

# CROSSECTION

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## Special points of interest:

- Come help clean up the Grand River.
- The District is wrapping up the spring season of stream monitoring.
- Landowners can be paid to convert land to conservation buffers.
- New regulations concerning erosion and sediment control.
- SWCD Annual Meeting is coming up.

## USDA DECLARES MADISON SOIL TYPES AS "UNIQUE AND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE"

The U.S. Dept. of Agricultural, Natural Resources Conservation Service has confirmed that 7 soil types in Madison Township are considered "Unique and of Local Importance." This declaration was made after the Madison Township Trustees adopted a local resolution to recognize the importance of Madison soil types for their value in producing high value nursery stock, fruits and vegetables.



The crops of a Madison Township nursery.

John Niedzialek, Soil Conservationist for USDA in Lake County, states that Madison Township contains soil types that are extremely important for specialized agriculture. "Even though half urban, Lake County and especially Madison Township continue to be one of the top counties in Ohio for generating cash income

from agriculture. The sandy texture, proximity to Lake Erie for a longer growing season, high water table for irrigation, and central location to markets make this soil worth protecting."

The Madison Township Trustees recognized the importance in adopting a

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## GRAND RIVER CLEANUP SCHEDULED!

Mark your calendars! As part of the American Rivers Cleanup Week, the Grand River will receive a dose of litter control on **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**. Canoe floats are scheduled for the morning and will be in two groups. One set of canoers will start at Harpersfield Dam in Ashtabula County and end at Hidden Valley Lake Metropark.

A second group of canoers will start at Hidden Valley and end at Mason's Landing Lake Metropark. The cleanup will encompass over 16 river miles!

River bank cleanups will be scheduled for Hidden Valley and Riverview Lake Metroparks along the

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## WATERSHED WATCH SPRING WATER QUALITY MONITORING

We are getting ready to wrap up our spring season stream monitoring, which proved to be successful for everyone involved! The weather was on our side for the two weeks that our monitoring took place - we only had to reschedule for one rainy day. Approximately 450 enthusiastic students and teachers took part in this grand endeavor, helping the District determine the health of the Grand and Chagrin River watersheds.



Middle school students collect a sample from the Grand River at Hidden Valley Metropark.



Of the 10 sites sampled, students determined that the macro-invertebrate (aquatic insect) results indicated **Excellent** water quality at 8 sites, and **Good** water quality at 2 sites.

Thumbs up to those teachers who integrated this hands-on science project with their school's curriculum! We hope to recruit some new faces for our fall monitoring season in September!

## ...MADISON SOIL

*(Continued from page 1)*

local resolution to recognize these soil types. Madison becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> community in Lake County to receive this USDA designation following North Perry Village's actions two years ago.

This recognition allows township farmers to be in better position to compete for future grant funding when and if state/federal funding becomes available to purchase easements to protect farmland. The USDA designation also gives communities another tool if they want to adopt stricter ordinances and zoning options to preserve farmland in

their community.

To obtain further information on how your community can receive this designation, contact John Niedzialek, Soil Conservationist at the USDA, NRCS at 350-2034.



## PAYMENTS TO LANDOWNERS TO INSTALL CONSERVATION BUFFERS

Applications are now being accepted from landowners to convert agricultural land next to streams, ponds, and wetlands to conservation buffer areas. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will pay landowners an annual rental payment for 10 to 15 years to establish grass or forested buffers.

Payments range from \$26 to \$70 per acre depending on soil type. Landowners will also receive a \$100 to \$150 per acre bonus payment for the first year, as well as 90% cost sharing to plant grasses or trees. In order to qualify, land must be cropped or pastured two of the last five years.

The program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA. The intent of the program is to improve water quality by establishing a buffer next to our waters that will help filter out sediment and other pollutants from agricultural runoff. Contact John Niedzialek at 350-2034 for further information.

# LAKE COUNTY'S URBAN STREAMS ARCOLA CREEK LANDOWNER'S SURVEY SUMMARY

by Ken Freeman

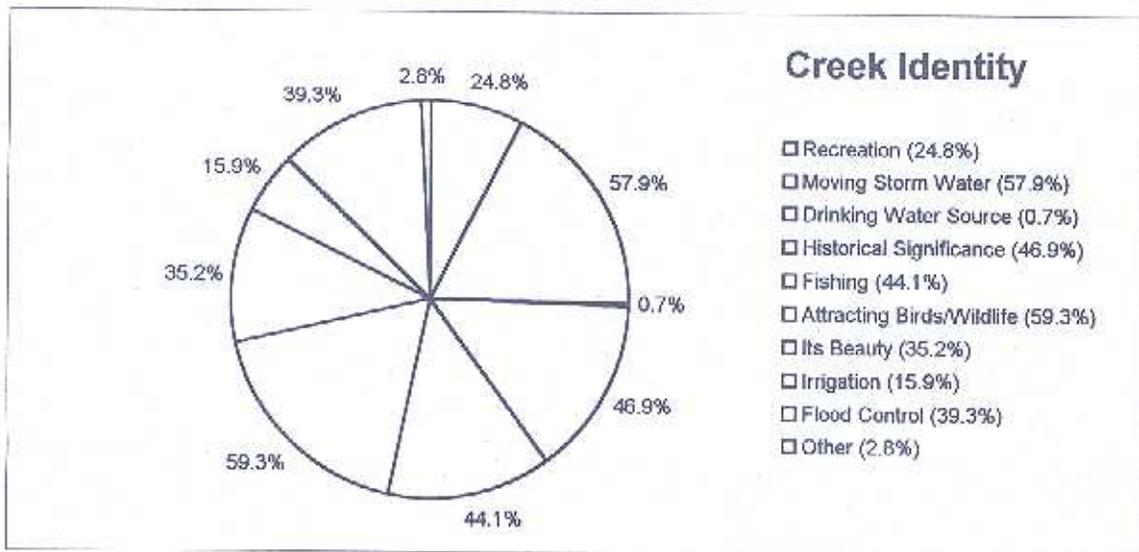
Last October, a survey was sent out to all landowners who own or manage property that touches Arcola Creek or any of its tributaries. The Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District will be sharing the results with local decision makers, and we hope to use these results to aid in developing activities and projects in the Arcola Creek area. Initially, we mailed surveys to 372 landowners and have received a response rate of over 40%. This tremendous response seems to indicate that people in the Arcola Creek watershed have a high interest in the creek and care about its future. This insert is a general summary of the results of the survey that will enable you to see what Arcola Creek landowners perceive as major issues and concerns. Please take the time to review these results and compare the opinions in Arcola with the opinions related to stream issues in your watershed.

If you would like to receive a copy of the complete results of the survey, please contact the Lake SWCD.



## CREEK IDENTITY

When asked to identify what Arcola Creek is best known for, the top four characteristics were identified as (1) attracting birds and other wildlife, (2) moving storm water, (3) Arcola's historical significance, and (4) fishing. The percentage of landowners identifying these four, as well as the other six characteristics from which you were given to choose, are depicted in the pie chart below. These responses seem to indicate that landowners recognize the wildlife potential afforded by Arcola, understand issues associated with moving storm water through the watershed, remember the history of the region, including the great iron works and harbor that once existed in the area, and enjoy the angling opportunities that are afforded in the Arcola estuary area.



## RATING ARCOLA

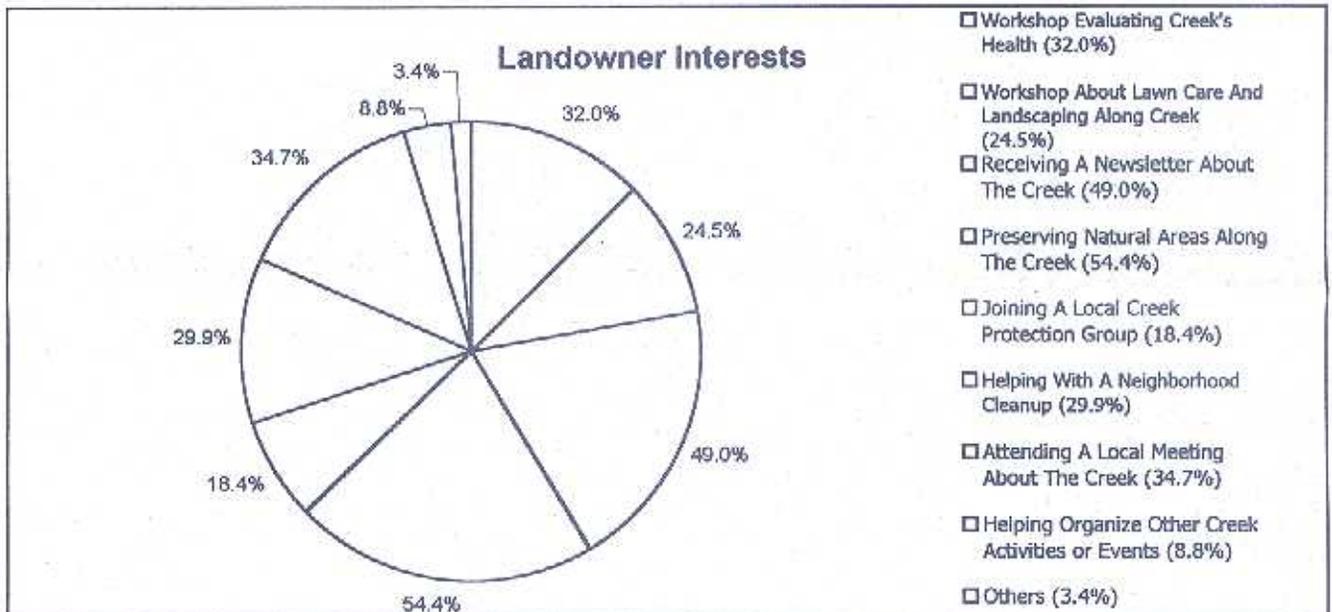
The initial survey question asked landowners to give their piece of the Arcola Creek watershed an overall rating, or score. On average, landowners rated their stretch of the creek just slightly below fair (an average of 2.97 out of 5.00, with 5.00 being the highest quality). Of the other seven issues on which we asked them to rate Arcola, creek odor and nuisance wildlife were the least problematic, while trash and debris in the creek was the item identified as the most problematic. However, landowners also seem to be encountering problems with eroding banks, flooding, and water clarity. The Soil and Water District can provide technical assistance to landowners experiencing any of the above or other problems. Please feel free to contact us at any time concerning these issues.

## HARMING CREEKS

Landowners in the Arcola Creek watershed identified activities associated with construction and major industry that do the most harm to creeks, while other groups were thought to have significantly less harmful impacts coupled with them. An 'other' category consisted of landowners citing that nurseries do the most harm to creeks or that the most harm is done by a combination of all of the choices given.

### LANDOWNER INTERESTS

With respect to landowner interests, the top two interests were preserving natural areas along the creek and receiving a newsletter about the creek. A large number of respondents also indicated that creek workshops would be of interest, as would attending a local creek meeting and helping with a neighborhood creek cleanup. A non-profit, landowner group known as Friends of Arcola Creek is looking for members to aid in the protection, management, and understanding of the Arcola Creek area, and if this group may be of interest to you please call the SWCD office, or the President of Friends of Arcola Creek, Ray Wickert at (440) 428-2929.



### CREEKS IN GENERAL

An overwhelming majority of respondents recognized that protecting small creeks is necessary to the health of larger rivers. When asked if creeks were protected during development, there was no significant difference between those that agreed or disagreed with the statement, but an overwhelming majority agreed that new developments SHOULD protect creeks. A significant number of respondents recognized that placing dirt, grass clippings, leaves, and other material along or in the creek hurts the creek's health and causes problems. Further, it was encouraging to see that a vast majority of respondents recognized that leaving live trees along a creek's banks helps to keep the creek healthy. While trees along the stream banks can be troublesome if they fall into the stream, take soil with them, and create logjams, they are nevertheless an essential part of the stream system by filtering out chemicals and excess nutrients from surface water runoff. Without vegetation along the stream bank, these chemicals and nutrients could be harmful to the biology and water quality of the stream. Protecting streams must begin at the local scale, and you, as a landowner, can definitely do many things to help your section of Arcola Creek, as well as the entire watershed.

### ARCOLA CREEK OPINIONS

A vast majority of respondents recognized that Arcola is an important area for wildlife as well as a valuable nearby natural area. Also, a large number of you agreed that Arcola Creek is important to help prevent flooding downstream. A great number of respondents do not view Arcola Creek as a hazard, but may become frustrated with life along a waterway at times. Significantly more respondents agreed than disagreed with the statement that they would like the creek more if they knew what fish or animals were living in or along it. In relation to this, the SWCD is planning on conducting a comprehensive inventory of Arcola headwater areas, as well as evaluating habitat, biology, and physical parameters at five sites along the main stem of Arcola. A significant proportion also agreed that the creek would be better if the banks were left natural. Although erosion can be quite problematic in some areas, it is important to attempt to keep the banks as natural as possible rather than armoring the banks with concrete, metal pilings, or other unnatural materials. Interestingly, there was no significant difference in responses that indicated the creek has changed dramatically in the last few years as compared to those that indicated the creek has not changed dramatically. While dramatic changes may be occurring at some spots along the creek, it is somewhat encouraging to see that the entire course has not been impacted substantially by natural and unnatural events.

### PROTECTING CREEKS

When given the choice of who should be responsible for protecting creeks, it was suggested that government and private landowners should be the two groups most responsible for protecting them. An 'other' category consisted of landowners citing that protecting creeks should be a concerted effort between all of the parties given as choices.

## PROTECTING YOUR WATER QUALITY

Erosion and sediment control is an integral part of water quality conservation for Lake County's rivers, streams, wetlands and lakes. Few activities cause the magnitude of soil disturbance in urbanized areas that construction sites do. Often times excessive sediments are allowed to erode from construction sites and enter the county's rivers, streams and wetlands where they can create serious water quality degradation to aquatic life and overall water quality.

On December 21, 1999, the Lake County Commissioners adopted the Lake County Erosion and Sediment Control Rules in order to conserve and protect the natural resources of the county and to educate the development community, local officials, and citizens of Lake County about the issues surrounding our county's water quality.

The District has been appointed administrator of the new regula-

tions, which became effective on March 1, 2000. Best management practices for the prevention of erosion and control of sediment are required to be reviewed and approved on all projects that contain a minimum of five acres and that are located within the unincorporated areas of the County.

The regulations also require that new projects located in the township areas provide proof of compliance with Ohio EPA and US Army Corps. of Engineers permits and/or requirements for erosion and sediment control as well as wetland and stream protection.

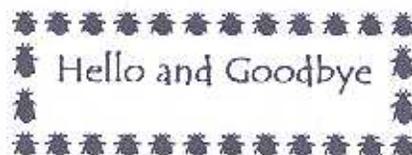
If you have questions concerning the new regulations, please contact Dan Donaldson or Matt Scharver at the District office. Copies of the new regulations are available at the District office or on our website: <http://soil.co.lake.oh.us>.

## ...CLEANUP

*(Continued from page 1)*

Grand River. Private canoes are welcome, but at your own risk. All canoeers must be 18 years of age or older. Persons under 18 will conduct river bank cleanups. All volunteers are welcome! Lunch, prizes, safety equipment and cleanup equipment will be

provided! Please make reservations with Chuck Ashcroft @ 639-4773 or Matt Scharver @ 350-2031.



Hello and Goodbye

We bid farewell to Sue Buchner, our Interim Secretary who will be leaving us at the end of the month. Thank you for all of your help and good luck with your future endeavors.

Pam Brown will be taking over Sue's tasks as the District's new District Secretary/Treasurer. We will benefit greatly from her 20 years of experience working in the corporate world. Pam, a Madison resident, enjoys hiking and bird-watching in her free time.

Amy Knisely is now the Education/Information Coordinator for Lake SWCD. With a Biology degree and a Teaching Certificate in Secondary Ed., Amy brings much enthusiasm to the District. A Char-don resident, she enjoys backpacking, biking, and fishing.

## Get Ready For Our 2000 Annual Meeting

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Lake County SWCD will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2000 at DeRubertis Party Center in Madison.

Elections will be held for two openings on the Board of Supervisors. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Lake SWCD at (440)350-2730.



<p>Lake County Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Who Do I Call?</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Confused about who to call when you have a natural resource question? Here's a list of numbers to point you in the right direction.</p>	
<p><b>Board of Supervisors</b>  <b>Paul Belanger, President</b>  <b>Dick Baker, Vice-President</b>  <b>Carol Fleck, Treasurer</b>  <b>Robert Zeitz, Secretary</b>  <b>Barbara Leskovec, Fiscal Agent</b></p>	<p><b>Soil &amp; Water Conservation Districts</b></p> <p>Lake County (Painesville) 440-350-2730</p> <p>Soil information &amp; evaluation; pond design &amp; education, waterway, animal waste structures; site reviews, erosion control, soil &amp; water management; conservation planning, stream monitoring; education outreach.</p> <p>125 East Erie St., Painesville, Ohio 44077  440-350-2730 (main number)  Toll Free 298-3334 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry  918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake  800-899-LAKE outside lake Co. only  Fax: 440-350-2601  Email: office@soil.co.lake.oh.us  Web site: http://soil.co.lake.oh.us</p>	<p><b>OSU Cooperative Extension</b>  440-350-2582  Plant disease &amp; care, specialty crops, 4-H, recycling, Master Gardner Program</p>
<p>The Public is invited to attend Lake SWCD's monthly Board meetings held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the Plain Dealer and News-Herald. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.</p>	<p>Pam Brown, District Secretary/Treasurer 350-2730  Dan Donaldson, Program Administrator 350-2030  Ken Freeman, Urban Stream Specialist 350-2032  Amy Knisely, Education Coordinator 350-2033  John Niedzialek, NRCS, USDA 350-2034  Matthew Scharver, Res. Protection Tech. 350-2031</p>	<p><b>Farm Service Agency</b> 440-437-6330  Ag cost share, disaster assistance, crop damage</p> <p><b>Ohio EPA</b> 800-686-6330  <b>NE Ohio District</b> 330-963-1200</p> <p><b>Ohio EPA</b> 800-282-9378  <b>Emergency Response Number</b>  Oil, industrial, and polluted spills</p>
<p>MEMBER OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHIO FEDERATION OF SOIL &amp; WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</li> <li>• AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST</li> <li>• LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU</li> <li>• NURSERY GROWERS OF LAKE COUNTY, INC.</li> <li>• NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</li> </ul>	<p>Ashtabula SWCD, Jefferson 440-576-4946  Cuyahoga SWCD, Valley View 216-524-6580  Geauga SWCD, Burton 440-834-1122</p>	<p><b>Div. of Forestry(Burton)</b>  440-632-5299  Urban &amp; Rural tree planting design, timber management, conservation plantings.</p> <p><b>Div. of Wildlife(Akron)</b>  330-644-2293  Wildlife management and technical assistance.</p>
<p>AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  ALL LAKE SWCD &amp; USDA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, OR AGE</p>	<p>Lake Cty. Health Dept. 440-350-2543</p> <p>Water testing, well water, and septic info.</p>	<p><b>Lake County Wildlife Officer</b>  330-644-3802 ext. 3217  Hunting laws, permits, violators</p> <p><b>Other Assistance Agencies</b>  Lake Metroparks 440-639-7275  Holden Arboretum 440-946-4400  Ohio Dept. of Ag. 800-282-1955  CAUV, Lake Cty. 440-350-2215  Ohio Health Dept. 614-466-3543</p>

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

Address Correction Requested

R.C. Reed Builders  
5780 Canyon Ridge Drive  
Painesville, OH 44131

REASON CHECKED

Moved, Left No Address  
 Unable To Forward  
 Unclaimed - Not Known  
 Wrong Street Address  
 Refused  
 No Such Number

MSS

Non-profit org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Painesville OH  
Permit #830

33  
POSTAGE DUE