

HARVEST

Corn and soybeans are not the only harvest we have out here. These logs are from a timber harvest on the 90-acre tract bordering White Road west of Maple Island Road. This type of harvest is called a shelter-wood cut, in which all the inferior trees are removed and the best trees are let to re-seed the undergrowth. Think of it as weeding the garden.



WILDLIFE

Saturday, March 25, 2023: Nest-box Cleanout Day! On a day of rain and snow, a day that was so wet that even the ducks refused to go out in it, volunteers gathered at the Resource Recovery Center to clean out the 300+ nest boxes that become the summer homes of bluebirds, tree swallows, a few house wrens and house sparrows, and an occasional chickadee. A huge thank you goes to all our volunteers! This is definitely not the first time they've come out in bad weather. As the sign on the table indicates, this year happens to be the 50th anniversary of the Resource Recovery Center. It's a great year to say thank you to all the people that make this place successful, including our nest-box cleanout volunteers.



FIRST FLOWERS OF SPRING

April showers bring May flowers. One of the first flowers of spring at the Resource Recovery Center is the blue lupine, the host plant for the caterpillar of the threatened karner blue butterfly.



2023 GROWING SEASON

The month of May saw a significant amount of work being done. Along with all of the field prep work (tillage, fertilizer, spraying, etc.), the planting was completed due to the weather's cooperation and favorable planting conditions. Alfalfa planting began on April 26 and was wrapped up on May 4. Soybean planting began on May 10 and was quickly wrapped up by May 12. Corn planting began on May 16, and we finished before the end of the month. We planted around 200 acres more corn than usual this year because of the local demand for silage.

We've had the 2nd driest May on record. Ironically, this April was the 4th wettest April on record, so we've gone from one extreme to the other over the course of the last two months.

W STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT

The proposed force main path follows the existing force main alignment through a wooded area that has become overgrown and is not ideal for underground utilities. Because of this, significant tree removal and foresting work was needed in order to create a suitable path for the force main to be constructed. K&R and their tree removal subconsultant have nearly completed the tree removal work for the project, way ahead of the April 1, 2023 deadline. Once the tree

removal portion of the project is complete, K&R will put pause on the work until August, 2023, due to road closure limitations from MDOT.



SOUTH IRRIGATION STATION REPLACEMENT

After the holiday season that kept them away from the site, Kamminga & Roodvoets (K&R) is back at work at the South Irrigation Pump Station project site. The most notable items accomplished this month are the installations of the concrete slab around the process piping, the vertical pump shafts, and the two bar screens. For the installation of the bar screens, K&R employed the RRC's crane and crane operators to accomplish the task.



SITE PAVING PROJECT

The RRC is getting some new roads! There are sections of roadway around the facility and treatment cells that were originally constructed in the 1970's, and, although they're in surprisingly good shape for 50-year-old pavement, they need a fresh coat of asphalt.

The project will re-pave approximately 3,920 linear feet of existing asphalt roadway and pave 980 linear feet of gravel roadway. The contractor will also repair a 66-inch culvert that has collapsed and created a large sinkhole. Work on the project began on June 26th.

RRC TRIPLE CROWN!

Three RRC employees received awards this month at the Michigan Water Environment Association Annual Conference!

Left to Right:

Anita Friend, Laboratory Supervisor, received the Water Environment Federation Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award.

Steve Barnard, Safety & Technical Coordinator, received the Water Environment Federation George W. Burke Jr. Award for having an active and effective safety program.

Mark Johnston, Environmental Laboratory Analyst, received the P.K. Sarda Lab Professional of the Year Award.

