



Conservation Almanac

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CHANGES IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Due to a 75% budget cut from the County Commissioners the Ashtabula SWCD has made several office changes. The office will be closed every Friday until further notice. Staff hours have been dramatically reduced as follows: District Manager, Nathan Paskey will be available 4 days/week. District Technician Jim Welker will be available 2 days/week. With staff hours being reduced it is important for individuals to contact our office before coming in to make sure some one will be available.

The following services have been assigned a charge and or a price increase.

CAUV Application soil maps	\$10.00
B/W Copies	.50
Color Copies	1.00
Soil Test Kits	\$15.00
Nesting Boxes	\$15.00
Consultant Phase 1	\$40.00
Brillion Seeder Rental:	\$50.00 deposit (Refundable)
	\$50.00 for 10 acres or less
	and \$4.00 for each additional acre over 10

Our District newsletter can only be obtained as an electronic version by going to our website: www.ashtabulaswcd.org.

The Ashtabula SWCD Board of Supervisor and Staff are committed to serving the landowners of our county to the best of our ability. You may email your questions to us at ashtswcd@suite224.net. We ask that you be patient with us as we respond to your requests and phone calls as quickly as possible.

If you are familiar with our office, you will notice Carla Henson, Administrative Assistant wasn't mentioned in the opening paragraph as it relates to her work schedule. It is with a very sad heart that the Ashtabula SWCD and residents of this county will be without the services of Carla. After 24.5 years of untiring and dedicated service to the District and residents of Ashtabula County, Carla has decided to retire.

The amount of knowledge, experience and positive attitude that will be lost upon her retirement can not be put into words. From the humble beginning of answering the phones, basic filing and financial duties, she expanded the role of her position to all the financial record keeping, all District sales (fish and trees), newsletter author, organize the District Banquet, education activities, ability to answer many basic technical questions and any other duty we asked of her. She will be missed!!!

THANK YOU CARLA FOR YOUR SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN ASHTABULA COUNTY FOR THE PAST 24.5 YRS.

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Special Points of Interest

May 13 Board Meeting

May 31 Closed - Memorial Day

June 10 Board of Supervisors Mtg 6:30pm 39 Wall Street

July 4 Holiday

July 8 Board of Supervisors Mtg 7:30pm 39 Wall Street

Clean Water is Everyone's Business

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. It then flows into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. Pick it up!

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns. Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years). Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, if at all. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use

organic methods whenever possible. Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't blow it into the street or sweep it into drains.

You can collect rainwater from gutters in mosquito-proof containers, called rain barrels. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas. Specially designed areas like rain gardens, planted with native plants, can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs. Lack of vegetation on streambanks can lead to erosion. Vegetate riparian areas along waterways with native plants, and keep out invasive plants. Leave this buffer zone or floodplain for the proper native plants to do their work.

Get involved in your local community! Volunteer to do stream monitoring, take part in recycling programs, share this information with your neighbors! You can read or print the full EPA brochures on stormwater by visiting the EPA website at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.

Mother's Day weekend ~
Love Mother Earth!

Ashtabula River Clean-up



Rain
Day:
May
22nd

Groups & individuals ~ Bring
your gloves and an appetite!

Meet at: Cedarquist Park

Hot dogs, chips & beverages will
be provided to all who help with
the clean-up!

Saturday
May 8th, 2010
9:am—Noon

Call in your participation in advance for headcount
for lunch: 440-992-7154. Groups welcome!

Sponsored by the
Ashtabula City Port Authority &
the Ashtabula County Solid Waste District



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**All Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District and
Natural Resource Conservation Service programs and
services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without
regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age,
marital status, or handicap.**

Hay, Silage, Grain and Seed Show

Our office was hit with a 75% budget reduction and staff time has been cut as well. So the Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors made a decision at our April board meeting to discontinue the Hay, Silage, Grain and Seed show for this year.

We have contacted the Ashtabula County Fair Board and indicated that if they would like to continue this program as part of their fair to feel free to maintain this event this year. In the event that our funding is restored we would be happy to return

and host the event in 2011.

We want to thank all of those landowners who have participated over the years and a Special Thanks to Western Reserve Farm Cooperative for sponsoring the Grand Champion Silage Award and to Chutas Farms (Ron Chutas) for sponsoring the Grand Champion Hay Award.

Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District
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District Staff

Carla Henson-Administrative Assistant
Nathan Paskey-District Manager/Technician
Jim Welker-District Technician/Education Coordinator

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



The Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of natural resources during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) as proclaimed April 25-May 2, 2010 as Stewardship Week, marking the 55th year of the national event. The 2010 Stewardship Week is themed "Conservation habits=Healthy Habitats," encouraging citizens, schools and communities to develop and maintain habitat areas using good conservation practices.

Being good stewards of our natural resources at home and in our communities is an important task for each citizen. When we think about protecting and managing our natural resources, we can provide healthy habitats for the ecosystems on our planet," says NACD President Steve Robinson. "Each of us can make a difference by developing habitat areas in our own backyards, our schools or in our communities."

The Ashtabula SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the county.

Additional information about Stewardship Week is available on the NACD website at www.nacdnet.org.

2010 Regional Envirothon

The 2009 Regional Area Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2009 at Camp Wise, Chardon, Ohio (Geauga County).

Teams from Ashtabula County high schools are invited to take part in this year's environmental competition sponsored by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This year's theme is "Waste-Free." Teams of 5 members compete in five categories: Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, Forestry and Environmental Issues.

Cash prizes go to the top four teams. These top four teams will then go to the state competition that will be held June 14-15 at Lake Erie College in Painesville Ohio in Lake County.

The state winning team will then go to the national competition that will be held at California State University in Fresno, California August 1-6, 2010.