



*Announcing the 2009 Midwest Oak Savanna and Woodland Conference  
Recognizing the Importance of Oak Savanna and Woodland Ecosystems  
July 29th to August 1st Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio*

The mission of this conference is to promote conservation-based research, planning, management, and education focused on protecting, enhancing, and restoring oak savannas and woodlands in the Midwest.

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with established colleagues and meet new people working on these invaluable ecosystems!

Academia, land stewards, and the conservation community offer informative presentations and research on oak savanna and woodland ecosystems. A look back: 1990's conferences emphasized development of recovery plans for fragmented oak savanna habitats. Take this opportunity to re-

view those plans' successes and the lessons learned. A look forward: Updates, new plans, and the future of savannas and woodlands.

Its diverse ecosystems provide a unique educational opportunity that extends to all of the Midwest's oak savannas and woodlands.

Educating the human community that inhabit and use natural communities is essential to minimizing the loss and degradation these important ecosystems. An interactive educational track is planned for primary and secondary educators and community organizations that provide public programs.



The Oak Openings region is home to more state listed plants and animals than any other area of Ohio.

*Storm Drains are for Rain, Not Paint*

Spring cleaning season is upon us. As you go through your basement hauling out items that you want to dispose of, separate things that can go in the regular trash (landfill) from materials that should go to a hazardous waste facility. And don't throw or wash anything down a storm drain.

Items that need special handling include electronic waste, household hazardous waste, and tires. Examples of electronic waste are any kind of batteries and any appliances with circuit boards including phones, cameras,

computers and accessories, and also CDs, and cassette and VHS tapes. Household hazardous waste includes gasoline, all vehicle fluids, fertilizer, fire extinguishers, fluorescent bulbs, and oil-based paints and stains.

For a more complete list of hazardous waste products, go to your county website. The Lucas County Sustainability Commission (<http://www.lucascountygreen.com/recycling.html>) provides recycling links to county and city programs, as well as nonprofits that accept recyclables. It

includes Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, which provides a detailed recycling guide.

In Wood County, go to <http://www.wcswmd.org/newrecycling.htm> or call 419.354.9297. The Wood County website has a household recycling directory, including hazardous and electronic waste and also a calendar showing recycling events in different communities.

*Information provided by the Stormwater Coalition, a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).*

*SWCD Seeking Farm Beautification Nominations*

Each year, the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District presents one outstanding farm in Wood County with the Farm Beautification Award. The winning farm is chosen after considering such things as the condition of the buildings, condition of the lawn and garden, landscaping, absence of unnecessary equipment, and overall appearance.

If you have a farm in mind that you feel would be a winner, please submit your nomination by August 10, 2009 to Wood SWCD, 1616 East Wooster Street, Box 32, Bowling Green, wcsxcd@woodswcd.com or call the office at 419-354-5517. All nominations will be considered and the winner will be announced at the Wood SWCD's Annual Open House in September. To be eligible the nominated farm must belong to a working or retired farmer.

*Two Ways to Get Your Name on the Ballot*

Recent changes to the rules governing the special elections held around the state to elect local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) supervisors take effect this year.

Any resident 18 years of age or older who resides within the county of the election can seek election to the SWCD board of supervisors. Names can be placed on the ballot in one of two ways.

Candidates can be nominated by the SWCD nominating committee. This committee works throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in the conservation and protection of natural resources within the county.

Interested individuals may also stop at the Wood SWCD office 1616 East Wooster Street (Greenwood Center) and pick up a nomination petition form. Potential candidates need to secure at least 10 signatures from residents and/or landowners from the county and submit the petition to the district by the close of business on August 6, 2009. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on September 10, 2009 at Nazareth Hall, Grand Rapids.

Soil and water conservation districts, located in all 88 Ohio counties, are legal subdivisions of state government that provide natural resource management assistance to county landowners and other units of local government. The district is funded by the Wood County Commissioners, and county funds are supplemented by funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The district is governed by a five-member board of county residents. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

The nomination procedure changes were adopted by the seven-member Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, which oversees SWCD election guidelines



*Mark Your Calendars...*

- Midwest Oak Savanna & Woodland Conference at Lourdes College in Sylvania-----July 29th—August 1st
- OARDC Northwest Branch Crops Field Day-----July 30th 9:00-11:30 a.m.
- Wood County Fair-----August 4—August 10
- Cover Crops Field Day (details coming out soon)-----September 9, 2009
- Wood SWCD 60th Annual Meeting at Nazareth Hall-----September 10, 2009
- Wood SWCD Fall Fish Sale (order deadline September 11, 2009)-----September 15, 2009

## Summer Tillage Transect

Twice a year the Wood SWCD drives a 152 mile route through the county to conduct the tillage transect survey. This route looks at the same 602 data points to evaluate the current tillage practices within the county. These surveys take place, early winter (after all fall tillage is completed) and in the spring after planting.

Things observed on the survey are previous crop and current crop, type of tillage and the amount of residue remaining in the field.

This year the amount of cover remaining after planting is lower than the previous three years. Only 52% of the county qualifies for "No-Till" compared to a previous low of 64% in 2006. Reduced tillage (residue levels of less than 30%) for 2009 is 23% while the previous high was 14% in 2008.

The table reflects what each type of tillage pass has on crop residues. Even Mother Nature takes her shot at the residue reducing residue by as much as 30% To obtain the percentage of residue remaining for a specific tillage system, multiply the percentages together for each tillage operation within the selected system. As an example, a tillage system using chisel plow with twisted spikes in the fall and a field cultivator in the spring for seedbed preparation will leave about 22 percent of the previous crop residue on the soil surface at planting time. The chisel plow will reduce the residue 50 percent and over wintering will reduce that amount to about 35 to 40 percent of soil cover. Spring cultivation will reduce that amount to about 21 to 24 percent, not enough for erosion

control. As a comparison, the moldboard plow system incorporates almost all residues while the no-till system leaves most of the residue on the soil surface.

Visual observations while conducting the tillage transect in both fall and spring it seemed that a lot of producers decided to disturb the 2008 soybean crop surface with some form of light tillage. By the time spring planting was able to take place very little residue was remaining. Multiple passes of tillage tools destroyed most wheat residue in the 2008 crop year prior to the winter.

Given these two observations the Wood SWCD encourages all producers that perform these tillage practices in the fall to look into cover crops. Things like oats, rye, tillage radishes, and winter peas work really well in this area. Any growing plant that will provide a measure of cover for the naked soil works. Most of these cover crops (except the rye) will winter kill but the residues will help protect the soil over winter and by spring even the cover crop residue will be negligible.

Another added benefit of the cover crops is that they are scavengers of nutrients. While the plant grows during the fall it stores nutrients in its stalks and root. During the next growing season as the cover crop decays it releases those captured nutrients into the soil and they are available for the growing crop. In addition to scavenging nutrients some cover crops produce their own. Winter peas, vetch, and clover are a few that fix nitrogen while they grow and when they decay release the nutrients for the growing crop.

There are many field days and articles about the use of cover crops and there benefits. Numerous cover crop workshops are in the planning stages throughout the area. Look for notices at your local Co-ops, Extension, FSA, and SWCD offices for locations, times, and dates. Most cover crops are seeded in the August to October period so there is ample time to plan and acquire seed for your acreages.

***The District will be partnering with OSU Extension and Mid-Wood to host a cover crops field day on September 9, 2009 in the Bowling Green area more details to come.***

Influence of tillage and other practices on surface erosion.	
Operation	% Residue Left After Each Operation
Spraying (Chem. Fallow)	100
Chisel plow	
14"-18" sweeps	85
8"-12" sweeps	80
Straight spikes	75
Twisted spikes	50
Disk (tandem or offset)	
Blade less than 23" dia.	70
Blade 23" to 28" dia.	50
Blade over 28" dia.	30
Field cultivator	60
Moldboard plow	5-10
Over winter weathering	70-80

## *Is Bagworm Attacking Your Trees?*

Do your trees have small, brown or green cocoon like bags? If so, your trees may be disappearing one bite at a time!

What are they? The brown or green bags may be bagworms. Do not confuse the bagworm with the tent worms which form the web-like silken tents with many dark colored caterpillars crawling about.

What do they eat? Bagworms prefer to dine on arborvitae, cedar, juniper, white pine and other conifers; but they may also be found on boxelder, black locust, elm, honeylocust, maple, oak, persimmon and poplar.

What do they look like? The bagworms' appearance varies with their life stages from adult females and eggs inside a mature bag to

larvae encased in small, hard to see bags, to adult male moths flying about.

How do I find them? In early spring, eggs can be found in mature bags which will be about 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches in size, brownish in color, and firmly attached to a branch by a strong band of silk. Once the eggs hatch in late May/early June, bagworms are difficult to find due to their small size until they mature around mid-August. The mature bagworm larvae often move to a sturdy branch or other structure where they attach their brown/green bag now covered in bits of the host plant material by wrapping silk strands around the branch. The males soon hatch as moths and fly in search of the females who

remain as larvae in their bags where they later lay their eggs.

How do I control them? One of the best ways to control bagworms is to physically remove the mature bags in late August through early May and destroy them by squashing or other chosen method. Be sure to clip off the silken band, which will not decay, so that the branch will not be damaged as it grows.

Because the larvae and adult females live inside their bags for most the year, they are more difficult to control using sprays or pesticides. The bacterial spray Bt, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, can be effective against the young larvae when applied at the end of June when all the eggs have hatched and the larvae

have settled down. Other insecticides labeled for use on bagworms can be used. Be sure to follow label directions on any chemical use.

To confirm what type of pest you may have and how to best control it, carefully take a few and put them in a bag or other container and take them to your local Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, nursery, tree expert, or qualified individual to be identified.



## *YMCA Camp Clay is Host Site for the 2009 Area 1 Envirothon Competition*

YMCA Camp Clay was the host site for the 2009 Area 1 (Northwest Ohio) Envirothon, an environmental knowledge competition for high school students. The event is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and many local sponsors.

Each year, the Area 1 Envirothon is held in a different northwest Ohio county. For 2009, the Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District was the host agency for over 400 students (9th - 12th grades) and their advisors from 20 counties in the first level of the Envirothon competition. Seventy-one teams of five students each will

traveled through 5 eco-stations and answered questions related to Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, Aquatics, and Current Environmental Issues. The theme of this year's event was "Biodiversity in a Changing World". Wood County teams competing included Eastwood, Bowling Green, and Otsego. The 1<sup>st</sup> place team was

Holgate FFA. BG FFA finished 6<sup>th</sup>, Otsego 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by Eastwood FFA. Seventy-two teams competed.

The top four teams from each of the five Soil & Water areas in Ohio, based on overall scores, advanced to the Ohio Envirothon June 7-9, 2009 at Kenyon College.

Wood Soil and Water Conservation District  
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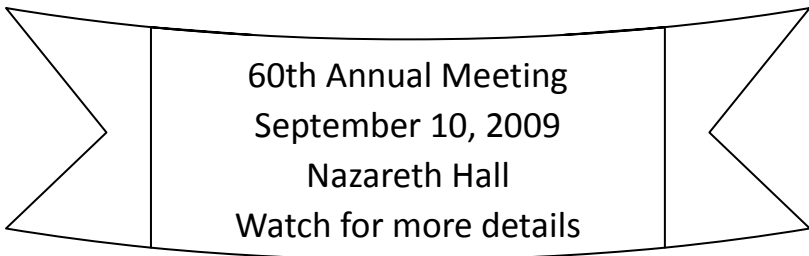
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 Jim Rickenberg, District Technician  
 Jeremy Gerwin, Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist

**NRCS Staff**

Kelly Niehaus, District Conservationist



*Equipment For Rent*

**GREAT PLAINS DRILL FOR "CRP PRACTICES ONLY"**

- 10' working width
- 7 1/2' row spacing
- Rental Rate is \$10.00 per acre/\$50 minimum
- Delivery Charge \$20.00
- Cleanout Charge \$25.00 (if applicable)

**TREE PLANTER**

\$25.00 First Day  
 \$45.00 Each Additional Day

*Items for sale*

Floating Pond Filter	\$245.00
Replacement Filter	\$ 53.00
Pond Safety Kit**	\$110.00
Ring Buoy	\$ 45.00
Deep Water Sign	\$ 14.00
Rope (price is per foot)	\$ .25
Tile Probes	\$ 30.00
Soil Test Probe	\$ 56.00
Tree Protectors	\$ 2.00
Flags (.10 each)	
100 4x5	\$ 8.00
100 5x8	\$ 9.00
Rat Guard Prices	
4"	\$ 4.00
6"	\$ 6.00
8"	\$ 8.00
10"	\$ 10.00
12"	\$ 12.00
15"	\$ 21.00
Wood County Soil Survey CD	\$ 10.00

For More Information contact Jim Rickenberg at 419-354-5517.

*\*\*Must be preordered and prepaid*

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