

Muskingum SWCD
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Muskingum SWCD 2011 Annual Report

Ryan Fink

District Program Administrator/Agriculture/Wildlife Specialist

I would like to announce that I have recently accepted a new job in the private sector. I am excited about this opportunity and starting a fresh chapter in my career. However, reflecting upon my time with the Muskingum Soil and Water District, I feel some sadness to be leaving such pleasant, dedicated coworkers and fellow conservationists around the state.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past ten years I have worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District as the Agriculture/Wildlife Specialist and most recently the additional role of District Program Administrator. I will always say that I was lucky enough to work for the best Soil and Water District in the State. I am also thankful for this great opportunity, and everyone who assisted in helping me become a knowledgeable engineering technician. I can only hope that the contributions I have made to conservation during my tenure will have lasting effects that will impact not only this generation but future generations in Muskingum County. In addition to enjoying my job, I have also had the pleasure to meet and work with many great people from around Muskingum County and the State of Ohio.

These continue to be trying times for local governments and especially Soil and Water Districts. As a public servant, I have always considered the residents of Muskingum County my ultimate supervisors. It is with this mindset that I worked to provide them with the best technical assistance and in a timely manner. I can personally attest that every employee in the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District will continue to provide great conservation assistance and education to the residents of Muskingum County.

In closing, it is impossible to work in the agriculture and environmental field without seeing examples of issues and resources that complete full circles. So as I depart this position in pursuit of new challenges and rewards, who knows what the future holds? Our paths may cross again someday.

Until next time,

Ryan Fink

District Program Administrator/Agriculture/Wildlife Specialist

Conservation Practices installed in 2011:

- Spring Developments
- Streambank Stabilization
- Grassed Water Ways
- Intensive Grazing Fence
- Rock Crossings
- Water Systems
- Seep Tile
- Heavy Use Pads

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Presentations and Programs: Many presentations to groups in Muskingum County.

Nuisance Deer Permits: 70 deer damage investigations were completed in 2011.

Pheasants Forever Discard Seed Sale: Wildlife food plot seed sold for spring 2012.

Coyote Damage and Goose Damage Investigations: Assisted with coyote and goose damage investigations during 2011.

Stream Fencing Program: Program provides cost share for landowners willing to fence livestock from streams.

Rental Program: Continue the rental program for the live traps, propane cannon, and the mole traps.

Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Employees: Represented Area 3 for a fourth year. In 2011, served as Vice President.

FORESTRY PROGRAM

CAUV Forest Management Program: SWCD continued to assist the Muskingum County Auditor with the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) Forest Management program for the sixth year. In 2011, CAUV Forest Management plans were written for over 1400 forested acres involving 42 landowners in Muskingum County. The CAUV Forest Management plans helped landowners with qualifying forest land to receive reduced real estate taxes while at the same time improving the value of their forest land. Previously written management plans were inspected this year and they involved inspecting 42 landowners covering around 2320 acres.

Forest Stewardship Planning: SWCD began writing detailed forest stewardship plans to help landowners qualify for the Forest Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP). In 2011, Forest Stewardship plans were written for three Muskingum County landowners.

Tree Identification Class: Muskingum SWCD hosted a Tree ID class in the summer of 2011. The class taught landowner how to identify 88 different Ohio trees by the use of a key. Around 40 people were in attendance.

Annual Muskingum SWCD Tree Sale: In 2011, the District sold approximately 14,600 tree seedlings. Several species were offered this year that were not offered in the past. The district also offered a packet system of distribution which allowed landowners to purchase a variety of trees. The benefits of tree shelters are now being realized and the district sold a stunning amount with its trees.

Silvicultural Operation and Management Plans: The SWCD Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code, reviewed 11 Muskingum County landowners' Silvicultural Timber Harvest Plans for timber. Having a Timber Harvest plan in place was especially critical this year with this being the wettest year in recorded history.

Annual Big Tree Contest: With 29 trees entered into this year's big tree contest the district had a record breaking year for both numbers of tree entered as well as the size of trees. The 2011 winner was a Silver Maple that measured 26.9 feet in circumference and 69 feet in height. The tree scored 405 points and is now considered to be Ohio's Largest Silver Maple. The tree is owned by Sandy Peterson.

2011 Clinics



Build a Backyard Compost Bin



From the Soil to the Table



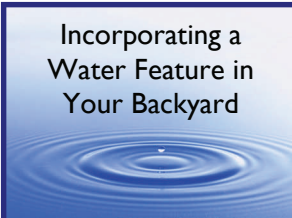
Repurpose Reuse Recycle It



Pollinator Clinic



MSWCD Open House



Incorporating a Water Feature in Your Backyard

Printed Quarterly:
District Newsletter
The Mud Puddle,
(Teacher Newsletter)
35 articles published in the
Times Recorder
28 appearances on WHIZ,
Live At Noon

2011 CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Carol Griffin, Bishop Fenwick School

2011 SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTREACH AWARDS

James and Susan McDonald

Muskingum County Master Gardeners

2011 RESOURCE CONSERVATION AWARDS

Ag Award

Beagle Hill Farms, Joe Celuch and Brenda Butler

Non-Ag Award

Muskingum Valley Park District

Photo Contest



African Spur Thigh Tortoise
By: Denise Eminhizer

Photo Contest



Future Farmers
By: Pat Wheeler



Muskingum County Fair Display

Scholarship



Cathie Kreager and Dawn Jennifer Fitch

Scholarship



Cathie Kreager and Sebastian Teas



Earth Day on the Muskingum



Butterfly Bush Sale



August Tree ID Clinic



Area 3 Envirothon



Camp Adventure



Annual Tree Sale



Annual Celebration of Conservation Banquet



Todd Sands Pasture Walk



Poster Contest



Farm City Day

2011 MUSKINGUM SWCD STAFF



Ryan Fink,
District Program
Administrator/Ag
Wildlife Specialist



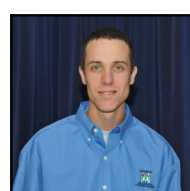
Lisa Crock,
Administrative
Assistant



Nicole Hafer,
Education Specialist



Kylene Newman,
Agricultural
Resource Specialist



Clayton Rico,
Forest Resource
Specialist



Jeanette Weinberg,
Information/Admin
Assistant

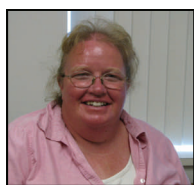
NRCS PERSONNEL



Patty Dyer,
District
Conservationist



Lori Ryan-Griffin,
Soil Conservationist



Patty Dyer,
Soil Conservation
Technician



Richard E. Sorg,
District Program Administrator

Retired
July 29, 2011

2011 MUSKINGUM SWCD SUPERVISORS



Cathie Kreager,
Chairperson



Larry Ball,
Vice-Chairperson



Shane Mender,
Secretary



Bill Balderson,
Treasurer/Fiscal Agent



Lance Deal,
Member

The District would like to thank the following Advertisers and Affiliate Members for their support of the SWCD's educational program:

- Adams Bros. Concrete
- Alan Wilson, Butler & Associates Realty
- Balderson Motor Sales
- Cabela's Trophy Properties
- Century National Bank
- Farm Credit Services
- Farm Supply Center, Inc.
- Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Hendley & Company, Inc.
- Hupp - Stiverson Company
- Matt Grimm Services
- Millersport Agri Service
- Muskingum Valley Woodland Services
- Reid Baughman Insurance Service
- Zanesville Bearing

We would also like to thank the following for their Support and assistance:

- City of Zanesville
- Muskingum County Auditor
- Muskingum County Commissioners
- ODNR, Division of Forestry
- ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Resources
- ODNR, Division of Wildlife
- OSU Extension, Muskingum County
- USDA, Farm Service Agency
- USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

OPERATIONS OF THE MUSKINGUM SWCD

The Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District is governed by a board of five (5) supervisors, duly elected by landowners and residents within the boundaries of Muskingum County. They serve a term of three (3) years without compensation. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly to administer the business of the District. They attend state and national meetings and donate countless hours of their personal time for the benefit of conservation in Muskingum County.

An Annual Plan of Work is developed each year to determine the priorities of the District. This work is coordinated with all agencies, organizations, and individuals with responsibilities in natural resource conservation and development.

Through financial assistance from the Muskingum County Commissioners, the State of Ohio, grants and donations, the District was able to employ six staff members in 2011. The District appreciates the continued support of their efforts to develop the conservation and educational programs in Muskingum County.

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AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

Technical Assistance: Engineering of conservation practices is a service provided to the cooperators of Muskingum County. We also provide technical assistance on pond sites, no till seeding, and tile drainage. The practices and assistance are listed below:

Spring Developments	Livestock Exclusion Fence
Stream Crossings	Heavy Use Pads
Livestock Watering Systems	Grassed Waterways
Tile Drainage	No Till Seeding
Access Roads	Pond Sites

Conservation/ Grazing Plans: Assisted with the development of conservation plans for NRCS programs. Also created grazing management plans for NRCS EQIP participants.

Education: The Sands Farm hosted a pasture walk on April 27, 2011. The Sands Farm is a beef cattle operation. The Pasture Walk highlighted rotational grazing system, forage identification, animal waste storage structure, and water systems.

The second pasture walk for 2011 was hosted on July 7th at Kimpel Farm. Aeration for compaction on pasture fields, pasture grazing heights, and the organically raising livestock was discussed at pasture walk at Kimpels Farm.

2011 Equipment Rental

10' No-Till Drill Rental: Total 361.30 acres
7' No-Till Drill Rental: Total 166.80 acres
Stoltzfus Lime Spreader: Total 21 rentals

Education Program

Classroom Presentations: Staff members presented over 280 presentations in both public and private schools, reaching over 6,500 students in 2011. The District offers 25 different conservation education presentations and provides resources to educators throughout Muskingum County free of charge. Our staff also provides outdoor lab opportunities for Maysville High School students and Mid-East Career and Technology students on aquatic life, skull I.D., forest management, biodiversity, and deer aging.

School Field Days: 3rd grade students from Zane Grey Elementary and 5th grade students from John McIntire Elementary participated in field days at Zane State College Natural Resource Center.

The District also works with area Middle Schools to promote stream monitoring programs.

Maysville 7th graders and West Muskingum 7th graders participated in stream monitoring programs on both Jonathan Creek and Blunt Run. In addition, District staff present water quality presentations as part of Hopewell Elementary "Hooked on Fishing" event every spring. MSWCD staff assisted Perry SWCD with field days at Crooksville and New Lexington Middle Schools, Noble SWCD with their summer camp, and Guernsey SWCD with field days and their summer camp.

Envirothon 2011: This year five teams from Muskingum County competed in the Area 3 Envirothon and Tri-County Envirothon. The Gold team from Philo High School placed 2nd, and two other teams placed in the top 13. The Philo Gold team also competed at the State Envirothon.

Camp Adventure: 2011 marked the 11th year for our annual Camp Adventure at Friendly Hills Grange Camp. The theme was "Get Outside" with the focus on the many activities available to children outside and to encourage outside play.

Kids Conservation Camp: Conservation Camp celebrated its ninth year by maintaining the many projects we have installed at Blue Rock State Park. Campers worked on our adopted trails, blue bird trail, and butterfly gardens. Campers also stream monitor and participate in park clean-up days. Conservation Camp is a corroborative project with the Muskingum Family YMCA.

Aquatic Education Trailer: The District was awarded a grant from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to develop a mobile aquatic education exhibit to be used as part of our conservation education programming. The exhibit is housed inside a box trailer and is currently under construction at the Cincinnati Museum. When finished, the exhibit will highlight the importance of keeping our waterways clean. Included are individual exhibits on macroinvertebrates, watersheds, healthy stream habitats, point and non-point source pollution, best management practices for water quality and offer suggestions on how to keep our waters clean. The exhibit is due to be completed by June 2012.

Other Activities and Events: Two educator workshops were offered in 2011, a Project WILD workshop and a Science and Civics workshop. The District applied for several grants, one for a Litter Collection/Recycling Program and another for Kids Farm Safety Day. Staff assisted with the Earth Day on the Muskingum event and presented programs to several 4-H clubs and summer latchkey programs. Education Specialist Nicole Hafer also completed Level two of the Educator's Development Program.

2011 Camp Adventure
theme was:

Get Outside!