



Conservation Quarterly

Restoring Deer Creek streambank at the Gwynne during the Farm Science Review

-Justin White, District Technician

The Gwynne Conservation Area will have a streambank restoration project demonstration during the Farm Science Review at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio, on September 19-21. The Farm Science Review is a huge agricultural trade and education show that draws over 100,000 visitors each year. The Gwynne Conservation Area is a 67 acre green corner of the Farm Science Review that shows the other side of agriculture - its waters, woods and wildlife.

Streambank restorations are usually performed in order to stop erosion from causing damage to neighboring lands and properties as well as to better the ecological function of the stream. The demonstration will show a common method of restoring and protecting eroding streambanks using stone riprap and vegetation along an eroded section of Deer Creek. Clark and Madison SWCD staff helped to survey the stream so that a design could be developed.

Members of the public are welcome to watch the project in progress. Viewers will see how to shape an unstable streambank and install riprap. The Gwynne Conservation Area has a continuous wagon shuttle that will allow easy access to the viewing area, located on the opposite side of the stream of the construction for safety.

The project design and fact sheets on the various practices that will be put into place during a streambank restoration will be displayed at the Natural Resources Information Center at the Gwynne.

See **STREAMBANK** Page 2

Inside this issue

Restoring Deer Creek	1
EQIP	2
Drainage issues	3
Upper Paint Creek Initiative.....	3
Save the Wildflowers.....	4
Madison SWCD Board seeks new candidates.....	4
Houseplant Care.....	5
OSU Extension programs	5
Milkweed Pod Collection	6
Contact us	6

Important dates

9/12	SWCD Board Meeting
9-19-9/21	Farm Science Review
10/10	SWCD Board Meeting
10/20 & 11/3	Save the Wildflowers
11/14	SWCD Board Meeting
11/16	Supervisor Election and Conservation Banquet



Streambank from page 1



Before and after of a similar streambank restoration project that used stone riprap to protect an eroding streambank.

How to get Gwynne from the Farm Science Review main grounds

Review-goers get to the Gwynne by riding any of the free, continuously running wagon shuttles that leave from and return to the Review's west end. The same wagons also go to the Review's popular field harvest demonstration stops. Hop off the wagon when it stops on the corner of Arbuckle and SR 38 to catch the covered wagon shuttle that services the Gwynne. For a Gwynne Map and location of show activities, visit gwynne.osu.edu.

Tickets to the Review are \$7 online, at OSU Extension county offices and participating agribusinesses, and \$10 at the gate. Children 5 and under are free. All the Gwynne's talks are included with admission. Details on hours, buying tickets online and more are on the Review's website at <https://fsr.osu.edu/>.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

—Deba Mohler, District Conservationist

Do you farm and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? Start by visiting your local SWCD/NRCS office to discuss your vision for the farm.



NRCS provides farmers and forest managers with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine what is right for your operation with one-on-one, personalized advice and technical assistance to help farmers and forest managers improve their operations through voluntary conservation.

If you desire financial assistance, we can help you get the forms you need to apply.

Step-by-step information on how to get started with NRCS is available on the web at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/oh/home/>.



Drainage issues on the rise with a wet summer

-Justin White, District Technician

Madison County holds a large percentage of hydric poorly drained soils. These soils were formed in low laying areas, many of them wetlands, where water would pool and organic material would collect. This county's high percentage of prime farmland can be partially accredited to these low lying wetland and prairie areas. Drainage of the land was achieved by the creation of drainage ditches and subsurface drainage tile. Without proper drainage, there is a great potential to have problems on the property due to excess water.

In years such as this one, when the county has received large amounts of rain in short time periods, drainage problems can seem to appear without warning where, in previous years, there were none. However, problems with drainage are a function of rainfall, soil types, topography, land use and other factors. While rainfall is difficult to predict, the various factors that contribute to drainage can be assessed and managed to prevent problems caused by poor drainage.

Depending on the situation, various technologies and methods are available to increase drainage of potential problem areas—or restore the area as a fully functional wetland. The Madison SWCD can help assess the factors and provide options for drainage management. To contact Madison SWCD, call (740) 852 – 4003 or visit the office at 831 US HWY 42 NE, London, OH 43140.

Gratitude turns what we have into enough. ~Author Unknown

Upper Paint Creek Watershed Initiative



Focus Area

The Madison SWCD is making progress to improve the soil and water quality of the Paint Creek watershed. The first step was to get a grant from USDA through the 2016 Mississippi Healthy Watersheds Initiative. Titled "Upper Paint Creek", this grant provides Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds for producers in the focus area to complete conservation practices that improve overall soil health, reduce erosion, and curb nutrient leaching. The goal is to reduce the amount of sediment loading by 7,000 tons; phosphorus by 6,400 lbs.; and nitrogen by 20,000 lbs., into the Paint Creek, thereby helping the aquatic species.

The second step was to get more boots on the ground to provide conservation technical assistance. Justin White was hired in January through a two-year grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation with matching funds from the Madison County Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The third step was in the form of public outreach. In June, Madison SWCD, OSU Extension and Farm Bureau hosted a Paint Creek watershed tour of farms in the watershed. Presentations by conservation professionals provided information to landowners and the general public about best management practices.

This year, four landowners applied for the Upper Paint Creek EQIP for a written nutrient management plan. Over 1,000 acres of farmland have or are in the process of developing a conservation plan, nutrient management plan, or a combination of both.

There is one more year remaining to apply for the Upper Paint Creek EQIP. For more information, please visit our office at 831 US HWY 42 NE, London, OH 43140 or call at (740) 852-4003.



Help the Wildflowers!

The Madison County Park District and Soil and Water Conservation District are hosting two community service events on Friday, October 20th and Friday, November 3rd, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Little Darby Scenic Preserve, 5995 Lafayette-Plain City Road, London, Ohio.

Volunteers will partner with trained staff to eliminate invasive species from the Little Darby Scenic Preserve and collect milkweed pods (if ready to be picked). Volunteers should wear protective clothing. Tools and lunch are provided. We hope you will be able to join us!

Volunteers under the age of 18 will need a legal guardian present or signed waiver.

Please let us know if you can join us and/or need a waiver by calling (740)852-4004 or emailing the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District at julia.cumming@oh.nacdnet.net.



Madison Soil & Water Board seeks candidates

Would you like to have a leading role in local conservation issues and natural resource protection? Here is your opportunity. The Madison Soil and Water District is looking for candidates to run for our Board of Supervisors.

Serving on the Board can present you with the opportunity to:

- Be personally involved in the decisions that affect conservation issues in Madison County
- Connect with local communities by participating in Soil and Water educational activities and public events
- Grow as a leader by gaining expertise and ideas from peers in related fields
- Build valuable networks and relationships with fellow board members and organizations

The Board helps citizens by offering support for the agricultural and urban landscape of our county. Our staff provides expert advice regarding erosion, stormwater runoff and habitat protection, and we offer a variety of environmental education material for all ages.

The Board encourages diversity and is extremely interested in drawing from candidates with a wide variety of professional backgrounds, educational specialties and personalities. The Board is composed of committed members from various sectors in the community who are interested in volunteering their time. Travel expenses incurred are often eligible for reimbursement. The term lasts three-years and qualifying candidates must reside in Madison County.

If you have an interest in leading Madison County into a more sustainable future and would like to facilitate positive change by engaging with local citizens - then we encourage you to begin the simple process of becoming a candidate!

Please call our office at (740) 852-4003 option 3 for information about contacting the Nomination Committee, or, you may stop at the SWCD office located at 831 U.S. Highway 42 NE, London, 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 October 12, 2017. Candidates meeting the eligibility requirements and deadline will be listed on the ballot for the special election, which will take place on Thursday evening, November 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Beck's, 720 US 40 NE London, OH, 43140.



Houseplant Care

-Barbara J. Myers, Madison County Master Gardener



If you are like me and move your houseplants outside for the summer, your tropicals are thriving and, if protected from the many rains, the succulents are happy too. But sooner than we like to think it will be time to move them back inside.

Begin to move them in as soon as the weather starts to change with cooler, drier days and cool, clear nights. Since we seem to be 30 days early on the growing season this year that could be as soon as September 1. Some

years it has been almost the end of September but it should be before we turn on the furnace.

Here are some tips for bringing plants back into the home atmosphere.

1. Wipe off the outside of the pot and immerse in a tub of cool water to the top of the rim of the pot. This will cause any insects which have taken up residence in the plant during the summer to "swim for it". Let soak till the soil ball is thoroughly wet and then remove pot from the water and let it drain for several hours. Also check large plants for birds, tree frogs or spiders.
2. Place plant in house in a location suitable for the light requirements of the plant.
3. Continue to water the plant but you may not need to do it as frequently now since the plant is inside. Over watering is the most cited reason for death of a houseplant. The water requirements may increase once the house is heated. Purchase an inexpensive moisture meter to be sure.
4. Some houseplants go dormant during the winter months and grow slowly or not at all. As the majority of my plants are non-blooming tropical, I do not fertilize in the winter months.
5. If there are plants such as begonia, impatiens or herbs planted directly in the garden and you plan to bring them into the house to enjoy during the winter months, now is the time to dig, pot, water and set in the shade so they can acclimate to the pot prior to moving into the home.

Upcoming OSU Extension programs

Contact Mary Griffith to receive updated information on details. Email griffith.483@osu.edu or call 740-852-0975.

Farm Science Review

September 19-21, 2017
Tuesday and Wednesday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and
Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Discount tickets available at the office or online at <https://fsr.osu.edu/>.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." - Marcel Proust



Annual Milkweed Pod Collection 9/1/17 - 10/30/17



The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District office is one of the drop-off sites in the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative's Milkweed pod collection. Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for Monarchs as well as many other pollinator species. The disappearance of milkweed across the U.S. has contributed to the 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population over the last 20 years. We are working hard to change this and you can help! Let's make our collection efforts in 2017 even better by following these simple tips:

- Make sure that before you collect seed, you become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THIS!
- If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the nearest collection site.
- You can find the nearest collection site at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/SWC/searchlocalSWCD.aspx>

If you have questions regarding milkweed collection, please contact Marci Lininger at marci_lininger@fws.gov or Lori Stevenson at Lori_Stevenson@fws.gov.

"To the bee, a flower is a fountain of life, and to the flower, a bee is a messenger of love." - Kahlil Gibran

Madison Soil and Water
Conservation District
831 US HWY 42 NE
London, Ohio 43140

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Mondays through Fridays
Phone: 740-852-4003 opt. 3

<http://co.madison.oh.us/swcd>
<https://www.facebook.com/madisonswcdohio>



Contact us

Please contact Gail Wilson at gail.wilson@oh.nacdnet.net if you wish to be put on or removed from our email list. The SWCD board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Your board members are Howard Yoder, Chairman; Ramona Porter, Vice Chairman; Bob Hunter, Treasurer; Jonathan Francis and David Junk. Your SWCD staff members are Julia Cumming, Program Administrator; and Gail Wilson, Operations Coordinator. Your NRCS staff members are: Will Cook, Resource Conservationist; Jeremiah McDowell, Civil Engineering Technician, Deba Mohler, District Conservationist; Mike Rakes, Soil Conservation Technician; and Mike Retterer, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. All NRCS/MSWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.