



Conservation CloseUp



Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District

64th Annual Meeting & Supervisor Election

The Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District will hold its 64th Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at The Brugeman Lodge in Riverbend Recreation Area.

The event will start with a Social Hour and voting for one new supervisor at 5:00 p.m. Serving for the BBQ chicken & rib dinner will be from 6:00-6:45 p.m. The meal is prepared by BBQ Traveler.

The entertainment for the evening will be provided by Frank Gibbs an "Ecuador Adventure". The event ends with a short business meeting and election results.

Those attending will have plenty of daylight left to enjoy the beautiful Hancock Park District Riverbend Recreation Area with their family.

The cost of tickets for this enjoyable evening with your family is only \$10 per adult, \$5.00 per child (4-12 years old) and free for children 3 and under. Pre-sale tickets only. Call the Hancock SWCD at 419-422-6569 to reserve your tickets.

Don't let this opportunity for a casual, relaxed family night pass you by! Mark your calendar for August 3rd today!

"Ecuador Adventure"



Pictured: Frank Gibbs and friend
with soil samples in Ecuador

Frank Gibbs will give us a personal account of his journey to Ecuador at our 64th Annual Meeting on August 3, 2010.

Frank is a Resource Science Specialist for Northwest, Ohio, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is an Honors Graduate of the Ohio State University with a Major in Agronomy and Soils. He has worked 32 years for USDA across Ohio in a various positions. Frank has an extensive background in Hydric Soils, Wetlands, Water Tables in the Soil, Soil Compaction, Soil Quality, Manure Disposal, Septic Systems and Drainage Problems.

Frank is the 5th generation to reside on and operate the family farm near Rawson, Ohio. He also makes stained glass windows in his *spare* time!

Frank recently visited friends in Ecuador who are finishing up a two year term in the Peace Corp and spent many hours visiting farms and jungle areas around Puyo. He also went high into the Andes on the Columbian Border and experienced a village Fiesta with traditional music, singing, dancing fireworks and cane sugar moonshine!

Frank spent his last week deep in the Remote lowland Amazon along the Napo River at an eco tourism lodge run by the Kichwa Tribe. The lodge is powered by solar electricity and proceeds all go back to the tribe.

Ecuador is like the "Disneyland" of soils, plants, animals, insects, birds and people. There are so many Eco Zones to create an incredible diversity of life forms.

This is a presentation you won't want to miss! Reserve your tickets today at Hancock SWCD, 419-422-6569.



Above: Frank Gibbs in Ecuador



Supervisor Election Procedures

In accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code, an election will be held for two supervisors to be elected to serve a three-year term of office on the Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Voting will take place at the 64th Annual Meeting, August 3, 2010, at The Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area, Twp. Rd. 208, Findlay, Ohio. The voting will start at 5:00 p.m. and continue until 6:30 p.m. You do not need a ticket or need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote.

You may also vote by absentee ballot starting July 13, 2010 and continuing until 12:00 noon on August 3, 2010 at the Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District office, 7868 CR 140, Suite E, Findlay, Ohio 45840 or by mail. Absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting the district office at 419-422-6569.

Meet the Candidates



* **Richard Gassman** – 7295 TR 258, Alvada, Ohio 44802, and wife Diana farm over 800 acres in Biglick and Washington Townships with over 2/3 of the acreage being farmed with no-till/conservation tillage technology. Richard has served on the Hancock SWCD board since 1990 and currently serves as Fiscal Agent. Richard is a Biglick Township Trustee and a member

of the local Farm Bureau. Richard and his wife Diana have farmed for over 42 years, have three daughters and attend West Independence United Methodist Church. Richard feels it is important to maintain and improve our environment and natural resources for future generations.



* **Hodd Moorhead** – 9129 Liberty Township Road 58, Findlay, Ohio, 45840. Hodd has four children, Thomas, Joseph, Merewyn, and Miranda. A lifelong resident of Hancock County, and a fourth generation farmer; Hodd farms in Liberty, and Blanchard Townships, along with his two brothers, Reed, and Gregg, under Moorhead Farms, Inc.

Hodd and his brothers have participated in many conservation projects including; field tile, waterways, filter strips, conservation reserve and the planting of 2,000 hardwood trees. Hodd believes that, “farming and conservation go hand in hand. We must be proactive in establishing sound environmental practices, so that the farm ground and water remain viable for future generations in Hancock County.”

Hodd has served on the following political and service organizations; The Liberty-Benton Board of Education (past president), The Liberty Township Board of Zoning appeals (past chairman), The Liberty Township Tax Incentive Advisory Committee, the Liberty Township

Tax increment Financing Committee, the Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Services (A.D.A.M.H. S.), and the Hancock County Republican Central Committee.



* **Linda Tuttle** – 5297 Township Road 89, Findlay, Ohio 45840 and her husband Marvin farm in Liberty, Blanchard, Eagle and Union Townships practicing all minimum and no-till farming. Linda recently retired from Ag Credit after 27 years as a loan officer. Linda has been involved with the Hancock County Farm City Tour for 15 years, worked with the Dairy Feeder Program at the Hancock County Fair, worked with 4-H and OSU Extension programs, is a Farm Bureau member, served on the Liberty-Benton Tax Increment Financing Committee, is a Blanchard Township poll worker and active in the Good Shepherd UM Church. Marvin and Linda have three grown children. Linda feels it is important for farm women and wives to be involved in Agriculture. Linda would be an asset to the Soil and water Board because she has lived along the Blanchard River most of her married life and has a first-rate understanding of the flood issues and how important good stewardship practices are to our soils and waterways.

Area I Envirothon

Congratulations to the Arcadia High School Envirothon Team on placing 11th out of 62 teams at the Area I Envirothon competition. The students visited five stations; Current Issues, Soils, Wildlife, Forestry, and Aquatics, and completed a test at each station. The theme for this year was Protection of Groundwater Through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning.

The students were; Tierney Margraf, Samantha Heaston, Everett Heaston, Rachelle Palmer and Jared Corbin. The student advisor is Doug Conine.



Arcadia H.S. Envirothon Team

OUPS

Help avoid accidental damage to underground utilities by calling OUPS, The Ohio Utility Protection Service, before starting any digging projects. From something as small as digging a hole for a fencepost to large projects like ponds or underground swimming pools, call OUPS at 1-800-362-2764.

When calling, make sure to have ready the following information: Date of Digging, County, City or Twp., Location of Work, Type of Work, Name and Phone Number.

Try a Rain Garden!

Rain Gardens are a natural way for individuals and businesses to use rain water as a resource instead of a waste product.

The fact is that every time it rains, each home or business has large amounts of runoff from the roofs, sidewalks and parking lots that drain into our storm water system and then directly into our ditches, streams and rivers.

This water has collected pollutants and contributes to local flooding. Rain Gardens and the use of Rain Barrels are easy and cost effective ways to slow, filter and decrease the amount of storm water runoff from the properties. The added benefit is the fact that they add beauty to the neighborhoods and improve the quality of the water entering our streams and rivers.

The Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with The Hancock Park District and the OSU Extension Master Gardeners have installed a demonstration Rain Garden and conducted several workshops to assist homeowners and businesses with planning their own Rain Gardens.

The Hancock SWCD can assist you with information on planning and designing your rain garden. You can also find many sources of information on the internet. Several SWCD's across the state including; Lucas, Franklin, and Geauga SWCD's have excellent information on their websites. We all have a responsibility to maintain our natural resources.

Installing a rain garden and using rain barrels are easy, effective ways to accomplish that goal.

Demonstration Rain Garden...



Fall 2009



Spring 2010



First Bloom!



Native Planting Completed



Looking Good!



Bluegill are deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and a long pectoral fin. Colors vary, but the ear flap is always black and bluegills often have a black blotch near the back of the soft dorsal fin. Bluegill are nest spawners and typically build nests in large groups, or beds, sometime between May and August. Peak spawning, in Ohio, usually occurs in June. Males select an area in one to four feet of water and sweep out a saucer shaped nest with their tails. The females then lay between 10,000 to 60,000 eggs in the nest which is guarded by the male. The eggs usually hatch in about five days.



The largemouth bass is a popular sport fish. It is native to Ohio and can be found in every county in the state. Largemouth bass are moderately compressed with a deep body. The back of the mouth, when closed, extends past the eye. This characteristic distinguishes it from the smallmouth bass where the back of the mouth does not extend past the eye. The largemouth also has a black band that extends down the side of the body. They prefer ponds, lakes and slow, sluggish streams. Largemouth bass usually spawn between mid-April and mid-June. Nests are constructed by the male in one to six feet of water. The female lays between 2,000 and 20,000 eggs in several different nests; one nest can contain eggs from several females. The male guards the eggs until they have hatched.



The yellow perch is native to Ohio and is found in lakes, impoundments, ponds, and slow moving rivers. Sides are golden yellow to brassy green with six to eight dark vertical saddles with a white to yellow belly. Yellow perch have many small teeth, but no large canines. It prefers clear water with moderate vegetation and lots of sand or gravel bottoms.

Yellow perch spawn from mid-April to early May by depositing their eggs over vegetation or the water bottom, with no care given. The eggs are laid in large gelatinous adhesive masses.



The channel catfish is a popular sport and food fish. It is active during the night, moving around and finding food after dusk. During the day it will most likely be found in deep water with little activity. The channel catfish has a slender body with a deeply forked tail. The upper jaw is longer than the lower jaw and there are barbels around the mouth. The dorsal and pectoral spines are sharp and deeply serrated, and the anal fin is curved and has between 24 and 30 rays. The body is bluish silver on the sides and generally has dark spots. Some anglers mistakenly call channel catfish with few or no spots blue catfish, but the blue catfish is found only in the Ohio River. Channel catfish are native to Ohio and can be found in most large streams, lakes, and many farm ponds. Channel catfish prefer areas with deep water, clean gravel boulder substrates and low to moderate current. However, they are tolerant of a wide range of conditions. Channel catfish begin spawning when water temperatures reach 70 °F. They use natural cavities, undercut banks and muskrat burrows as nests. The female lays a gelatinous mass containing between 8,000 to 15,000 eggs. The parents remain over the nest to fan the eggs and guard the young after hatching.



The fathead minnow is commonly sold as bait for fishing. Fathead minnows have short bodies with a triangular shaped head. The upper jaw overhangs the snout and the lateral line is incomplete. Coloration ranges from olive to olive-yellow on the back tinged with copper or purple in larger fish. Historically the fathead minnow widely populated only in the western part of Ohio. They prefer muddy brooks and creeks, as well as ponds and small lakes. However, fatheads can tolerate a wide range of water conditions. Fathead minnows spawn in the spring and may continue into August. Males select the spawning site, usually under logs, branches or rocks in shallow water. Females lay adhesive eggs which the males guard.



The grass carp is not native to Ohio, but was introduced from China as a biological way to control aquatic vegetation. The grass carp is a long slender member of the minnow family. It resembles the common carp because of its large size and scales. Grass carp differ from the common carp with the lack of a sucker-like mouth, and the absence of barbels on the mouth. Furthermore, grass carp are usually silvery-white, rather than the brownish-yellow of the common carp. They prefer rivers, but have adapted well to reservoirs. Grass carp spawn in flowing water and do not reproduce in lakes and ponds. The grass carp grows very rapidly, and young fish stocked in the spring at 8 inches will reach over 18 inches by fall, and adults often attain nearly 4 feet in length and over 70-90 pounds in weight. They grow 10 pounds a year at least. They eat up to 3 times their own body weight daily.

**Information by Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. Visit www.ohiodnr.com for more information.

HANCOCK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**SEPTEMBER 14, 2010
2010 FISH SALE**



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Fingerlings supplied by Fender's Fish Hatchery (Baltic, OH)

Pick-Up Date - September 14, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Service Center Parking Lot

Order Deadline - September 10, 2010

Send check and order to : Hancock SWCD
Agricultural Service Center
7868 Co. Rd. 140, Suite E
Findlay, OH 45840



<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE RANGE</u>	<u>EACH</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
BLUE GILL	2" TO 4"	\$.65		
CHANNEL CAT	4" TO 6"	\$.70		
LARGE MOUTH BASS	2" TO 4"	\$.75		
YELLOW PERCH	2" TO 4"	\$.65		
WHITE AMUR	10" TO 12"	\$12.00		
FATHEAD MINNOW	½" TO 1"	\$.06		
TOTAL COST				