

**ASHTABULA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
39 WALL STREET JEFFERSON, OHIO 44047**

April, 2003

Newsletter 273

CONSERVATION ALMANAC

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What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a lake or river. As rainwater and melting snow run downhill, they gather sediment and other materials and may carry them into our streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater.

From an aerial view, watersheds have the appearance of a large tree with branches extending across the landscape. The largest or principal stream of the watershed is the tree's trunk, while the larger branches are the primary streams, and the smaller branches are secondary streams all feeding into each other as they make the journey into the larger main stream of the watershed.

Did you know you're in a watershed right now?

We all live in a watershed. Homes, farms, ranches, forests, small towns, big cities and more make up watersheds. Watersheds cross county, state, and even international borders. In some areas watersheds are also called drainage basins. Other countries use other names; e.g. Australians call them catchments.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some encompass millions of square miles; others are just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed. For example, Ohio contains 44 "principal" watersheds. But all of them drain to either Lake Erie or the Ohio River. Watersheds are nature's way of dividing up the landscape.

Why is your watershed important?

Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land within your watershed impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources.

Healthy watersheds are vital for a healthy environment and economy. We use water for drinking, irrigation and industry. Many people also enjoy lakes and streams for their beauty and for boating, fishing and swimming. Wildlife also needs healthy watersheds for food and shelter.

Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and ensure environmental health.

Governmental agencies, natural resources departments and environmentalists now recognize that the best way to protect our vital natural resources is to understand and manage them on a watershed basis. Everything that is done in a watershed affects the entire watershed's system.

So please take care of your watershed, and your watershed will take care of you. Because, as the saying goes, "We all live downstream."

Special Points of Interest

- Apr 1 Pick up Amur 10:30-11:30 am Ashtabula Co. Fairgrounds
- Apr 4 Pick up Seedlings 8:00 am-4:30 pm
- Apr 5 Pick up Seedlings 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Apr 10 Board Meeting 8:30 pm
- May 2 Deadline for equipment bids
- May 31 Farm Safety Day

**Scenic Rivers Workshop
Natural Area and Preserves
Div. of ODNR
The Grand Scenic River
Stream Quality Monitoring**

**May 22, 2003
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
At**

**HIDDEN VALLEY PICNIC SHELTER
ROUTE 528
Lake Metro Park – Madison**

Come join in the fun and excitement of Stream Quality Monitoring. Discover the stream life on the Chagrin Scenic River while helping the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program check for recent changes in water quality and aquatic habitat. Be ready to get your feet wet. Reservations are requested to assure adequate hand-outs.

This is a free activity and open to the public.

For more information contact:
Steve Roloson, Scenic Rivers Regional Mgr
At 330-527-4184
or e-mail sroloson@apk.net
OR
Billie Jagers, Stream Quality Monitoring
Coordinator NE Oh
330-527-2961
or e-mail billie@config.com

REMINDER

Pick up dates and times for seedlings are as follows:

**Friday, April 4 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 5 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.**

We are not responsible for packets not picked up on time. There are no refunds and items left on the following Monday will become a donation. There will be no phone calls or post cards sent as reminders.

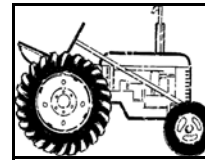
Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp Saturday, May 31, 2003 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

A fun-filled day of learning for 5 to 13 year-olds who are associated with farming. Topics for demonstrations and discussion include:



Tractor Safety
Fire Safety
Electrical Safety



Firearm Safety
Large Animal Safety
First Aid

A fee of \$5 per child before May 1 includes the cost of lunch, snacks, speakers, a T-shirt, and a packet of safety materials. A fee of \$8 per child if registering the day of camp.

Camp Registration forms are available through Dave Kaba 224-0373 and Ashtabula County Extension Office 576-9008.

Equipment for Sale

The Ashtabula SWCD Board of Supervisors recently decided to add the large Scott Land leveler to our list of equipment for sale.

The Scott Land Leveler was purchased May of 1989 and was used to smooth tilled crop fields to alleviate poor surface drainage. Overall length is 40' and steers at both ends. Overall width is 13'. A two or four-wheel drive tractor with a minimum horsepower rating of 100 is needed to operate this equipment. This piece of equipment is located near the Sheriff's Office at the Ashtabula County fairgrounds.

Due to all the snow we have had, landowners interested in seeing the John Deere Land leveler and small carry scraper were unable to do so. As soon as weather permits, we will move equipment closer for viewing.

With the addition of the Scott Land Leveler, the Board of Supervisors decided to extend the date for receiving sealed bids until **4:00 pm on Friday, May 2, 2003**. The sealed bids will be opened at the regular monthly board meeting at 8:30 p.m. on May 08, 2003. No minimum bid is indicated. Anyone who has sent a bid in for the original deadline date may call the office and have it returned or we will hold it until the May meeting.

Bidding is open to any landowner. The successful bidder will be notified following the meeting. The Ashtabula SWCD Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted.

To submit a bid, stop by or mail your sealed bid to: Equipment Sale, Ashtabula SWCD, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047.