



Conservation Comments

August - September 2009

*LOCAL CONSERVATION
EVENTS AND INFORMATION*

Greene SWCD — 1363 Burnett Drive — Xenia, OH 45385-5681 — Phone (937) 372-4478 — Fax (937) 372-8774

CSP Sign-Up Ends Sept. 30



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) on August 10 in Ohio. The first cutoff for ranking purposes is scheduled for September 30.

NRCS administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

To apply for the newly revamped CSP, individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. The checklist is available on www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov and at NRCS field offices.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program are ineligible for the new Conservation Stewardship Program.

For more information about the new CSP, please visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/. For more information about conservation programs in Ohio, please visit www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov. Local contacts for this program include Steve Hall, District Conservationist, 937-372-4478 (Greene County); Kara MacDowell, District Conservationist 937-328-4600 (Clark County) and Justin Armintrout, Soil Conservationist, 513-695-2531 (Warren County).


North Fork Massies Creek Restoration Site Tour

Greene County Sanitary Engineering, in partnership with the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, will host a site tour of the ongoing North Fork Massies Creek Restoration projects on

**Thursday, September 17
from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.**



Please join us at the Selma-Jamestown Road bridge on North Fork Massies Creek (just south of the intersection of Selma-Jamestown Road and Gravel Pit Road) for a tour of the project site and an update of ongoing and future restoration efforts being conducted as part of Greene County's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program and Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program grants. Please visit http://www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/SE_WRRSP.htm for more information.

		Glenn's Weather Corner	
Month	Rainfall	Avg. Temp	
June	3.24 "	71.6 degrees F	
July	3.71 "	69.4 degrees F	
Cumulative Rainfall (January - July)		2009	20.01 "
		2008	35.87 "
		2007	21.40 "



National Ash Seed Collection Initiative

The Emerald Ash Borer, a half-inch long invasive insect from Asia, has killed nearly 30 million ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in nine states - including Ohio - since it arrived in the U.S. in late 2001. Despite ongoing containment efforts, there is a high probability that all of America's ash trees will be destroyed in our lifetime.

Rather than see native trees become extinct, the Natural Resources Conservation Service created the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative to collect and preserve ash tree seeds. Collected seeds will be x-rayed by the U.S. Forest Service to ensure viability, then stored in cryogenic vaults at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. If the population of American ash trees is indeed totally destroyed, these stored seeds will be the genetic base to re-establish *Fraxinus* in the future.

The Ash Seed Collection Initiative depends on volunteers to locate and collect ash seeds. You can help!

Come learn about the Emerald Ash Borer, the Seed Collection Initiative, and how to identify ash trees. You'll see how to collect seeds, packaging and cataloging your collections, and where to drop off your collections for processing. The Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension - Greene County, and Master Gardeners of Greene County are working together to bring this initiative to Greene County.

Learn how to help save native trees for the future!

check us out on the web at
www.co.greene.oh.us/soils

Mark your calendar for the GSWCD Open House

**Tuesday,
December 8, 2009**

*This year we will open
our offices for your visit.*

- It's your chance to meet the staff and supervisors, see some highlights of work we do, and cast your ballot for 2 supervisors.
- It's our chance to show off our programs, meet our constituents, and cut some costs in this day of economic concerns.

More details in our next newsletter!

**OSU Extension Buckeye Room
100 Fairgrounds Road, Xenia**

**Monday, September 21, 2009
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**



6th Annual

Little Miami River Watershed Festival

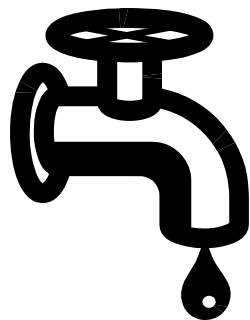
**Saturday, October 17
11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Caesars Creek Visitor Center
Clarksville Road, Waynesville

Family Oriented Festival with lots to see and do! Booths and activities set-up by local organizations. Learn more about this important watershed - what it offers and how we can help protect it. Plan to "soak up" some fun-knowledge! Face-painting, games, fishing, animals, scouting activities, and a t-shirt!

Everything's Free!

The Watershed Festival was started through a Section 319 grant from US and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.



3rd Annual
**Test Your Well
 Fair**

**Tuesday,
 September 29th**
 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Xenia Adult Recreation & Service Center
 130 E. Church Street, Xenia

Free, confidential nitrate screening.
 Stop by anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. -
 nitrate testing takes approx. 20 minutes.

- * Plan to collect the sample that day.
- * Use a clean jar that seals tightly.
- * Remove any aerator, screen, or filter from your faucet.
- * Run water for five minutes to clear the lines and bring fresh water from the well.
- * Fill the bottle (minimum of 4 oz.) and cap it snugly.
- * Keep the container refrigerated until the "Test Your Well Fair" from 4-6 p.m. at the Xenia Adult Recreation & Service Center.

Learn about how to test your water for bacteria - and how to interpret the test results. So you need to shock chlorinate your well? We'll make sure you have all the knowledge to get it done right! Resource specialists will be at the fair to answer your questions about drinking water quality. View displays from many local organizations here to help you. You have an impact on water quality - learn how you can improve it.

**Come educate yourself
 about the water you drink.**

Sponsored by the Greene County FFA Chapter, Greene County Farm Bureau, Greene County Combined Health District, Greene Soil & Water Conservation District, OSU Extension, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, City of Xenia & Miami Conservancy District.

CRP Maintenance

Landowners enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, which is administered through the Farm Service Agency, must maintain their acres according to the Conservation Plan they agreed to with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Participants must do three things:

- * Establish approved vegetative cover to control erosion on the land for the length of the contract.
- * Maintain the original dimensions of the CRP acreage (30' wide for many waterways, for example).
- * Control weeds and other types of undesirable plants, like trees and brush.

The rules have changed over the past few years, as wildlife habitat has become a primary focus.

According to United States Department of Agriculture policy on mowing, mowing for cosmetic purposes and excessive mowing is prohibited at all times, and can result in a payment reduction.

By properly maintaining CRP cover, participants can be a friend to wildlife and also to neighboring landowners. For information, call Steve Hall, District Conservationist in Greene County at (937) 372-4478.

Here are the "rules of thumb" for maintaining CRP acres:

- * No CRP cover maintenance activities, like mowing, should be done during the primary nesting season of March 1 through July 15, unless noxious weeds are present.
- * If noxious weeds are present, landowners can request early mowing permission from FSA.
- * All maintenance activities should be completed from July 16 through Sept. 15 to allow enough time for the cover to re-grow for winter wildlife cover.

Cutting Costs

Yes, the economy is affecting us too. We are looking at ways to reduce our costs while still providing technical assistance and conservation education to the residents of Greene County.

We are interested in your thoughts. **Would you be interested in receiving our newsletter via e-mail?** This would be a way to cut costs - and reduce paper use (assuming you read it on the screen). You could choose whether to receive your newsletter by the U.S. Postal Service or on-line.

Send an e-mail to Jill O'Banion at jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net with your opinion - we want to hear from you! We'll let you know what we decide in an upcoming newsletter.



Greene SWCD

Office Hours Monday - Friday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Greene SWCD Staff

Don Leeds - Program Administrator
Nancy Boggs - Administrative Assistant
Mary Duley - Secretary
Warren McCarren - Technician
Jeremiah McDowell - Technician
Ken Middleton - Urban Technician
Jill O'Banion - Education Specialist

Greene SWCD Supervisors

Gary Clemans
Charles Cooley
Dave Linkhart
David Quallen
Don Wolf
Glenn Harner, Associate

Greene NRCS Staff

Steve Hall - District Conservationist
Jim Reisen - IRM Specialist

All services of the Greene SWCD and NRCS are free to the public. Our office is located in the Xenia Industrial Park.

Conservation Comments

Look Inside For >>

- Massies Creek Site Tour - September 17
- Ash Seed Collection Forum - Sept. 21
- Test Your Well Fair - September 29
- Little Miami River Watershed Festival - October 17
- GSWCD Open House - December 8

Funding to the Greene SWCD is provided by the Greene County Commissioners and Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Resources provide assistance. Programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

Resident
Current
Or

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