

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

Preble Soil and Water Conservation District

1651 North Barron Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320-1021

Phone 937-456-5159

MAY 2015

Pond Clinic

Do you own a pond? Want to learn how to maintain your pond? We would like to invite you to our 2015 Pond Clinic on June 4th at PVM Camp, 1259 Swann Beatty Rd., Camden, OH 45311 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Pond Clinic will start off with a picnic style meal followed by our presentation. The Pond Clinic is **free** but we do ask that you **RSVP by May 29 by calling 937-456-5159**.

This years presenters will include: Shawn Murphy - Pond Liability, Scott Elliot - Managing your pond the easy way, and Eugene Braig - What do I have and why?.

This years' event is co-hosted by Preble SWCD and Montgomery SWCD, and sponsored by Brubaker Grain and Chemical, Inc.

Earth Day 2015

April is a month dedicated to nature and preserving the earth. On April 30, 2015, sixth grade students from around Preble County enjoyed a fun filled day learning about things related to Earth Day. Volunteers from all over came together to teach students about wild animals, recycling, Native American Culture, soils, surviving on a hike, and more. Preble Soil & Water Conservation District and the Preble County Solid Waste District had 18 presenters, many volunteers, and school staff who created a wonderful Earth Day team.



April weather held off the showers, allowing for a beautiful sun-filled morning while hundreds of students arrived and trekked around the camp to the different presenters. Laughter and fun was the order of the day; students danced to the beat of a drum, took soil samples using a soil probe, said "hi" to a Red Tailed hawk, and much, much more. As the event came to a close, announcements were made, and students took one last trek to the buses, and a chill was felt in the air as the rain entered the Ohio border. An hour later the rain started to pour. April was at it again.

We would like to take this time to thank our sponsors: Quality Tile & Drainage Systems, LLC; Quaker Trace Tractor and Kawasaki; Jubilee; and a special thank-you to PVM Camp and Conference Center for having a great place for us to host our event.

Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, Aquatics, and More

High school teams from across southwest Ohio came to participate in the Area IV Envirothon Competition. Participants were challenged in the areas of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics, and current events. Out of the 86 teams, four teams were from our very own Preble County. Thanks to the teams from Preble Shawnee and Twin Valley South who participated this year.

This years' event was held at Camp Friedlander in Loveland, in Clermont County on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Broermann
Kip Denlinger
Donn Kolb
James Leedy
Keith Schmidt

DISTRICT STAFF

Jason Chappel - District Tech.
BJ Price - DPA/Technician
Annette Paulus - Office Assistant/
Educator

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeff Barnes - District
Conservationist
Justin Wagner - Resource
Conservationist

PHEASANTS FOREVER

Renee Buck - Farm Bill
Biologist

IN THIS ISSUE

Pond Clinic
Earth Day
Envirothon
Grassed Waterways
Noxious Weeds
Scholarship
Board Member Search
Tree Sale & Program
Social Media



SWCD

Web Address:

www.prebleswcd.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/PrebleSWCD

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. 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 anytime after July 15th without FSA permission, or mowing is permitted by FSA before July 15th if you need to control thistles or other noxious weeds.
- 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.

Noxious Weed Control

Noxious weeds are such a problem in Ohio that several laws are on the books regarding their control. Landowners, railroads, highway departments, and units of government all have responsibilities spelled out in the Ohio Revised Code. Here in Preble County, where the vast majority of the land is under private ownership, it would seem appropriate to appeal to you, the private citizens of our county, to do your part to eradicate the noxious weeds in our area.

As the weather warms up this spring, the staff at Preble SWCD has seen an absolute abundance of poison hemlock in road ditches, fencerows, and other out-of-the-way places. Canada thistle is starting to make a showing, as well. Now is a good time of year to get these and other noxious weeds under control before they spread further.

With the privilege of owning property comes the responsibility to control noxious weeds. We encourage all property owners and land users to be on the watch for these weeds, as well as other problem plants, as you are out and about this spring. Weeds can be controlled by either mowing and/or spraying, depending on the species and the surrounding vegetation. Proper timing can be critical for successful weed control. For more information on weed identification and control, don't hesitate to call the Preble Soil and Water Conservation District at (937) 456-5159.

*-Information courtesy of: University of Missouri,
Ohio State University, and Purdue University-*

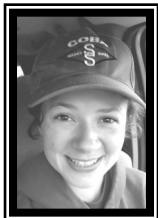
Congratulations

The Preble Soil & Water Conservation District is happy to announce the winner of this year's \$1,000 college scholarship. This year's recipient grew up in Preble County on a dairy farm where she developed a love for all things agriculture and animal. She graduated Homeschool in 2012 and has continued her education at Indiana University East, majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Our recipient has a dream of finishing her education and serving Preble County as a mixed-animal veterinarian.

Congratulations to this year's college scholarship winner, McKenna Marshall.

This scholarship is awarded annually by PSWCD based on academic standing, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, leadership, and college major. The PSWCD programs are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Preble SWCD would like to thank all who applied for the scholarship and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth of Preble County. Keep on the lookout for our next scholarship.



Board Supervisor Search

The Preble Soil and Water Conservation District is currently looking for volunteers seeking election as a supervisor on our District Board. A soil and water conservation district supervisor is...

A respected community leader, elected by county residents to represent them in charting the course for local soil and water conservation and natural resource management.

District Boards of Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement a conservation program in the county that addresses management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources. Supervisors should have a sincere interest in conservation, and must have the enthusiasm, dedication, and time to serve expected of an elected official.

Although serving as an SWCD supervisor takes time and energy, thousands of men and woman have found that the many rewards of serving far outweigh the sacrifices.



the TWIN VALLEY bank
WEST ALEXANDRIA, OHIO 45381

2 East Dayton Street
West Alexandria, OH 45381

Your Ag Loan Specialists

Phone (937) 839-4628

Standing the Test of Time Since 1888



PAPPY
B'S
BBQ

*Let us do the
cooking for you!*

Graduations • Weddings • Parties • Picnics

937.456.1087 or 937.336.8045

(937) 572-9850 -Cell
(937) 456-8976
(937) 839-4912
mgfrinc@gmail.com



FOREST RESOURCE CONSULTANTS, INC.

TIMBER SALES
TIMBER APPRAISAL
TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT
TREE PLANTING

MARK J. GOEKE
CONSULTING FORESTER

2407 BANTAS CREEK RD.
EATON, OHIO 45320

Preble Soil & Water Conservation District
1651 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45320-1021
Office Hours-Monday-Friday 7:30a-4p
Phone: 937-456-5159
www.prebleswcd.org

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

Return Service Requested

Dates to Remember:

May 20-Board Meeting @ 7am
June 04-Pond Clinic
June 17-Board Meeting @ 7am
July 15-Board Meeting @ 7am
Aug 15-Board Meeting @ 7am

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.

Spring has Sprung and Trees are Here

Spring is here and so is another tree season. Preble Soil & Water Conservation District hosted another great tree sale. Many folks have stopped in to purchase pines or oaks, while others ordered smaller varieties including lilac, button bush and more. Thanks to our board members for helping package the trees.

We also conducted our Tree Education Program for the Preble County public school fifth graders. After learning why trees are important for us and our environment, each student was given a Norway spruce sapling to take home and plant. We want to thank Pratt Industries for sponsoring the Tree Education Program as well as Washington Township Livestock 4-H Club for helping pack and sort over 500 saplings.

Go for a hike or take a walk, but enjoy your area trees this spring.

Social Media

Technology, specifically the internet, is a powerful thing. The internet can be a useful tool.

The Preble Soil & Water Conservation District wants to positively use this powerful tool to inform and educate its viewers. Our staff has been working on updating the Preble Soil and Water website at prebleswcd.org. We are making links and information more 'user friendly'.

Along with the website, Preble SWCD has created a Facebook page where you can see photos of classroom educational visits, information, and photos from our recent events.

So come visit and 'like' our page.



Like Preble SWCD on Facebook

Please Note:

Are you receiving this newsletter in error, or are there corrections that need to be made to your name and/or address? Do you know of someone else who would like to receive this newsletter? If so, please call the office at (937) 456-5159 and speak to Annette.