

# CROSSSECTION



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### Special Points of Interest:

- Welcome, Bill Hudson
- Former Supervisor, Chuck Grantham, honored
- OLMS Innovation in Lake Management Award
- Conservation Professional of the Year

## YMCA WETLAND RESTORATION

The YMCA Outdoor Family Center Facility in Perry Township continued their conservation efforts by restoring and enhancing existing wetlands at their property for educational use. The objective of the restoration effort was to establish a greater diversity of wetland features, vegetation and habitats. Access to open water areas and different types of vegetation habitats for wildlife viewing and aquatic wildlife study and sampling were key to the YMCA educational staff. The YMCA Outdoor Center educates several thousand children a year through their environmental education programs.

The wetland was originally constructed in 1991 and partially funded through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The original wetland configuration was one continuous wetland cell. Over time, this cell divided into two distinct plant communities. The northern area was comprised of common reed (*Phragmites*) and the southern area contained narrow-leaf cattail and hybrid cattail.

The YMCA Outdoor Center, in partnership with the Lake SWCD and the

wetland educational materials and training. The Five Star Restoration Partnership combines the National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council. Matching funds and services were provided by Lake SWCD, Hallmark Excavating, Aqua Doc, Holden Arboretum, and YMCA staff.

Restoration of the wetland took several forms. The original long linear wetland was enhanced by creating three smaller wetland cells for the purpose of creating varying depths of water. The depth of each cell ranges from 3.5 feet deep to saturation at the soil surface, which creates a rich diversity of plant life and habitat. Access to the wetland was also increased by the dams constructed across the wetland. Spillways connect the three cells and allow water to move between them.

The plant community was also enhanced. The non-native, invasive species of phragmites, narrow-leaf cattail, hybrid cattail, and multiflora rose were removed. They were replaced by native wetland tree and shrub and emergent species, which were planted in the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006.

The native plantings are well on their way and the existing wildlife is thriving. Red-spotted newts, leopard frogs, green frogs, spring peepers, and red-winged black birds have already made themselves at home, and the outdoor education staff is hard at work making sure their visitors see everything that lives in and around the wetland!

Below: The wetland at Perry Outdoor YMCA Center after construction in the fall of 2005.



Western Reserve RC&D received a \$7,600 grant from the Five Star Restoration Matching Grants Program for restoration of the wetland, purchase of new

## LAKE SWCD FILLS AGRICULTURE POSITION

Bill Hudson is the newest face in the SWCD office. Hudson started on May 15 as Agricultural Programs Technician and is looking forward to new challenges after many years in education. He has taught agriculture from high school through the Land Grant University system. Most recently he retired in 2004 as an Extension Educator from Ohio State University Extension. Hudson found that he had grown "tired of being retired" and wanted to return to active involvement in the many facets of agriculture.

Hudson works with agricultural producers and landowners on programs in farmland preservation, income enhancement, farmers' markets and expanding the grape industry in the tri-county region. He is interested in agricultural producers achieving and maintaining farm income at profitable levels.

Hudson lives, with his wife Jo, in Madison which is midway between their two children. During his spare time, Bill likes to photograph landscapes and people, fix things, restore antique tractors and collect tools. His philosophy is that "There is no tool you don't need."

## OASWCDE HONORS LAKE SWCD EMPLOYEE

Dan Donaldson, District Administrator, was recognized as Conservation Professional of the Year by the Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Employees at their Annual Meeting on January 18th. This award is given each year to a district employee who displays leadership in natural resource conservation as well as professionalism, initiative, innovation, and resourcefulness. He was nominated by the Lake SWCD Board of Supervisors.

## LAKE SWCD RECEIVES OLMS AWARD

The Ohio Lake Management Society (OLMS) awarded Lake SWCD its Innovation in Lake Management Award on March 21, 2006 at their stormwater conference held at Deer Creek State Park.

OLMS recognizes a company or individual who demonstrates innovation in the approach and implementation of lake management strategies. Lake SWCD was recognized for its Headwater Habitat survey program, a technique that can be used to identify pollution sources before they affect an entire watershed. This method could be used statewide to identify and reduce pollution problems in all of the Lake Erie watersheds.

OLMS brings together citizens and professionals to talk about lake management and promote scientifically sound management techniques. For more information on OLMS, please visit <http://www.olms.org/> or call (440)708-2439. More information on the headwaters project can be found on the Lake SWCD website.

## FORMER SUPERVISOR, CHUCK GRANTHAM INDUCTED INTO SUPERVISORS HALL OF FAME

The late Charles (Chuck) Grantham was inducted into the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation "Supervisors Hall of Fame" on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. Chuck served on the Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors for 9 years (5 years as Chairman). Grantham emphasized the importance of educating young people and adults about the wise use of natural resources. He organized youth scholarships to Ohio Forestry Camp, promoted high school participation in the Ohio Envirothon, and donated his trail building expertise to outdoor classrooms.

The Lake SWCD was privileged to have had Chuck Grantham on its Board from 1988 until 1997 when he passed away at the age of 40. It was his energetic drive that set in motion and propelled the District's educational programs. Chuck had a passion for and dedication to the natural world and loved to share his knowledge with others. He had a deep commitment to forestry, land use, hunting, fishing, small woodland management.

Chuck was also instrumental in leading the charge to form a Grand River Protection Project. With his leadership, that project has now grown into an effort that has formed its own land trust group.

Chuck was a Crew Leader at Lake Metroparks for 10 years. He served as a volunteer trail guide and trail builder for the parks. He enjoyed and participated in historical re-enactments.

Lake SWCD established the Charles Grantham Education Memorial Fund to perpetuate the legacy he began. The fund is used to support the Envirothon at all levels, natural resource education in our schools, conservation camps for children, public displays and workshops. Donations are accepted at the Lake SWCD by calling 440-350-2730.

Chuck's achievements in conservation brought people and resources together, and his memory still does today.

## SAVE THE DATE: EXPLORE THE COAST!

Join Lake SWCD and Lake Metroparks at Painesville Twp Park on Saturday, August 26. We will be holding the second annual Explore the Coast event from noon to 4:00. Meet with local agencies and organizations that work for clean water, and participate in many programs and activities. The event is free and open to everyone, an early celebration of Coastweeks in Ohio. We will be there rain or shine! For more information or to request a table for your agency or organization at the Eco-fair, contact Beth Landers at 350-2033, or e-mail: [blanders@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:blanders@lakecountyohio.gov).

## LAKE SWCD HOSTS NORTHEAST OHIO ENVIROTHON

On May 3, over 350 students and their advisors journeyed to Painesville Township Park to test their environmental skills and knowledge. Schools from across Northeast Ohio sent one or two teams of five students each. Riverside High School represented Lake County with their Black and Gold teams.

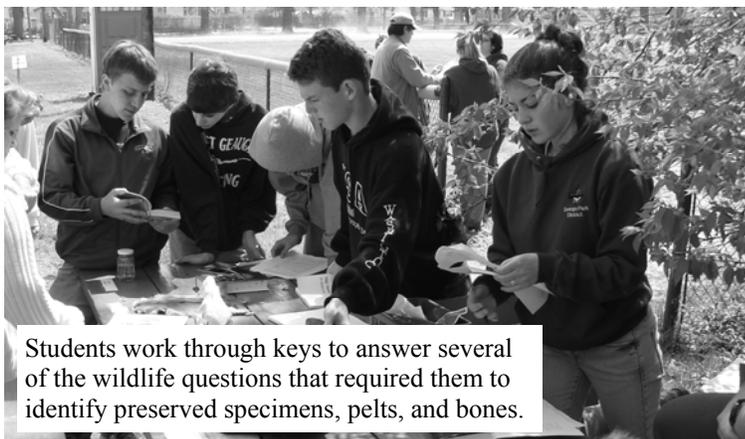
Participants were greeted by a thick blanket of fog, hiding the lake and half of the test stations. Nevertheless, they headed out to test stations located throughout the park, to answer multiple-choice questions on soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and climate change. Teams rotated through all five stations, working together on each test. It was almost noon before enough fog cleared out for people to realize that the northern boundary of the park was Lake Erie.

By 12:30, the fog had cleared and testing was over, but stomachs were rumbling. The students were dismissed to lunch, where they made about 500 sandwiches, 38 cases of pop, almost 1000 cookies, and hundreds of apples and potato chips disappear in less than 15 minutes. While there was a rush to lunch outside, in the scoring room there was a rush to score the last set of tests and enter the data into the computer.

At the end of the day, many teams had done well on a very challenging set of questions. This was obvious by the high number of ties in the scoring. But only the top four teams are eligible for state competition. This year, those teams were Chardon High School, LaBrae High School, Waynedale High School, and Triway High School. Of the 60 teams that registered, these four will go on to University of Findlay in June to compete for the honors of representing Ohio at Canon Envirothon in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Several teams contemplate a test question about the trees in front of them. Unfortunately, the trees were uncooperative and had not produced any leaves. The answer was Tree-of-heaven.



Students work through keys to answer several of the wildlife questions that required them to identify preserved specimens, pelts, and bones.

LAKE SWCD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THIS YEAR'S NORTHEAST OHIO ENVIROTHON

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### Travel Award Sponsors

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## WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Envirothon Edition. These questions are taken from the Northeast Ohio Envirothon tests. How would you have fared at competition?

- 1 Mottles are:
  - A Different layers in the soil
  - B Found only in sandy soils
  - C Irregular spots of different colors and shapes
  - D Rocks
  
- 2 Global climate change, sometimes referred to as global warming, may cause:
  - A Warmer winters
  - B Colder winters
  - C Increased frequency of extreme weather
  - D Flooding
  - E All of the above
  
- 3 Which of the Great Lakes provides the most fish for human consumption in a typical year, usually more than the other lakes combined?
  - A Superior
  - B Michigan
  - C Huron
  - D Erie
  - E Ontario
  
- 4 What landform would you find yourself in if the soil profile consisted of thin, alternating, light and dark colored materials stratified parallel to the surface?
  - A Flood plain
  - B Marsh
  - C Outwash plain
  - D Upland hillslope
  
- 5 Harvesting timber in a wetland is prohibited.
  - A True
  - B False

Answers: 1)C, 2)E, 3)D, 4)A, 5)B

## LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

- 440-350-2730 (main number) •FAX 440-350-2601
- Toll-free •428-4348 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry
- 918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake County
- 1-800-899-LAKE ext 2730 outside Lake County only
- Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm*
- E-mail: [soil@lakecountyohio.org](mailto:soil@lakecountyohio.org)**
- Web site: [www.lakecountyohio.org/soil](http://www.lakecountyohio.org/soil)**

PAM BROWN, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2041
DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
CHAD EDGAR, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
BILL HUDSON, Agricultural Program Technician	350-5863
BETH LANDERS, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
BRETT RODSTROM, Stormwater Specialist	350-2092
MATTHEW SCHARVER, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2031
AL BONNIS, District Conservationist, NRCS	437-5888
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**RON MAUK (1989-1997, 2004), MENTOR, VICE CHAIR**  
**STEPHANIE BERES (2004), CONCORD, CHAIR**  
**PARIS WOLFE FERRANTE (2005), CONCORD, TREASURER**  
**DENISE BREWSTER (2006), CONCORD, SECRETARY**  
**BILLIE KAMIS (2006), WILLOUGHBY HILLS, FISCAL AGENT**

### MEMBER OF:

- American Farmland Trust
- Lake County Farm Bureau
- Nursery Growers of Lake County, Inc.
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:** All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

**The public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings,** held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending

Lake County Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

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