



Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Rd.
Pomeroy, Ohio 47569
Phone: 740-992-4282

www.geocities.com/meigsswcd/

Supervisors

Ed Gibbs
Chairman

Tonja Hunter
Vice Chairman

Joe Bolin
Fiscal Agent

Bill Baer
Secretary/Treasurer

Marco Jeffers
Member

District Staff

Steve Jenkins
Administrator/District Technician

Vicki Morrow
Assistant Administrator

Jim Freeman
Wildlife/Watershed Coordinator

Jenny Ridenour
Education Coordinator/District
Technician

Raina Fulks
Leading Creek Watershed
Coordinator

NRCS

Mary Ann Hawk
District Conservationist

Jason Crislip
Soil Conservationist

County Commissioners

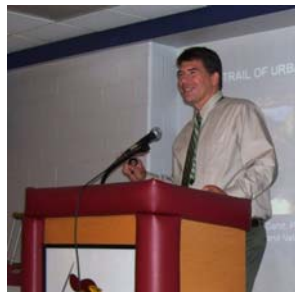
Mike Davenport
James Sheets
Jeff Thornton

Conservation Commentary

July, August, September 2008

Volume 8, Issue 3

“The coyote is a living, breathing allegory of Want. He is always hungry. He is always poor, out of luck and friendless... He is so spiritless and cowardly that even while his exposed teeth are pretending a threat, the rest of his face is apologizing for it.”



Stan Gerht, associate professor of environmental and natural resources at Ohio State University, used that quote from famed American writer Mark Twain to demonstrate some of the persistent negative attitudes humans have toward coyotes. Since March, 2000, he has conducted an extensive, ongoing study of coyotes in the metropolitan Chicago area.

Gerht was the featured speaker September 23, at the annual banquet and meeting of the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District. Over 150 people attended the banquet which was held at Meigs High School.

Gerht stressed he was neither supporting coyotes nor persecuting them, adding that his purpose was to share some of what he had learned about the animals over his years of study.

The coyote, Gerht explained, was originally found in the prairies and plains of the western and southwestern United States. However, deforestation and the elimination of competing carnivores have allowed coyotes to spread throughout almost the entire country. Coyotes were first observed in Ohio in 1919, and started becoming more visible starting in the 1970s, he said.

Coyotes are unique in that no other species of carnivore has doubled its range, adding that most of this expansion took place in the mid 1900’s during a time of great predator control.

“They can handle anything we throw at them,” he said.

While largely considered a rural species, coyotes are living in Chicago along with 9 million people, adding that since 2000 he has captured, tagged and studied more than 300 coyotes in Chicago.

The coyote is a member of the dog family and can even breed with dogs, although actual “coydogs” are very rare. “Coyotes have standards; they aren’t interested in our dogs,” he joked, adding that in his studies he has yet to encounter a “coydog.”

Genetic testing shows that coyotes are monogamous and mate for life, unless separated by death. In almost 10 years of study we have had no “divorces,” although we’ve had a lot of widows and



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.

widowers, Gerht remarked.

Although rodents are their main source of food, coyotes serve as a biological control on urban geese, occasionally raiding nests for eggs or killing geese that attempt to protect their nests.

“The coyote is neither good nor bad, it simply is what it is,” he said.

David Hanselmann, chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Soil and Water Conservation, spoke briefly and commended the Meigs SWCD for maintaining a strong conservation district.

He remarked that the district is now in its 65th year, making it one of the oldest districts in the state, and commended members of the board of supervisors for their volunteer service.

The programs administered through the Soil and Water Conservation District are important to your economy in southeastern Ohio, he said.

Jason Crislip, soil conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Chris Smalley, representing Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, recognized two outstanding cooperators of the year, Keith Bentz of Racine (Lee Farm) and Adam Woirol of Dexter (Dexter Run Farms).

“Over the last year both cooperators have worked very hard installing conservation practices on their farms.” Crislip said. Keith Bentz has installed: 1,081 feet of access road, four water facilities, 5,050 feet of fence, 1,200 feet of pipeline, and a concrete heavy use pad. Adam Woirol has installed: 8,400 feet of fence, a heavy use pad, a 400- gallon round stock tank, a 100- gallon bank tank, a rock stream crossing and 500 feet of water line. Woirol also had a WHIP (Wild Habitat Incentive Program) contract which included a 5-acre tree planting.

“These families demonstrate a real enthusiasm for conservation and a deep respect for the land. Their work ethic is very impressive, and it is reflected in the care of their farms. They have done an excellent job implementing conservation on their farm, and we appreciate their hard work.”

Both families received outstanding cooperator signs that were presented by Smalley. They also received gift certificates to Bob Evans and a Meigs SWCD cap from the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District.

Smalley also presented a \$1,000 donation from Farm Credit Services of Mid-America to Ed Gibbs, for the Meigs SWCD to be used for educational programs at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.



Meigs SWCD Supervisors
Bill Baer, Marco Jeffers, Tonja Hunter, Joe Bolin, and Ed Gibbs.

Tonja Hunter and Ed Gibbs, both of Racine, were re-elected to the Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors to serve terms commencing Jan. 1, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2011. James Birchfield, Rutland, was the third candidate.

Jim Freeman, Meigs SWCD wildlife specialist, gave a brief update on activities at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area during the past year.

Top teams and individuals in this year’s Soil Judging Contest for Vocational Agriculture students were recognized with individuals receiving cash prizes and teams receiving trophies. Meigs County teams from Meigs and Southern high schools participated in the

event which was held at the Curt Cline Farm in Albany in Athens County. High-scoring individuals in the Agricultural Soil Judging contest were, from first to third: Shawn Bare, Meigs; Russell Scarbury, Meigs; Olivia Searls, Southern.

The top-scoring Agricultural Soil Judging Team was from Meigs High School and included Shawn Bare, Russell Scarberry, Tiffany Lee and Lacey Arms.

High-scoring individuals in the Urban Soil Judging contest were, from first to third: Dax Holman, Southern; Jacob Lambert, Meigs; Dustyn Johnson, Southern. The top-scoring Urban Soil Judging team was from Southern High School and included Dax Holman, Dustyn Johnson, Ryan Lee Beegle and Ryan Lain Beegle.

URBAN SOIL JUDGING TEAM – This team from Southern High School was recognized for the county’s top Urban Soil Judging team at the District Soil Judging Competition held earlier this month in Athens County. Shown are, from left: seated, Dax Holman and Dustyn Johnson; standing, Meigs SWCD education coordinator Jenny Ridenour, Ryan Lain Beegle, Ryan Lee Beegle, and Southern FFA teacher Rashel Yates.



RURAL SOIL JUDGING TEAM – This team from Meigs High School was recognized for the county’s top Rural Soil Judging team at the District Soil Judging Competition held earlier this month in Athens County. Shown are, from left: Meigs FFA teacher Ron Vlasik, Lacey Arms, Shawn Bare, Tiffany Lee, Russell Scarberry, and Meigs SWCD education coordinator Jenny Ridenour

A plaque was presented to Roy Holter, winner in all three classes at the Meigs County Fair Hay Show. His wife, Pat Holter, took second place in all three classes.



OUTSTANDING COOPERATORS - Keith Bentz of Racine (Lee Farm) and Adam Woirol of Dexter (Dexter Run Farms) were recognized as the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District's Outstanding Cooperators for 2008. They were presented with signs, donated by Farm Credit Services of Mid-America to display at their respective farms. Shown are: Meigs SWCD Board of Supervisors, Chris Smalley, representing Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, Bentz and Woirol and Jason Crislip, NRCS.



The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and its Supervisors would like to thank these individuals and businesses for generous donations to the Annual Meeting and Banquet:

AB&T Auto, Racine
 Anderson's Furniture, Pomeroy
 Baum Lumber, Chester
 Bumper to Bumper, Pomeroy
 Carmichael Equipment/Trailers, Gallipolis
 Congressman Charlie Wilson
 Darrell Norris & Son Greenhouses, Racine
 Depoys Ag Parts, Coolville
 Dettwiller True Value Lumber, Pomeroy
 Ed's Greenhouses, Rutland
 Farmers Bank, Pomeroy
 Fox's Pizza Den, Rutland
 Hill's Sunoco, Racine
 Home National Bank, Racine
 Janet Bolin, Past President North Central NACD Auxiliary
 Jeffers Dairy, Albany

Karr Contracting, Pomeroy
 Karr Farms, Pomeroy
 King Ace Hardware, Middleport
 Kinsale Corporation, Pomeroy
 Krider's Kountry Kitchen, Portland
 Meigs County Farm Bureau, Pomeroy
 Meigs SWCD, Pomeroy
 Millie's Restaurant, Pomeroy
 Mitch's Greenhouse, Middleport
 NAPA Auto Parts, Middleport
 People's Bank, Pomeroy
 Peggy Yost, Candidate Meigs Co.
 Treasurer
 Star Supply, Racine
 Swisher & Lohse, Pomeroy
 Valley Lumber & Supply, Middleport
 Wagner Hardware, Racine

Order forms for the Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Seedling and Groundcover Sale will be available in January. Contact the Meigs SWCD office at (740) 992-4282 for information. Orders are accepted until early March and will be received in mid-April—in time for Spring planting.



Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District announces winners of our Mystery Farm Contest held during the Meigs County Fair.

Winners of the Mystery Farm contest receive \$10 each. There were 23 entries throughout the week. The daily winners of the Mystery Farm Contest along with the farm they identified are, as follows:

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Winner</u> |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Monday | Amos Farm | June Ridenour |
| Tuesday | Martin Farm | No Winner |
| Wednesday | Buckley Farm | Timmy Sands |
| Thursday | Gaston Farm | Bradley Cheadle |
| Friday | Henderson Farm | Jessica Amos |
| Saturday | Frank Farm | Tammy Chapman |



Monday-Amos Farm

Tuesday-Martin Farm

Wednesday-Buckley Farm

Thursday-Gaston Farm



Friday-Henderson Farm

Saturday-Frank Farm

Rust ruins more tools than overuse does.

If the grass looks greener on the other side-Fertilize.

Have a farm or know a farm you would like us to use as a Mystery Farm, contact the Meigs SWCD weekdays at 992-4282

Calendar of Events

- Oct 13 Office Closed – Columbus Day
- Oct 23 Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
- Nov 11 Office Closed- Veterans Day
- Nov 15 American Recycles Day
- Nov 20 Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
- Nov 27 Office Closed- Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 4 Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office
- Dec 24 Limited Staff
- Dec 25 Office Closed-Christmas
- Dec 26-31 Limited Staff
- Jan 1 Office Closed- New Years Day
- Jan 19 Office Closed-Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 29 Supervisor Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Meigs SWCD office

Mission Statement 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.

Clean Ohio on Ohio Ballot

Clean Ohio is a renewal of a bond program designed to improve the quality of life for all Ohioans by preserving natural areas and farmland, protecting waterways and redeveloping urban areas to foster economic growth. The issue has bipartisan support. Renewing Clean Ohio will NOT raise taxes. State bonds will be sold to investors and repaid with existing state revenue. The funding will be used for revitalization and conservation initiatives. Local governments and other public agencies and non-profit organizations will be eligible to apply for program dollars. Polluters will NOT be eligible for Clean Ohio funds and still will be held liable for damages they create. The state EPA will be able to hold polluters accountable. The Clean Ohio program will be listed as **Issue 2** on the Ohio ballot at the November 4, 2008 general election.

Who Benefits from Clean Ohio

Every citizen in Ohio will benefit from the Clean Ohio Fund. By continuing to rid our state of polluted industrial sites we can stimulate economic development in urban areas, create jobs and encourage investment. The Clean Ohio Fund has enabled the assessment, clean up and revitalization of 173 abandoned and polluted industrial sites since the program began in 2000, leveraging private investment to re-developed sites resulting in over 14,750 new jobs and nearly \$2.6 billion in private investment. The Clean Ohio Fund has also provided for the protection of 26,000 acres of natural areas, 20,000 acres of prime farmland and 216 miles of recreational trails. Renewal of Clean Ohio will enable state and local governments to be eligible for matching federal funds as well as other public and private funds, which may be used to clean up and protect the environment. More information on Issue 2, the continuation of Clean Ohio is available at the web site...www.CleanOhio.org

Conservation Area Update

The past year has been a busy one at the 174-acre Meigs SWCD Conservation Area with the planting of warm-season grass plots and a native prairie.

The five small warm-season grass plots were separately tilled and broadcast seeded into individual plots of big bluestem, little bluestem, gamma grass, Indian grass and switch grass. The purpose of these plots is to allow producers or anyone else to see the different varieties of native, warm-season grasses.

Most of the common grass varieties are cool-season grasses, which grow best in spring and fall, and are were mostly introduced from Europe or Asia.

Warm-season grasses are generally native to North America, experience peak growth during late spring and summer, and are often very tolerant to drought.

In addition to the five plots is a single 2-acre planting of a native grass and wildflower prairie. The "prairie" is located between the wetland and New Lima Road. The planting consisted of six grass and 15 wildflower species. The mixture was donated by Ohio Pheasants Forever. This mixture was planted using Athens County's no-till drill which is specially made for planting warm-season grass seeds, which are differentiated from most cool-season grass seeds by a "fluffy" seed coat.

Warm-season grass and prairie seedings can take up to several years to show visible results, but species like Big Bluestem, Partridge Pea, Yellow Coneflower and Switchgrass are already visible.



The island at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area wetland in full late-summer bloom

Buckeye Hill RC&D Tour of Meigs SWCD Conservation Area

The August meeting of the Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council took place on August 21st and included a tour of the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area.

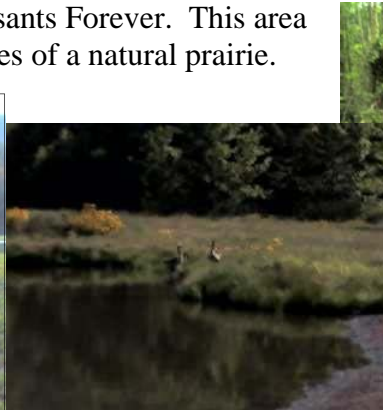
The Buckeye Hills RC&D is a nonprofit organization that works in southeast Ohio and includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, and Washington Counties. Their mission is to enhance the quality of the environment and improve the economy of the area through conservation development of the total resources of the area. The RC&D goals are directed toward utilizing local citizens and resources to accomplish identified problems and concerns.

Participants met at the Wild Horse Café in Pomeroy where the meeting and dinner was held. After dinner a tour took place at the Meigs SWCD Conservation Area near Rutland. There guests from Wayne National Forest spoke about current projects in the Forest. Then Meigs SWCD staff led the tour featuring Little Leading Creek, the 2.2 acre wetland, and future plans at the Conservation Area.

A portion of the tour highlighted a project that was funded by the Buckeye Hills RC&D Endowment Fund. This grant provided enhancement and signage to the parking area and the existing 1.5-mile Pauline H. Atkins Memorial Nature Trail.

Along the trail Bob First, Buckeye Hills RC&D Coordinator, talked about the areas planted with experimental native and blight-resistant American chestnut trees. These trees are monitored for any signs of the chestnut blight, a fungus from Asia, that once decimated the American Chestnut tree population. First arranged for the trees to be sent to Meigs SWCD.

Near the wetland a demonstration area has been planted with native prairie grasses and wildflowers donated by Pheasants Forever. This area is managed to mimic the cycles of a natural prairie.



Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) are pleased to announce “Dig it” as the theme for the 2009 Stewardship program. The program will cover soil as a precious resource. Almost all of the minerals and nutrients we need for life, to nurture us, to help us grow, to give us energy and keep us healthy come from fields, gardens, trees and pastures. Stewardship Week will be celebrated April 26 to May 3, 2009. The Meigs SWCD office will be conducting a first grade coloring contest, a fourth grade poster contest and a sixth grade essay contest using this theme.

2008 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Please support our sponsors.

Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Meigs SWCD/NRCS

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Cross & Sons New Holland and Brush Hog & Woods Dealer 10248 Chillicothe Pike Jackson, OH 45640 1-740-286-6451</p> |  American Municipal Power, Ohio, Inc. American Municipal Power-Ohio, Inc. 2600 Airport Drive Columbus, OH 43219 |
|   10248 Chillicothe Pike Jackson, OH 45640 1-740-286-6451 |  Home National Bank 949-2210 Racine 992-8333 Syracuse |
|  3-R Industries, Inc., 27938 Tower Rd. Langsville, Ohio 45741 Phone: 740-669-4836 | Birchfield Funeral Home 212 Main St. P.O. Box 188 Rutland, OH 45775 740-742-2333  |
|  Consolidation Coal Company Southern Ohio Coal Co. P.O. Box 98 Cumberland, OH 43732 Phone: 740-558-7225  | Insurance Plus Agencies Inc. 114 Court Street Pomeroy, OH 45769 740-992-6677 insplus@frognet.net www.insurance-plus.com  |
| Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative 4848 State Route 325 South P.O. Box 200 Rio Grande, OH 45674 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   | King Builders Supply, Inc. Meigs County Farm Bureau Margie J. Lawson, D.D.S., Inc Little, Sheets, & Warner, LLP, Attorneys at Law The Vaughan Agency, LLC Middleport Pomeroy Racine Pomeroy Pomeroy |
| Ohio Valley Bank 420 Third Avenue P.O. Box 240 Gallipolis, OH 45631 740-446-2631 1-800-468-6682  | Mark Porter GM Super Center Pomeroy Middleport Trophies & Tees Middleport Montgomery Trailer Sales Langsville Peoples Bank Middleport-Pomeroy-Rutland R & S Quality Replacement Auto Body Parts Harrisonville Racine Optometric Clinic Racine Roses' Excavating, Inc Racine Quality Print Shop Middleport |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Crow & Crow, Attorneys at Law Pomeroy Depoys Ag Parts Coolville H & R Block Pomeroy Home Creek Enterprises Pomeroy Hunter Family Practice Racine J.D. Drilling Company Racine Jack's Septic Service Pomeroy Leading Creek Conservancy District Rutland</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|---|

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 | \$80 min. plus \$8/acre over 10 acres | 70 HP tractor min |
| Tye No-Till Drill | \$70 min. plus \$7/acres over 10acres | 45 HP tractor min |
| Brillion Seeder | \$70 min. plus \$7/acre over 10acres | 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. A \$100 delivery/pickup fee will be assessed for equipment rentals out of the county.**

The Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District has equipment available to help with your reseeding, planting, and planning projects.



Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy, OH 45769

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