

# THE CONSERVATIONIST



**Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District** Conservation • Development • Self-government

July 2005

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## DISTRICT SEEKING SUPERVISORS

Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within the county of the election can seek election to the Delaware SWCD board of supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot in one of two ways.

The Delaware SWCD nominating committee can nominate candidates. This committee works throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county.

Interested individuals may also stop at the Delaware SWCD office, 557 Sunbury Rd. Suite A, Delaware, OH 43015, and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners

from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on October 17, 2005. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on November 22, 2005 at the Delaware Area Career Center (JVS), 1610 St. Rt. 521, Delaware, OH 43015.

### SWCD CALENDAR

For more info on these events, please call the District Office, (740) 368-1921.

<b>August</b>	
8/10	Olentangy Watershed Alliance Board Mtg.
8/11	Upper Scioto River Watershed Project Mtg.
8/14	Annual Scioto River Valley Federation Picnic
8/15-16	Farm Bureau Leadership Mtg. - Columbus
8/16	SWCD Board Mtg.
8/19-20	Powell Days
<b>September</b>	
9/1	Upper Big Walnut Creek Water Quality Partnership Mtg.
9/5	Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED
9/6	Friends of the Lower Olentangy Mtg.
9/8	Upper Scioto River Watershed Project Mtg.
9/14	Olentangy Watershed Alliance Board Mtg.
9/17-23	Delaware County Fair
9/22	Little Brown Jug Day - OFFICE CLOSED, PM
9/27	SWCD Board Mtg.

### Ohio Woodland Stewards Program

#### PONDS WITH A PURPOSE CLINIC

Learn about strategies for successful pond management, weed control, and growing big fish.

Program will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2005 from 9:00-4:00 at the Gwynne Conservation Area at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, OH. Reservations are required and the registration fee is \$30. For more information, call the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program at (614) 688-3421 or check out <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>.

### Delaware SWCD Mission

To provide progressive leadership, support, and assistance to the public through grassroots programs that promote natural resources conservation and stewardship.

## Dry Hydrant Grants Available



The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District has recently assisted in the design and installation of the first cost-shared dry hydrant in the County. The District is working with the Heart of Ohio Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council to bring more of the vital rural fire fighting tools to the County.

A dry fire hydrant is a non-pressurized system of pipes installed in a pond. Fire departments can use pumper trucks to draw water from the hydrant at any time. These hydrants provide an important water source for rural fire departments.

The Heart of Ohio RC&D Council is offering grants to assist with the cost of dry fire hydrant materials up to \$1,000. This grant program ends May 31, 2006. Delaware SWCD provides the design and construction monitoring for dry fire hydrants in the grant program. To be eligible for a RC&D grant, dry fire hydrant sites must be approved by the local fire department, meet NRCS standards and benefit the community.

The best time to install dry fire hydrants is late summer and early fall, preferably in a new pond. If you are building a pond and would like to have a dry fire hydrant installed, please contact Delaware SWCD at (740) 368-1921 ext. 4 this summer.



### FSA Notes

*by Don Henry, County Executive Director*

#### Progress Underway in Scioto River Watershed CREP Signup

Interest in the SRW Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has been high during the first few months as nearly 50% of the 70,000 acres funded for enrollment have been signed up. Sign-up began in February and is funded for 70,000 acres in 31 counties, including Delaware County. To date, over 400 acres are enrolled in Delaware County and 40 producers have signed up. Enrollment is on a first-come first-served basis.

The goal of the SRW CREP is four-fold; to help ensure a safe drinking water supply in 22 municipalities in the watershed, to control soil erosion, to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loading, and to enhance wildlife habitats.

To be eligible an owner must have owned the land for at least 12 months or have inherited the land. The acreage must have been planted to an agricultural commodity for 4 of 6 years between 1996-2001 or be considered marginal pastureland to meet eligibility requirements.

This program is especially attractive to producers who have land that floods often. The SRW CREP is a voluntary program that provides generous financial incentives to assist producers in safeguarding environmentally sensitive land.

If you have questions about SRW CREP or are interested in making an application, contact the Delaware County FSA Office at (740) 363-3671.

## Upper Scioto River Watershed Project Progress Report

By Ed Miller, Watershed Project Coordinator

Recently, the Upper Scioto River Watershed Project Advisory Committee met to hear about progress on the watershed action plan, ask questions, and express comments and concerns for consideration as the planning process moves forward.

In the office, work on the nine-county Upper Scioto River Watershed Project area has focused on further development of the watershed action plan and other activities associated with planning for long-term coordination.

Action plan development is now concerned with determining how the best management practices will take place. It is anticipated that a priority system will be developed to maintain focus on the most important stream impairments and resource needs for restoration and maintenance. Farther down the road it is expected that the comprehensive plan will become subdivided into about three areas that can each be managed more efficiently based on common issues. Although an active level of project planning must always be taking place, the ultimate goal is a workable plan that puts planning into action with measurable results. This is not an easy task but with continued support it is not insurmountable.

The Watershed Coordinator 2 Year Work Plan Table is used to outline coordinator activities over the next two years. The plan is divided into six major categories: Watershed Planning, Involvement and Outreach, Fund Raising, Implementation, Organizational Development, and Evaluation. Each category requires a strategy, determination of resource requirements, performance indicators, and time schedule.

In June the work plan was revised to better reflect activities to take place as the plan evolves from the early stages of getting organized and identifying problems to determining best management practices and planning for their implementation. This phase calls for continued activity and support from the various government agencies, stakeholders, advisory groups, and volunteers.

Volunteer assistance has proven to be one of the most effective ways of implementing many of the management practices called for in the action plan. Volunteers can perform many other important functions during the implementation process. Some of the most useful volunteer activities include team decision making, problem solving, communication and leadership, and leadership support. Contractors and consultants play an important role in the implementation of restoration efforts throughout the watershed. Without their involvement large projects involving high levels of technology and expensive equipment would become too demanding of all-volunteer teams. Developing watershed goals and objectives and determining best management practices however, will not mean the end of the action plan development process.

One activity that has recently been underway in the field and in the office has been the implementation of the Scioto River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program commonly referred to as CREP. Recent enrollments in CREP have brought about a flurry of activity as farmers/landowners and agency staff work to complete field measurements and process applications. This program is an excellent example to demonstrate how landowners can continue implementing conservation practices that bring about water quality improvements while work continues on developing the watershed action plan. (See *FSA Notes* on page 2).

For more information about the watershed action plan or the Scioto River CREP please contact Ed Miller at the Delaware SWCD at (740) 368-1921 ext. 4

## SWCD HIRES TWO NEW EMPLOYEES

### ED MILLER



Ed is the new Streams Specialist and Watershed Coordinator for the Delaware SWCD. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and served as soil scientist for the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources from 1974-2002. He has worked as field soil resource specialist, soil survey project leader, and state coordinator of the Ohio Coop. Soil Survey Program and the Soil Information Delivery Program. Ed has served on the Delaware County Board of Health for the past 5 years and is active on the regulatory review committee, subdivision review committee, and board organizational activities. He is an active member of the Ohio Assoc. of Boards of Health and the Natl. Association of Local Boards of Health. Ed and wife Ellen are residents of Brown Township. Ed enjoys gardening and spending time doing family activities along with his environmental interests.

### JACOB PRESTON



Jake and his wife Alicia live north of Newark in Licking County. He and his father farm 250 acres of corn and beans. Jake graduated from The Ohio State University in June with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Engineering. Throughout college, he worked for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources- Division of Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Transportation in Knox County and also worked for Tractor Supply Company in Newark and Mount Vernon. Jake will be assisting with the Building Lot Drainage Protection Review Program and working with the District technical staff as a Resource Conservationist. Furthermore, Jake looks forward to meeting and working with local landowners to accomplish their resource conservation needs.



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