

CROSSECTION



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FARMAFARE ATTRACTS A CROWD AT HOLDEN ARBORETUM

Almost 150 hungry people found their way to Holden Arboretum on September 13th. They had heard about FarmAFare, and were looking forward to some home grown food.

FarmAFare brought together local producers - including Secor's Nursery and Farm Market, Wayman Farms, West Orchards, Rainbow Farms, Mackenzie Creamery, Handmade Hearth Breads, Hart Farms, New Creation Farm, and Sage's Apples - with several northeast Ohio chefs. With the chefs working directly with the growers, the supply chain is shortened. This means that the food served that night was in a field two days earlier, and only travelled a handful of miles to get onto plates.

Tastings of many varieties were available, from roasted root vegetables to braised beef cheeks, from fresh goat cheese to peach cobbler. Grand River Cellars, St. Joseph Vineyard, Cornerstone Brewery and Cellar Rats Brewery provided beverages.

TWO BOARD MEMBERS

RE-ELECTED: In addition to enjoying what was fresh and in season, Lake County residents were invited to vote for two seats on the Lake County SWCD Board of Supervisors. **Jeff Hyrne** and **Brad Shawhan** were both elected to the seats that they had been nominated for when vacancies occurred. Brad and Jeff will be sworn in for three-year terms at the January meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The goal of this event was to gather together people who appreciate good local food with the people who are putting the greater Cleveland food scene on the map and the growers who are providing the quality local ingredients. Having a solid market for fresh produce protects open spaces in our communities by making farmland profitable. Healthy agricultural operations also contribute to the financial stability of a community.

Plans are already in the works for the Second Annual FarmAFare to be held on September 12th, 2013.



**TREE
SEEDLING
SALE
INFORMATION
INSIDE!**

WATERSHED PLANNING

MAURINE ORNDORFF, ARCOLA CREEK WATERSHED COORDINATOR

We've been guiding a watershed planning effort for the Arcola Creek Watershed over the past year. Members of the community and county offices have pulled together to work on developing an Arcola Creek Watershed Action Plan (WAP) to improve the water quality, reduce flooding and address other issues of concern in the Arcola Creek Watershed. At the end of December, we'll submit our draft plan to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, to seek its endorsement. An endorsed watershed action plan is the key to opening the door to grant funding for restoration work in the watershed.

Not every Lake County resident lives in the Arcola Creek Watershed, but non-Arcola Creek residents can learn how the planning and implementation of a WAP opens a dialog to address common issues of concern that affect the present and future quality of life.

A watershed knows no political boundaries, and watershed planning is an inclusive effort. A WAP is not a document that is written by the staff of a governmental office and handed to community leaders, to sit on a shelf. It is a discussion that takes place over time with anyone who wishes to participate, making it the community's plan, addressing the community's needs. It brings people together, and it brings people to work together to solve problems, across political lines and ideologies. During the past year of



watershed planning dialogues, a camaraderie and understanding grew between Madison Village, Madison Township and the Lake County Stormwater Management Department which led to Madison Village joining the Stormwater Management Department. We will now have a unified approach to stormwater management in the Arcola Creek watershed.

Property owner concerns are heard and incorporated into projects which will help to improve the water resources for others. Sources of funding become available to address long term problems. Philosophies are developed for community growth that values the natural resources and what they bring to our quality of life, and allows functioning river systems to handle stormwater runoff far more effectively and inexpensively than manmade infrastructure.

Watershed planning is not a speedy process, but it is an empowering one and the ramifications will be felt for generations.

LAKE SWCD WELCOMES TOM KORITANSKY

The Lake SWCD is pleased to welcome Tom Koritansky as our new Resource Protection Technician.

Tom will be responsible for the District's county-wide erosion and sediment control programs as well as providing technical assistance to landowners on natural resource issues.

Hailing from Hambden Township in Geauga County his family has owned and operated dairy

and beef cattle operations. Tom's educational background includes a bachelors from Kent State in Conservation, and a Master's degree from the University of Akron in Urban Planning and GIS. Tom is also in the process of becoming a certified arborist and will be working on the District's Forestry Programs as well.



Don't forget to winterize your rain barrel! Drain as much water out of the barrel as possible and leave the spigot open. Disconnect the hose from the downspout diverter, and cap the diverter to restore flow to the lower part of the downspout.

MANAGING DRAINAGE ISSUES WITH PLANTS

BETH LANDERS, COASTAL NPS POLLUTION EDUCATION COORDINATOR

In Lake County, we have many soils that are classified as hydric, meaning that for at least part of the year, the soil at or near the surface is saturated for extended periods of time. For our region, that timeframe is usually in the spring. You probably already know if this is a problem in your yard - you have ducks swimming over the lawn, or have perfected the art of getting the lawn mower back out of the mud. Perhaps you have even called Lake SWCD for advice on drainage. But have you ever considered working with the soil conditions instead of trying to overcome them?

Trying to maintain a lawn on a waterlogged soil is a frustrating experience. Typical lawn grass species do not do very well in wet conditions. After a long, wet spring there are often bare patches to be reseeded. Mowing is also difficult and risks tearing up the lawn. Other homeowners may decide to wait until the soil is drier, but then there is a patch of unsightly long grass. The action of driving the lawn mower across a poorly-drained soil also further damages drainage by causing compaction. Grass maintained as lawn also does not draw very much water out of the soil.

Trees are champions at drying out waterlogged soils. One mature tree can draw hundreds of gallons of water out of the soil *each day* when conditions are right. The tree canopy also prevents some rain from hitting the ground in the first place. Raindrops form a film on leaves and branches, then evaporate into the air. The wide, spreading root system also helps open up small gaps in the soil, which allows water to soak in faster. Be sure to choose trees that will do well with “wet feet” such as red osier dogwood, black walnut, sycamore, or sugar maple. Also, trees should not be planted near septic systems or their leach fields.

If you don't want a forest in the yard, you can still reduce lawn care problems in wet spots by planting native perennials. These “wildflowers” will tolerate saturated soils much better than turf grasses. They also don't need mown, although they can be cut back annually in the fall or spring. Native flowers grow new roots every year and allow some to die off. The voids left behind where roots have decayed will help water to move into and through the soil. The leaves will also draw water up out of the soil on hot, sunny days.



RAIN GARDEN UPKEEP

BETH LANDERS, COASTAL NPS POLLUTION EDUCATION COORDINATOR

There is an abundance of information on the internet and in publications on establishing rain gardens. But once a garden is established, what maintenance does it need? If you have a rain garden, perhaps this fall is a good time to evaluate it, and maybe make some changes.

First, does the garden function as it is supposed to? Does it hold water? Does water stand for more than 48 hours? Does the depression overflow and cause problems elsewhere? If runoff is quickly absorbed, your rain garden is doing fine. A rain garden that overflows or holds water for several days may need to be expanded, or have less water diverted into it. Break out the shovel and enlarge the garden, following the same planting and stabilizing methods you used to create it. Another option is to install a rain barrel on the downspout and let the rain garden collect what the rain barrel doesn't.

Next, take a look at the mulch. Is the soil showing in places? Are weeds a constant problem? Does the mulch float whenever the rain garden is full? Weed the garden well and apply fresh mulch if necessary. Double-ground wood chips shouldn't float. Avoid using chemically treated or dyed mulch products.



Finally, evaluate the plant community. Is the garden barren and scruffy for parts of the summer? Have the black-eyed susans outcompeted everything else? Do you want different colors or textures? Is it time to divide the perennials and create a new rain garden on a different downspout? Perennials will become dormant after a good frost, and remain that way until spring. This means it is a good time to dig up clumps and divide them as long as the ground isn't frozen. If you create openings in the existing plants this fall, you can add new plants in the spring. You can also remove plants that aren't doing well in the rain garden and plant them someplace where they are more suited to the conditions.

Remember, rain gardens work better if the soil isn't compacted. Try to minimize the number of times you walk through your rain garden. You can use boards to spread your weight out as well.



WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Water quality matters in the winter too! See how much you know about winter storm water pollution.

- 1) How much salt is necessary to clear ice?
 - A) More is better!
 - B) 1 lb. per inch of snow
 - C) 1/3 c per square yard
 - D) Enough to get traction

- 2) At what temperature does salt no longer melt ice?
 - A) 32° F
 - B) 25° F
 - C) 15° F
 - D) 5° F

- 3) Heavy Lake Effect snow
 - A) Causes flooding hazards
 - B) Insulates the soil
 - C) Recharges groundwater
 - D) All of the above

- 4) Where do the water utilities in Lake County draw from?
 - A) Wells
 - B) Grand River
 - C) Water towers
 - D) Lake Erie

- 5) About what percent of the world's species live in the water?
 - A) 10%
 - B) 25%
 - C) 50%
 - D) 75%

Answers: 1) C, 2) C, 3) D, 4) D, 5) C

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
TOM KORITANKSY, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2032
BETH LANDERS, Coastal NPS Pollution Education Specialist	350-2033
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Resource Protection Technician	350-2730
MAURINE ORNDORFF, Arcola Creek Watershed Coordinator	350-5863
NRCS Field Office, Orwell	437-5888

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DICK BAKER (1998-2006, 2008), NORTH PERRY, CHAIR

SKIP DUGAN (2009), PERRY, VICE CHAIR

JEFF HYRNE (2010), MADISON TWP., FISCAL AGENT

LARRY KLCO (2012), NORTH PERRY, TREASURER

BRAD SHAWHAN (2012), MENTOR, SECRETARY

MEMBER OF:

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 4:00 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.