

Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation Education News



Winter
2009

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Mission:

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

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Deb Bigelow—Education Specialist
Mary Thomas—Administrative Assistant
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WINTER IS HERE!

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays and the second half of the school year is off to a great start. As I write this article, it is 5 degrees and we have several inches of snow! While this is NOT my favorite time of the year, it is a great time to plan for spring and summer events. The Coshocton SWCD is planning a summer teacher workshop that will focus on water quality. This one day training will be held in early June and credit will be offered for the class. Teachers can expect a “hands-on” workshop with plans for stream quality monitoring, fish shocking demonstration, and a tour of the Coshocton Water Plant. I will distribute a flyer to your school in early February with complete details and a registration form. I will also include this information in the Spring Issue of this teacher newsletter. I encourage you to consider attending this workshop to learn more about Coshocton's water quality and ways you can use this information in your classroom.



Something I am excited about this winter is the “Down the Storm Drain” Community Service Project. The Coshocton Foundation has provided grant funding for a series of environmental science lessons that will culminate with a community service project of marking storm drains in the City of Coshocton. The District will be working with Mrs. Hall and Mr. Casey's 6th grade classes at Central and Mr. Hreha's 5th and 6th grade classes at Lincoln. I will spend one day a month in each of these classrooms with activities to help students understand how water gets into our river systems and the importance of keeping that water clean. Students will learn that pollution that enters our **local** storm drains goes **directly** to the Muskingum River. Each of these activities will be correlated to the Ohio Content Standards. In May, the students will mark the storm drains closest to their school with the message “Only Rain Down The Storm Drain”. The classroom lessons will build knowledge so the students understand **why** we are marking the storm drains.

Please contact me at debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net if I can assist you with classroom activities to meet your science standards. The District purchased an Enviroscope Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Model through a grant from ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Conservation. This hands-on, interactive model will help students understand how water moves through the water cycle and how we can keep our water clean. I look forward to using this model soon! *Deb*

Thank A Farmer During National Agriculture Week

Did you ever stop to thank a farmer for that milk you put on your cereal this morning or the chicken you fixed for dinner last night? Did you know that American consumers spend the lowest percentage of their annual income on food, at 9.3 percent? Agriculture is Coshocton County's number one industry.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. Most of us don't live on a farm today so it's easy for us to take this contribution for granted. American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life; our food, fiber, clothing, and even fuel. This is the message of American Agriculture Week which will be celebrated March 15-21, 2009. Please take time to share with your students the valuable contributions of this industry and their importance to our local economy.

Farmers are independent business people who provide for their families by growing and producing food and fiber. They use modern production techniques to increase the **quality** and **quantity** of the food they produce. In the 1960's one farmer supplied food for 25.8 persons in the U. S. and abroad. Today, one farmer supplies food for 144 persons in the U. S. and abroad.

Farmers are also the first environmentalists, maintaining and improving the soil and natural resources to pass on to future generations. Contour farming; planting crops on hillsides instead of up and down to keep soil from washing away, and grassed waterways which allow water to flow naturally from crops without eroding soil are two examples of conservation practices used in Coshocton County.

2008 Poster Contest Winners!



*Pictured left to right are Kelsey Kent, Morgan Ashcraft, and Ashley Burns with their winning designs in the SWCD Poster Contest. Kelsey and Morgan are from Conesville Elementary and Ashley is from Keene Elementary. **Congratulations Ladies!***

“Thank you” to all the fifth grade teachers and students who participated in the Annual Fifth Grade Poster Contest sponsored by the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District.

Coshocton County fifth graders prepared entries in the 2008 Conservation Poster Contest “Down The Storm Drain” after a classroom presentation on the importance of storm drain education and awareness. Sixteen Best of Class entries were on display at the Coshocton SWCD Fair Display and judged by the fair going public to determine the top three posters.

Morgan Ashcraft of Conesville Elementary took the first place \$25 cash prize and won a pizza party for her class, Kelsey Kent of Conesville Elementary took the second place \$15 cash prize and won an ice cream party for her class, and Ashley Burris of Keene Elementary took the third place \$10 cash prize and won an ice cream party for her class.

Morgan is the daughter of Aaron and Tara Ashcraft; Kelsey is the daughter of Kevin Kent and Danielle Holdsworth; and Ashley is the daughter of Mike and Wendy Burris.

SPECIAL THANKS to all the 5th grade students and teachers who participated in our 2008 Poster Contest. We appreciate your efforts and proudly displayed 16 Best of Show posters at the Coshocton County Fair that educated Coshocton County citizens about storm drains and how to keep our rivers clean!

2009 Area 3 Envirothon

The Area 3 Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at FFA Camp Muskingum in Carroll County. High school students in grades 9-12 are invited to compete in teams of five with a limit of two teams per school. Registration forms will be sent to schools soon with registration deadline being April 3, 2009.

The Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor team event where high school students work as a team to answer questions in soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and current environmental issues. Resource professionals write questions in their disciplines to test students knowledge about these subject areas. The current environmental issue theme for 2009 is *Biodiversity in a Changing World*. Study materials are available at www.envirothon.org.

The top 20 teams from Ohio's five Area competitions will advance to the Ohio Envirothon to be held at Kenyon College in Knox County, June 7-9, 2009. We would love to have a team representing Coshocton County at the Ohio Envirothon!

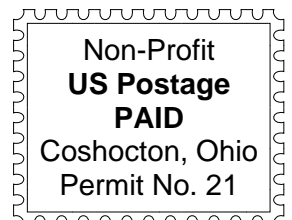


A Snowman for the Birds!

Make a snowman into a birdfeeder by substituting a few things. Use dates for eyes and nose, a row of raisins for the smile. Pinecones covered with peanut butter and rolled in birdseed would make neat buttons. String cranberries for a belt. String popcorn around the hat. Make sure the branches for the arms are sturdy for birds to perch on. Use this opportunity to discuss with your children what birds eat in the wild and where they find it. Have children note what birds eat first and if different birds prefer different foods. This can lead to discussion about habitat and bird adaptations.

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