

Conservation Almanac

Website: www.ashtabulaswcd.org

Newsletter 311

August, 2009

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Ashtabula SWCD Celebrates 60 Years

On January 28, 1949 the Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was formally organized. Organized by interested and concerned land users from all parts of the county, its beginning was a humble, yet marked event in the development and enhancement of the county's soil and water resources, their maintenance and their use.

Enabling legislation enacted in 1941, House Bill 646, was the means by which the county's land users, concerned with their eroding cropland and poorly drained soils, were able to officially and legally organize an agency to help them resolve their land use problems.

The seventy-fourth District to be organized in Ohio, the Ashtabula County SWCD was originally called the Soil Conservation District. As the district's program enlarged and diversified over the years, the name was changed to reflect this. In 1968 the district's official name was changed to include "Water". The importance of maintaining water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams was very well known, and as sedimentation is an integral component in erosion control, it was only natural that the then called Soil Conservation District focus its attention on downstream water quality as well as upland watershed erosion control.

In 1948 E. A. Spafford, a dairy farmer in Trumbull Township, while listening to his radio heard of a new organization of farmers called the Soil Conservation District in the State of Iowa and the free assistance given to farmers. Later in the day he drove to Jefferson to speak with Mr. Ross Milner, Agricultural Agent for the Ashtabula County Cooperative Extension Service. Questions turned into further investigation of the steps necessary to organize a District in Ashtabula County.

In June of 1949 the first formal meeting of the Ashtabula Soil Conservation District was held. Present were: John C. Clymer, Cherry Valley Twp.; C. R. Longbrake, Pierpont Twp., C. F. Cram, Monroe Twp; E. D. Humphrey, Williamsfield Twp., and Albert Spieth of Richmond Twp. Election of officers took place at this meeting. Discussion of funding was held and suggestion was made to contact the Farm Bureau, Cooperative Holstein Free-sian Club, and the Grange and ask for donations to help things good cause along. A total of \$27.00 was contributed by those contacted by the first Board of supervisors.

By September 9, 1949 the Board of supervisors were ready to sign a formal memorandum of understanding with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). By January, 1950 a total of 173 people had signed up as cooperators. The very first one was the man who brought the entire concept to bear: M. E.A. Spafford.

Literally millions of dollars have been invested in the conservation of the soil and waster of Ashtabula County by private landowners, the federal government, the state government, and the county government. The number of actively involved cooperators of the District has grown from 173 the first year to 2,406 in 2009.

Come celebrate with us our 60th Annual Banquet Meeting on Thursday, November 5 at the Williamsfield Community Center.

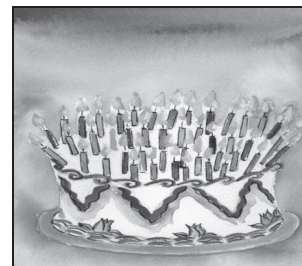
Election of one supervisor will take place. Voting will beheld from 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. along with the social time with grape juice and cheeses. Buffet prepared by "Catering" by Bobbie Lahti and Donna Zahn will begin at 8:00 p.m.

More information on the banquet, as well as ticket prices and supervisor candidates, will be in the October newsletter.

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HAPPY 60TH ASHTABULA SWCD



Special Points of Interest

Aug. 10	Entry Day for Hay, Silage/Seed Show
Aug. 11	Judging Day
Aug. 13	Board Meeting
Sept. 07	Closed -Labor Day
Sept. 10	Board Meeting
Sept. 19	Hazardous waste pickup

**TRIPLOID GRASS CARP
2009 FALL ORDER FORM**

Triploid Grass Carp (White Amur) can be successfully used to control excessive amounts of pond vegetation as an alternative to chemicals, water shade and physical harvesting. Stocking rates recommended vary – many people recommend a flat rate of 10 fish per acre of 10-12” size.

Successfully managed ponds have 30-40% of pond area vegetated for fish habitat. A POND DEVOID OF VEGETATION IS UNDESIRABLE; KEEP 30-40% of POND EDGE VEGETATED. This provides suitable area for fish to spawn and also prevents shoreline erosion.

Factors involved in proper stocking include:

- 1) Size of pond surface area.
- 2) Percentage of pond shallower than 8”
- 3) Percentage of pond vegetated in July-August
- 4) Dominant plant species (favored species include:
Naiad, Leafy Pondweed and Large Leaf Pondweed.
Less favored are: Water lily, Spatterdock, Milfoil, Cattails, Algae)

Order Deadline: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2009

Amur Delivery: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. Bring one 5-gallon bucket for every two Amurs ordered. Line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers ¾ full with water (no more, no less!) Container must have a lid.

Pick up place: ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, west side parking lot. Orders must be picked up at this time as we have no place to keep them and we do not deliver.

NO REFUNDS ON AMUR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.

Mark your calendars, as there will be no phone calls or post cards sent to remind you. Return order form and remittance by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 02 to:

**Ashtabula SWCD
39 Wall Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137**

Cut here

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CTIY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

COUNTY WHERE AMUR WILL BE STOCKED _____

_____ Triploid White Amur @ \$13.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

CASH ___ CHECK ___ RECEIVED BY _____ DATE RECEIVED _____ RECEIPT # _____

Make checks payable to: ASHTABULA SWCD
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**All Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District and
Natural Resource Conservation Service programs and
services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without
regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age,
marital status, or handicap.**

REMINDER!!

Entries into the Hay, Silage, Seed and Grain Show will be accepted Monday August 10th from 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m. With judging on Tuesday, August 11th. Dr. Don Myers will be judging the entries again this year.
Remember all entries (except floral) must be submitted by August 4th.
Entries need to be picked up on Monday

August 17 by 9:00 a.m. If not, seed entries and awards may be picked up at our office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Hay will be placed outside of the building and silage will be disposed of. **Let us know if you want to pick up your hay bale and we will mark your name on it and leave in the building.** Awards may be picked up at our office.
Remember, there is a limit of **ONE ENTRY PER FAMILY, PER EXHIBI-**

TOR NUMBER PER CLASS AND CATEGORY.



Ashtabula Soil & Water Conservation District
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Dr. Paul Mechling - Member

Associate Supervisor

Erick Smith
Wendell Obermyer

District Staff

Carla Henson-Administrative Assistant
Nathan Paskey-District Manager/Technician
Jim Welker-District Technician/Education Coordinator

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collection September 19, 2009

No Tires Accepted

September 19, 2009
9:00 AM—1:00 PM
ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIGROUNDS



Ashtabula County residents only. No commercial businesses.

MATERIALS TAKEN:

PAINT: Paint & Paint products - 5 gallons container or smaller. **Excessive quantities of paint containers may be charged.** Aerosols acceptable. Includes adhesives/roof tar/driveway sealers.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS: Acid and caustic products.

BATTERIES: All household batteries. Lead acid automotive batteries, limit of 4 lead acid batteries/vehicle.

AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS: Motor oil, up to 5 gallon containers - prefer 1 gallon containers, Antifreeze, Brake fluid, Grease, Gasoline.

PESTICIDES: Liquids, Solids and Aerosols.

MERCURY: Thermometers, Thermostats, and Elemental mercury.

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: Explosives, ammunition, gas cylinders, radioactive wastes, large quantities of unknown materials.

For more information call: 576-3777