



STILLWATER STEWARD

Issue 37 October 2008

Darke & Miami Counties

Stillwater Watershed
Project Newsletter

Rain Never Dampened the Spirits of the Participants

The water was right and the sky was a little cloudy, but 25 Stillwater Watershed residents canoed 3.5 miles of the Scenic Stillwater River.

Everyone loaded into the canoes and began their voyage down the Stillwater River on June 13th, 2008. Midway through the canoe trip it began to rain, but a little rain never dampened the spirits of the participants. Upon arrival at the Stillwater Beach Campground, participants enjoyed lunch and a variety of educational speakers. The Ohio EPA discussed the importance of macroinvertebrates located in the Stillwater River. Participants were able to examine these tiny little creatures of the river. Erik Lewis of Pheasants Forever provided information on invasive and noxious weeds located around the river. Erik also pointed out some of the native and beneficial plants that live along the river's banks. Casey Munchel of the Ohio Division of Forestry discussed the tree species located in the riparian zone along the rivers edge. Finally everyone loaded into their canoes and finished out the last leg of the trip before the rain began. The event was successful and very educational for children and adults. Please consider attending one of the future educational canoes floats and enjoy what nature has to offer.

I would like to thank Darke and Miami County Parks Districts, Darke and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Ohio Division of Forestry, Pheasants Forever, Ohio EPA, Stillwater Beach Campground and George Williams for their support and help in conducting this years Darke County Educational Canoe Float.

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2008 Events

November 15th- 2nd Annual Stillwater Watershed Bowl

November 24th- Darke SWCD Annual Banquet

Make plans to attend the 2nd Annual Watershed Bowl

The 2nd Annual Watershed Bowl will be held on November 15th at McBo's Lanes in Versailles, OH. Last year we had a great evening of food, drink, and bowling which helped to benefit the Stillwater Watershed Project. The evening will include all-you-can eat pizza and pop, 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, door prizes, and entertainment. The cost is

only \$15 per person and there will also be a silent auction throughout the night. Last year we sold out of tickets, so please contact Greg McGlinch before November 12th, 2008.

Thanks again for your support!



Nutrient Management Field Day

The Stillwater Watershed Project, Grand Lake/Wabash Watershed Alliance, and the Loramie Valley Alliance hosted the 2008 Nutrient Management Field Day on August 5th, 2008. Participants received Tri-State Fertility Guides, Ohio Livestock Manure Management Guide, manure education, and a free lunch. Participants had the opportunity to learn about composting, soil structure, The Conservation Reserve Program, manure value, and see the latest manure and tillage equipment. A big thanks goes out to the following implement dealers, agencies, and agri-businesses:

A1 Ag Service	North Star Implement	FSA	
Apple Farm Service	Post Equipment	Soil and Water Conservation Districts	
Barnyard Supply	Prenger Implement	NRCS	
Droesch Farm Service	Farm Bureau	OSU Extension	Thanks again to all those who supported the event!
Homan Equipment	Mote & Associates	ODNR	
Lefeld Equipment	Brookside Wood Products		
Byron Seeds/Brunswick Forages			

Miami Conservancy District Best Management Practice Tour of the Stillwater!

On September 4th, 2008 around 43 individuals visited the upper Stillwater to get a first hand look at the agricultural best management practices within the watershed. The first stop in the morning was Anderson's Ethanol plant where participants got a first hand view of how ethanol is produced. In the afternoon the group visited 4 BMP sites:

1. An animal waste storage facility which collected lot water, milk house water, and is used for manure storage. The project was funded through the Miami Conservancy Districts Water Quality Credit Trading Program.
2. The second stop we looked at a wetland that treats runoff from a farm field where no-tillage practices are being implemented. Participants also viewed a wind break and CP-33 Habitat Buffers.
3. The third stop was an organic dairy farm where paddocks were setup to divide the pasture into areas to keep the pasture healthy and available to the dairy herd.
4. Finally the group visited some highly eroded land that was converted from row crops to alfalfa/pasture to reduce soil erosion.

Thanks to Andersons Ethanol, Miami Conservancy District, NRCS, Darke and Miami SWCD, participants and most of all the farmers who allowed us to view their best management practices



2008 Stillwater Cleanup Successful!

The 8th Annual Stillwater Cleanup was held on May 30th, 2008. The water was perfect and the weather was calm to make it an enjoyable day to cleanup the Scenic Stillwater River. The clean up covered 13 miles of river that stretched from Darke County all the way down to Montgomery County. There were 49 dedicated volunteers that removed 5,440 pounds of trash, including 74 tires.

The event is held to cleanup the Stillwater so it will be more enjoyable for people to fish, canoe, and swim. The cleanup is used to create awareness on why we need to keep our rivers clean and free of debris. Please dispose of your trash properly so we can preserve the natural beauty and scenery of our Scenic Rivers.

There were many organizations and businesses that help support the efforts of the cleanup. 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, NewTech Plastics, Lavy Concrete, Brukner Nature Center, Veolia Water North America, McDonalds, and all the volunteers. A great appreciation goes out to Miami County Parks, City of Englewood, Newton, Newberry, and Union Townships who graciously hauled the trash. The Miami and Montgomery County Solid Waste Districts disposed of the trash collected from the cleanup.

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



Volunteers Cleaning up trash along the Stillwater River.

2008 A.C.E Conservation Tour Update



The 2008 ACE tour was fun and educational! The tour bus left the Darke County Fairgrounds on June 17th heading westward to visit St. Louis. The first day the group visited Integrity Biofuels in Morristown, IN. At the bio-diesel refinery the group got to see first hand how soybean oil was processed into fuel for their tractors. After the biofuel plant the group stopped at Dow Agro Sciences in Indianapolis, IN. There the group ate lunch and toured the facility. The tour allowed the participants to explore the plant growth chambers, the soil mixing station (where they can make any type of soil in the world), and see all the research that it takes to improve crop genetics.

The second day showcased Monsanto's work in plant genetics and conservation of the land. At Monsanto's research facility the group experienced how the roundup resistant genetics are placed into plants making them genetically modified. After the tour, Monsanto treated the group to a nice lunch. We then ventured to Anheuser-Busch where the group toured the brewery and was invited into the hospitality room. Finally we explored the St. Louis Arch and the museum of Westward Expansion.

On the last day the group visited the Melvin Price Locks and dam where many of the countries commodities pass through on their venture down the Mississippi. We got a first hand view of the Mississippi at flood stage when touring the dam. The trip was educational and incorporated the importance of conservation implemented on American farmland. A **big thanks** goes out to **ODNR** and **Farm Credit Service** for their contributions to the trip. If you have any future tour ideas or would like to join A.C.E please contact Greg McGlinch at 937-548-1715 ext 3 for more information.



Free Soil Samples

The Stillwater Watershed Project and Darke SWCD are offering free lawn soil sampling to Darke County residents located in the Stillwater Watershed. The purpose of the program is to provide residents information on the importance and economics of reducing fertilizer applications on their lawns. One main nutrient of concern is phosphorus, because of its detrimental effects to local streams and rivers. Soil testing can help reduce fertilizer costs and provide individuals information on nutrient levels in their lawns.

The soil sample report will provide pH, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Cation Exchange Capacity, and Magnesium levels in their lawn. Along with the report will come nutrient recommendations for the lawn. The program is only open to Darke County residents located in the Stillwater Watershed, please no consultants or lawn care operations that take payment for their services.

The Darke SWCD will provide soil sampling kits, which consist of a container, soil probe, and information on how to sample the soil. To take advantage of this program either stop by the Darke Soil & Water Conservation District or call 937-548-1715 ext 3 to get your soil sampling kit. There are a limited number of samples provided, so act fast.



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

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

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Thank You To The 2008 Members!

Stillwater Watershed Members are very important in providing support to such events as the Stillwater Cleanup, the educational canoe floats, assisting with high school and elementary school programs, and the general operations of the Stillwater Watershed Project.

If you are interested in supporting the Stillwater Watershed project please contact Greg McGlinch for more information and the benefits in becoming a member.

The following individuals and businesses are 2008 Stillwater Watershed Members and the Watershed Project greatly appreciates their support!

Ansonia Lumber Co.

Apple Farm Service Inc.

Covington AERIE 3998 FOE

Menke Consulting Inc.

Mercer Savings Bank

Newtech Plastics Inc.

Rudy, Inc.

Second National Bank

Tom Magoto Insurance

Mote & Associates, Inc

Farm Credit Services

Dan and Carol Kerber

