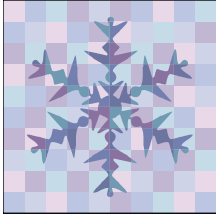


Leading Creek News



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2012 Photo Contest



The Meigs SWCD and the Leading Creek Watershed Group are now accepting entries for the eighth annual amateur photo contest. This year's theme is "Disgusting Water: Clean It Up!" The purpose of the theme is to promote awareness of water pollution and litter, as well as to increase efforts to clean it up.

This contest is open to Meigs County residents of all ages, but photos must be taken within Meigs County and relate to the theme. This year there is a limit of **one** photo submission per person. Photos can be submitted digitally or by physical copy. Photos can be black & white or color, but all printed photos must be no larger than 5x7.

All pictures are welcome, current or historical, and will be displayed at the SWCD office and events. Five winners will be chosen, and the top three winners will be awarded cash prizes! Photos will be judged by a panel of local experts and residents. Submissions are due to the Meigs SWCD office by Friday, April 6th. Photos can be delivered to the Meigs SWCD office in Pomeroy or e-mailed to lisamprince@gmail.com.

Winners will be announced at the Leading Creek Stream Sweep that will take place on April 14th. The top three photos will be displayed at the Meigs SWCD booth during the 2012 Meigs County Fair, at the SWCD's 2012 Annual Banquet, and at participating local businesses.

To obtain the required entry forms and detailed contest rules please contact the Meigs SWCD office at 740-992-4282, or visit www.meigsswcd.com. We look forward to seeing your photos of efforts to clean up our waters!



Meigs SWCD Staff

Steve Jenkins, *Program Administrator*
 Vicki Morrow, *Assistant Administrator*
 Jenny Ridenour, *Education Coordinator /
 District Technician*
 Jim Freeman, *Wildlife Specialist /
 Watershed Coordinator*
 Raina Fulks, *Leading Creek Watershed
 Coordinator*
 Carrie Crislip, *NRCS - District
 Conservationist*
 Lisa Prince, *AmeriCorps member*

Our Partners

Meigs Soil and Water Conservation
 District
 Agri-Drain Corporation
 American Electric Power
 AMP Ohio
 Buckeye Hills RC&D
 Boy Scouts of America
 Eastern Local School District
 Girl Scouts of the USA
 Leading Creek Conservancy District
 Leading Creek Improvement Committee
 Meigs County Commissioners
 Meigs County Engineer
 Meigs County Health Department
 Meigs County Recycling & Litter
 Prevention
 Meigs Local FFA
 Meigs Local School District
 Mid Valley Christian School
 Natural Resources Conservation Services
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources,
 Divisions of Forestry, Soil & Water
 Resources, Mineral Resources
 Management, and Wildlife
 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency,
 Division of Surface Water
 Ohio State University Extension
 Ohio University, College of Engineering
 Ohio University, ILGARD
 PDK Construction
 Pheasants Forever
 Residents of the Leading Creek Watershed
 Rural Action, Inc.
 Rutland Village Council
 Southern Local School District
 Township Trustees of Columbia, Salem, Rutland, and
 Salisbury Townships in Meigs County
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Office of Surface Mining
 4-H



Recycling Realities

As many of you may have heard, the Meigs SWCD has taken on the Meigs County Recycling for the year 2012. This means that we will be including a recycling component to many of our educational activities. To start the year off with this theme in mind, here are some fun 'recycling realities!' Did you know that...

- Collecting and disposing of wastes in America is the third largest tax burden on local communities after roads and highways (NJ DEP). And recycling can reduce solid waste handling and land-filling costs (WI DNR).
- Recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy required to produce new cans from iron ore. Twenty recycled cans can be made with the energy needed to produce one can using ore (Worldwatch).
- Studies show that recycling plastic bottles into new products saves from 50-60 percent of the energy that would be required to make the same product from virgin material (Plastic Bottle Institute).
- Paper made from waste paper instead of virgin wood requires 64% less energy and 61% less water. It also results in 70% fewer air pollutants (WA Dept. of Ecology).
- The U.S. throws away enough aluminum every 3 months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet (The Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Vinton Solid Waste Management District).
- The US generates over 75 million tons of waste paper each year; paper represents about 40% of the waste stream. (The Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Vinton Solid Waste Management District).

If you are unsure of what you can recycle or where to take your recycling in Meigs County, please contact the Meigs SWCD at 740-992-4282.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Educator Workshop Fun!

On December 21st we held another Educator's Workshop, this time focusing on 'Project Learning Tree.' In attendance were student teachers, education coordinators, watershed citizens, and AmeriCorps members.

Project Learning Tree (or PLT) uses the forest as a "window" on the world to increase students' understanding of our environment; stimulate students' critical and creative thinking; develop students' ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues; and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment. Project Learning Tree has programs and activities for classes



Jenny Ridenour, Education Coordinator, is shown here explaining a Project Learning Tree activity to the workshop participants.

ranging from preschool all the way through 12th grade.

Participants started off the workshop by drawing their favorite tree, and then introducing themselves by talking about what they have in common with their tree. They also had fun participating in PLT activities that taught them such lessons as: what trees need to grow, how disease is spread in a forest, and how the water cycle works.

Each participant received free activity books and a free lunch! We are planning to have two more workshops later in the year.



Participants are shown here playing "Every Tree For Itself," in which they learn about resources trees need to survive.



**Leading Creek has a new Facebook page!
Please visit
www.facebook.com/LeadingCreek and 'like'
us to view pictures, keep updated, and more!**

Thomas Fork Doser Project



The Thomas Fork Doser Project is the first step in reclamation goals for the stream. Next Hysell Run will be addressed.

Dosers work by releasing controlled amounts of lime product into the flowing water, which increases pH and reduces acidity. The discharge from the doser will enter Thomas Fork at river mile 7.5. Calcium oxide pebble material will be used to increase the alkalinity of the mine drainage. Water will turn a wheel inside the doser system, and the calcium oxide will drop out into the water as it flows out the building and into the mixing channel. The mixture will then be channeled back into the stream. Post construction water monitoring will begin immediately after the doser is put in service.



Shown here is calcium oxide, or quick lime, which will be used in the doser.

We are pleased to announce that the Thomas Fork Doser Project, our first acid mine drainage reclamation project, has been constructed! A few details need to be finished, and then the doser will be operational in early 2012.

This project is located on Bailey Run Road on property now owned by the Meigs SWCD, along an unnamed tributary to Thomas Fork that is the largest acidity and metal loader in the Leading Creek Watershed. Pre-construction sampling indicated a typical pH of 3.07, an acidity loading of 1,040 lbs./day, and a metal loading of 216 lbs/day. ODNR, DMRM engineering staff completed the design of this reclamation project with a goal of reducing the acid load by 100%. D.V. Weber Construction began construction on September 12, 2011.



Steve Jenkins, Meigs SWCD Program Administrator, demonstrates the height of the doser silo, which will hold a maximum of 35 tons of lime material.

Reintroducing Fish into Leading Creek

On November 19th, staff from the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium / Ohio State University came to the Leading Creek Watershed to reintroduce native fish, brindled madtoms, to the ecosystem. This species was decimated by the mine water release from the 1993 Meigs Mine Disaster.

The brindled madtoms, or *Noturus miurus*, were collected from Little Rush Creek, a tributary to the Hocking River, and from Clear Creek. There, the madtoms were hiding amongst their favorite habitat in the rootwads of the few trees along the undercut banks, and in the sticks and logs and leaf cover on the stream bottom. They were translocated after dark, since madtoms, like other catfishes, are primarily nocturnal in habit and leave their hiding places to feed when it grows dark. Nighttime introductions are suitable to the madtoms, as they may be less susceptible to predation.

A location along Little Leading Creek at the Jewell Farm was chosen for release of the fish. Staff arrived around 7:00 p.m. in the pitch black under overcast skies. The weather at that time of night was a chilly 40 degrees Fahrenheit, or so. As they began to



Shown here is one of the Brindled Madtoms that was released into Little Leading Creek.

suit up for the stream, they heard the sound of coyotes howling, probably about a half mile or so away behind a hill that rises to the west of the property. A few minutes later the coyotes suddenly erupted in full voice, only this time they seemed to be about 50 yards away, hidden behind the tall grasses and probably heading pell-mell for the ford they were just about to enter. They switched on the headlights and talked a bit louder, whereupon the coyotes ceased their howling and were quiet for the rest of the foray.

They gathered up flashlights, a camera, and cooler full of madtoms and entered Little Leading Creek. Looking for a good spot, they made their way downstream about 100 meters to a fairly deep pool where there was a nice bit of undercut bank, plenty of riparian grasses and a few trees along the banks with inundated root masses. After making certain the water was about the same temperature in the cooler as in the stream, the fish were gently placed in the shallow water near the bank, whereupon they swam away into the night.

Subsequent introductions will take place through 2012, whereupon sampling will begin for survival and recruitment of the madtoms.

Marc Kibbey
with
OSU/Columbus
Zoo &
Aquarium
reveals a
cooler full of
brindled
madtoms.





Leading Creek Stream Sweep

Spring will be here before we know it! That means it is time to plan for our stream sweep. The 12th Annual Leading Creek Stream Sweep will be held on Saturday, **April 14th** from 9a.m. to noon at the Jim Vennari Park in Rutland.

Groups and individuals are invited to participate in the event to clean and beautify the streams in the Leading Creek watershed and to keep trash and other refuse from getting into the streams. Generally volunteers disperse from the park and return with their haul later in the morning. Recyclable items such as pop cans and water bottles are separated out and recycled. Clean-up sites include areas along the streams in the Leading Creek watershed, and other problem trash areas near streams and roads.

We will also have an Electronics Waste Collection point for all electronic items with the exception of televisions. Area residents or businesses can bring electronic items they wish to dispose of to Jim Vennari Park the morning of the Stream Sweep for collection. Some things people have brought in the past include old computers, small kitchen appliances, and old radios. No television sets can be accepted.

In addition, the winners of the 2012 Photo Contest will be announced at this event.

Community groups and individuals who wish to participate in the event can contact the Meigs SWCD at 740-992-4282. The first 100 registered participants will receive a new Leading Creek Stream Sweep T-shirt and lunch will be served afterwards.

This is a great way for groups and people to get involved in their community and to make it a more beautiful place to live.

The event is sponsored by the Meigs SWCD, Rutland Township Board of Trustees, and the Meigs County Transfer Station.



Call for Volunteers



Interested in environmental issues? We have many volunteer opportunities! We will be holding Adopt-A-Highway events along SR 7/124 in Pomeroy on the 14th of February and the 14th of April. Our annual stream sweep is also set for the 14th of April. And we are always looking for interested volunteers for our Leading Volunteer Monitors Program, which gives concerned citizens the opportunity to monitor the water quality anywhere in the Leading Creek watershed! If interested in any of these opportunities, please visit the website, give us a call, or stop by the office.

Leading Creek Watershed Group Membership Form

Join us today! Leading Creek wants *you* to become a member!

To become a member of the Leading Creek Watershed Group simply fill in your information below and drop this form off at our office or mail it to us c/o Meigs SWCD
33101 Hiland Road
Pomeroy, OH 45769

Yes, I want to join today!

And I want to donate! (see options below)

Name (Please print) _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Benefits of Membership

All members receive personal invitations throughout the year to participate in activities such as watershed tours, group contests, litter clean up days, and water sampling demonstrations.

Option to Donate

Here is your chance to help us restore and protect the watershed. All donations are used to directly benefit the efforts of the Leading Creek Watershed Group. Those who donate \$50 or more receive one of our newly designed t-shirts. Also keep in mind that your contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to Leading Creek c/o Meigs SWCD.

- \$10 *Donor* Preferred Shirt Size (If applicable) _____
- \$25 *Supporter*
- \$50 *Patron*
- \$100 *Sponsor*
- \$500 *Benefactor*
- Other \$ _____

**THE LEADING CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP IS
A PARTNERSHIP OF
RESIDENTS,
OFFICIALS, AND
AGENCIES UNITED BY
COMMON INTEREST IN
RESTORING THE
LEADING CREEK
WATERSHED TO ADD
TO THE QUALITY OF
LIFE FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF THE
WATERSHED AND
SURROUNDING
COMMUNITIES.**

Thank you for your membership and for your support!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 14th: Adopt-a-Highway, meet by 9am at Meigs SWCD office

April 6th: Photo contest entry deadline

April 14th: Leading Creek Stream Sweep & Adopt-a-Highway & Photo Contest awards given, 9am in Rutland

Office Closed for Holidays:

February 20th



www.meigsswcd.com

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