

Conservation News

Newsletter of
the Defiance
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Summer 2012

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63rd Annual Meeting Banquet

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District will be celebrating its 63rd year at the annual meeting on Saturday, September 8, 2012. This year's meeting will be held at the Hicksville Village School, 958 East High Street, Hicksville. Appetizers will be at 4:30 p.m., followed by a dinner prepared by "Classic Catering by Kim Brown" at 5:30 p.m.

An election of the two expiring positions on the Defiance SWCD Board of Supervisors will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Following the election and dinner, there will be a short PowerPoint presentation of the District's highlights and accomplishments from the past year.

The featured entertainment this year will be Jay Hendren - Ohio farmer, traveling across the nation, drawing from his experiences as a farmer to tickle the funny bones of audience members. Jay's humor is good, clean fun. It is good natured and you will get a kick from hilarious stories about growing up in a family of farmers.

Drawing inspiration from old movies and his experiences working on the family farm, his performances are unlike anything out there. Just two years after beginning his career in agriculture-based comedy, he won the title **Funniest person in Columbus**. When not performing on the comedy stage, Jay still enjoys helping out on the Hendren family farm.

Don't miss this opportunity to be involved in your local SWCD - by electing future District leadership, reviewing accomplishments of the District, all the while enjoying an evening of dining and entertainment.



Comedian, Jay Hendren
to perform at the 63rd
Annual Banquet

Get Your Tickets Now!

Please return by
August 31, 2012

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Number of Tickets _____ x \$12.50 = _____

Please make checks payable to: Amount
Defiance SWCD Enclosed _____



"Soil to Spoon" Poster Contest

Awards were recently presented for the 2012 poster contest winners for grades K-12 throughout Defiance County. The theme for this year's contest was *Soil to Spoon*. Artwork this year focused on where the food comes from that you eat each day. You see a wide variety of products in your local grocery store, but where does it all come from? What is the connection to the soil you walk on each day? The District received 1,016 entries this year and the winners are as follows



Kindergarten - 1st Grade

1 st	Amber Sigman	Grade 1, Mrs. Slattery	Hicksville Elementary
2 nd	Leah Seitz	Grade 1, Mrs. Lindquist	Hicksville Elementary
3 rd	Michael Villena	Grade 1, Mrs. Lindquist	Hicksville Elementary

2nd - 3rd Grade

1 st	Kylee Drewes	Grade 3, Ms Foltz	Tinora Elementary
2 nd	Sarah Raimonde	Grade 3, Mrs. Canales	Tinora Elementary
3 rd	Jade Forbess	Grade 3, Mrs. Huddle	Ayersville Elementary

4th, 5th & 6th Grade

1 st	Logan Tijena	Grade 6, Mr. Cicero	Ayersville Elementary
2 nd	Corbyn Paxton	Grade 5, Mrs. Wells	Tinora Elementary
3 rd	Paiten Price	Grade 5, Mrs. Kelly	Fairview Elementary

7th & 8th Grade

1 st	Hannah Hummel	7 th Grade, Mrs. Miller	Ayersville Middle School
2 nd	Kelsey Johnston	7 th Grade, Mrs. Miller	Ayersville Middle School
3 rd	Jackie Kalessis	8 th Grade, Mrs. Stockinger	St John Lutheran

High School

1st	Kristine Culler	10 th Grade, Mrs. Wolfe	Fairview High School
2nd	Alexis Guilford	12 th Grade, Mrs. Wolfe	Fairview High School
3rd	Ashley Etchen	10 th Grade, Mrs. Wolfe	Fairview High School



Amber Sigman of
Hicksville Elementary



Kylee Drewes of
Tinora Elementary



Logan Tijena of
Ayersville Elementary



Hannah Hummel of
Ayersville M.S.



Kristine Culler of
Fairview H.S.



County Placemat Winner—Hannah Hummel

Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District would like to express our gratitude to the following entities for their financial assistance:

Defiance County Commissioners
City of Defiance
Adams Township
Defiance Township
Delaware Township

Hicksville Township
Highland Township
Mark Township
Milford Township
Noble Township

Richland Township
Tiffin Township
Washington Township
All Affiliate Members
ODNR—Soil and Water Resources

District to Publish a Special Election Issue

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District will be publishing a Special Election Edition of "Conservation News" in July/August. The newsletter will focus on the Annual Banquet and Board of Supervisor Elections that will take place on September 8, 2012. The newsletter will have the profiles of all the candidates running for the two SWCD Supervisor positions and details of the election process, as well as information on the Banquet.

Project Wild goes wild in the Upper Maumee Watershed

"Project Wild" traveled to Antwerp Local Schools on May 15th and 17th. Fifteen teachers, ranging from Pre-K to High School, attended. Staff members from Defiance SWCD, Bill Grimes – Education Specialist and Nicole Grindley – Upper Maumee Watershed Coordinator, facilitated the workshop. On the first day the teachers received a small piece of paper with rabbit, turkey, butterfly or frog written on it. Their assignment was to find the other participants with the same animal without using verbal cues. Once the groups were formed, the life cycle of the animals were acted out. These teachers gained knowledge on how to bring outdoor educational activities promoting fish and wildlife into the classroom. The Project Wild participants are shown to the right doing one of the many activities. The two-day workshop wrapped up with the teachers learning to make animal scat and tracks from molds using paper mache. "Project Wild - Growing Up Wild" is another educator workshop that will be offered in July 2012 focusing on children, ages 3 through 7. Please contact Nicole Grindley at 419-782-8751 for registration details and additional information. It will be both an educational and fun workshop.



2012 NW Ohio Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival

A beautiful day outdoors was enjoyed at the recent 2012 Northwest Ohio Woodland Family Festival at AuGlaize Historic Village in Defiance. The crowd was steady and participants of all ages were able to visit over 35 exhibits. The children took part in a scavenger hunt, searching for feathers, tree bark, leaves, three-leaf clovers, y-shaped sticks and many other items. The exhibits provided informational brochures and demonstrations pertaining to woodlands and wildlife. This annual event is sponsored by Defiance, Henry, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Williams and Wood SWCDs. Other partnering organizations this year were The Andersons, Inc. of Maumee, Wild Turkey Federation and the Three Rivers Conservation Club. Details on next year's event (date and location) will be forthcoming. Continue reading "Conservation News" for more information.



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.

Rain Barrels

Are you a gardener looking for a way to water your plants and not run up your water bill? Well, then, maybe you should think about installing a rain barrel or two (or four) around your house. Rain barrels are an easy and inexpensive way to catch and reuse the water that runs off of your roof during a storm event. Normally when it rains, water runs off of your roof into your gutters and, eventually into the storm drain system. Once it stops raining, that water is no longer available.

During dry weather, wouldn't it be nice to be able to water your garden without running up your water bill? Why not capture that water and put it to good use? Rain barrels are designed to be a convenient way of storing rainwater so that it can be used later to water your plants or lawn.

60 Gallon Rain Barrel



\$70.00

50 Gallon Rain Barrel



\$65.00

These rain barrels are food grade high density polyethylene barrels previously used for food. They are cleaned and rinsed with rainwater. A spigot, linking and overflow fittings and screens are then added to the barrels.

1 inch of rain on a 1,000 square feet roof yields 623 gallons of water

2012 Area 1 Envirothon

Five Defiance County high school teams participated in the Area 1 Envirothon on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012 at 4-H Camp Palmer, Fayette, Ohio (Fulton County). The high school teams participating from Defiance County were Ayersville, Fairview, Hicksville and Tinora (2 teams).

Seventy-two high school teams were tested at this year's event in the areas of soils, aquatics, forestry, wild-life and current environmental issues. The top four teams at Area 1 were **(1st)** Fort Jennings - Team 1 **(2nd)** Fort Jennings - Team 2, **(3rd)** Delta FFA - Team 1, **(4th)** Wynford High School - Blue.

Congratulations to Tinora FFA (Team 1) for being the highest placing Defiance County School, finishing in 22nd place. We would like to congratulate all the schools for participating in this year's Area 1 Envirothon.

Congratulations to our Puzzle Contest Winner

The Spring Issue of "Conservation News" prize giveaway was awarded to Tony and Mollie Fox from Defiance. Tony received two gas cans and a Defiance SWCD prize pack for sending in the winning completed "Lawn Maintenance" word puzzle.

Tony's name was drawn from hundreds of puzzles submitted by newsletter readers. The response was one of the largest we have had with the contest. We thank everyone for their participation and wish everyone good luck on future contests!



2012 Photo Contest Winners

Each year, the Defiance SWCD sponsors a student photo contest that is oriented to Conservation, Education, Trees and Plants, Wildlife, and Landscapes. The contest is open to students in grades Kindergarten through 12th who are residents of Defiance County or attend a Defiance County School. Photos must have been taken in Defiance County. Time to start taking pictures for next year and we look forward to seeing your 2013 photo contest entries!

Education

- 1st Derek Froelich - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Plant Education"
- 2nd Allison Helmke - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Teaching"
- 3rd Trevor Warncke - Tinora Jr. High, 7th Grade
"Workshop"

Conservation

- 1st Dylon Watson - Tinora Jr. High, 7th Grade
"Erosion"
- 2nd Amanda Cook - Ayersville H.S., 12th Grade
"Factory"
- 3rd Tara Lymanstall - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Grass Growing With Straw"
- 3rd Sarah Lightle - Holy Cross, 6th Grade
"A Couple of 'Fun-Gi's' "

Landscapes

- 1st Silvia Monopoli - Ayersville H.S., 12th Grade
"Road to Paradise"
- 2nd Tiffani Risner - Tinora Jr. High, 7th Grade
"Snow Day"
- 3rd Sarah Hammersmith - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Jupiter Sky"

Trees and Plants

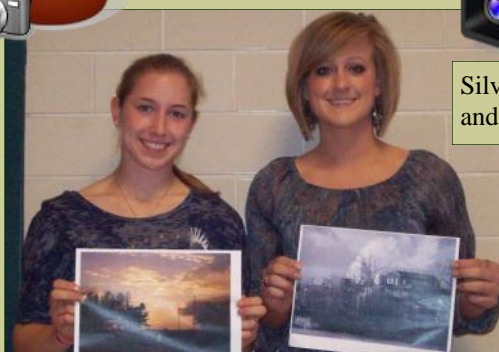
- 1st Tracy Cook - Ayersville H.S., 11th Grade
"After the Autumn Rain"
- 2nd Tara Lymanstall - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Blossoming Flower"
- 3rd Sarah Lightle - Holy Cross, 6th Grade
"A Couple of 'Fun-Gi's' "

Wildlife

- 1st Dylon Watson - Tinora Jr. High, 7th Grade
"New Life"
- 2nd Tara Lymanstall - Tinora Jr. High, 8th Grade
"Praying Mantis"
- 3rd Paige Marckel - Tinora Jr. High, 7th Grade
"Red Birds in Winter"



Dylon Watson (left), and Derek Froelich



Silvia Monopoli (left), and Amanda Cook



Tara Lymanstall (left), Allison Helmke (center) and Tiffani Risner



Sarah Lightle



Tara Lymanstall (right), Paige Marckel (center) and Trevor Warncke

What are the 4R's?

4R nutrient stewardship provides a framework to achieve cropping system goals - increased production, increased farmer profitability, enhanced environmental protection and improved sustainability. To achieve those goals the 4R's incorporate the:

RIGHT FERTILIZER SOURCE *at the*
RIGHT RATE, *at the*
RIGHT TIME *and in the*
RIGHT PLACE.

Properly managed fertilizers support cropping systems that provide economic, social and environmental benefits. On the other hand, poorly managed nutrient applications can decrease profitability and increase nutrient losses, potentially degrading water and air.

4R nutrient stewardship requires the implementation of best management practices (BMP's) that optimize the efficiency of fertilizer use. The goal of fertilizer BMP's is to match nutrient supply and crop requirements and to minimize nutrient losses. Selection of BMP's varies by location, and those chosen for a given farm are dependent on local soil and climatic conditions, crop, management conditions and other site specific factors.

Other agronomic and conservation practices such as no-till farming and the use of cover crops, play a valuable role in supporting 4R nutrient stewardship. As a result, fertilizer BMP's are most effective when applied with other agronomic and conservation practices. For more information on the 4R nutrient stewardship program visit www.nutrientstewardship.com.



Land to Lake Green Infrastructure

On May 1st a workshop was held in the Community Room at the Defiance City Annex Building. Approximately 40 people attended the workshop. The workshop highlighted many efforts that are contributing to the improvements of Lake Erie. Mayor Bob Armstrong opened the event with his vision for the city of Defiance in regards to green infrastructure. Kari Machenbach, with URS, a consulting firm in Columbus, did a presentation on Green Infrastructure in urban settings. She showed many examples in large cities such as Kansas City that can be scaled down to be used in Defiance as well. Sandy Bihn, of the Lake Erie Waterkeepers, was next to speak on behalf of Lake Erie, and what it is going through. Her presentation was both informative and concerning at the same time. She spoke on what is causing the algal blooms, and what can be done to help prevent any further issues. Data that has been collected by various institutions were presented during her presentation on the various amounts of phosphorus dumped into our rivers, and Lake Erie. Nicole Grindley, Upper Maumee River Watershed Coordinator, then spoke on the agricultural aspect of green infrastructure. Her main emphasis was that we all need to work together instead of pointing fingers as to who is to blame for the issues we are faced with in Lake Erie. Jen English, Urban Storm Water Specialist, wrapped the workshop up with telling the attendees what is going on in the City of Defiance as far as Green Infrastructure. Diagrams were shown of the park that is going to be constructed at the site of the old Diehl building, just on the north side of the Clinton Street Bridge. At the conclusion of the workshop, there was a small tour for anyone who was interested in seeing what examples of green infrastructure had already been in place in Defiance. At a small luncheon; Mayor Armstrong thanked everyone for being there as well as their continued efforts in green infrastructure. With everyone's help and continued support the Land to Lake Green Infrastructure project will be a major success, not only to urban and agricultural sides of Defiance, but in the long run the livelihood of Lake Erie.

Annual Banquet Planning Word Puzzle

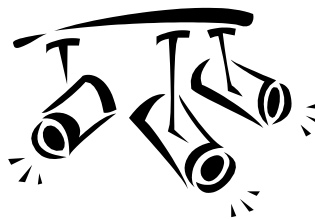
Complete the word puzzle below by finding all the words pertaining to planning the Annual Banquet. Once you have completed the puzzle, mail it back to our office, and we will draw one lucky winner's name on July 27, 2012. The randomly drawn entry will receive two complimentary tickets to the Defiance SWCD's Annual Banquet at the Hicksville Village School on Saturday, September 8th. The winner will be notified and can pick up their prize at the SWCD office. Thanks for reading *Conservation News* and Good Luck!

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

AGENDA
 AWARDS
 CHAIRS
 ENTERTAINMENT
 HIGHLIGHTS
 INVOCATION
 LAPTOP
 MICROPHONE
 PENS
 PROGRAM
 SCREEN
 TABLES

ANNUAL
 BANQUET
 DOOR PRIZE
 HEAD TABLE
 HONOR
 JAY HENDREN
 LAUGHTER
 MUGS
 PLAQUES
 PROJECTOR
 STAGE
 TICKETS

AUDIENCE
 CATERER
 ELECTION
 HICKSVILLE
 INVITATION
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
 MEETING
 NOTEPADS
 PREPARATION
 RESERVATION
 SUPERVISOR



NAME _____ PHONE _____

Conservation News

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Bill Grimes (part-time)
Kevin Hancock
Ed Walters
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Lori Shank
Mike Boff

Controlled Drainage: Improving Yields and Water Quality

Defiance County farmers are taking an innovative approach towards draining their cropland; a step aimed at increasing crop yields and soil quality while reducing nitrogen loss. Subsurface drainage has traditionally been concerned with moving excess water away from the land as quickly as possible through a system of underground tile. Controlled drainage systems are an enhancement to these existing subsurface tile systems, with the addition of a water control structure near the discharge of a tile main. This control structure permits adjustment of the water table to desired levels throughout the growing season.

The use of controlled drainage structures permits subsurface drainage tiles to be closed following fall harvest up until 2 weeks prior to working/planting fields in the spring. With the subsurface drainage system closed, precipitation that has percolated through the soils is unable to leave the field preventing nitrates from entering surface waters. While the field is saturated, biological processes convert nitrates to nitrogen gas, further limiting nitrogen from reaching rivers and streams once the tile are opened in the spring.

Prior to spring planting, the control structure is opened and the field is allowed to drain completely, permitting equipment to be driven on the soil. During crop production, water table levels are managed by adjusting boards within the water control structure to a level that provides adequate root zone aeration for the crop being grown. This allows precipitation from minor storms to be stored within the field, while precipitation from larger storms will be able to flow over a weir and out of the field. Prior to harvest, drainage systems will be completely opened to permit driving of harvest and tillage equipment across the fields.

In Hoytville silty clay soils, research has shown that subsurface drainage systems reduce offsite water release by 40% and nitrate transport from the drainage system is reduced by 45%. Increases in corn and soybean production have resulted from the improved soil condition and the increase in soil moisture during dry summer months.

For more information about controlled drainage systems, contact the Defiance SWCD at 419-782-8751.