



Conservation Comments

Winter 2007 - 08

*LOCAL CONSERVATION
EVENTS AND INFORMATION*

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

Rain Gardens - Protecting Our Water One Yard at a Time

A rain garden is an attractive, landscaped area planted with perennial native plants which don't mind getting "wet feet." They are beautiful gardens, built in depressions, which are designed to capture and filter storm water runoff from impervious surfaces around the home, such as rooftops and driveways.

The benefits of rain gardens are multiple and include their ability to perform the following functions:

- Help keep water clean by filtering storm water runoff before it enters local waterways.
- Help alleviate problems associated with flooding and drainage.
- Enhance the beauty of individual yards and communities.
- Provide habitat and food for wildlife including birds and butterflies.
- Recharge the ground water supply.



As development increases, there are more demands placed on our local environment. Impervious surfaces associated with development, such as roof tops, driveways and roads, are areas that shed rainwater. Construction activity on development sites usually compacts the soil, limiting the ground's capacity to absorb water. Taken together, these factors reduce the ability of our landscape to absorb and filter storm water.

Installing a rain garden can be a fairly simple process, involving a shovel and a bit of physical energy. The size and style of your garden will depend on a number of factors including: the size of your yard, whether you are trying to create a formal or informal looking garden, and the amount of money you want to spend. *Remember, you can never have a rain garden that is too large or too small!* Any size rain garden can contribute to solving local water quality problems and will be a beautiful addition to your property!

The above information is taken from "Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners" booklet developed by the Geauga SWCD. We have some copies in our office. It is also available on-line at http://www.geaugaswcd.com/pdfs/2007_rain_garden_manual.pdf to be viewed or downloaded. Or search "rain garden" or "rainwater gardens" to find much more information.

Greene SWCD Planning Meeting

On December 4, 2007, the Greene Soil & Water Conservation District held a Planning Meeting - looking to partners and organizations in the county to give feedback on how we are doing and what we should focus on in the future. We are always open to ideas - so let us know yours!



Some concerns voiced included spreading the word to contractors, builders, and homeowners about erosion control options. Promoting lesser known options of storm water control like pervious pavement and rain gardens. Empowering homeowners with knowledge about utilizing native plants to reduce summer watering - ensuring landscaping on new homes is done accordingly.

**Look for information
on these topics in upcoming newsletters!**

WANTED: Reports on Observations of the Badger

A student at Ohio State University is tracking badgers in Ohio. He would be interested in your knowledge of activity, sightings, or road kill in Greene County.

The North American Badger is a stocky, medium-sized member of the weasel family of mammals. Look for these characteristics:

- Gray to yellowish-brown in color with black patches on the cheeks and a conspicuous white stripe on top of the head. The stripe extends nearly to the nose and runs down the neck and back.
- Adults weigh 12-25 pounds and have a total body length of 20-30 inches.
- The legs and tail are short, and the front feet have long, curved claws.
- Very active digger. The conspicuous burrows often measure a foot in diameter, and usually have a large mound of soil at the entrance.
- Most often seen above ground at dawn or dusk. Due to their shaggy fur, loose skin, and short legs, badgers appear to “flow” along the ground.
- Badgers may be mistaken for woodchucks, as a result of their digging behavior, and similar coat, however woodchucks range from 5-10 pounds and are 16-20 inches long.



Here's an update from Jared:

“So far from my research, which will be completed this coming March, I've found badgers are commonly utilizing grassland and woodland edges. Also, it appears that the configuration of grasslands corridors (Conservation Reserve Program) are important. One interesting thing I've found from the 8 badgers I've radio-harnessed and tracked is that they extensively use riparian areas. I believe this is because these areas offer “undisturbed habitat” for them. By this I mean they come in less contact with humans, particularly in highly agricultural areas, as well as there being abundant brushy cover, loamy soils for burrowing, and a good prey base. Finally, I've collected 41 carcasses to date, in which I've evaluated their dietary habits, reproduction, and age. Currently, I'm awaiting age data from the lab, but their diet has consisted of 98% small mammals or rodents, which we would expect as they are a strict carnivore. Specifically, I've found a lot of deer mice, white footed mice, voles, and shrews.”

Please contact: Jared Duquette, by mail: School of Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210, phone: (614) 688-4289, or e-mail: duquette.6@osu.edu with any past or future badger sightings. He is still collecting data!



Soil Stewardship Observance April 27 - May 4, 2008

2008 Theme: Water Is Life

Leaders Guide, Bulletins,
and Inserts provided to
churches free of charge.
Call (937) 372-4478 to
request yours!



Ordering Information

These trees are offered as a low cost source of plant materials for wildlife, timber plantings, windbreaks, and other conservation uses. They are available to anyone without restriction. Because of their low cost, we cannot furnish replacements, nor can we mail or deliver the packets. You will be notified by card as to when and where to pick up your order. This will normally be the middle of April, but weather conditions at the nurseries will determine when the plants can be dug and shipped. Please pick up your order promptly when notified. Remember, these plants are 1 to 4 year

seedlings or 5 to 6 year transplants and average 8 to 18 inches in height. Most orders will fit in a regular -sized grocery bag. We reserve the right to make alterations in packet content if orders far exceed the supply. **Orders must be received in the District office with payment by March 3, 2008.**

Mail with payment to:

Greene SWCD

1363 Burnett Drive, Xenia, OH 45385

2008 Tree Packet Order Form

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

				No. of Packets	Price	Total
A.	Wildlife Packet (50 trees) 10 Eastern White Pine, 10 Norway Spruce, 10 American Cranberry, 10 Black Chokeberry, 5 Red-Osier Dogwood, 5 Callery Pear				\$30.00	
B.	Songbird Packet (20 trees) 5 Red-Osier Dogwood, 5 Black Chokeberry, 5 Am. Cranberry, 5 Arrowood				\$20.00	
C.	Homeowner Packet (10 trees) 2 Colo Blue Sp Tr., 2 Common Lilac, 2 W .Fl. Dogwood, 2 Redbud, 2 Callery Pear				\$12.00	
D.	Hardwood Packet (25 trees) 5 Black Walnut, 5 Northern Red Oak, 5 Sugar Maple, 5 Tulip Poplar, 5 Sweetgum				\$20.00	
	Quantity/Packet	Age/Type	Average Size			
E.	25 American Arborvitae	4 year seedlings	12-28"		\$18.00	
F.	25 Austrian Pine	3 year seedlings	10-14"		\$18.00	
G.	25 Eastern White Pine	4 year seedlings	8-18"		\$18.00	
H.	25 Scotch Pine	3 year seedlings	10-14"		\$18.00	
I.	25 Colorado Blue Spruce	3 year seedlings	8-12"		\$18.00	

"Official" tree sales packet
goes out by end of January

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J.	25 Norway Spruce	4 year seedlings	10-24"		\$18.00	
K.	25 Douglas Fir	3 year seedlings	10-14"		\$18.00	
L.	25 Concolor Fir	4 year seedlings	10-20"		\$18.00	
M.	25 Red-Osier Dogwood	2 year seedlings	20-40"		\$18.00	
N.	10 Common Lilac	3 year seedlings	8-16"		\$12.00	
O.	10 Arrowwood	2 year seedlings	15-36"		\$12.00	
P.	10 Eastern Redbud	1 year seedlings	10-20"		\$12.00	
Q.	10 American Cranberry	2 year seedlings	12-18"		\$12.00	
R.	10 White Flowering Dogwood	2 year seedlings	10-24"		\$12.00	
S.	10 Callery Pear	1 year seedlings	10-16"		\$12.00	
T.	10 Black Chokeberry	2 year seedlings	20-26"		\$12.00	
U.	25 Black Walnut	1 year seedlings	18-24"		\$20.00	
V.	25 Tulip Poplar	2 year seedlings	20-40"		\$20.00	
W.	25 Sugar Maple	3 year seedlings	25-40"		\$20.00	
X.	25 Northern Red Oak	1 year seedlings	10-16"		\$20.00	
Y.	25 Sweetgum	2 year seedlings	18-24"		\$20.00	
Z.	10 American Arborvitae	(2-3) transplants	24-28"		\$18.00	
AA.	10 Eastern White Pine	(2-3) transplants	20-24"		\$18.00	
AB.	10 Colorado Blue Spruce	(3-3) transplants	10-18"		\$18.00	
AC.	10 Norway Spruce	(2-2) transplants	12-16"		\$18.00	
AD.	Planting Bar				\$45.00	
AE.	100 Flags				\$9.00	
All prices INCLUDE sales tax. DO NOT ADD TO ORDER					Total Order	

Order Number _____
Check Number _____

Orders must include cash or a check made payable to **Greene SWCD** and must be received in the District office no later than **March 3, 2008**.

All Greene SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

Spreading the Conservation Message

As the Greene SWCD Education Specialist, part of my job is to provide conservation education programs to the young people of Greene County. I am available for programs year-round. In this past year I've visited nearly 150 classrooms, reaching over 3,500 students. I conducted two teacher workshops, participated in three children's water festivals, provided hands-on water mystery programs to all 7 Greene County Libraries, and helped organize three Envirothon competitions for high school teams.

Recently, I visited a Beavercreek elementary with a 3rd grade program on soil development and erosion. Students remembered me from the previous year's program where they actually dug through soil to discover its ingredients. For the next month I will be moving our "Streamulator" to elementaries in Xenia. Fourth and fifth grade students watch streambank erosion as water re-circulates through a table of sand.

Check out our website for my educational offerings - for traditional school, scouting and home school groups. Bringing new concepts to young minds!
- Jill O'Banion

Greene SWCD

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00 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
Jill O'Banion - Education

Greene NRCS Staff

Steve Hall - District Conservationist
Jim Reisen - IT Specialist

Greene SWCD Supervisors

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

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

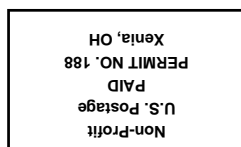
Conservation Comments

Our **NEWLY UPDATED!** Internet Site:
www.co.greene.oh.us/soils

- Look Inside For >>>**
- Rain Gardens
 - Badger Update
 - 2008 Tree Sale Order Form - full details in next month's Tree Brochure

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.

Or Current Resident



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