



CONQUEST

“ Capture your students love of learning about the Environment”

Wayne SWCD
428 W. Liberty St.
Wooster, Oh 44691
P: 330-262-2836
F:330-262-7422
www.wayneswcd.org

March 2012

Kelly's Korner...the Envirothon is coming!

Happy Spring! Let's just hope we don't get a late winter surge—you never know living here in Ohio! Well, time flies when your having fun, and as you know, trying to meet a deadline. Some important events are shaping up here at the Wayne SWCD. From our Equine program, Tree Sale, Fish Sale, Poster Contest, and many practices that need installed, Spring is always a busy time of the year for us. But this year I have added more pressure and work for all of the staff. I am



happy to announce that the **Wayne SWCD is the 2012 Area II Envirothon host.** This major educational event will be held **April 25th** at the Kidron Community Park. FYI: *The Envirothon is a competitive, outdoor academic team event for HS students. It's designed to stimulate, reinforce, and enhance interest in*

the environment and natural resources. Teams consist of 5 students, all from the same high school. An adult advisor must accompany the team, but is not permitted to assist the team during competition. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils and land use, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues using an "ecostation" format. This event attracts 350-400 people from NE Ohio and is held rain or shine. Because of the massive planning, organizing and prep required, **I will NOT be scheduling any additional educational programs in the month of April.** Please understand I may not be able to do a program or I may already be booked. Please call or email if you want to set something up, if I can. For info on the Envirothon– to register, get forms, etc. or to see what programs I offer, **please visit our website.** *Thanks! ~Kelly*

Poster Contest

Once again, we are hosting a Conservation Poster Contest for grades K-12. Entries are due to Wayne SWCD by April 27th. The 2012 theme is "Soil to Spoon" Posters must have this displayed as the title. Please go to www.nacdnet.org - click on Education & Contests for additional information and ideas about the theme. Wayne SWCD gives cash awards for 1st & 2nd places in the grade categories of K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Poster size must be 8.5"x11" or 22"x28". All of the information for the Poster Contest rules is listed on our website, and you can download of a pdf of the rules. Go to the Education Section or visit <http://wayneswcd.org/postercontest.html> Please share this with ART teachers as well!



Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

Kelly Riley,
Education Specialist
CONTACT INFO:
kriley@wayneoh.org
Or call Kelly at
330-262-2836 ~ext. 119
www.wayneswcd.org
Check the Education Tab

In this Issue:

Envirothon	1
Poster Contest	1
Green Tips ~ Birds	2
Calendar	2
Hummingbirds	2
Vernal Pools	2
Websites	2

Important Dates!

- March 23rd ~ Envirothon entries & forms due.
- March 24th - Migration Sensation @ Shreve
- March 27th—Equine Open House Program
- April 11th—Tree sale pick up 1:30-6:00pm
- April 17th—Fish Sale pick up
- April 17th—Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair @OARDC
- April 22nd—Earth Day
- April 25th—AREA 2 ENVIROTHON ~Kidron
- April 27th—Poster Entries due.



Green Tips—for the birds....

Besides providing habitat (yes, food, water, shelter and space) another fun way to attract birds to your backyard or school yard is to set out nesting material. While there are several opinions about using **dryer lint**, most, tend to stay away from anything that may harm the birds. If you get dryer lint wet, when it dries it is hard and crumbles apart. Also, it is unclear if dryer sheets or other chemicals used when washing clothing is harmful for birds. So, try something else. Suet cage feeders are a great way to collect pet hair, string, cotton, etc. and hang it out for your nesting birds. Also, twigs, dried grasses, moss, pine needles, straw, horse hair and feathers are great items for birds to help make their nest.

Mark your calendars...

MARCH 24th Shreve Spring Migration Sensation—This event includes self-guided tours with experts located at help stations in the nearby Killbuck Marsh, Shreve Lake, Brown's Bog and Funk Bottoms wildlife areas, Ohio's largest inland natural wetland complex, covering 5,671 acres. At the school, enjoy a full day of "Sensational" Family-Friendly Activities. Don't miss out on this great family & kid friendly educational event! **FMI** <http://www.happypages.com/migration/index.htm>

APRIL 17th -Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair –This is the 5th year for the event, held at the OARDC & OSU/ATI Wooster Campus. Open from 11:00-6:30pm, this event has a variety of attractions, exhibits and educational displays. This is a great free event that helps celebrate Earth Day and green ideas! **FMI** <http://www.wcsen.org/wcsggf/>

Did you know?

March means migration. If you've never put up hummingbird feeders, you might want to consider it this year. There is no need to buy special "nectar" - you can make your own solution. Simply, it's 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. You don't have to boil the water, but you can, then cool & refrigerate the remainder. All hummingbird feeders that are purchased these days have red on them somewhere, but if you are in doubt that there is enough red, try tying a red ribbon on the feeder. Another way to attract attention to your feeder is to place it among flowers that hummers like, or hang a basket of flowers nearby. Never use honey or artificial sweeteners! Honey ferments easily, and can cause sores in a hummers mouth. Artificial sweeteners have no food value. Do not use red food coloring in your solution, as this could be harmful to your hummers. Most feeders have red on them and that should be enough. It's also important to keep a clean, fresh solution of sugar-water, since it can easily ferment with increased light and temperature. Here in Ohio, the most common hummer is the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. Hummingbird species are limited in Ohio, and the only other documented species are the Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. So, be an early bird... get your supplies ready, maybe "entice" the birds early by purchasing a blooming hanging basket, and be ready for the arrival of these fast flying feeders in April!

Wet isn't always bad....

As we complain about all the wet weather, remember there is always a good side or benefit to this situation. An under-appreciated and unknown important ecosystem thrives with the seasonal wetness. Vernal pools, also called ephemeral pools, are temporary pools of water. They are usually devoid of fish, and thus allow the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species. Most pools are dry for at least part of the year and fill with the winter rains or snow melt. Some pools may remain at least partially filled with water over the course of a year or more, but all vernal pools dry up periodically. Heavy rains in March and April will bring out toads, wood frogs, salamanders, and other amphibians to migrate to vernal pools and other wetlands. Mole salamanders and wood frogs migrate from their wintering sites in the uplands to vernal pools for breeding when the conditions are right. The ideal conditions are thawed ground, air temperature in the 40's, rain, little wind, and darkness. Early migrations are sometimes light in numbers of animals. Migrations take place on several nights if the conditions are right. So, please be aware of these important wetlands and the small migratory creatures as they enjoy and live for the wet spring! By the way, they are called vernal pools because they are often, but not necessarily, at their peak depth in the spring ("vernal" meaning of, relating to, or occurring in the spring).

Great Websites & Helpful links

Check out The Ohio Oil & Gas Energy Education Program—with lots of great lessons & info! <http://www.oogeep.org/>

Visit the Environmental Education site by the US Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov/education/>

View resources & maps at Earth Resources Information Network (ERIN) <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/23134/Default.aspx>