

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Preble Soil and Water Conservation District

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MAY 2010

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Preble SWCD
Web Address:
www.prebleswcd.com

Join Us for our Annual Pond Clinic

Mark your calendars for the Preble Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Pond Clinic on June 3. Each year, Preble and Montgomery SWCD's co-sponsor a Pond Clinic. This year it will be held in Montgomery County at Sycamore Farm, 3225 N. Lutheran Church Road, Trotwood Ohio 45426.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with free hot dogs and drinks being served. At 6:30 p.m., the program will begin. The main speaker will be Bill Lynch from The Ohio State University. The evening will conclude by 8:30 p.m.

This program, made possible by donations from local businesses, is free and open to the public. If you have any questions or would like more information, call Montgomery SWCD at 937-854-7645.



Earth Day Event 2010 at Pleasant Vineyard Ministries

Preble SWCD and the Preble County Solid Waste Management District co-hosted the 12th Annual Earth Day Event on Thursday, May 6, 2010. The goal of this event was to bring students to an outdoor setting where they could learn hands-on about different conservation topics. The presentations ranged from trapping, to soils, to energy usage. Some new topics this year included glaciers and aquatic ecology. All of the presenters for this event volunteered their time and talents to help educate the students about natural resources. This year, approximately 550 students attended from the sixth grade classes at all five Preble County school districts. Pleasant Vineyard Ministries, located in Camden, once again served as host for the event. Donations for the event came from Quality Tile and Drainage Systems, and Quaker Trace Tractor & Kawasaki. Earth Day was a great success this year thanks to the hard work and support of the many speakers, FFA students, community volunteers, Preble SWCD, and the Preble County Solid Waste Management District.



John Jones demonstrates how a landfill functions

Twin Creek Watershed Sign Project

Monica Rakovan, Twin Creek Watershed Coordinator

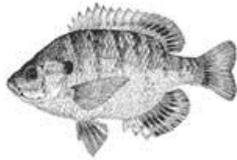
In the next few months, communities within the Twin Creek Watershed will notice new signage about the Twin Creek Watershed and local wetlands that were recently constructed. The Ohio Environmental Education Fund provided the funds for the signage project. Twin Creek and its tributaries have been identified as one of the best streams in Ohio because of their high quality habitat and the excellent quality of their fish and macro-invertebrate communities. The Twin Creek watershed is also home to the largest Indiana Bat hibernaculum in Ohio. These outstanding attributes underscore the importance of protecting and managing the Twin Creek Watershed in light of potential impacts from the pressure of development and urbanization.

Our current education and outreach effort has been focused on educating citizens and students at local festivals and school events as well as through traditional media outlets such as newsletters, web sites and tours. However, we feel the need to expand the outreach effort to include a broader audience such as motorists, land owners, road crews, hikers, walkers/joggers and passersby. Other cities, municipalities, and watershed groups across the United States have installed watershed signs and found that it is an effective way to communicate and help people become aware that we all live in a watershed and are responsible for protecting it.

We hope that these signs will 1) inspire residents to keep the stream beautiful and free of pollution; 2) invite everyone to protect our natural environment; 3) showcase the exceptional quality of our stream; and 4) enhance recognition of water resources. Facts and history of the watershed are also highlighted on these signs. In addition, the signs will be installed at the newly constructed wetlands within the Twin Creek watershed. The Preble County Historical Society constructed a wetland consisting of about 3.6 acres of surface water and 11.4 acres of native grasses and forbs. The Preble County Park District (PCPD) created a small 1.5 acre wetland area at the Allen and Adaline Garber Nature Center in Lewisburg. The sponsors and owners of these wetlands have devoted a tremendous amount of time and resources to acquire funding and technical assistance to complete these projects. The public can now visit these wetlands and observe and learn about their many benefits.

Flags for Sale

Do you need flags to mark tree seedlings, field plots, garden rows, or tile holes? Preble SWCD sells 36" tall fluorescent pink Marking Flags which are easy to see in a variety of field conditions. Flags sell for \$1.50 per bundle of 10 or \$15.00 per 100.



The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their annual Fish Sale in the fall of this year.

Watch for the Fish Order in your next newsletter.

Please patronize our sponsors who make this newsletter possible!

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
1651 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45320-1021

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #342
Eaton, OH 45320

Return Service Requested

POND CLINIC

June 3, 2010
Details Inside

All programs and services of the Preble SWCD are offered on a nondiscrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

Grass Waterway Maintenance

Grass Waterways require frequent maintenance to perform properly and lengthen their useful life. Waterways need to be inspected regularly to identify potential problems. Damaged waterways should be repaired in a timely manner to prevent further deterioration and more costly repairs.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) waterways must be maintained at their original designed width, including any buffers along the sides, to remain in compliance with CRP program rules. CRP waterways that are well maintained may have the opportunity to be re-enrolled for another 10 years upon expiration of the original 10-year contract. However, to be eligible for an increased rental rate and possible re-enrollment, the waterway must have been well maintained and be the same size as originally constructed.

Here are some guidelines to assist you in maintaining your grass waterway:

- Raise tillage implements and planters up and turn sprayers off when crossing waterways. "Outline" waterways with sprayers and avoid spray drift onto the grass. Grass waterways being accidentally sprayed is probably the number one cause of waterway damage.
- Tillage and row direction should be perpendicular to the grass waterway. This allows surface water to drain into the waterway and prevents water from flowing along the edges.
- Mow to control unwanted brush/weed species encroaching in the waterway. CRP waterways can be mowed after July 15th without FSA permission or before July 15th with permission from FSA if thistles or other noxious weeds are present.
- Fertilize to improve the vigor of the grass. 400 lbs per acre of 12-12-12 is recommended for thin stands, with older waterways being fertilized periodically as needed.
- Repair broken tile immediately.
- Seed and mulch any bare areas.
- Do not use waterways as a travel lane.

For more information on waterway maintenance, contact the Preble NRCS/SWCD office at (937) 456-4211 ext 3.