



Conservation Notes

Winter 2009/2010

"Local leadership for soil and water conservation"

Newsletter for the

Medina County Soil & Water Conservation District

Streams benefit from trees

Planting and maintaining woody vegetation along streams provide a wealth of benefits.

Reduce Flooding & Erosion

Streamside trees slow the flow of stormwater allowing more water to be absorbed into the ground which in turn reduces peak flows and downstream flooding. The ground water, in turn, helps maintain stream flow during dry spells. Woody tree roots anchor soils to provide for bank stability.

Modify Stream Temperature

In summer, tree leaves provide shade to keep water temperatures cooler which allows for a higher concentration of O₂ in the water. Cooler temperatures also discourage the growth of nuisance algae.

Filter Sediments & Trap Nutrients

Streamside trees filter sediments from streams that overflow during storm events.

Tree roots also remove non-point source pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Provide Habitat

During the fall, tree leaves that drop in the stream decompose to form the foundation of the aquatic food chain while twigs and branches provide in-stream cover and shelter for smaller organisms.

Stands of trees adjacent to streams serve as home to a variety of terrestrial animals and birds as well as providing avenues for migration.



Check with the SWCD District office for a list of the best adapted streamside trees.

2010 NRCS Conservation Program Applications

Program applications for the 2010 funding cycle for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are due in to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by mid-February to be considered in the first round of ranking for funding. So January is a good time to submit applications this year.

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Kruggel is Newest Board Member

At the District's annual meeting in August, Celia Kruggel of Litchfield Township was elected to the board of supervisors. Her 3-year term begins January 1. Marvin Farms, Inc., Litchfield Township, received the Conservation Stewardship award; Gary Flegel, Black River Middle School, received the Conservation Teacher award and Marian Kusmik had the biggest Black Cherry Tree. Janet Kuthe was honored for 25 years of service.

PLANT TREES

Big tree contest

The last seven years the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District along with the Medina County Gazette has sponsored a big tree contest for Medina County. Winning trees have been the White Oak, Shagbark hickory, Sycamore, Beach, Black Walnut, Ash and the Black Cherry. We have had a total of 183 entries over years. It has been a wonderful opportunity for the staff to meet the proud stewards of these County Champions. We would like to thank all of those who entered the big tree contest over the last seven years.

The Eastern Cottonwood (*populus deltoides*) is this year's tree. The cottonwood lives primarily in floodplains and river bottoms, but can also be planted in the driest of soils and survive. Its mature bark is extremely thick and has triangular leaves that flutter in the wind.

The tree must be located in Medina County but does not have to be owned by the nominator. Permission must be obtained from landowner. Qualified District personnel will measure the tree and the decision of the District will be final. Nominations will be accepted through the closing of business on May 28, 2010.

For more information on the Eastern Cottonwood or any Ohio tree, log onto the State forestry website, www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry

For an entry form or questions please give Jim or Beth a call at the office (330) 722-2628 ext 3 or you can download an entry form from our website. www.medinaco.org

**Medina County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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Medina, Ohio 44256
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www.medinaswcd.org

2010 Seedling Sales

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage
PAID

Medina, Ohio
Permit 62

Board of Supervisors

Debbie Russell, Chairman
Bill Jordan, Vice Chairman
Steve Fulton, Secretary
Jim Kamps, Treasurer
Celia Kruggel, Fiscal Agent

Current resident or

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write to the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Or call (202) 720-7327 (voice).

Rain Barrel Workshop
(in conjunction with Earth Day)
April 17 10-3pm
Buffalo Creek Retreat, Seville
(8708 Hubbard Valley Road)
\$60

This pre-paid workshop will be conducted hourly and will include full instructions, assistance, and materials for one complete barrel. You choose a time best suited to your schedule.

You must register before April 9 at the Medina SWCD office, 6090 Wedgewood Road, Medina. Call our office for more details 330.722.2628 x 3.

Newsletter delivery

If you are reading this newsletter you are on our mailing list. As funding for the District continues to be less and less, we are looking at ways to help cut costs without short-changing our public. If you have the ability to receive our newsletter via our website, you will be saving us in printing and mailing costs.

Please email us at jkuthe@medinaco.org so that we can add your name to our mailing list. Be sure to include your name and address so that you can be removed from the paper trail list.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep our costs down.

USDA Incentive Programs continued from front page

EQIP helps with many conservation practices on cropland, woodland, and livestock operations. New emphasis is on organic and specialty crops, and may be able to assist with "high tunnels" in 2010. Increased funding is available for landowners interested in creating, enhancing, or restoring wetlands through WRP this year. Pasture, forest and crop land that was drained and cultivated in the past, are eligible for this program, which provides funding to convert these lands back to wetlands. Over 20 conservation practices are available to agricultural producers interested in improving wildlife habitat using WHIP.