

CONSERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of
the Defiance
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Summer 2013

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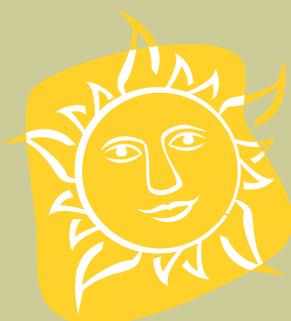
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Join Us at Our 64th Annual Meeting Banquet

The District invites you to our 64th annual meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2013. The event will be held at the Hicksville Village School, 958 East High Street, Hicksville. Appetizers will be available at 4:30 p.m., followed by a plated dinner at 5:30 p.m.

An election of one expiring position 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 brief presentation reviewing the District's priorities and accomplishments over the past year. The District will also present the Cooperator of the Year Award and the CREP Achievement Award to two landowners who have gone above and beyond in protecting our natural resources.

The featured entertainment for the evening will be comedian Damian Mason, a comedian with enthusiasm for the agricultural industry. His funny stories and witty observations connect with the heart of agriculture—its people. Don't miss this opportunity to see agriculture's professional funnyman! Never experienced Damian's comedy? Get a preview on YouTube at: <http://youtu.be/HyjLvOH13h8>.



Comedian Damian Mason,
back by popular demand.

Looking for a great evening out? Where else will \$12.50 get you a great dinner and the opportunity to experience top-notch comedic entertainment. Rest assured, Damian will provide family friendly entertainment, so be sure to bring the whole family.

Get Your Tickets Now!

Please return by
September 6, 2013

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Number of Tickets _____ x \$12.50 = _____

Please make checks payable to: Amount
Defiance SWCD Enclosed _____



Candidate Profiles



Keith Schroeder and his wife, Pamela, reside at 02821 Adams Ridge Road in Adams Township. They are the parents of two sons, Layne (Chelsie) and Lucas.

Keith farms full-time and also works part-time for the Ridgeville Telephone Company. He farms approximately 750 acres of which some of the ground is owned and some is rented.

He attends Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren and is a past Sunday School Teacher and Usher. He is a member of the Farm Bureau and the Tinora Academic and Athletic Boosters. Snow skiing is a hobby that Keith enjoys with his family and friends. He has served as SWCD Supervisor for the past 12 years.



Charles (Chuck) Wonderly and his wife, Marsha, reside at 10730 Openlander Road in Mark Township. They are the parents of three sons, Jason, Matthew, and Nathan and one daughter, Erin Hill.

Charles farms approximately 500 acres and has worked in implement sales for the past thirty years. He is currently employed at Archbold Equipment, in Sherwood, Ohio.

He is a member of the Fairview Young Farmers, St. Isidore Catholic Church, and the Sherwood Volunteer Fire Department.

Notice of Election

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of a Supervisor of the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515.01-14 of the Ohio Revised Code, at their 64th Annual Meeting Banquet at the Hicksville Village School, Hicksville, Ohio on September 14, 2013. One Supervisor will be elected for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- At the annual meeting banquet, at the Hicksville Village School (4:30 to 5:30 p.m. voting time) on Saturday, September 14, 2013.
- At the SWCD office between Monday, August 26 and Friday, September 13, 2013 until 4:00 p.m.
- Vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office.



SWCD Office Hours

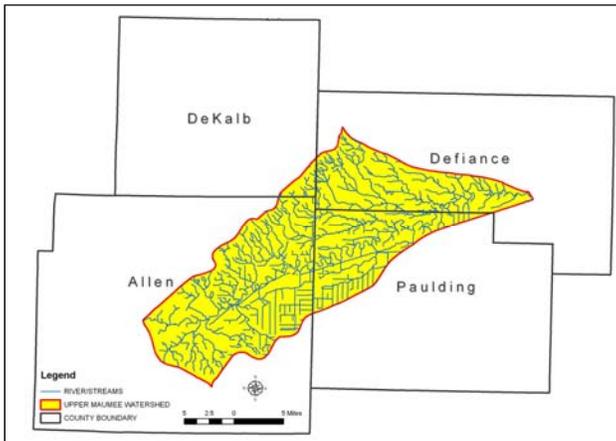
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Any changes to this date will be posted in the local newspaper. Please call the office for starting time.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases 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.

Upper Maumee Soil Quality Meeting / Cost Share Program

The Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership and numerous supporting agencies conducted a soil quality meeting at the Greg and Lynn Wonderly family farm near Sherwood, Ohio on Wednesday, August 7th.



Producers within the Upper Maumee (yellow) may be eligible for cost share on erosion-reducing practices.

The meeting was specifically tailored to producers in the Upper Maumee River Watershed, with an emphasis on conservation practices that enhance soil structure and quality while subsequently addressing sediment pollution into our waters. Approximately 80 landowners were in attendance.

Presentations were given by Stephanie Singer of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership, reviewing the planning process that is underway for the watershed. Joe Nester of Nester Ag, reviewed the science, agronomics, and conservation benefits regarding the use of gypsum. Ron Chamberlain of Gypsoil explained appropriate gypsum application methods, rates, and provided estimated timeframes for

improvement of soil quality following application. Mike Werling of Werling Farms and Tyler Miller of the Defiance SWCD then explained the benefits and logistics of utilizing cover crops.

Having discussed numerous practices aimed at reducing soil erosion, Jennifer Thum of the Allen County Indiana SWCD explained that they have been awarded a Great Lakes Commission Grant and presented options for cost sharing numerous conservation practices within the watershed.



Ron Chamberlain of Gypsoil, explains the equipment necessary to effectively apply gypsum.

In implementing this grant, the Defiance and Paulding SWCDs will be partnering with Allen County, Indiana SWCD and the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership to work with producers to identify practices that will address resource issues in the Upper Maumee River watershed.

Grant cost share dollars can be used on equipment modification, such as RTK guidance, yield monitors, pasture/hay planting, cover crops, stream buffers/filter strips, rotational grazing, gypsum application, and numerous other practices. Contact our office at (419) 782-8751

for complete details or visit the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership website at www.uppermaumeewatershed.com to learn more and to download the cost share brochures.

A special thanks goes out to the Wonderly Family, Greg and his wife Lynn and Greg's brother Neil. They went above and beyond to make the program a success. We would also like to thank Gypsoil for sponsoring the fantastic meal, provided by Classic Catering, and for providing the gypsum application demonstrations. Also, we are grateful for all of the presenters who shared their time and knowledge with the group.



Joe Nester demonstrates improved water infiltration following gypsum application.

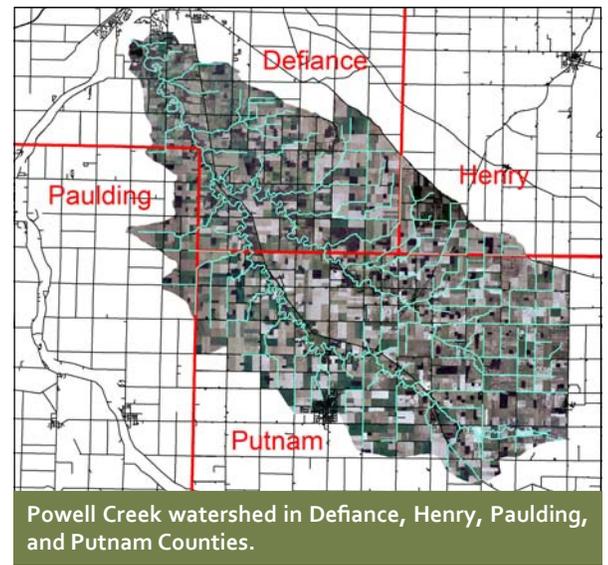


Demonstrations of various gypsum application rates and distribution.

Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Project Update

Through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, the Defiance and Putnam SWCDs have begun implementing practices to address nutrient and sediment loading into Powell Creek. This Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Program was officially rolled-out on April 30, 2013 with a meeting at the Free Christian Church on State Route 15, just into Putnam County. The meeting was a great success, with over ninety landowners in attendance. Since, both Districts have been working their way through the sign-up sheets of interested landowners to get them enrolled.

Currently, we still have cost share funds for cover crops for this fall, wetland excavations, nutrient management plan development (including nutrient testing and VRT prescriptions from a CCA), whole farm management plans (may include additional funds for practices such as grassed waterways, water and sediment control structures), and blind inlets. These practices are all cost shared at a rate of 95%. With landowners bearing only 5% of the project costs, this is a great opportunity to make improvements to your operations! Please contact Tyler Miller at 419-782-8751 if you are interested in any of these practices. Don't hesitate, as funds are being allocated quickly!



2013 Farm Science Review

The Ohio State University will be showcasing the future of agriculture at the Farm Science Review on September 17-19, 2013. Held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center near London, Ohio; the 80-acre exhibit allows attendees to view the latest farming equipment and technology. In addition, over 600 acres of farmland have been dedicated for drainage and crop production demonstrations. Hundreds of demonstration plots and several million dollars worth of machinery will be on display. For more information about the farm science review, visit: <http://fsr.osu.edu/>.



District Electronic Resources

Be sure to stay up to date with all the District's events and information. With a click of a mouse, our electronic resources provide office hours, contact information, order forms, online newsletters, rental equipment, items for sale, and numerous educational resources. All this information can be found in one location at: www.defiance-county.com/swcd.

Also, become a friend or fan of the Defiance SWCD on Facebook. Stay up to date with the District through pictures, events, and updates. Not on Facebook? Don't worry, head on over to the following link for all of the latest news and photos: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Defiance-Soil-and-Water-Conservation-District/432608040561>.

You can also check out the District's Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership website at www.uppermaumeewatershed.com and the Urban Stormwater Program site at <http://www.cityofdefiance.com/main/index.php/stormwater-program>.

Don't forget that the *Conservation News* newsletter can also be sent directly to your e-mail inbox in lieu of receiving a paper copy. Just send an email to jasonroehrig@defiance-county.com requesting to be added to the electronic mailing list.



District Supervisors/Staff Attend Summer Supervisors' School

A number of Defiance District Supervisors and staff attended the annual Summer Supervisors' School in Perrysburg on July 28th through the 30th. The program themed "For Our Great Lake and Land," was hosted by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The event included workshops directed at agriculture pollution abatement, succession farming, district program outreach, 4-R implementation, urban landscapes, and rural drainage projects. In addition, several tours of Northwest Ohio were conducted with stops at Consolidated Grain and Barge, the Robert J. Anderson Rural Agriculture Center, Bridgewater Dairy, the Ohio CAT facility, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and a Sandpiper Cruise of the Maumee River.



Senator Gardner reviewed conservation funding and ag pollution legislation.



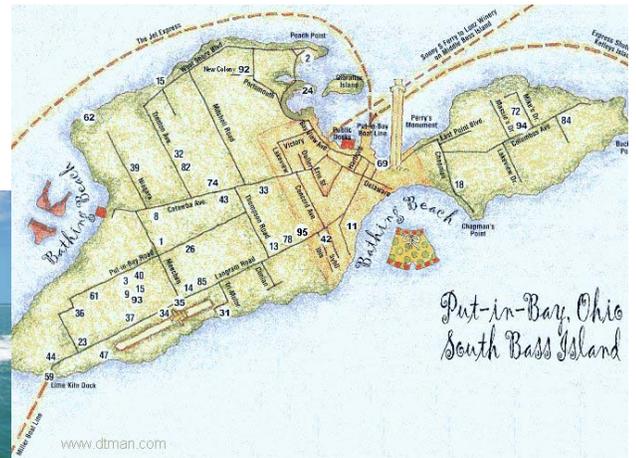
Guest speaker, Senator Randy Gardner, reviewed state budgets, conservation program funding through the Clean Lakes Initiative, and discussed Senate Bill 150; legislation sponsored by Senators Cliff Hite and Bob Peterson. For more information on this legislation, visit: <http://legiscan.com/OH/bill/SB150/2013>.

Bus Trip to Put-In-Bay



On Friday, September 20, 2013 we would like you to join us for an informative bus trip to Put-In-Bay, where we will be treated to a tour of the newly-remodeled Ohio State University Water Quality Lab. After the tour, we will then board the research vessels for an informative hands-on cruise of Lake Erie. This tour is an opportunity for agricultural retailers and producers to learn about some of the valuable programs and projects that are occurring in the Maumee River Basin.

You will also have the opportunity to explore and enjoy lunch on the island. If you would like to spend the night on the island, we have arranged for rooms at discounted prices, (as available) or you may choose one of the quaint bed and breakfasts. For more details, or to reserve your space, please call Stephanie Singer at the Soil and Water Conservation District office.



Congratulations

The "Conservation News" Spring Edition prize giveaway was awarded to Monica Hearne of rural Defiance. Monica received an arrangement of barbeque sauces and seasonings, a grill wok, and grilling utensils.



Take a few minutes to complete the word search on page 7 and return it to our office by September 6, 2013. Puzzles submitted by the deadline will be entered into a random drawing where one winning puzzle is drawn. You just may be our next winner!



Monica Hearne awarded barbecue supplies for submitting the winning puzzle.

Backyard Conservation in Action: Composting Basics

Although gardening is second nature to many of you, composting has been in the spotlight recently and the District has been fielding a lot of questions about this topic! At a basic level, the process of composting might simply be a pile of organic matter that will eventually decompose into humus. More complex methods of composting may include carefully measured inputs of carbon (browns) and nitrogen (greens) with active management using aeration, compost activators, and monitoring of temperature and moisture content as key indicators.

Compost is often referred to as “black gold” because it is so highly valued as a fertilizer and soil amendment. In addition, composting has numerous other benefits that enhance soil and water conservation. Defiance SWCD is working diligently with agricultural producers to reduce



excess nutrients in waterways, prevent runoff and soil erosion, and promote higher yields of crops. Composting provides many of these benefits on a smaller scale, and is truly Backyard Conservation in action.



There are many ways to accomplish your compost goals, from a tumbling bin that is specially designed to enhance aeration to a low-maintenance homemade pile. The District does offer compost bins for sale, and has informational resources that are available to the general public.

Visit www.composting101.com for more detailed information or contact the District with your questions.

OSU Compost Fact Sheet: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1189.html>

Ditch Maintenance Spraying Update

As a result of uncooperative weather conditions this spring and summer—a windy June and a wet July—some projects that were scheduled to be sprayed this year for brush and/or broadleaf weeds will not be completed. The Ditch Maintenance Department feels that the money to do this work would be better spent next spring at the appropriate growth stage of targeted vegetation to achieve optimum results.



The ditch improvements that are no longer scheduled to be sprayed this year are as follows: Brown, Hardy, Koeppe, Jesse, Phumphrey, Reynolds, English, Verhoff, Wilhelm, Black, Anderson, Donley, Huston, Sutphen, Moats, Snooks, Mitchell, and Rucker. If a landowner has patches of brush that they feel should be sprayed this year, brush spot-spraying can be performed. Please call Kevin Hancock at 419-782-8751 if you have a critical area that you would like sprayed yet this summer on the above improvements.

What Is It?

Intrigued by the intricacies of the natural world? Do you have an eye for detail? In an effort to showcase mother nature’s artwork *and* to challenge readers, the District will be running a series of close-up nature images on the front banner of *Conservation News*. Curious to see if you know what the image is? Visit our website at www.defiance-county.com/swcd and look for the link to the “Nature Picture Challenge”. The full image will be available along with a brief description.



In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous.

-Aristotle

Defiance County Fair Word Search

Search the puzzle below for words pertaining to the Defiance County Fair. Complete the word puzzle and mail it back to the SWCD office by September 6, 2013. An entry will be randomly drawn and the winner will be awarded two tickets to the Annual Meeting Banquet. The winner will be notified and can pick up the tickets at the SWCD office. Thanks for reading and good luck!

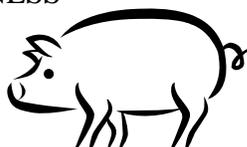
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 BANDS
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 CAMPING
 CARNIVAL
 CHEER

DEMOLITION
 DERBY
 ENTERTAINMENT
 EXHIBITS
 FESTIVAL
 GALLAGHER
 GRANDSTAND
 HARNESS

JUDGING
 LIVESTOCK
 MILKSHAKE
 POSTERS
 PRODUCE
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 PULL
 RACING

RIBBON
 RIDES
 RODEO
 SHOWING
 TENT
 TICKET
 TRACK
 TRUCK



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

CONSERVATION NEWS

Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

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Stephanie Singer
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Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock
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NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder
Lori Shank
Mike Boff

All Ohio Kids' Science Camp 2013

The 2013 All Ohio Kids' Science Camp provided yet another exciting and educational opportunity for area youth. Held from June 9th to the 12th at 4-H Camp Palmer in Fayette, this year's theme was "Camp is Hot...Weather or Not."

In total, 163 campers participated this year—125 student participants from 9-14 years old in addition to 38 counselors, Camp Palmer staff, and adult staff. Thank you to the counselors for all their help as well as the sponsorship by the Northwest Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts and OSU Extension!

Campers experienced the whole gamut of summer meteorological events including rain, wind, and of course some summer heat; so the weather themed camp turned out great! We had lessons of *The Incredible Journey*, air pressure, cloud formation, registering wind speed, weather scavenger hunt, weather ball catch, and rain and drought situations. And certainly, camp included a high ropes course, swimming, hiking, campfires, and learning about nature.

Next year's camp will run from June 3rd to June 6th. If you know any 9-14 year olds that may be interested, contact Bill Grimes, Education Specialist, at 419-782-8751. Defiance County residents are eligible for scholarships to help offset the costs of camp. Also, we would like to thank the Three Rivers Conservation Club for providing student scholarships. We look forward to a great camp next summer!

