



Conservation Comments

Summer 2010

*LOCAL CONSERVATION
EVENTS AND INFORMATION
FOR GSWCD COOPERATORS*

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

Mark your calendar for the GSWCD Open House



**Tuesday,
December 7, 2010
3:30—6:30 pm**

An Open House At Our Place.

- Light refreshments served.
- Meet our staff and supervisors.
- Congratulate our award winners.
- Cast your ballot for 2 supervisors.
- Learn about some of our projects.
- Visit with other like-minded conservationists!

Welcome To Our New Look!

With changing postal regulations, use of this envelop saved us many hours of tabbing each newsletter closed for mailing. It also gave us a bit more space to use—the part usually reserved for the mailing label.

Budget restrictions have made us reduce mailings to 4 times a year. We do plan to continue these mailings in order to keep you aware of our on-going activities.

If you would rather receive our newsletters by e-mail, then please let us know. E-mail jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net from the e-mail you want us to use. Include your current mailing address so we can be sure to stop your regular mailing.

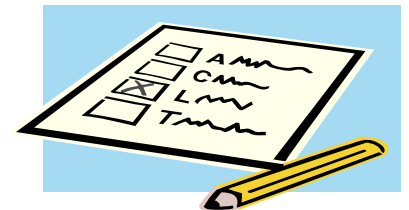
How To Get On The Ballot

Any resident 18 years of age or older, who resides within Greene County can seek election to the Greene Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot in one of two ways.

Candidates can be nominated by the GSWCD nominating committee. This committee works throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county. Contact David Quallen and Scott Harner to find out more about becoming a Supervisor.

Interested individuals may also stop by the GSWCD office, 1363 Burnett Drive, Xenia, Ohio and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on **November 2**. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on December 7, 2010 at the Annual Meeting. We will be electing two supervisors for three year terms.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, located in all 88 counties, are legal subdivisions of state government that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is funded by the Greene County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member board of volunteer county residents. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.



4th Annual Test Your Well Event

**Greene County
Environmental Services**
2145 Greene Way Blvd
Xenia, OH 45385



**Tuesday, Sept. 28
from 4 to 6 pm**



**To collect your well water sample properly
(nitrate testing only):**

Clean container with a tight fitting lid
—able to hold 8 oz. (1 cup)

Keep the bottle clean and sealed until ready to take the sample. Don't touch the inside of the lid or the bottle, or the lip of the bottle.

Collect the water on the day it will be tested if possible, following these steps:

- Fill the bottle and cap it snugly.
- Keep the sample refrigerated until the Test Your Well Event on Sept. 28 from 4-6 pm. Greene County Environmental Services (yard waste drop-off and recycling center) is located across Progress Drive from Krogers.

Sponsored by: Greene County FFA, Greene County Combined Health District, Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Xenia, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, OSU Extension, Miami Conservancy District, Central State University, Greene County Farm Bureau, and ODNr Division of Soil & Water Resources.

Get a behind the scenes tour of Greene County's Recycling Facility.



Local Organizations on hand to answer your water questions.

Well Water? Bring in a sample —we'll test it for nitrates — confidential — while-you-wait— for FREE! Sample directions >>

Discount coupons for bacteria testing too!

City or County Water?
Learn how to keep it clean.
We all live downstream. :)

Envirothon —the natural challenge



North America's largest environmental high school competition, the Envirothon, impacted two Greene County High Schools this spring. **Beavercreek and Cedarville** High Schools participated in this hands-on, outdoor testing opportunity. Teams of five students are challenged with questions involving soils, wildlife, aquatics, forestry, and a current environmental issue.

Open only to Montgomery and Greene County teams, the Local Envirothon was held on April 21, at Phillips Park in Beavercreek Township. Teams were rotated through five testing stations and then allowed to review areas of interest with resource specialists. The Local Envirothon is sponsored by the Montgomery and Greene Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Centerville Washington Park District, and the Greene County Park District.

All southwest Ohio schools can participate in the Area Envirothon, held May 4, at Voice of America Park in Butler County. Seventy teams participated this year, with the top four—Centerville, Franklin (2), and Beavercreek — being eligible to go to the Ohio Envirothon. Check out www.areaenvirothon.org for pictures from the event. Try your hand at some of the tests!

Lake Erie College was the site for the 22nd Annual Ohio Envirothon June 14 and 15. Twenty teams from around the state competed for the opportunity to represent Ohio at the Canon Envirothon August 1 - 6, in Fresno, California. Beavercreek High School placed fifth overall at the Ohio Envirothon. **Congratulations!**

Chardin High School, Geauga County, placed first at the Ohio Envirothon and competed at the Canon Envirothon August 1-6 in Fresno, California, placing 8th out of 54 teams. Way to go Ohio!

The Envirothon is a great outdoor environmental education opportunity for high schools in Greene County. Beavercreek and Cedarville have been faithful participants since it's inception in 1990. Bellbrook, Fairborn and Xenia High Schools have participated when funding and scheduling have allowed.

Contact Jill O'Banion at jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net or (937) 372-4478 to get your school involved.

Changes in the District



Left to Right—Steve Hall, Nancy Boggs, her daughter Missy, and Rick Perales are pictured with the Sugar Maple.

Nancy Boggs, Administrative Assistant with the District for over 20 years, retired in May. We appreciate her dedication to the District and will miss her cheerful voice on the phone. Due to budget constraints, her position will not be filled at this time. A tree was planted in her honor at the Greene County Fairgrounds.



Left to Right—David Quallen, Don Wolf, Mary Duley, Dave Linkhart, and Steve Hall pose with the Tulip Poplar.

Mary Duley, retired last year after 20 years with the District. Her position has not been filled due to budget concerns. Mary was also honored with a tree. Private donations were used to purchase the three trees planted at the fairgrounds this year.

We Appreciate Your Patience

Budget issues have forced us to leave some jobs unfilled, reduce staff hours, and reduce hours the office is open to the public.

Our hours are 7 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. There are times we have to lock the doors, though, as we continue to serve our constituents on appointments and must leave the office.

To ensure your needs are served when you arrive at our office, please call us at 372-4478 to make an appointment. An answering machine will allow you to leave a message with any of the staff if we are out of the office.

Chuck Cooley chose not to run again when his term expired last fall. In honor of over 20 years of service to the District, a tree was planted at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Left to Right—Don Wolf, Chuck Cooley, David Quallen, and Steve Hall stand with the Northern Oak planted for Chuck.



Gary Clemans left the Board of Supervisors this spring after being a member for 13 years. His support of the District is greatly appreciated.

Doug Anderson was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to complete Gary's term. Doug's farm was a stop on our annual County Commissioner Tour this summer, showcasing alternative farming operations.



Participants in the County Commissioner Tour get a soils lesson from Steve Hall while at Doug Anderson's Farm.

Gladys Fennoy was a Natural Resources Conservation Service student trainee in our office this summer. From Illinois, Gladys goes back to complete her senior year at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. We enjoyed her enthusiasm for learning and wish her well at school.



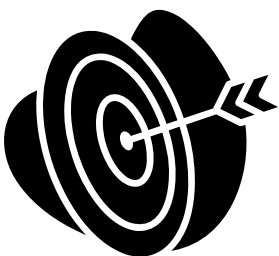
Gladys guides a canoe during a learning trip down the Little Miami River with local college students.

Conservation Planning Time is Now

Are you considering any land improvements on your farm next year? How about putting that shaded field edge into wildlife cover, fixing a gully with a new grassed waterway, or improving your pasture by setting up a rotational grazing system. Are you looking for a better way to handle manure? Do you have a wet corner of a field or pasture that would be better as a wetland? If so, please call NRCS for a planning visit soon.

There are several conservation programs available, and each is specific to a particular goal or problem. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) are targeted toward retiring cropland or pasture to high quality wildlife cover.

Other programs are focused on improving the productivity and environmental condition of active cropland, pasture and woodland. These include the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).



If you think any of these programs might help you reach your conservation goals, please call our office for a planning visit. It is never too early to start planning.



Glenn's Weather Corner

Month	Rainfall	Avg. Temp
April	1.83"	58.2 degrees F
May	5.54"	65.9 degrees F
June	7.20"	73.8 degrees F

Cumulative Rainfall	2010	22.53"
	2009	16.30"
January - June	2008	32.19"
	2007	19.48"
	2006	20.38"

Records taken for NOAA by Glenn Harner in Caesarscreek Township, Greene County.

Little Miami River Watershed Festival

Saturday, October 16, 11 am - 4 pm

Join us at Caesars Creek State Park Visitor Center at 4020 N. Clarksville Road, Waynesville, Ohio 45068.

Family oriented, kid friendly displays and activities to increase your awareness of the Little Miami River Watershed.

Great way for scouts to work toward water and environmental badges.

Plan to join us for a day outdoors. Go on a ranger-led walk, explore the pond, color your own t-shirt, and enjoy the fall colors!



Greene SWCD

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Greene SWCD Staff Members -

- Don Leeds - Program Administrator
- Warren McCarren - Technician
- Jeremiah McDowell - Technician
- Ken Middleton - Urban Erosion Control
- Jill O'Banion - Education Specialist

Greene NRCS Staff Members

- Steve Hall - District Conservationist

GSWCD Supervisors:

- Doug Anderson, Dave Linkhart, Scott Harner, David Quallen, Don Wolf, and Glenn Harner, Associate

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

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 Conservation provide assistance. Programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.