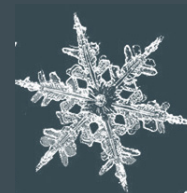


CrosSection



WINTER

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Spring is Coming: Keep Your Runoff Clean with These Tips

- Remove pet waste and trash from streets, sidewalks and driveways.
- Clean gutters regularly. Put leaves and twigs in a compost pile or bag with other yard trimmings.
- Direct water from downspouts away from paved surfaces and into lawn.

Grand River Conservation Area Opened to the Public

Lee J. Homyock, Director, City of Painesville Department of Recreation and Public Lands

On October 29th The City of Painesville officially completed and opened to the public the Grand River Conservation Area located at 399 East Main Street. The City of Painesville, with help from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has restored this area to its former natural function as a floodplain for the Grand River. Floodplains perform an important role in supporting a healthy Grand River Watershed.

This site formerly housed numerous buildings and developed land known as the Millstone and Gristmill Condominiums. These human influences on the floodplain had negative impacts on the site and water quality. In 2006, a significant flooding event inflicted heavy damage on the buildings and infrastructure of the site. The City of Painesville, through funding from Ohio EPA, has been able to restore this floodplain area, improving



The Millstone and Gristmill Condominiums after the 2006 flood.

Continued on page 2



**Lake County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077
Phone: 440-350-2730
East End: 428-4348 ext. 2730
West End: 918-2730
1-800-899-LAKE ext 2730
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm
E-mail: soil@lakecountyohio.gov
Website: www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd

Staff

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NRCS Field Office, Orwell	437-5888

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Lake County Farm Bureau
Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio
National Association of Conservation Districts
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been selected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to receive funding to preserve farmland in Lake County from the 2015 funding round of the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

The program allows landowners to voluntarily sell easements on their farms to the State of Ohio. The easement requires the farm to remain permanently in agricultural production. Selected farms must be more than 40 acres, be actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) and Agricultural District programs, demonstrate good stewardship of the land and not be in close proximity to development. Landowners may use the proceeds of the easement in any way they wish, but most reinvest it in their farm operation. A small farm exception enables landowners with less than 40 acres to apply if they are adjacent to other permanently protected properties.



Funding for the program is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by voters in 2008, and used to purchase agricultural easements from willing sellers through a competitive process. When combined with easements from all programs, 319 family farms in 55 counties have collectively preserved 55,000 acres in agricultural production since 2008.



The 2015 application period opened January 15, 2015 and will close April 15, 2015. Interested landowners should contact Lake SWCD to make an application. If the applicant farm is not currently enrolled in the CAUV or Ag District programs, the landowner must make an application with the Lake County Auditor by February 27.

For more information contact Maurine Orndorff at the Lake SWCD office, 440-350-5863, morndorff@lakecountyohio.gov. Information can also be found on the Ohio Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/FarmLand.aspx>.

Grand River Conservation Area continued from page 1

the surface water quality, increasing wetland area, enhancing native vegetation and providing public access to the site. The site contains a ½ mile interpretive trail with educational signs discussing, proper flood plain management, the Grand River Watershed Area and the flora and fauna of the area. This site serves as a living example of a healthy floodplain community. Turning an area of natural disaster into a natural asset for the City.

The City of Painesville welcomes its residents and visitors to come and enjoy this new resource of our community. Restoration costs for the area totaled approximately \$893,000.00. The project was funded 100% through a grant from the Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. For more information on the Grand River Conservation Area as well the City’s other Parks and it Recreation Programs contact the City of Painesville Department of Recreation and Public Lands at (440)392-5912 or visit www.painesville.com.

Thinking of Spring?

While most of us here at Lake SWCD are big fans of winter, we are looking forward to buds, blossoms and rain. Here are some upcoming events:

Rain Barrel Workshop
Fee: \$59
Sat., March 21, 10-11:30 am, Mentor Marsh Nature Center
Registration required. Call Lake SWCD to register, 440-350-2033.

Solutions for Stormwater
Free
Wed., March 25, 7-8 pm, North Perry Village Hall
Registration required. Call Lake SWCD to register, 440-350-2033. North Perry Village residents only please.

Rain Barrel Workshop
Fee: \$59
Thurs., March 26, 7-8:30 pm.,The Holden Arboretum
Registration required. Call The Holden Arboretum to register, 440-602-3833.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION



Alternatives to the “perfect” green lawn

Join us on March 31st, at the Beachwood Community Center from 6:30pm – 8:00pm for a FREE event.

Author Anita Sanchez will talk about her book “Teeth of the Lion: The Story of the Beloved and Despised Dandelion” and discuss redefining your lawncare attitudes and how reducing chemical use on our lawns helps keep our water clean.

To register contact Mary at 330-722-9322 or maungst@medinaco.org by 3/20/2015.

Event sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education Committee.



Working Together to Reduce Residential Stormwater

Fee: Free with admission
Fri., April 3, 10-11:30 am, The Holden Arboretum’s Corning Visitor’s Center
This talk is part of Holden’s Fridays In the Garden program. For more information please contact Anna Pavisich at 440-602-8006.

2015 CONSERVATION TREE SEEDLING SALE

Tree seedling Pick-up, Fri., April 17, 9 am-6 pm. and Sat. April 18, 9 am-12 pm., Lake County Fairground’s Natural Resources Building

Guaranteed order deadline Fri., March 13. Orders recieved after this date are subject to availability.

For more information or to download a species list and order form visit:
www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd/TreeSale

South Ridge Reservation Wildflower Hike

Free
Sat., April 18, 9 am-12 pm, Meeting location given upon registration
Experience the beauty of spring ephemeral wildflowers in the undeveloped reservation on Arcola Creek. Waterproof boots and physical agility essential. Instructor: John Pogacnik, max 15.Registration required. Call Lake SWCD to register, 440-350-5863.

Solutions for Stormwater
Fee: \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers
Wed., April 15, 10 am-12 pm, The Holden Arboretum’s Corning Visitor’s Center
This talk is part of Holden’s Senior Horticulture Group program. Registration is required. Call The Holden Arboretum to register, 440-602-3833.

Arcola Creek Clean-up
Free, All ages welcome
Sat., April 25, 9 am-12 pm, Meeting location given upon registration
Help keep the Arcola Creek Watershed clean with this volunteer opportunity. Registration required. Call Lake SWCD to register, 440-350-5863.

Lake Metroparks Earth Day 2015
Free
Sun., April 26, 12-4 pm, Penitentiary Glen Reservation
Come out for a day of earth-friendly family fun that includes an eco-fair featuring local and national conservation organizations.

Rain Barrel Workshop
Fee: \$59
Wed., April 29, 7-8 pm, Lake County Fairground’s Natural Resources Building
Registration required. Call Lake Metroparks to register, 440-358-PARK (7275) or 1-800-669-9226.

Rain Barrel Workshop
Fee: \$59
Wed, May 13, 7-8 pm, Lake Metropark’s Penitentiary Glen
Registration required. Call Lake Metroparks to register, 440-358-PARK (7275) or 1-800-669-9226.

Rain Barrel Workshop
Fee: \$59
Wed., May 27, 7-8 pm, Lake County Fairground’s Natural Resources Building
Registration required. Call Lake Metroparks to register, 440-358-PARK (7275) or 1-800-669-9226.



Recycled Paper

From the Farmer, to Your Table

Ingredients

3-4 pound venison roast (or lean beef roast)
1 bottle of dry red wine
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
2 cups water
1 Tbsp black peppercorns
1 Tbsp juniper berries
1 Tbsp mustard seed
1 tsp whole cloves
3 bay leaves
1 Tbsp dried thyme or 1 sprig fresh
2 cloves of garlic, peeled
2 celery stalks, chopped
2 carrots, washed and chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup butter (omit if using beef)
Up to 8 ginger snap cookies
Salt
Molasses or honey (optional)

Slow Cooker Venison Sauerbraten

This slow-cooked, full-flavored, wild game main dish is perfect for Sunday supper on a cold winter day. Serve it up with some classic German side dishes like braised red cabbage, spaetzel or even simple boiled potatoes with parsley. Don't forget the glass of hearty red wine or dark beer!

Instructions

Bring wine, vinegar, water, peppercorns, juniper, mustard, cloves, bay leaves, thyme, celery, carrots and onion to a boil and turn off the heat. Allow to cool. Submerge the venison in the marinade and let it sit in the fridge for 3-5 days. Turn the roast daily so the marinade penetrates the meat evenly. Don't skimp on the marinade time. It will be worth it!

Before cooking take roast out of the marinade, salt and pepper the outside and bring it up to room temperature.

Pour the marinade into your slow cooker and nestle the roast in the center.

Set your slow cooker on low and cook for 6 hours. Flip the roast a couple of times.

Remove the roast and set it aside. Strain the cooking liquid; you want to catch the whole spices and the big veggie chunks. Pour the liquid into a blender and add 1/2 stick of butter and 4 ginger snap cookies. Blend until smooth. You could also do this back in the slow cooker with an immersion blender. Give it a taste. The sauce should have a lot going on, a little sweet, warm and spicy with some zippy sourness. Add ginger snaps one at a time until it tastes right to you.

Depending on the number and sweetness of the gingersnaps it may need some more salt to tone down the sweetness or some molasses or honey to amp up the sweetness.

Add the roast back to the slow cooker and continue to cook for 1 1/2-2 hours.

The roast will be very tender. Serve with lots of sauce.

