

# CONQUEST

*"Capture your students love of learning about the environment"*

We're on the WEB!  
[www.wayneswcd.org](http://www.wayneswcd.org)

## Kelly's Korner ~ Go Green!

Happy Spring Everyone! At least we hope so, huh?

Well, this is not my typical 4 page newsletter, due to time, I'm shortening things up a bit. So, real quick, here are a few things you can do, *simple and small*, to make this world a better place. I know I've said this many, many times, but please **USE REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS!** I'm surprised how many times I go grocery shopping and see so many people still using plastic bags! Make it a habit to keep those cloth or reusable bags in your vehicle, and take them inside with you when you shop! You won't have as many plastic bags to unload, and the cloth ones are much sturdier. They are also very inexpensive! So you really don't have a good excuse not to use them! Remember, plastics are forever, if we don't need to use it, then don't. More plastics end up in the landfill and as pollution then are recycled. Another pet peeve of mine, that I recently saw a school actually did was a **BALLOON RELEASE!** OH NO!



**Never do balloon releases!** Come on, think about it...what goes up, must come down! In the form of pollution, that is! The strings, cards, and latex balloons are things that can harm wildlife and kill animals. They end up in fields, streams, trees, and remote areas and are not always picked up by humans. Animals, sea life & birds can get tangled in the string, or try to eat the balloon pieces and become sick. In this world, we really need to think more about our actions and how we can do things better. So please, be a smart shopper & think about mother nature as you plan your lessons, events and trips. ***It can be easy being green!*** FMI [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)—under clean seas & beaches "Don't let go" Litter Campaign. Also, I can come to your school & do the "Tony the Trashbag" program for the students.



Balloon release are harmful!

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## New website—Great Resource!

The Wayne SWCD has a brand new website! Go to [www.wayneswcd.org](http://www.wayneswcd.org) and check us out! We have been quite busy this winter and spring working on the whole new site. I have vamped up the Education Section—where you can see all of the free programs, look at the trunks you can borrow—and get great online resources. Please visit it & get information about our annual poster contest!

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**Important Dates:**  
April 13th—Tree seedling and Rain Barrel pick-up  
April 19th—Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair at OARDC  
April 22nd—EARTH DAY!  
April 29th—ARBOR DAY!  
April 29th—Poster Entries Due to Wayne SWCD  
May 3rd—Area II Envirothon

**DID YOU KNOW ?**  
The state endangered bald eagle occurs in marshes, swamps and river systems throughout Ohio. Eagles have continued to recover from a low of 4 breeding pairs in 1979. The number of known breeding pairs in 2010 was 180, with an estimated 207 young. The Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area here in Wayne County is listed as one of the top 5 viewing sites in Ohio for Bald Eagles!  
You may also look for the State Endangered Sandhill Crane and magnificent Trumpeter Swan in Wayne County!



## Poster Contest

Once again, we are hosting a Conservation Poster Contest for grades K-12. Entries are due to Wayne SWCD by 4/29. The theme is "Forests for People— More than You Can Imagine" or "Forest for People". Cash awards are given for 1st & 2nd places in the age categories. Poster size must be 8.5"x11" or 22"x28". All of the information for the Poster Contest rules is listed on our website, and you can download a pdf. of the rules. Go to the Education Section.

## Bats—At risk



Bats, sometimes getting a bad reputation, are actually very important and worth billions to agriculture. Sadly, they are at risk now. A recent report in the journal of science shows how declines of bat populations caused by a wildlife disease and fatalities at industrial-scale wind turbines could lead to substantial economic losses on the farm. Bats save agriculture big bucks by gobbling up insects that eat or damage crops. A single little brown bat, which has a body no bigger than an adult human thumb, can eat 4 to 8 grams of insects each night. This may not sound like much, but it adds up—the loss of one million bats in the Northeast (where white-nosed syndrome has killed more than 1 million bats in the past few years) has resulted in between 660-1,320 metric tons of insects no longer being eaten each year by bats in the region. Additionally, wind energy development that is booming is causing direct collision deaths as well as lung damage caused by pressure changes bats experience when flying near moving turbine blades. How sad! Not only are bats great at eating insects, some species are wonderful pollinators! The benefits that our friendly flying bat has for nature and agriculture greatly out-weigh the fear that these flying mammals evoke. Please educate students and adults alike, that bats are good for the ecosystems and our lives. They need our help. Put up bat boxes, create habitat and let others know of the importance of bats!

## Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 19th. Yes, it's EARTH Week, but it's also the 4th annual Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair at Wooster's OARDC. The event runs from 11- 7pm, and has something for everyone. There is a lot to look at and learn about at the event. Free to the public, the fair will feature exhibits, demonstrations, companies, artisans, entertainers, and food vendors in a fun-filled indoor/outdoor environment. This year the Akron Zoological Park will have an exhibit from 11:30-2:30 and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will be there from 1:00-4:00. Come see the animals, and get in the "Green" mode! For full details you can visit their website at <http://www.wcsen.org/>

## Upcoming Workshops ~ Worth your time

\***E.A.R.T.H. Workshop** hosted by Crawford, Marion & Seneca SWCD's : **June 21 & 22**, registration is \$55 until May 20, one hour of grad credit is available. The theme is **Up in the Clouds** with keynote speaker being Black Swamp Raptor Rehab. Sessions include classroom GPS, science, literature, pollution & wildlife, weather, recycling & more. Field trips include canoeing, glass-blowing, observatory, flower farm and water quality sampling. FMI go to [www.crawfordswcd.org](http://www.crawfordswcd.org) or [www.senecaswcd.org](http://www.senecaswcd.org)  
\*The Geauga and Portage SWCD's are offering the **Wonders of Watersheds (WOW) Workshops** for teachers of grades PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade and informal educators, with graduate credits through Ashland University. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual **Wonders of Watersheds** education workshop, **June 15-17 and 20-21, 2011**, is packed with activities including field trips to Herrick Fen, Kent and Triangle Lake Bogs, water quality monitoring and fishing, geology hikes, a farm tour, nature explorations, and a naturalist-guided canoe float on Lake Kelso. Aside from the fun-filled activities and hands-on field trips, each participant will walk away with *Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Science & Civics, Project WET, and Project Food, Land and People* curriculum guides. FMI go to [www.geaugaswcd.com](http://www.geaugaswcd.com) or contact Gail Prunty@ Geauga SWCD, at 440-834-1122x2.

## Spring Peepers!

One of my favorites...the Spring Peeper! Found in wooded areas and grassy lowlands near ponds and swamps, these tiny, well-camouflaged amphibians are rarely seen. But the mid-March 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. Enjoy the peepers this time of year!

*Have a great end of the year!* ~ Kelly WAYNE SWCD [www.wayneswcd.org](http://www.wayneswcd.org)

