

# T.E.A.C.H. 2012 Second Semester

## Teacher's Environmental and Conservation Helper

A program of the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District

6090 Wedgewood Rd, Medina Ohio 44256 330-722-2628 EXT. 113

Website: [www.medinaswcd.org](http://www.medinaswcd.org) Fax: 330-725-5829

Elizabeth W. Schnabel, Education Specialist [eschnabel@medinaco.org](mailto:eschnabel@medinaco.org)



## School Gardens: Put Spring into Learning- Workshop

### Teachers will

- learn research-based garden designs that connect children with nature while enhancing their concentration, creativity and problem-solving, relieving stress, and improving skills in all areas of learning.
- view and learn from existing school gardens.
- design a site-specific garden as part of their course project.
- earn Project WILD certification.

<b>Feb. 21</b>	4-7 pm	Benefits of School Gardens	Medina County SWCD office
<b>March 6</b>	4-7 pm	Garden Features	Medina County SWCD office
<b>March 20</b>	4-7 pm	Visit School Garden	TBA
<b>April 10</b>	4-7 pm	Design a School Garden	Medina County SWCD office
<b>April 24</b>	4-7 pm	Present Your Garden Design	TBA

Optional graduate credit from Ashland University (\$185) Teachers must attend all sessions for credit. Fill out the information and mail to Medina County SWCD or call 330-722-2628- 113

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Subject taught \_\_\_\_\_

Copy this page for parents



**2012 Medina County  
Earth Day  
April 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat.)  
10- 4:00**

Learn how you can become a better steward of the earth by living green and sustainable. Come to the newly remodeled Buffalo Creek Retreat on Hubbard Valley Road just north/east of Seville to celebrate the earth.

◆ **Earth Day Conservation Family Walk**

**Registration: 8:30- 9:30-** Hubbard Valley Park north parking lot. Finish the walk at the Buffalo Creek Retreat and continue your Earth Day experience. Families (as a unit) must start and finish the walk together. During the 1+ mile walk on park trails, families will be exposed to the beauty of the earth and an awareness of land and water stewardship at sites along the trail.

**Awards:** The first 50 families to register and finish will be given a \$10 Dairy Queen coupon.

◆ **Recycled Watercraft Regatta**

**Contest Rules:**

**Prior to Contest:**

- ◆ Students, grades 7-12 must design, build the watercraft which must:
  - be made of at least 80% recycled materials.
  - use “green” power- no petro or batteries.
  - be portable by the student- small enough that one student can carry it to the regatta.
  - stay afloat from the start line to the finish line.
- ◆ The winners from each heat will compete in a championship run-off for the grand prizes.

**Day of Contest:**

**10:30 AM- NOON- Register at Buffalo Creek Retreat on Earth Day:**

- ◆ No watercraft device will be registered after 12:00 unless the student is in line at the 12:00 deadline. Numbers will be assigned to students in the order of their registration.

**1:00 PM – First heat of contest**

- ◆ Between 4 to 6 watercrafts will race per heat.
- ◆ Only participating students with their watercraft can be on the start-line side of the pond.
- ◆ To qualify for winning, the recycled watercraft must remain afloat to the finish line.
- ◆ Spectators must remain on the “finish-line” side of the pond behind the judges’ ribbon.
- ◆ The judges’ ruling is the final decision.

**Championship Run-off Heat:**

- ◆ The winners of each heat will compete in the final Championship Run-off.
- ◆ If the heat’s first placed watercraft can not perform in the final heat (too water logged or too damaged) then the second place watercraft will compete.
- ◆ Awards will be issued to the First and Second placed winners of the Championship Run-off.

First- \$ 50.00 Visa gift card  
Second- \$25.00 Visa gift card

*Call the Medina County SWCD office for complete Recycle Regatta Contest rules and regulations.*



## ◆ Earth Day Coloring Contest

The Medina County Gazette and Earth Day committee will again sponsor the annual Medina County Earth Day coloring contest. All students, K-6th grades are eligible.

**Mail/ drop off entries by March 16<sup>th</sup> to :**  
**Medina Co. Soil & Water Conservation District**  
6090 Wedgewood Rd. Medina, Ohio 44256

### **Contest Rules:**

1. Crayons or colored pencils used only.
2. Students must INDEPENDENTLY color their entry.
3. Entries must be received by **March 16- Friday**
4. An entry form must be filled out and attached to the coloring contest entry.
5. Winning entries will be displayed at Earth Day.
6. The awards ceremony will be at **NOON** in the Buffalo Creek Retreat upstairs' reception room.
7. **First and Second prize award categories:**
  - Kindergarten and First grades
  - Second grade
  - Third grade
  - Fourth grade
  - Fifth and Sixth grades
8. **Ten Honorable Mention** awards will be given.  
(Awards: Gift certificates)

***Call the Medina County SWCD office to get a copy of the Earth Day coloring contest picture. 330-722-2628***

## Grants Available to Develop "WILD School Sites"

**Project WILD certified educators** may apply to create outdoor classrooms on their school grounds.

Ohio teachers who have successfully used Project WILD in their classrooms now have the opportunity to provide students with additional hands-on learning tools about wildlife and habitat through grants being offered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife. Grants totaling \$500 each will be awarded on a competitive basis to 40 schools currently participating in Project WILD, a supplemental environmental education curriculum for grades K-12.

"A WILD School Site project allows teachers to take lesson plans outdoors, bringing conservation education concepts to life for students," said Jen Dennison, wildlife education coordinator for the Division of Wildlife. "An added benefit is the improvement of schoolyard habitat for wildlife and people, which enhances outdoor learning experiences."

The grants are awarded to applicants that best meet the WILD School Site criteria. Criteria includes participation in one of Ohio's Project WILD programs, direct improvement of the habitat on the school grounds, involvement of the students in the projects as much as possible, and correlation of the projects to the school's curriculum.

Interested educators should submit an application between January 1 and May 31 to the ODNR Division of Wildlife, Outdoor Education Section, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229. Complete details of the grant program and application packet with other area workshops can be found at: [ohioprojectwild.com](http://ohioprojectwild.com) or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE. For more information, contact: Jen Dennison, ODNR Division of Wildlife 614. 265. 6316



## **Free Project WILD Workshop**

Educators who want to teach wildlife-related conservation concepts through interactive learning are encouraged to attend a free **Project WILD** workshop in Akron. **Growing Up WILD** (for ages 3-7 years) and traditional **Project WILD (K-12)** guidebooks will both be provided at no charge (Aquatic WILD guidebook will also be included). All participants must stay for the total duration of the program which is 9am-4pm on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will take place at the Division of Wildlife District Three office, 912 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, OH 44319.

There is no workshop fee but pre-registration is required by calling Jamey Graham, Division of Wildlife at (330) 245-3020. Spaces are limited. Lunch will not be provided; brown bag lunches are recommended but local fast-food options are available. Read more about wildlife education programs and workshop opportunities by visiting [www.ohioprojectwild.org](http://www.ohioprojectwild.org)

## **ARE YOU WILD...certified?**

If you have taken a Medina County SWCD teacher workshop in the past, you could already be WILD certified. If not, be sure to sign up for the school garden workshop on page one.

## **Looking For 2012 Conservation Teacher**

The Medina County Soil & Water office is looking for nominations for the 2012 Conservation Teacher of the Year. Nominations can come from fellow teachers, principals, parents or students. Write down the teacher's name, school, and a short qualifying statement about this teacher and mail by April 30, 2012 to: Medina County SWCD, 6090 Wedgewood Rd, Medina, OH. 44256.  
Attention: Beth



## **Focus on the Land Workshops**

**Costa Rica** (June 12-21, 2012) features amazing environmental and geological studies. Deadline for registration is soon. Optional graduate education credit is available from Ashland University.

**Eastern Europe** (June 2013) features cultural and historical studies of Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary with an extension to Austria. Call Beth for more information: 330-723-1035. Optional education graduate credit is also available.

