

# CONSERVATION COMMENTS

## Preble Soil and Water Conservation District

1651 North Barron Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320-1021

Phone 937-456-5159

Fax 937-456-3589

MAY 2011

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Lewis Jones  
Donn Kolb  
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Keith Schmidt

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Erik Lewis

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Preble SWCD  
Web Address:  
[www.prebleswcd.com](http://www.prebleswcd.com)

## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL POND CLINIC

**Mark your calendars!** The Preble Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Pond Clinic, co-sponsored by Montgomery SWCD, will be held on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Our hosts, Curtis and Kristi Falldorf of Preble County, are located at 2812 New Market Banta Rd, West Alexandria, Ohio 45381. Harvest land Co-op, Quality Tile and Drainage Systems, and Farm Credit Services have provided complimentary hot dogs and drinks for those in attendance.



There are several interesting topics on the agenda. Hueston Woods Nature Center will have a demonstration on aquatic reptiles and birds, a local insurance agent will be speaking on pond liability, and a representative from a pond management service will be speaking on algae control, pond stocking, and maintenance. To conclude the evening, Preble SWCD will discuss what the District can do to help with your pond concerns.

The Pond Clinic is free and open to the public, and will be held indoors in the event of inclement weather. The Falldorf Farm is on the east side of New Market Banta Rd, approximately one mile south of Pymont Rd. Please bring your own lawn chairs, as seating is not provided. If you have any questions or need driving directions, call Preble SWCD at 937-456-5159.



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

**Watch for the Fish Order in your next newsletter.**



## *Earth Day Event 2011 at Pleasant Vineyard Ministries Camp*

Preble SWCD and the Preble County Solid Waste Management District co-hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Event on Thursday, May 5, 2011. After a long stretch of cool, wet weather, the day dawned sunny and dry. 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 this year ranged from trapping, to soils, to energy usage. Other topics included beekeeping and Ohio's trees. All of the presenters for this event volunteered their time and talents to help educate the students about natural resources.



Al Gerhart displays a wood duck nest box



Mark and Jesse Banks explain  
Native American customs

Brad Turner, Preble County Wildlife Officer; and Heidi Devine, ODNR Wildlife Biologist, brought "Fur Trunks" full of pelts from native wildlife species. Mike Wright, from Miami University, brought a display of mammal skulls. Students were able to identify the mammals based on skull size, teeth, and other characteristics.



Lamb brought by Frank House

Land Surveyor Doug Kramer brought along surveying instruments from the past and present to show how the trade has changed through the years. He described how the first surveys of the area included descriptions of the abundant natural resources. Students were able to practice using the surveying equipment to get an idea how the work is done.

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.

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### **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.



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 2, 2011  
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.*

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## ***GRASSED 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 15<sup>th</sup> without FSA permission or before July 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**