

# CONQUEST



*“Capture your students love of learning about the environment”*

## **Kelly’s Korner ~ Be grateful**

As fall approaches, I admit I start to feel the onset of the “blues”. Call it what you want, but I struggle with the cold and darker months of the year. One thing that keeps me positive is to think how lucky we sometimes are, and how grateful we should be. For example, hitting close to home, we just recently avoided a potentially devastating and deadly tornado that roared through Wayne County on September 16th. Thankfully, the tornado missed the Wayne County Fairgrounds, sparing thousands of people and hundreds of animals from what could have been a true nightmare. Of course many people, homes, businesses and trees were greatly effected by the event, and we hope the best recovery and clean-up for those involved. Luckily, no lives were lost, and that is what I’m talking about. Take the worst of a situation and try to find something good about it. We often take the simplest things for granted. Another example of things we take for granted is WATER. Yes, I said water. We are all guilty of taking it for granted, yet without clean and healthy drinking water, our lives would be quite different. We tend to take our health, our everyday lives and the natural resources that we use all for granted. So, whenever you’re feeling blue, think of how lucky and blessed you truly are. Maybe you’ll have to search and think of the big picture—yeah, the whole world, and you’ll realize we do have a lot to be grateful for. Like food, water, shelter, and space, our “habitat” is pretty good! *Stay happy ~Kelly*

## **Recycle your CRAYONS!**

Calling all Teachers, Artists, and Parents! Do you have some old, unwanted crayons? Odds are you do... and instead of just throwing them away when they are no longer used or wanted, you can recycle them!

That’s right...RECYCLE CRAYONS! The National Crayon Recycling Program takes unwanted, rejected, broken crayons to a better place, where they’ll be recycled into fresh, new crayons! This service has made it possible to stop more than 56,000 pounds of unwanted crayons from going into landfills! What a great way to get children and young adults involved in a project that helps the environment. This is a lesson that is something so easy and simple, yet it creates awareness and environmental responsibility. To learn more, please visit the website at [www.crazycrayons.com/recycle\\_program.html](http://www.crazycrayons.com/recycle_program.html). You can also support the cause by purchasing the re-cycled crayons! They make original gifts!

October 2010

### **Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District**

428 W. Liberty St.  
Wooster, Oh 44691  
P: 330-262-2836  
F: 330-262-7422  
Kelly Riley,  
Education Specialist

[kriley@wayneoh.org](mailto:kriley@wayneoh.org)  
Or call Kelly at ext. 119

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.bright.net/~swcd](http://www.bright.net/~swcd)

### **Inside this issue:**

Journey North	2
The Dirt on FFAs	2
Fall Colors	3
Contest Winners	3
Consider Conservation	4



## Fall's Journey South is about to Begin! Free Project Tracks Migrations, Plants, and Seasons

Teachers and students in K-12 classrooms are invited to sign up now for Journey North's 17th annual global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. A **free** Internet-based citizen science project, Journey North enables students in more than 23,000 schools to watch the seasons unfold. Students monitor migration patterns of monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, whooping cranes, and other animals; the blooming of plants; and changing sunlight, temperatures, and other signs of the seasons. Check it out!

### Plant a Journey North Tulip Test Garden This Fall

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tulip/index.html> It's time to dig in! This fall, plant a Journey North Tulip Test Garden so you can proclaim the official arrival of Spring 2011 in your community.

### Track the Monarch Migration to Mexico

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/index.html> Join Us! Please Report Your Monarch Sightings! Report your own observations and track the monarch's trip to Mexico. Watch for weekly migration updates every Thursday, beginning August 26th.

### Follow Whooping Cranes Led by Ultralights on Their First Journey South

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/crane/index.html> Year TEN in the historic conservation project to reintroduce Whooping cranes to eastern North America is nearing takeoff. Will all the chicks make the journey safely? What highlights and lowlights wait as they migrate through seven states in a journey over 1,000 miles?

### Send a Monarch to Mexico!

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/sm/index.html> Students across the United States and Canada send symbolic butterflies to Mexico each fall. Children in the sanctuary area protect the butterflies all winter and send them north in the spring. United by the monarch butterfly, children across North America learn lessons of conservation and ambassadorship.

### Track Hummingbird Migration as a Citizen Scientist

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/humm/index.html> You're invited to help track hummingbird migration this fall as the tiny migrants travel to and from their wintering grounds.

## The Dirt on FFA's



The Wayne County land judging competition was held on Thursday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tegtmeier farm just outside of Congress. Wayne SWCD helps organize the event, and Dr. Tom Zimmerman & Duane Wood help with the soil determinations. We were blessed with a beautiful day and above average temperatures. Students involved in FFA from four schools: Northwestern, Triway, Norwayne, and Smithville were at the competition. Sadly missed this year due to budget cuts was the team from Waynedale. At the competition, young adults are tested on their knowledge of the actual soils and soil properties. They are asked to judge soils

and their suitability for agricultural uses as well as for urban development. The competition is scored based on the results of three different soil pits and a book quiz on the Wayne County Soil Survey. Many of the FFA teachers use the county competition to help determine the teams that will go on to District competition which was Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> in Mahoning County. Wayne County is not only strong in dairy and agriculture, but also strong in their environmental education and FFA programs. Special thanks to Randy and Heather Tegtmeier for hosting the competition this year at their beautiful farm. We are proud and thankful to have such great teachers, students and parents! Best of luck to all the schools as they compete at districts and at State!

## Many Factors at Play When Forecasting “Quality” of Fall Color



Like the forecasts for the weather conditions that influence the changing autumn leaves, predictions regarding the quality of Ohio’s fall color, while based on science, are not infallible.

Predictions about the brilliance and longevity of Ohio’s fall foliage are often based on variables such as sunlight, temperature, rainfall and wind. Bright sunny September days and cool nights tend to make red, orange and bronze leaves more vivid. Early frosts often cause trees to prematurely build an abscission layer, a barrier that builds up between the leaves and branches and prevents carbohydrates and water from passing in and out of leaves, thus turning leaves “ahead of schedule.” Dry conditions can cause a delay in leaf color change and windstorms can quickly bring leaves down, ending Ohio’s fall foliage season abruptly.

The seasonal leaf change phenomenon takes place every year and is easy to predict. Each October, leaves throughout Ohio turn colors and drop from trees. The transformation, which occurs earlier in northern Ohio than in the southern part of the state, is caused by a decreasing amount of daylight as the season changes. As a result, the formation of the abscission layer causes green chlorophyll to break down so that colors like gold, yellow, brown and orange show through – especially in hickory, birch and beech trees.

At the same time, the leaves of many “sugary” trees such as maples, dogwoods and sweetgums undergo a chemical change triggered by the cool nights and sunny days that are characteristic of mid-to-late September. The chemical change results in deep russet, purple and bronze shades.

Predicting how vivid and durable fall color will be is not an exact science, but Ohioans can be assured that it will arrive and that it will exhibit the rich variety of palettes and textures.

“Bright sunny September days and cool nights tend to make red, orange and bronze leaves more vivid”

Visit [www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/9584/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/9584/Default.aspx) to find out about fall foliage viewing opportunities and exciting autumn activities at Ohio state parks, forests, preserves and natural areas. Visit the ODNR web site at [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com).

## County Land Judging

Winners of this year’s County Land Judging Contest are:

### RURAL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ashley Chrower –Northwestern
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zach Noble – Triway
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Clint Gasser – Norwayne
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rachael Neal- Norwayne
- 5<sup>th</sup> Emily Caldwell – Smithville

### URBAN

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mara Holcomb- Norwayne
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Erin Smith – Norwayne
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marla Walton- Northwestern
- 4<sup>th</sup> Levi May – Norwayne
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nicole Hoff – Northwestern



### DID YOU KNOW?

Loam soil is the most productive of all soil types. It contains a fairly even mixture of sand, silt and clay.

# CONSIDER CONSERVATION!

The following FREE Presentations can be scheduled by calling the Wayne SWCD office.

- ◆ **ENVIROSCAPE MODEL** (Grades 4-12, 45mins– 1hr.) Visually explains point & non-point source pollution on a watershed. Students get a hands-on demonstration of the effects of water run-off, & then learn how they can improve the watershed with conservation practices. Excellent for any environmental lesson.
- ◆ **FREDDIE THE FISH** (Grades K-4, 30-45mins.) Students get a visual understanding of the effects of pollution on “Freddie”(a sponge in a jar) as they are told about his journey downstream. Human impact on water and the importance of clean, healthy water is taught.
- ◆ **LIVING SOIL PROFILE** (Grades K-5, 45mins—1hr.) Students learn how soil is formed and discover the properties of soil. Intro & 3 different learning stations with hands-on soil smudge, rock rubbing, & coloring a soil profile are all covered.
- ◆ **INCREDIBLE JOURNEY** (Grades K-6, 30-45mins.) Students learn about water on earth, it’s value & the water cycle. They act out the cycle of a water droplet as they travel to different locations. Best if done outdoors, or in a large area.
- ◆ **TREE-MENDOUS TREES** (Grades K-6, 30-45mins.) Build a tree from the inside out (Heartwood to Bark) with your students! They will learn the value of trees, along with the forms and functions of the parts of a tree. Needs a big space.
- ◆ **BIRDS & BEYOND** (Grades K-6, 45mins. –1hr.) Students learn about birds, habitat, and conservation as they learn with Audubon toy bird replicas. They learn what makes a bird a bird, why birds are important & listen to over 25 bird songs.
- ◆ **MIGRATION MANIA** (Grades 2-6, 30-45mins) Reinforces definition of habitat. Discussion on why and what animals migrate, then an activity on bird migration. They learn the effects of humans have & the importance of habitat preservation.
- ◆ **TONY THE TRASHBAG** (Grades 2-6) Students learn the impacts of litter as they act out the movement of a plastic bag, and find out how it effects the whole environment, including harming animals. (Similar to Incredible Journey program) *Teachers can request a power point slide show that corresponds to the lesson presented.*
- ◆ **OUTDOOR EDUCATION** Call & schedule us to do a program or help out at your outdoor event. From fishing & stream studies to outdoor educational lessons, we can assist you & your school, or simply provide you with information or materials to borrow. Don’t forget to check out the loaner educational kits. ANY program can be modified to fit!

The following Educational Trunks can be loaned out for a 2-3 week period.

**Celebrate the Harvest A-Z Kit** (Grades K-3) This trunk covers farming, agriculture & Autumn harvest. It contains lessons, posters, photos, books, videos, and toys. Wonderful kit for fall harvest or supplement to farming & agricultural lessons.

**Birds & Beak Adaptations Trunk** - This trunk has all the materials you need to do the “Fill the Bill” educational activity. Students learn eight different types of beaks & how each is adapted to feed on different foods. Also includes educational bird CD’s, books & information.

**For Heaven SNAKES!** The snake trunk comes with a boa constrictor hand puppet, books & videos. Great for a whole unit!

**RAINFOREST Teacher Trunk** Talk about a treasure trunk! This educational trunk contains a macaw parrot puppet, along with a lot of educational books, stories, videos, and lesson plans. Wonderful kit to supplement a unit.

**STREAM Stewardship** –This trunk has a preserved macroinvertebrate collection, the Save Our Stream manual, water quality books, lessons, and videos. Great for an “indoor” stream study.

**Animal Tracks Kit** –This trunk contains animal track molds for 10 different animals with directions on how to use plaster of paris, or make stamps & comes with field track guides. Makes for a great art project too!

**Honey Files Video & Teachers Guide** (Grades 4-6) Complete w/ lessons & a video on honeybees. *(Also available online)*

**Take Me Fishing** - Need fishing poles for your outdoor program? We have a set of 18 quality poles, and tackles boxes.

The Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District, 428 W. Liberty St. Wooster, Oh 44691 (330)-262-2836  
Contact Kelly Riley, Education Specialist Email: [Kriley@wayneoh.org](mailto:Kriley@wayneoh.org)

**Programs available Monday through Thursday.**

**Check out the WEBSITE: <http://www.bright.net/~swcd/>**