

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation Education News



**FALL
2008**

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Mission:

Providing leadership to educate and assist in the wise management of our natural resources.

SWCD Staff:

Teresa Bradford—District Administrator
 Deb Bigelow—Education Specialist
 Mary Thomas—Administrative Assistant
 Barbara Mainwaring—GIS Specialist
 Ryan Medley—District Technician
 Cole Tharp—Part-Time District Technician

WELCOME!

Welcome to Coshocton SWCD's *Conservation Education Newsletter*. As a part of our conservation educational program we provide a *Conservation Education Newsletter* to teachers in Coshocton City and County Schools.

My name is Deb Bigelow and I was recently hired as the Education Specialist for the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District. Prior to coming to Coshocton County, I worked for the Knox Soil and Water Conservation District as the Education Coordinator for 19 years. I am excited about this new position and look forward to meeting you and your students.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information and ideas about natural resource education with educators and students. I hope to better acquaint you with the programs of the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District and the resources we can provide for your classroom.

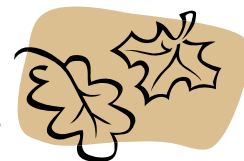
One of the education programs I was most proud of in Knox County was the Environmental Science Partnership Program. This program allows the District to visit participating classrooms monthly with hands-on lessons about soil and water that are curriculum based and address Ohio Content Standards. The classroom teacher plays an active role in these lessons and can relate what is found in the science textbook back to the lessons. Working together, the teacher and I strive to make the Environmental Science Partnership an enjoyable learning experience for the students. If you are a grade 3-6 classroom teacher and this is something you would be interested in, please give me a call.

Our plans are to publish this newsletter 3 times during the school year, with fall, winter and spring issues. I will always be searching for ways to improve the newsletter; if you have ideas or suggestions please let me know! I can be reached at 740-622-8087, Ext. 4 or by e-mail at debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net.

Welcome Autumn!

What a beautiful time of year in Coshocton County! As we enjoy the wonderful display of autumn color with our many hillsides and river valleys, did you ever stop to think about why the leaves change color? During the summer, green pigments called chlorophyll dominate and mask out the natural pigments. When chlorophyll production ceases in the fall, green disappears and the previously hidden oranges, yellows, reds and browns are revealed.

Actually, scientists don't fully understand all the interactions that produce the beautiful displays of autumn leaf colors that occur during the fall months. There are many factors that contribute to this process such as sunlight intensity, moisture, temperature, length of day, site characteristics, latitude and organic pigments in the leaf cells. Peak viewing time for central Ohio is usually mid-October.



Special thanks to all the 5th grade students who designed a "Down the Storm Drain" poster for the District's booth at the Coshocton County Fair. We proudly displayed 16 posters, and the votes will be counted soon. The District plans to use the winning poster as the design for a Storm Drain stencil which will be painted around many of Coshocton's storm drains next summer!

Coshocton County Hosts District 8 Soils Judging

A beautiful fall day greeted FFA students at the District 8 Soils Judging Contest held on Thursday, September 25, at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed Research Station in White Eyes Township. Over 150 students participated in this event. Rick Griffin, NRCS Soil Scientist, served as the official judge for the contest. Students rotated among 5 stations; judging 3 soils pits and answering written questions about the Coshocton County Soil Survey and the study book. The top 5 teams in both rural and urban contests will advance to the State Soils Judging contest.



Congratulations Ridgewood FFA for placing 1st in both the urban soils and rural soils and to River View FFA for placing 7th in the rural soils judging contest! Good Luck at State, Ridgewood!

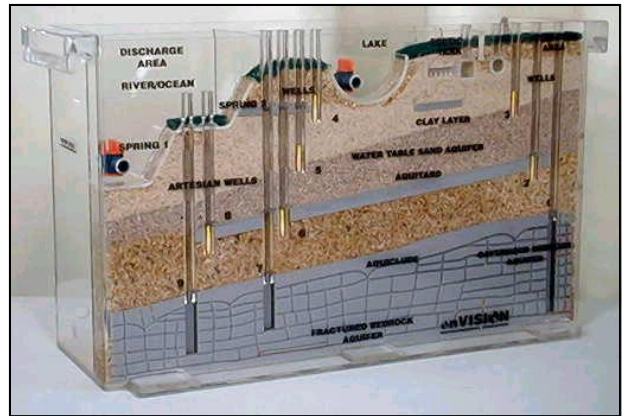
Special thanks to Martin Shipitalo and Jim Bonta for coordinating the use of the Research Station, Steve Storm for digging the soils pits, Rick Griffin for serving as the "official" judge, and Mike Deringer from Ridgewood FFA and Jim Rich from River View FFA for their leadership roles in hosting the contest.

The Coshocton SWCD hosted a soils training for FFA students on Saturday, September 20, at the David Lapp farm in Bethlehem Township. Special thanks to Mr. Lapp for digging the soils pits and to all the students who took time to participate on this beautiful Saturday.

It's All We've Got!

Have you ever asked your students where the water comes from that runs out of the faucet at school or home? Most of us take this valuable resource for granted. The water we use today has been recycled for millions of years. Dinosaurs waded in some of the same water that we take a shower with today. The water on earth today is all we have! That is why we need to use it wisely and keep it clean.

Three fourths of the earth is covered with water. But only one percent of this water is fresh, usable water found in either surface or ground water. Surface water is found in lakes, rivers and streams. Ground water is fresh water that filters downward through the soil, gravel and cracks in rocks to collect in aquifers beneath the earth's surface.



Back to my original question, where does that water running out of the faucet come from? **All of Coshocton County's** water comes from groundwater. It doesn't matter whether we live in the City of Coshocton, in the country, or one of the small villages like West Lafayette or Warsaw, our water comes from wells which are drilled into the ground. Coshocton County's safe and abundant groundwater resources are important to all of us. We must all work together to conserve and protect this valuable resource.

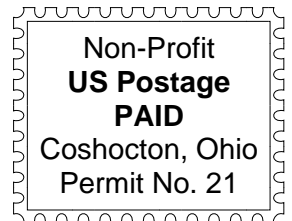
The Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District has an excellent model that can be brought into your classroom to help your students understand the concept of groundwater. To schedule a Groundwater Model demonstration, call Deb Bigelow at 622-8087, Ext. 4.

Try This Activity

In front of your students fill a **clear** plastic cup with rocks until no more will fit into the cup. Ask your students if the cup is full. After some discussion, ask them what else would fit in the cup. Take a cup of sand and pour it in the cup with the rocks, shaking the cup to allow the sand to fill the empty spaces between the rocks. Point out to your students that the sand filled the spaces between the rocks. Ask your students again if the cup is full. After more discussion, take a cup of water and pour over the rocks and sand. Allow the water to percolate down into your rocks and sand as precipitation would into the ground. Tell your students what they see in front of them is an **Aquifer**. This is the area underground that holds the water that our wells are drilled into to supply water for our homes.

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