

anked her for taking me to recognize and with us," said Amard member Larry mentioned that he letter to co-workch, and he said they ressed. son is on that team estly didn't even re they had done that e. But when I read little teared up. We share those things e get them," said resident Ivy Cook, ery proud of the ef-

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS:

ncipals Nick Hein e Kowalski reported r successful start to t year in both build-

said attendance at school night was up rst week of classes othly. New staff at dding were ready to ave hit the ground according to admin-

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Lakeside Park to have babbling brook next week

by Angie Asam
Staff Writer

Lakeside Park will have a new water feature up and running as early as Monday. Department of public works (DPW) crews have torn out the old ponds that were in the

park and are replacing them with a babbling brook running through that area.

DPW superintendent Roger Wenzel has brought up the ponds many times at parks and recreation committee meetings, as they were

deep and very slippery thus were potentially dangerous for children to be playing in or near. Wenzel also said that the ponds were difficult for the crews to maintain as algae built up and other factors caused issues.

Concrete for the new brook, or stream, was poured Tuesday morning, a load of stone will also come in to make the stream flow and look aesthetic. Wenzel said the new water feature should have water in it by Monday.

Chestnut field day set for Saturday on Moltke Hill

by Peter Jakey
Managing Editor

The early success of chestnut tree planting in Moltke Township will be put on public display Saturday during a field day. Abby and Nick Johnson of Ox Heights, as they call their diverse farm on a Moltke ridge, invited anyone interested in chestnut production to come out from 1 to 4 p.m.

the ridge to provide drainage of water, frost and cold away from the orchard."



THE CHESTNUT trees in Moltke Township are doing well with more to be planted during Saturday's demonstration.

(Photo by Peter Jakey)

The Johnsons planted the trees about a year ago and had a 99 percent survival rate. It was remarkable considering how cold temperatures dipped during parts of the 2017-18 winter season.

The farm recently received a five-star rating from the top chestnut consultant in Michigan, Chestnut Orchard Solution (COS).

"Knowing that Presque Isle County (Rogers City) is way out of the normal range for the establishment of an orchard and that the trees need well-drained, sandy soil, the Johnsons found land with the highest elevation in the area," an article on COS states. "A ridge running through Moltke township has an elevation of over 900 feet. It's known as the Moltke Hill and they used that ridge and the slopes from

The field day is being held in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension educator James DeDecker.

"It has been exciting to follow the Johnsons' work over the last year as they investigate the viability of chestnut production in northeast Michigan," said DeDecker. "Given their success thus far, I'm hopeful that chestnuts will create an opportunity to further diversify agriculture in the small portion of our county that offers the right micro-climate."

The agenda for the field day is as follows:

- 1 to 2:30 p.m.: presentation - Why Chestnuts? Why

Moltke Hill? What did we do? What have we learned? What do we still need to learn?

2:30 to 3 p.m.: orchard tour - inspect varieties, infrastructure and landscape.

3:30 - 4 p.m.: tree planting and tree protection demonstration.

"Weather looks good," said Abby this week. "All

systems go. It should be a good time. Trees are set to arrive in time for the planting demonstration."

"We really hope to target people who are interested in growing chestnuts on ground that is within six miles of Lake Huron and has good elevation," said Nick. "Planting chestnuts elsewhere in the area will likely fail because it is too cold and or wet."

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