

CONSERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of
the Defiance
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Fall 2014

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Defiance
419-782-1794
Soil & Water Conservation District

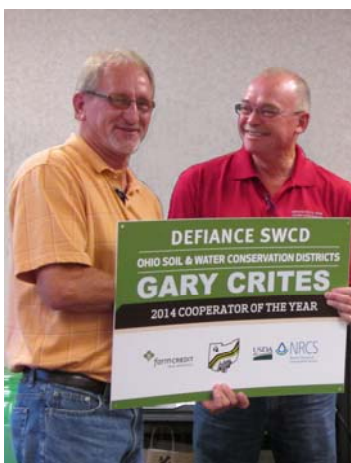
District Hosts Open House

This year, our typical Annual Meeting Banquet was replaced by an Open House. We really changed things up with free attendance, day of the week, location, time, entertainment, and a different type of meal.

The District celebrated our 65 years of providing conservation services to Defiance County on Wednesday, September 10th with approximately 200 in attendance throughout the (stormy) day at the Evergreen Lane Office Complex on Evansport Road.

This event started at 2:00 p.m. and lasted until 7:00 p.m. Our guests were welcomed by Board and staff members and were able to view displays, eat a meal, and chat with friends, neighbors, and new acquaintances. We had planned to hold most of the activities outside under a tent, but with the horrendous downpour, we were able to shift everything inside, utilizing the hallway for some of the activities.

Those in attendance were treated to freshly grilled sausage patties (use of grill courtesy of Fairview Young Farmers) and delicious soft-serve ice cream. Joe Blosser allowed the District to display his many wildlife mounts, pelts, and skulls (wolf, albino raccoon, black bear, etc.). Adults and children were simply amazed by his collection. Children also participated in a tractor pull sponsored by the Tinora Young Farmers.



Gary Crites receiving the 2014 Cooperator of the Year. Presented by Bill Moats.

The Open House concluded with the election of Supervisors and an awards ceremony. Gary Crites was recognized as the 2014 Cooperator of the Year. Gary farms approximately 1,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat and is actively participating in NRCS's EQIP program. Through EQIP, Gary utilizes cover crops, crop rotation, mulch till and VRT nutrient management.

Gary has also installed a secondary ag containment facility to protect surface waters from potential fertilizer spills. He has been quite active with the CRP program as well. He has 9.6 acres of quail buffer strips, 29.8 acres of filter strips, and 2.7 acres of grassed waterways.

Thanks to all that braved the stormy weather to attend the Open House. We look forward to working with you throughout the coming year and encourage you to help us protect the land and water of Defiance County!



Tom Beck & Jason Roehrig receiving a proclamation recognizing our 65th Anniversary from Rep. Tony Burkley.

Supervisors Elected

The District Open House was also a time for Defiance County residents to vote for two seats on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. A grateful thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve.

Bill Moats will continue to serve and Jeff Hange will begin as a new Supervisor in 2015. Both supervisors will be serving 3-year terms.



Retirement Open House for Joyce & Mick

There will be 69 years of experience walking out the door of the Defiance Farm Service Agency (FSA) on December 31, 2014. Joyce Cavanaugh and Michele (Mick) Speiser will be starting a new chapter of their lives ... retirement.

Joyce began her career of service to the agriculture community in 1977 working for FSA and Federal Crop Insurance until it was privatized. She then accepted a full-time position with FSA in 1980 as a Program Technician. She was selected as County Executive Director (CED) for Defiance County in 1988 which many remember as the year of the drought. Joyce has seen farmers through 7 different farm bills and she believes the newest Farm Bill of 2014 will most likely be the most challenging for the farmer. Mick's first day with FSA was on January 31, 1983, the first day of PIK sign-up. She had worked part-time at Sherwood Landmark when she was asked if she wanted a full-time job. She was told "you won't have to work the counter with the farmers" but "working the counter" has been one of the most rewarding parts of her job.

Throughout their careers the FSA name and the office location has changed. In 1961 the agency took on the name Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). In 1994, a reorganization of USDA resulted in the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, it was renamed Farm Service Agency in 1995. The new FSA encompassed the ASCS, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) and the farm loan portion of the Farmers Home Administration. In 1996 FCIC became the Risk Management Agency. For many years the office location was on North Clinton Street near the old Holiday Lanes Bowling Alley. In 1995 a new office building was built located on State Route 66 North, near Flory Road and housed FSA, SWCD, NRCS, and Farmers Home Administration. In 2000 FSA then joined the SWCD, NRCS and OSU Extension to complete the formation of the Ag Service Center at its current location on Evansport Road.

Serving the farmers over the years has been a pleasure for both Joyce and Mick. "The cross-training of employees has proven to be beneficial in providing quality service and accurate information to the farmer," Joyce said. In October 2007 the office staff traveled to Washington DC to accept the Administrator's Award for Service to Agriculture. The award was among the highest that the Agency bestowed recognizing the local FSA staff for successfully contributing to the goals and objectives of FSA programs.

The programs have changed from years ago when each farm had to have set aside acres, to every acre being available for crop production. Acreage reports were manually completed, before the office was computerized in 1986. Joyce and Mick remember the endless hours of standing at the counter servicing farmers. The lines would be so long that farmers would be outside of the door waiting to come in. Many things have changed in the office, as their trusty antiquated computer system has been updated. GovDelivery is the new email notification system that FSA is now using to deliver program information electronically. The farmers that are served have changed; some have passed on, some have been lucky enough to retire, while others are just helping out on the farm as they continue to teach their sons and daughters to farm the land they once did.

Joyce looks forward to expanding her volunteer time and spending time with family after retirement while Mick is anxious to spend more time with her family and possibly do a little traveling.

The FSA office invites you to attend the Open House on Thursday, December 11th, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at their office to congratulate Joyce and Mick on their well-deserved retirements.

***Retirement
Open House
For
Joyce Cavanaugh
&
Mick Speiser
Dec. 11, 1-4 pm***

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Nutrient Reduction Program:

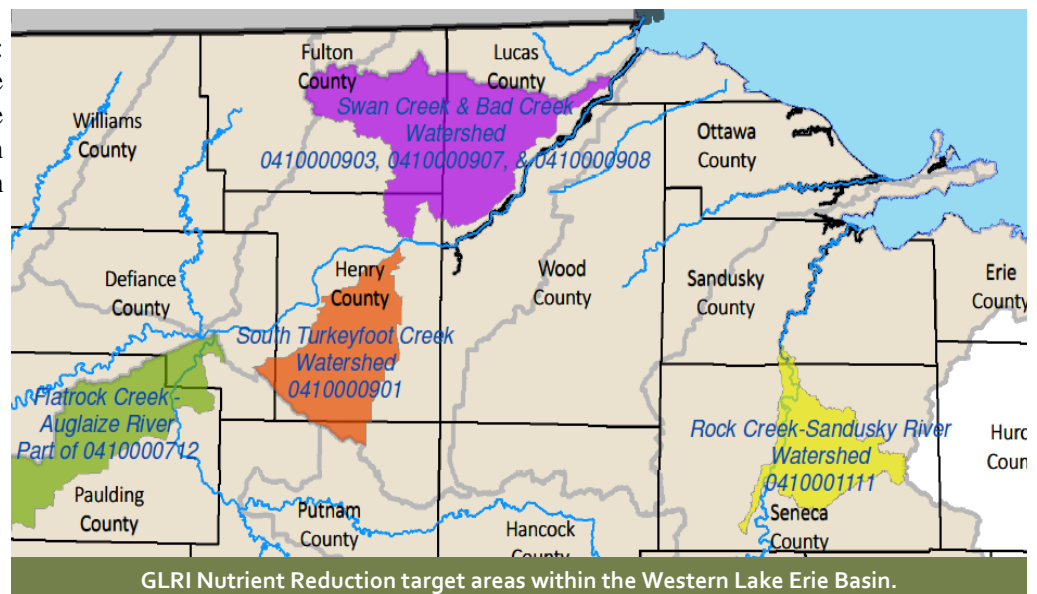
Ohio's Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Resources has a new conservation program for local farmers and landowners to participate in that will help improve water quality in Lake Erie. USEPA under its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has approved \$5,940,000 in funding to help combat the recent harmful algal blooms (HAB) in the western basin of Lake Erie. The recent HAB's were a factor in the drinking water scare in Toledo on August 2, 2014. This program aims at reducing the phosphorus loading from agricultural landscapes in the Maumee River into the western basin of the lake. The program will utilize a systems approach that uses a combination of management practices such as soil testing, cover crops, drainage water management, precision soil sampling with fertilizer placement and manure storage.

The program will be targeted to four specific ten digit HUC's in the western basin that lie within parts of nine counties. The selected watersheds are: South Turkeyfoot Creek, Flat Rock Creek-Auglaize River, Bad Creek-Swan Creek and Rock Creek-Sandusky River. The goals of the program are to complete 40,000 acres of nutrient soil tests, 60,000 acres of cover crops, 500 drainage control structures, 20,000 acres of fertilizer systems with cover crops and 25 manure storage facilities.

BMP Practice and cost-share information:

- **BMP Controlled Drainage Structures:** installations will be eligible to receive a maximum payment of \$1,500 on a structure based upon the actual costs. The site needs to drain a minimum of 15 acres within 2.5 feet of elevation change.
- **Soil Testing:** soil sampling will be for acres that do not have a current soil test or any samples that are four years or older at \$9/acre. Grid or zone samples will be a maximum of 7.5 acres. Soil test must include fertilizer recommendations that are based on the Tri-State Fertility Recommendations Guide
- **Cover Crops:** a flat rate of \$25/acre will be used for this practice. The minimum number of acres a producer can enroll is 25 acres. Cover must be established and maintained until March 15th and be an over-wintering variety.
- **Precision Soil Sampling & Placement with Cover Crop:** precision soil sampling done in grids/zones of a maximum grid or zone size of 7.5 acres; soil testing will be reimbursed at a rate of \$15/acre and will be used in a systems approach that includes fertilizer placement below the surface along with a cover crop. All fertilizer must be placed 1.5 inches below the surface and will be reimbursed at a rate of \$20/acre; cover crop must be established with a reimbursement rate of \$30/acre. Total system will be reimbursed at a rate of \$65/acre. Fertilizer recommendations will be at the Tri-State Fertility level of 80lbs/acre.
- **Manure Storage & Roofing:** each storage system will be required to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Cost to be based upon engineer's estimate.

Landowners and farmers within these watersheds should act fast and contact the SWCD to enroll in the cost share program.



SWCD Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Any changes to this date/time will be posted in the local newspaper.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

Rain Garden Workshops/DIY Kits

As part of our 'Land to Lake' program, rain garden kits will be available for order during the 2015 Tree Sale. Because we have a grant to promote rain gardens, the kits will be offered at a greatly reduced price!

Rain gardens look like a beautifully landscaped flower bed! They are strategically located to intercept rain water coming off of roofs/yards before it

enters the ditch or storm drain. The plants are chosen based on their ability to soak up water and tolerate wet conditions. A rain garden is not a pond and should not have standing water for more than 24 hours.

Rain gardens help improve water quality in multiple ways. First, the water that isn't used by the plants is designed to infiltrate into the ground helping to recharge valuable ground water supplies. Second, the water coming off of roofs, yards, and driveways can carry pollutants such as fertilizers, pet waste, and motor oil. Rain gardens are designed to prevent these pollutants from entering our streams. Third, if you live in an area with combined sewers (Defiance and Hicksville), rain gardens lessen the burden placed on these systems during a rain. This means less raw sewage entering into our waterways. Every rain garden installed helps!

Attend one of our Rain Barrel/Rain Garden workshops to learn more about placement/installation and to be eligible for the discount. Rain barrels are available for \$35 (regular price of \$75). Rain garden kits will be priced at \$130 but will be available for only \$30! There is a limited number of discounts and discounts will be offered to workshop participants on a first-come basis.

Upcoming workshops –Registration required at ssinger@defiance-county.com or 419-782-1794

- Jan. 13th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Defiance SWCD
- Feb. 11th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Defiance City Community Room
- March 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Johnson Memorial Library, Hicksville
- March 7th, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Sherwood Library

The Rain Garden kits are designed for 100 square feet and are available in two options - full sun or part shade. Each kit will include 32 native plant plugs and 3 native shrubs. Native plants are chosen because of their ability to thrive locally and the important food and shelter they provide for wildlife. For example, the Golden Alexanders are a host plant for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly!

Visit the website for a complete list of plant descriptions along with sample rain garden layouts!

Go to www.defiance-county.com/swcd. **Clean streams and lakes start in your backyard!**

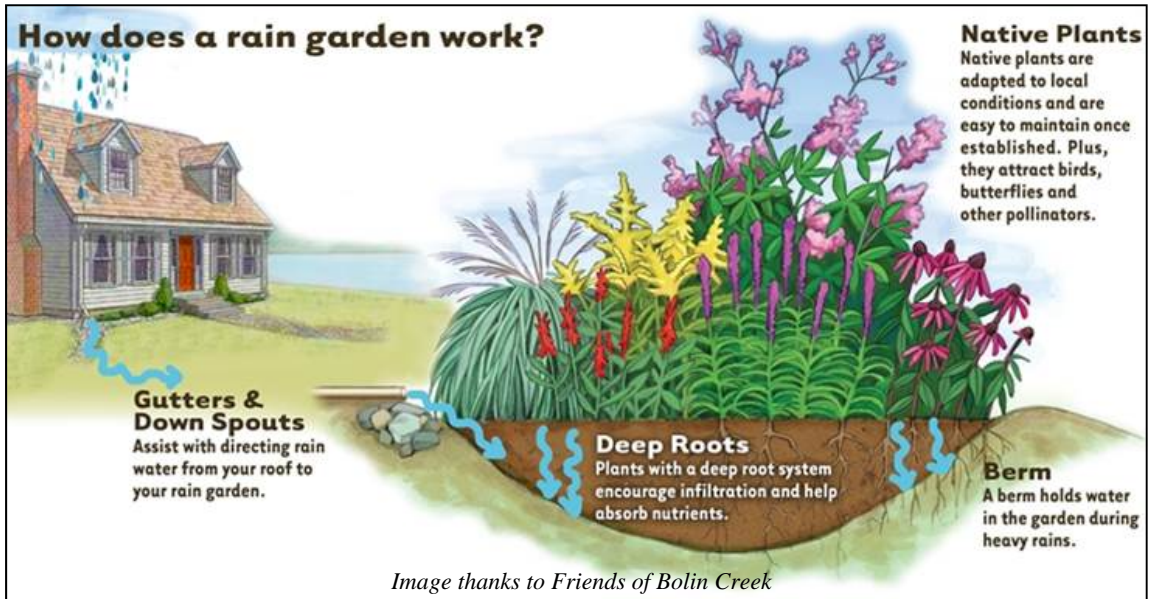


Image thanks to Friends of Bolin Creek

Congratulations

Congratulations to Deborah Weisgerber, the winner of the Summer 2014 word find. Pictured is her husband, Richard Weisgerber, with the prize basket of goodies!



District Holiday Schedule

The District office will be closed on December 25th and December 26th.

The office will also close at 12:00 noon on December 31st through January 1st and will reopen January 2nd.



DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2015 Tree Seedling Sale

(order deadline March 13, 2015)

	<u>Packets</u> <u>Ordered</u>	<u>Packet Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Conifers		20 - American Arborvitae 8" - 18"	\$18.00	
		10 - Bald Cypress*12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Blue Spruce 9" - 15"	\$8.00	
		10 - Norway Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
		10 - White Spruce 10" - 18"	\$8.00	
Deciduous Trees		10 - Black Gum 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Pin Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Red Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - River Birch 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Sugar Maple 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Swamp White Oak 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
Deciduous Shrubs		10 - Black Chokeberry 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Buttonbush 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Ninebark 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
		10 - Redosier Dogwood 12" - 18"	\$9.00	
Rain Garden Plants		Full Sun Rain Garden Kit	\$130.00**	
		Partial Shade Rain Garden Kit	\$130.00**	

* Deciduous Conifer

**Rain Garden Kit - \$100 discount available to workshop participants

Grand Total

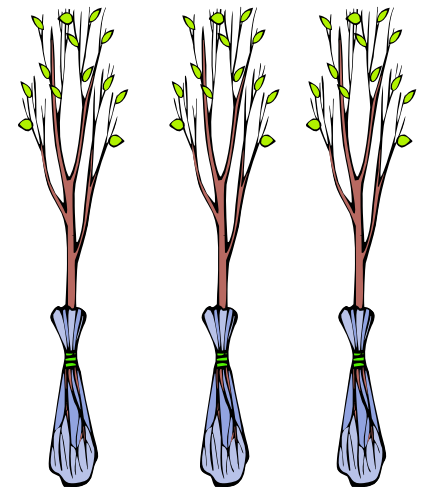
Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Please make checks payable to: **Defiance SWCD**, 06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, OH 43512. *All orders must be paid in full.* You will be notified in April via postcard or email when your order will be available for pickup.

For Office Use Only:

Order Number _____

Receipt Number _____



Seedling Descriptions

Conifers

American Arborvitae – A pyramidal shaped conifer that grows well in a wide range of soils and drainage conditions. Excellent for screens and windbreaks as it is dense and full to the ground. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 6 feet. [40-60 feet tall by 10-15 feet wide]

Bald Cypress – A stately, long-lived deciduous conifer well adapted to very wet to moderately well-drained soils such as muck, clay, or fine sands. Initially pyramidal shaped but becomes more columnar and open upon maturation. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [50-70 feet tall by 25+ feet wide]

Colorado Blue Spruce – A dense, conical evergreen with stout, prickly 3/4 - 1 1/4 inch needles, bluish green to bright silvery-blue in color. Adaptable, it prefers rich, moist soil, full sun, and thrives in dry well-drained sites. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [80-100 feet tall by 30 feet wide]

Norway Spruce – An extremely attractive pyramidal evergreen with strong, weeping branches that extend all the way to the ground. Needles are shiny green 1/2-1 inch long and flat. One of the fastest growing of all spruces. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 25 feet wide]

White Spruce – A cone shaped, medium to fast growing evergreen. The 1 inch needles are light green/bluish. Branches extend to the ground giving excellent low level wind protection. Adapted to cold weather and wet clay soils. Not preferred by deer. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting is 10 feet. [60 feet tall by 20 feet wide]

Deciduous Trees

Black Gum – Spectacular fall color. High wildlife value—spring flowers are beneficial to pollinators and fall berries are important food source for birds and mammals. Does best in moist soils but has a high drought tolerance. Straight trunk and uniform crown. [65-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

Pin Oak – A pyramidal tree through early maturity, its form turns more oval in older age. Fast growing, tolerates wet soils, and likes full sun. Glossy dark green leaves turn russet, bronze, or red. Upper branches are upright, middle ones horizontal, and its lower limbs slant gracefully towards the ground. Widely used as a street and landscape tree. [60-70 feet tall by 25-45 feet wide]

Red Maple – Brilliant red fall foliage makes an excellent landscape tree. Extremely rapid growing with oval shaped crowns. Can thrive in a wide range of soil conditions. [65-75 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

River Birch – Distinguished by reddish-brown bark peeling off in film-like papery providing interest year round. Trunk is short, branching into several large limbs. Prefers to grow near water or on lowlands. [40-50 feet tall by 25-35 feet wide]

Sugar Maple – Makes a great specimen shade tree. Medium to fast growing and prefers moist soils with some drought tolerance. Can be used for maple syrup and makes superior lumber. [60-75 feet tall by 40-50 feet wide]

Swamp White Oak – A medium sized tree with dark green leaves and a whitish gray bark. Well adapted for growth in very wet, swampy conditions, but is also very drought tolerant. The acorns that fall from the tree are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks and deer. The Swamp White Oak is valued for its timber used for furniture, flooring and cabinet making. [70 feet tall by 50 feet wide]

Deciduous Shrubs

Black Chokeberry – An extremely hardy deciduous shrub that will reach maturity in five years, making it a good ornamental plant. If left alone, the plants can form colonies that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Adorned in spring with white flowers and glossy leaves, then black berries, it ends the growing season with spectacular fall color. Can grow in wet to dry conditions. [3-6 feet tall by 3-6 feet wide]

Buttonbush – An attractive bush with medium green leaves and an unmatched late spring display of globe shaped white flowers. Bright red fruits form in late summer. Prefers wet soils but can tolerate dry conditions. [6-8 feet tall by 6-10 feet wide]

Ninebark – A very hardy four season shrub. Whitish pink spring flowers, purple summer foliage, yellow fall color, and attractive exfoliating winter bark. Adapts to most soils. When established, they are drought tolerant and long lived. [8-10 feet tall by 8-10 feet wide]

Redosier Dogwood – Brings color and texture to the landscape each season. Features red and orange autumn foliage, dark red winter shoots, ovate green leaves in spring, white flowers in late spring and early summer, and white berries tinged with blue in summer. Tolerates a variety of soil conditions. [3-6 feet tall by 10-15 feet wide]

Rain Garden Plants

Full Sun Rain Garden Kit – Includes 32 native plant plugs suitable for a 100 square foot rain garden: Purple Coneflower, March Blazing Star, Golden Alexanders, Foxglove Beardtongue, Little Bluestem, Cardinal Flower, Blue Flag Iris, and 3 native shrubs: Common Ninebark.

Partial Shade Rain Garden Kit – Includes 32 native plant plugs suitable for a 100 square foot rain garden: Cardinal Flower, Brown-eyed Susan, Great Blue Lobelia, Wild Columbine, Little Blue Stem, Turtlehead, Blue Flag Iris, and 3 native shrubs: Common Ninebark

For rain garden plant description and sample garden layouts visit the website at www.defiance-county.com/swcd

Gettysburg Address Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle below pertaining to the Gettysburg Address. Once completed, return the puzzle to the District by December 19th. An entry will be randomly drawn and the winner will be awarded an American Flag courtesy of the VFW. Thanks for reading *Conservation News* and good luck!

T	E	T	K	E	Y	M	D	M	R	F	F	S	U	V	L	F	D	X	B
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BATTLEFIELD
CIVIL WAR
DEDICATE
HALLOW THIS GROUND
LONG ENDURE
NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM

OF THE PEOPLE
THIS CONTINENT
BRAVE MEN
CONSECRATE
FOR THE PEOPLE
HIGHLY RESOLVE

LONG REMEMBER
NEW NATION
OUR FATHERS
UNFINISHED WORK
BY THE PEOPLE
CREATED EQUAL

FOUR SCORE
LIBERTY
NEVER FORGET
NOBLY ADVANCED
SHALL NOT PERISH

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

CONSERVATION NEWS

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Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

06879 Evansport Road, Suite C, Defiance, Ohio 43512

Phone 419-782-1794 Fax 419-782-1791

swcd@defiance-county.com

www.defiance-county.com/swcd

Board of Supervisors

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Bill Moats
Dan Vetter
Keith Schroeder
Roger Zeedyk IV

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Jason Roehrig
Terri Agler
Ben Gerken
Tyler Miller
Stephanie Singer
Bill Grimes
Jake Mahnke (Intermittent)

Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock
Ed Walters
Dave Sines

NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder
Lori Shank
Mike Boff

Upcoming Education Program Activities for 2015

- **Farm Fair** Jan. 16th-18th at the Northtowne Mall, Defiance
- **Photo Contest** is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grades who are residents of Defiance County or attend a Defiance County school and may submit up to 5 entries, with one entry for each category of wildlife, education, conservation, trees and plants, and landscapes. Photos must have been taken in Defiance County. All entries are due the week of April 13th-17th. Complete rules are available at www.defiance-county.com/swcd
- **Poster Contest** theme is "Local Heroes -Your Hardworking Pollinators". Grade levels are broken down into five categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 or Computer Designed for grades 7-9. Posters must be on 11" X 17" paper and *must have the words "Local Heroes —Your Hardworking Pollinators"*. The posters are due to the Soil and Water office the week of March 9th-13th. Complete rules available on our website.
- **Kid's Science Camp** "Camp Underground!" for Campers - Grades 3rd – 8th. Explore: Bats! Fossils! Sinkholes! Earthquakes! The camp will be held Wednesday, June 3rd (arrive at 6:30 PM) – Saturday, June 6th (leave at 11:30 am) at 4H– Camp Palmer, Fayette.
- **NW Ohio Woodland and Wildlife Family Festival** Saturday, May 9th. The free event will be open to the public and will be held at the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, 19255 W. Portage River South Road, Elmore.
- **Black Swamp Educators' Extravaganza** June 16th-18th "International Year of Soil" - Expert speakers will bring this subject matter to life!!! Join us for exciting field trips, classroom activities and lots of free resources! This exciting hands-on workshop will be hosted by Northwest Ohio SWCDs at the 577 Foundation in Perrysburg! This workshop is open to everyone interested in learning about soil and how to improve it. In other words, you don't have to be an educator.

