

# CONSERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of  
the Defiance  
Soil & Water  
Conservation

In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

## Fall 2010

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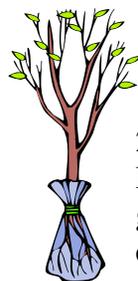
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## Tree Seedlings Sale 2011



The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District is offering tree seedlings to residents in the area. Orders will be accepted until March 18, 2011. You are responsible for picking up your tree order in early April, 2011 at the Soil & Water Conservation District office, 06879 Evansport Road, Defiance. You will receive a reminder postcard through the mail, giving you the exact times you may pick up your order. Just complete the enclosed Order Form and send it back to our office with payment enclosed.

## 61st Annual Meeting Banquet

The Defiance SWCD's 61st Annual Meeting Banquet was held Saturday, September 11, 2010, at Hicksville School in Hicksville. Approximately 200 people attended this year's event. The evening began with Welcome and Introductions by Keith Schroeder, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. This was followed by a delicious steak meal prepared and served by "Classic Catering by Kim Brown". District Administrator, Jeff Ankney, presented a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the projects that were completed throughout the year and a music video featuring photos taken by the staff from around Defiance County. The evening was wrapped up by magician, Dick Stoner, who entertained the crowd with some amazing magic tricks and his great sense of humor.

Congratulations go out to the Scott and Jenny Mavis Family for receiving the **2010 Cooperator of the Year Award**. Each year the award goes to one cooperator who has done his/her part in the area of on-the-farm conservation practices. The award winners were presented with an aerial photo of their farm.

The other award for the evening went to Ralph Fleming; it was the **2010 CREP Achievement Award** for his participation in the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.



The crowd at the annual meeting enjoying social hour and preparing for the steak dinner.

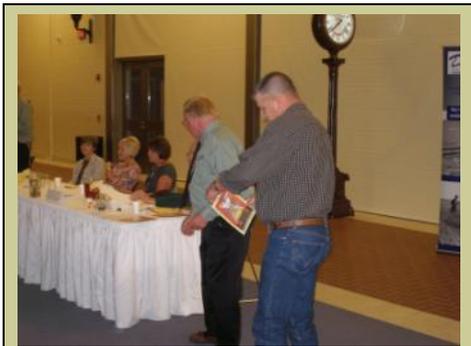
## *61st Annual Meeting Banquet (cont.)*

The Soil & Water Board and staff would like to thank everyone who attended this year's annual meeting and made it such a successful and enjoyable evening. We look forward to seeing you at next year's banquet. Look for information in the Winter issue of *Conservation News* for details on next year's event.

A special 'Thank You' goes to the Defiance County Commissioners, ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources, the City of Defiance and the Township Trustees of Defiance County because without their financial support none of the great conservation work that takes place in Defiance County would be possible.



Scott and Jenny Mavis accepting their 2010 Outstanding Cooperator Awards.



The Board of Supervisors handing out 2011 Affiliate Membership certificates.



Dick Stoner sharing with the crowd one of his many fabulous magic tricks.



Ralph Fleming accepting his 2010 Lake Erie CREP Award.

## *Supervisor Election*

And now for the Board of Supervisors' election results. The ballots were counted, and the election of Supervisor to fill the one expiring term is official. Keith Schroeder was re-elected to a three-year term. He will be rejoining Dan Vetter, Louis Shininger, Gary Mavis and Tom Beck who are already serving on the Board. Congratulations go out to Keith Schroeder, and a very special "Thank You" goes out to both candidates for participating in this year's election.

The residents of Defiance County are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Supervisors who volunteer their time to the Soil and Water District. Their duties are to take available technical, financial, and education resources, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local private land users for conservation of soil, water and related resources. They oversee that the program is being run in the most efficient and financially sound manner as to assure that every tax dollar is being accounted for locally.

## *Congratulations!*

The Summer Issue of "Conservation News" prize giveaway was awarded to Fred Sanders from rural Defiance. Fred received a nice set of travel bags for sending in the completed vacation disaster word puzzle. It is that simple, he completed the word puzzle, sent it in and his name was chosen for the prize.

Fred's name was drawn from hundreds of puzzles submitted by newsletter readers from around the area. We thank everyone for their participation and wish everyone good luck on future contests!



## Managing for Soil Quality

Every combination of soil types and land use in Defiance County calls for a different set of practices to enhance soil quality. Yet, several principles apply in most situations.



- ◆ **Add organic matter.** Regular additions of organic matter are linked to many aspects of soil quality. Organic matter may come from crop residue at the surface, roots of cover crops, animal manure, green manure, compost and others. Organic matter and the organisms that eat it can improve water holding capacity, nutrient availability and can help protect against erosion.
- ◆ **Avoid excessive tillage.** Tillage has positive effects, but it also triggers excessive organic matter degradation, disrupts soil structure and can cause compaction.
- ◆ **Carefully manage fertilizer and pesticide use.** Pesticides and chemical fertilizers have revolutionized US agriculture. In addition to their desired effects, they can harm non-target organisms and pollute water and air if they are mismanaged. Nutrients from organic sources also can become pollutants when misapplied or over-applied. On the positive side, fertilizer can increase plant growth and the amount of organic matter returned to the soil.
- ◆ **Increase ground cover.** Bare soil is susceptible to wind and water erosion and to drying and crusting. Ground cover protects soil, provides habitats for larger soil organisms, such as insects and earthworms and can improve water availability. Cover crops, perennials and surface residue increase the amount of time that the soil surface is covered each year.
- ◆ **Increase plant diversity.** Diversity is beneficial for several reasons. Each crop contributes a unique root structure and type of residue to the soil. A diversity of soil organisms can help control pest populations and a diversity of cultural practices can reduce weak and disease pressures.

Diversity across the landscape and over time can be increased by using buffer strips, crop rotations and by varying tillage practices. Changing vegetation across the landscape or over time increases plant diversity and the types of insects, microorganisms and wildlife that live on your farm.

## UMWP Co-hosts “Day at the Bay” Tours

The Upper Maumee River Watershed Partnership co-hosted two river tours called “Day at the Bay”, in conjunction with the St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s Watershed groups. The bus tour on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> followed the Maumee River from Fort Wayne, IN all the way to Lake Erie. The two trips hosted approximately 95 people who experienced historic and educational tours in Toledo. A tour of the *Willis B. Boyer*, a retired bulk freighter, provided the historic value of the Maumee River and emphasized the importance of the shipping channel for current commerce. A three hour tour of the Maumee Bay aboard the *Sandpiper* gave participants a view of the shipping yards, the river, and downtown Toledo. A representative from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority provided information about the ongoing dredging projects and information on the importance of the Port of Toledo to the Great Lakes and the world. This trip showed the downstream affects of sedimentation and algal blooms at the local and regional level.

### SWCD Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors holds its regular monthly meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month and is open to the public. Please call the office for starting time.

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. The USDA and Defiance SWCD are equal opportunity providers and employers.

## *Dormant Seedings May Be Your Best Bet*

Traditionally in Ohio, warm and cool season grasses are seeded in early spring through May when soil temperatures and conditions allow. Dormant seedings, on the other hand, are done from December 1 to March 14 for cool season grasses and from November 1 to March 14 for warm season species. When the soil temperature is 50°F or cooler, the seeds will remain dormant and not germinate until the soil warms up again in the spring. There are several reasons why dormant seeding may be your best option. Spring seedings occur during a busy time of the year for many producers. Winter seedings, on the other hand, can be made when there is more time for field work. Dormant seeding also extends the window of opportunity by 4 months, allowing more time to wait until the soil conditions are just right for seeding, thereby, reducing the potential for soil compaction. Warm season grass seedings especially benefit from dormant seeding. The freezing and thawing over winter can stratify “hard” seed, helping it to germinate in the spring when soil temperatures warm. It also helps the seed to “settle in” the soil providing good seed to soil contact and better germination. Under natural conditions, seed is produced in the fall and lies dormant over winter, ready to germinate in the spring, so a dormant seeding better mimics nature. While a dormant seeding can be a good alternative, there are several things to consider and steps to follow to help ensure a successful planting.

**Seed Selection** – The type of seed chosen will vary depending on the intended use of the area. Grasses and legumes selected for forages will be different than grasses selected for wildlife habitat as a field border. A caution is given when purchasing seed to make sure that the seed comes from a vendor that is registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. When dormant seeding, NRCS recommends increasing the seeding rate by 25%.

**Site Preparation** – This is a critical component of a successful seeding. Good soil contact is necessary for good germination; however, planting too deep may result in a planting failure. How the seed bed is prepared will depend on the ground cover prior to planting, the planting method chosen and the type of seed. The same equipment used for planting seed during the spring can be used during the dormant season, provided there is not snow cover or the area is not frozen too hard. The area may need to be prepared ahead of time; reducing the amount of residue. Light tillage may need to be completed late in the fall. Seed can be broadcast on frozen ground and snow melt may carry the seed down into small pockets of soil. (There needs to be 50% bare exposed soil; seeds applied on top or in residue will not grow.)

**Application Rate and Method** – The application rate and methods will vary depending on the seed. Broadcast seeding, no-till seeding and conventional seeding are all acceptable methods of seeding depending on the conditions of the area and the seed. For example, the grasses planted for forages may be different than the grasses planted for wildlife cover. Landowners in Defiance County considering a dormant seeding should contact Steve Snyder at the local NRCS office to determine if their conservation plan needs to be modified from spring planting to dormant seeding and to receive technical assistance.

## *Looking For a Unique Gift Idea*

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District currently has several items for sale that would make excellent gift ideas. The office is selling both 50 and 60 gallon rain barrels that are perfect for storing rain water and watering gardens or flower beds in the summer months. The office is also selling pond safety kits. A pond safety kit is a great idea for all pond owners. The kit includes a ring buoy and rope and a “Danger Deep Water” sign. All of these items can be purchased by contacting the District office at 419-782-8751.

### Rain Barrels

50 Gallon



\$65.00

60 Gallon



\$70.00

### Pond Kits



\$80.00



# Tree Seedling Sale

(order deadline March 18, 2011)

**Packets**  
**Ordered**

**Packet Description**

**Price**

**Total \$**

|       |  |         |       |
|-------|--|---------|-------|
| _____ | 25 – American Arborvitae 12”-18”.....    | \$25.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Colorado Blue Spruce 10”-18”.....   | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Austrian Pine 8”-14”.....           | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Norway Spruce 14”-18”.....          | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Eastern White Pine 8”-14”.....      | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Bald Cypress 12”-18”.....           | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Sugar Maple 18”-24”.....            | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Swamp White Oak 12”-18”.....        | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Tulip Poplar 12”-18”.....           | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Butterfly Bush 12”-18”.....         | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Silky Dogwood 18”-24”.....          | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | 10 – Lynwood Gold Forsythia 12”-18”..... | \$10.00 | _____ |
| _____ | Marking Flags (each).....                | \$0.10  | _____ |

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

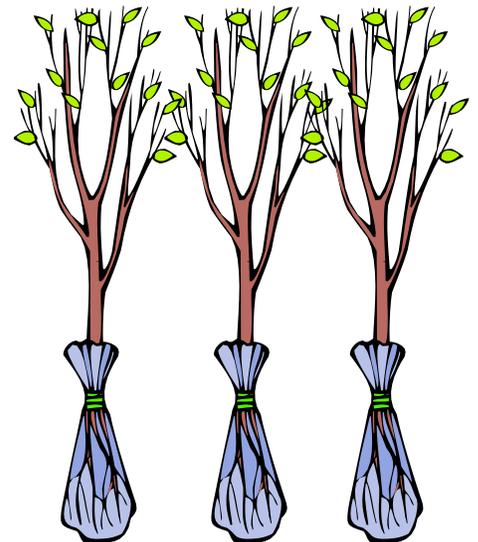
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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 when to pick up your trees.



**For Office Use Only:**

**Order Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Receipt Number** \_\_\_\_\_



## Seedling Descriptions

### Evergreens

**American Arborvitae** - A pyramidal shaped tree (40-60 feet) that grows well in a wide range of soil and drainage conditions. Excellent for screens and windbreaks since it is dense and full to the ground. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting - - 6 feet.

**Colorado Blue Spruce** - A dense conical evergreen (80-100 feet) with stout, prickly 3/4 inch - 1 1/4 inch needles, bluish green to bright silvery blue in color, radiating around the stem to form a brush-like mass. Adaptable, it prefers rich, moist soil, full sun, but thrives in dry well-drained sites. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting - - 12 feet.

**Austrian Pine** - A fast growing 2 needled pine (60 feet), needles 4 - 6 inches long, sharp pointed, persisting 4 years. Outline is pyramidal, becoming more open and irregular with age. Will grow in heavy clay to light, sandy soils. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting - - 12 feet.

**Norway Spruce** - An extremely attractive (60 feet) 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 - - 12 feet.

**Eastern White Pine** - Pyramidal in youth, this (75-100 feet) shade tolerant tree forms a graceful plume like crown at maturity. Fast growing in a wide range of soil types. Needles occur in 5's, 3 - 5 inches long, soft, rich green to bluish green. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting - - 12 feet.

**Bald Cypress** - Pyramidal with heavy straight trunk, this (50-70 feet) tree has branches that are distinctly horizontal. It is very adaptable to wet or dry sites. Foliage is spirally arranged along the stems. New growth is a very light green turning a softer but darker green in summer. Fall color is a rich brown. Recommended spacing for windbreak planting - - 12 feet.

### Hardwoods

**Sugar Maple** - Mature trees (80—100 feet) with short trunk, dividing into several sub-trunks. Long slender branches sweep downward and then curve gracefully upward. A 10 year old tree is typically about 15 feet tall. The fall color is often spectacular, ranging from bright yellow through orange to fluorescent red-orange. The sugar maple can grow comfortably in any type of soil, except sand.

**Swamp White Oak** - A medium sized tree (65-80 feet) with dark green leaves and a whitish gray bark. It can survive in a variety of habitats. It grows rapidly and can live for 350 years. The acorns that fall from the tree are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks and deer. The Swamp White Oak is valued for its timber products such as furniture, flooring and cabinet making.

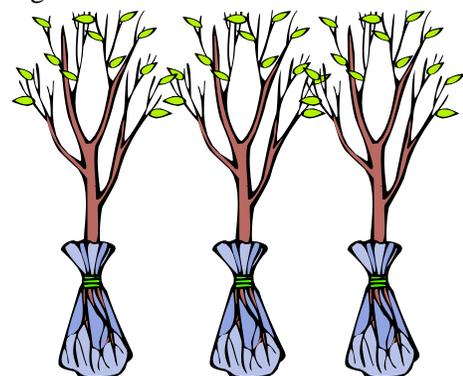
**Tulip Poplar** - A large tree (100 + feet) that is fast growing without the common problem of weak wood strength. Prefers moist soils and is relatively flood tolerant. It is a magnificent tree that has beautiful bright green leaves that turn a butter yellow in the fall. The tulip like flower has a yellow outside with an orange band and produces large quantities of nectar. The Tulip Tree is valued for timber products due to its strong, straight trunk.

### Shrubs

**Butterfly Bush** - A short growing (7 feet), sprawling shrub that is adaptable to all seasons. This shrub performs best in wet soils but can adapt to dry soils in the summer. Prefers full sun. It is easily recognized in summer by its globular, pure white flowers. Its glossy foliage, which emerges late as compared to other woody plants (mid-spring), is a second ornamental feature.

**Silky Dogwood** - A slow to medium growing (10 feet) branched rounded shrub with yellowish-white flowers in May, pale blue berries in the fall along with dense foliage which turns red. This shrub performs best in wet soils but can adapt to dry soils in the summer. The berries attract birds.

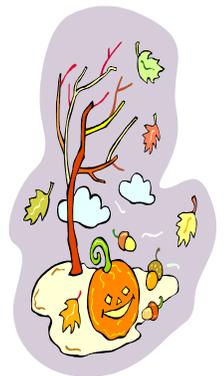
**Lynwood Gold Forsythia** - An old time favorite (6 - 8 feet) with an upright spreading habit and big yellow flowers up the entire length of the stem. The flowering stems appear as deep golden wands in April. It is excellent for hedging, fast growing and tolerant of moist soils but will perform the best when planted in well drained soils. Lynwood Gold forsythia grow best in the full sun to light shade.



# Pumpkin Word Puzzle

Complete the word search puzzle below about pumpkin related words. Once you have completed the puzzle, write your name and phone number on the bottom, mail it back to our office, and we will draw one lucky winner's name on November 12, 2010. This issue's prize is a Pumpkin Pie from Bud's Restaurant, a SWCD baseball cap and lunch bag. The winner will be notified and can pick up their prize at the SWCD office. Thanks for reading *Conservation News* and Good Luck!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | S | M | R | A | H | L | X | S | M | I | O | F | A | I |
| T | H | M | D | E | L | A | U | F | O | L | B | H | N | S |
| R | S | B | I | E | B | O | L | P | R | E | I | D | I | U |
| A | A | A | H | R | I | I | O | L | T | R | I | D | M | O |
| N | U | S | Y | C | G | T | F | A | O | A | T | W | A | I |
| D | Q | J | I | T | A | L | C | N | N | W | Z | A | T | T |
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| P | E | L | S | R | R | V | T | P | L | H | T | E | V | R |
| D | U | I | D | O | J | E | A | T | L | O | G | R | N | T |
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| Q | J | D | G | N | I | V | I | G | S | K | N | A | H | T |
| E | K | H | T | A | O | C | D | E | E | S | X | L | Z | O |



BETA CAROTENE  
 DELICIOUS  
 INDIANS  
 LOW IN SALT  
 NUTRITIOUS  
 PULP  
 SEEDS  
 SQUASH  
 TENDRIL  
 WATER

BLOSSOM  
 HALLOWEEN  
 LEAVES  
 MORTON ILLINOIS  
 PILGRIMS  
 RIBS  
 SHELL  
 STEM  
 THANKSGIVING

CAVITY  
 HIGH IN FIBER  
 LID  
 NUT  
 POTASSIUM  
 SEED COAT  
 SKIN  
 STRANDS  
 VITAMIN A



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

06879 Evansport Rd., Defiance , Ohio 43512

Phone 419-782-8751 Fax 419-782-1791

swcd@defiance-county.com

www.defiance-county.com/swcd

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### Board of Supervisors

Louis Shininger

Dan Vetter

Keith Schroeder

Gary Mavis

Tom Beck

### District Personnel

Jeff Ankney

Terri Agler

Ben Gerken

Deb Mosier

Jason Roehrig

Kip Studer (WLEB)

Bill Grimes (part-time)

Kevin Hancock

Ed Walters

Dave Sines (part-time)

### NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder

Lori Shank

Mike Boff

## *Another Successful School Tour*

Over 250 students once again participated in our annual Sixth Grade School Tour. The tour was held at Auglaize Village on September 17<sup>th</sup> and included students from Ayersville, Fairview and Tinora. Students learned about various topics such as Tree Identification, Bees, Water Quality, Bird Migration, Wildlife and Conservation, while at the same time participating in hands-on activities designed to further their understanding of the world around them. We would like to thank everyone for their participation and help in making this another successful School Tour.



Defiance County 6th graders hearing a presentation on Bees and Honey, pictured here is a group of students from Fairview Middle School.



Water Quality presentation with the help of Environmental Engineers from the local General Motors Powertrain plant.