

The

CONSERVATIONIST

Newsletter of the
Delaware Soil and Water
Conservation District

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Holidays 2001

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James Sherman, Member

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Tom Edwards, District Conserv.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Deborah Martin
James Ward
Donald Wuertz

The Delaware SWCD provides programs and services on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

OPEN HOUSE!

Sponsored by
The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District,
USDA Farm Services Agency, &
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

You are cordially invited to an open house,
January 16, 2001
at the Delaware County Agricultural Center
557 Sunbury Road (Rts. 36-37 E.) in Delaware.
Enter parking lot from Bowtown Road

**Stop by anytime between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM for
refreshments and a visit!**

Win a great Door Prize*

**To be eligible for a door prize, bring your completed SWCD Planning Questionnaire found in this mailing the day of the Open House. You may mail your completed questionnaire, but to be eligible for the door prize drawing, it must be received no later than January 17, 2001. If mailed, please print your name, address, and phone number on the back of the questionnaire. Donors determine size, amount, and methods of distributing door prizes. SWCD, FSA, and NRCS employees are not eligible for door prizes.*



The Board of Supervisors and Staff of the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District would like to wish You and your family a joyous and safe holiday season as well as a prosperous New Year. It has been our pleasure to serve the citizens of Delaware County this past year. Thanks to your efforts and the support of our County Commissioners, Don Wuertz, Deb Martin, and Jim Ward, we have been able to make the Delaware SWCD one of the best in the State. With your support, we will make 2002 even better. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



TED COLFLESH, SUE CUNNINGHAM ELECTED TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ted Colflesh and Sue Cunningham were elected to serve on the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors at the Annual Meeting held November 20, 2001. Ted will be serving his sixth term on the Board, while this will be Sue's first term. Both terms begin January 1, 2002, and are three-year terms. Congratulations to both Sue and Ted!

TREE SALE UPCOMING

The Delaware SWCD Annual Tree Seedling and Wildlife Products Sale will begin January 29th. Tree information and order forms will be available in the next issue of *The Conservationist*. Information will also be available on our website www.delawareswcd.org. As always, anyone who plans to order trees is encouraged to get their orders to the SWCD office as quickly as possible. Many of the species sold out last year, and orders are filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

Over 150 people attended the 57th Annual Banquet and Meeting of the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District. All attending were treated to a wonderful dinner and entertainment. Charles and Betty Sheets were recognized as the Conservation Cooperator of the Year. The Sheets have been District cooperators since 1954, and have done much to promote the conservation of natural resources in Delaware County. The Conservation Booster award was presented to the Delaware County Chapter of Pheasants Forever in recognition of the many donations the chapter has made to the SWCD program. A new award, the Community Conservation Achievement

Award, was presented jointly to the City of Delaware's Grounds and Facilities Department and the Shade Tree Commission for their support and cooperation with the District on a streamside habitat enhancement project for school students. Other awards were presented to the Big Walnut FFA, County Soils Judging contest, Forestry contest, and Envirothon contest winners; Olentangy Local school teachers Julie Ciocca and Tom Bogard, Conservation Teachers of the Year; Jennifer Hobbs, SWCD/Dick O'Keefe Memorial Scholarship winner; Buckeye Valley freshman Gideon Steed and Delaware Hayes junior Emily Bryant, 4-H Conservation Camp Scholarship recipients; and Mike Fleming, Forestry Camp and Sea Camp scholarships recipient.

CHRISTMAS TREE SELECTION & CARE

Checking a tree for freshness:

- *Bend a needle into a loop. A fir needle from a fresh tree will snap like a fresh carrot when bent. In contrast, a needle from a fresh pine tree should bend into a loop without breaking. Spruce needles are more difficult to test, but also tend to snap when bent into a loop.*
- *Look at the tree's small twigs. The bark on the small twigs should be smooth, not wrinkled like the skin of a prune.*
- *Lift the tree a few inches and bump the stump on the ground. If many green needles fall off, the tree is not fresh. Don't worry if brown needles fall; these are old needles from the tree's interior that shed naturally. Just make sure the tree is shaken before taking it into your house.*
- *Feel the tree's stump. If it is moist and sappy, the tree is fresh. If it feels dry, look for another tree.*
- *Take a tape measure to check the height of your tree instead of estimating. Trees in a field or lot will appear smaller than they actually are.*
- *If possible, cover the tree with a tarp or plastic bag during transport to keep it from drying out.*
- *Before bringing a tree inside, cut about 1" off the bottom of the trunk. Cut straight across and not at an angle.*
- *Use a stand that holds about 1-2 gallons of water.*
- *Suggested watering amount is 1 quart of water per inch of trunk width per day.*
- *Check the stand's water level at least twice a day for the first few days. Do not let the stand go dry. If it does, the trunk will clog with sap in as few as 4-6 hours.*
- *Try not to set the tree up in direct sunlight.*

Source: Ohio State University Extension, Ohioline

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District office will be closed Tuesday, December 25, 2001 and Tuesday January 1, 2002 in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The office will close at noon on December 24, 2001 and December 31, 2001. Additionally, the office will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2002 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.