



Conservation Comments

Winter 2011

**LOCAL CONSERVATION
EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

Greene SWCD — 1363 Burnett Drive — Xenia, OH 45385-5681 — Phone (937) 372-4478 — Fax (937) 372-8774
 Located in the USDA Service Center for Greene County. Website: www.co.greene.oh.us/soils

Greene SWCD Open House

**Tuesday,
December 6
4:00—6:00 p.m.**

Stop By Anytime

- ⇒ Cooperator Award presented at 5:00 pm
- ⇒ Vote for one Supervisor
- ⇒ Visit with like-minded conservationists.
- ⇒ Get a peek at the different projects our office is involved with.
- ⇒ Bring up that topic that you've always wondered about.
- ⇒ Recognize that conservationists have always been green!

2011 Cooperator of the Year Award *Fulton Brothers*

- ⇒ *Light refreshments will be served.*
- ⇒ *Vote for Greene SWCD's next supervisor.*
- ⇒ *Congratulate our Cooperator Award Winner at the 5:00 pm awards!*

Tire Amnesty Grant

We are still collecting information from people in Greene County interested in taking advantage of a discount program to collect old tires. Focusing on the agricultural community, our goal is to clean up those fence rows, sheds, and legacy piles.

Mail or email (jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net) registration to our office as soon as possible. Tires won't be accepted without pre-registration. Spread the word so we can help clean up Greene County!



2012 GSWCD Tree Ordering Info

These trees are offered as a low cost source of plant materials for wildlife, windbreaks, and other conservation uses. They are available to anyone without restriction. You will be notified of tree pick-up, usually mid-April.

Look at our website at www.co.greene.oh.us/soils for photos and detailed planting instructions about each species offered.

Bird nest boxes are being offered this year. Popular in the past, we are bringing them back.



Bluebird



Purple Martin

Tire Amnesty Collection Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Car or Light Truck tires:

Number of tires: _____

Number on rims: _____

Semi Truck tires:

Number of tires: _____

Number on rims: _____

Implement and Tractor tires:

Number of tires: _____

Number on rims: _____

Note: Large earthmoving equipment tires are not accepted.

Supervisor Candidates

Vote for 1

Jim Randall

Don Wolf

Lives at 3770 Bone Road in Caesarscreek Township. Married to Monette, they have three children, Doug (Lenzi), Emma, and Ethan.

Lives with wife Ann at 799 S.R. 380. Life long resident of Xenia Twp. Graduated from Xenia High School and received a B.S. in Agriculture from the Ohio State University.

Jim manages a feed and farm store for Trupointe, having been in the agricultural business for 23years. He raises cattle and horses at home. They live on the farm Monette was raised on.

Owns and rents 900 acres of cropland in Xenia, Spring Valley, and Caesarscreek Townships. Crops consist of corn, soybeans, and wheat—all is planted no-till.

Jim is on the Greene County Cattle-men's Association, acts as fiscal officer for Caesarscreek Township, and coaches wrestling.

Active member of Farm Forum, National Corn Growers' Association, American Soybean Association, Farm Bureau, and Faith Community United Methodist Church. Longtime member of the Greene County Agronomy Committee, currently serving as its treasurer. Currently completing his seventh term on the Greene SWCD Board of Supervisors.

How Do I Vote? You have two options: (1) join us at the Open House on December 6 from 4:00—6:00 pm and vote while you are here or (2) vote by absentee ballot.

Requests for Absentee Ballots: People who are unable to attend the annual meeting may request an absentee ballot and registration form from the district office:



- In writing, no later than November 30, 2010 (date of receipt in office, not postmarked).
In person, no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 6, 2011.

Requests should be limited to your own personal ballot and registration form, except that written requests signed by other qualified electors in the same household may be mailed in one envelope. All Greene County residents or landowners at least age 18 are eligible to vote.

Request for Absentee Ballot

Please send an absentee ballot for the Greene Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisor's election to be held at the Annual Meeting at the Greene Soil & Water Conservation District, 1363 Burnett Drive, December 6, 2011. I am at least 18 years of age and a qualified voter of the Greene SWCD because:

[] I live within the borders of Greene County, and/or [] I own property within the borders of Greene County

Please send a ballot to:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

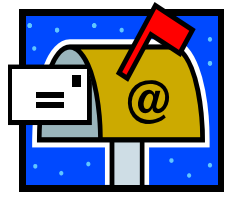
Signature _____

Mail completed form to: Greene SWCD, 1363 Burnett Drive, Xenia, OH 45385

E-Mail Option Available

Let us know if you'd rather receive this newsletter via e-mail. Send an e-mail to jill.obanion@oh.nacdnet.net with "Newsletter" in the subject line. Please include your mailing address so we are sure to take you off the regular mailing list.

Our chance to save money —and trees!



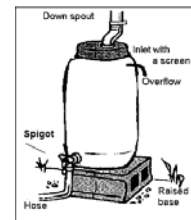
Rain Barrel Notes

Rain barrels provide a means to capture roof water and use it around the house or garden. Many plant growers appreciate that rain water is soft and has no added chemicals. For a distant shed or barn without a water line, rain barrels can provide a water source for animals or the garden.

For those with their own rain barrel, here are some winter maintenance tips:

- ⇒ Empty rain barrel and store on side with the spigot up in the air.
- ⇒ Rinse barrel prior to storage to clean any debris out of it.
- ⇒ Disconnect downspout and cover or repair gutter connection.

Next spring holds a whole new opportunity to gather some of that roof water and make use of it. Contact us for more information on rain barrels. We plan to have another workshop next year.



Test Your Well Event

On November 2, 2011, Greene County residents had the opportunity to bring a sample of their well water in for nitrate testing, have their well tested for arsenic, to get a discount on bacteria testing, and to learn more about their water.

Here are some facts for that evening:

- ◆ 130 people gathered at Greene County's Recycling Facility to learn more about their water. Thirty percent increase over last year!
- ◆ 96 containers of well water were tested for nitrates by Greene County FFA High School students—approximately 20% showed some presence of nitrates. Only two showed unsafe levels.
- ◆ 60 people purchased discount coupons to have their wells tested for bacteria—an additional 10 people were able to secure testing at a higher rate, but still less than regular cost. Results from last year's event showed approximately 25% had an unsafe level of bacteria in their well—average for this area. Many times a well needs periodic cleaning with chlorine—called well shocking. Check out www.ohioline.osu.edu for great info on home and garden issues. Type in "well shocking" in their search.
- ◆ 60 samples were submitted for arsenic testing. Central State University agreed to do this testing at no cost. Results from last year showed approximately 20% of the wells with unsafe levels of arsenic. Although naturally occurring, arsenic is only a problem when water is consumed (drinking or cooking). One method to treat high arsenic is point-of-use reverse osmosis. The Ohio Department of Health had a representative at the event to discuss this treatment method.



Greene County Combined Health District, City of Xenia Water Treatment, Greene County Sanitary Engineering, Environmental Services, Miami Conservancy District, Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, Central State University, Belmont Labs, Reynolds, Ohio Department of Health, and Greene County FFA all had displays and personnel on hand to answer any questions.

We especially want to thank the Greene County FFA students for handling the event logistics and Greene County Environmental Services for hosting us!

Due to reduced staff, our office is occasionally closed. Our priority is to continue outreach and field work. You can leave a phone message at any time with our staff. Please set an appointment to ensure your questions are answered. Thank you for your understanding.

Greene SWCD

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

Greene SWCD Staff

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

Greene SWCD Supervisors

Doug Anderson
Scott Harner
Dave Linkhart
David Quallen
Don Wolf

Glenn Harner, Associate

Greene NRCS Staff

Steve Hall - District Conservationist

All programs and services of the Greene SWCD and NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital and familial status. We are located in the USDA Service Center—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.