

Watershed Waves

News of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

Fall 2008

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Plan to Attend the September 18th Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition will be held September 18th from 6-9PM at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, 194 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin, OH. This year we will have a fundraising meal to kick off the evening with business meeting and speaker to follow. The meal will be catered by Back Roads Diner and will include: Baked Steak, potatoes, vegetable, roll & butter, drink and pie for a price of \$20.00 per plate. Tickets can be purchased before September 12th by contacting Cindy Brookes at 419-334-5016 or by email at

cabrookes@wsos.org.

The proceeds from the meal will be used to provide the local funding needed to produce a DVD to inform homeowners how to maintain their septic systems to make the system last longer and benefit the environment at the same time.

Following the meal we will have a presentation entitled "Land, Trees, and Water — How fortunate we are to live in this wonderful country." by Jim Pry, a watershed resident. The presentation will highlight Jim's travels in the last 10 years to various places around the world comparing the



Site along the Sandusky River through the Jim and Janet Pry Tree Farm in Crawford County.

land, trees and water to the his tree farm in Crawford County and Sandusky River watershed.

The evening will also include the annual business meeting. Further information about the proposed by-law change is inside the newsletter.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Here are several ways to do so:

- Join a Committee and share your views and energies working toward water quality and quality of life within the Sandusky Watershed
- Become a volunteer stream monitor.
- Take part in the River Clean-ups
- Volunteer time you have for data processing, planning events, assisting with upcoming Medication Disposal collections and other activities of the Coalition
- Implement Best Management Practices for water quality and water quantity in and around your house and property.



Membership Vote Called For!

At the Annual Meeting one item of business will be a vote by Sandusky River Watershed Coalition members to vote on a reorganization of the watershed's Steering Committee. This reorganization will require several changes to the by-laws.

The proposed changes are in *italics and red print*, deleted items are underlined in gray and **the rationale follows is in bold green lettering**:

- 1) Article IV: Committees, Section 1. Steering Committee: The Steering Committee shall consist of *9 to 15 members*;
- 2) Article IV, Section 1, A. *The following counties shall be entitled to, but not required to have*, one voting member from each of the following counties: Crawford, Erie, Hardin/Marion, Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot.”;

This allows flexibility and recognizes historical difficulty of recruiting members in Erie or Hardin/Marion.

- 1) Article IV, Section 1, B. Four *Up to six* at-large voting members either living, working, or owning property within the watershed.;

This increase would make up for the possible loss of “required counties” (see above) and Standing Committee chairs (see below).

- 1) Article IV, Section 4.—Standing Committees: The Coalition shall have the following Standing Committees: Agriculture, Waste Water, Drinking Water Supply, Education and Special Events, Stream Flow and Habitat and Development. *Land Use and Resource Management, Education and Development, Waste Water and Water Supply*.

To simplify and to lessen the difficulty of filling the committees.

- 1) Article VI, Section 2, A. Officers will be elected by their committees at the meeting immediately prior to *after* the Annual Meeting.

Standing Committees would know what people have been elected to the Steering Committee and could perhaps recruit them to be part of a Standing Committee.

- 1) Article VI., Section 2, D. Election Schedule of Committee Officers: In even number years – Stream Flow and Habitat, Waste Water and Development, In odd number years – Education and Special Events, Agriculture and Water Supply. *shall be elected in even number years*.

This would avoid having to elect officers in at least one Standing Committee to a one year term in 2008.

Please plan on attending the Annual Meeting to cast your vote on this issue and new Steering Committee members.

Honey Creek Targeted Watershed Grant—New Employee

As part of the Honey Creek Targeted Watershed Grant the Seneca, Huron and Crawford SWCD’s hired Bret Margraf as the Targeted Watershed Grant Technician for the Honey Creek watershed. Bret previously was employed as a Seneca SWCD’s Ditch Maintenance Technician. He farms 1000 acres with his father in

Wyandot and Seneca County. Together Bret and his father have used innovative conservation practices in their farming operation for many years.

Bret will be available to farmers in the Honey Creek Watershed to work on implementing Best Management Practices to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen as part of the Honey Creek Tar-

geted Watershed Grant. You can contact him by calling the Seneca SWCD office at 419-447-7073.



Bret Margraf , Honey Creek Targeted Watershed Technician



Keep Your Eyes Open!

It is a busy time for the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition so keep your eyes open for opportunities to get involved. A few items that will be happening are:

1. Medication Disposal Sites will occur in late September and early October for disposal of unused and unwanted medications.
2. Membership Drive will kick off in late September
3. Farmer participation will continue for the Stratified
4. Farmer sign-up will begin in the Honey Creek watershed.
5. Farmer sign-up for the Broken Sword Cover Crop Program continues.

Soil Testing Program.
For more information contact the watershed office.

Still Not Sure What a Watershed Is?

We continue to send out newsletters and talk about the Sandusky River Watershed, but are you sure you know what a watershed is? Try something fun and Google—The Watershed Game. It has 2 levels to learn from—Novice and Inter-

Pumping gas!
A gallon of gasoline can contaminate approximately 750,000 gallons of water.
That is more water than held in 1 Olympic size pool.

mediate. The Novice starts you out by asking the basic questions to help you understand

what a watershed is and gives you an explanation with your answer whether you are right or wrong. The Intermediate asks you questions related to land use.

Share this with your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors as it is a great way to learn without the teacher.

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**Go Green! Give us your
email and receive this
newsletter
electronically and in full**

Seneca County Clean Sweep Results

2008 provided another successful year for the Seneca County Sandusky River Clean Sweep. 304 volunteers gathered on Saturday, August 16th to participate. These volunteers cleaned in the river, on the banks, provided dump trucks and front end loaders to get items out of the river, prepared a picnic lunch and many other tasks.

The day's efforts collected: 78 Tires, 1,960 pounds of scrap metal (recycled) and 4,100 pounds of trash.

Due to low river levels, volunteers worked extra hard as canoes could not be put in the river thus making trash easier to find but requiring volunteers to carry what they found or team up with others to get the trash to an exit point. **Thank you to the volunteers for the extra effort and another great job!**

September 13, 2008

Join Us Clean Litter and
Trash from Crawford
County waterways

Registration at the site at 8:45 A.M.
Clean from 9:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.

Sites will be in Bucyrus, Crestline,
Galion and out in the County.
Register for a site nearest you by call-
ing 419-683-9000 or email

registercrawford@sanduskycleansweep.org

Crawford County

2008 Clean Sweep