



Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District

Nature Talks

December
2015

[Tree Sale](#)

[Conservation
Award](#)

[Native Plant Sale](#)

[Winter Bird Feeding](#)

[Citizen Pruner
Class](#)

**Upcoming
Events**

**2016 SWCD
Poster Contest**

SWCD Annual Tree Sale



The Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District is holding its annual tree sale to encourage tree planting in Sherburne County. This year 24 varieties of trees and shrubs will be offered by the SWCD. All are bare root seedlings that are sold in bundles of 25. Seedlings range in size from 8 to 36 inches. Bare root seedlings are easy to plant and grow quickly. Many species being offered by the SWCD provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife year round. Some of the additional benefits trees provide include; increased property value, energy conservation by shading and sheltering your home. Tree orders will be available for pick-up in late April/early May. Postcards will be sent announcing pick-up dates, times and locations. Stock is limited, and

orders are entered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Don't delay, order today!

For more information on the tree sale, or to download the 2016 order form visit our [Tree Sale Page](#).

The SWCD will be holding a poster contest for all 5th and 6th grade students of Sherburne County. Look for more information on this in next months issue.

2015 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator



Duane and Alan Peterson of Peterson & Peterson Farms, LLC have been chosen as this years Outstanding Conservation Cooperator for Sherburne County. Petersons operate a 280 acre cash grain and beef farm in Becker Township. They have farmed for 25 years and the farm has been in the family since 1970. Recognizing the vulnerable groundwater in the excessively drained soils of the Anoka Sandplain Region, Duane and Alan converted from high to low pressure irrigation. To further improve efficiency and decrease potential nutrient leaching to groundwater the Peterson's have added soil moisture probes to have access to real time soil moisture. They apply Nitrogen through the irrigation system, and are continually improving covercrop mixes to reduce erosion and breakup compaction. Petersons are conservation minded producers that deserve to be commended for their conservation efforts!

New 2016 SWCD Native Plant Sale

SWCD Native Plant Sale



New for 2016 Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding a native plant sale. Native plants are the cornerstone of our sustainable landscape.

They are adapted to grow in our soils and climate, require less care than exotic ornamentals. All plants we offer can be used to create a beautiful, hardy, and low-impact yard. Many native flowers have beautiful blooms that attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. We hope you will give natives a try!

Our office will begin accepting orders January 1st.

Click here to download the Native Plant Sale order form.

For more information on the plant sale, please visit our [Tree Sale Page](#).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact our office at 763-241-1170 x 4.

Help Our Feathered Friends This Winter



Who doesn't love to gaze out the window on these frosty mornings and watch the bird's bustle around the backyard? We have a few tips to help you add even more cardinals, blue jays and chickadees to your backyard nature show.

#1 Food

Seed blends may look appetizing, but they often contain "filler" seeds-such as millet, that birds might not eat. Birds do

love peanuts, they are a calorie and protein rich nut that appeals to jays, titmice, nuthatches and chickadees. Offer them either whole or shelled peanuts and watch the birds flock to your backyard. Black oil sunflower seeds are another great bird food choice. These seeds have slightly thinner shells and a higher oil content than other types of sunflower seeds, making them a more efficient and nutritious food. They will attract a wide range of hungry birds.

Check to see that your feeders are keeping the seeds dry. If seeds get wet, dump out and start fresh to prevent mold growth.

#2 Water

When ponds and streams freeze, it can be hard for wildlife to find a drink, so birds appreciate a pan of fresh water in your backyard, balcony, or deck. Moving water is less likely to freeze, so try installing an electric or solar-powered fountain in your birdbath. For those longer stretches of sub-zero temperatures, consider Investing in an electric birdbath heater to help keep the water open.

#3 Location

Place your bird feeders in a location where you can easily view them, but remember to set them back about 10 feet from shrubs, brush piles, or other places where cats might lurk.

For more information on the birds you can attract to your backyard, please visit

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/index.html>

Become A Citizen Pruner



Sherburne SWCD and the cities of Becker, Big Lake, Clear Lake, Elk River, Princeton and Zimmerman are partnering with the U of M Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program on a pilot program that engages citizens in caring for their community forestry.

Citizen Pruner volunteers have gathered at several city parks and facility locations to assist with basic tree pruning needs since 2014. They are trained in small tree structural pruning, and during events scheduled throughout the year help maintain trees on publicly-owned property. Citizen Pruners provide a tremendous benefit to our urban environment.

Citizen Pruner Training Session

Course material will be taught by U of M Urban Forestry Department staff. Citizen Pruner's are trained in tree identification, biology, and pruning techniques.

Date: Saturday, January 30th
Time: 8:30am - 4:30 pm
Location: Zimmerman City Hall
12980 Fremont Ave
Zimmerman, MN 55398
Cost: \$25 per person

[Click here for training registration information.](#)

or contact Gina Hugo at the Sherburne SWCD: 763-241-1170 ext. 101 or ghugo@sherburneswcd.org



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**If you would like more detailed information on any of the items listed above,
please feel free to contact the office at (763) 241-1170 ext. 4.**