

Watershed News

Volume 3, Issue 2

April 2005

Linking Land Use and Lake Erie—Spring Quarter Meeting April 26

Did you know?

- Erosion on a Global Scale: Dust blowing from Africa, across the Atlantic, can impact the air quality in Florida.
- If all the earth's water fit in a gallon jug, available fresh water would be about the size of an ice cube.
- The average American uses 100-176 gallons of water each day.
- The average African family uses about 5 gallons of water a day.
- Since 1950, water use worldwide has tripled.
- Earth Day is April 22. Make it a day when you do something extra to promote water quality at home.

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You are invited to the Spring Quarter meeting of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition!

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at the Erie County Commissioners chambers. The chambers are at 2900 Columbus Avenue, 3rd Floor in the Erie County Services Complex on Columbus Avenue in Sandusky, OH.

Joe Konen, an Urban Specialist with OSU Extension, will be on hand to give a presentation on the Report and Recommendations of the Ohio Lake Erie Balanced Growth Blue Ribbon Task Force: Linking Land Use and Lake Erie: A Planning Framework for Achieving Balanced Growth in the Ohio Lake Erie Watershed.

While the title may be long, the theory is quite simple. How we use the land we live on has an immediate and substantial impact on the health of our rivers and streams, and ultimately Lake Erie. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is working to implement the Balanced Growth Initiative here in Ohio, an initiative that is taking shape across the Great Lakes region through various organizations. The goal is to attain a living equilibrium between a strong, diversified economy and a healthy Lake Erie ecosystem.

The meeting will run from 7pm-9pm, and will include a general business session and reports from each of the standing committees.

At this critical time in our existence, your attendance and participation is more important than ever.



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The Comm. Chambers are at 2900 Columbus Ave. in Sandusky, OH. For detailed directions www.sanduskyriver.org or 419-334-5016.

Future Quarterly Meetings—Events Needed

Seen a great speaker recently? Have one you want to see? Let us know. Suggestions and recommendations for future presentations at quarterly meetings are needed. We will work to get your suggestions on the agenda as soon as possible once received. Any topic relating to water quality issues in the Sandusky River watershed are accepted for our quarterly meetings.

Summer Recreation Season—River Access Points

Sandusky State Scenic River –Official Access Points —These are the most popular access sites, the list does not include all “unofficial” sites. Parker Covered Bridge and Mexico Bridge are unofficial access sites. Please respect access property, private or public. Restrooms at Indian Mill and Wolf Creek. **WYANDOT** - Indian Mill Access (CH 47)-ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP); Parker Covered Bridge (TH 40); Mexico Bridge (CH 9); **SENECA** -Hecks Bridge Access/Howard Collier St. Nature Preserve (TR28/TR38)-ODNR-DNAP; St. Johns Bridge (TR 131 and CR 6)-owned by Sen. Co. Comm.; Abbotts Bridge Access (TR 152)-owned by ODNR-DNAP; Old Fort Bridge Park/Access (CR 51)-owned by Sen. County Comm.; **SANDUSKY** -Wolf Creek Park (SR 53)-owned by

ODNR-DNAP, managed by Sandusky County Park District; Tindall Bridge (TR 209)-owned by Ballville Twp Parks Dpt.; **DISTANCES**-Indian Mill to Parker (4 River Miles) Mexico to Hecks (3rm) to St. Johns (4rm); Abbotts to Old Fort (4rm) to Wolf Creek Park (3.5rm) to Tindall Bridge (3rm). **CONSTRUCTION**—Mexico (now—June); Abbotts (Fall '05) - may be impassible at times thru Summer 2006. Mexico will become an official access site once opened in June. DNAP has negotiated with the Seneca County Commissioners to purchase the St. Johns Bridge area and turn it into an official access site. Question's? Call Bob Vargo ODNR Scenic Rivers Coordinator 419-981-6319

2005 SRWC Members

Bald Eagle

WSOS Community Action Commission

Great Blue Heron

Mink

American Electric Power
City of Fremont
City of Tiffin
City of Upper Sandusky

Small Mouth Bass

Walleye

The Boardwalk
Cedar Point
Clouse Construction Corp.
Richard & Lisa Dunn, Wyandot
Mary Fran Kuebler, Seneca
National Machinery Foundation
Steve Mohr, Seneca
James W Pry II, Crawford
Village of New Washington
Village of Republic
Sandusky Co. Park District
Dr. & Mrs. DP Smith (Arrowhead Farms), Seneca
Smith-Comeskey Ground Water Science, LLC
Water Quality Laboratory
Frederick Widman, Crawford

Damselfly

Dave & Peg Baker, Seneca
Ken Baker, Seneca
Gordon Downard, Stout, OH
George Fruth, Seneca
Izaak Walton League, Tiffin-Seneca
Tim & Amy Loftus, Seneca
Sandra & Robert Laipply Jr, Crawford
Sandusky Co. Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
Seneca County Farm Bureau
Shane & Kate Siefert, Crawford
Chris Reed, Sandusky
Scott & Joanne Riddle, Seneca
Seneca Caverns
Jeff & Carla Wagner, Seneca
Margaret Widman, Crawford
Terry Wright, Seneca

Sycamore

Robert & Berniece Bear, Wyandot
James L. Cooper, Seneca
Luther & Arline Hirt, Seneca
Mary Anne & Carl Koebel, Sandusky
James & Dorothy Leslie, Wyandot
Terry & Katie McKibben, Wood
Joe & Karen Perry Family, Sandusky
Josie Setzler, Seneca

River Friendly Farmer Award— Nominations Accepted

Nominations were accepted for the River Friendly Farmer Awards during March. The winners will be determined in the coming months, and will be announced in early summer. This program was sponsored by the Core 4 Conservation Alliance.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

1. All cropland maintains 30% surface residue coverage after planting.
2. Soil loss on all land is at or below the NRCS tolerable (T) soil loss level.
3. Fertilizer application rates follow the Tri-State Fertility Guide and are based on soil testing, manure testing, realistic yield goals, and credits from previous legume crops and manure applications. Applicable state and regional best management practices are followed for nitrogen and phosphorus, and follow Tri-State Fertility Guidance. All relevant practices are described in a plan as prepared by a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA).
4. All livestock facilities that require permits are now or are in the process of being approved by Ohio Department of Agriculture, with manure storage adequate for current needs.
5. Manure is applied in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, as completed by a Certified Nutrient Management Planner. The plan recommends setback distances from surface waters, drainage ditches, tile intakes, sinkholes, and areas needing special protection.
6. Pesticides are used in conjunction with cultural pest control practices and other methods that minimize environmental contamination. Pesticides are used in accordance with label rates, and guidelines for water quality protection are observed. Containers are stored, handled, and disposed of in ways that minimize environmental contamination. All pest utilization and management practices are described in a plan prepared by a Certified Crop Advisor.
7. All owned non-cropland areas are managed and protected in an environmentally appropriate manner. Best management practices are applied as needed per local, state, and federal laws.
8. Crop yield is consistent with the local average (adjusted for soil productivity) or the farm is successful.
9. Conservation buffers such as filter strips and grassed waterways are applied where needed. All buffers are maintained and meet minimum required widths for the practice.

Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

River Friendly Farmer



Core 4
Conservation
Alliance

For information on any
of our programs, visit
www.sanduskyriver.org
or call 419-334-5016

Calendar of Events

Does your organization have an upcoming event you want to promote? Please let us know—we will include events in our quarterly newsletter and on our website. Please remember, we are a great way to help get your message to a new audience of concerned citizens from across the watershed. (See the briefs section for more upcoming events!)

- April 12—Sandusky County Septic Installers meeting.
- April 26—Spring Quarter Meeting
- June 6—Sandusky County River Clean Up -see briefs for details
- June 15—Agriculture Committee Meeting
- July 28—Summer Quarter Meeting
- August 13—Seneca County Clean Sweep

OHIO'S "WALLEYE RUN" ANGLERS SHOULD OBSERVE RIVER WADING SAFETY TIPS

COLUMBUS, OH - The arrival of spring and the popular "walleye run" along the Maumee and Sandusky rivers is just days away and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) reminds wading anglers to consider some common sense safety tips.

Each spring, thousands of anglers head to the Maumee and Sandusky rivers in northwestern Ohio for the fantastic fishing offered during the spring walleye run.

"The walleye run is one of the most anticipated fishing events of the year," said Ken Alvey, chief of the ODNR Division of Watercraft. "As important as it is to land some good fish, it's critical that anglers know how to be safe when on the river."

To help assure a safe and enjoyable fishing experience, here are some safety tips for wading anglers:

- Wear a life jacket or flotation coat.
- Be properly dressed for the water temperature, which is often much colder than the air temperature; wearing clothing such as wool, synthetic fleece or polypropylene helps preserve body heat when wet.
- Wear a good quality pair of chest waders and tighten a cinch belt at the waistline outside the waders to help prevent them from filling with water should immersion occur. Water weighs about 8 pounds per gallon and can make walking to the shoreline extremely difficult if waders fill with cold river water.
 - Carry a large walking stick or wading staff to help provide balance while wading in a river or stream. Using a pair of crampons, or metal cleats, which fit over the boot portion of waders will significantly help to improve traction and avoid falls when wading across slippery rocks and other debris commonly found along river bottoms.
 - Let friends or family know of expected departure and return times while on a fishing trip or out on a boat.
 - Be prepared to handle an emergency should one arise.

Anglers are reminded that the daily bag limit for walleye between March 1 and April 30 is three fish, with a minimum length of 15 inches per fish. Fish snagging is prohibited. Additional safety tips, and boating and fishing information is available on the Internet at www.ohiodnr.com
Article from: ODNR website

Spring Cleaning & Water Quality

As spring cleaning kicks into gear with the warmer weather, there are a few things that you can do to help promote good water quality. First, when disposing of paints, cleaning supplies, car fluids, and other chemicals, please follow the proper methods for safe disposal. Second, when washing your car, consider using a professional car wash, or if you do it at home, pull your car into a grassy area. Washing the soaps down your driveway and directly into the storm drain provides a straight path to the river without treatment. Finally, when mowing your yard, if you collect clippings and other yard waste, don't pile them near waterways on your property. Grass clippings provide a huge shock of organic materials that can severely impact oxygen levels of small streams. For more information on how you can protect water quality, visit the Around the House section of the Coalition's website.

SRWC Activities & Sub-Committee Updates

Strategic Planning

The Coalition held a strategic planning session on April 4th. A follow-up session will be held in the coming weeks. For more information, please keep an eye on the website. A time and location for the second session will be posted there.

2006 S. 319 Applications

The Coalition is currently working on at least two potential applications for EPA section 319 funding for 2006. There are currently four 319 projects occurring in the watershed. They include the Ducks Unlimited Habitat for Healthy Water program, the four county Soil and Water Conservation District Agricultural Practices program, the five county Health Department Home Sewage Treatment System Replacement program, and the Watershed Coordinator program. These projects combined have brought more than \$2million into the watershed for implementation of various programs. Information on each is available on our website, or by contacting the Coalition partners who are implementing these great programs.

HSTS Program

Speaking of 319 programs, the HSTS program in cooperation with 5 county health departments is gaining steam. Installer and homeowner meetings are being held in all 5 counties, and have been well received. With the spring construction season starting this month, we anticipate a lot of intense activity with the program in the near future.

Video Project

The Development Committee has enlisted the help of WBGU, a PBS station in Bowling Green, to help develop a video on the watershed. The cooperation of the Committee and the new partners through PBS has brought a lot of new resources to the table, which will help us produce an entertaining and educational video, that will help promote better stewardship of not just our watershed, but of watersheds across the state.

Steering Committee Seats Available

Elections for the Steering Committee will be held this October at our annual meeting. Think you have an interest in joining the group? Please contact Chris Riddle for more information on the SC and how you can get involved. Seats that will be up for election are: Crawford Co., Wyandot Co., Erie Co., At-Large 3 and 4, Agriculture Committee, and Water Supply Committee. The Committee Chairs are elected by the Committees at their last meeting prior to the annual meeting.

Quote of the Quarter:

"We did not inherit this earth from our parents, we are merely borrowing it from our children." -unknown

SANDUSKY RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

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Working together for healthier streams.

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

SRWC Briefs

A Sandusky River cleanup is scheduled for June 6 at 6pm. Participants will be meeting at Roger Young Park. Rain date is June 7 and will only be used if it is raining in Fremont at 5:30 on the 6th. People need only bring gloves and shoes for walking the banks. Garbage bags, bottled water, Kool Aid, and hand sanitizer will be provided. The clean-up is being organized by Brian Bury, Sandusky County Wildlife Officer.

Bald Eagle nesting has begun again this year. There are 116 active nests this year. Updates on nests in the watershed will be posted monthly on the Coalition website. Active nests are located in the following 37 Ohio counties: Ash-tabula (3), Coshocton (1); Crawford (1); Defiance (2); Delaware (1); Erie (10); Geauga (3); Guernsey (1); Hancock (1); Hardin (1); Harrison (1); Henry (1); Holmes (1); Huron (2); Knox (3); Lake (1); Lorain (2); Lucas (6); Mahoning (2); Marion (1); Mer-cer (1); Morgan (1); Muskingum (1); Noble (1); Ottawa (16); Pickaway (1), Portage (4); Putnam (1); Richland (1); Ross (3); Sandusky (17); Seneca (5); Trumbull (6); Tuscarawas (1); Wayne (1); Wood (5); and Wyandot (7).

Proud to be a member of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition? Why not spread the love!?!? Gift memberships for neighbors, friends, and family are a great way to get everyone involved in protecting water quality. We also accept donations of raffle and door-prize items, as well as any other items that may be of use to our mission. If you have

something you would like to donate, contact us for details on tax-deductions and how we can put your old items to great new uses!

Membership Drive—Since the winter supplement newsletter was released, over \$1600 in donations have been received! We have received over \$6,000 in total donations for 2005. If you haven't renewed your support in 2005, now is the time.



Swartz Covered Bridge—Wyandot County

STREAM QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING SESSIONS

April 23—Indian Mill 10am

June 4—Wolf Creek Park 10am

July 30—Wolf Creek Park 11am

August 13—Indian Mill 11am

Each training lasts 1 hour.

Salamander Count—Howard Collier—April 2nd at 4pm

June 25—Sandusky Scenic River Day 10am-? - Canoe Float and SQM Demonstration—bring a brown bag lunch.

Email to attn. of Anne Coburn-Griffis at bobvargo@bright.net or call 419-981-6319 for mandatory pre-registration.