

GEAUGRAPHER



**WINTER
2003**

Geauga SWCD Mission:
“To conserve, protect, and enhance the resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Know Your Watershed</i>	1
<i>Fish Sale Order Form</i>	2
<i>Tree Sale Information</i>	3
<i>Tree Sale Order Form</i>	4
<i>Managing for Songbirds</i>	5
<i>NPDES Phase II Corner</i>	5
<i>Outdoor Education Grant</i>	5
<i>Annual Meeting Election</i>	5
<i>Cost Share Opportunities</i>	6



Know Your Watershed

What's A Watershed?

No matter where you live, you're in a watershed. A watershed is a geographic area that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake.

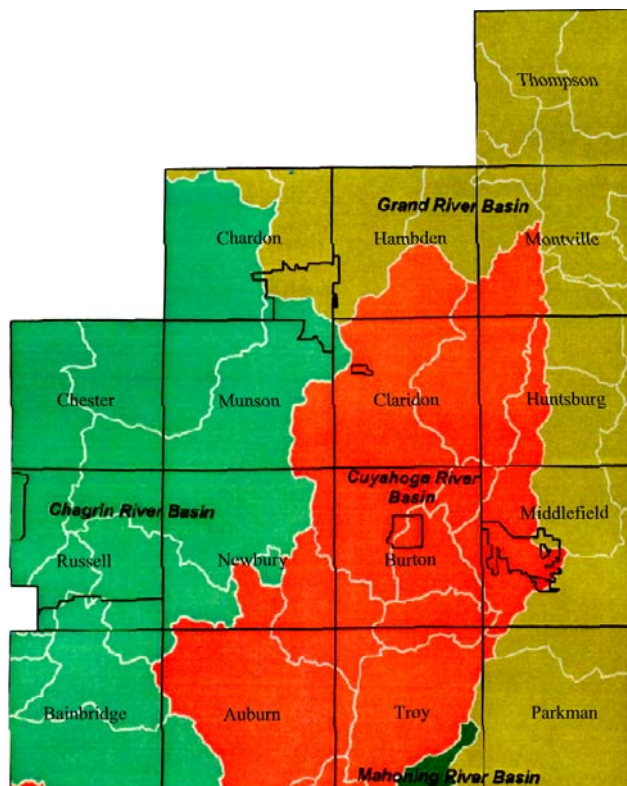
The landscape is made up of many interconnected basins, or watersheds. Within each watershed, all the water runs to the lowest point—a stream, lake, or river. On its way, water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns, and city streets, or it seeps into the soil and travels as ground water.

Your Watershed

Everyone in Geauga County lives in a watershed. Geauga county is rich in its natural resources, and it rivers and streams. Here in Geauga County, we are home to four major watersheds; the Chagrin River Basin, the Cuyahoga River Basin, the Grand River Basin, and the Mahoning River Basin. Geauga County itself is in the Lake Erie Watershed. This means that all of the water that flows in our streams will eventually drain into Lake Erie. The only exception to this is the Mahoning River Basin. The Mahoning River flows south to the Ohio River Watershed.

Find Your Watershed

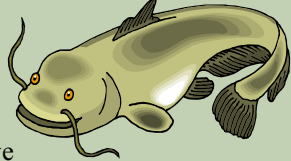
Look at the map below to determine which watershed, you live in.



2003 Spring Fish Sale

It is time for the 2003 Geauga SWCD Spring Fish Sale! We are currently taking orders for fingerling-size largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill/sunfish mix, minnows, and white amurs. We are also 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 spring pick-up date is April 10, 2003.** Customers with last names beginning with A through L, please arrive between



1:00 and 1:30 pm. Those with last names beginning with M through Z can arrive between 1:30 and 2:00 pm. **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 April 4, 2003**; 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). Bring one 5-gallon bucket per 50 fish ordered. For white amur, bring one 5-gallon bucket for every two fish ordered. For all fish, line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers 3/4 full with water (no more, no less!)

Calculating Pond Size:

When stocking your pond with fish, you should know both surface area and volume of water that your pond holds.

Determining Surface Acreage of Rectangular Ponds:

The surface acreage equals the length in feet, times the width in feet, divided by 43,560. You can usually regard an irregular shaped pond as a rectangle or square and compute the area from straight boundary lines, which are about equal to your actual shoreline.

If Your Pond is Circular:

Measure the total distance in feet around the outer edge. Multiply this number by itself, and then divide by 547,390. Your answer will equal the surface acreage of your pond.

Recommended Stocking Rates of fingerling-size fish for new or renovated ponds:

Bass	Bluegill	Catfish	Minnows
100	400-500	100	500-1000

Stocking White Amur:

White amur are primarily used for controlling vegetation such as Mil-foil, Marsh Grass, Pondweed, and Naiad. Stocking suggestions:

% of Vegetative Cover	# of Amur per Acre
0-20%	2 amur
20-30%	10 amur
40-60%	15 amur
Over 60%	20 amur



2003 Spring Fish Sale 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 April 4, 2003 to:

Geauga SWCD
PO Box 410
Burton, Ohio 44021

2003 Annual Tree Seedling Sale



Pkt. A – WHITE PINE: (25) 3-year seedlings. (5-10") Fast growing. One of the best timber species. Excellent for windbreaks or hedges. Very good ornamental or Christmas tree. Long, soft needles.

Pkt. B – COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE: (25) 3-year seedlings. (8"-15") Grows to 100 ft. Color varies from blue-green to silvery-blue. 1" stiff needles. Ordinary soil, average moisture. Full sun.

Pkt. C – CANADIAN HEMLOCK: (25) 3-year seedlings. (6"-12") Lacy, graceful growth. Can be pruned to maintain a height from 2-12 ft. Likes moist, well-drained soil. Will tolerate shade.

Pkt. D – NORWAY SPRUCE: (10) 3-year seedlings. (8-15") Fast growing up to 150 ft. Straight-stemmed stock is especially desirable for Christmas trees, ornamentals, timber and windbreaks. Somewhat shade tolerant.

Pkt. E – DOUGLAS FIR: (10) 3-year seedlings. (8"-15") Excellent as a Christmas tree or an ornamental. Fast growth, superb needle retention and soft, 1" blue-green needles. Prefers fertile, well-drained, light soil with full sun.

Pkt. F – SUGAR MAPLE: (5) 2-year seedlings. (1-2 ft.) Native to northeastern U.S. Mature trees provide sugar products from sap in the spring. Brilliant yellow, burnt orange and limited red tones in autumn. Height to 75 ft. Does not do well in wet areas.

Pkt. G – OHIO BUCKEYE: (5) 1-year seedlings. (12"-18") The greenish-yellow flowers of this species from the central U.S. are borne on stalks 6" long in mid-May. The Ohio Buckeye is our state tree. The trunk is usually short, limby and knotty. The bark is ill smelling when bruised. Their leaves usually turn an excellent orange/yellow early in the fall.

Pkt. H – SAWTOOTH OAK: (5) 1-year seedlings. (12"-18") An excellent wide spreading tree. Sawtooth Oaks usually grow as broad as it does high, hence plenty of space should be allowed for its full development. Leaves are similar to Chestnut leaves, 4-8" long, with pointed teeth. Acorns are an excellent food for wildlife.

Pkt. I – WHITE DOGWOOD: (5) 2-year seedlings. (10"-18") Native to northeastern U.S. Grows to 40 ft. Dense lustrous, green foliage, turning bright scarlet in the fall. Clusters of white flowers up to 5" in diameter bloom in late May, giving way to bright red berries in clusters in the fall. Does best in rich, moist soil. Likes half-day sun.

Pkt. J – SPIREA SHIROBANA: (2) Shipped in 3" pots. A most interesting summer blooming shrub with white, pink and rose flowers on the same plant. Height and spread to 3 feet.

Pkt. K - EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN

ASH: (5) 2-year seedlings. (1-3 ft.) Showy clusters of white flowers in spring followed by an excellent display of fruit that develops in a tight cluster 4-5" wide. Bright orange fruit starts maturing in August and hangs on through October.



Pkt. L – DWARF RHODODENDRON:

(2) Shipped in 3" pots. A semi-dwarf rhododendron with small evergreen foliage. Small lavender flowers in early spring. Height and spread to 3-4 ft. Compact growth habit. Good for under low windows.

Pkt. M – BLUE WISTERIA: (1) 2-yr. bare-root plant. Known for its violet/blue blossoms approximately 12" long. Growth can be up to 10' a year. Wisteria performs best in deep, moist, but well-drained soil that is neutral to slightly alkaline. Full sun.

Pkt. N – RED MASJA HYDRANGEA: (2) Shipped in 3" pots. 4-6" rose-red flowers in July into September. Bright green, glossy foliage makes this plant one, if not the showiest, of the Hydrangeas. Height & spread: 3-4 ft.

Pkt. O – HOMEOWNER PACKET: (10 Seedlings)

(2) Colorado Blue Spruce	(6"-12")
(2) Black Gum	(6"-12")
(2) Red Maple	(6"-12")
(2) Red Bud	(6"-12")
(2) Canoe (Paper) Birch	(6"-12")

Pkt. P – PACHYSANDRA: (50/Bundle) A fine evergreen ground cover. Hardy, 1-yr. transplants should cover in two years with a 6" spacing.

Pkt. Q – CROWN VETCH: (50/Bundle) Perennial ground cover, in bloom from June-July. Beautifies problem slopes and banks. Extra hardy, never needs mowing. Grows 12"-18" in any climate, sun or partial shade. Crownvetch chokes out weeds, resists drought, disease and insects. Grows in any soil - clay, sandy or shale.

Pkt. R – ALL OHIO NATIVE SEED PKT: ½ oz. Ohio native plant seed and 1 oz. annual rye grass as a cover crop. The mix will contain at least two grasses and eight wild- flowers. Will cover 250 sq. ft. Planting instructions included. Grown locally.

Pkt. S – HYBRID POND LILIES: Easy to maintain, Plant between 1 ½' to 3' deep in shallow water. Full sun. Won't tolerate heavy chemicals and must be protected from white amurs.

2003 Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

_____ Pkt. A (White Pine) 5"-10"	(25) seedlings/packet	\$15.00 ea = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. B (Colorado Blue Spruce) 8"-15"	(25) seedlings/packet	\$15.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. C (Canadian Hemlock) 6"-12"	(25) seedlings/packet	\$15.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. D (Norway Spruce) 8"-15"	(10) seedlings/packet	\$10.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. E (Douglas Fir) 8"-24"	(10) seedlings/packet	\$10.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. F (Sugar Maple) 12-24"	(5) seedlings/packet	\$ 6.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. G (Ohio Buckeye) 12"-18"	(5) seedlings/packet	\$ 6.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. H (Sawtooth Oak) 12"-18"	(5) seedlings/packet	\$10.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. I (White Dogwood) 10"-18"	(5) seedlings/packet	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. J (Spirea Shirobana)	(2) 3" Pots/packet	\$ 8.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. K (Euro. Mountain Ash) 12"-36"	(5) seedlings/packet	\$ 7.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. L (Dwarf Rhododendron)	(2) 3" Pots/packet	\$ 8.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. M (Blue Wisteria) 8"-14"	(1) Seedling/packet	\$ 4.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. N (Red Masja Hydrangea)	(2) 4" Pots/packet	\$ 8.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. O (Homeowner Packet) 6"-12"	(10) seedlings/packet	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. P (Pachysandra)	(50) cuttings/packet	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. Q (Crownvetch)	(50) cuttings/packet	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. R Ohio Native Seed Packet 1-1/2 oz. Grass/Wildflower Seeds		\$10.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Pkt. S (Hybrid Pond Lilies)	(1) bulb/packet	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ <u>Apricot</u> _____ <u>Pink</u> _____ <u>White</u> _____ <u>Red</u> _____ <u>Yellow</u>		
_____ Bat Box (Standard/Single Chamber)	(Cedar)	\$25.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Bluebird Box (Standard Style)	(Cedar)	\$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ (Peterson Style)	(Cedar)	\$15.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Wren Box	(Cedar)	\$10.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Butterfly Box	(Cedar)	\$20.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Robin Nesting Shelf	(Cedar)	\$ 8.00 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Roosting Box	(Cedar)	\$14.00 ea. = \$ _____
Total		\$ _____



2003 Tree Packet Ordering Instructions

1. Please fill out the order form and mail along with check or money order payable to:

Geauga SWCD
PO Box 410
Burton, Ohio 44021

Payment must accompany order!!!

2. Packets are available for pick-up on **Friday, April 11 (9:00 am-4:00 pm)** and **Saturday, April 12 (9:00 am-12:00 noon)**

Please note: Hybrid Pond Lily pick-up date: Second or third week of May, depending on the weather. You will be notified of specific date and time.

3. Orders are filled on a first come, first-serve basis. We reserve the right to make substitutions if necessary.

4. **DEADLINE** for ordering is **March 21, 2003**. Notices will be mailed one week prior to pick-up.

5. Seedlings come bare-rooted and packed in sphagnum moss or dipped in root gel.

6. We are not responsible for packets not picked up on time.

7. Planting instructions are available at pick-up time.

Proceeds from the 2003 Tree Packet Program are used to fund the Geauga Outdoor Education Grant Program for local schools. Call 440-834-1122 or visit www.geaugaswcd.com for more information.

Are you an Ohio Woodland Steward?

Do you have a woodlot on your property? Have you given much thought as to your objectives for this woodlot? For instance, have you ever considered managing for forest songbirds? Songbirds are a diverse group of species that includes crows, jays, wrens, chickadees, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, tanagers, sparrows, orioles, and finches. They occupy a variety of habitats, from grasslands, through early-successional shrubby habitats, to mature forests. Of the nearly two hundred songbirds that breed in Ohio, over half are associated with forests. One factor we clearly can influence is the management of our forests, the breeding areas they select for the successful raising of their young.

The following are some forest management techniques:

Enhance the vertical structure within the stand. By retaining under story, midstory, and canopy layers, you provide more vertical layers, and more foraging and nesting opportunities. Evidence suggests that during migration songbirds prefer to move along wooded riparian corridors.

Do not harvest all trees. Retaining a variety of species and sizes of live over story trees is beneficial.

Retain some decaying and standing dead trees (snags). Leave at least one tree every few acres with a diameter greater than 18 inches for larger birds, such as wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, and mergansers.

Create irregular edges to your fields. Sharp contrasting edges between different woodlots have more negative impacts on songbirds. Soften, or feather, your edges by allowing shrubs, saplings, and some over story trees to remain.

Try to connect or preserve large tracts of forest. Recall that some bird species are area-sensitive, requiring large undisturbed tracts for habitat purposes.

Maximize the forest interior. Forest interior is undisturbed forest at least 200-300 feet from the habitat edge.

Keep your cats inside. It is estimated that free ranging cats may kill over 1 billion birds each year in the United States alone.

Information for this article was taken from *Managing for Forest Songbirds* OSU Factsheet W-6-2001 by Amanda D. Rodewald, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology



NPDES Phase II Corner

The article, "*Know Your Watershed*" that is located on the front page, is the first article in a series on the topic of NPDES Phase II. From now on, when you see the symbol on the upper left, you'll know that you are reading an article pertaining to Phase II.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was formulated in 1990 under the Clean Water Act. It was designed to address stormwater runoff from "medium" and "large" municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving populations of 100,000 or greater, as well as runoff from construction activity disturbing 5 acres of land or greater.

In 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) expanded the Phase I program. The NPDES Phase II ruling includes operators of small MS4s in urbanized areas (as determined by the Bureau of the Census) and operators of small construction activities that disturb greater than 1 acre and less than five acres in addition to the currently regulated sites of greater than five acres.

The effected communities which include; Auburn, Bainbridge, Chesterland, Russell, and South Russell, are required to submit a stormwater management plan that implements six minimum control measures (MCM) based on a Best Management Practices (BMP) approach. The largest of these six measures are MCM 1) Public Education and Outreach, and MCM 2) Public Participation and Involvement. Therefore, the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District is working with the effected communities in Geauga County to provide educational and technical assistance.

This corner is now dedicated to NPDES Phase II. Look here next time to learn more about NPDES Phase II, stormwater management, nonpoint source pollution and much more!

GSWCD NEWS...

Linda Henry Reelected As Board Member

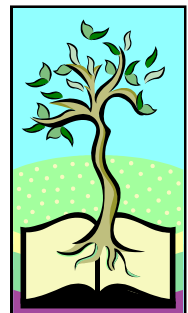


On October 24th, the Geauga SWCD held its 58th Annual Dinner Meeting, where over 90 residents from Geauga County attended. At this meeting, an election was held to determine who would hold a position on the Board of Supervisors. The votes were tallied that night, and Linda was reelected for another term. Linda has served on the Board for the past three years, and will begin another three years of service starting in January.

Congratulations Linda!!!

\$\$\$ Outdoor Education Grant Available \$\$\$

The Geauga SWCD currently has \$2000 to offer grants to Geauga County Schools to further enhance Outdoor Education. Grants will be awarded in March. The due date for the application is February 15th, 2003. More information regarding the grant is available on the District's website at www.geaugaswcd.com. Please contact Vicki Domonkos at 440-834-1122 for an application or more information.



Farm Bill Conservation Programs Available

wetlands, prairie plantings, and other improvements. This program is available to all landowners.

Wetland Reserve Program: The legislation increased the acreage caps on this program from 975,000 to 2.275 million acres. Landowners are able to receive compensation for conservation easements placed on streams. Funds are also available for easements and construction costs on wetland restoration sites. The program was recently changed in Ohio to allow for up to \$2,000 per acre reimbursement for these conservation easements. Farm and non-farm landowners are eligible for this program.

Farmland Protection Program: The Farm Bill reauthorized this effort to place agricultural easements on working lands. In Ohio, this effort works on tandem with the state farmland preservation program.

Conservation Reserve Program: The Farm Bill increased the acreage caps, allowing more enrollment in this program. Landowners may receive funding to install grass waterways and plant fields for a conservation use, receiving annual payments. **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program:** The legislation reauthorized this popular program that reimburses landowners up to 75% for creating wildlife habitat including creating

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, more commonly know as the Farm Bill, contains unprecedented support for environmental stewardship and the conservation of working lands. These programs include:

Conservation Security Program: This is a new effort to recognize on-going stewardship on working lands by providing financial incentives for existing and planned conservation efforts. Details for this program are still being developed.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program: The Farm Bill added 4.6 billion dollars to this conservation cost share program. Landowners can receive from 75%-90% cost share on conservation practices including waste storage structures, livestock fencing, and a variety of other practices.

Conservation Reserve Program: The Farm Bill increased the acreage caps, allowing more enrollment in this program.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program: The legislation reauthorized this popular program that reimburses landowners up to 75% for creating wildlife habitat including creating

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PO Box 410, Burton, Ohio 44021
440-834-1122
Email: gswcd@geaugaswcd.com
Website: <http://www.geaugaswcd.com>

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Tony Meldon
John Ralph

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Al Bonnis, Lead District Conservationist
Jay McElroy, Soil Conservationist

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

