

GEAUGRAPHER



FALL
2002

Geauga SWCD Mission:

"To conserve, protect, and enhance the resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all"

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2002 Conservation Poster Contest

This year, the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) Auxiliary, sponsored the 2002 Conservation Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to instill in youth an appreciation for the environment and the need to protect our precious soil and water resources.

This year's theme was "*The Gift of Trees*". Each student was encouraged to express "how conservation improves the environment".

Brandon Detweiler, Cory Nutter, Christina Kostusyk, and Tara Wilson were all chosen as first place winners in their category at the County Competition, and sent on to represent Geauga County at the Area Competition.

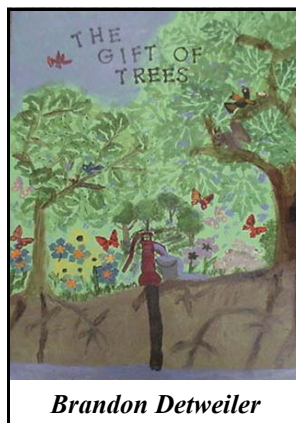
Judging at the Area Competition was no easy task. However, all of the outstanding Geauga County students that were sent to the Area Competition placed! At the Area Competition; Brandon Detweiler had a second place finish; Cory Nutter finished in first place, Christina Kostusyk had a first place finish, and



Tara Wilson

Tara Wilson finished second. For placing at the Area Competition, all earned the award of moving on to the State Competition!

At the State Competition, eighty-eight Counties were represented and the competition was stiff. However, our Geauga County students prevailed yet again. Brandon Detweiler of Burton Elementary and Tara Wilson of Notre Dame Cathedral Latin both obtained a second place finish at the State Competition!



Brandon Detweiler

The second place winners will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. Both first and second place winners will be invited to the OFSWCD Summer Supervisors School Banquet to receive their award. From here, both Brandon and Tara will move on to compete at the National Competition!

Congratulations to all the winners of the Geauga SWCD/ OFSWCD 2002 Conservation Poster Contest, and good luck to Brandon and Tara at the National Competition!

2002 Annual Dinner Celebration and BINGO!!

On October 24th, 2002 the Geauga SWCD will be holding its 58th Annual Dinner Celebration. This year attendees will have a fine dining experience followed by an evening of Conservation BINGO! Fabulous prizes from local businesses will be awarded throughout the evening. Participants will also be voting to fill one open position on the Geauga SWCD Board of Supervisors (see candidate profiles below). Bring your family to a night of enjoyment with the Geauga SWCD— and remember to **dress casually!!**

Date: Thursday, October 24th, 2002

Time: Dinner will be served at 6:30. Election and Conservation BINGO will take place after dinner.

Place: Patterson Center in Burton, Ohio

Cost: Only \$12.00 per person (includes full dinner buffet and BINGO!!)

Election Rules: The election will be for one position on the Geauga SWCD Board of Supervisors. Candidate profiles are below. Nominations will also be taken from the floor the night of the event. All voters must be at least 18 years of age the night of the election, and must reside or own land within Geauga County. Voting will take place after dinner. Anyone wishing to vote who cannot attend the meeting may do so by making a request for an absentee voting ballot. Ballots can be received either from the Geauga SWCD office, or it can be printed from the website and mailed to the Geauga SWCD office.

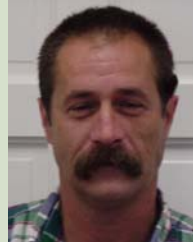
Reservations: Reservations can be made by completing the reservation form below and mailing it to Geauga SWCD along with a check made out to Geauga SWCD by **October 17, 2002**.



Linda Henry

Linda has served on our board for the past three years. She attended Boise State University in Idaho. Linda is very interested in preserving Geauga

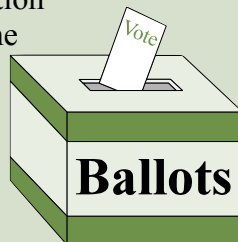
County's natural resources, and is a member of the Geauga County Park District Foundation Board. She has also been a member of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers where she previously served in South Africa.



Ted Winters

Ted grew up in Geauga County, and graduated from Chardon High School. He currently resides in Huntsburg Township. Ted is president of

the Winters and Lewis Excavating Incorporated. In 1990, the company was presented with the "Urban Conservationist of the Year" award from the Geauga SWCD. Ted is an active member of both the Ohio and National Elk Breeders Associations, and enjoys hunting and being a part-time farmer.



Annual Dinner Banquet Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ Number of Reservations @ \$ 12.00 each (dinner includes full buffet and dessert)

This form is also available at www.geaugaswcd.com.

Please make checks payable to **Geauga SWCD** and mail by **October 17, 2002** to:

Geauga SWCD
PO Box 410
Burton, Ohio 44021

It's Fish Sale Time!

It is time for the Geauga SWCD Fall Fish Sale! We are currently taking orders for fingerling-size largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill/sunfish mix, minnows, and white amurs. We will also be offering a pond safety kit, which includes a 20 inch ring buoy and throw line bag.

Orders must be picked up at the specified time. **The fall delivery date is Wednesday October 9, 2002.** Customers with last names beginning with A through L, please arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Those with last names beginning with M through Z can arrive between 11:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. **Pick-up will be at the Geauga County Fairgrounds on the midway.** There will be no refunds for orders not picked up at the specified time.

Payment must be received with your form to guarantee your order. Make checks payable to **Geauga SWCD.** **Deadline for orders is October 4, 2002;** the minimum order is \$20. You will be reminded by post card approximately one week before pick-up day.

On pick-up day, please bring a clean container of your own pond water (well water or city water is not acceptable). Five to ten gallons per 100 fish is needed. Amurs require approximately two gallons for each one being transported.

Stocking White Amur

If the vegetation is primarily Milfoil, Marsh Grass, Pondweed, or Naiad, the following stocking rates are advised (results may vary):

<i>Percent of pond covered by plants</i>	<i>Number of amur per acre</i>
0-20 %	2
20-30 %	10
40-60 %	15
Over 60 %	20

Pond Safety

It is each pond owner's responsibility to ensure his/her pond has the proper safety measures. This year the Geauga SWCD is offering a pond safety kit complete with a 20 inch ring buoy and throw line bag for only \$50.00. The kit is available below on the fish sale order form— this is the best way to guarantee availability of the pond kit. The GSWCD will have a limited amount available for cash-and-carry. The pick-up date and location for kits pre-ordered is the same as the fish sale.



2002 FISH ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone # (H) _____ (W) _____

Address _____

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>\$\$ Amount</u>
_____	2"-4" Largemouth Bass	@ \$.65 each = \$ _____
_____	2"-4" Bluegill/Sunfish Mix	@ \$.65 each = \$ _____
_____	4"-6" Channel Catfish	@ \$.65 each = \$ _____
_____	9"-11" White Amur	@ \$11.00 each = \$ _____
_____	Fathead Minnows	@ \$5.00 per 100 = \$ _____
_____	Pond Safety Kit <i>(includes 20" buoy and throw line bag)</i>	@ \$50.00 each = \$ _____

Total =

\$ _____

Make checks payable to **Geauga SWCD** and mail by October 4, 2002 to:

Geauga SWCD
PO Box 410
Burton, Ohio 44021

****Deadline for ordering is October 4, 2002****
This form is also available at www.geaugaswcd.com.

2002 Ohio Envirothon



The Chardon High School Team A (left to right):
Seth Marquard, Brian Siller, Daniel Rischar, Ben Clouser, and David Haaser

The Envirothon is an annual, international competition that has proven to be an exciting and useful tool for incorporating environmental education into high school classrooms. The mission of the Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated high school students who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

The teams consist of five dedicated students, who compete first at the Area Envirothon. From there, the top four teams will advance to the State Envirothon. This year, the Area Envirothon was held at the Mill Creek Metroparks Farm in Mahoning County. In all, 75 teams from 17 counties competed for a chance to move on to the State Envirothon.

Of the 75 teams that were present, it was Geauga County's own Chardon Team A that finished on top. The team, Seth Marquard, Ben Clouser, Daniel Rischar, Brian Siller, David Haaser, and coach Marilyn Rohr moved on to the State Competition.

The 2002 Ohio Envirothon was held June 9-11 at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. Teams from the five areas of the state were present to take place in the 5-station, outdoor environmental competition.

Chardon Team A finished strong yet again. The team placed 4th overall, and won 2 of the 6 events. Congratulations to Chardon's Team A on a job well done!!!

Horse Owners Responsibilities in Pollution Prevention

The horse industry in Geauga County is very prominent. More than 6,000 horses are estimated to be in the county, and that number is increasing steadily.

Horse enthusiasts are faced with many of the same issues as other agricultural producers, including manure management. An average horse produces approximately ten cubic yards of manure per year. This combined with 23 cubic yards of bedding material produces a total of 33 cubic yards of waste material per horse, per year. This material needs proper storage and disposal.

The Geauga SWCD obtained an Equine Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, to better assist Geauga County's horse owners. This grant has provided money for cost share opportunities to assist with the construction of Heavy Use Pads (all-weather dry turnouts). The grant also allowed for the Geauga SWCD to obtain a better database of horse owners, design an informative brochure, and offer more technical assistance to Geauga residents.

If you are interested in any further information or a copy of the brochure, please contact the Geauga SWCD at 440-834-1122.

2002 Conservation Teacher of the Year

Each year the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) recognizes the outstanding conservation education efforts of Geauga County's, Ohio's, and the nation's teachers. This year Karen Zaleski was named as the Geauga SWCDs 2002 Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Karen Zaleski is a teacher at Westwood Elementary School in Russell, where she teaches gifted students, grades 3-5. She offers a wide variety of conservation and environmental programs to her students. Students have explored the field of archeology while participating in an authentic archeological dig on the property of Westwood's Land Lab, learned the concepts involved with conservation by constructing Bluebird houses for use on the schools grounds, and studied the importance of conservation and a clean environment. Karen has also spearheaded the program "Girls and Science", where once a week after-school, girls in grades four and five are invited to be part of a science club that focuses on the major contributions of women in the field as well as explore various topics in science.

As the 2002 Geauga SWCD Conservation Teacher of the Year, Karen received a \$75 cash prize, and will be recognized at the District's Annual Dinner Banquet.

Congratulations Karen Zaleski on being the Geauga SWCDs 2002 Conservation Teacher of the Year!

Urban Site Program

Carmella Shale, District Engineer/Administrator for the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), developed a computer program to simplify the construction site review and inspection process, and to provide a consistent and effective way of reporting. This program grabbed the attention of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Conservation. It was from this peeked interest that the Geauga SWCD received a \$7900 grant from the ODNR to add to and improve upon their original computer program.

The Northeast Ohio Urban Team, Resource Technicians, and various SWCDs through out the state offered suggestions and ideas for the development of the new program . With the suggestions, a request for proposals was made and a consultant was hired. The grant monies provided by ODNR were used to hire Dick Allen of Silver Creek Development in Newbury, Ohio as the chief consultant. Carmella Shale and Dick Allen worked closely to develop a program that would streamline the site inspection reporting process, and enable SWCDs across the state to benefit from its use.

Thanks to Carmella Shale and Dick Allen's hard work, the Urban Site Program is now available to all of the Ohio SWCDs who perform urban site inspections. Due to the monies provided by the ODNR grant, SWCDs can now receive the Urban Site Program for FREE!

Two training sessions have been held in Columbus thus far, and twenty districts currently utilize the program. The Geauga SWCD hopes to market the Urban Site Program to other states. With the money provided from sales, updates would be developed and newer versions of the program would be made available.

Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District Awarded Grants

This year, the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded over \$29,000 in grant monies for their outstanding conservation programs and ideas.

2002 Nonpoint Source Pollution Education Personnel Grant:

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to the Geauga SWCD by The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The grant monies will be utilized to help local officials begin the process of meeting the nonpoint source education requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program. The Geauga SWCD will present programs and plan events that will educate the public on the detrimental impact that sediment pollution has on streams, rivers, and lakes, the concept of watersheds and drainage, and the role each individual plays in the prevention of all types of nonpoint source pollution.

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control:

\$14,747 was awarded to the Geauga SWCD from the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, a state-federal partnership involving the Great Lakes Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of Geauga SWCDs project, *Partnership Implementation of NPDES Phase II Minimum Control Measures*, is to reduce nonpoint source pollution from construction sites in Geauga County as part of a cooperative effort working to meet the Minimum Control Measures of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II. This will be achieved by revising the Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations to include monitoring programs for any construction site with over an acre of disturbance. The current Regulations in place require the monitoring of sites with five or more acres of disturbance.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Grant:

The Geauga SWCD received a \$5,000 grant to assist with the *Nonpoint Source Pollution Awareness Program*. This proposal competed against 156 others proposals and is among the 23 that have been chosen to be funded this year. The grant monies will help fund teacher workshops, township meetings, and the purchase of an *Enviroscape Hazardous Materials Unit*; all of which will aim to enhance public awareness of nonpoint source pollution and improve the quality of our water.



Education Corner.....

Educators Learn About the "Wonders of Watersheds"

June 17th through June 21st, educators from Geauga and Lake Counties attended the "Wonders of Watersheds" teacher workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Vicki Domonkos, Public Education Specialist from Geauga SWCD, Amy Knisely, Education Coordinator from Lake SWCD, Nancy Speck, retired teacher and Geauga Board of Education Member, and Phoebe Atkinson, Geauga Park District Naturalist. A Watershed Awareness to Watershed Action Grant (WAWA) through the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation made this workshop possible.



Teachers looking for macroinvertebrates on their creek walk at Big Creek

"Wonders of Watersheds" provided teachers with the opportunity to spend the week learning about the wonderful watersheds of Lake and Geauga Counties, and participating in hands-on activities and demonstrations. Field trips were planned throughout the week and included a canoe float in Burton Wetlands, fish shocking at Big Creek with the Division of Wildlife, Stream Quality Monitoring, trips to Headland Dunes, Mentor Marsh, Arcola Creek and more! Participants were fortunate to meet and listen to resource specialists from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

All participants are now certified to teach Project Wild, Aquatic Wild, Project Learning Tree, and Project Wet. Some of the teachers took advantage of the two graduate credits that were offered through Ashland University. Each participant received a \$130 stipend for attending the full week. .

New Employee Joins the Staff

The Geauga SWCD welcomes Vicki Domonkos to our staff. She joined us in May as the new Public Education Specialist.

Vicki worked with the Geauga SWCD during the summer of 2000, as an intern. Since then, she has graduated from the Ohio State University, majoring in Environmental Education, Communications, and Interpretation. Before joining us here, Vicki worked at Lake Metroparks as a Naturalist.

Welcome aboard Vicki!

Millennium Youth Conservationists Stream Quality Monitoring Program



A kick seine is used to collect macroinvertebrates

This summer the Millennium Youth Conservationists (MYC), the self-named conservation club, monitored 6 sites located in the Chagrin River Watershed. The group was led by the GSWCD and included students ranging in age from elementary to high school, along with parent volunteers.

The group was started in Fall 2000, to gain a better understanding of nonpoint source pollution and other water quality issues. This summer, the MYC monitored the Chagrin River for macroinvertebrates, pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, conductivity, nitrates, and phosphates. Through their hard work, they were able to see first hand the importance of the quality of Geauga County's waterways. All of the sites that were monitored were given either an excellent or good rating!

MYC hopes to continue its work by adding new students and parents from all over the county to their membership, and eventually expanding into Geauga County's other watersheds.

Great Opportunities.....

Prairie Demonstration Sites Needed

Help preserve Ohio's Native grasses and wildflowers. Prairie habitats provide beautiful scenery, wonderful homes for wildlife, and allow you to mow less! The Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Ohio Prairie Nursery, is working to establish prairie demonstration areas in highly visible locations around Geauga County. Demonstration sites need to be at least 1/4 of an acre in size, and must be located along a well traveled road. For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a part of this project please contact the Geauga SWCD at 440-834-1122. To learn more about The Ohio Prairie Nursery call 1-866-569-3380.



USDA Cost Share Opportunities

With the passage of the 2002 farm bill, additional dollars are available for landowners looking to complete conservation improvements. Funding levels increased for several USDA programs that provide cost share, reimbursing landowners up to 75 % of the cost of practices:

- ◆ The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), is for landowners interested in seeding fields to warm season grasses (prairie grasses) or constructing wetlands for waterfowl. Once a site is selected and improvements are made, the landowner will be reimbursed 75% of the cost. All landowners are eligible for this program that aims to increase diversity for wildlife.
- ◆ Funding has been significantly increased for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) to benefit agricultural producers. Livestock watering ponds, fencing for intensive grazing, waste storage structures, and many other conservation practices are eligible. To qualify, practices must address a resource concern on the property. All agricultural producers are eligible, including dairy, equine, grain and other operations in production.
- ◆ The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) program aims to restore wetlands and permanently protect streams in the county. Up to 75 % cost share is provided to restore areas that were once wetlands in agricultural areas. Permanent stream protection is achieved through conservation easements. The USDA can reimburse landowners up to \$1200/acre for conservation easements along streams. The easement requires the landowner to make a commitment to leave the stream natural for this payment. Over 2000 acres are currently enrolled in this program in northeast Ohio.

Landowners interested in finding out more should contact the Geauga SWCD at 440-834-1122 or call the NRCS office in Orwell at 1-888-217-3947 (toll free).

Upcoming Events and Workshops

Annual Dinner and Meeting

October 24th, 2002—Patterson Center, Geauga County Fairgrounds

The Geauga SWCD will be holding its 58th Annual Dinner Celebration. This year attendees will have a fine dining experience followed by an evening of Conservation BINGO! Fabulous prizes from local businesses will be awarded throughout the evening. Participants will also be voting to fill one open position on the Geauga SWCD Board of Supervisors. Bring your family to a night of enjoyment with the Geauga SWCD. To attend, fill out reservation form located on page two.

Ohio Woodland Stewards Program will be offering the following series of workshops this year:

Lumber for your Woodlot: September 14th in Ada, Ohio and December 7th in Butler County
Woodland Owners Workshop: September 11th-13th in Auglaize County and October 2nd-4th in Geauga County

Wildlife COVERTS: September 26th-29th at Canters Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson County
Crop Tree Release: November 6th at Zaleski State Forest and November 8th at Camp Wesley in Logan County

Visit <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~woodlandstewards> for more information.

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Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District

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440-834-1122
gswcd@geaugaswcd.com
website: <http://www.geaugaswcd.com>

Board of Supervisors

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Ken Folsom
Kevin O'Reilly, Jr.
Bob Lausin
Penny Timmons

Associate Supervisors

Mike Fath
Marge Jereb
Mike Hoskin
John Ralph

District Staff

Elaine Chittle, Administrative Assistant
Bob Griesmer, District Technician
Carmella Shale, District Engineer/Administrator
Vicki Domonkos, Public Education Specialist
Mara Simpson, Natural Resource Education

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Al Bonnis, Lead District Conservationist
Jay McElroy, Soil Conservationist

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

