



# Conservation Commentary

## January-February-March 2008

Volume 9, Issue 1

Meigs SWCD  
33101 Hiland Rd.  
Pomeroy, Ohio 47569  
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[www.geocities.com/meigsswcd/](http://www.geocities.com/meigsswcd/)

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Leading Creek Watershed  
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### 2008 Stewardship Week Coloring Contest Winners

“Water is Life” was the theme of the 2007-2008 Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Coloring Contest held in December and directed by Meigs Soil and Water Education Coordinator, Jenny Ridenour. The First graders learned that fresh water is in limited supply. We need water everyday for food and other products. The first graders took an imaginary journey with a sponge fish named Frances down a stream. Francis encountered everyday pollution, like trash, soil, car oil, fertilizer, paint, and soapy water. Students could see what all these pollutants did to the water Frances lived in. They learned that the many little things we do as individuals to our water add up to a lot. Water is a valuable natural resource. We need to take care of it. The first graders colored a fish, to remind them of Frances’ adventure.

Come see the colorful fish at the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation Booth at the Meigs County Fair.



Julyan Huffman of Meigs Primary was selected as the overall county champion in the coloring contest received \$10.

A total of \$138 was awarded in the coloring contest. First place winners in each class received \$5 and second place received \$3. Each student in the class received a “Wild Ohio for Kids” magazine and a pencil. Winners in each class were, in order

### **Meigs**

Ashley – Bethany Barrett and Cassie Atkinson  
Kennedy – Travis Painter and Ciera Older  
Hawkins – Kori Neece and Trinity Jones  
Howard – Emmah Buck and Makala Smith  
White – Isaiah Hudson and Lexi Tobin-Doczi  
Ramsburg – Julyan Huffman and Madison Fields  
Gibbs – Megan Pridemore and Alyssa May Goheen  
Lambert – Hailey Marcum and Hayden Putnam

### **Southern**

Rose – Kylee Blanks and Nathan Klein  
Harris – Kaitlyn Taylor and Mallory Johnson  
Guinther – Elizabeth Reitmire and Brayden Cunningham

### **Eastern**

Hill – Allison Barber and Hannah Damewood  
Jones – Anna Pierce and Jasiah Brewer  
White – Quinn Dugan and Alyson Bailey  
Bowen – Aubree Johnson and Andrew Brooks

### **Mid Valley Christian**

Asbeck – McKensie Boso and Hannah Hill

## Water is Life



Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District (Meigs SWCD) encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 27 to May 4, 2008 as Stewardship Week with the theme Water is Life.

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.



What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and environmental health.

The Meigs SWCD conducts three contests to emphasize Stewardship Week. The coloring contest for first graders is a fun way to introduce young minds to the importance of conservation. The fourth grade poster contest demonstrates to students the importance to communicate good environmental decisions to the public. By using brown paper bags donated by TNT Pit Stop and returning the bags with an environmental message on it to TNT Pit Stop to hand out to its customers, student will have a direct impact on the general public. The essay contest for the sixth grade students encourages good communication skills. The students learn to express their concerns and solutions for the future.

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts ([www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nations 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

"Each of us needs to take steps to invest in understanding the importance of water in our everyday life," said NACD President Olin Sims. "Water is not a renewable resource. . Education in your community and schools will benefit all citizens, for years to come as they gain a better appreciation of the importance of water resources. Conservation districts are working with local communities to address water quantity and quality issues in every county in America."

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact Meigs SWCD at 740-992-4282. You can visit [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org) to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.



## Don't miss out on these great opportunities from the Meigs SWCD



### Leading Creek Watershed Group Photo Contest

The Meigs SWCD and the Leading Creek Watershed Group are still accepting entries for their fourth amateur photo contest. This year's theme is "The Streams of Meigs County." The contest is open to Meigs County residents of all ages, but photos must be taken within Meigs County and relate to the theme. There is a limit of two photo submissions per person, and pictures of any format, size, black and white, or color will be accepted. All pictures are welcome, current or historical and will be displayed at the

office, but only three winners will be chosen for the cash prizes. Photos will be judged by a panel of local experts and residents. Send submissions to the Meigs SWCD office by Monday, March 31. The photos can be emailed (raina.fulks@oh.nacdn.net), mailed or hand delivered to the office on 33101 Hiland Rd. Pomeroy.

Winners will be announced at the **Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep**, which will take place on **Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m. at the Jim Vennari Park in Rutland**. The top three photos will also be displayed at the Meigs SWCD booth during the 2008 Meigs County Fair and at the SWCD's 2008 annual banquet.

To obtain the required entry forms and detailed contest rules contact the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282. The SWCD looks forward to seeing your photos of the streams of Meigs County.



### Leading Creek Stream Sweep set for April 19

The 2008 Leading Creek Stream Sweep will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Jim Vennari Park in Rutland. This will be the eighth annual Stream Sweep and is a great opportunity to do something good for the environment, have fun, eat pizza and get a free T-shirt. Individuals or community groups are all invited to participate. Gloves and trash bags are provided. For their service, volunteers will receive a Leading Creek Stream Sweep T-shirt and pizza for lunch. Please register at the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District in Pomeroy at (740) 992-4282.

The Leading Creek Stream Sweep coincides with Earth Day and is sponsored by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, Meigs County Transfer Station and the Leading Creek Conservancy District. In 2007, 35 volunteers of all ages turned out to help clean up the Leading Creek watershed. Volunteers filled two dump trucks, belonging to the Rutland Township Board of Trustees, with trash collected from throughout the watershed, from locations around Albany, Langsville, Rutland, Bradbury and Laurel Cliff.

Tons of trash and debris have been removed from Little Leading Creek and Leading Creek over the past eight years through this litter clean up. The 2008 Meigs SWCD Photo Contest winners will also be announced at the Stream Sweep on April 19.



**Come Join the Fun! You never know what you may find!**



## Educational Teacher's Workshops

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting 2 teacher workshops in April. On **April 8** we will be hosting a **Project Learning Tree** Workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop is free, but participants should bring their own lunch. There is a limit of 9 participants in this workshop, which will be held at the OSU Extension office in Pomeroy. Contact the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282 to register by the deadline, April 1.



Project Learning Tree activities are correlated to the State Science Standards for grades K-12. Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award winning, multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students in Pre-K through grade 12. PLT, a program of the American Forest Foundation, is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT continues to set the standard for environmental education excellence. Participants receive the PLT PreK-8 activity guide and/or the secondary thematic modules (Forest Ecology, Focus on Forests, Solid Waste, Risk, Places We Live) for use with older youth. Project Learning Tree is sponsored in Ohio by the ODNR-Division of Forestry and Project Learning Tree-Ohio.

On **April 9** we will be hosting **Healthy Water Healthy People and Project Wild: Science and Civics** from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a limit of 12 participants. The workshop is free, but participants should bring their own lunch. The workshop will be held at the OSU Extension Office in Pomeroy.



Science and Civics is a new high school curriculum from Project WILD. Brought to Ohio in 2003, hundreds of Ohio high school teachers have learned how to integrate service learning into their science and social studies courses through local habitat improvement projects. Science and Civics is a program designed to involve 9-12 grade students in an environmental action project to benefit the local wildlife and community. The Science and Civics guide is designed to involve young people in decisions affecting people, wildlife, and the habitat they share in their community. This curriculum can help students and teachers effectively meet state science and social studies standards. Activity correlations can be found online on the ODNR-Education Resources page. Science and Civics also helps schools meet state and school district guidelines and/or requirements for service learning. Science and Civics activity guides are available to educators free of charge only by attending a workshop. Any educators, formal and non-formal, are invited to attend these workshops.



Healthy Water, Healthy People (HWHP) - an innovative water quality education program sponsored by Project WET and the Hach Scientific Foundation, offers hands-on activity guides, testing kits, training, and much more. Healthy Water, Healthy People is for anyone interested in learning and teaching about contemporary water quality education topics. HWHP is sponsored in Ohio by the OEPA's Office of Environmental Education.

Participating teachers will receive signed certificates, syllabus, and agenda at the completion of the workshop.



## 2008 Watershed Day Camp

Registration is open for the Leading Creek Watershed Summer Day Camp which will be held June 4 and June 5 at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area near Rutland.

During the free two day camp, students will be given the opportunity to participate in a number of hands-on activities to discover the importance of clean water and explore all the critters that make their home in and around streams.

New stations have been added this year to keep things exciting for returning day-campers. Topics will include: water quality testing station; discovering the bugs in the creek; fish sampling demonstration; seeing the snakes of Ohio; fun nature crafts; nature hikes with tree and plant identification; the important functions of wetlands; historic coal mines and acid mine drainage; wildlife track molds; forest fire prevention; and many more.

The camp will be held from 9:30-5 p.m. each day, with drop off starting at 9 a.m. and pick up ending at 5:30 p.m. The Meigs SWCD Conservation Area is located on New Lima Road between Rutland and Harrisonville.

The camp is geared towards youngsters entering grades five through eight, however this range may be flexible. Students do not have to be from Meigs County; Kids living anywhere can participate.

This camp is sponsored by the Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District. There is no fee for campers, and lunch and snacks will be provided. Campers should wear clothing suitable for rugged outside use, and bring plenty of sunscreen and bug repellent.

Instructors at the camp are staff members of the Meigs SWCD, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Hocking College, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Rural Action, and many others.

To register a child, pick up a form at the Meigs SWCD office at 33101 Hiland Road in Pomeroy or call 740-992-4282. Registration is due by May 19 and will be limited to the first 50 students.



## Calendar of Events

Mar 18	Multi County Envirothon at Hocking State Forest
Mar 20	Leading Creek Improvement Committee meeting 9:45 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
Mar 27	Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
Mar 31	Photo entry deadline-Streams of Meigs County- contact the Meigs SWCD office for details
Apr 8	Project Learning Tree Teacher's Workshop
Apr 9	Healthy Water, Healthy People and Project Wild: Science and Civic Teacher's Workshop
Apr 17	Leading Creek Improvement Committee meeting Location TBA
Apr 19	Leading Creek Stream Sweep and Photo Contest Winner Announcement
Apr 24	Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
Apr 29	Area Five Envirothon at Shawnee State Forest
May 8	Wetland Tour

## Thanks to the Meigs County Commissioners

The Meigs SWCD Board and Staff would like to thank the Meigs County Board of Commissioners for their continued support. Funding for the SWCD begins at the local level where county funds are matched by the state through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

2007 Annual Financial Reports are posted at the Meigs SWCD Office.

In February, the Meigs SWCD purchased a new 8-foot-wide Brillion grass seeder.

The seeder replaces an older Brillion seeder that was 10-foot-wide and required a special implement trailer for hauling. The 8-foot-wide seeder can be pulled by a smaller tractor than the old seeder, meaning people with smaller tractors will be able to use it as well.

The Brillion seeder is designed for conventional tillage plantings of grasses, clover and alfalfa like those used in hayfields, pastures or large yards or fields. Seeds are precisely metered and placed at the correct depth for optimum germination.

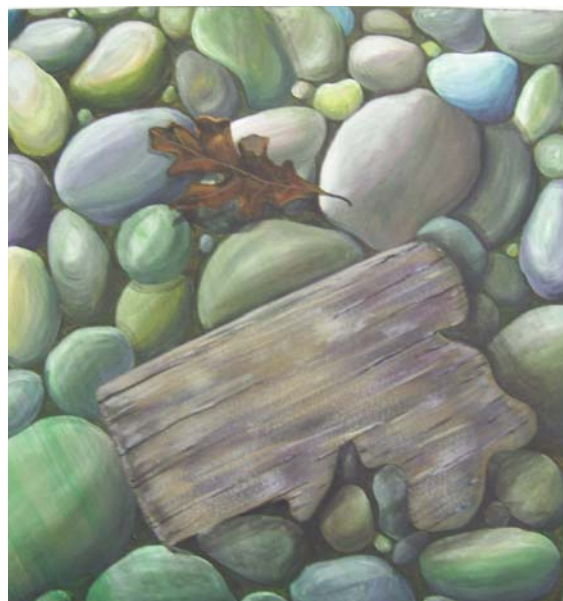
It is not for planting soybeans or large grasses like wheat or oats.

The district also has two 10-foot-wide John Deere no-till grain drills, a 7-foot-wide Tye no-till drill, a tree planter and two lime spreaders.

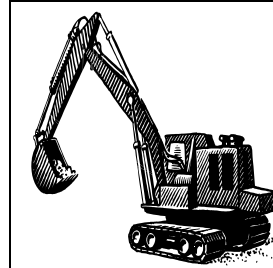


The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank Sarah Carleton, for her talent and time. Sarah created this painting which will be displayed at the State ODNR office in Columbus and the Ohio State Fair.

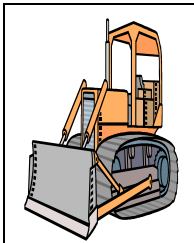
We are very grateful to Sarah for her incredible talent and time in developing this painting.



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### SWCD Equipment for Rent, Sale

The following items are available for sale:

Platbooks	\$15 each
Meigs SWCD caps	\$6 each
Marking Flags	\$.08 each
Topographical Maps	\$8 each
Ohio Pond Management Handbooks	\$2.25 each
Digital Soil Survey CD	\$10 each

The following equipment is available for rent (subject to scheduling and availability):

John Deere No-Till Drill	\$48 min. plus \$8/acre over 6 acres	70 HP tractor min
Tye No-Till Drill	\$36 min. plus \$6/acres over 6 acres	45 HP tractor min
Brillion Seeder	\$30 min. plus \$6/acre over 5 acres	45 HP tractor min
Lime Spreader	\$25 min. plus \$1/ton over 25 ton	60 HP tractor min
Forester Tree Planter	\$25 per day	25 HP tractor min
Planter Bars	Free with a \$20 returnable deposit	
Box Trap	Free with a \$30 returnable deposit	

All equipment must be scheduled through the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282 during regular business hours for delivery Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4: 30 p.m. A \$20 fee will be assessed if equipment is delivered and not used. **A \$10 charge per month will be added to all unpaid bills after 60 days.**

The Mission of Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance for the wise use of our natural resources for present and future generations.



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