



CONSERVATION TRAILS

“Follow the Trail of Natural Resource Conservation”

Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

Awards Presented at 65th Annual Meeting

The 2012 Conservation Farm Award was presented to the J Stewart McCoy Farm. Stewart farms with his son, Matt. The McCoy’s follow a conservation plan and a



Front: Madison & Elizabeth McCoy
Matt, Carrie & Stewart McCoy

nutrient management plan on all the land he is farming. A rotation of corn and soybeans is followed with the crops being planted no-till and strip till. Grassed waterways and strip cropping are used to control soil erosion and surface drainage has been installed to further improve crop production.



Becky Franck

Becky Franck received the Conservation Education Award. She teaches third grade at Melrose Elementary School in Wooster. She enjoys teaching science and being in the outdoors to explore nature. She and another teacher conduct a summer science camp at a farm which has acres of primitive woods, a pond and a stream. Students get to learn science and explore the wonders of

nature there. She also recycles, composts, collects rain water and enjoys gardening.

Paul Locher, a reporter for the Daily Record, was the guest speaker for the evening. He presented a program on “Once Upon a Time in Wayne County, Ohio”. Mr. Locher spoke of the Wayne County founders and farmers pride in their land and home and how items they owned were reused and repurposed when worn or broken. He also emphasized their faith and religion. Paul has been writing weekly articles for the Daily Record on the history of Wayne County this year.



Matt Peart, Burbank and John T. Redick, Wooster were re-elected as Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

Thank You to Annual Meeting Donors

The Wayne SWCD would like to thank the following donors for their contribution to our Annual Meeting.

- Broken Rocks Bakery & Café - Cinemark
- Green Thumb - Pat Catan’s - Pine Tree Barn
- Rural King - Salon Fringe
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The History of Christmas Trees

By Kelly Riley

Have you ever stopped to wonder how it is that we celebrate the Holidays with a decorated evergreen inside our house, most commonly referred to as a "Christmas Tree"? History states that even before Christianity, plants and trees that remain green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. For the most part, it began with a celebration of the winter solstice, then the Germans can take credit for the Christmas tree tradition, and finally it wasn't until the mid 19th century that we Americans fully recognized and celebrated the tree for Christmas, and is partially in thanks to Queen Victoria of England!

So it began a long time ago, as ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and in their homes, as a way to honor a deity or celebrate the winter solstice. In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21st or 22nd, and is called the winter solstice. Many civilizations including the Romans, Druids, and Vikings decorated for this occasion, even the Egyptians used green palm rushes to recognize this symbolic time, knowing the days would be getting longer, and hoping for a prosperous spring. Then, thanks to the Germans, this tradition expanded into evergreen trees. Legend has it that Martin Luther, the 16th century Protestant reformer wanted to recreate the beautiful snow-covered evergreens as they sparkled in the moonlight. He then placed candles on his tree inside, and lighted them in honor of Christ's birth, hence the custom began. Many other cultures varied the decorations of the tree, and it's meaning, but the Germans can

take the credit. We can actually thank the Hessian soldiers and German immigrants for the Christmas Tree tradition. Surprisingly, early Americans were not so keen on this concept. The New England Puritans thought a tree was frivolous, and a type of mockery, and that Christmas was to be sacred. That way of thinking changed when in 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince,



Albert were sketched with their children around a Christmas tree. Their popularity and style were quite fashionable and accepted, and soon the Christmas tree in England and East Coast American were popular. In 1851, the first Christmas Tree market developed in New York City when farmer Mark Carr hauled and sold two oxcarts full of fir and spruce trees. Early 20th century Americans began widespread popularity of Christmas Trees in America. The first tree placed at Rockefeller Center was in 1931, a small unadorned tree placed by construction workers at the center of the construction site. Two years later, a tree was placed there this time with lights. The rest is history, and nowadays the famous giant Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is laden with over 25,000 lights!

So, as you go get your tree, decorate it, admire it, buy ornaments, or put presents under it, remember it wasn't that long ago, that this wonderful tradition came to be here in America. We can celebrate all of the meanings that were born from this custom. I hope everyone gets to enjoy the spirit of the season!

For more tree history, visit www.history.com or www.christmas-tree.com

Gingerbread Recipe

From the kitchen of Tomeka Smith



1/2 c. butter
3/4 c. molasses
2 tbsp. sugar
2 c. flour
3/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 tsp. ginger
1 egg

Directions:

Cream butter, molasses and sugar. Beat in egg; add dry ingredients. Chill dough about 2 hours. Roll out 1/8 inch thick. Cut with gingerbread man cookie cutter. Bake at 350° 8-10 minutes.

Confectioners Icing

From Better Homes & Gardens

Add light cream to 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar for spreading consistency. Add dash salt and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Put icing in decorator's bag to decorate the gingerbread men. Enjoy!

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If you would like to switch from the mailed newsletter to the emailed newsletter, email us at info@wayneswcd.org
We will email the next Newsletter to you.
Thanks for helping us conserve!

Stream Buffers – Waterway Protection

by Rob Kastner

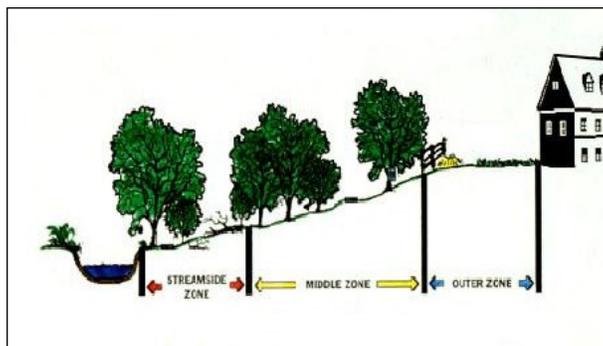
Many of us have waterways that flow through or skirt around the edges of our properties. Whether the stream serves a function on your property or is simply an aesthetic feature that traverses the land it is important to protect it from upland activities that may affect the stream's water quality and ecological functions.

A practice that can have a lasting influence on the health of the stream is a vegetated buffer installed or preserved along the stream banks. The buffer consists of trees, shrubs, grasses and other natural vegetation. These buffers perform functions such as: reducing erosion and stabilizing stream banks, providing shade to reduce water temperatures, reducing sediment and other pollutants in storm water runoff and providing wildlife habitat.

The buffer should consist of at least two zones. The first zone is a streamside zone made up of trees and shrubs to provide bank stabilization, nutrient uptake via tree roots and large woody debris for stream habitat. The vegetation in this zone should not be harvested or managed in any way. The second zone should consist of trees, shrubs and other vegetation such as wildflowers and grasses. This zone serves to filter storm water runoff and provide wildlife habitat in conjunction with the streamside zone. A third outer zone or filter strip of tall native grasses and wildflowers may be provided if sediment and additional nutrient removal is desired. The vegetation in the second and third zones may be

managed as long as the purpose of the buffer is not compromised.

The optimal buffer width varies based on the expectations of the buffer and the site characteristics. For example a buffer used to provide wildlife habitat would need to be wider than a buffer whose main purpose is to filter and remove pollutants from runoff. Site characteristics that can affect buffer sizing are soil type, slope, drainage area, etc. There are, of course, functional, practical and financial



limitations to the buffer width as well. Various studies generally agree that the streamside zone of trees and shrubs should be at least 15 feet wide, while the overall buffer width should be at least 50 feet or 100 feet depending on whether the buffer is used for pollutant removal or wildlife habitat, respectively.

The Wayne County Storm Water Management Regulations recommend a permanent buffer setback for non-farm construction activities of fifty (50) feet and seventy-five (75) feet from intermittent and perennial streams, respectively. The buffers must be recorded for major subdivision work. The Wayne County floodplain regulations prohibit development within 75 feet of a watercourse in the special flood hazard area. Agricultural producers with crop history may be eligible for a cost-share program to establish a stream buffer. In the next newsletter we will go in to more detail on just how stream buffers improve stream habitat and remove sediment and nutrients.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

by John Knapp

Agricultural producers are encouraged to sign up for the EQIP program if they have conservation practices they want to install on their farm. EQIP has been one of the best programs to assist local producers with installing conservation practices on their land.



The program was established to help install practices on cropland, pasture, forest, and headquarter areas. Several initiatives will be offered again this year for organic producers and those interested in installing a seasonal high tunnel to provide produce to the local markets.

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance for a

variety of practices including waste storage facilities, grassed waterways, cover crops, no-till for first time users, spring development, livestock water line and tanks, access lane, stream crossing, heavy use pad, pasture reseeding, grapevine control, control of woody invasives, tree planting, seasonal high tunnels, and more.

Applications for the program are accepted on a continuous basis, however applications are reviewed and ranked for funding annually. As of this writing, work is still being done on the new farm bill but I am anticipating an EQIP signup period ending sometime this winter. Potential applicants should work with the SWCD/NRCS staff now to schedule site visits and develop conservation plans for the practices they want to install next year.

Calendar

- Jan. 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
- Feb. 12 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
- Feb. 22 **Deadline for Tree Sales**

Natural Resources Conservation Service
 John Knapp, District Conservationist
 Jeff Lefever, Civil Engineering Technician
 Ray Rummell, Conservation Specialist

Wayne SWCD Staff
 Sarah Beck, Administrative Assistant
 Mark Duncan, Nutrient Management Specialist
 Steve Grimes, No-Till Specialist
 Rob Kastner, Water Management Engineer
 Adam Liston, District Engineering Technician
 Debbie Pettijohn, Secretary
 Kelly Riley, Education Specialist
 Duane Wood, District Program Administrator

Tree Order Form Inside

SWCD Sponsors Annual Fish Sale



The Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District will begin taking orders for our annual fish sale. The fish will be purchased from Fender's Fish Hatchery in Baltic. The types of fish which are available include fingerling size largemouth bass, channel catfish, white amur, perch, minnow, bluegill, crappie and redear shellcracker. White amur (grass carp) are an excellent alternative to chemical control of weeds in ponds.

Orders for the fish will be taken until **Friday, April 12th**. Pickup date will be **Tuesday, April 16th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds**. Orders must be picked up at the specified time. At the pickup, you will need to bring a container filled with your own pond water, 5 to 10 gallons of water per 100 fish is required. Line the container with a new plastic liner before adding water. The White Amur must be placed in a container with a lid or a liner large enough to be tied at the top. Only 2 Amur to each 5 gallons of water. If you have any questions concerning stocking rates, please contact our office at 330-262-2836. Send order to Wayne SWCD, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691.

Keep this section for reference

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Return this section with payment

	No.	Species	Size	Price	Total
Name _____	_____	Largemouth Bass	2-4"	.85	_____
	_____	Bluegill	2-4"	.70	_____
Address _____	_____	Channel Catfish	4-5"	.75	_____
	_____	White Amur	8-12"	12.00	_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	_____	Perch	2-4"	.75	_____
	_____	Minnow	1-2"	.07	_____
Daytime Phone _____	_____	Redear Shellcracker	2-4"	.85	_____
	_____	Black Crappie	2-4"	.85	_____
Email _____	_____	Total			_____

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Wayne Soil & Water Conservation District

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