Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

CROSSECTION

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SUMMER

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Make A Splash!

Come to Painesville Twp Park August 25

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INVASIVE PLANTS - GARDENING GONE WILD

There are millions of beautiful plant species in the world. Each one has its own unique appearance, and gardeners seek out new species and new cultivars to give their garden a unique appearance. In our excitement over finding a great plant, we often forget that it has a unique system of checks and balances that it has adapted to. Perhaps where this plant occurs in the wild, a foraging animal regularly uproots it, or grass fires burn it off every few years. In your garden, this may not be the case, and your specimen plant can take over the entire yard or start popping up in the neighbor's lawn.

Anyone who has ever tried to remove yuccas or wisterias can attest to the fact that it is hard work. Even a tiny bit of root material will send up a new yucca. Many invasive plants cause problems by how readily they multiply from roots. The hearty root makes them easy for nurseries to maintain and propagate, and your well-meaning neighbor can divide their plants and offer you some. But in a natural setting this same feature allows a plant to take over. Purple loosestrife is an example of what happens when a well-rooted plant takes off. Wetland areas around northeast Ohio are being taken over by this landscaping escapee.

Some non-natives cause problems for local wildlife by changing habitat. Un-maintained grape vines will climb trees, eventually pulling them down. Bush honeysuckle and autumn olive, both sold or given away with the idea that they would create wildlife habitat, have actually proven to do the opposite. Not only do animals avoid hiding or nesting in them, but they also form dense understories that out-compete the plants normally used by the native wildlife. Multifloral rose can turn a grassy field into a shrub forest, too dense even for deer to get through.

Plants are capable of waging chemical warfare. Our native black walnuts are a great example; their roots actually produce chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants near the walnut tree. In the desert southwest, tamarisk grows in dense clumps along most major rivers. This non-native can excrete salt through its branches, and the salt builds up in the soils, making them unfit for other, native plants. Not only are the riparian plants affected, but the river itself is, due to loss of shade and loss of groundwater infiltration. Tamarisk can be found for sale here in Lake County, and has even been planted in a local park. Purple loosestrife changes the chemistry of a wetland system, thereby altering the algae community in such a way that it can become toxic to the amphibians living there.

A less quantifiable effect of invasive species population is the loss of aesthetic value. We are all familiar with Mentor Marsh being over 600 acres of tall grasses blowing in the wind. While that has its own beauty, the Marsh used to be a forested wetland, full of ferns, unusual trees, and unique fungi and wildflowers. Headlands Dunes blooms yellow every summer with sweet clover. This non-native thrives in the sandy dunes, to the detriment of beach pea and switchgrass. Every monoculture of an invasive plant replaces a native community of dozens of plants that live in balance with each other. The animals that rely on the native plants are displaced, too.

Even a non-native plant that stays put in your garden doesn't necessarily enhance your backyard habitat. Chances are most native butterflies won't visit it, and birds and mammals won't take advantage of it. Native plants, on the other hand, will attract native wildlife to your back yard. You can have a garden of non-native flowers to yourself, or you can have a garden of native flowers to share with butterflies, hummingbirds, dragonflies, and rabbits. So take a look around your yard. Identify the plants you have and where they come from. Pay attention to which ones have a tendency to be unruly - escaping from flowerbeds and into the yard. Look over new plants for weeds growing with them. As you plant your garden and flower beds, think native. And do your homework on a new plant before you buy.

Volunteer Spotlight

Lake SWCD is fortunate to have a committed group of volunteers who make conservation happen in Lake County. Recently, some of our younger volunteers have been hard at work on several projects in eastern Lake County.

Rain Garden installed at Perry Outdoor YMCA

Fifty-five students from Lake County planted a rain garden at the Lake County YMCA Outdoor Family Center on Friday, April 20, 2007. This garden was designed to help prevent runoff pollution from entering nearby streams and waterways and was funded by a $1000 State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant. Angela Primbas, a junior at Hawken, applied for and received the grant and used it to organize and implement the project. Students from Hobart Middle School, Hershey Montessori School, St. Mary's Elementary School, and Hawken School provided the elbow grease. The project was coordinated with the Lake County YMCA and with the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) and took place during National & Global Youth Service Days (April 20-22). The garden was also designed to serve as a butterfly garden. In addition to helping reduce the amount of pollutants entering streams; the garden will be used as an instructional garden by both the YMCA education staff and the LCSWCD.

Student volunteers from Hobart, Hawken, St Mary's Painesville, and Hershey Montessori with their rain garden.

Angela's purpose for planning this project is as follows: 'The environment is a very precious and very limited resource. However, if we learn to take care of the environment at an early age, it will become a natural habit throughout our lives. We hope this project helped to inspire environmental stewardship in young people. We also hope this project has inspired other students into taking action to make a difference by volunteering! Youth Service America through State Farm Insurance awards service-learning grants to youth-led projects and encourages young people to engage in these efforts.'

Bluestone Perennials and North Coast Perennials made significant donations and provided support for this project. The YMCA and LCSWCD provided support and resources for this project. Hallmark Excavating Company helped with the initial excavation. According to Angela Primbas "This has truly been a community effort and a community oriented project. Specials thanks to everyone involved in helping make this service learning project a success for the students and for everyone."

95th Anniversary celebrated with 95 trees

This year marks the 95th year of Girl Scouting in the United States. In commemoration of the historic anniversary, each Girl Scout council nationwide was given 95 trees to plant in the community they serve. Future of Life, Inc. a non-profit environmental organization has donated over 30,000 trees to be planted by Girl Scouts across the country.

The red maple seedlings were planted on the Nash easement, a protected property along a tributary of Arcola Creek in Madison Township. The field is a part of the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and has been protected from future farming, development, and subdivision. The 100-year-old drain tiles have been broken to allow the field to become a wetland once again. These trees will thrive in the wetter soils and hopefully in a few years they will be shading out some of the grasses and the multifloral roses. Scouts from the Madison service unit and from Geauga County came to help plant the young trees.

Though the land is in private ownership, it is an important part of the Arcola Creek Watershed, and through the WRP program will always be green space in Madison. Lake SWCD would like to thank the Girl Scouts for their help and their trees, and also the extended family of Ms. Margaret Nash for their collaboration with this project.

Right: A Madison-area Girl Scout gets help planting a red maple seedling in a fallow field.
Below: The band of Girl Scout volunteers after a hot afternoon of tree planting.

Lake County Artists Needed for Statewide Project

The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation are sponsoring a project to showcase artists from around the state. They have asked each SWCD to submit a work of art that illustrates unique or important natural, environmental, agricultural or historical features of our county. The theme of the project is "Soil and water conservation - keeping Ohio's land productive and water clean" and the final product will be in the shape of the county's outline.

Lake SWCD is seeking artistically-inclined people to submit draft proposals. The winning concept will then be chosen and that artist will be given the canvas to create their final product. The deadline for proposals is September 14 and the winning artist must have their masterpiece completed to unveil at the 61st Annual Meeting of Lake SWCD on October 25. This piece of art will then travel to Columbus where all artwork submissions from around the state will be displayed at the 65th OFSWCD Annual Meeting. Those in attendance at the Annual Meeting will vote for a People's Choice award. The artwork from all 88 counties will also be displayed at the Ohio State Fair in 2008 and in other venues. In between public appearances the artwork will reside on display at the Division of Soil and Water headquarters in Columbus.

Artwork should reflect what makes Lake County unique, and also relate to the theme "Soil and water conservation - keeping Ohio's land productive and water clean." The final canvas will be 16" by 20" but proposals can be on a smaller scale. Any media may be used, but keep in mind that the artwork will be used in public displays and will have to travel well. The shape of the county should also remain intact and visible. The winning Lake County artist will receive two tickets to the Lake SWCD 61st Annual Meeting.

For more information, contact Beth Landers at 440-350-2730 or blanders@lakecountyohio.gov

Successful FRPP Application

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District and Ann and Ken Brown of North Perry Village received word in May that their application to the 2007 round of the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) was approved for funding. The Browns will be compensated for placing an agricultural conservation easement on 14 acres of their property, keeping it in agricultural use forever. Their farm will join a larger block of protected farms in North Perry that already have agricultural easements through the FRPP awarded in 2005 and totaling 118 acres.

Applications to the FRPP are not possible without a match from a local unit of government. The federal government will pay 50% of the cost of an easement, and the landowner may donate up to 25% of the easement value, but a minimum of 25% of the cost must be contributed as a match from the local government. North Perry Village conducted a cost of community services study several years ago, which clearly demonstrated the value of having local, privately held, productive agricultural lands as part of the community. The study demonstrated that it is more financially prudent to protect agricultural land than to have it developed because it costs the municipality more to provide services to residential land than is received through residential taxes. Having a balance of land uses is important for communities to balance their budgets and maintain the quality of life that the residents desire.

North Perry Village is also revising its comprehensive plan, with the assistance of the Lake County Planning Commission, to include agriculturally friendly provisions. Their zoning was amended in 2006 to include a new Farmland Easement District.

We congratulate the Browns and North Perry Village for their successful application, and for their commitment to the preservation of agricultural land in Lake County.

The Benefits of Local Food

It is the season for fresh home-grown foods! Locally produced food is available even if you don't have your own garden. This summer, take advantage of the "growing" farmers market industry in northeastern Ohio. Here's why:

- Local foods are fresh, nutritious and delicious. They travel only a short distance to market, which reduces the amount of fuel needed to bring them to us and lowers the environmental impact.
- Only 9 cents of every dollar spent in conventional food markets goes to the farmer. Farmers that sell at farm markets keep 80 to 90 cents of each dollar.
- We can find more variety of foods at farm markets, and food can be bred for flavor and nutrients rather than for uniformity or long lasting qualities.
- When we buy local, a greater part of our food dollar is returned to our local communities, which strengthens our local economies. In Northeast Ohio, we spend more than $7 billion annually on food. By buying just 10% of our food locally, we can generate more than $700 million for our local economy.

Farmers that are prosperous can continue to farm, providing us with the local foods and keeping the rural character of our communities.

In Lake County, you can shop at the Farmers Market at Lake Metroparks Farmpark on Wednesdays from 3 to 6:30 pm, the Painesville Main Street Farmers Market from 2 to 6 pm on Thursdays, the Old Village Market at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site on 8095 Mentor Ave. in Mentor from 4 to 8 pm on Fridays and at the Willoughby Outdoor Market from 8 am to noon on Saturdays. Many local farms also have roadside stands or stores and offer pick-your-own produce in season.

You're Invited!
Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District
61st Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 25, 2007
Dino's Banquet Center
4145 St. Rt. 306, Willoughby

6:00 PM	**Polls open for election**
6:00 PM	**Social hour—cash bar**
7:00 PM	**Family style dinner**
7:30 PM	**Polls close**
7:45 PM	**Business meeting**
8:00 PM	**Feature presentation**
8:45 PM	**Recognition & awards**
9:00 PM	**Door prize giveaway**

FEATURE PRESENTATION: OHIO'S TOP NATURAL AREAS BY JIM MCCORMAC, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

GREAT DOOR PRIZES COURTESY OF LAKE COUNTY NURSERIES AND BUSINESSES

Yes, I will attend! Enclosed is my payment of $20 per person, payable to Lake SWCD.
Reservations are pre-paid only and tickets will be held at the door.

Name_____ Guest name(s)_____

Address_____City_____

Phone_____e-mail_____

Total # attending_____

RSVP no later than Thursday, October 18, 2007

YOU'RE INVITED… 61ST ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

Make plans to join us on Thursday, October 25th for the Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting. It will be held at Dino's Banquet Center at Rt. 90 and Rt. 306 in Willoughby. Activities will begin at 6 PM with a social hour – a great time to check out our informational displays. A family-style dinner will begin at 7:00 PM.

Activities will include a special presentation of Ohio's Top Natural Areas by Jim McCormac, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

The Election for one Board Supervisor, to serve a term of three years from 2008 through 2010, will be conducted by the Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission. Election polls will be open from 6:00 PM—7:30 PM. Contact the District office for candidate biographies. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to vote in the election, there are two ways to cast an absentee ballot. You may contact the District Office after October 3rd to receive an application for an absentee ballot. Applications must be returned in a timely manner to receive an official absentee ballot. Votes may also be cast between 8:00 am and 11:00 am on October 25th at the Lake SWCD office. Voters must be Lake County residents or landowners and be 18 years or older. The evening will conclude with our Door Prize Extravaganza!

Reservations are required! Tickets are $20 and reservations will be taken through October 18th. Send in the form on Page 5 or call the District Office for more information—350-2730.

CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR LAKE SWCD BOARD

Two candidates have been chosen by the Nominating Committee for the upcoming vacancy on the Board of Supervisors. The successful candidate will serve a three-year term, ending in 2010.

Dick Baker, a North Perry resident, has served previously on the Lake SWCD Board. He is a member of the American Planners Association, and was the Roads Superintendent/Assistant Administrator for Madison Township prior to his retirement.

Brad Shawhan, from Mentor, has been an Associate Supervisor for Lake SWCD. He is currently the Park Manager for Cleveland Metroparks' Brookside Reservation and formerly worked in natural resource management for the City of Mentor. Brad also has experience with the nursery industry and urban and rural land development issues.

EDUCATION PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

Lake County SWCD and education coordinator Beth Landers were honored with the 'Friends of Science' awards by Partners for Science Excellence. The annual award recognizes an organization and an individual in Lake County that have a significant impact on science education. Lake SWCD was chosen for its efforts in classroom and field education, as well as ongoing formal and non-formal adult education.

Partners in Science Excellence is a group of local business representatives and educators that support science education through workshops and grants. For more information, visit http://www.pse-lake.org/

NON-NATIVE BEETLE CHEWING ON PLANTS

The viburnum beetle has been identified in northeast Ohio. This small beetle, up to 3/8" in length, skeletonizes the leaves of arrowwood viburnum, cranberrybush viburnum and rafinesque viburnum. Some viburnum, including burkwood and doublefile species, seem to be resistant. The viburnum beetle does not affect other landscape plants. If you have an infestation, it can be controlled with insecticides, or by removing and burning any egg deposits after the egg-laying season ends in the fall. Repeated infestations can kill the host plant. For more information, contact OSU Extension, or go to http://ohioline.osu.edu/sc195/013.html.

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP - SEPT. 20

Lake SWCD is hosting a Rain Garden Workshop at the District office on September 20th at 7:00 PM. Attendees will learn why rain gardens are important and how to install one. You will also receive a Rain Garden Manual, and gift certificate to Bluestone Perennials in Madison to get started on your garden.

Registration fee is $5 and is due by September17. To register, or for more information, call the SWCD office at 440-350-2730.

Come See Us at Lake County Fair

Lake SWCD will have a display in the Commercial Building. Please stop by and see how we're protecting your natural resources. The booth will be staffed Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

Make A Splash!

Painesville Township Park
August 25th 12:00-4:00

Join Lake Metroparks and Lake County SWCD for our third annual water festival. Local watershed groups and natural resources agencies will be on hand to talk about what they do for our lakes and streams. Families can participate in several water-related hikes and activities, and there will be crafts and interactive displays.

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

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WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Summer weather trivia - hot enough for you? Try your brain against these summer weather questions. (Iced tea may help!)

1) What is the maximum unassisted velocity of a falling raindrop?
   A) 2 mph
   B) 7 mph
   C) 18 mph
   D) 50 mph

2) Which two states have never recorded a high above 100 degrees?
   A) Hawaii and Alaska
   B) Alaska and Maine
   C) Maine and Idaho
   D) Idaho and North Dakota
   E) North Dakota and Hawaii

3) What is the deadliest type of weather event?
   A) Lightning
   B) Flooding
   C) Tornadoes
   D) Hurricanes

4) Which type of cloud produces lightning?
   A) Altostratus
   B) Cumulonimbus
   C) Cirrocumulus
   D) Nimbus

5) Which is not a reliable indication of a developing tornado?
   A) Dark, greenish sky
   B) A loud roar, like a freight train
   C) Large hail
   D) Absence of birds, insects

6) What is the diameter of droplet that separates drizzle from rain?
   A) 0.1 inch
   B) 0.2 inch
   C) 0.01 inch
   D) 0.02 inch
   E) 0.05 inch

Answers: 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. D 6. D

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DWAYNE BAILEY (2003-2005, 2007), MENTOR, VICE CHAIR
DENISE BREWSTER (2006), CONCORD, TREASURER
BILLIE KAMIS (2006), WILLOUGHBY HILLS, CHAIR
BRUCE LANDEG (2007), MENTOR, FISCAL AGENT
CHRIS LEGROS (2007), WAITE HILL, SECRETARY

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.