



CONQUEST

“Capture your students love of learning about the environment”

Kelly’s Korner

I know it seems like old man winter keeps hanging around, but the calendar says that it is April and Spring! Sooner or later, we will hear my favorite sounds of spring, that is the PEEPERS! Along with the morning song of the robin, I can’t wait to hear those tiny little wonders with such strong and loud calls, the spring peepers. These tiny, well-camouflaged amphibians are rarely seen, but can be found in wooded areas and grassy lowlands near ponds and swamps. The crescendo of nighttime whistles from amorous males is for many a sign that winter is over. **Spring peepers are tan or brown in color with dark lines that form a telltale X on their backs.** They grow to about 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) in length, and have large toe pads for climbing, although they are more at home amid the loose debris of the forest floor. They are nocturnal creatures, hiding from their many predators during the day and emerging at night to feed on such delicacies as beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. They mate and lay their eggs in water and spend the rest of the year in the forest or woodlands, or perhaps in the trees and shrubs of your backyard. As it warms, be on the lookout for these little ones, as well as many other amphibians that take the treacherous hike to their breeding grounds. This spring migration to vernal pools or temporary wetlands can be deadly as the path to their breeding habitat has been crossed with roads or new houses. So do your part to help these little wonders, and ensure future generations will also get to hear the chorus of mother natures arrival of Spring! Enjoy! ~Kelly



Spring 2013

Wayne SWCD
428 W. Liberty St.
Wooster, OH 44691
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**CALL OR EMAIL NOW to
schedule an Educational
School Program!**

Wayne Soil & Water
Conservation District
Kelly Riley,
Education Specialist
CONTACT INFO:
kriley@wayneoh.org
Or call Kelly at
330-262-2836 ~ext. 119
www.wayneswcd.org

**Check the Education Tab on
our website for details!**

Something to Crow about



A group of crows is called a “murder”

Did you know that crows are considered one of the most intelligent species of animals on Earth? Yes, it is true. Along with chimpanzees and elephants (and of course, humans) crows are able to make and use tools, and solve problems. They remember faces, conspire with one another, have memory, plan, and show adoptive behavior. Watch & show the video “A Murder of Crows” on PBS Nature at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/a-murder-of-crows/full-episode/59777/>. I know you won’t regret watching this one!

Important Dates:

- April 22nd—Earth Day
- April 24th—Envirothon
- April 26th - Arbor Day
- April 26th—Posters DUE!
- May 27th—Memorial Day



Poster Contest

Wayne SWCD is sponsoring our annual poster contest for grades K-12. The 2013 stewardship theme is “Where Does Your Water Shed?”. Cash awards will be given for 1st and 2nd place in the following categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. All winners will be sent on to the State contest and also featured in our Fair Building Sept. 7-12th. Contest rules:

- Any media may be used to create a flat or two-dimensional effect (paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters (no computer only special category)
- Poster size must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28".
- Posters should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- All posters must be created by an individual student rather than a team of students.
- The 2013 Stewardship title "**Where Does Your Water Shed**" must be on your poster.
- Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do as much of the work as possible by him/herself. Entries completed by students in their handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn and colored by adult assistance.



On the back of each poster, please print:

- Student’s name
- Student’s age
- School grade
- Student’s home address
- Student’s phone number with area code
- School’s address and phone number with area code
- Teacher’s name
- Conservation District (county in which school is located - **Wayne SWCD**).

Only one entry per student may be submitted. Judges will also evaluate posters on the following criteria:

1. Has the theme been clearly addressed?
2. Does the work demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter?
3. Is the work neat, organized and grammatically correct?

Evaluation Criteria:

50% Conservation Message

30% Visual effectiveness

10% Originality

10% Universal Appeal

Posters must be turned in to the Wayne SWCD office, 428 W. Liberty Street, Wooster by **4:00 p.m. on Friday April 26th**. Visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/2013> for more information.

Outdoor Tips

- Are you ready to BURN? Not sunburn... If you are doing some spring cleaning, you better know the law! Ohio law states outdoor debris burning is prohibited from 6am to 6pm during March, April and May. Burning is limited in the spring due to the abundance of dry fuel on the ground before small, grassy fuels green up with moisture. Winds can make a seemingly safe fire burn more intensely and escape control.
- The most common mistake when planting trees and shrubs is planting them too deeply. The root flare, where the roots meet the trunk, should be at or just above the soil level.
- When it’s time to mow the grass, consider using a mulching blade. Mulched grass clippings are cut into fine pieces that fall easily to the soil surface. They enhance the health and growth of the turf by reducing evaporation of moisture from the lawn and keep soil temperature cooler. It’s estimated that mulched clippings, which are 85% water & 5% nitrogen can provide up to 25% of fertilizer needs for an average lawn.
- Consider a rain barrel. It’s a great way to keep storm water out of the system, and reduces urban runoff. The naturally softened water is wonderful for houseplants, gardens and flowers. \$ave water & money.

