



The Mud Puddle

Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100
Zanesville, OH 43701
www.muskingumswcd.org

Spring
Issue

CRITTER CORNER EEK!! SNOW FLEAS

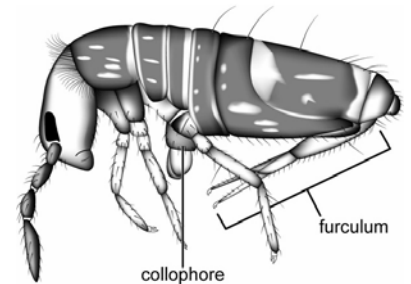
Snow has fleas? Most of us don't notice snow fleas. These little creatures are really very common and right under our feet. How do you find snow fleas? On a warm, sunny, winter day, take a look at the base of a tree where the snow is melted down to expose leaves, or where the snow is shallow. You will find sprinkled on the ground what looks like "pepper" on the snow. Those tiny black spots are snow fleas. Once you have spotted them, look closely to see what they're up to.

Snow fleas are tiny insects that come out on warm sunny days to eat plant decay and sap from trees. These insects hop around on the surface of the snow acting like fleas, and that's how they get their name. Snow fleas are not actually fleas at all, they are an arthropod called *Collembola*, or springtails to the layperson. Springtails are about a 1/8 of an inch in length and have a specialized catapult system to move them from spot to spot. These insects have two "tails" on their rear ends that are tucked up under their belly. The "tails" are held in place with tiny hooks. When the snow flea want to move, they just release the "tails" which strike the snow surface and send them flying into the air. Snow fleas have no control of their flight or direction, so unfortunately for them they frequently land in the same spot or just a few inches away.

Snow fleas are not just winter critters, these insects can be found at all times of the year in the forest. They live in the leaf litter stuck to leaves or on the soil, munching on decaying vegetation. These little guys also live on the surface of ponds, but you would need to look closely because they blend in well and are very small.

The next time you're out hiking in the snow covered woods, or just walking around your back yard, look and see if you can spot these spring - loaded springtails, commonly called "Snow Fleas."

By: Joe Lehman, Wildlife Specialist at Guernsey SWCD
Visit the District at <http://guernseysoil.blogspot.com>



Encourage your students to
enter our poster contest.
See details inside.



2011 Stewardship Week - Forestry

April 24 to May 1, 2011

This will be a special year for National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). NACD is collaborating with the USDA-Forest Service and American Forest Foundation/Project Learning Tree for this special 2011 Forestry Theme. 2011 has been declared the International Year of Forests by the United Nations. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation's 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.



We want to connect people to the forest whether they have one in their back yard, in their state or no forests at all. We all have a connection to the trees in the forest that provide wood for our homes, furniture or cork for the center of our baseballs. We can thank trees that help clean the air we breathe. Trees play an important part in the lives of many farmers across the nation, for food we eat, how forests are managed and products we receive from them. Forests are great to hike in as well as for watching wildlife and birds. There is a lot to learn about forests!



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows. We have seen these good deeds multiply across the nation's network of conservation districts and the results are spectacular!

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation. - Aldo Leopold

Recycled Tote Bags: Made from feed and seed sacks.

\$5.00 Donation-Large Bag & \$3.00 Donation-Small Bag

Many Types Available. Help fund our education program!

Call Nicole, (740) 454-2027 and she will deliver to your school!



Attend All Summer!

Kids Conservation Camp

FOR KIDS AGES 7 TO 14

SOME OF WEDNESDAY
FIELD TRIPS INCLUDE:

- THE WORKS!
- OLD MAN'S CAVE
- DILLON STATE PARK
- BURR OAK STATE PARK
- SALT FORK STATE PARK
- DAWES ARBORETUM VERNAL POOL
- OHIO RIVER MUSEUM AND CAMPUS MARTIUS
- THE RIDGE MUSEUM AND KRANER NATURE CENTER

Contact Information:

Muskingum Family-Y
453-9622
or
Nicole Hafer, MSWCD
454-2027

A Fun and Educational
Summer Experience !!

Mondays & Wednesdays

June 6, 2011

through

August 17, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration begins April 4, 2011
Space is limited to 15 children per day.

Registration fee per child, per week:

- Y – Members \$35.00
- Non Y – Members \$45.00



Butterfly, Hummingbird, and Pollinator Plant Sale Underway

Once again the MSWCD is offering plants to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and pollinators to your backyard. The sale of these plants benefits the conservation education programs, such as Camp Adventure, college scholarships, and youth and adult clinics, provided by the MSWCD.



New this year to the sale is a limited number of the “pollinator packets”. These packets include one bi-color butterfly bush, one blanket flower, one coreopsis tickseed, one yarrow, and two black-eyed Susan plants for only \$16.00 (plants will be small). All plants are perennials and thrive in full sun with moderate moisture. The plants provide blooms during the summer and fall that are attractive to birds, butterflies and/or other pollinators. All are moderate to fast growers. Group the plants together to create a “pollinator habitat” in your back yard!

The butterfly bushes are \$4.00 per plant. Buddlia, or butterfly bushes, have summer-long, colorful, fragrant blooms that are wonderful for cutting and attracting butterflies. The plants prefer moist, well-drained soil in an area that receives full sun, but can survive in disturbed areas and poor soil. They are to be treated like a perennial – cut them back heavily in the winter or spring for better flowering. The heights vary from 3-8’, depending upon the variety, and they grow rapidly. Colors available this year include bi-color (purple with orange center), blue, pink, and red.

Clethra, or summersweet, blooms in July and August. The fragrance of its white blooms attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. The “Hummingbird” variety that is being offered is a dwarf plant and will reach 30” in height and width. It has a densely rounded habit, with dark green leaves that turn yellow in the fall. It prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun to partial shade, and grows slowly. These plants are \$4.00 each.

Orders are being taken for the plants and pollinator packets on a first-come, first serve basis. Orders may be placed at the MSWCD office or mailed (with payment) to 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville, Ohio 43701. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Orders will be taken until April 29, 2011 **or until the plants are sold out**. Projected delivery to the office is early to mid-May. Those ordering plants will be notified by postcard when the plants can be picked up at the office. All sales are final and there will be no refund or exchanges, but we do reserve the right to make substitutions.



All the plants are locally grown, so purchase of these plants helps not only the MSWCD education programs, but the local economy as well. Please order early for the best selection as there are a **limited number** of plants available.



2011 Butterfly, Hummingbird, and Pollinator Packet Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phones: _____

Order deadline: April 29, 2011 or until sold out.
 Make checks payable to Muskingum SWCD.
 All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.
 We reserve the right to make substitutions.
 Order early – plants are limited! Plants arrive in May.

Please indicate the number you are ordering of each:

Bi-color Butterfly Bush _____ at \$4.00 each = \$ _____

Blue Butterfly Bush _____ at \$4.00 each = \$ _____

Pink Butterfly Bush _____ at \$4.00 each = \$ _____

Red Butterfly Bush _____ at \$4.00 each = \$ _____

Clethra “Hummingbird” _____ at \$4.00 each = \$ _____

Pollinator Packets _____ at \$16.00 each = \$ _____

Total Single Plants: _____ Total Packets: _____

Total Cost: _____



Contact the Muskingum SWCD for Education Programs

Nicole Hafer, Education Specialist,
can create a program to specifically meet your classroom needs.

Email: nicole.hafer@muskingumswcd.org

Web Site: lists examples of the classroom programs on the Education Page:

www.muskingumswcd.org



All Programs are FREE!!!



Muskingum SWCD Backyard Pollinator Clinic



Free



Wednesday, March 23, 2011



Please call our office if
you have questions or
need directions.

Registration Requested
Call 454-2027

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Rural Services Building

225 Underwood Street

Zanesville, OH 43701



MUSKINGUM SWCD
(740) 454-2027

Topics:

Backyard Honey Bees
Other Backyard Pollinators
Creating your own Backyard Pollinator Habitat
Butterfly/Hummingbird Packet Sale Kick-Off
Natural Pesticides



Speakers:

Dave Schott, Monroe SWCD
Shana Byrd, *the Wilds*
Annie Warmke, Blue Rock Station

EARTH DAY



Celebrating Earth Day on the Muskingum

Yes! Muskingum is sponsoring an Environmental Fair to celebrate Earth Day. The event will be held on Saturday, April 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Zane Landing Park. Events include: children's activities, educational booths, and vendors from such organizations as:

- Clay Processing
- Girl Scouts
- Moxahala Watershed
- Muskingum SWCD
- Roots & Shoots
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- The Works

**Fun
Activities
For
Everyone!**

Saturday, April 16
10:00 to 4:00
Zane Landing Park

Music
10:20 a.m.

Demonstrations
11:00 a.m.

The Muskingum SWCD will display the posters entered
in our soil and water stewardship poster contest.

For Information about the: Environmental Fair

Contact: Kris Geis, Phone: 453-4911 Email: geis4@hotmail.com



We hope to see you there for a fun and educational way to celebrate Earth Day!
