted with the Petoskey Stone Festival, Antrim County 4-H Kid's Camp, and Antrim County Fair.

McKenzie Fox is our new staff member who will focus on outreach and education, and she is looking forward to a great year in 2019!

Have an idea for a workshop or other event?  
Contact McKenzie at [mckenzie.fox@macd.org](mailto:mckenzie.fox@macd.org)  
or 231-533-8363 x4.

# Get Involved with ACD

## Upcoming Events

**Board Meetings:** 4:00 pm every third Wednesday of the month at the ACD office in Bellaire (4820 Stover Rd.)

**Tree Sale:** 2019 catalog will be released in Jan. with orders due by early April.



Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter and quarterly newsletter on our website at [antrimcd.com](http://antrimcd.com)



volunteer form on our website at [antrimcd.com](http://antrimcd.com)

Interested in volunteering with ACD? Call our office at 231-533-8363 or fill out our

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antrimcd

Phone:  
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Bellaire, MI 49615