

The Conservationist

ALLEN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2009

2009 Annual Meeting September 10, 2009

The 62nd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Allen Soil & Water Conservation District will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at the OSU-Lima Campus cafeteria.

Buckeye Catering will be providing the meal again this year. Dinner will be served from 5:30 –6:30 PM and will feature Roast Beef a Jus, Baked Ham with Pineapple and a delicious selection of side dishes.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available from Board

members or any Associate Supervisor. You may also purchase tickets at the SWCD office or by returning the order form on page 3 of this newsletter. Deadline for purchasing tickets is September 1, 2009.

Voting for the election of one member of the Board of Supervisors will take place from 5:00–6:00 PM. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Glandorf Men's Choir.

Allen SWCD Budget Update

In February the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board officially laid off five of their eight staff members as a result of the Allen County Commissioners' announcement they would not be able to fund the District's \$126,000 annual appropriation. The cut also prevented the SWCD

from receiving \$118,440 in matching funds from the state this year. The District's financial liabilities were also further complicated by the fact that this decision came five weeks into the year and that lay-offs require severance pay-outs and unemployment compensations.

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All Allen SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

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2009 Annual Meeting, continued



Entertainment for this year's Annual Meeting will be the Glandorf Men's Choir, directed by our own Dan Ellerbrock. They have lots of fun singing together and perform a wide variety of music.

2009 Election Notice

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Allen Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Residents or landowners who are 18 years of age or older, or firms and corporations owning or occupying land in Allen county may vote for Supervisor. A non-resident landowner, firm, or corporation must provide an affidavit of eligibility, which includes designation of a voting representative, prior to casting a ballot.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot: (1) at the annual meeting, which will take place **September 10, 2009 at 5:00 PM**; (2) at the SWCD office until 3 PM on **September 10, 2009**; or (3) vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office at the following address or on our website:

Allen SWCD Office
3900 Campus Drive, Suite A
Lima, OH 45804

One (1) Supervisor will be elected. The nominees are Steven C. Buettner and Robert Hutchinson.

2009 Candidates for Board of Supervisors

Steven C. Buettner and his wife Bonnie live and farm in the northwest corner of Allen county. He participates in some no-till farming and other practices. Steve is employed by Unverferth Manufacturing Co.

Robert Hutchinson and his wife Janet reside in Lafayette. He is currently employed as a Deputy Sheriff for Allen County. Robert farms in partnership with his brothers and uses no-till almost exclusively in their corn-soybean-wheat operation. The Hutchinson Brothers have installed several conservation practices including waterways and subsurface drainage. Robert is also a volunteer fireman for the Lafayette/Jackson Township Department. He has been an Allen SWCD board member since 1995.

2009 Forestry Field Day

This year the Allen County/Auglaize County Forestry Field Day is going to be held in Allen County in Amanda Township on the property of Clyde and Tom Ditto at 717 N. Grubb Road.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Service Forester- John Mueller will guide the group through the Amanda Township woods and discuss various topics pertaining to woodlot management, timber stand improvement harvest, tree identification, grape vine damage/control, tree diseases and pest problems.

Annual Meeting Tickets

To order your tickets please return this completed form with payment
NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 to the Allen SWCD office.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Number of Tickets:

x \$10.00 each =

Make check payable to Allen SWCD and return to
3900 Campus Drive, Suite A, Lima, OH 45804

The field day will be held from 4:30p.m. – 6:30p.m. Thursday, October 22nd, on the property of Clyde and Tom Ditto which is located on Grubb Road. (Grubb Road is also known as Bowsher Road in Auglaize County.) The afternoon will be informal, but we ask that participants dress for the weather.

Refreshments will be provided. No reservations are required to attend. For additional information contact the Auglaize SWCD at 419-738-4016 x 3 or the Allen SWCD at 419-223-0040 x 3.

Budget Update, continued

Allen SWCD has the resources to keep the office open this year, and we have prioritized our workload based on the limited funding and the staff reduction. The annual tree sale program, to our amazement, did increase this year and we hope to be able to offer it in 2010. This year, completing the Senate Bill 160 drainage projects is our highest priority along with administering the county's urban stormwater programs.

On June 10th, Allen SWCD conducted a special board meeting for the purpose of deciding whether or not to pursue a levy to fund the District programs. Twenty-one people, outside the board and staff, participated in that approximately one and a half hour discussion. It was the consensus of the group that Allen SWCD first seek restored funding by supporting the Commissioners in raising the county sales tax, with the pursuit of a levy to fund the District being secondary. The group as a whole also supported the idea of Allen SWCD continuing to work with the other zeroed agencies. The Allen SWCD Board met in executive session following that meeting and voted in favor of supporting the Allen County Commissioners in raising the County sales tax and postponing a levy for District funding at this time.

Allen SWCD also applied for an emergency grant through the

Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The grant is for Soil and Water Districts who have had their county funds zeroed out or drastically cut. Within the last week we were told that our grant application was tentatively approved for this year. We also received additional funding from the County Commissioners in May for the drainage program, which is a self-supporting program that brings dollars back to the County's general fund.

To date we have been able to bring back one technician full time with no benefits, and our office secretary part-time. With the resources we have at this time we are hoping to be able to make it through this year.

Allen SWCD has joined many of the zeroed agencies and other interested parties in a task force for the sales tax increase. The task force believes that the Allen County Commissioners have no choice but to pass a sales tax increase, bringing it in-line with the adjacent counties. At this time we do not know what 2010 will hold for the District.

At right: Windbreak planting this spring.



Pond Construction Assistance Changes

One of the first steps when building a pond is to dig test holes and evaluate them for soil types and site integrity

In the past, Allen SWCD provided this service as well as design and surveying for pond sites. However, with the recent cut-backs in our office, we have suspended the pond survey and design portions of the program. We are, however, continuing to assist with test holes. There is a \$50 non-refundable deposit for test hole assessment per potential pond site.



West Central Ohio Land Conservancy

The WCOLC is a nonprofit organization that actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting in land or conservation easement acquisition, or by its stewardship of such land or easements.

The organization is an independent, grass-roots effort that works with private landowners interested in protecting open space. They cooperate with governmental agencies by acquiring or managing land, researching open space needs, and assisting in the development of open space plans.

The main purpose of the WCOLC is to protect land that has natural, recreational, scenic, historic, or productive value including farmland, forests, historic sites, riparian corridors, etc.

The WCOLC holds their monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. It is held at the Allen County Agricultural Service Building at 3900 Campus Drive in Lima. If you have any questions, please check out the Conservancy's website at www.wcolc.org or call them at 567-204-9126.

Drainage Projects Update

Work is progressing on several drainage improvement projects. The office staff is actively trying to complete projects which have been surveyed, finishing the design work and proceeding onto the “meeting” phase of the process.

The “Billymack Road Project” has been awarded for construction and is scheduled to be completed this fall after crops are off. It involves replacement of 3,900 feet of agricultural drainage tile along with construction of a surface drain. It is located in Marion Township.

The “Dan Boughan Project” has been awarded for construction after crops are off and involves installation of 840 feet of agricultural drainage tile. It is located in Monroe Township.

The “Kent Burkholder Project” has been awarded for installation this summer. It involves installing 2,366 feet of 15 inch farm tile and is located in Richland Township.

The “Wrasman Drainage Project” has been approved by the Commissioners and is currently in the appeal stage, which allows landowners a 30 day period to appeal the Commissioner’s decision to the Court of Common Pleas. This project is a very expensive project involving installation of 7,200 feet of field tile ranging from 12”

to 30” in diameter. It will also involve reconstruction of 6,600 feet of open ditch. It is located in Marion Township

The “Moser Joint County Ditch” is located in Richland Township and involves land in both Allen and Hancock County. It consists of reconstruction of 22,330 feet of open ditch, 2,100 feet of 15” tile, 720 feet of 18” tile and 300’ of 24” tile. Final changes are being made to the drawings. Once these changes are complete the project will be certified to the Joint Board of County Commissioners. Construction should begin after crops are harvested this fall.



The “Wm. Smith Joint County Project” is a replacement of an existing drainage tile which serves as the outlet for several home sites as well as surrounding agricultural areas (*photo left*). The final designs are finished and a meeting with the landowners will be coming up in the next few weeks. It is located in Auglaize Township and involves land in Allen and Auglaize counties.

Work is expected to begin in late fall if the project is approved.

The “Honey Run Project” is moving forward. The survey is nearly completed and the preliminary design work is fin-

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Allen County Taking Steps To Adopt Illicit Discharge Regulations

In 2003 Ohio EPA required the development and implementation of storm water management plans for 62.23 square miles in Allen County, Ohio. Based on the urbanized population, this includes portions of American, Bath, Perry and Shawnee Townships and the entire limits of the Villages of Elida and Fort Shawnee and the City of Lima. EPA regards storm water discharges from urbanized areas a concern because of the high concentration of pollutants found in those discharges. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) is one of six minimum control measures addressed in the storm water management plans. The adoption of regulations in Allen County to prohibit illicit discharges to the separate storm sewer system is a required step in the process. The City of Lima approved their "Illicit Discharges And Connections" ordinance in 2006. Allen County used the City's ordinance as a template for their regulation.

By definition "Illicit Discharge" means any direct or indirect non-storm discharge to the separate storm sewer system. Exemptions include (when properly managed to ensure no potential pollutants are present) drinking water line flushing, uncontaminated pumped groundwater and other discharges from drinking water sources, landscape irrigation and lawn watering, diverted stream flows, rising groundwater, groundwater infiltration to the separate storm sewer system, uncontaminated footing and foundation drains,

uncontaminated water from crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, uncontaminated non-industrial roof drains, springs, individual residential and occasional non-commercial car washing, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, dechlorinated swimming pool discharges, street wash waters, and flows from fire fighting. This is not an all-inclusive list, as specific agencies may permit exemptions.

Representatives of the following entities worked together to prepare the draft regulations: American Township, Bath Township, Shawnee Township, Fort Shawnee, Elida, Lima Allen Co. Regional Planning Commission, Allen Co. Health Dept., Allen Co. Emergency Management Agency, Allen Co. Engineer, Allen Co. Sanitary Engineer, Allen Co. Commissioners, Allen Co. Prosecutor's Office, and Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

For more information about the draft regulations contact Beth Seibert at Allen SWCD: 419-223-0040 x107 beth-seibert@oh.nacdnet.org

By September 1, 2009 the draft regulations will be posted on the Allen SWCD website allencounty.oh.nacdnet.org for public access, review and comment. The public comment period will extend at least through the end of October. Allen SWCD and the Allen County Commissioners are in the process of setting public hearing dates for September and October.

Are You a Farmer Looking for Conservation Assistance?

In Ohio, agriculture is the State's number one industry. For over 70 years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been working with the farming community to provide valuable programs and assistance necessary to help farmers make a positive impact on their property.

NRCS works closely with the individual farmer to create conservation plans to strengthen both economic and environmental needs, while further protecting critical natural resources: water, soil, air, plants, and animals.

In addition to conservation planning, NRCS has a highly trained professional staff that provides technical assistance and guidance on a vast array of conservation practices and financial assistance.

Federal funding provided through the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation and Energy Act) enhances the farmer's ability to gain a stronger foothold in the production of food, fuel, and fiber through the planning and completion of conservation practices on his or her property.

So, if you are a farmer who wants to enhance your farm's productivity and sustainability, look to the conservation experts to help you achieve these goals!



Help NRCS Help You!

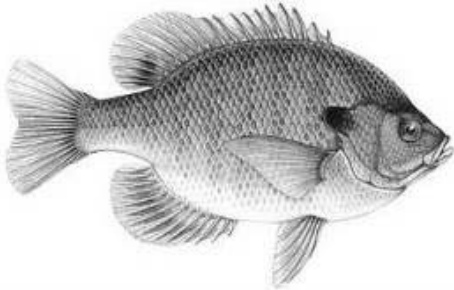
NRCS wants to help the farming community, landowners, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability.

NRCS partners with key agencies such as Ohio's 88 county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and numerous conservation organizations throughout Ohio to ensure the State's natural resources remain bountiful.

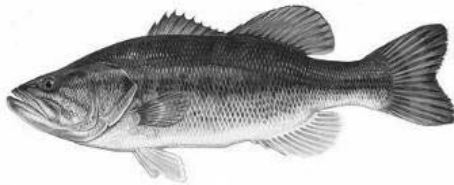
With key programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), to name a few, Ohio's property owners have more opportunities to invest in Ohio's resources.

Join the conservation movement today by contacting the Allen County NRCS staff or Allen SWCD to start benefitting.

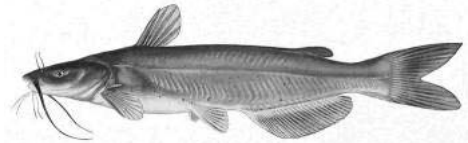
2009 Fingerling Fish Sale



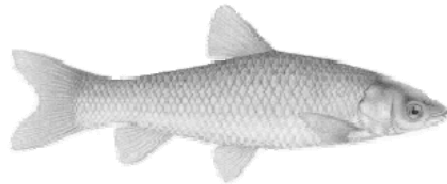
Bluegill are popular food for largemouth bass as well as humans. Most bluegills can spawn by age two when they are about 3 inches long. Young bluegills feed on tiny microscopic plants and animals. Adults feed on insects, snails, small crayfish and fish eggs. Bluegills can grow to six inches in two to four years if provided enough food and space and some have even grown over 10".



Largemouth Bass are the number one predator in ponds. They begin spawning about the age of three when they are 10-12" long. As adults, their diet consists of insects, crawfish and small fish (bluegill and small largemouth bass). Largemouth bass grow to an average size of 1-2 pounds and live from 4-6 years.



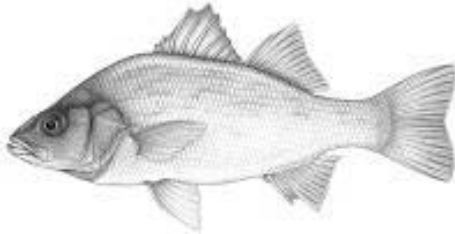
Channel Catfish are mostly bottom feeders, preferring live or dead insects, crayfish and occasionally aquatic plants. Catfish have a tendency to stir up the bottoms of shallow ponds and cause the water to become muddy. Their average adult size is 14-16".



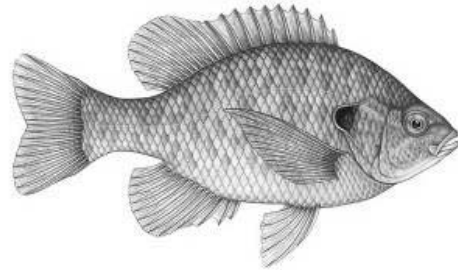
White Amur are members of the minnow family. They usually live 10 to 15 years and can grow to weigh 100 pounds. White amur feed on leafy, rooted aquatic plants, such as pondweed and coontail. Lacking these, they will consume floating duckweed, green algae and even cattails.

Minnows are small fish that swim in schools and are used as feeder fish.

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Perch prey upon aquatic insects, invertebrates, a wide variety of fishes, and on the eggs of other fish species. Adults average between 7 to 12 inches and weigh between 4 ounces and 1 pound.



Red Ear Shell Cracker thrives in clear, warm impoundments with rooted vegetation. They are attracted to submerged vegetation and trees. In well managed waters with good habitat, red ear sunfish will reach 9 to 11 inches in length.

Fish Delivery

The fish will be delivered to the Allen County fairgrounds on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in an aerated tank truck. Those purchasing fish will need to bring their own containers filled with fresh pond water. A five-gallon bucket will transport 100 fingerling fish, while a 20-gallon garbage can is needed to handle up to 10 white amur. Each container needs to be lined with a clean garbage bag, which will be tied shut and injected with oxygen for those traveling longer distances. This will ensure that the fish will be in good condition when released into the pond. Those purchasing fish should plan on transporting them directly to the pond without delay after pick-up. **Deadline for ordering fish is September 8, 2009.**

Drainage Projects Update, continued

(Continued from page 6)

ished. This project has been in the works for several years. It involves 6.6 miles of open ditch reconstruction. Design efforts are to come up with a feasible alternative to the traditional ditch cleaning methods to reduce the flooding of adjacent crop fields and some nearby homes. Severe erosion is occurring next to the channel where the over-land flow is happening. A meeting with all those affected will be coming up in the next few weeks.

There are several other projects in the mill. With a reduced staff we are trying to continue forward momentum. It certainly has slowed down the timeline to get projects finished. We appreciate the patience and understanding of all those affected. As always, affected parties are always welcome to stop by the office and review the proposals currently being considered. We do advise you to call the office prior to coming to make sure someone will be in the office to discuss the project.

2009 Fish Order Form

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Quantity	Species	Size	Price	Total
	Bluegill	2-4"	25 for \$20.00	\$
	Largemouth Bass	2-4"	25 for \$20.00	\$
	Channel Catfish	4-5"	25 for \$20.00	\$
	Minnows	Feeder	25 for \$2.00	\$
	White Amur	8-12"	1 for \$16.00	\$
	Perch	2-4"	25 for \$20.00	\$
	Red Ear Shell Cracker	2-4"	25 for \$22.00	\$

TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT (tax included) \$

Make check payable to **Allen SWCD** and mail to
 3900 Campus Drive—Suite A Lima, OH 45804

DEADLINE for ordering fish: September 8, 2009
PICKUP: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the Allen County Fairgrounds

Allen Soil & Water Conservation District
3900 Campus Drive—Suite A
Lima, Ohio 45804-3596
419-223-0040 x 3

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