

CONQUEST



Winter Issue February 2009

“Capture your students love of learning about the environment”

Kelly's Korner

Are you suffering from the winter blahs? That's probably a pretty common complaint here in Ohio—and we all know that long dreaded month of March is approaching. Talk about a loong month. No holidays, and by then...you hope no snow days. So how can you bring enthusiasm back into your classroom? Without putting on an act, you can do some simple things to inspire your students. Sit in their seats. Look around the room. Does it need some new color? Try putting up some posters, inspirational quotes, or just something new. If you already have a “fun” and busy room, then maybe change it up. Try a new poster, get a plant or flower. Although it may not seem like much, I guarantee some will notice. Your classroom is a reflection of you, whether you like it or not. It may even make you feel better, since we know you can't change the weather! Good luck, and hang in there, at least you'll have Spring Break soon...

Tree Seedling Orders



It's time to think about ordering free trees for your students! Once again the Wayne Soil and Water Conservation District will be offering Free Colorado Blue Spruce Seedlings to schools. The trees can be ordered NOW through Feb. 23rd in bundles of 25 (one tree per student, please). In order to prevent the seedlings from drying, the seedlings must be **picked up** Wednesday, **April 15th from**

1:30p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. These free trees make a wonderful compliment to any Earth Day, Arbor Day, or Soil Stewardship activities. You can order them for your class, or for your entire school—any grade level! We will be providing the school's a bag and twist tie for each tree seedling they order, along with planting instructions. If you are interested in ordering for your class, or your entire school, please contact our office now through Monday Feb. 23rd 2009. Please call (330)-262-2836 or you may email me at kriley@wayneoh.org. Please list your name, school, amount and a contact phone number.

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"I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

-- Albert Einstein

Call or email me now to schedule an environmental program or borrow a teaching trunk!

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Envirothon Competition

Teachers mark your calendars for **Wednesday, APRIL 29th 2009** and reserve your buses—you don't want to miss out on this wonderful experience for your high school students! The Area II Envirothon will be held at Camp Asbury in Hiram (Portage Co.) The 2009 environmental issue is "Biodiversity in a Changing World." More information on this topic can be found on the Canon Envirothon's website (www.envirothon.org). The other four testing stations are soils, forestry, aquatics, and wildlife. The deadline to get the team(s) put together, get all of the students release forms, & have the paperwork back to me is **Friday, March 20th**. If you need more info, please let me know. You should have a packet and email of forms—and if you don't contact me! Those that aren't familiar with the Envirothon, or want to learn more, contact me.



The Envirothon allows a team of 5 students to work together to complete a series of test questions. Students rotate to five different stations as they answer questions on soil, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue.

Upcoming Meetings

Wanna get away? Ok, so Florida's out of the question, but you can warm up your learning by attending one of many local conferences, clinics or meetings. Here are some below with contact information listed. Please feel free to pass this info on. You can look on our website for our programs.

- ◆ Pond Clinic FEB. 25th at 7:00pm hosted by Wayne SWCD Cost: Free in Wooster, please RSVP.
- ◆ Wildlife Diversity Conference MARCH 4th from 8:00-3:30pm hosted by ODNR in Columbus
<http://www.wildlifediversity.com/> Cost: \$25 before 2/25 \$35 after
- ◆ Ohio Woodland, Water & Wildlife Conference MARCH 10th from 8:45-3:30 hosted by Ohio Woodland Stewards in Mansfield. <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/classes/wwwconference.html> Cost \$60 by 2/25
- ◆ Equine Open House MARCH 25th 6:30-9:00pm hosted by Wayne SWCD Cost Free in Wooster.
- ◆ Scarlet, Gray & Green Fair APRIL 22nd from 11:00 to 6:00pm hosted by OSU/ATI & OARDC in Wooster. <http://www.wcsen.org/wcsggf/> Cost : Free to attend! Celebrate Earth Day!

Area Educator Honored

The Wayne SWCD was honored to present Mrs. Jane Braddock with the 2008 Conservation Educator of the Year Award this past fall at our Annual Meeting. Jane Braddock is currently the Director of the Fredericksburg Library. She has worked in the local schools, and continues to collaborate with other teachers. She helped form an after school outdoor learning program called the Fredericksburg Explorers, and was instrumental in planning an outdoor land lab at the school. Thanks to Jane for inspiring and educating youth about the environment!



Soil, you say...

Is soil an important ingredient in your every day life?

The answer is yes, and here are a few reasons why:

- ◆ Last night you slept in a building built on soil.
- ◆ You drink water that flows through soil and is cleaned by the soil.
- ◆ You breathe air that comes partly from plants growing in the soil.
- ◆ You even wear clothes made from plants that grow in the soil.

Soils make our lives possible. We build on them, play on them, drive on them, eat food grown in or raised on them, take medicines from them, wear clothes we wouldn't have without soils, drink water that wouldn't be clean without soils, breathe air we wouldn't have without the plants and trees growing in soils. The entire earth—every ecosystem, every living organism—is dependent upon soils.

A Few Facts about Soil

- Soil makes up the outermost layer of our planet.
- Topsoil is the most productive soil layer.
- Soil has varying amounts of organic matter (living and dead organisms), minerals and nutrients.
- Five tons of topsoil spread over an acre is only as thick as a dime.
- Natural processes can take more than 500 years to form one inch of topsoil.
- Soil scientists have identified over 70,000 kinds of soil in the United States.
- Soil is formed from rocks and decaying plants and animals.
- An average soil sample is 45 percent minerals, 25 percent water, 25 percent air and five percent organic matter.
- Different-sized mineral particles, such as sand, silt, and clay, give soil its texture.
- Fungi and bacteria help break down organic matter in the soil.
- Plant roots and lichens break up rocks which become part of new soil.
- Roots loosen the soil, allowing oxygen to penetrate. This benefits animals living in the soil.
- Roots hold soil together and help prevent erosion.

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Information provided by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and listed on the Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://epa.gov/gmpo/edresources/soil.html>.

Other great soil education websites that you might find useful are:

<https://www.soils.org/lessons/>

<http://soil.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.html>

<http://soils.usda.gov/>



"Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" Poster Contest



The Wayne SWCD is sponsoring our annual poster contest for grades K-12. The 2009 Stewardship theme is "Dig It". Cash awards will be given for 1st and 2nd places in all five grade categories. All winners will be sent on to the District contest and also be featured during the 2009 Wayne County Fair at the SWCD fair building.

Important information on the contest rules :

Crayons, watercolors, magic markers or other methods of writing, printing, drawing or coloring may be used to create a flat, or two-dimensional effect. Prints or pictures of commercial origin are not permitted.

- ♦ ANY size poster from 8 1/2 x 11 to 22 x 28 inches will be accepted
- ♦ Grades K-12 encouraged. Categories by grade level: K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, & 10th-12th.
- ♦ 2008 Theme "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/#2009>

The deadline to Wayne SWCD office is May 1, 2009

On the back of each poster, please print :

- Student's name
- Student's age and school grade
- Student's home address
- Student's phone number with area code
- School's address and phone number
- Teacher's name.

Only one entry per student please.

The 2009 Poster Contest theme is "*Dig It! The Secrets*

of Soil." NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) is using the *Dig It!* theme in partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Soil Science Society of America. NACD has been working with the Smithsonian and Soil Science Society of America in

the development of soils materials to compliment the "*Dig It! The Secrets of Soils*" exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (<http://www.forces.si.edu/soils/>). These materials can also be used in conjunction with 2009 NACD Stewardship Week. The soils education materials were designed to teach students (K-8) as well as adults about the importance of soils in their everyday lives. The exhibit will be in Washington, D.C. until January 2010 and then will travel to ten cities around the United States through 2013. We all need to be good stewards of the land, and the first step is being educated. Take time to learn more about this precious resource!



You can also schedule me for a soils program—great for the 3rd grade!

