

THE CONSERVATIONIST



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 family status.

May 2004

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DELAWARE COUNTY DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Drainage Maintenance Program is a cooperative effort between the Delaware County Engineer, the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Delaware County Commissioners. The Delaware SWCD took over the day-to-day operations of the Maintenance Program following a three-way agreement between the Engineer, Commissioners, and the SWCD Board of Supervisors. The program, authorized in 1957 under Chapter 6137 of the Ohio Revised Code, is responsible for the upkeep of drainage improvements within Delaware County which includes open ditches, subsurface tile mains, surface drains, and subdivision storm water systems.

All these improvements were either completed via the County Ditch Petition law post-1957, or have been petitioned to be included on the Drainage Maintenance Program since 1957. When the SWCD took over administration of the program in

1998, there were 29 projects on Maintenance. Today, there are 220. Much of this increase is a result of a July 1, 1998 County regulation requiring all newly platted subdivisions to petition their stormwater improvements for maintenance. Presently, the program maintains 40 miles of open ditch, 103 miles of tile, 148 storm basins. The total value of all the projects on Maintenance is over \$24,000,000.

What is Maintenance?

Many times, we get asked what is covered under the Maintenance Program. The goal of the program is to maintain projects at a level which ensures optimum drainage at all times. A good grass sod is maintained on the banks of open ditches, brush and cattails are controlled, depth is kept sufficient for tile outlets and animal guards are maintained on the outlets, and erosion hotspots are repaired. Broken sections of tile are repaired in tile systems. For subdivisions and commercial sites, all storm tile is kept in good working order, a good grass base is maintained in and around basins, and flood routes are kept open. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Maintenance Program at the SWCD office, (740) 368-1921, ext. 5.

SWCD CALENDAR

For more info on these events, please call the District Office, (740) 368-1921.

May	
5/13	Scioto Watershed Project Mtg.
5/15	Galena Trails/Walnut Creeks Good Clean Fun Event
5/17	Ohio Forestry Camp Scholarship Applications Due
5/18	SWCD Board Meeting
5/28	Alum Creek Reservoir Cleanup
5/31	Memorial Day - OFFICE CLOSED
June	
6/1	Friends of Lower Olentangy Mtg.
6/3	Upper Big Walnut Creek Partnership Meeting
6/7	Sheets #318 1st Hearing
6/10	Scioto Watershed Project Mtg.
6/15	SWCD Board Meeting
6/16-6/17	Food, Land, & People Workshop
6/19	Olentangy Watershed Assoc. - Fathers Day Fun Event
July	
7/1	Upper Big Walnut Creek Partnership Meeting
7/5	Independence Day Observed - OFFICE CLOSED
7/6	Friends of Lower Olentangy Mtg.
7/8	Scioto Watershed Project Mtg.



The Little Things Have Big Impact on Wildlife

FSA Notes

by Don Henry, County Executive Director

Sometimes it's the little things you do in life that count. That can be the case with good fish and wildlife habitat. Everything you do, or don't do, on your land has an effect on the wildlife you share it with and the fish in the streams and rivers. Here are some suggestions for improving the quality of fish and wildlife habitat on your land.

Grass & Hay fields: Leave streamsides, ditchbanks, roadsides, waterways, and other odd area undisturbed or wait until after the nesting season to mow. Mow hayfields from the center to the outside to give wildlife a chance to escape.

Crop fields: Use no-till or conservation tillage to provide cover and food for wildlife in the winter. Leave a few rows standing along field edges. Maximize the likely survival of pheasants, quail, and other birds by leaving these rows next to large tracts of grasses, trees, or other habitat.

Smart pest control: Use integrated pest management practices to minimize fish and wildlife exposure to pesticides and encourage beneficial insects, bats, raptors, and other species to help in reducing crop pests.

Maximize odd areas: Make full use of non-farmed areas by establishing habitat used by the wildlife you want to see on your farm.

Changing to GIS at FSA

The Geographic Information System is an automated system used to visualize, manage and analyze geographic information. GIS uses latitude and longitude to identify locations anywhere on the earth's surface. The Farm Service Agency has many program activities that are land based, and GIS is ideally suited to store and utilize producer information on individual farms and fields.

In the near future, all aerial photographs used by FSA will be maintained in a digital environment by computers. The Common Land Unit (CLU) will be used to identify fields, or the small areas of land with a common producer, owner, and common land management surrounded by a contiguous boundary. Once the CLU's are digitized and recorded in computers, an array of information as easily accessed to their existing re efficiency. Producers w and make farm re all as having more d r fields at their d all be done with G transition to new te to electronically m turn will provide them with increased productivity and profitability.



Spotlight on Conservation

The **Wilson-Rosso-Lowe** Drainage Improvement project, located in Scioto Township, was constructed in 2003 via the County Petition Law (ORC 6131). The project involved the replacement of 10" tile, construction of appx. 300' of grassed waterway and a grade stabilization structure, as well as the installation of erosion control measures during sod establishment. The Delaware SWCD completed the engineering designs and performed the construction supervision for this project. The Delaware County Engineer's Office completed a simultaneous road culvert replacement and tile repair in the road right-of-way as well. As one of the requirements of the Petition law, the project was placed on the County Drainage Maintenance Program following completion. To learn more about this program, see the articles on p. 1 and 3 of this issue.

DELAWARE SWCD DRAINAGE BOARD

In 1998, when the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District took over administration of the Delaware County Drainage Maintenance Program, the District Board decided to form an advisory committee made up of County landowners. They provide valuable input which assists the District's Board of Supervisors in setting drainage policy for the program. The Drainage Board, as that committee is now known, meets once or twice annually, depending on need to review progress and discuss the events and issues currently affecting the SWCD Drainage Program. The current members of the Drainage Board are:

Ted Colflesh
Brown Twp.

Roy Jackson
Liberty Twp.

Craig Pittman
Oxford Twp.

Gary Skinner
Brown Twp.

Phil Cunningham
Thompson Twp.

David Jackson
Harlem Twp.

Bumpy Rhoades
Radnor Twp.

Chuck Sheets
Oxford Twp.

Jack Brickner
Concord Twp.

Kevin Kershner
Genoa Twp.

Chris Bauserman
Member-at-large

Drainage Maintenance Program Staff

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Delaware County Engineer
(740) 833-2400

2003 AGRICULTURAL DITCH MAINTENANCE SUMMARY

Ditch Name	Township	Quantities (miles)				2003 Work	2003 Expenditures
		Open	Tile	Surface	Swale		
Adams Jt. County	Radnor	10.75	0.51	-	-	Inspection, brush removal, seeding, pipe repair, tree removal	\$ 2,834.58
Calhoun	Scioto	1.29	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal, seeding	\$ 264.11
Carter Jt. County	Marlboro	3.05	1.65	-	-	Inspection, bottom dip, brush removal	\$ 1,330.85
Cook Jt. County	Harlem	0.50	0.03	-	-	Inspection, pipe repair	\$ 441.53
Crabill	Harlem	-	0.58	-	-	Inspection	\$ 168.90
Darst Jt. County	Radnor	0.51	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 78.84
DeGood	Scioto	1.94	0.31	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 1,189.49
Delaware Run	Troy/Radnor	1.33	0.10	-	0.01	Inspection, brush removal, seeding, fertilizing	\$ 757.31
Hardin	Liberty	0.54	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 234.86
Herbert-Lawrence	Radnor	0.28	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 342.79
Horseshoe Run	Oxford	1.66	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 759.75
Indian Run	Oxford	4.03	-	0.29	-	Inspection	\$ 440.39
Jones	Radnor	2.67	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal, pipe repair	\$ 911.27
Koeppel	Berkshire	0.21	3.30	-	-	Inspection, pipe repair	\$ 6,526.83
Lewis Center	Orange	0.11	0.09	-	-	Inspection	\$ 348.55
Miley	Oxford	-	0.75	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 108.58
Nuckles	Oxford	2.22	-	-	-	Inspection	\$ 294.92
Potter	Brown	1.09	-	-	-	Inspection	\$ 136.03
Pumphrey Jt. County	Kingston	1.08	-	-	-	Inspection, pipe repair	\$ 813.40
Randall-Howison Tri.	Thompson	1.00	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal, riprap	\$ 516.54
Sherwood	Oxford	0.02	0.46	-	0.45	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 316.53
Slack	Berlin	0.30	-	-	-	Inspection	\$ 258.37
Steitz Powers	Liberty	0.49	0.05	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 231.22
Sugar Run	Brown	3.73	-	-	-	Inspection, seeding, pipe repair	\$ 1,203.03
Talley	Delaware	0.22	-	-	-	Inspection, brush removal	\$ 115.31
Teets	Thompson	-	0.18	-	-	Inspection	\$ 68.56
Wilson-Rosso-Lowe	Scioto	0.04	0.07	-	0.06	Inspection, riprap, seeding, fertilizing, repair	\$ 405.16
Zimmerman	Harlem	0.04	0.18	-	0.12	Inspection, seeding, fertilizing, repair	\$ 1,246.72

PETITION PROJECTS ACTIVITY INCREASES

The SWCD in ORC 6131 drainage improvement petitions from the initial watershed informational meetings through survey and engineering to construction supervision. This participation is a result of the 3-way agreement between the SWCD Board, the County Engineer, and the County Commissioners. Since the SWCD started working on these projects, the total number of active petitions has increased from 1 to 12. Here are the active petitions and the township in which they are located:

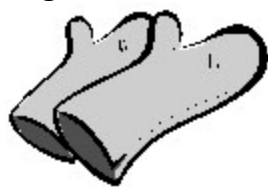
- *Chadwick (Trenton Twp.)
- *Primmer (Brown & Berlin Twp.)
- *Sheets #318 (Kingston Twp.)
- *Basiger (Liberty & Concord Twp.)
- *McNamara (Berlin & Orange Twp.)
- *Dutcher-Scott (Berlin Twp.)
- *Gwinner (Berlin Twp.)
- *Smith (Berkshire Twp.)
- *Coomer (Oxford Twp.)
- *Jones-Timms (Radnor Twp.)
- *Sackett (Berlin Twp.)
- *Old Kingston (Kingston Twp.)

ALUM CREEK LAKE CLEANUP PLANNED

There will be a cleanup of the north end of Alum Creek Reservoir on Friday, May 28, 2004 from 1:00-4:00 pm. The cleanup will begin at the Hogback Rd. boat ramp parking lot and work south. Trash sacks, latex gloves, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact David Ike, Alum Creek State Park, (740) 548-3641, or David Paris, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, (740) 524-8600, ext. 6.

FUDGE COOKIES

Ingredients:



- 1-1/2 C. Butter
- 4 Eggs
- 4 Tsp. Vanilla
- 1 C. Cocoa
- 1 C. Chopped Nuts (Optional)
- 2 C. Milk & Semi-sweet chocolate peices

- 3-1/3 C. Sugar
- 24 Oz. Cottage Cheese
- 5-1/2 C. Flour
- 2 Tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 Tsp. Baking Soda
- Confectioners Sugar

Cream together butter & sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in cottage cheese and vanilla. Gradually add dry ingredients to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in optional nuts and chocolate pieces. Drop by teaspoonfulls about 2" apart on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350-deg. for 10 minutes or until done. Remove from baking sheets. Roll in confectioners sugar while still warm. Cool on racks. Makes 11 dozen.

-Submitted by Sue Cunningham, Delaware SWCD Board of Supervisors Member



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