

Conservation Almanac

Newsletter 323

MAY, 2014

E-mail: ashtswcd@suite224.net
or
ashtabulaswcd@gmail.com

Website: www.ashtabulaswcd.org

SWCD Staff will be conducting stream monitoring for elementary students participating in the Ashtabula River Outdoor Learning Program May 28th & 29th and at 4-H Camp Whitewood on July 1st. Stream monitoring, by looking for macroinvertebrates, is a great way to education young students about what lives in our rivers, creek and streams. With bugs, water and being outdoors young students have a great time and learn about the outdoor environment.



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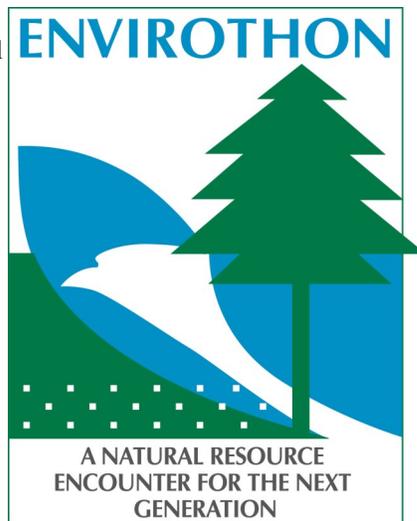
The Area II Envirothon was held on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at Bronson-Norwalk Conservation League, 295 Townline Road 151, Norwalk, OH 44857. Forty-six Envirothon teams of high schools students from 17 counties in northeastern Ohio participated. The Ecostation format was used again this year, where questions from all five areas of content (aquatics, soil, forestry, wildlife, environmental issues) were asked at each station. The 2014 environmental issue topic was “Sustainable Agriculture/ Locally Grown”.

The ENVIROTHON is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students.

The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. In addition, the Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making and team building. While each student on an Envirothon team is challenged to contribute his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of an Envirothon is the team score.

A team consists of five students, all from the same high school. An adult advisor (or advisors) must accompany the team, but is not permitted to assist the team during the competition.

Ashtabula County was well represented by Edgewood High School team, Labrae B, Boardman placed first thru fourth and will be attending the Competition in June 9-10, State Park, Guernsey team will then represent Envirothon.



represented by which sent two Chardon Red and LaBrae A placed respectively State Envirothon 2014 at Salt Fork County. The top Ohio at the National

Special Points of Interest

- May 20 Board Meeting
6:30 pm @ office
- May 21 Ohio Dam Safety Program Meeting
5:30-8:30pm
- May 26 Memorial Day Holiday
- June 17 Board Meeting
6:30pm @ office
- July 15 Board Meeting
6:30pm @ office
- August 19 Board Meeting
7:30 pm @ office
- September 19 Fall Amur Sale Order Deadline
- September 23 Fall Amur Pick-up
9:30-10:30am
Fairgrounds

**TRIPLOID GRASS CARP (Amur)
2014 FALL ORDER FORM**

Triploid Grass Carp (White Amur) can be successfully used to control excessive amounts of pond vegetation as an alternative to chemicals, water shade and physical harvesting. Stocking rates recommended vary – many people recommend a flat rate of 10 fish per acre of 10-12” size.

Successfully managed ponds have 30-40% of pond area vegetated for fish habitat. A POND DEVOID OF VEGETATION IS UNDESIRABLE; KEEP 30-40% of POND EDGE VEGETATED. This provides suitable area for fish to spawn and also prevents shoreline erosion.

Factors involved in proper stocking include:

- 1) Size of pond surface area.
- 2) Percentage of pond shallower than 8”
- 3) Percentage of pond vegetated in July-August
- 4) Dominant plant species (favored species include:
Naiad, Leafy Pondweed and Large Leaf Pondweed.
Less favored are: Waterlily, Spatterdock, Milfoil, Cattails, Algae)

Order Deadline: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Amur Delivery: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 am. Bring one 5-gallon bucket for every two Amurs ordered. Line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers ³/₄ full with water (no more, no less!) Tie bags closed with ability to be able to untie or have lid which does not make holes in bag when placed on top to seal.

Pick up place: ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, west side parking lot. Orders must be picked up at this time as we have no place to keep them and we do not deliver.

NO REFUNDS ON AMUR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.

**Mark your calendars, as there will be no phone calls or post cards sent to remind you.
Return order form and remittance by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th to:**

**Ashtabula SWCD
39 Wall Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137**

Cut here

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CTIY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

COUNTY WHERE AMUR WILL BE STOCKED _____

_____ Triploid White Amur @ \$14.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CASH ___ CHECK ___ RECEIVED BY _____ DATE RECEIVED _____ RECEIPT # _____

Make checks payable to: ASHTABULA SWCD
“Your check is your receipt”

E-Mail Address _____

*optional - Provide e-mail address if you would like to receive future order forms by e-mail.

NRCS STARTS SIGNUP FOR FARMLAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Applications for new Farm Bill program due June 6, 2014

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 6, 2014 – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications for its new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program consolidates three former NRCS easement programs – the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the Grasslands Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program.

“This is an exciting new opportunity for even more people to get involved in conserving natural resources,” said Ohio State Conservationist Terry Cosby. “We encourage State and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to contact their local NRCS office to find out how to apply.” The ACEP, created through the 2014 Farm Bill, has two components, one for agricultural land easements and one for wetland reserve easements.

Entities with the ability to purchase agricultural land easements that would prevent productive working lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses are encouraged to apply for ACEP. NRCS will give priority to applications that maximize protection of land devoted to food production. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forestland are eligible land uses.

Individual landowners may apply for wetland reserve easements and restorations. NRCS will fund restorations that have the greatest potential to protect and enhance habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, improve water quality, reduce flood damage, and encourage outdoor education and recreation. Eligible lands include privately owned farmed or converted wetlands with the potential for successful and cost effective restorations. Those interested in applying for ACEP must submit an application to Ohio NRCS by June 6, 2014. Applications are available at local [USDA Service Centers](#) and at www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted. NRCS will begin evaluating agreements in late August.

Learn more about ACEP and other Farm Bill programs at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

To get started with NRCS, visit your local [USDA Service Center](#) or www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted. Learn more about the Farm Bill at www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill. Ashtabula County NRCS office is located at 33 Grand Valley Avenue, Orwell, Ohio. Contact Telephone Number 440-437-5888.

Ohio Dam Safety Program Meeting Scheduled

Recently, staff from the Ashtabula Co. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices met with staff from the ODNR-DSWR to plan a meeting for Ashtabula County Public officials and for Ashtabula County Dam owners who own a “regulated” dam. The meeting will be held from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM, May 21st, 2014 at the Ashtabula County Courthouse, 25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Soil and Water Resources (DSWR) has the responsibility of implementing Ohio’s Dam Safety program. The DSWR is currently increasing their educational programming and outreach efforts for Public Officials and Dam Owners on Dam Safety related topics. Development of Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for dams is a primary focus of their increased educational efforts. Public officials and Dam owners have critical roles in the successful development and

Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District

39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137 Phone: 440-576-4946 FAX: 440-576-9546 E-mail ashtswcd@suite24.net or ashtabulaswcd@gmail.com

Board of Supervisors

Web Page www.ashtabulaswcd.org

Wendell Obernyer - Chairman/Fiscal Agent
Ron Smoker -Vice Chairman
Robin Boggs - Secretary
Dr. Paul Mechling - Treasurer
Dan Decker - Member

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Thursday 8:00am—4:30 pm

Associate Supervisors

District Staff

Nathan Paskey-District Manager/Technician
Jim Welker-District Technician/Education Coordinator

Monthly meeting date change.

The Board of Supervisors for the Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District for 2014 will hold their monthly board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the District's office in Jefferson. All meetings are open to the public.

The following is an excerpt from ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources Fact Sheet #1 Ohio Stream Management "An Introduction to Stream Management".

The full series of Stream Management Guide Fact Sheets are available online at ODNR's web site. The following link goes directly to the publication page.

<http://soilandwater.ohiodnr.gov/water-conservation/stream-restoration#PUB>

Streams Are Connected To The Land - The character of Ohio's rivers, streams and ground water has changed greatly over the last 200 years due to human activities. Forests and prairie lands once kept our streams narrow and deep by holding the banks intact. Stream water was cooler, cleaner, with a greater diversity of species than is found today. Over the years agricultural production has increased through artificial land drainage. Crops are often planted up to streambanks, eliminating a crucial forested buffer zone for streams. Many of Ohio's streams were straightened to allow water to flow faster. Urbanization increases watertight surfaces (streets, roofs, and parking lots), and our streams receive greater amounts of runoff and the pollution it carries from crossing land surfaces. The increased runoff resulted in streambanks and beds being scoured and nearby cropland being lost. Downstream flood damage also increases as streams carry more water at a faster rate. The changes we make to each watershed or drainage basin's land use, changes the character of our streams. The loss of trees and their streambank root structures allow streams to run wider and shallower, allowing sediment to fall out, silting-over important biological habitats within the stream. Sediments and pollutants must be filtered from the raw water before it is used for industry and drinking. And millions of dollars are spent each year dredging sediment from channels, harbors and reservoirs. Few people realize the overall importance of watershed-based land use practices, such as increasing the ability of surface areas to absorb water and retaining streamside forested buffer zones. Suitable streamside and in-stream habitat is the single most important factor determining the existence of diverse fish and wildlife populations. Healthy aquatic populations indicate a good water quality which results in fewer external costs to society. The quality and productivity of our rivers and lakes can be improved if we retain and restore their natural characteristics. During the 1960's and 1970's people started to see that our prosperous and productive life style was seriously impacting the quality of the environment around us, including the resource-base which supports that life style. As a society we have started to make choices to alter our land use practices in order to preserve and restore habitat that are critical for the survival of plants and animals whose continued existence we once took for granted. Each year new information and practices help us stay productive and prosperous while protecting the natural environment. This series of Ohio Stream Management Guides is designed to make practical advice available to landowners and others responsible for land use decisions involving stream.

Link to full fact sheet PDF

<http://soilandwater.ohiodnr.gov/portals/soilwater/pdf/stream/stfs01.pdf> .