



CONSERVATION COMMENTARY

*“Spring is nature’s way
of saying ‘Let’s party!’”
- Robin Williams*

Meigs Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume X, Issue 1

January-March 2009

**Meigs Soil and Water
Conservation District**
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy OH 45769

Est. 1943

www.geocities.com/meigswcd/

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Meigs SWCD and Middleport join in forming water trail

The Meigs SWCD and Village of Middleport are joining forces in the creation of a “water trail” that will utilize the old Leading Creek marina located on Page Street behind Overbrook Center.

In January, the village and the SWCD agreed to utilize the mostly neglected marina as a water trail that will highlight recreational opportunities on Leading Creek, and further enhance planned walking trails in the Village of Middleport.

The SWCD recently secured funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service that will be used to purchase signs with directions to the water trail and rules and tips for use.

Rules and tips include: canoe or kayak at your own risk; landing open sunrise to sunset; no overnight camping, parking or open fires; no littering; always wear a personal flotation device and respect landowners adjoining Leading Creek by not trespassing.

Kayakers and canoeists will have to bring their own watercraft.

When the walking path is completed, and you get to the end of the walking path, the adventure doesn’t have to end there. If you have a canoe or a kayak you can continue your exploration on the water.

A dedication for the water trail will be held later this spring at a date to be determined.



Signs like this will be going up in Middleport this spring pointing the way to the new Leading Creek Water Trail which is geared toward recreational canoeists and kayakers.

Bringing Back Wetlands

If you own land that you think might be suitable for creating a wetland, the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) may be for you. Ohio has lost over 90 percent of its original wetlands since the 1800s, much of it drained for use in agricultural production. Wetlands provide critical habitat for wildlife and serve many important environmental functions, such as filtering sediment and slowing floodwaters. They also provide abundant recreational opportunities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service can determine if your land would be suitable for the development of a wetland area, and can provide up to 100 percent of the cost of restoration through WRP. Thirty-year or permanent easements can also be purchased by NRCS.

Eligible lands include farmed wetlands, prior converted cropland, farmed wetland pasture, farmland that floods from rivers, farmland with somewhat poorly drained soils, and current or abandoned cropland with tile lines, drainage ditches, dikes, or similar alterations. The landowner retains ownership of the land and controls access to the wetland.

To learn more about wetlands and WRP, contact *Jason Crislip Pomeroy Service Center 992-6647*.



USDA’s nondiscrimination statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

Support our affiliate members!



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Interested in being a Meigs SWCD affiliate member? Do you want your business listed on this page? If so, contact the Meigs SWCD at (740) 992-4282.

2009 Meigs SWCD Fish Sale now underway



The Meigs SWCD is accepting orders for its 2009 fish sale. The Meigs SWCD is holding this sale to assist landowners in stocking new ponds or to replenish fish in existing ponds.

To order, complete the order form below and return it with payment to the Meigs SWCD office at 33101 Hiland Road, Pomeroy, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

The fish will be delivered to the Meigs SWCD office at **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. You must pick up your orders at this time as we have no way of storing your fish!** You will also need to bring containers with some of your pond water in them when picking up your fish.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 992-4282.

Recommended stocking rates for new or renovated ponds

Stocking combination	Number of fish per surface acre			
	Bass	Bluegill	Redear	Catfish
Bass-bluegill	100	500		
Bass-bluegill-catfish	100	500		100
Bass-redear	100		500	
Bass-bluegill-redear-catfish	100	350	150	100

GET A POND MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK!

The Ohio Pond Management Book is a 53-page, color guide for managing ponds for fishing and attracting wildlife. Chapters include pond construction, stocking, management practices for fishing, managing aquatic vegetation, fish health, pond problems and solutions, wildlife habitat enhancement.

Cost of the handbook is \$2.25. For your convenience it can be ordered along with your fish on the order form below, or you can buy one at the office any workday.

2009 Meigs SWCD Fish Sale Order Form

_____ 2-4" Bluegill @ \$.70 each	\$ _____
_____ 2-4" Largemouth Bass @ \$.80 each	\$ _____
_____ 2-4" Redear Sunfish @ \$.85 each	\$ _____
_____ 4-6" Channel Catfish @ \$.75 each	\$ _____
_____ 2-4" Yellow Perch @ \$.70 each	\$ _____
_____ 1-2" Minnows @ \$.05 each	\$ _____
_____ 9-12" White Amur @ \$12.00 each	\$ _____
_____ Pond Management Handbook \$2.25 each	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____

Return to:
Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy OH 45769



Return form by 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 1

Education Corner



FIRST GRADE COLORING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

“Dig it! Secrets of Soil” was the theme of the 2009 Meigs Soil and Water Conservation Coloring Contest held in February and directed by Meigs Soil and Water Education Coordinator, Jenny Ridenour.

Landon Acree of Meigs Primary was selected as the overall county coloring contest champion and he received \$10.

A total of \$130 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 – Taheara Games and Steven Parsons

Kennedy – Landon Acree and Cassandra Coleman

Hawkins – Savannah Zeigler and Alexandra Campbell

Howard – Cameron Burnem and Ashley Walker

Brauer – Maddison Pethel and Jakob Kennedy

Ramsburg – Kira Schaler and Maci Hood-Harris

Olivia Wyatt and Danielle Wilson

Southern

Rose – Savannah Mills and Hannah Holman

Harris – Kassie Barton and Parker Corbitt-Guinther

Jacob Monn and Saelym Davis

Eastern

Hill – Gus Kennedy and Gabrielle Beeler

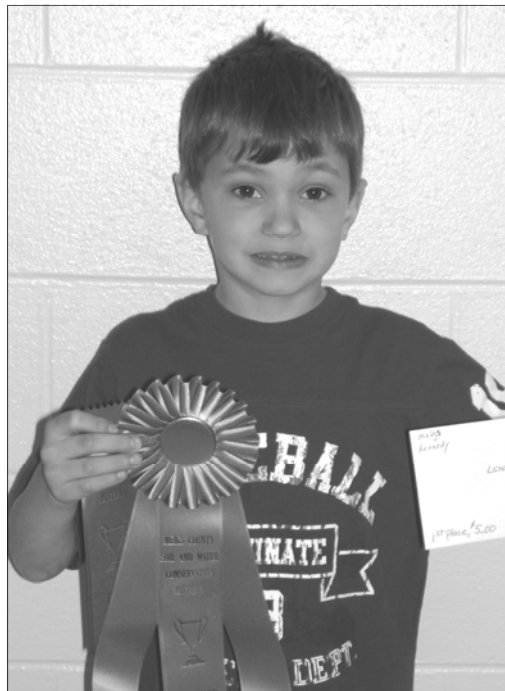
Jones – Nicole Putman and Alison Carleton

White – Primo Averion and Haley Burton

Bowen – Faith Bauerbach and Rajessah Creeger

Mid Valley Christian

Asbeck – Aubree Lyons and Cody Jones



LANDON ACREE



SWCD staff completes Passport to Fishing training

Meigs SWCD Education Coordinator Jenny Ridenour and Wildlife Specialist Jim Freeman recently completed Passport to Fishing training held at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Wildlife District office in Athens.

Passport to Fishing is a one-day instructor training program that qualifies individuals to become Division of Wildlife certified fishing instructors, similar to a hunter education instructor.

Passport to Fishing is a quick and easy program intended to be used with half-day and whole-day fishing events.

Fishing fundamentals are taught including casting, knots and rigging, habitat and handling fish. It is tailored so that instructors, even without much knowledge of aquatic education, can teach young people how to fish.

Members of outdoor clubs and organizations can also complete the training to enhance fishing derbies and other activities.

Passport is geared towards youth ages 4 – 17, and is promoted as an easy way to learn the basics of angling, get kids outdoors and on the road to a lifetime of recreational activity. Children who complete the one-hour program will receive a fishing rod and reel and tackle.

Passport to Fishing was developed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and adopted by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

The Meigs SWCD will focus on second-graders in its Passport to Fishing programs with the goal of giving every second grader in the county a fishing rod and reel.

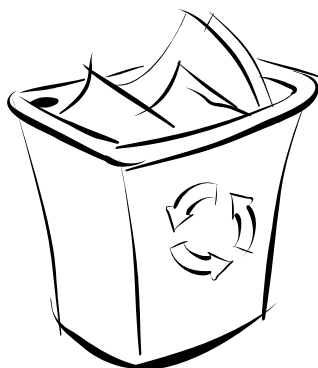
Meigs SWCD participating in recycling program

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District recently started recycling office paper, magazine, catalog and newspaper under a program through the Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Vinton Solid Waste District.

Businesses and schools can participate in the program, and the Meigs County Courthouse, other county offices, Eastern and Southern local schools and Mid-Valley Christian School are also recycling.

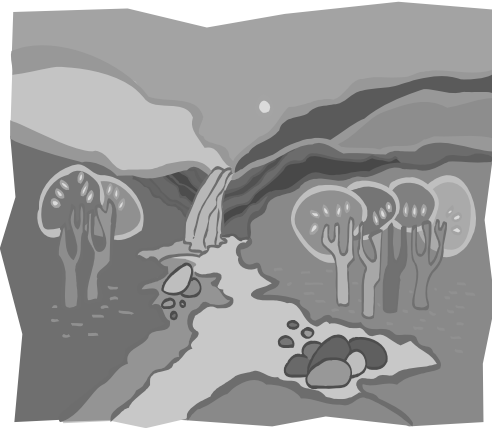
The district currently recycles aluminum cans, plastic bottles, office paper, newspaper, catalogs and magazines.

For more information about the recycling program or if your business would be interested in recycling, contact Meigs SWCD Education Coordinator Jenny Ridenour.



Join us at Watershed Day Camp June 3-4

RUTLAND—The annual Leading Creek Watershed Day Camp will be held at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area from June 3 and 4.



During these two days, students can 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. All activities at Leading Creek Watershed Camp are designed to engage students in learning while having fun!

Topics and activities include water quality testing, discovering the critters in a creek, fish sampling, snakes and birds, fun nature crafts, wildlife identification and exploration, nature hikes with tree and plant identification, wetlands and many more. Instructors are staff members from the Meigs SWCD and from many other agencies.

Camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with drop-off time from 9-9:30 a.m. and pick-up time at 5 p.m.

The Meigs SWCD Conservation Area is located along New Lima Road between Rutland and Harrisonville.

Lessons at Watershed Camp are prepared for students entering 5th through 8th grade. However if your child is interested, but not in this age group, please contact

the Meigs SWCD office.

Watershed Camp is free! There is no fee for campers to attend.

Lunch and one snack per day will be provided for each camper. Sunscreen and bug repellent should be applied before campers arrive at camp.

For your child to be registered for watershed camp, we must receive a completed registration form by May 15. Registration is limited to the first 50 applicants.

After registering, you will receive a packet of information. If you would like details before registering, or have questions, call the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282 and ask for Jenny or Raina.

Ninth annual Stream Sweep set for April 18

RUTLAND – The ninth annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep will be held Saturday, April 18 at Jim Vennari Park in Rutland.

Community groups and individuals who wish to participate in the event can contact the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District at 992-4282. The first 100 registered participants will receive a Leading Creek Stream Sweep T-shirt and lunch will be served afterwards. Gloves and trash bags are provided.

The Leading Creek Stream Sweep is an excellent opportunity for Scouts, 4-H groups and other groups to get involved in community projects. Plus, it's close to home and helps make a difference in our local community

The event is sponsored by the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, the Meigs County Transfer Station and Stewart-Johnson Post 9926 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Early registration is strongly encouraged, although participants may show up the day of the event.



This year's stream sweep T-shirt says "Property of Leading Creek Stream Sweep" on the front with the Roman numeral IX and has the numbers 09 on back. The first 100 people registered for the Leading Creek Stream Sweep will receive T-shirts.

NRCS assistance available to private forest owners


The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering assistance to landowners on several forest management practices this year. The program that USDA NRCS uses to offer these incentives is the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The first step in becoming eligible for the program is to have a forest stewardship plan developed by a forester. Once the stewardship plan is completed you may utilize the EQIP forestry program to implement the practices outlined in your management plan. Eligible practices include crop tree release, grape vine control, and control of woody invasive species. If you are interested in the development of a forest stewardship plan or would like more information on EQIP, please contact Jason Crislip 740-992-6647.

Please Support Our Sponsors and Your Neighbors!

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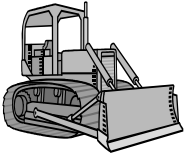
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 Langsville OH 45741



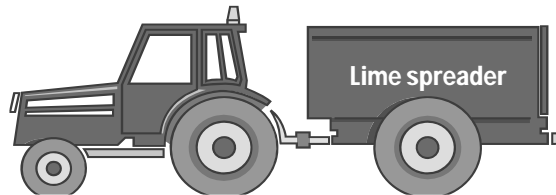
740-669-4836

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SWCD equipment for sale, rent

The following items are available for sale:

- Meigs SWCD caps — \$6 each
- Marking Flags — \$.08 each
- Topographical Maps — \$8 each
- Meigs County Platbooks — \$15.00
- Ohio Pond Management Handbooks — \$2.25
- Digital Soil Survey CD—\$10 each



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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| John Deere No-Till Drill (10-foot) | \$80 min. plus \$8/acre over 10 acres | 70 HP tractor min. |
| Tye No-Till Drill (7 foot) | \$70 min. plus \$7/acre over 10 acres | 45 HP tractor min. |
| Brillion Seeder (8-foot) | \$70 min. plus \$7/acre over 10 acres | 40 HP tractor min. |
| Lime Spreader | \$25 min. plus \$1/ton over 25 tons | 60 HP tractor min. |
| Forester Tree Planter | \$25 per day | 25 HP tractor min. |
| Planter Bars | Free with \$20 returnable deposit | |
| Box Trap | Free with \$30 returnable deposit | |

**A \$100 delivery/
 pickup fee will be as-
 sessed for equipment
 rentals outside of the
 county.**

*All equipment must be scheduled through the Meigs SWCD office at 992-4282 during regular business hours for delivery Mon-
 day through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 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 bills after 60 days.*

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Pomeroy OH 45769
Permit #101
Non-Profit

Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy OH 45769



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Meigs SWCD Calendar of Events

- April 18—Leading Creek Stream Sweep
- April 23—Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors' Regular Meeting
- April 28—Area V Envirothon, Limited Staff
- May 7—Meigs SWCD Fish Sale (Order Deadline May 1)
- May 25—Memorial Day, Office Closed
- May 28—Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors' Regular Meeting
- June 25—Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors' Regular Meeting



For more information visit
us at [www.geocities.com/
meigsswcd](http://www.geocities.com/meigsswcd)

Regular meetings of the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors are generally held at 11:30 a.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at the SWCD office, 33101 Hiland Road, Pomeroy. Dates and times are subject to change.