



STILLWATER STEWARD

Issue 35 February 2008

Darke & Miami Counties

Stillwater Watershed
Project Newsletter

A SUCCESSFUL 2007!

Inside this issue:

Incentive Program (Water Quality Trading)	2
Incentive Program (WPCLF)	2
Cleaning Up	2
Cost Share Program	3
Stillwater Membership	3
Floating for Fun and Education	4
Stillwater Website: www.stillwatershed.org	4

The Stillwater Watershed Project sponsored and hosted many educational events throughout the 2007 year that promoted the protection of the Stillwater Watershed. The events were made possible through membership donations, ODNR grants, Miami County Foundation, and the Darke and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Watershed Project hosted two educational canoe floats, a septic system lawn care workshop, a teacher workshop, an annual Stillwater Cleanup, a conservation field day, provided watershed education to many schools and organizations, and assisted with conservation programs throughout the Stillwater Watershed.

To continue these projects and increase the amount of educational opportunities we need the continued help and support of the community. If you are interested in becoming a member or assisting with any projects please fill out the member form located on page 3 of the newsletter. With your support we can continue to protect wildlife, improve water quality, and promote education among the youth and adults in the Stillwater Watershed. Thanks again for your continued support of the Stillwater Watershed Project

2008 Events

- * Feb. 12: Cost-Share Information Session
- * April: Septic & Lawn Care Program
- * June 6: Darke County Educational Canoe Float
- * June 17-19: ACE Conservation Tour (St. Louis, MO)
- * June 27: Annual Stillwater Cleanup
- * September 5: Miami County Educational Canoe Float

1st Annual Watershed Bowl a Hit!

On October 27th, 2007 the Stillwater Watershed held the first annual Watershed Bowl. The Watershed Bowl was a fundraising event to help support the activities and events conducted by the Stillwa-

ter Watershed Project. The evening consisted of a pizza buffet, bowling, and a silent auction. There were 56 people in attendance to help support the efforts of the Stillwater Watershed Project. I

would like to thank Keith Bowman and the staff at McBo's Lanes, in Versailles, for their help and support of the event. A big thanks goes out to everyone who attended or donated to the event.

Incentive Program (Water Quality Trading Program)

Water Quality Trading Program

The program provides funding to agricultural producers who voluntarily implement nutrient reduction practices on their land. Here are some examples of practices that the program will fund:

- Converting row crops to Alfalfa or pasture
- Animal Trails & Walkways
- Manure facilities
- Grassed Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Converting conventional tillage to no-tillage
- Cover Crops



Filter Strip along the edge of a stream

This program could benefit **YOU** if you have redlined waterways, have not been able to get into the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), or other USDA programs because of the strict requirements associated with these programs. The program will pay the producer per pound of nitrogen and phosphorus reduced through their practices. The current sign up period ends on **March 28th, 2008**, inquire soon so you do not miss out on this great opportunity.

This is a great program for agricultural producers. Contact the Darke or Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts!

Incentive program (WPCLF)

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) is available to any individual located in the Stillwater Watershed Project. The WPCLF program offers low-interest loans to reduce pollution and improve water quality. This can be used on no-till equipment, manure equipment or facilities, septic system improvements, or any practice that will reduce the amount of pollution released into the streams and rivers within the Stillwater Watershed. Equipment or items purchased prior to enrollment are not eligible for the low interest loans. If you have questions or are interested in the program please contact Greg McGlinch.

Cleaning Up



Volunteers Cleaning up trash along the Stillwater River.

The Stillwater Watershed Project held its annual cleanup on June 22nd, 2007. The rainy weather did not hinder the Stillwater cleanup, but helped make it a nice cool trip down the Stillwater River. A total of 49 volunteers canoed 11.5 miles to pickup trash, tires, and any other debris located in the river. Volunteers removed 5,741 pounds of trash from the Stillwater, which included 71 tires! Big thanks goes out to the Darke, Miami, and Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ODNR Scenic Rivers, Miami County Parks District, Ohio EPA, Veolia Water North America, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Papa Johns, Subway, and most of all the **VOLUNTEERS!** Please consider helping

next year. It is a good event and provides an opportunity to experience and preserve the Scenic Stillwater River.

Cost Share & Conservation Info Meeting

February 12th, 2008 @ 6:30PM

Landowners and livestock producers that are interested in cost-share programs are welcome to attend an informational meeting on conservation programs available in Darke County. The meeting will provide information on cost share programs available for alfalfa seeding, livestock manure facilities, habitat buffers, incorporating no-till into their operation, and a variety of other conservation programs. The meeting will also provide producers information on what programs will fit into their current operation. Participants will also have a chance to ask representatives from NRCS, Darke Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Stillwater Watershed Project questions about current conservation programs.

Please plan to attend the informational meeting on **February 12th, 2008** at the Darke County Nature Center on St. Rte. 502, Greenville, OH. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 PM with light refreshments. For more information contact the Darke SWCD office at 937-548-1715 ext 3.

Stillwater Watershed Project, Inc Annual Membership Form

Yes, I want to support the Stillwater Watershed Project, Inc. Please accept my tax deductible contribution of:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Giving Range</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Giving Range</u>
Cottonwood	\$10-24.00	Kingfisher	\$500-999.00
Stonefly	\$25-99.00	Great Blue Heron	\$1000-or more
Smallmouth Bass	\$100-499.00		

Name

Address	City	State	Zip
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Phone Number

Email

Please Circle: Student/Landowner Business/Corporation

Make your check payable to the Stillwater Watershed Project, Inc. is tax deductible. Your support will help improve water quality, protect wildlife habitat, & protect drinking water in the Stillwater River Watershed. If you have questions please call the Stillwater Watershed Coordinator @ 937-548-1715 ext. 3

Please send check to:

Stillwater Watershed Project, Inc.
1117 South Towne Ct.
Greenville, OH 45331

www.stillwaterwatershed.org
We're on the Web!

Phone: 937-548-1715 ext 3
Fax: 937-548-2925

Darke SWCD
Stillwater Watershed Project
1117 South Town Court
Greenville, OH 45331

Floating for Fun and Education

The Stillwater Watershed holds two educational floats during the year. The canoe floats promote the importance of preserving and protecting the Stillwater Watershed.

The June canoe float had 66 individuals and Rep. Jim Zehringer that enjoyed a day of education and canoeing on the Stillwater River. There was a fish shocking demonstration put on by the Ohio Division of Natural Resources that displayed the many fish located in the Stillwater River. Individuals also enjoyed topics pertaining to recycling, stream quality monitoring, and the importance of keeping the Stillwater river clean.

The September canoe float was held at Pleasant Hill 4-H campground and ended at Fenner Rd. The canoe float had 47 participants with 12 Newton FFA members attending the educational event. The attendees were able to determine the quality of the Stillwater through a hands-on stream quality monitoring presentation put on by the Miami County Park District. Participants also received information on recycling from the Miami County Solid Waste District and the importance of Riparian Buffers presented by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).



Thank you to the **Miami County Foundation** for funding the September educational canoe float!

A big thanks to the Darke and Miami County SWCD's, Scenic Rivers, Miami and Darke County Parks, ODNR, and all of those who helped make the event successful.

If you have not attended a canoe float mark your calendars for June 6th, 2008 (Darke County) or September 5, 2008 (Miami County).