



Grand Traverse
Conservation District

It's Earth Month!

April E-News



Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale

Plant a tree (or lots of them) for Earth Month! We are offering Tulip Tree, Concolor Fir, White Birch, Sand Cherry, Witch Hazel, and many more! The annual seedling sale is a major fundraiser for District programs. Learn more and place your order at gtcd.org.

Important dates: Tree & Shrub Workshop: April 4 Call 941.0960 to register

Seedling Pre-Order deadline: April 6

Tree & Shrub Sale: April 20-21 at TCLight & Power 1131 Hastings

Walk-in customers are welcome at the sale!

The Annual Plant sales are generously sponsored by:



Native Plant Rescue

You can help protect our native wildflowers! Our dedicated group of volunteers works with willing landowners to dig wildflowers from the area of the property to be developed.

The rescued plants are made available for sale at the District's May plant sale. All proceeds from the seedling and plant sales provide vital sustaining funds for the District.

If you know of a site slated for development or would like to become a rescue volunteer, please call 941.0960 or email rteahen@gtcd.org



Thank You, Rotary Gourmet Game Dinner

Rotary's 3rd annual Gourmet Game Dinner recently awarded the District a \$7,500 grant to reconstruct the popular Sabin Pond Trail at the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve. This trail begins at the new Oleson Pavilion and meanders through a hardwood forest, wetlands, and boasts two scenic viewing platforms. This trail will see a drastic increase in use when the new Boardman River Nature Center opens in 2008! The trailhead is located approximately 1.5 miles south of South Airport Rd. at the Sabin Pond trailhead, the future site of the nature center.



Don't get left Inside!

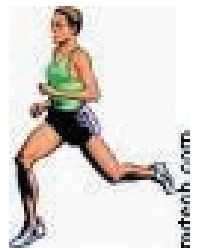
Governor Granholm has proclaimed April 20 'No Student Left Inside Day' in Michigan. We encourage you to visit some of the beautiful local parks managed by the District including Hickory Meadows, Grand Traverse Commons, and the GT Natural Education Reserve. Contact the District if you'd like more information. Cindy Retherford can even schedule a custom guided hike for your group! (As luck would have it, we'll be *inside* at the seedling sale April 20th!)



To learn more about the "No Child Left Inside" movement, check out [Last Child In The Woods](#), [Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder](#) by Richard Louv. Bill Rose, President & CEO of the Kalamazoo Nature Center will provide the keynote address on this topic at our annual Conservation Celebration.

Volunteers Needed

The Grand Traverse Conservation District will have be manning an aid station during the Bay-shore Marathon. We need 15 volunteers to help us support the runners! The race is May 26th, 2007 (Memorial Day weekend) and we'll need to staff the aid station from 6:30 a.m. to approximately 11:00 a.m. Please call or email if you'd like to join us for all or part of this fun day! We'll be cheering for our own Rebecca Teahen and Ben Purdy who are running the half marathon!



District Funding

We are all acutely aware of the rocky financial situation our state faces. Statewide, Conservation Districts (there are 81 Districts in Michigan) receive a base operating grant of \$19,200 per year. That amount has been reduced by 50% for the current fiscal year (2007) and could be eliminated completely in 2008. State funding for our Forestry Assistance Program could also be eliminated in 2008.

We are hard at work talking to legislators to illustrate the value of Conservation Districts, and the forestry program in particular. Please let us know if you'd like to write a letter.

We can certainly use all the support we can get!



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