

# CONQUEST

*"Capture your students love of learning about the environment"*

## Kelly's Korner—We are all connected!

Did you know that you can have an impact on sea turtles? YES, you and I live in the Mississippi River Watershed, which happens to drain into the Gulf of Mexico,



Bubble Butt, the 1st & longest permanent resident, will be celebrating his 21 yr. anniversary at The Turtle Hospital in Marathon, FL. Bubble Butt was rescued on March 25th 1989 after being struck by a boat off of Long Key. His shell was deformed by the strike leaving a large "bubble" on his "butt." This traumatic encounter with a boat also left him floating permanently. Learn more @ <http://www.turtlehospital.org>. Sign up for free e-newsletters from the Turtle Hospital.

where sea turtles live! Of course, our water drains to the Muskingum River, then to the Ohio River which flows into the Mississippi, and finally empties into the Gulf of Mexico and out into the Ocean. *That means everything else does too!* Humans place a tremendous pressure on this ecosystem, causing considerable strain on the natural systems that turtles and other marine life inhabit. In addition to the increased pollution, depletion of certain fish and other marine populations, and coastal degradation, the introduction of synthetic material, such as plastics and fishing line, presents a brand new danger. Turtles are opportunistic feeders, meaning they will eat just about anything - sort of like a billy goat. Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible for a turtle to break-down synthetic material once it is ingested, and very often it will cause an intestinal blockage, called an impaction. Of course, a turtle has little chance of eliminating the impaction on it's own in the wild and this condition will usually end to starvation. **This is one reason why we need to keep track of our trash and make sure it is properly disposed of.** Another problem is Fibropapillomatosis, which is a disease specific to sea turtles. Fibropapilloma has become increasingly prevalent in Green sea turtle populations. It is predominantly seen in warmer regions & can be associated with areas that have poor water turnover, particularly where human waste enters the waterways. So even if you live in Ohio, you do have an impact not only on your own local environment, but on the environment and habitat of sea turtles! So, do your part, be water smart & teach others ~ we're all connected! ~Kelly



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### Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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#### Important Dates:

- **March 31st** Free Pond Clinic 7-9pm at Wayne Co. Fairgrounds
- **April 14th** Tree Seedling & Rain Barrel pick up 1-6pm at WC Fair
- **April 20th** Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair 11-7 at the OARDC
- **April 20th** Fish Sale Pick up
- **April 22nd** EARTH DAY!!!
- **April 28th** Area II Envirothon
- **April 30th** Arbor Day
- **April 30th** Poster Entries Due !

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## Celebrate Earth Day!

APRIL 22nd is Earth Day—so why not get in the spirit of things and visit the Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair on APRIL 20th? The fair takes place April 20th at the University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster. "Green is for Life!" is the theme. Admission is free and open to the public. Opening ceremonies are at 11:00 and the exhibits are open until 7:00 pm. While there, you can drop off more than a dozen kinds of household waste at this year's Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair for free disposal. The fair's new Recycling Station will take old cell phones, worn-out sneakers, plastic grocery bags and more in a ramped-up effort to teach about and help with recycling. You can also Learn how to: Save money, Eat sustainably, Reduce energy use at home, Generate your own renewable energy, Improve your recycling, Reduce transportation energy and costs, Reduce our dependence on imported oil, Calculate and Reduce your Carbon Footprint, and Address Global Warming. For more info about this exciting event visit: <http://www.wcsen.org/wcsggf/>



Wooster Campus  
**SCARLET, GRAY, AND GREEN FAIR**  
 The Green Way to Celebrate Earth Day

## Get Out! ~Literally...

"If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in"  
 ~Rachel Carson

**Nature Deficit Disorder** is not a medical condition — it describes our lack of a relationship to the environment. It hurts our children, our families, our communities, and our environment. Luckily, the cure starts in our own backyards. It also starts with teachers! This unwanted side-effect of the electronic age is called Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD). The term was coined by author Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods* in order to explain how our societal disconnect with nature is affecting today's children. Louv says we have entered a new era of suburban sprawl that restricts outdoor

play, in conjunction with a plugged-in culture that draws kids indoors. So why does education also have to be indoors? IT DOESN'T! Go for a quick walk, explore, listen, examine or read outdoors! A great site to help with ideas & lessons is :<http://www.education.com/topic/nature-deficit-disorder/>

## Reminder—Tree Seedling & Rain Barrel Pick-up

As many of you already know, due to economic hardships, we were not able to provide free tree seedlings to schools this year. We did however offer the seedlings to schools at a price of 25 cents per tree. If you did order trees for your school, please remember the **Pick up is Weds. April 14th from 1-6 pm.** at the Wayne County Fairgrounds—in the sheep building. We were happy to offer Rain Barrels this year. If you missed out on the order deadline, I did order a couple of extra rain barrels—so please contact me if you are interested in a barrel (\$80). Rain barrels are a great water conservation practice & help reduce runoff!



## Poster Contest

The Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring our annual poster contest for grades K-12. The 2010 stewardship theme is "**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats**". Cash awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the following categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. All winners will be sent on to the District contest and also featured in the Wayne SWCD Fair Building September 11-16.



### Contest rules:

Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category)

- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2010 Stewardship title "**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats**" must be on your poster. (Don't use any other title)
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.

On the back of each poster, please print:

- Student's name
- Student's age
- School grade
- Student's home address



- Student's phone number with area code
- School's address and phone number with area code
- Teacher's name
- Conservation District (**Wayne SWCD**).

Posters must be turned in to the Wayne SWCD office, 428 W. Liberty Street, Wooster by **4:00 p.m. on Friday April 30th**. Contact the Wayne SWCD at 330-262-2836 with questions concerning the contest.

Wonderful resources and information are listed on the NACD website. Please check it out at <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education/>

Only one entry per student may be submitted.

### Evaluation criteria:

- 50% Conservation message
- 30% Visual effectiveness
- 10% Originality
- 10% Universal Appeal

Judges will also evaluate posters on the following criteria:

1. Has the theme been clearly addressed?
2. Does the work demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter?
3. Is the work neat, organized and grammatically correct?

## Importance of Pollinators & Habitat



Plants need creatures like bees and beetles. Bees & beetles, birds & other creatures pollinate plants so that they can make seeds. Your backyard, the playground at school and the grassy area along the street are all habitats. Animals like birds, squirrels, worms and bees find their food in these habitats. Most of the flowering plants we need and enjoy are pollinated by insects. When these pollinating insects start shrinking in number many plants either produce less seed or no seed at all. When pollinating animals start disappearing –plants start disappearing. We need to protect pollinating insects. Pollinators aren't just annoying insects, they are an important part of the web of life that we all depend upon for our very survival. Over 80% of the world's flowering plants wouldn't survive if it weren't for pollinators. Why do you need those flowering plants? A lot of fruits and vegetables come from flowering plants. Even a glass of milk of hamburger depended on pollinators if they came from cattle raised on alfalfa. Many medicines come from flowering plants. Animals and birds that are an important part of the ecosystem seek food and shelter in flowering plants and trees. Pollinators are fast disappearing. We need to establish and protect the habitats of pollinators. There are many ways you can develop habitat area. Find an area at your home or school to plant trees or native plants. Plant native plants that bloom at different times to provide a food source for a longer period. Even if you don't have to have a lot of space, any place you can plant at least a few native plants or trees will help. As you design up habitats think about food, water, shelter, and space for the creatures that will live or visit the area.



## Consider Conservation Programs ~ FREE!

Free educational programs and teacher trunks are still available from Wayne SWCD.

Although this is already a busy time of the year, I still have openings and will try my best to schedule a program for you. Please call or e-mail me as soon as you can to get the program booked! E-mail: [kriley@wayneoh.org](mailto:kriley@wayneoh.org) or call the office at 330-262-2836. I offer a variety of programs that fit into many of the State Education Science Standards, for many grade levels! If you want to talk about water pollution & human impacts, consider the Enviroscape model or Freddie the Fish for the younger students. I have several programs that kids love, and I also have cool resources for teachers to borrow. If you can, check out our website @ <http://www.bright.net/~swcd/> to see all the programs and educational trunks available, or e-mail me & I will send you a list. Again, I will try my best to accommodate your needs,

but book now—before my calendar gets full! It's a free service, and it's all environmental education!

Hope you all enjoy your Spring Break & are planning to get your students outside! ~ Kelly

**ALL STORMDRAINS LEAD DIRECTLY  
TO OUR PONDS, RIVERS & BAYS**



**To learn how to be a part of the solution to  
stormwater pollution, visit [www.nsrwa.org](http://www.nsrwa.org)**