



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2

A "Club of Distinction" Award Winner of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Who does Edelweiss Garden Club partner with in the Community?
- "Art of Gardening" May 11th - Membership Luncheon
- Soil Test to produce a "Wow" garden
- Meet our Members
- "Friends of the Garden" Otsego Conservation District

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## GARDENING: BRIDGING CLUB AND COMMUNITY

*Since our Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. Yearbooks are birthed before January and our Club cycle runs from January 1 through December 31, they do not include the THEMES for the incoming National and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. elected officials. Our 2011 Club Theme, "The Art of Gardening - Learning, Designing, Growing," draws in their similar desires to partner within the community.*

The National Garden Clubs, Inc., new President in May, Shirley Nicolai has chosen her 2011-2013 theme to be *Proudly Serving Members and Communities.* The Central

Region Director, Florence Smith, serving from Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has a theme which encompasses her Flower Show Judging career, *Together We Bloom and Grow.* Nancy Stark, accepting the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Presidency at the State Convention in Midland June 9-11, theme is:

*Growing Gardens - Building Communities.*



**The Water Lily Pond**  
By Claude Oscar Monet

Check Page 2 to see how Edelweiss has practiced community involvement in the past year. We will incorporate these themes in our planning.

## KETTUNEN CENTER - District V Meeting

Circle May 10th as a day trip to the Tustin, Michigan area southwest of Cadillac. The Kettunen Center, a unique property set on 160 rolling hills and forests with a Center Lake shoreline is operated and owned by the Michigan 4-H Foundation. Their byline,

"The NATURAL Place", will be the setting for the District V Spring Meeting. Dee Blair will be the keynote Speaker. Some of our Members traveled to her 6th Street downtown Traverse City Victorian home as a Field Trip in 2009. She will share her observa-

tions on gardening as she does in the Traverse City Record Eagle. See the Kettunen Center brochure on Page 8 and details on the Calendar Page 9.

The Center, named after Arne Kettunen, is a vision he had as a State 4-H leader from 1926-1956.

# Edelweiss 2010-2011 Community Connections

## AFFILIATIONS



*National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Central Region*



*Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.  
District V*

Gaylord Area Chamber  
of Commerce

## GARDENS

Chamber/Information Center  
McCoy Corner Service Sign  
Otsego County - Airport  
    Courthouse  
    Pontresina Rock  
    Sportsplex Energy Outlet  
Michigan Department of Transportation n-  
    I-75 Loon Rest Area  
University Center - Roundabout

## PUBLIC

Otsego County Library  
United States Post Office

## PUBLICITY

Gaylord Herald Times  
Weekly Choice  
Eagle 101.5  
The Promise FM  
Chamber Website  
otsego.org

## ALPENFEST



## SCHOOLS

Gaylord High School  
Johannesburg - Lewiston High School  
St. Mary's High School  
Vanderbilt High School

## NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Alpine Master Gardeners  
Friendship Shelter, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity  
Otsego Conservation District  
MSU Children's Garden  
RSVP - Retired Senior Volunteer Program

## BUSINESSES

BJ's Restaurant  
Catt Development  
Dan Brandt Greens  
Dunn's Office Supply  
Flowers by Evelyn  
Flowers by Josie  
Home Depot  
Jim Pagels, Attorney  
Marsh Ridge Resort  
Michaywé Inn the Woods  
Office Max  
New Century Signs  
Saturn Booksellers  
Spud Warehouse  
Thrifty Print  
Rooyaker and Sitz, CPAs  
Waters RV

## GREENHOUSES

The Blossom Shop  
Flowermania  
Linda Heyboer Mueller's

# Invitation to Membership Luncheon

*Michaywe Inn the Woods Terrace Room will be the setting for this year's Membership drive on Wednesday, May 11th. Seating is limited, so get your reservations in early listing guests you wish to bring as prospective Members to join our Club. The Luncheon is a gateway to kickoff our Summer activities and have some pleasure before the clean up and planting begins. Your e-invitation will be arriving shortly in March. It can be forwarded to invite a New Member. Committee Co-Chairs Irene McCutcheon and Paulie McCoy have announced the RSVP date for Members is*



**Adele Bloch-Bauer II**  
by Gustav Klimt

the April 13th Business Meeting as this will be going public. The cost will be \$17.00 and will include a delightful, lush lunch: Soup, salad, rolls and dessert with soft drinks, tea or coffee. Gratuity is included.

Points of Interest: Pieces of art, garden art and flowers will be for sale. At 11:00 a.m., prior to the Noon Lunch, there will be an Art Exhibit and Cocktails. Directed by Denise Matteini, we are partnering with Gaylord Area Center

for the Arts. The Program will be *A Conversation with our Guest Artist - Carlene Lagrou.*

Checks will be collected at the April 13th Meeting or they may be sent to:

Marge Williamson  
201 Glen Woods Trail  
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

A Thank You to all the Committee Members who are planning to make this a memorable day: *Irene McCutcheon and Paulie McCoy, Co-chairs, Denise Matteini, Karen Gurchiek, Marge Williamson, Florence Marshall, Joan Collick, Joy Jacob, Tami Gray and Roseann Kujawa.*

## Annuals Growing in Blossom Shop Greenhouse

by Kathy Steel, Member and Owner

*Note: All of our Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. annuals are locally grown. What else are they growing this year?*

*From Kathy Steel, Member and Owner: We are currently in full production mode with the planting and seeding. This season we will be offering a number of new*



items including 100 varieties of perennials with about 20 being new varieties for us. They include pot lilies, zone 4 eremerus or foxtail lily, perennial allysum, Baptista with a yellow bloom as well as the Hope Echinacea for breast cancer awareness.

We will be having a breast cancer benefit sale at the greenhouse over

the entire Mother's Day weekend.

New annuals we have not grown in the past include: Dipladinia, Angelonia, Abutilon and Dahlias among others. We will have many home décor items, planters and combo pots. We are looking forward to another great season. Hope to see you in the spring!

## 3 (\$750) Horticultural Scholarships Available

High School Seniors and those in College who graduated from Otsego County Public and Parochial Schools and are attending a Michigan based college are welcome to apply for our three Scholarships. The criteria can be found on our website at [www.edelweissgardenclub.com](http://www.edelweissgardenclub.com) and

information has been delivered to the schools and to our sources for Publicity. Applications are also available online.

After the deadline, of May 1st, Scholarship Co-Chairs, Cynthia Hilling and Pam Karbowsky will meet with their Members, Joan Sheaffer and Anita Davison

to review the applications. Last year Samantha Jones of Vanderbilt received a Scholarship to attend Kirtland Community College to begin a degree in Marine Biology and College Junior, Kyle Kennedy's Scholarship went to continue his education at Olivet College majoring in Biology and Environmental Science.

# From the Ground Up - Soil Improvement

*The January 12th Meeting with Speaker, Brad Morgan, from Morgan Composting emphasized gardens can be improved exponentially by amending soil!*

Before guessing and purchasing unnecessary nutrients, soil testing was recommended for home gardens and our Edelweiss Gardens. This provides the recipe or blueprint to get the foundation right. Soil testing can help make all the difference between a ho-hum garden or producing results with a "WOW" factor.

The Michigan State University Master Gardener Manual describes the following functions for ideal soil:

- *Anchorage - holds the plants in place.*

- *Water to carry nutrients throughout the plants and to cool the plants as it evaporates from the leaves.*
- *Air - Roots need oxygen to breathe (respire) and must get rid of the carbon dioxide they produce*
- *Nutrients to build plant tissues and carry out biological processes*
- *A growth promoting chemical environment . Soils must buffer the effects of excess acids, alkali, salts and other contaminants.*

Soil testing can be done through either Morgan Composting for \$35.00 which includes comprehensive microbial counts or through the Michigan State Extension Office for a cost of \$14.00. See the follow-

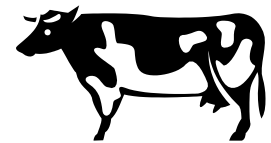
ing page to acquire the sample properly. MSU recommends this be done every 3 years.

The Sample is sent to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences to their Soil and Plant Nutrient Lab. The report will contain soil ph (optimum is 6.0 to 7.0), phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium as well as recommendations for lime and fertilizers. For an additional cost, they will also measure organic matter and zinc-manganese levels, etc.

Nitrogen is not measured because it widely fluctuates depending on the rainfall and soil temperatures.

The tests take approximately 2 weeks, so plan accordingly.

## Morgan Composting - Research



Staying for lunch, Brad Morgan continued to explain his business which is turning into an empire with demand for cow waste removal and organic gardening/farming. He was going on to a trip in Missouri to look at a catfish farm to continue to round out the product line with fish emulsion.

After soil testing, Morgan Composting can blend a product specific to meet the needs of a garden. In our case, for our community gardens, he would help us determine what we need to do to improve our soil. Dairy Doo depth is only 1/4 inch thick per application.

Morgan Composting, Inc. was first started in 1996. It was a solution to cut

costs of a 200 herd dairy operation. Morgan Acres, was paying over \$25,000 a year to have manure hauled away. Seeing the need to not only cut costs, but also the possibility to create revenue, both he and his father began this business. They have three collection sites in Michigan for poultry and cow manure and make mixes to organically grow, correct gardens and lawns from herbicides and pesticides into maintaining themselves naturally by increasing their health and resistance to disease. This type of compost goes beyond the backyard variety. "Scott's and Monsanto never make your lawn better without continuing to dump them on year after year," he reports.

He educates not sells his product. Michigan has 20% of the United States fresh

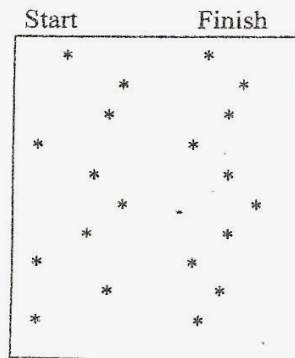
water supply and nitrogen leaches straight to the aquifers. Measurements have shown large amounts under cherry farms alone. Seven in 10 individuals will contract some type of cancer in their lives. Here are some trials of Dairy Doo being done with Michigan State University: Blueberry Test plots on blueberries in Holland, Michigan, Grafting apple trees in organic soil mixes in Flushing, Potatoes in Edmore, Apples in Sparta, Cherries in Traverse City, and Grapes in multiple wineries in the Traverse City areas. Dairy Doo is used at Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc, lawns on Grand Valley and Albion College campuses, potting soil for Elzinga and Hoefstra Plants, Meijer Gardens and Walter Gardens in Zeeland.

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

## Taking A Soil Sample

When taking a soil sample you want to:

- ❑ Move around the selected area (see illustration) and take samples from different spots so that it represents the area.
- ❑ With the soil probe, you will want to go about 6 inches down, you will see a line on the probe (first line is 6 in.)
- ❑ You need to take 15-20 samples of the area. Mix soil thoroughly in a clean bucket, bring in approximately 2 cups of soil (a baggie works best).
- ❑ Bring your sample to the MSU Extension Office, 800 Livingston Blvd., Ste. 4A-2 Gaylord, MI (Door 6 Alpine Center) – Each sample costs \$14.00
- ❑ After you bring your sample to the office, it will take approximately two weeks to get your results from MSU. You will receive the results with recommendations on it, and any information that would be helpful to your situation. Please call if you have any questions at 989-731-0272.



Selected A

Bulletins: E-937 Understanding the MSU Soil Test Report: Results and Recommendations  
 E-471 Lime for Michigan Soils, E-1566 Facts about Lime, E-498 Sampling Soils for Fertilizer and Lime Recommendations  
 E-1240 Understanding the MSU Soil Test/Report for Home Gardening, E-15 Turf Turf Tips Understanding the MSU Soil Test Report,  
 Fertilizing Home Lawns, Mowing Lawn Turf

# Meet our Members

Each of these Members have early childhood memories of gardening and nature.

## Marilyn McIntosh-President

*My Grandmother lived on Floral Park Avenue with fruit trees, berry patches, bountiful gardens and flowers. By eminent domain, she was forced to move when I-69 was built. She transplanted as much as possible. With her red wagon and requested truckloads of fall leaves from the City of Flint, she composted the entire double lot into another magical paradise in the '60's. And that's where it all began.....*

We have lived in Gaylord 16 years, after my husband Ken was transferred by Roadway Express to manage their northern Michigan trucking terminals. No problem for son, Mark, to move to the Golf Mecca with 19 golf courses, being one of the top junior golfers in the Midwest. Until his joining the University of Michigan golf team, summers were spent on tour. The Gaylord golfing industry and schools were very supportive of Mark and I am honored to be able to give back to this wonderful community.

Neighbor, Joy Jacob introduced me to the Garden Club in 2006. In 2007, I was nominated for this Presidency. Continuing to grow and using Master Gardener skills, as well as the time spent in the Edelweiss Garden Club, this June, I will take on the District V Director position with Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

I have a Bachelors degree in Biology and Psychology from Northern Michigan University and a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan in Rehabilitation Counseling holding jobs in a Sheltered Workshop, the Saginaw County Mental Health system, taught Community Education classes to children and worked as a Church Administrative Assistant.

## Tammy Fairchild

*I remember my first job, picking strawberries. I was only eleven. It was my first experience with nature, and I imagine that it was this, and my grandfather's love of farming, that led to my enthusiasm for gardening. My parents worked the night shift in a local factory, so my siblings and I spent much of our day outside playing in the creek and exploring the north-west Pennsylvania woods.*

I attended Cochranon High School, a school even smaller than Gaylord, and went to Vo-tech, where I studied Agri-Business. I planted in the greenhouse and learned the art of flower arranging. Unfortunately, I never worked in the field. I went to college and got my associates degree in Preschool Education.

At the age of 26, after dating my boyfriend, Nelson for six years, we settled in Meadville, about half-an-hour away from my hometown. I got a job at the YMCA day-care, where I worked for six years until the birth of my first child: Meranda. After she was born, I became a stay-at-home mom, and had Melissa and Preston.

My husband's job took us to Pittsburgh; then Ft. Worth, Texas and finally here, to Gaylord. We've lived here for six years, and I have taken up gardening. The garden club has been very inspirational, and the knowledge I have gained in it has made gardening in this harsh climate a joy and given me a passion for nature.

## Linda Reinhardt

*When I was two, my Father was transferred to the Pigeon River Headquarters and moved our family from southern Michigan to one of those CCC built homes at the Headquarters. Three years later, our family moved to Gaylord. We continued to spend many years enjoying all that forest had to offer and my husband, Jim, and I still love the beauty that Mother Nature has given to us. So this had to be the beginning of my love for gardening and many other outdoor activities over the years including hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, golfing and cross country skiing.*

We returned 16 years ago to spend our retirement. I have 4 stepchildren and 6 grandchildren ages 2 to 30!

I have always enjoyed doing many crafts when I am not outdoors and love being involved with fun loving people and volunteer work. I have been active in the Gaylord Country Club where I live. Also, the Methodist Church Choir, Finance Committee, Head Money Counter, Altar Committee and tending the Memorial Garden and other gardens around the church. I'm a Retired Senior Volunteer 14 years in many capacities and have been a member of the Otsego United Way Board for two years.

I enjoy many aspects of our Garden Club but my favorite is what we do for Habitat for Humanity. Five or six years ago, I was reading some National Garden Club newsletters that were passed around, and read that many of the State's Garden Clubs were following the steps of the Garden Clubs in the State of Georgia (where HFH began under Jimmy Carter) by putting in a garden for each family going into a new HFH Home. What a wonderful idea!!! Member Joy Hanje was a very first HFH Chair and since that time we have added 5 new HFH Homes in Otsego County with most of the plants donated by our Members.

# Bonsai!

Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc., has two Members who hold Memberships in Garden Clubs in two different states, Florence Marshall and Margaret Albert. While the gardens are lying dormant in Michigan, they are taking in the tropical way of gardening in Zones 9 and 10. Margaret sent an article from the *TC Palm* about their Club's close proximity to the Heathcote Botanical Gardens of Fort Pierce and their exhibit on Bonsai. She will also be attending the Bonsai Ball, an elegant evening combining nature, fine food, entertainment, art and Japanese culture. The Ball is for the *James J. Smith, Tropical Bonsai Collection*. This is the largest and most significant collection of over 100 tropical Bonsai trees --- some of which are over 100 years old, on display in the United States. This will be the newest attraction in the St. Lucie area, the gardens offering meandering pathways, where bonsai can be discovered by the visitor at every turn with native and vegetative plantings.

Some of Smith's own bonsai was started in the '70's. He is now 85 and continues to teach a class once a month. He knows his plants and legacy will be well taken care of. He has written books on the subject and below are some of his Bonsai tips.

From the *TC Palm* article:

DEFINITION: BONSAI MEANS "TREE IN A POT" according to Bonsai Clubs International and originated in China thousands of years ago. Most people use the term "bonsai" for any miniature tree, but it is an art form with living plants being sculptured over time.

Several other Asian countries, besides China practice, Bonsai.

Bonsai are not grown for food, shelter or medicine, but simply for the pleasure of the grower and admirer.

HOW to get started: Try to use native plants with small leaves, low hung branches and thick trucks for good results.

Protect from below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Find the right balance of light and nutrients that will allow the Bonsai to grow over long periods.

Be patient. Bonsai is an art form practiced over the long haul.

## Undercover at the Post Office

Our January and February Floral Arrangements went to the Otsego County Library and United States Post Office after they were used at our Business Meetings as Publicity. *Flower Arrangements remind us of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Mission Statements which include floral design. Also, a Flower Show Study School will begin August 9-11 in Okemos, Michigan.*

Member, Joan Collick, standing in line during the Valentine season at the Post Office, was an eyewitness to the good banter produced by our Arrangement between a Customer and the Post Office worker at the counter (complimenting our Club for providing flowers during the mid-winter.)

Rosy Moran, our Corresponding Secre-

who came up with postal idea and delivered the flowers, did a follow up with the staff who said they got many good comments. That particular week, Gaylord Herald Times featured a story on "Random Acts of Kindness" with local resident, Janice Lampert challenging everyone to commit to one act of random kindness that week. Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. did their part!

# ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SPRING DISTRICT V MEETING AT THE KETTUNEN CENTER

ON TUESDAY, MAY 10TH 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. - REGISTRATION

As Keynote Speaker, Dee Blair will share her "Secret Garden Secrets" using her 6th Street Victorian Home as the centerpiece of her presentation. The afternoon session can be your choice of a Flower Design Workshop with an additional supply fee of \$12 or the guided tour through the Wildflower Gardens. The Cadillac and Morning Glory Garden Clubs will be our hosts. Cost is \$25.00 which includes lunch. Sign up with Treasurer, Cynthia Hilling at March Meeting.



14901 4H Drive  
Tustin MI 49688





# SPRING CALENDAR



*Friends are  
Flowers  
in Life's Garden*  
by Member,  
Tammy Fairchild

- March 09 - Business Meeting  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: BJ's Restaurant  
Program: "Flowers: Paint Your Garden with Color!"  
Presenter: Plant Masters of Sutton's Bay  
Hostesses: Marge Williamson and Sue Hegarty  
Thought for the Day: Joan Collick  
Table Decorations: Cynthia Hilling  
Sign Up for Membership Luncheon and MGC Spring District V Meeting
- March 14 - Online Sign Up for free Otsego Wildlife Legacy Tree Package <http://otsegoowls.com/9.cfm>  
2 Hazelnuts, 2 Nanking Cherries, 2 Black Chokecherries, 1 King of the North Grapes and bonus for 1st 50 to sign up - 2 Crabapples and 1st 25 - 2 Tart Cherries. Only 75 packages available.
- March 16 - 2012 MGC State Convention Planning Meeting (Will be held in District V next year)  
Meeting: Traverse City Visitors Bureau, Traverse City - Each Club will have President or a Representative attend. 1 p.m.
- Pine Cones - Greens Sale Preparation - Time to start picking up 75 pine cones (red or white varieties), now and through the summer.
- March 31 - Otsego Conservation District (Pre-orders for Tree Sale due)  
[www.otsego.org/conservation district](http://www.otsego.org/conservation%20district)
- April 13 - Business Meeting  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: BJ's Restaurant  
Program: Annual Spring Business Meeting (Meeting only)  
Seating Arrangement - By 2011 Committees  
Hostesses: Tammy Fairchild and Linda Reinhardt  
Thought for the Day: Roseann Kujawa  
Table Decorations: Pat Sitz  
Sign Up for Membership Luncheon by April 13. (Seating Limited.)
- April 29&30 Otsego Conservation District Tree Sale - 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Location not yet determined.
- May 3&4 Environmental Study School, Course III, Sturgis.
- May 9 - District V Presidents Meeting, Cadillac Grill (Eldorado), Cadillac (Sign Up due by April 15)  
Hosted by: Ma-Me-Ne-Sewong Garden Club
- May 10 - Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Spring District V Meeting (see Page 8 for details)
- May 11 - Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. Membership Luncheon, "The Art of Gardening" (See Page 3)
- May 27-30 - National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention, "A Capitol Congress", Washington D.C.
- June 1 - Membership Dues deadline.
- June 1 - Planting Day and Opal Lake Beach House After Party/Library Showcase Begins
- June 9-11 - Michigan Garden Clubs State Convention, Midland, Michigan, H Hotel,

See National Garden Clubs, Inc. ([www.gardenclub.com](http://www.gardenclub.com)) and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ([www.michigangardclubs.org](http://www.michigangardclubs.org) for details on Conventions, Study Schools and other information.



MEMBER OF MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC., CENTRAL REGION AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

### Coming in MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON  
PLANT EXCHANGE  
SOIL TESTING  
GARDEN AMENDMENTS  
PLANTING DAY and  
OPAL LAKEHOUSE AFTER PARTY  
SUMMER FIELD TRIPS  
"VIEW MY GARDENS"  
GARDEN WALK  
LIBRARY SHOWCASE  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
SPRING DISTRICT V MEETING  
STATE CONVENTION

## Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. Board

Marilyn McIntosh, President/Editor

Joan Collick, 1st Vice President (Membership)

Roseann Kujawa, 2nd Vice President (Programs)

Marge Williamson, 2nd Vice President (Programs)

Pam Karbowsky, Secretary

Cynthia Hilling, Treasurer

Rosy Moran, Corresponding Secretary

Ruth Doss, Director

Lois Kalis, Director

Nancy Valuet, Director/Website Coordinator

[www.edelweissgardenclub.com](http://www.edelweissgardenclub.com)

# Otsego Conservation District



Sixteen acres sit on the grounds of the Yuill Center transformed from a barren piece of property into an exciting place to learn and grow. If you haven't been there, it is an oasis of gardens unlike any other available in a northern Michigan community. Take a free, self guided tour by heading up Old US 27 North to the Roundabout and following the road stay-

ing to the right, past the Health Center and then continuing straight to the back of this old state hospital grounds. Park and enter.

Patricia Osburn, the Director has the bones and an array of programs in place, it is just a matter what the Otsego Conservation District can provide. It comes down to needing staff or dedicated volunteers to maintain a quality organization

In a visit to our Garden Club at the February 9th Meeting, she discussed, setting up "Friends of the Garden" to design the future of these demonstration gardens.

Ways we can help support this endeavor are:

- Edelweiss Members can attend "Friends of the Garden" Meetings for input.
- The New Greenhouse on the premises is a premier operation in northern Michigan for Native Plants. Purchase natives at the Greenhouse on beginning June 11th.
- Tree Sale - Each spring and fall. Orders due March 31 for April 29th and 30th Sale
- [www.otsego.org/conservation-district](http://www.otsego.org/conservation-district)