

# WATERSHED NEWS

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**CLEAN SWEEP! 2005**

Planning for the river cleanup in your county is underway. Each summer the Clean Sweep! event provides you with the chance to get out and give back to the Sandusky River.

The Coalition, to help promote the event, provides t-shirts to all participants across the watershed. For more details on the event in your county, check out our website or call us at 419-334-5016.

www.sanduskyriver.org

Crawford Co—TBD

Sandusky Co—TBD

Seneca Co—August 13—Seneca Co Recycling & Litter Prevention

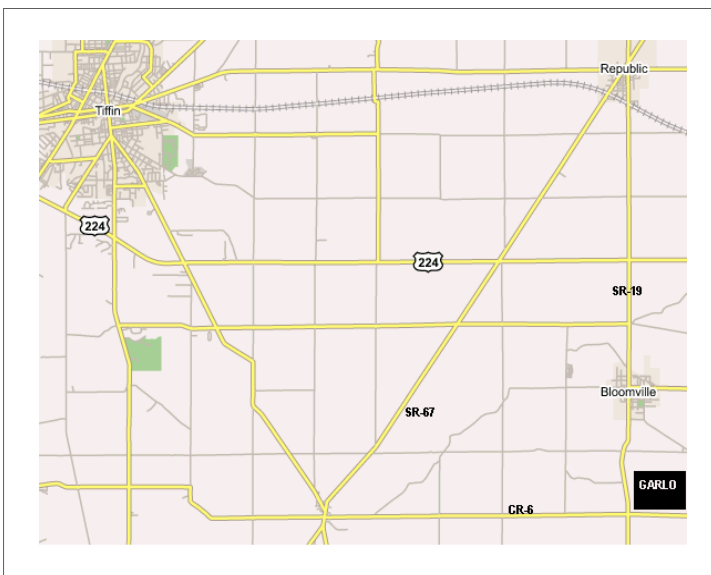
## SUMMER COOKOUT PLANNED AT GARLO HERITAGE NATURE PRESERVE

The Summer Quarter Meeting for the SRWC will be held at Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve in Seneca County. You are invited to arrive at 4:30pm for registration and a chance to mingle with fellow Coalition members. The meeting will include a cook-out, with hotdogs and hamburgers being served at 5:00pm. The burgers, dogs, and drinks will be supplied by the Coalition. Please bring a covered dish, dessert or similar item to share.

Garlo is a 256 acre natural area that is home to walking trails, woodlots, wetlands, a 37 acre lake, 3 one acre ponds, and a local pair of Bald Eagles, which frequent the preserve. So bring along your hiking boots, camera, fishing pole, and any other gear that you may need.

We will hold a short business meeting, including time for discussion of Coalition activities, and review of our Strategic Planning process, which the Steering Committee has been working on since March. This is a great chance to get out and enjoy a wonderful local treasure, and some great company.

This is also a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the Coalition and the recreational op-



Garlo Heritage Nature Preserve is located at the corner of CR6 and SR19, approximately 2 miles south of Bloomville.

portunities that await in our watershed.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help man the grill, please contact Chris Riddle at 419-334-5016.

Garlo is located in Seneca County, 1.7 miles south of Bloomville on State Route 19.

The picnic shelter and boardwalk are handicapped accessible.

Hope to see you there!

## 2ND ANNUAL WATERSHED COORDINATOR'S CANOE CHALLENGE—SET FOR FALL

During 2004, an annual event got underway. The Coordinator's Canoe Challenge was started as a way to raise money for the Coalition, while bringing some attention to the River. Of course, a few log jams, a whole lot of work, and a mere 11 miles later, it was over.

Still disappointed with last year's performance, I have decided to give it another try again this

summer. Of course, my brother Evan accompanied me last year, but has since made the promise that he will "never canoe with (me) again, ever." So, I have recruited some new help, and we are in the planning stages for this year's trip.

The 2004 event was held on the last Saturday (Continued on page 2)...

## CANOE CHALLENGE SET FOR FALL

...of July, and raised over \$300 for the Coalition. Not bad for a day's work.

This year however, we are going to back the event up until early fall. Cooler temps should help us get further, and the lack of rain this summer has water levels so low that a trip just isn't feasible right now.

So, a final date will be set as we get into late summer, but we are planning for a September event.

Once again, we will be accepting pledges from anyone who wants to push us.

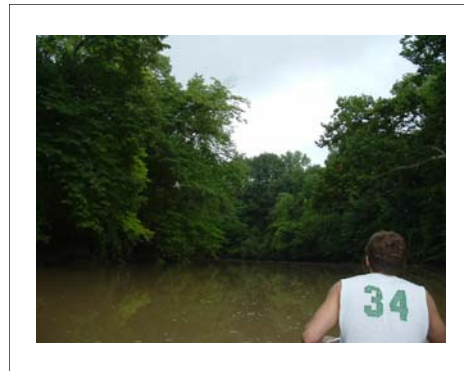
You can complete the form on the page 4, send me an email, or challenge us via fax.

Also, be sure to check out the Coalition's website for an introduction to my paddling partner for this year, and for information on the date and route we are planning to take.

As a note, you can challenge us per mile or with a flat rate. The per mile charge will push us to go that extra leg, so I would recommend that avenue.

All pledges must be received by Labor Day, so you still have some time to get your pledge in. Also, invite your friends to join in the fun—this is a great way to expose others to the Coalition. I hope to raise some real awareness this year, and next year we

could consider opening the event to the public. Some help in planning will be necessary, so having a successful event this year will be key to supporting a bigger event next year.



The 2004 Coordinator's Challenge—pictured, Evan Riddle—who will no longer canoe with me.

## RECREATION MAPS STILL AVAILABLE

On June 30th our Lake Erie Protection Fund small grant came to a close. With the funding we were able to host a great event at Wolf Creek Park last summer, and print over 10,000 copies of a recreational resources map.

Copies of the map have been distributed to nearly 50 locations across the watershed. These include visitors bureaus, hotels, restaurants, and canoe access points.

This first edition of the map was our attempt to develop a means of organizing and sharing information on all the wonderful recreation opportunities that the watershed has to offer. The map is also online, with an interactive search fea-

ture, and click-able sites of interest with detailed descriptions and contact information.

If you would like a copy and can't seem to find one, or know of a good place to distribute them that we haven't found yet, please contact us. We still have quite a few maps left, and hope to distribute them all within the next 2 years.

Once we are near the bottom of the pile, we will begin work on a 2nd edition.

Funding for the project was also provided by the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program and North Central Electric Coop.

## HSTS PROGRAM AWARDS OVER \$75,000

The HSTS Replacement Program is off and running this summer. We have approved over \$75,000 worth of repairs/replacements to private sewage treatment systems in the watershed.

The \$740,00 in available cost-share will benefit 169 homeowners before the grant is wrapped up in 2007.

Information on critical areas and cost share amounts is available on our website.

If you have a system, but need help learning how to care for it, check our website for information, or contact your local health department. A sewage treatment system is like a any other large investment—a little preventative maintenance can save you big money down the road.

VISIT:  
[www.sanduskyriver.org](http://www.sanduskyriver.org)  
 for more information and a  
 link to your county health de-  
 partment.

**Not in My  
Septic System!**

**X Cloggers**  
 diapers, cat litter, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.

**X Killers**  
 household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.

# OUR MEMBERS—2005

**Bald Eagle:** WSOS Community Action Commission

**Great Blue Heron:**

**Mink:** American Electric Power  
City of Bucyrus  
City of Fremont  
City of Tiffin  
City of Upper Sandusky

**Small Mouth Bass:**

**Walleye:** Ken Baker, Seneca  
The Boardwalk  
Cedar Point  
Clouse Construction Corp.  
Richard & Lisa Dunn, Wyandot  
Mary Fran Kuebler, Seneca  
Don and Caroline Miller, Sandusky  
National Machinery Foundation  
Steve Mohr, Seneca  
James W Pry II, Crawford  
Village of New Washington  
Village of Republic

Sandusky County Park District  
Dr. & Mrs. DP Smith  
(Arrowhead Farms), Seneca  
Smith-Comeskey Ground Water Science, LLC  
Brad & Susan Tanner, Seneca  
Water Quality Laboratory  
Frederick Widman, Crawford  
Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

**Damselfly:** Dave & Peg Baker, Seneca  
Crawford Co. Park District  
John Crumrine, Seneca  
Gordon Downard, Stout, OH  
Kurt Erichson, Lucas  
George Fruth, Seneca  
Izaak Walton League, Tiffin-Seneca  
Tim & Amy Loftus, Seneca  
Norwalk Concrete Industries  
Sandra & Robert Laipply Jr,

Crawford  
Chris Reed, Sandusky  
Scott & Joanne Riddle, Seneca  
Sandusky Co. Soil & Water Conservation Dist.  
Seneca Caverns  
Seneca County Farm Bureau  
Shane & Kate Siefert, Crawford  
Steve Smith, Seneca  
Jeff & Carla Wagner, Seneca  
Margaret Widman, Crawford  
Terry Wright, Seneca  
Wyandot County Visitors & Convention Bureau  
**Sycamore:** Robert & Berniece Bear, Wyandot  
James L. Cooper, Seneca  
Luther & Arline Hirt, Seneca  
Mary Anne & Carl Koebel, Sandusky  
James & Dorothy Leslie, Wyandot (cont. on pg. 5)

## DO YOU KNOW A FARMER WHO DESERVES \$10,000?

Nominations are now being accepted for American Farmland Trust's 2006 Steward of the Land Award. The \$10,000 prize is presented annually to a farmer or rancher that best exemplifies American Farmland Trust's (AFT) mission of stopping the loss of productive farmland and promoting farming practices that lead to a healthy environment.

Details at [www.sanduskyriver.org](http://www.sanduskyriver.org)

## 2004-2005 Membership Form



«Organization»  
«First» «Last»  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          | Level            | Giving Range      |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sycamore         | \$10-\$24         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Damselfly        | \$25-\$99         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Walleye          | \$100-\$499       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small Mouth Bass | \$500-\$999       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mink             | \$1,000-\$2,499   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Blue Heron | \$2,500-\$4,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bald Eagle       | \$5,000 and above |

### Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

219 S. Front St.  
PO Box 590  
Fremont, OH 43420

Phone: 419-334-5016  
Fax: 419-334-5125  
Email: [cmiddle@wsos.org](mailto:cmiddle@wsos.org)

Already a member??? Flip over for your chance to support the 2005 Canoe Challenge, or use this information to purchase a membership for a friend or neighbor—give the gift of clean water! Mail to: Watershed Coordinator PO Box 590 Fremont, OH 43420



A Whale...  
...of a Tale  
Have a fishing story or pictures to share???  
Email them to  
cmriddle@wsos.org  
and we will post them online.  
Please, pictures from within the Sandusky River Watershed only.

*"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.  
Teach a man to fish and he will lie for a lifetime."*  
-unknown

## FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

In recent months I have skipped the idea of a letter from my desk to your mailbox. This month I've decided to bring it back. Enjoy...

I realized just the other day that summer is speeding right by, the year is half over, and the holidays will be here again before you know it.

The hustle and bustle of everyday life seems to keep us all moving at a pace that we hardly have time for ourselves, much less the others in our lives. Too much time is spent staring at the glow of a computer screen, or watching the yellow lines tick by as we travel from meeting to meeting. Time just doesn't stand still long enough for us to really enjoy life.

That said, I recently made an attempt at enjoying at least some of my spring. In early May I went to Algonquin Provincial Park with a group of college students—I served as one of three back-country guides. We canoeed over 30 miles of the park's scenic lakes in 4 days. Some of the most beautiful country I have ever seen. And each night, we fell asleep to the calls of loons and the soft glow of millions of stars.

I think somewhere out there I finally caught my breath, for the first time in recent memory.

I had a chance to relax—to really relax and just enjoy some of what life has to offer. Since then I've tried to find ways to capture that same sense of relaxation, even if only in small bites.

As this summer zips by, somewhere between baseball games and fireworks, we each need to find just a few minutes. Some quiet time, to sit and appreciate life a little more. I have come to realize that while loons are nice, they are not a prerequisite for relaxation—I can get that right here at home.

This summer we are having a cookout for our quarterly meeting—a great time to get the family out to a great location and really relax, if only for an afternoon.

Bring your fishing poles and your hiking shoes. Bring a covered dish, and wear your most comfortable jeans. Bring your family and your friends. Come enjoy an quiet afternoon right here in your own backyard. Discover the treasures that make northwest Ohio a great place to call home.

- Christopher M. Riddle

## 2nd Annual Coordinator's Canoe Challenge

«Organization»  
«First» «Last»  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I want to make you work for every penny!  
Per Mile Challenge Rate:  
\$\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_ per mile.

I lack confidence in your ability to cover any ground, here is a flat rate donation of \$\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_.

The date for the Challenge will be posted on the website, once the weather begins to cooperate and a final decision can be made. Thank you in advance for your challenges, or your flat donations (which help to take some of the pressure off).



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Watershed Coalition**

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Fremont, OH 43420

Phone: 419-334-5016  
Fax: 419-334-5125  
Email: cmriddle@wsos.org

Haven't renewed your membership??? Use the reverse side for your 2005 renewal.

## OUR MEMBERS—2005 (CONTINUED)

James & Dorothy Leslie, Wyandot	Heidelberg College, Water Quality Lab	Seneca Co. Recycling
Terry & Katie McKibben, Wood	NWOET	Seneca Co. SWCD
Joe & Karen Perry Family, Sandusky	Ohio EPA	Scenic Rivers (ODNR)
Robert & Mary Robertson, Wyandot	Ohio DNR	Smith-Comesky Ground Water Science
Josie Setzler, Sandusky	Ohio Farm Bureau Federation	USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>Cooperating Partners:</b>	Ohio State Univ., Extension	WBGU-PBS
Crawford Co. Recycling	Pheasants Forever, Ohio	Wyandot Co. Commissioners
Crawford Co. SWCD	Sandusky Co. Engineer	Wyandot Co. Health Dept.
Crawford Co. Health Dept	Sandusky Co. Farm Bureau	Wyandot County SWCD
Crawford Co. Park District	Sandusky Co. Health Dept.	Wyandot County Visitors & Convention Bureau
Erie Co. Health Department	Sandusky Co. Park District	(contact us about getting your organization listed.)
Erie County SWCD	Sandusky Co. Recycling	
	Sandusky Co. SWCD	
	Seneca Co. Health District	
	Seneca Co. Park District	

### SPECIAL OFFER

*That's right—have we got a deal for you. Haven't renewed your membership for 2005 yet??? Well, our year is coming to an end, and you have been kept on our mailing list due to your previous contributions. That means you have gotten a full year of membership benefits, without paying your dues. What a deal!!! However, we cannot afford to keep past members on our list forever. So, if you haven't renewed since October 2004, now is the time.*

*If we don't hear from you, you will be removed from the mailing list after our fall mailing. Some folks of course move and don't tell us, so this is also a way to purge old addresses. Sorry if this seems a little harsh, but it must be done to keep costs down, and to help your donations go as far as possible.*

*Not sure if you have renewed, check our membership list on Page 5, visit our website, or contact us directly to verify your status.*

*If you accidentally renewed twice, your donation will be counted toward your 2006 membership.*

*Thanks for your support!*

## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

Each October the Coalition asks its members to renew their support to the organization. Our dues have stayed at a minimal \$10 for a basic membership, with the option to provide more assistance if your personal circumstances allow for it. And every quarter, you get this newsletter in the mail, an update on the work we are doing with your money, and the benefits it has brought to the community. This year, contributions are down a bit—we raised over \$11,000 last year, but have only brought in \$8,000 this year. On that note, I wanted to share with you a look into what your contributions allow us to do.

Every few weeks an advisory board gets together to review applications for the HSTS program. This project is funded with OEPA money, this I realize, but stick with me and you'll see where I'm going.

At a recent meeting, we approved a handful of applications for assistance. Keep in mind that this program is focused on low income residents—those who need the help the most.

Our first applicant of the day was a widow. Her husband had actually applied for the program just weeks earlier. He was killed in a car accident in the interim, and his wife, without her husband's income, was now facing a collapsing septic tank in her front yard. We were able to approve her at a \$4,000 cost share on her \$6,000 system.

Our second application was also a widow. Her second husband had recently left her, and she was raising three children on very little income. With a failed septic system, she was releasing partially treated sewage onto the surface of her yard at the back of her property, while trying to find the money to get it fixed. Again we were

able to cover \$4,000 of her \$6,000 replacement system.

Our third applicant was a couple, whose home had burnt down and they were in the process of rebuilding. With an income below the county median, we were able to cover 65% of the cost of their replacement system, helping them as they we beginning to put their lives back together.

Our fourth application was an elderly couple. The husband was receiving services from hospice, and was trying to prepare his wife for life after his death. With a home that would be too much for her to care for, he knew it would soon go on the market, and the failing septic system needed replaced. Again we were able to help this family out in their time of need.

By the end of the meeting we were all astonished at the immense need that is out there, in our own community. On my way back to the office I was thinking about that need, and how we are so incredibly lucky to be in a position to help these folks out. Then I remembered all of you, our members. Your contributions have allowed us to keep our doors open and to write the grants that help these people. Over the past 3 years, you have contributed over \$25,000 to the Coalition. This grant alone has brought in \$740,000 to help families in our community. Thank you for your support—it helps us make a difference in the communities we call home. Your contribution has made an impact not just on water quality, but on the lives of your neighbors in need.

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.sanduskyriver.org](http://www.sanduskyriver.org)

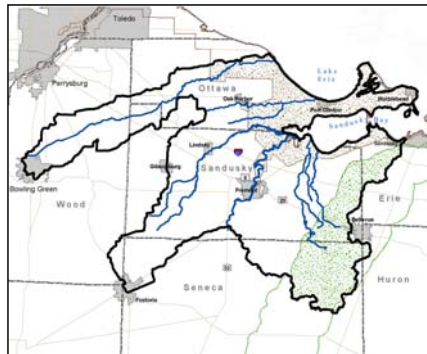
*Working together for healthier streams.*



«Organization»  
«First» «Last»  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

## Habitat For Healthy Water Program Seeks Private Landowners

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is looking for landowners in the Toussaint, Portage, and northern portions of the Sandusky River watersheds who are interested in wetland restoration. DU has received a grant from the Ohio Environmental



Target area outlined in bold.

Protection Agency's 319 Non-point Source Pollution Control Program to restore 100 acres of wetlands on private lands through the *Habitat For Healthy Water Program*. Grant funds will pay up to 75% of the cost to restore wetlands, and landowners may be eligible for additional cost-share from the Ohio DNR-Division of Wildlife. These restored wetlands will act as natural filters to remove sediment, pesticides, herbicides, nutrients, and inorganic material from surface water, while providing important

habitat for a diversity of wildlife.

Several wetlands are scheduled for restoration this summer, including 5 acres in Sandusky County and 43 acres in Erie County.

DU partnered with several other agencies to receive the grant, includ-

ing Erie, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Coastal Non-point Program, ODNR-Division of Wildlife, Sandusky Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sandusky River Watershed Coalition, Green Creek Hunt Club, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy, and local landowners.

If you are interested in this program or would like to learn more about wetland restoration, please contact Heather Braun 734-623-2000, or [hbraun@ducks.org](mailto:hbraun@ducks.org).