Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

CrossSection

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Fall

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61ST Annual Meeting Held

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District held its 61st Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 25, 2007. Over 120 people gathered at Dino's Banquet Center. Attendees enjoyed a social hour followed by a family-style dinner. An election was held to choose a new member of the Board of Supervisors. The winning candidate will replace Dwayne Bailey, who chose not to run for re-election.

Following dinner, Jim McCormac gave a presentation entitled "Ohio's Top Natural Areas" that highlighted some of the unique ecosystems in our state. Some of his choices included Edge of Appalachia and Shawnee State Forest in southern Ohio, Oak Openings near Toledo, and our own Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve. McCormac also shared photographs of many unique and unusual native plants and animals.

The evening ended with the Door Prize Extravaganza as over 100 plants, produce baskets, gift certificates, event tickets, and other items were given to attendees. The door prizes were generously donated by local businesses and individuals.

Dick Baker will be sworn in at the January meeting of the Lake SWCD. He previously served on the Board of Supervisors from 1997-2006.

Top: North Perry Mayor Mike Zinn accepts recognition for significant environmental legislation passed in the village in 2007.

Middle: Jim McCormac discusses unique wildlife and habitats in Ohio

Bottom: A few of the over 100 door prizes donated by local businesses and individuals in Lake County.

Lake SWCD thanks the following door prize donors:

Agora Gardens § APR Tool § Arcola Creek Nursery § Aqua Ohio § Backyard Feeding Station - Mentor § Backyard Feeding Station - Madison § CM Brown Nurseries Inc. § Cohn's Nursery § Cottage Gardens § CT Consultants § Fowlers Mills Golf Course § Gilson Gardens § Golding Farms § Graphic Design § Hellriegel's Inn § Herman Losely & Son § Holden Arboretum § Klyn Nurseries § Lake County Captains § Lakeland Community College § Mackenzie Nursery Supply § Martin's Nursery § ME Enterprises § John & April Niedzialek § Ohio Wine Producers Association § Tom Pollock § Quail Hollow Country Club § Rainbow Farms § ReelQwik DVD Rentals § Realty One – Joan Minarich § Remi-Teas § Rich Miller § Rider's Inn § Roemer Nursery § Sabo's Woodside Nursery § Shreve Nursery § South Ridge Nursery § Sunshine Gardens § Swiss Gardens § Carol Takacs § Tastefully Simple § The Tea Room § Toledo Nursery § Tuesday Morning § Wayman's Farm Market § WMG Wood & More § World Wines & Liquor § Wyatt's Garden Center

A PERSPECTIVE ON LOCAL FOOD

MAURINE ORNDORFF, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS TECHNICIAN

Somewhere along the way we lost our perspective on food. We've heard about the good old days where our great Uncle John picked apples on his farm, loaded them into the back of his Model A Ford pick-up truck in the fall and drove them into town to sell them. There were many varieties from which to choose- dozens of names which are foreign to us now, and the juice would spurt from them in a crunchy, flavorful bite. They were fresh and full of nutrition, and they traveled a small distance from the tree to the table. The purchase of the apples involved a conversation with great Uncle John, an opportunity to commiserate on the weather patterns of the season or the abilities of the high school football team.

The stories that we will tell our grand nieces and nephews? We'll tell them about how we could go to the grocery store 24 hours a day and purchase anything we wanted from anywhere in the world any day of the year. We could always count on being able to get a shiny Red Delicious apple (or one or two other varieties) that looked picture-perfect. The texture may have been mealy, the flavor may have tasted something like an apple, and we may have "forgotten" that it was covered in wax, but we didn't give those things much thought. Nor did we think about where that apple came from, who had grown it, how long ago it was picked or how many thousands of miles it had traveled.

The emerging local food movement is a conscious reaction to how unconscious we have become about our food. People are realizing the true costs of shipping food 2,000 miles to our tables: it wastes energy, our food is engineered for shelf -life and appearance, it has decreased in nutritional value, we have issues with obesity in our children, health costs are soaring, our small communities are losing their economic viability and we are losing our prime farmland to development. As our food production system has undergone a conversion from local diversified family farms to commodity based industrial agriculture, we have lost our connection to the land and to the people who grow our food, and we have seen the conversion of our rural landscapes to residential, commercial and industrial uses.

We have lost more than 700,000 acres of farmland in Northeast Ohio since 1950. According to Amalie Lipstreu, Director of The Farmland Center, "It's a waste of a world-class resource. We have a unique micro-climate and fertile soil that supports tremendous agricultural and horticultural productivity, and a viticultural industry. Why not build *on* these assets instead of build *over* them?"

When you purchase food that has been grown in Northeast Ohio- whether it is at a farmers market, a roadside stand or even in your supermarket, you are contributing to the long-term health prosperity of your family and of the region. An estimated $7 billion annually is spent on food in Northeast Ohio. If even 1% of that was shifted to local food purchases, it would funnel $70 million directly into our regional economy. If farmers can make a good living on their lands, they will not need to sell their land for non-farming purposes and their children will be able to continue to farm. Your family will enjoy the taste, freshness and nutritional value of fresh locally grown food, you will have reduced the "carbon footprint" of your food by reducing the energy used to transport it, you will have contributed to the local economic viability and you will have helped to preserve our precious farmland. You can even have a conversation about the high school football team with the person who grew your food.

This column is the first in a series of thoughtful consideration about how the food choices we make have a direct impact on our own health and on the vitality and sustainability of our environment and our communities. While it is nearing the end of the growing season and your choices of locally grown foods will be limited for now, it is never too early to start to think about how your food decisions will ultimately affect your quality of life.

LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCTS AVAILABLE NOW

Apples - This is a great time of year to enjoy a variety of apples. Step away from the pallets of Red Delicious at the grocery store and sample some of the dozens of varieties available locally. Some of the early sweet eating apples are almost gone, but crisp, tart Granny Smiths are just starting to be picked. Even if you want Red Delicious, the local ones will taste better because they are picked ripe and don't take as long to get to you.

Grapes - Grapes and grape juice may still be available some places. There are several table grape varieties grown locally, including Concord and Niagara. Some local wineries also sell pressed juice. This is just asking for some pectin to be turned into grape jelly.

Cabbage - While it isn't a glamorous vegetable, this is a great time of year for cabbage. It should be available for weeks yet, and can be made into salads, soups, or sauerkrauts.

Winter squash and pumpkins - While they look very different on the outside, winter squashes such as acorn, butternut, or pumpkin can all be cooked the same way. They make a thick, creamy soup with or without additional vegetables. Squashes can also be roasted or baked and then treated like mashed potatoes. Or make your pumpkin pie from scratch.

Tree nuts - Chestnuts, hazelnuts, butternuts, walnuts, and hickories all grow in northeast Ohio. If you are lucky enough to know a place, rush out to beat the squirrels and deer. Alternately, find a nut grower or look for a roadside stand.

Christmas trees - Skip the box store parking lot and head out to a local tree farm. Not only does it support local farmers, but it also decreases the chance of importing diseases from other regions and decreases the amount of diesel fuel used to truck in trees.

Meat - There are several farmers in the area that will take orders for holiday meats, from pork and ham to beef to poultry. It may be too late to make your reservations this year, but it might be the right time to put in your request for next year.

Fiber - Lake County has numerous alpaca, sheep, goat and even rabbit operations. While shearing usually happens in the spring, the fiber is available year-round. There are even mills that will produce custom yarn or finished garments.

For information on local farm markets, visit http://www.ohioproud.org/fmdirectory/FMDweb06.pdf

2008 Tree Seedling Sale

For more information and photographs, check out
www.lakecountyohio.org/soil/treesale.htm

Single-species packets

White Pine - A yearly favorite, these trees should quickly grow to 100 feet or more. Long, soft needles make them good for ornamentals and Christmas trees as well. Tolerant of many soil conditions. 10 per packet.

Canadian Hemlock - Will grow to 70' or more, but can also be pruned to form hedges or windscreens. Hemlocks love shade and moist, well-drained soils. The glossy, dark green needles are great for creating year-round understory in a young forest. 10 per packet

White Fir - Will eventually reach 65 feet or more, but side branches will remain short and stout. White fir has a similar bluish hue as blue spruce, but is more tolerant of variable soil and climate conditions. 10 per packet.

White Flowering Dogwood - A small tree known for its large, white spring flowers, and red berries and purple foliage in the fall. Will grow to 20-40' in average to rich soils. 5 per packet.

American Chestnut Hybrid - This is a cross between American and Chinese chestnut that retains the upright American structure, with the blight resistance of the Chinese chestnut. A fast-growing and upright tree that will reach 50' and may start producing nuts in as little as 5 years. Prefers well-drained soils. 3 per packet

Spring Cinquefoil, *Potentilla* - This ground cover has the potential to put on a great show under your shade trees. It is short, under 6" tall, and evergreen. The mat of shiny, dark leaves will be topped by bright yellow buttercup-like flowers in the spring. Will also tolerate rock gardens and occasional foot traffic.

Wildflower seeds - This is a one ounce packet of mixed perennial wildflower seeds that will seed approximately 250 square feet. Includes several great butterfly plants. Will bloom in second year.

Other Garden Materials

Birdhouses - Bluebird, wren, bat and wood duck/ screech owl. The houses come unfinished and ready to hang

Tree Flags - white wire flags useful for marking young trees and preventing lawn mower casualties

Mixed-species Packets

Forest Nut (3 of each species)

Swamp White Oak - Very similar to the white oak, a swamp oak is more tolerant of our wetter soil conditions. Bicolor leaves (darker on the top side) are showy, and lower branches tend to persist. Grows to 65' or more in sunny locations

Black Walnut - A fast-growing tree that also prefers wet soils. Highly prized timber tree and also produces edible nuts. Yellow color in the fall.

Red Oak - A great tree for attracting wildlife, and also a valuable timber tree. Red oak can be very fast growing in full sun conditions but do not do well in shade. Can grow to over 65' and produce acorns in 20 years.

Forest Hardwood (3 of each species)

Sugar Maple - Best known for bright fall colors, these trees can eventually reach 100' and prefer sunny spots

Black Cherry - A great timber tree, but also prone to putting on shows of white flowers in late spring and purple berries in August. Grows to 60' or more

Tulip Poplar - a broad, upright tree that is quick to shed its lower branches. Tulip poplars have bright orange and green flowers in the spring, if you remember to look up for them.

Stream and Pond (3 of each species)

Sycamore - The white bark of these trees is a year-round reminder of the wettest landscape spots. These trees will grow quickly and can eventually reach to 120'.

Redosier Dogwood - A woody shrub that might reach 20' but is usually shorter. Named for the red bark, they also provide small, sour berries for wildlife in late fall and winter

Alder - This is a densely-branched alder with higher seed production than most. It is tolerant of wet conditions, and great food and cover for birds. Will reach 8-12' in 10 years.

Wildlife (3 of each species)

Allegheney Serviceberry - This small, deciduous tree may reach 25'. Its berries come from showy white spring flowers, and the tree is one of the first to turn in the fall, usually showing an orange or red color.

Arrowwood Viburnum - With showy, white flowers and yellow or reddish fruit, this shrub attracts bird species to its arching crown. May reach 10' but is usually shorter.

Black Gum - This well-shaped tree can reach up to 80' tall, and has a reddish-brown bark. It is usually conical in shape and the glossy leaves turn bright red in the fall.

Tree Sale Order Form

Deadline February 25, 2008

Qty	Description (# of plants)	Price	Total
	White Pine (10)	$8	_____
	Canadian Hemlock (10)	$10	_____
	White Fir (10)	$8	_____
	White-flowering Dogwood (5)	$8	_____
	Forest Nut (9)	$14	_____
	Forest Hardwood (9)	$12	_____
	Stream and Pond (9)	$12	_____
	Wildlife (9)	$12	_____
	Spring Cinquefoil	$6	_____
	American Chestnut Hybrid (3)	$12	_____
	Wildflower seeds (1 oz. packet)	$5	_____
	Bluebird House	$8	_____
	Wren House	$8	_____
	Bat House	$10	_____
	Wood Duck House	$20	_____
	Tree Flags (20)	$1	_____
	Packaging Fee (required on all orders)	$4	$4
	Total		

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Daytime phone (between 8 AM and 4 PM): _____

E-mail address (only used if we need to contact you about your order): _____

To order:

- Fill out the form above. Keep bottom portion for reference.
- Send form, along with check or money order to Lake SWCD, 125 E. Erie St, Painesville OH 44077.
- **Orders will not be processed until payment is received.**
- Sorry, we cannot take credit cards.
- **Place orders by February 25**.
- Any order placed after that date will be subject to availability.

To pick up order:

- Trees will be distributed in the Agriculture Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Ave.
- Pick-up times are Friday, April 18 from 9 AM to 6 PM and Saturday, April 19 from 9 AM to Noon.
- Lake SWCD is not responsible for orders that are not picked up by noon Saturday. If you cannot pick up your trees, please make arrangements for someone else to pick them up.
- Orders will be distributed in 5 gallon buckets, and should fit in most cars.

We reserve the right to make substitutions if necessary.
If you are ordering close to the deadline, please call for availability. 440-350-2730
The plants are nursery inspected to be disease-free. Lake SWCD cannot guarantee their survival after distribution.
Species information and planting instructions will be provided when you pick up your trees.

Stream friendly snow removal

We are often aware of rainwater and runoff in the summer months. The puddles and mud make it hard to overlook. But stormwater pollution carries on into the winter months as well. In northeast Ohio, snow and ice removal is a fact of life, but the methods we use can have an effect on the health of our streams. Remember, when the ground is frozen, it acts as an impervious surface, and pollution is more likely to run into a nearby stream or storm drain. Below are some simple ideas for keeping your sidewalk and driveway save and keeping stormwater runoff cleaner.

Manual snow removal - Even if you are going to salt, remove as much snow as possible first. Break out the shovel, snowblower, and garden hoe. Chemical deicers work best on a thin layer of snow or ice. If you are using a snowblower, be careful with the gas as you fill up the tank. The garden hoe can be used to scrape ice, but shouldn't be used to chip at the surface - it can chip the concrete.

Try adding traction - Instead of getting down to bare surface, consider if there is enough traction in the snow. Small amounts of sand can be used to increase traction, but too much sand will cause problems in the stormwater system. Sand should not be used in areas that drain directly into the stormwater system.

More isn't better - Do you need access to every door of your house, or can you just de-ice the one you use every day? Does the entire patio need to be bare, or do you just need a path across it to the driveway? The recommended application rate for rock salt is about a cup per square yard. Adding more won't speed up the melting. Calcium chloride works at one cup per three square yards. Combine deicers with scraping, especially in the late afternoon when things are at their warmest.

Skip the fertilizer treatment - In the past, people have been advised to use fertilizers or other urea-containing products to de-ice with the theory that it would end up fertilizing the lawn as well. Unfortunately the ground is frozen and the grass is not taking up nutrients, so most of that fertilizer runs off in the melt water. Overuse of fertilizer can also burn vegetation, especially conifers and evergreen broadleaf plants such as azalea and rhododendron the next time you remove snow.

Be wary of glycol - Many 'pet-safe' products contain ethylene glycol or propylene glycol. Both are toxic to aquatic organisms, and ethylene glycol is also toxic to mammals. They both decrease the amount of oxygen in streams, and break down into other potentially unsafe chemicals.

What is it? Natural history, clever invertebrates, and parasitism

This greenside darter was one of several caught recently while stream monitoring at Hidden Valley Metropark. It spent some time in one of our bins, and as we went to photograph and release it, we noticed there was something attached to the tail fin. There turned out to be three 'somethings' and they are glochidia - freshwater mussel larvae.

Mussels are bivalve mollusks that live attached to the substrate of the stream. They only move when they are dislodged, and can only drift downstream until they find a new place to attach. This makes colonization of upstream areas impossible, and makes reproduction difficult. Glochidia create a method for mussels to 'hitch a ride' while they are still young and possibly end up in a different part of a river system.

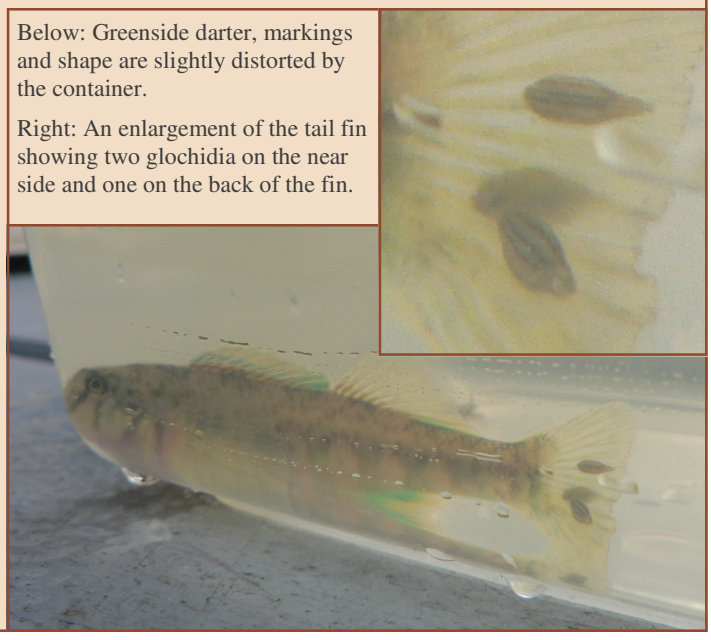
Newly hatched mussels are free-swimming for a brief period of their life. They use this time to find a host fish to attach to. Some mussels need a specific species of fish, but others are less picky. Various species of mussels have developed ways of attracting fish. The female mussel grows a fleshy area of her mantle that resembles a prey species, or a potential mate. As a real fish swims by for a closer look, the mantle ruptures, releasing the glochidia. The mussels attach to either the gill or the fin of the fish and are along for the ride. During this time they are parasitic and feed off of the fish's body fluids.

As the glochidia develop and grow, they eventually drop off and begin their stationary life as an adult mussel. Hopefully, the fish will have moved to a different part of the river and the mussel will have plenty of available food and enough genetic diversity to produce a new generation.

The greenside darter is a small species of fish that is adapted to the slower-moving areas around riffles. This one was hiding just downstream from a large rock at the head of a riffle. Greenside darters also prefer a river bottom with green algae on it. The algae creates a hiding place for the fish, and also harbors potential prey. Since they do not have a swim bladder, darters tend to be seen near the river bottom. Potential predators would include larger fish, snakes, and possibly herons.

Below: Greenside darter, markings and shape are slightly distorted by the container.

Right: An enlargement of the tail fin showing two glochidia on the near side and one on the back of the fin.



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Conservation District
125 East Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

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Who Wants To Be a Conservationist?

Stream ecology edition. We spend a good bit of effort protecting streams and worrying about water quality issues. What do you know about the ecosystem we're protecting?

1) What does turbidity directly measure?
   A) The amount of mineral suspended in the water column
   B) The amount of light that can penetrate the water
   C) The population density of unicellular algae
   D) The total amount of living and nonliving suspended solids and dissolved substances

2) If you move from the lotic zone to the benthic zone which best describes your movement?
   A) From an inland lake into a stream
   B) From the flowing part of a river to a pool
   C) From the water column to the bottom of a river
   D) From the edge of a stream to a pool

3) Place the following organisms in order from prey to top predator?
   A) Dobsonfly larva
   B) Sycamore tree
   C) Blackfly larva
   D) Dragonfly nymph

4) If you have collected a pistol grip, a pocketbook and a snuffbox along a river bank, what do you have?
   A) Three larvae: an alderfly, and two caddisfly species
   B) Things that washed out of an old mill site
   C) Fossils of extinct plants in Chagrin Shale
   D) Freshwater mussels

5) Which of the following would you find in or near a stream in northeast Ohio?
   A) Catspaw
   B) Cattail
   C) Pussywillow
   D) Pussytoe
   E) Cat's ear

Answers: 1. B, but can be used to calculate D 2. C 3. B, C, D, A 4. D 5. A, B and C

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
•Web site: www.lakecountyohio.org/soil

Paul Bowyer, Stormwater Specialist	350-2092
Pam Brown, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2041
Dan Donaldson, District Administrator	350-2030
Chad Edgar, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
Beth Landers, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
Maurine Orndorff, Agricultural Program Technician	350-5863
Matthew Scharver, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2031
Al Bonnis, District Conservationist, NRCS	437-5888
John Niedzialek, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

Member of:
• American Farmland Trust •Lake County Farm Bureau
• Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio
•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 third 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 and on the Lake SWCD website. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending.