



Board of Supervisors:

Knox Porteus—Chairman
 Greg Waters—Vice Chairman
 Adrian Garber—Secretary
 Garry Derr—Fiscal Agent
 David Lapp—Treasurer

NRCS Staff:

Tim Halt—District Conservationist

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

WELCOME BACK!

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.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information and ideas about natural resource education with educators and students. We hope you will use our services and programs to help you meet the Ohio Content Standards in science and social studies. We have a variety of hands-on models and activities that engage the student in learning about our soil and water resources.

One program that I was especially proud of during the 2008/09 school year was the Storm Drain Stenciling program entitled "Down the Storm Drain". I met monthly with Coshocton City schools 5th & 6th grade classrooms from January to April providing the students lessons on watersheds, runoff, and topography. During these lessons, students learned about water runoff with different types of land use; and that all rainfall running off the streets of Coshocton goes into a storm drain. This storm drain takes the water directly into the Muskingum River. In May, the students eagerly placed storm drain markers around Coshocton that state 'ONLY RAIN—DOWN THE STORM DRAIN'. This public service project was supported by the Coshocton Foundation with monies to purchase storm drain markers. This project is part of the District's Storm Water Management Plan and will assist the City of Coshocton in educating the public about protecting our water quality. I look forward to implementing special projects such as this again this school year.



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.

VOTE for your School Poster at the Coshocton County Fair!

The Coshocton SWCD is once again sponsoring a Poster Contest for the 5th grade students in our schools. The theme for this year's contest is *POLLUTION—Begins-And Ends-With YOU!* Students will be asked to design a poster addressing this theme after a hands-on demonstration by Mrs. Bigelow. One poster will be chosen from each 5th grade classroom and delivered to the SWCD office by Wednesday, September 30. The SWCD staff will display these posters in their fair booth (beside Smokey Bear) where the fair going public will cast the vote for the winning poster. The top three posters will receive monetary prizes: 1st place-\$25 to the student and a pizza party for the class; 2nd place -\$15 to the student and an ice cream party for the class; and 3rd place-\$10 to the student and an ice cream party for the class.

We are excited about this year's contest and look forward to our students educating the general public about pollution and how we can keep our community clean.



SWCD Sponsors Local Teachers to IDEA Institute

Jacque McPherson from Ridgewood Middle School and Jim Rich from River View High School spent the week of July 20 at Hiram College in Portage County learning more about Ohio's natural resources. The Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors sponsored both teachers' tuition, lodging and meal expenses to the IDEA (In-Depth Environmental Awareness) Institute hosted by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This annual teacher workshop traditionally lasts 2 ½ days but was extended this year to allow for more in-depth instruction about environmental education. The workshop featured a variety of experts and researchers presenting whole group sessions in the morning, and field studies, field trips, and other hands-on experiences in the afternoon.

Mr. Rich commented, "I will use the soils information from this workshop with my vocational agriculture classes; especially the information about soil formation and geology." He went on to say "the wetland field study instilled in me a greater appreciation of wetlands and their value in the environment." Ms. McPherson commented, "The information I am most excited about bringing to my classroom is the PLT (Project Learning Tree) lessons. My students will adopt a tree and students will visit their tree each season so they can compare and contrast differences they observe". Ms. McPherson shared that her favorite session was the geology tour where participants were able to see a multitude of rock formations and discuss how they were formed with the waterfall being the highlight of the tour.

Sixty-five educators from across Ohio attended the workshop along with 35 natural resource professionals who presented topics such as Bear Management, Invertebrate Ecology, Wetland Delineation and Soils Regions of Ohio. The workshop's extended format allowed each day to focus on one environmental area.

Special thanks to Mr. Rich and Ms. McPherson for taking the time from their busy schedules to attend this workshop and to the Coshocton SWCD Board of Supervisors for supporting their attendance. We are proud to have these Coshocton County educators representing our District at this event!

Jacque McPherson and Jim Rich (right) try their hand at archery during an evening activity at the IDEA Institute in July.



Thank You Teresa Bradford for Your Dedication to Conservation!

Teresa Bradford will be retiring from the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District on September 30, 2009 after 31 years of serving Coshocton County landowners. Teresa has served in many roles during her tenure with the district, some of which have been secretary, educator, computer systems administrator, and most recently District Administrator. One thing that has remained consistent throughout Teresa's career is her dedication to the people of Coshocton County and her work ethic to bring resources into the County to conserve our soil and water resources. Teresa has also enriched the lives of our youth by teaching the importance of keeping our soil in place, our waters clean, and the value of trees; so that future generations will make wise resource management decisions.

Because many of you have worked with Teresa over the years, we wanted you to be aware of a special event we are planning in her honor. Please join us on Tuesday, September 29, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for an **Open House Retirement Celebration** to be held at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1500 Pleasant Valley Drive, Coshocton. You may R.S.V.P. by calling our office at 740-622-8087, ext. 4 or by emailing me at debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net. We would appreciate your response by September 25. We look forward to your attendance!



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Coshocton Soil and Water
Conservation District
724 South Seventh Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Phone (740) 622-8087, ext. 4
www.coshoctonswcd.org
E-Mail: debbigelow@coshoctoncounty.net

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆☆
☆☆ **THANK YOU** Teresa Bradford ☆☆
☆☆ **for your 31 years of Service** ☆☆
☆☆ **to Coshocton SWCD!** ☆☆
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

