

CROSSSECTION



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Special Points of Interest:

- Rain Gardens
- Annual Meeting Results
- Composting yard waste
- The origin of a few Lake County stream names
- Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

2006 TREE SEEDLING
SALE INFORMATION
INSIDE!



RAIN GARDENS

DECREASING RUNOFF WITH CREATIVE LANDSCAPING

Have you ever taken a close look at where the runoff from your house, patio or driveway goes? Most people don't really pay attention to runoff until it causes a problem on their property, but runoff can damage our streams and lake.

In an undeveloped landscape, rainfall is often interrupted before it reaches a stream. Overland flow, the rain that doesn't soak into the soil, gets slowed down by vegetation and terrain. Often it collects in low spots, slowly soaking in or evaporating. This process prevents much of the water from getting into streams. By ponding the water, it soaks into the soil and recharges the groundwater supply. Any soil particles or other chemicals picked up by the overland flow also get trapped and don't make their way to streams.

As we build on the landscape, we modify it. We fill in low spots and level our lawns. We replace trees with sod and roll the lawn in the spring to get rid of mole burrows. All of these changes increase the amount of rainfall that becomes overland flow and decrease infiltration of that stormwater.

To compound the problem, development increases how much of a watershed is impervious. Impervious surfaces are those that do not allow water to soak in; all of the rainfall that hits an impervious surface runs off and becomes overland flow. Common impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, roads, patios, and highly compacted soils. Traditionally, we have dealt with this runoff by directing it into the stormwater system, which conveys the excess rainwater into the nearest stream or pond.

Unfortunately, impervious surfaces collect many pollutants. Roads and driveways often contribute petroleum products from various vehicle fluids. Metals from brake linings and road salt or brine also get picked up by runoff. In

areas where construction work occurs, sediment often finds its way onto paved surfaces and into storm drains. Fertilizers and other lawn chemicals are also common in runoff.

One new approach to correcting these issues is to mimic the natural system. A rain garden is an area surrounded by a short earth berm, and with a downspout or other runoff diverted into it. It is designed to hold water for a few days and allow the water to either evaporate or soak into the soil. Pollutants the water might be carrying also are trapped. Planting the right plants in a garden is also a consideration. They should be adapted to periods of 'wet feet' and tolerant of varying conditions. Rain gardens can either have a formal, manicured appearance, or showcase a bounty of native wildflowers.

A rain garden is a simple, low-tech way of reducing the impact of development. It can be retrofit to existing houses and landscapes, doesn't require a technician to install, and, once established, requires only occasional weeding, and a mowing once a year. Watch for more information on rain gardens next spring, or contact the Lake SWCD office for more information.



THIS RAIN GARDEN, IN DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN, IS PART OF A STUDY MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RAIN GARDENS IN DECREASING QUANTITY OF RUNOFF AND REDUCING POLLUTION LOADS IN THE RUNOFF. A TYPICAL RAIN GARDEN WOULD NOT HAVE THE MONITORING EQUIPMENT INSTALLED.



Dr. Frew entertains the audience with tales of Lake Erie shipwrecks.

LAKE SWCD CONDUCTS 59TH ANNUAL MEETING

On October 6th, Lake SWCD held its 59th Annual Meeting at DeRubertis in Madison. 129 people came to elect members for the Board of Supervisors and enjoy a buffet dinner.

Following the meal, Dr. David Frew gave a presentation on "Ghost Ships of Lake Erie." Frew has turned his enjoyment of the Great Lakes into a research project on the ships that remain under the water. He told the audience how the Atlantic, a passenger steamship, came to be at the bottom of Lake Erie and what has happened to the ship and some of its relics since then.

Also during the meeting, several Lake County residents and communities were honored. The Pugliese family was recognized for completing a conservation easement on their property along Mill Creek. The Pugliese easement borders on several others in the area, protecting much of the land along Mill Creek

as it runs through Lake County. Three families from North Perry were honored for their commitment to preserving farmland. The Kroggels, the Gerlicas and the Klcos completed farmland preservation easements on almost 100 acres of farmland in North Perry Village. These three farms will remain agricultural lands in perpetuity. The village of North Perry was also recognized for their contribution to completing these easements. Three other municipalities; Mentor, Mentor on the Lake, and Perry Village were all recognized for passing significant environmental legislation in the past year.

The evening ended with the traditional Door Prize Extravaganza. Our donors were particularly generous this year, which resulted in everyone going home with a prize, and many planning on some gardening over the weekend.



Dan Donaldson and Brett Rodstrom recognize Lake County communities that have enacted significant environmental legislation.



Commissioner Dan Troy recognizes Dick Baker for his nine years of service on the Lake SWCD Board of Supervisors.

LAKE SWCD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR DONATING DOOR PRIZES:

Agora Gardens
APR Tool
Aqua America
Arcola Creek Nursery
Backyard Feeding Station
C.M. Brown Nurseries, Inc.
Cottage Gardens
Country Gourmet
CT Consultants
Debonne Vineyards
Gilson Gardens
Hellriegel's Inn
Herman Losely and Son
Holden Arboretum
Hydrangeas Everlasting
John and April Neidzialek
Joughin Hardware
Klyn Nurseries
Lake County Captains

Mackenzie Nursery Supply
Martin's Nursery
M.E. Enterprises
Ohio Wine Producers Association
Peter Allen
Rainbow Farms
Remi-Teas
Rich Miller
Roemer Nursery
Sabo's Woodside Nursery
Secor Nursery
Springlake Nursery
Sunshine Gardens
Toledo Nursery
Tom Pollack
West's Orchards
Wilford Cone
Wyatt's Nursery

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

A special election was held at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Lake SWCD is pleased to announce that Denise Brewster and Billie Kamis will be sworn in as supervisors at the January board meeting. Billie is a three term council member in Willoughby Hills. She has served on numerous commissions and council committees, and helped develop the Willoughby Hills Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Billie also represents Willoughby Hills as a trustee to Chagrin River Watershed Partners and serves on the Advisory Board of the Lake County Stormwater Management Department. Denise Brewster has been an educator for the last 30 years, helping to develop land labs at schools in three counties, including Leroy, South Euclid-Lyndhurst, and West Geauga. She is a 25-year resident of Concord Township and has served on their Zoning Board of Appeals for five years. Denise also has several family members in the nursery industry. Denise Brewster and Billie Kamis will replace Dick Baker and Dwayne Bailey. Baker was a board member for nine years and Bailey served as a supervisor for three years.

SPRING 2006 TREE SEEDLING SALE LAKE COUNTY SWCD

Bare root trees and shrubs, ground cover, and native wildflowers
for Northeast Ohio climate and soil conditions.

Bulk Packets

White Pine - 10-20" - Fast-growing to 100 feet or taller, soft, green needles. Will tolerate wide variety of soil conditions, good for ornamental and Christmas trees.

Canadian Hemlock - 8-14" - Grows to 70' but can be pruned to shorter hedges or windscreens. Features short, glossy, dark green needles and very small cones. Moist, well-drained soils, also tolerates rocky areas and shade well.

White Flowering Dogwood - 10-24" - 20-40 feet in average to rich, moist soil. White flowers in the spring, red berries in the fall. Dark red to purple fall foliage.

American Bittersweet - 18-24" - Vining shrub that can be trained to walls or fences, also grows on ground. Branches with yellow capsules and bright red berries may be harvested and dried in fall or left in place to attract birds.

Foamflower - 10" - A spring blooming wildflower, this is a great choice for shaded areas where grass isn't successful. These locally grown plants will come potted in containers.

Native Wildflower Seeds - 1 oz. - This packet of native flower seeds is designed to need little maintenance after the first year. Great low-maintenance solution for decreasing lawn area. Will cover 250 square feet of soil.

If you have a large area you would like to plant, please call the Lake SWCD office for a Bulk Order Form. Each tree species will be offered in multiples of 50.

Forest Nut Packet - This group of trees was chosen to provide nut crops for humans and wildlife when mature. These will become large trees and each packet contains 9 trees, three of each species.

Black Walnut - 24+" - A fast-growing tree that prefers wet soils. Highly prized timber tree, as well as a good choice for attracting small mammals. Edible nuts.

American Beech - 2-3' - Large, spreading tree that will reach 70' high with a 50' spread from the trunk. Mature trees produce nut crops, and retain smooth, grey bark. Yellow-orange color in fall.

White Oak - 2-3' - Slow-growing, rounded tree that will reach 80 feet. Likes clay soils, and will produce many mid-sized acorns.

Forest Hardwood Packet - This combination has potential for valuable hardwood lumber in the future. They tend to be tall, straight trees once mature. 3 of each species in this packet of 9.

Red Oak - 2-3' - A quick-growing tree that can reach 100 feet. Red oaks hold leaves well into winter. Not tolerant of root disturbances.

Black Cherry - 2-3' - Valuable lumber tree, but also showy, with clusters of white flowers in May and purple berries in August. Grows to 60 feet or more.

Sugar Maple - 2-3' - Will grow to 100 feet, with outstanding fall colors. Sugar maples prefer sunny spots with well-drained, moist soils.



American Beech



Black Cherry

Homeowners Packet - These three species are compact, but provide interest and tolerate urban conditions well. All can be pruned to keep smaller sizes than those listed. Each packet contains 3 plants of each species, 9 total.

Butterfly Bush - 18-24" - Fast-growing to 10-15' if not cut back. Blooms pink to purple in summer, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Blue Spruce - 8-18" - A narrow, upright tree with potential to reach 100 ft, but usually much smaller in our area. Silver-blue foliage make this popular for foliage contrast.

Redbud - 2-3' - A very early bloomer with pink flowers long before the heart-shaped leaves emerge. Will reach 25 ft at maturity, and turn yellow in the fall. Does not do well on wet, heavy soils.



Redbud

Stream and Pond Packet - If you have a pond, stream bank, or wet spot in your yard, these plants would be a great way to stabilize the area and improve water quality and aquatic habitat. Three plants each of three species.

Buttonbush - 18-24" - A shrub that thrives in wet soils. Grows to 5-10' and puts out round, white flower clusters in late summer.

Sycamore - 2-3' - Easily recognized by its white bark, the sycamore often crowds wet areas and river corridors. A large tree that can reach over 80 feet tall with a 60 foot spread. Leaves also over-sized.

'Streamco' Willow - 1-3' - Cultivar developed for naturalizing stream banks, also thrives in wet soils. Grows to 15' and will spread to 6' across.



Buttonbush

Wildlife Packet - Three native species that provide food and habitat for numerous songbirds and other wildlife. These species will stay somewhat small, especially with proper pruning. All are spring bloomers as well. Three each of three species, 9 plants total.

Spicebush - 18-24" - Deciduous shrub that blooms yellow in early spring, with red fruits in late fall. Grows to 12 feet, loves shade and wet soils, will tolerate sunny spots.

Sargent Crabapple - 18-24" - A horizontal growth structure and crabapples that remain into winter make this a great choice for attracting birds. Red buds open into white flowers in the spring.

Serviceberry - 2-3' - Striking white flowers in spring, orange fall foliage. Serviceberry trees can be expected to reach 25-35 feet in height, with edible fruits.



Sargent Crabapple

2006 TREE SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM

Qty	Description (# of plants)	Price	Total
_____	White Pine (50)	\$ 8	_____
_____	Canadian Hemlock (50)	\$ 10	_____
_____	White Flowering Dogwood (50)	\$ 8	_____
_____	Bittersweet (50)	\$ 6	_____
_____	Foamflower (6)	\$ 10	_____
_____	Native Wildflower Seeds	\$ 10	_____
_____	Forest Nut (9) White Oak, Black Walnut, American Beech	\$ 12	_____
_____	Forest Hardwood (9) Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Black Cherry	\$ 12	_____
_____	Homeowners (9) Blue Spruce, Redbud, Butterfly Bush	\$ 12	_____
_____	Stream and Pond (9) Streamco Willow, Sycamore, Buttonbush	\$ 14	_____
_____	Wildlife (9) Serviceberry, Spicebush, Sargent Crabapple	\$ 12	_____
_____	Tree Flags (20)	\$ 1	_____
_____	Packaging fee	\$ 3	_____3_____
		Total	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (day): _____ (evening): _____



Cut here

- Please fill out the order form above. Send check or money order to : Lake SWCD, 125 E. Erie St, Painesville OH 44077 **Order will not be processed until payment is received.**
- Orders are available for pick-up from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday, April 22 and from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturday, April 23 at the Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Ave.
- The deadline for ordering is February 24, 2006, or until supplies run out.
- We reserve the right to substitute a similar plant if necessary.
- If ordering close to the deadline, please call prior to placing your order to confirm availability.
- The plants are nursery inspected to be disease-free. Lake SWCD cannot be responsible for their survival after they have been distributed.
- The District cannot be responsible for any orders that are not picked up.** Please make arrangements to have someone pick up your trees if you are not available to do so. Unclaimed trees will be donated and refunds will not be issued.
- Planting instructions will be provided with trees at time of distribution.

Important information:

- ☞ Place orders by February 24, 2006
- ☞ Pay with a check or money order payable to Lake SWCD
- ☞ Pick up trees April 22 from 9 AM to 6 PM or April 23 from 9 AM to Noon

- ☞ Pick up trees at Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Ave.
- ☞ Save bottom portion of this form for your reference
- ☞ Please call the SWCD office with any questions: (440)350-2730

FOR A BETTER GARDEN, DON'T TOSS IT – TURN IT!

Yard wastes and food scraps don't do anyone any good buried in a landfill. But if you compost them at home, those "wastes" can become a rich source of organic matter for your yard and garden. You'll get the quickest results and most uniform compost with a carefully constructed and managed pile, but even a sporadically turned heap will eventually give you usable compost.

While rolling drums and prefabricated bins can make it easy to get started composting, they aren't necessary. In fact, you don't need a bin of any kind if you have a well-drained, out-of-the-way spot for an open pile. However, to speed up the composting process and keep materials contained, you can easily build a bin. Try bending some woven wire fencing into a circle, tacking together some scrap lumber into a three-sided box, or stacking some concrete blocks. Leave the bottom of your containment structure open to bare soil to allow microorganisms to move into the pile from the soil. Mixing a little soil with the composting materials also helps introduce microorganisms into the pile.

For the most efficient composting, you need materials that are relatively high in nitrogen, such as food scraps and grass clippings, as well as materials high in carbon, such as wood chips, leaves, sticks, or straw. If you're composting mostly low nitrogen materials, you'll need to add a source of nitrogen such as manure or urea fertilizer.

The microorganisms also need a balance of oxygen and water. Materials in the pile should be moist, but not so saturated that air can't move through. If you're a beginner, stick with plant mate-

rials for composting. Don't add meats, bones, fats, dairy foods, or pet waste to your compost; they don't break down as easily, and they can create odors and attract nuisance animals.

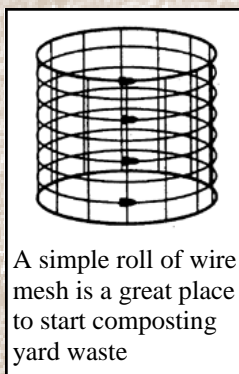
The next step is to let the heap "cook" for a month or so, then turn the pile, mixing materials from the outside edges into the center. After cooking and turning the pile a few more times, you'll have finished compost to use as a garden mulch or soil amendment.

In Lake County, many communities offer either curbside leaf collection, or yard waste drop-off options. These materials are often gathered and composted for use in public spaces. Check with your local government for leaf collection information. Another option is to drop off materials at one of the nurseries in the county that collect leaf material for composting. As with all undertakings, check your municipal code to see if composting is allowed in your area.

The most important thing to remember when dealing with the remnants of fall is to keep them out of the storm drains. Leaf material can block grates, clog underground pipes and cause flooding on roadways. Even if the plant material is carried through the storm-

water system, it can cause water quality issues in streams and rivers. Keeping the nutrients in your garden and out of the water helps both your plants and aquatic wildlife thrive.

For more information on composting, check out <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1189.html>



A simple roll of wire mesh is a great place to start composting yard waste

WHAT'S IN A NAME: SOURCES OF SOME STREAM NAMES IN LAKE COUNTY

In 2003, Lake SWCD began a project to place signs along the county's roads to identify the streams they crossed. As the signs were installed, calls and e-mails started coming in. This project led to much public interest in stream names, alternate stream names, and how such things are decided. We heard from people who inquired about spellings, suggested alternate names, and provided us with some background information. One stream, Jordan Creek, officially had its name changed after a 100-year-old misspelling (Gordon) was pointed out. Mostly we were left with questions though, so with the assistance of the Historical Society the staff found out more. The following information represents a compilation of that research.

Griswold Creek – Sylvanus Griswold was an investor in the purchase of the Connecticut Western Reserve. He was a shareholder in the Connecticut Land Company who purchased the land from the State of Connecticut. There is also docu-

mentation of a Truman Griswold from Mentor who apparently helped to remove wolves from the area.

Newell Creek – Grandison Newell purchased land in 1819 (Newell Farm) and began making cast iron plows. Mr. Newell was also instrumental in obtaining a charter in 1835 for the Painesville & Fairport Railroad.

Phelps Creek – Jesse Phelps was a Justice of the Peace in 1802. Hendrick Elsworth Paine, who owned a gristmill in Paine's Hollow, was married to a Phelps.

Arcola Creek – Arcola Creek was originally called Dock Creek in 1798 when the site known as Madison Dock was founded by Colonel Alexander Harper. It then became Cunningham Creek when it was purchased by Captain John Cunningham. Captain Cunningham sold 50 acres to the Erie Furnace Company who erected a furnace to refine bog ore found in the swamps along the creek. In 1830, Judge

Samuel Wilkeson purchased the furnace and named it the Arcole Furnace after a furnace he operated in Buffalo.

Black Brook Creek – Perhaps named because of the mill that operated on the creek spilled so much wood shavings into the creek it looked black.

Paine Creek – Perhaps named after General Edward Paine who settled Painesville. General Paine purchased 1,000 acres in the watershed after receiving information on the area from his son.

Grand River – The Indians (unknown tribe) named the river Grand Chiango which has been interpreted to mean raccoon. Early French maps named the River La Corande River. The river was formally called the Geauga, a corruption of the Indian name Chogage.

If you have historical data on stream names in Lake County, we would love to know more. Please contact Beth or

WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

This fall we focus on making a difference in your own back yard. Do you know how?

- 1) Fall leaves and other yard waste can become:
 - A. a nuisance
 - B. compost for your garden and flower beds
 - C. pollution in your watershed
 - D. a cause of urban flooding
- 2) Rain gardens work by
 - A. creating a permanent pond to hold rainwater
 - B. collecting runoff from impervious surfaces
 - C. temporarily holding water to increase infiltration
 - D. redirecting surface flow to a different watershed
- 3) Building a rain garden requires
 - A. an engineer
 - B. surveying equipment
 - C. a degree in math
 - D. a shovel and some elbow grease
- 4) Runoff from impervious surfaces can contribute which of the following to local watersheds:
 - A. heavy metals
 - B. petrochemicals
 - C. sediment
 - D. all of the above

Answers: 1) all, 2) B and C, 3) D, 4) D



Photo by
H. Primbas

The Lake Kleenerz in action. This group of young men from Lake, Cuyahoga and Geauga counties have been marking storm drains in the western part of Lake County. Here they are learning proper technique for applying the adhesive.

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

•440-350-2730 (main number) •FAX 440-350-2601

Toll-free •298-3334 ext. 2730 Madison/Perry

•918-2730 Cleveland/Western Lake County

•1-800-899-LAKE 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

PAM BROWN, District Secretary/Treasurer	350-2730
DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
CHAD EDGAR, Urban Stream Specialist	350-2032
BETH LANDERS, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
BRETT RODSTROM, Stormwater Specialist	350-2092
MATTHEW SCHARVER, Resource Protection Specialist	350-2031
AL BONNIS, District Conservationist, NRCS	350-2730
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

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MEMBER OF:

- American Farmland Trust
- Lake County Farm Bureau
- Nursery Growers of Lake County, Inc.
- 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 fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at 125 East Erie St., Painesville. Meeting announcements appear under the public agenda in the News-Herald. Please call in advance to let us know you will be attending

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

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