



CROSSSECTION

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Special Points of Interest:

- Annual Meeting reservation information
- Visit to preserved North Perry farmland.
- Dealing with nuisance wildlife
- District website revamped.

See you at the
Fair!

Look for our booth in the Commercial Building. Lake County Fair is August 16th-21st.

HANDLING UNWANTED WILDLIFE

Most people delight in seeing wildlife in their yards. Millions of dollars are spent annually, attracting songbirds. Some people stock up on ears of corn for squirrels, and others plant butterfly gardens or create ponds for amphibians and fish. But sometimes that majestic deer that you enjoy seeing back along the tree line comes and eats the buds off of every daylily in the yard. The pond that was supposed to be peaceful and scenic is now home to a flock of geese that make a mess everywhere they walk. And the beautiful plant you brought home last spring is quickly overrunning the flowerbed and taking over the yard, too. This issue of *CrossSection* will address some of the issues around nuisance wildlife and introduced species.

EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTING OHIO FORESTS

If you own ash trees, love Ohio forests or depend on the wood products that come from our great forests (and we all do!) you need to become familiar with the latest pest threat to our woodlands. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) arrived in Ohio in 2003. The Ohio Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) has been working hard to eradicate EAB from the known infestation sites; however, citizens of Ohio will need to help the cause if their programs are to be successful.

EAB is a deadly threat to ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.), killing host trees in 3 to 5 years of infestation. EAB belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark metallic green in color, 1/2 inch in length and fly only from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year developing beneath the bark of ash trees, and when they emerge as adults, leave D-shaped exit holes in the bark about 1/8 inch wide.

The EAB first infests the tops of ash trees and works its way down the tree. Infested ash trees are essentially choked to death by the larvae that feed on the cambium layer; the live tissue just beneath the bark responsible for transporting nutrients throughout the tree. Signs of EAB include dieback at the tops of ash trees, D-shaped exit holes or S-shaped larval lines beneath the bark.

Since it was discovered in northwest Ohio the ODA has eradicated six sites and destroyed more than 50,000 ash trees. Eradication can only begin once federal confirmation of the EAB life stage is made and the USDA has completed an environmental assessment for the area. This has been completed for all of northwest Ohio due to the outbreaks there.



Citizens can help control this pest by reporting signs of EAB to the ODA at 1-888-Ohio-EAB. Citizens should also refrain from moving ash trees, ash lumber or firewood inside or beyond borders of counties with infestations. Those counties are Defiance, Franklin, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Wood and newly infested Delaware Counties. Also do not transport firewood to Ohio from Michigan or Indiana where other infestations exist.

To learn more about EAB visit www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab

OHIO'S INVASIVE PLANTS

One in four plant species in Ohio is a non-native species. These exotics were introduced by settlers, either deliberately or accidentally. Some were specifically cultivated for their positive traits; they filled food, medicinal, or household uses. Others were planted, simply to remind people of the places they left behind. Accidental introduction occurred when seeds were unknowingly carried by people or animals. To this day, new species are being introduced, many of which only appear in a small area and soon die out. Some, however, are invasive and leave a lasting legacy.

The difference between a species that is simply exotic and one that is invasive becomes apparent in its ability to spread unchecked. Invasive species quickly spread, either by vegetative propagation (new plants come up from runners, branch tips on the ground, or other plant pieces) or by seed. They crowd out other plants and prevent native plants from colonizing. In contrast, an exotic plant that is not invasive grows where it was planted, but does not spread and eventually will probably die out. Many familiar garden plants fit under this second category.

Gardeners can help control the problem of invasive species by following a few simple steps. First, check existing plants in your yard or garden to identify any invasives that might be there. If you (or a previous owner) have planted an invasive species, take steps to ensure that it does not spread off of your property. Dead-

head flowers so that they do not go to seed. For plants that tend to spread underground, a course of landscape edging that is deeper than the roots can be used to surround the plant. Any volunteers that spread out of this area can then be dug out by hand. If you are choosing new plants for your yard, make sure that they are not an invasive species. The best way to make sure that your new plant won't be someone else's headache in 10 years? Look for native species.

**TEN MOST
(UN)WANTED**
These ten species are
the most troublesome
invasive plants in
Ohio.

- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Japanese Knotweed
- Autumn Olive
- Buckthorn
- Purple Loosestrife
- Common Reed
- Reed Canary Grass
- Garlic Mustard
- Multiflora Rose
- Bush Honeysuckle

Once you have evaluated the problem in your own yard, look around your community. Many local natural areas are threatened with changes in ecology and habitat by invasive species. As an invasive plant takes over, native plant species decrease in abundance, or disappear entirely. The animals that rely on the native plants may also decline or leave. Overall diversity falls, leaving a monoculture that may be susceptible to future disease outbreaks or severe weather events. Stewards of these natural areas are constantly fighting against invasive species and volunteers are always welcome to help remove plants. If you can weed your garden, you can help fight invasives. Contact the managing agency for your favorite natural area and see what is planned for that park, or contact The Nature Conservancy or ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to see what events are planned. For

more information on invasive plants, visit <http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/invasive/default.htm>

DEALING WITH DEER DAMAGE

As urbanization continues in Ohio, there is an increasing number of deer living in close proximity to humans. Most of the time it is not a problem, but in some places, deer cause serious damage to gardens and flowerbeds. The easiest way to solve the problem is to avoid it. When choosing landscaping plants, use a list of plants deer don't like. While this is not a guarantee that they will be untouched, it can deter casual deer damage.

If you already have a garden and a deer problem, there are four methods for decreasing or eliminating deer damage. The simplest and least expensive option is to scare the deer. This includes the use of reflective material, loud noises, and things that move in the wind. Scare tactics work best for a short period of time and in a small area. Some deer will eventually become accustomed to the device and they will no longer be deterred.

Physical barriers can be used to enclose and protect an area. There are numerous designs for a deer-proof fence, from one electric wire with aluminum strips at-

tached, to eight foot tall woven wire fences, to fencing systems that involve more than one layer of fencing. After the initial installation, there is very little cost involved, but the fences do need to be checked and repaired periodically.

Chemical deterrents can also be effective in protecting landscaping. These usually consist of chemicals or bad-tasting products applied to the vegetation, but many cannot be applied to plants intended for human consumption. Many traditional remedies depend on human smell or taste as a deterrent. These include putting hair clippings, soap or cologne in the garden area. There are also many commercial products available.

A last resort is physical elimination of the deer, although this is not feasible in municipalities with hunting bans. It is also not an option outside of the hunting season without a special permit from the Division of Wildlife. For severe deer damage, consult your county game warden. More information can be found in ODNR Division of Wildlife Publication 138, Deer Damage Control.

You're Invited!



Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District 59th Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2005
DeRubertis Party Center
6521 North Ridge Rd.
Madison, OH 44057



- 6:00—7:30 PM Polls Open—Election of Board Supervisors
- 6:00 PM Social Hour—Cash Bar
- 7:00 PM Buffet Dinner Begins
- 7:45 PM Business Meeting
- 8:00 PM Feature Presentation
- 8:45 PM Recognition & Awards
- 9:00 PM Door Prize Giveaway!

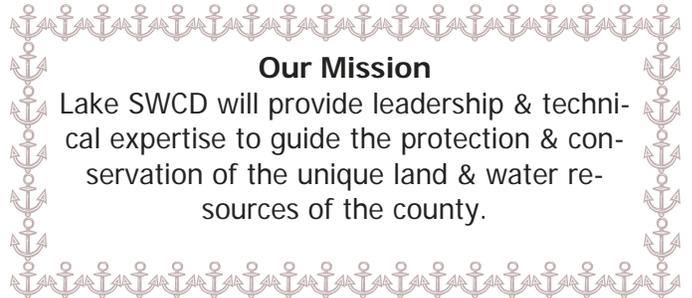
Feature Presentation— Ghost Ships of

Lake Erie—Dr. David Frew, director of the Erie County Historical Society, presents the adventures of sailors, passengers and rescuers who faced the dangers of Lake Erie.

Spectacular Door Prizes courtesy of Lake County Nurseries & Businesses



Lake County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 125 E. Erie St.
 Painesville, OH 44077
 440-350-2730
www.lakecountyohio.org/soil



Our Mission
 Lake SWCD will provide leadership & technical expertise to guide the protection & conservation of the unique land & water resources of the county.

Yes, I will attend! Enclosed is my payment of \$20.00 per person, payable to Lake SWCD. **Reservations are prepaid only & tickets will be held at the door.**

Name _____ Address _____ Phone Number _____	Name of Guest(s) _____ City _____ Total # Attending _____
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RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005!!

REPRESENTATIVE VISITS PROTECTED NORTH PERRY FARMLAND



Larry Klco left, owner of Rainbows Farms, gives US Congressman LaTourette and other local officials a tour of this year's raspberry field.

On July 8th, as the sunshine ripened the red and black raspberries at Rainbow Farms in North Perry, US Congressman Steven LaTourette and 17 other local residents and officials toured Lake County's first preserved farm. The tour was sponsored by The Farmland Center and the Lake Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The tour was designed to promote farmland preservation in Lake County

and to give local elected officials who were involved in the preservation of the three North Perry farms a chance to see what they helped protect. In addition to Congressman LaTourette, other local elected officials in attendance included Lake County Commissioner Dan Troy, North Perry Village Mayor Tom Williams and three North Perry Village Councilmen. Opening remarks were given by Amalie Lipstreu from the Farmland Center and Sam Klco from Lake SWCD. Lipstreu talked about the loss of farmland in Northeast Ohio over the last few decades and cited many reasons why our region needs to promote and protect its valuable farmland.

Sam Klco gave some of the background about the easements, including funding and easement specifics. Sam made it clear that the completion of the three farmland preservation easements would not have been possible without the cooperation of the

Lake County Commissioners, North Perry Village, The Farmland Center, The Lake SWCD, the Lake County Farmland Conservation Taskforce and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The farm tour was given by the owner of Rainbow Farms, Larry Klco. Larry discussed the unique qualities of the preserved farmland which included the micro climate, unique soils and high productivity. While giving the tour Larry stopped by the irrigation pond to explain how all the cropped fields were currently being watered through an extensive drip irrigation system. Other stops on the farm tour included the strawberry and raspberry fields and a large greenhouse with early tomatoes. As the tour concluded, participants shared bite-sized desserts topped with fresh raspberries grown on the first protected farmland in the county.

NEW LOOK ON LAKE SWCD WEBSITE

The Lake County SWCD website has received a major makeover. Over seventy new pages, featuring a streamlined appearance throughout, await internet users. From the home page, users can link to information about the district, including public notices, district board and staff, the history of Lake SWCD, and upcoming events on the Calendar. There are also links to each of the areas that District staff are involved in.

One new feature highlights the Headwater Habitat Evaluation Project. It allows Lake County residents to research the water quality of the headwater streams and see what SWCD staff have found in their evaluations. Through a series of clickable maps, a user can link to the evaluation form for that headwater stream.

There is increased content in the Urban section. Homebuilders and concerned citizens can easily access the erosion and sediment control regulations and local regulations for their municipality. Site review forms can be downloaded, as can specifications for many different erosion and sediment control best management practices.

For teachers, there are descriptions of the programs available to their school classrooms, and past issues

of Muddy Hands that can be read online. Envirothon advisors will also find expanded content, including information on the 2006 theme and upcoming competition dates.

Our website continues to be an important outreach tool, providing information to residents even when our office is closed. *Check out the new site at www.lakecountyohio.org/soil*



125 East Erie St.
Painesville OH 44077
Phone: (440)350-2730 Fax: (440)350-2601
soil@lakecountyohio.org



Home	Streams	Urban	Education	Landowners	Agriculture	Projects	Ecology
Public Notices	People	History	Publications	Calendar	Volunteering	Links	For Sale

Lake SWCD Home



Lake County SWCD will provide leadership and technical expertise to guide the protection and conservation of the unique soil and water resources of the county

Office hours are 7:30-4:00 Monday through Friday

GOOSE MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL PONDS

Canada geese are vegetarian grazers. They prefer short grasslands; sprouting seeds and mown lawns are perfect habitat for these birds. They are also strongly drawn back to the same places year after year, making them an annual nuisance. If you have geese in your pond this year, you will most likely have them next year and every year after that, especially if they nested successfully. Canada geese live for about 15-20 years. They can reproduce at 2-3 years of age, and a female can produce more than 50 offspring in her lifetime. Canada geese tend to return to the same area year after year, so once they become established they are difficult to discourage. After nesting season geese molt, or lose their feathers, and are flightless for about 4 weeks. Because of this, they tend to congregate around ponds that are easy to wade into and out of.

Geese are a problem when they congregate in large numbers in areas people frequent. Their feces are unsightly and can contribute to high bacteria levels in the water. The geese can also become aggressive if they are used to being fed by people. Feeding makes them more prone to approach people, and to try to steal food, bait, or other objects they mistake for food. While they aren't exactly well-equipped for a fight, their hissing and pecking can certainly ruin a trip to the park, and can frighten children. Bread, cereal, potato chips and hot dogs are also not natural foods for these birds, and can make them ill or cause malnutrition. They also run into physical harm if they eat food that is still packaged and ingest plastic, paper or twist ties. Some geese that are used to being fed will mistake a fisherman casting bait for someone throwing food and swallow fish hooks or swim through fishing line.

Remember that geese are protected by numerous state, federal and international laws and policies. While hazing is permitted to deter nuisance geese, maiming or killing animals or destroying eggs without appropriate permits is illegal. Check with your local municipality for applicable zoning information before installing fences or structures, and with Ohio Division of Wildlife before employing aggressive tactics.

If geese are a problem in your backyard pond, there are many options to try. Deterrents are the easiest, but not always effective. They work by making the habitat less desirable for the geese. Geese like to be able to watch for predators. Any object that disrupts the view from the pond will make them less likely to linger. A hedge, tall grass border, or ring of emergent plants (such as cattails or rushes) in the pond will make birds nervous. If you still want access to the shore, maintain an S-shaped path through the border. This is especially effective if it is existing before the geese arrive, and is good for keeping molting birds from inhabiting your yard for a month. The other commonly used method is to make whatever they're eating taste bad. There are numerous products available for this pur-

pose. The active ingredient is usually methyl anthranilate, more commonly seen on food labels as 'artificial grape flavoring.' Depending on your location, noise-making devices, such as propane cannons or firecrackers, or simply yelling at the geese and chasing them with a broom can also be effective before the geese settle in. Some people have had success scaring flocks with radio-controlled planes or boats, but they must not be used to actually hit a bird.

Physical barriers are good for eliminating geese year-round. Options include a two-strand electric fence, about 18 inches high, or grids of cord or wire that prevent birds from landing on the pond. Electric fences can be temporary, so that they can be removed or rearranged if necessary. Some communities prohibit their use. A wire grid would be installed 12" off the water, on 20 foot centers. If people use the pond, the grid can be raised and used with fencing or plantings around the pond.

If non-lethal methods are ineffective, the ODNR Division of Wildlife may be able to issue permits to addle the eggs, or catch and remove the birds. Fall hunting can also be effective in reducing local populations. Remember, Canada geese are protected by federal and state laws. This protection includes adult birds, goslings, eggs, and completed nests. If you are unsure about what actions might need a permit, please contact your local game warden, or the Division of Wildlife District 3 office in Akron. More information about nuisance geese may be obtained from <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/wildlife/420-203/420-203.html> or <http://www.fw.umn.edu/research/goose/html/homegd/hmguide.html>

2005 CLEAN WATER PHOTO CONTEST

Northeast Ohio Public Involvement, Public Education (NEO PIPE) Committee is holding a photography contest. We hope to bring awareness to the importance of clean water in daily life. This year's theme is "Clean Water Starts With You" and entry is open to any Lake County resident or landowner.

Photographs should depict people involved with improving the water quality of their watershed. We are looking for striking images that focus on the important role we all play in helping keep our streams and lakes pollution free and safe. "Clean Water Starts With You" is the 2005 photography contest theme highlighting citizen action in clean water initiatives.

The winning photograph will be judged against winning entries from other NEO PIPE counties and a regional winner chosen.

For more information, complete rules and entry forms, visit <http://www.lakecountyohio.org/soil/Contests.htm> or contact the Lake SWCD office.

WHO WANTS TO BE A CONSERVATIONIST?

Web surfer's edition. Fire up your browser and head to www.lakecountyohio.org/soil to find the answers.

- 1) What is the theme for the 2006 Envirothon?
- 2) Check dams for erosion and sediment control could be made of:
 - A) rock
 - B) soil
 - C) straw bales
 - D) silt fence
- 3) When is the September Lake SWCD Board meeting?
- 4) When was the Lake SWCD incorporated?
- 5) What page has information about pond management?
- 6) If your house is built on a soil type called RhA, what is the name? Would you expect the yard to be soggy sometimes?
- 7) What USDA program can provide payment to farmers for removing formerly wet areas from active production?
 - A) CRP, Conservation Reserve Program
 - B) FRPP, Farm and Ranchland Protection Program
 - C) CREP, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 - D) WRP, Wetland Reserve Program
- 8) How many stream signs are in the Arcola Creek Watershed?
- 9) What was the topic of the Spring 2003 issue of CrossSection?
- 10) What is the charge for a Soil Survey of Lake County?



ANSWERS:
 1) "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate"
 2) A or C
 3) Sept. 22
 4) Jan 20, 1947
 5) "Pond Management", under "Landowners", Red Hook, yes
 6) D
 7) 3
 8) Wetlands in Ohio
 9) It is free
 10) 10

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
SAM KLCO, Agricultural Program Specialist	350-5863
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 NIEDZIALAK, Western Reserve RC&D Coordinator	350-2034

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RICHARD BAKER (1997), MADISON, VICE CHAIR
DWAYNE BAILEY (2003), MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE, FISCAL AGENT
RON MAUK (1989-1997, 2004), MENTOR, CHAIR
STEPHANIE BERES (2004), CONCORD, TREASURER
PARIS WOLFE FERRANTE (2005), CONCORD, SECRETARY

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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