

Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District

Hastings and McBride Sworn in as Supervisors

Tony Hastings (left) of Kenton, and Jerry McBride (far right) of Dola, recently elected supervisors of the Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), were sworn into office by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O'Connor during the 66th

Annual Meeting of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) held in Columbus January 20-21st.

Hastings and McBride were each elected to a three year term. Hastings and McBride



join incumbent board members Rowe Garmon, Tom Sprang and Tom Brien in administering the Hardin SWCD's natural resources conservation programs.

The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation

Districts was organized in 1943 to further the natural resource conservation mission of the state's 88 county-based SWCDs. As subdivisions of state government, soil and water conservation districts have legal authority to assist landowners with a wide range of soil, water,

woodland, and wildlife conservation objectives. An important goal of the SWCD is to provide information and education programs on natural resource conservation and management topics for county residents.

Scholarship Available

The Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in an environmental or agricultural course of study for the 2009-2010 school year. The opportunity to apply for the scholarship is available to high school students entering their freshman year of college and up to and including students entering

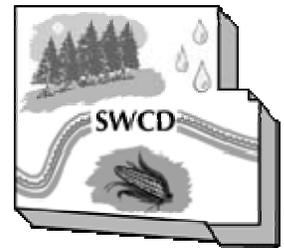
their final year of college studies. Applicants and parents/guardians must be residents of Hardin County prior to entering college and applicant must be maintaining a 2.6 grade point average. Applications must be received by April 9, 2009.

Scholarship details and application forms are available at the Hardin SWCD office, 12751 St. Rt. 309 West,



Kenton, Ohio 43326 or at the Hardin SWCD web site at www.hardinswcd.org

For more information, contact the Hardin SWCD office at 419-673-0456, Ext. 3.



Spring 2009

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Clem Completes Training



Denna Clem recently completed the Administrative Assistant Development Program (AADP) Level II.

Denna has been employed at Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District for 3 years as the Administrative Assistant.

The program consisted of six sessions on: Presenting a Professional Image, Poised and Powerful Public Speaking, Advanced Financial Management, "Bad Apples" & "Give em the Pickle", Working With Legislatures, Commissioners and Other Funders and Time Management and Multi-Tasking.

This training provides useful tools and networking opportunities for the attendees.

Clem attended the sessions with 13 other office personnel from districts across Ohio.

A Certificate of Completion was presented to Clem by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Chief, David Hanselmann, on March 4, 2009 at the annual Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts All Employees Meeting held at Deer Creek Lodge in Mt. Sterling, Ohio.

Hidden Object Winter Newsletter Contest Winner

Congratulations, Eugene Royer for being the Winter Newsletter Hidden Object winner. Eugene won a bundle of 50 marking flags.

Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank everyone for participating.



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Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of all natural resources, including soil, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 26 – May 3, 2009 as Stewardship Week.

2009 Stewardship Week is themed “DIG IT! The Secrets of Soil.” Correlating education materials were developed based on an exhibition created by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History and sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America and the Nutrients for Life Foundation.

Soil supports forests, wetlands, grasslands, tundra, and aquatic ecosystems. Soil makes up the outer layer of the earth’s surface, it nourishes the plants we eat, the animals we use for food and fiber, and the thriving under-

ground kingdom of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, earthworms and other microbes that are critical to the planet’s food web. Soil directly and indirectly effects agricultural production, water quality and climate. Thanks to the earths soils, most of the rainfall hitting the planet is trapped and absorbed, watering plants and replenishing aquifers, rivers, lakes and streams.

Hardin SWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (www.nacdnet.org) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nations 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

“Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, the protection of soil from erosion and degradation has greatly increased through

the work of conservation districts and our partners. These conservation groups assist landowners and the general public through education and technical assistance as to the importance of the soil and how to properly manage it,” said NACD President Steve Robinson. “Soil is one of our precious natural resources that we must conserve for the next generation. All communities benefit when they have a better appreciation of soil and its connections to our every day life. Conservation districts are working with local communities to instill the appreciation for our natural resources across America.”

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact Hardin SWCD at 419-673-0456, Ext 3 or visit our web site at www.hardinswcd.org. You can also visit www.nacdnet.org to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.



Phone Numbers to know

- Hardin SWCD & NRCS—
419-673-0456, Ext. 3
- Farm Service Agency—
419-673-7238, Ext. 2
- Hardin County Commissioners –
419-674-2205
- Health Department—
419-673-6230
- Engineer—
419-674-2222
- Dog Warden—
419-674-2209
- OSU Extension—
419-674-2297
- Keep Hardin County Beautiful—
419-674-2216

Area I Envirothon

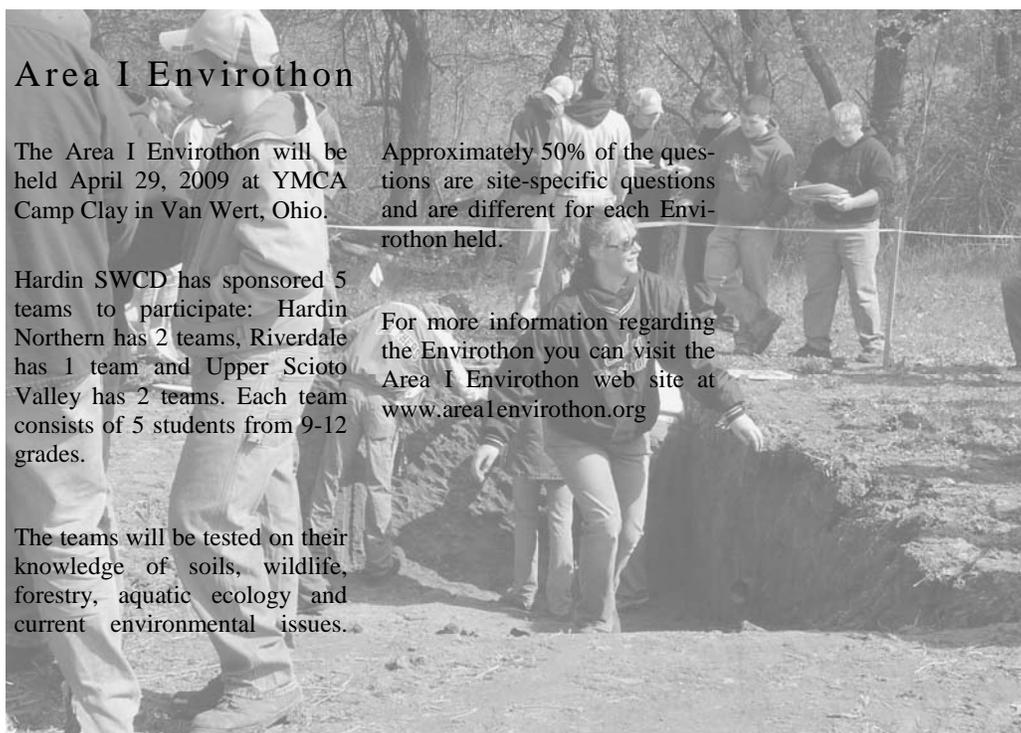
The Area I Envirothon will be held April 29, 2009 at YMCA Camp Clay in Van Wert, Ohio.

Hardin SWCD has sponsored 5 teams to participate: Hardin Northern has 2 teams, Riverdale has 1 team and Upper Scioto Valley has 2 teams. Each team consists of 5 students from 9-12 grades.

The teams will be tested on their knowledge of soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues.

Approximately 50% of the questions are site-specific questions and are different for each Envirothon held.

For more information regarding the Envirothon you can visit the Area I Envirothon web site at www.area1envirothon.org



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Special Thanks to Our Commissioners



We would like to publicly thank our County Commissioners. Thank you, Commissioners Jerry Cross, Edward Elliott, and Ron Wyss for your continued support and dedication to our local conservation efforts. Their ongoing financial support enables the office to provide conservation information and technical

assistance, and general information to all Hardin County residents.

Please join us in thanking our County Commissioners. With their support, we can continue to work toward our mission, "to provide local leadership in the conservation and wise use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced

cooperative program that protects, restores, and improves those resources."

Introducing the Board of Supervisors and Office Staff

Supervisors

- Jerry McBride—Chairman
- Tom Sprang—Vice Chairman
- Tom Brien—Fiscal Agent
- Rowe Garmon—Supervisor
- Tony Hastings—Supervisor

SWCD Staff

- Kathy Bash—Office Manager
- Denna Clem—Administrative Assistant
- Mark Lowery—District Technician
- Howard Lyle—Nutrient Management Specialist
- Julie Rutschilling—Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist

NRCS Staff

- Megan Burgess—District Conservationist
- Mike Elwood—Soil Conservation Technician

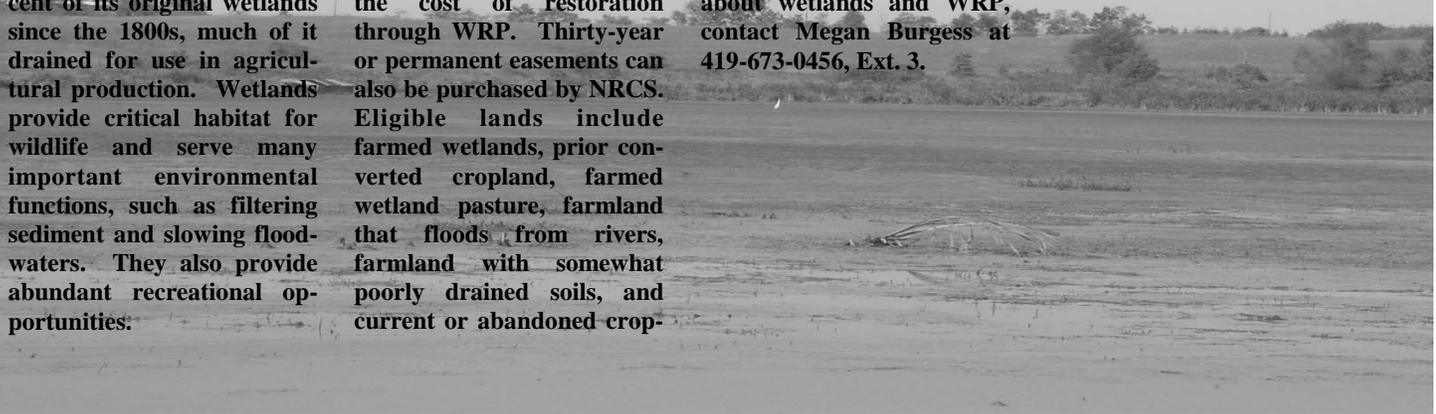
ODNR Staff

- Mark Seger—Conservation Engineer

If you own land that you think might be suitable for creating a wetland, the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) may be for you. Ohio has lost over 90 percent of its original wetlands since the 1800s, much of it drained for use in agricultural production. Wetlands provide critical habitat for wildlife and serve many important environmental functions, such as filtering sediment and slowing floodwaters. They also provide abundant recreational opportunities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service can determine if your land would be suitable for the development of a wetland area, and may provide up to 100 percent of the cost of restoration through WRP. Thirty-year or permanent easements can also be purchased by NRCS. Eligible lands include farmed wetlands, prior converted cropland, farmed wetland pasture, farmland that floods from rivers, farmland with somewhat poorly drained soils, and current or abandoned crop-

land with tile lines, drainage ditches, dikes, or similar alterations. The landowner retains ownership of the land and controls access to the wetland. To learn more about wetlands and WRP, contact Megan Burgess at 419-673-0456, Ext. 3.



Calendar of Events



April 9—Scholarship Applications due

April 10—Fish Orders due

April 16—Board Meeting at 7:30 a.m. and Fish Pickup at 3:00 p.m.

April 23—Family Fun Night, stop by and see us

April 26—Earth Day, stop by and see us

April 26-May 3—Stewardship Week “Dig It the Secrets of Soil”

April 29—Area I Envirothon at Camp Clay in Van Wert, Ohio

May 21—Board Meeting at 7:30 a.m.

May 25—Office Closed for Memorial Day

June 18—Board Meeting at 7:30 a.m.

July 3—Office Closed for Independence Day

Can You Find the Hidden Object?

Can you find the hidden tulip within this newsletter? The tulip looks exactly like the one pictured at the end of this article. Send your circled copy back to: Hardin SWCD, Attn: Hidden Object Contest, 12751 St. Rt. 309 West, Kenton, Ohio 43326, by May 8, 2009. All correct entries will be put in a drawing. The winner will receive a prize and will be announced in the next issue along with a new object to find.



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| EROSION CONTROL BLANKET (8'X112.5')* | \$1.00 PER LINEAR FOOT |
| FLAGS (MARKING) | \$0.08 EACH OR 8.00 A BUNDLE (100) |
| GEOTEXTILE (12.5'x432')* | \$1.25 PER LINEAR FOOT |
| MANURE "DANGER SIGNS" | \$6.00 EACH |
| MULCHNETTING (7'x3000')* | \$0.20 PER FOOT |
| PLAT BOOKS | \$4.00 EACH |
| POND BOOKLETS | \$4.00 EACH |
| TILE PROBE | VARY ACCORDING TO SIZE |
| FILTER FABRIC (3'x300')* | \$0.50 PER LINEAR FOOT |
| SOIL SURVEY CD'S..... | \$10.00 EACH |

RENTALS

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| STRAWMULCHER (2" BALL) | \$50.00 PER DAY (INCLUDES 1/2 DAY) |
| TREE PLANTER..... | \$50.00 PER DAY (2" BALL) |
| SEEDER..... | \$75.00 1/2 DAY |
| | \$125.00 PER DAY |
| | \$ 25.00 DELIVERY FEE |
| TRACTOR & SEEDER..... | \$125.00 1/2 DAY |
| | \$200.00 PER DAY |
| | \$ 25.00 DELIVERY FEE |

New Seeder



***Product Use Explanation:**

Geotextile Cloth: This is a non-woven fabric 12.5' wide x 432' long laid on the soil and then covered with gravel to provide a surface that animals and equipment can travel on. (i.e. driveways, feedlot)

Mulch netting: This is a 7' wide x 3000' long netting used to keep straw mulch in contact with soil surface. The netting is unrolled and stapled over locations susceptible to wind or water erosion. (i.e., used on waterways, home lawns, etc.)

Erosion Control Blanket (Double Net Straw Blanket): This is a 8' wide x 112.5' long mulch blanket designed to control erosion, create ideal conditions for successful germination, and protect seedlings. (i.e., used for sod chutes)

Filter Fabric: This is a non-woven fabric 3' wide x 300' long used to repair gully erosion on existing waterways. Technical name for this procedure is Filter Fabric Checks.

Time to Stock Your Pond for Summer Fishing

Most Ohio ponds have a combination of predator and forage-eating fish species to create a balanced ecosystem. Largemouth bass are the recommended predator species. A forage-eating species would be for example: Bluegill or Redear Sunfish. Fingerlings are fish in the small, immature stage, about one to five inches in length. In a newly constructed pond, fingerlings are an inexpensive alternative to more mature fish.

Pond owners interested in stocking only largemouth bass without bluegill can use fathead minnows as food source for the bass. These minnows should be stocked at the rate of 500 to 1,000 per surface acre.

Stocking rates are included on the bottom of this page. If your pond is 1/2 acre or smaller, reduce rates by half to accommodate the

smaller surface area. The white amur is a vegetation eating fish used for controlling pond weeds.

If you have questions on stocking rates for a new or old pond give us a call at 419-673-0456, Ext. 3.

When moving fish from one water source to another, the water temperature differences should not exceed five degrees. If the new water source temperature is greater than a five degree difference, slowly add pond water to the fish container so the temperature increases two degrees per hour. Proper temperatures will help fish adapt to their new environment.

Orders are due April 10 and fish can be picked up April 16th at 3:00 p.m.



Largemouth Bass

Midwest Game Fish—Although there are many types of bass, the largemouth bass is best suited for the temperate waters of the Midwest. The bass is usually found around structures such as brush piles and weed beds. It has a widely varied diet that emphasizes minnows and small fish. Its predatory nature helps keep other fish from overpopulating. One-year-old bass range from three to seven inches long.

Channel Catfish



Midwest Game Fish—The channel catfish is most commonly found around the bottom of a lake or pond. It is a scavenger and will eat just about anything it can find. Channel catfish do not generally reproduce in ponds due to the absence of an adequate spawning structure. A suitable structure can be added by placing buckets or drain tile on the pond bottom.

Fathead Minnow



Forage Fish—The fathead minnow's small size and abundant reproduction make it an excellent forage fish. It is very tolerant of muddy water and a wide range of pH levels. Its rapid rate of reproduction makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory fish are present. One-year-old fish range in size from one-half to three inches and seldom exceed three inches at maturity.



Redear Sunfish

Alternative Management Species—The redear sunfish is very similar to the bluegill. It is found around structures where it feeds almost exclusively on mollusks. The redear is known to be fast growing and hard fighting. The redear does not reproduce as much as the bluegill and is not likely to overpopulate. Spawning begins in late spring. One-year-old fish may range from one to four inches.



White Amur

Biological Aquatic Weed Control—The amur is a natural alternative for aquatic weed control. It is more effective than chemical control without potential side effects. Special precautions should be used when stocking amur. Overflow drain pipes should be screened off and the use of copper based chemicals should be avoided.



Yellow Perch

Midwest Game Fish—The yellow perch is a cool-water fish. It should be stocked in lakes in which the water temperature remains below 75° F year round. Perch feed on zooplankton, insects, snails, and other small fish. One-year-old fish range in size from one to four inches.



Bluegill

Alternative Management Species - Bluegills are usually the pond fish most eager to bite and put up a good fight on light tackle despite their small size. Young bluegills feed on tiny microscopic plants, called phytoplankton, and zooplankton. The diet of adults often includes insects, snails, small crayfish, fish eggs, and very small fishes. Bluegills can grow to six inches in two to four years when plenty of food and space are available.

Fish can be purchased in any quantity and/or combination. Recommended stocking rate of the fingerlings (one to five inches long) for new ponds (per surface acre) is:

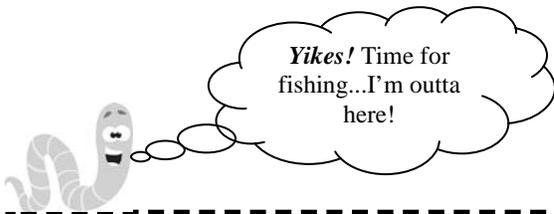
- 100 largemouth bass
- 500 bluegill
- 100 channel catfish

The stocking rate for White Amur is:

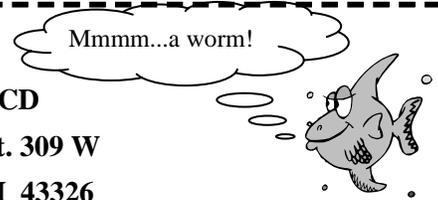
| Percent of Pond Covered by Plants | Number of White Amur per surface acre of water |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 0 – 20% | 0 |
| 20 – 40% | 5 |
| 40 – 60% | 10 |
| 60% – over | 20 |

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Hardin SWCD Fish Sale Order Form



Mail order form with payment by April 10, to:

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

For Office Use Only

Date _____

Cash/Check _____

Receipt # _____

By _____

| Species | Size | Quantity | Price | Total |
|-----------------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|
| Largemouth Bass | 2"- 4" | _____ | \$ 0.80 | _____ |
| Bluegill | 2"- 4" | _____ | \$ 0.70 | _____ |
| Channel Catfish | 4"- 5" | _____ | \$ 0.75 | _____ |
| White Amur | 8"-12" | _____ | \$12.00 | _____ |
| Yellow Perch | 2"- 4" | _____ | \$ 0.70 | _____ |
| Redear Sunfish | 2"- 4" | _____ | \$ 0.85 | _____ |
| Fathead Minnows | 1"- 3" | _____ | \$ 0.06 | _____ |
| | | | Total | _____ |