

Newsletter

Athens Soil & Water Conservation District

69 S. Plains Road The Plains, Ohio 45780
740-797-9686 or 800-582-8890
Fax 740-797-9079

January / February 2009

What's Inside:

page 2...

- « Coloring & Poster/Essay Contest
- « 2009 Envirothon Dates
- « Conservation Camp Scholarships
- « Athens County Photo Contest

page 3...

- « Passport to Fishing Workshop
- « Sheep & Goat Production School
- « Grazing School

page 4...

- « Upcoming Events
- « Beef Production School

All programs and services of the Athens Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

District Board Reorganizes Officers

Athens SWCD Board of Supervisors reorganized their slate of officers during their January meeting. Shown at right L - R are: Harold Dodd, Vice-Chairman; Dean Kyle, Treasurer; Robb Weinfurtner, Secretary; Jim Ford, Fiscal Agent; and Pete Woyar, Chairman. The Athens SWCD prides itself on being a locally led organization addressing agriculture, natural resource and urban issues facing Athens County. Feel free to contact the Athens SWCD office or any of the above supervisors if you have comments or concerns!



District Scholarship 2009:



Applications for the District's \$500 College Scholarship are once again being accepted. Dates to apply are December 1, 2008 through March 27, 2009. High school seniors can pick up an application in the Athens SWCD office or in your guidance office at school. Each year the district awards a \$500 scholarship to a deserving high school senior who plans to major in an agricultural or natural resource related field.

No Bull...Shiitakes Added to This Year's Tree Sale!



This is the perfect time of year to start planning your spring planting projects. Whether you want to beautify your home, provide food and shelter for wildlife, or supplement your own diet, the Athens SWCD can help. The enclosed 2009 Wildlife and Tree Packet Program brochure has a variety of seedlings and groundcover to assist with your planting objectives. A new feature to this year's sale is the addition of shiitake mushroom kits. Shiitake mushrooms have brown, slightly convex caps that range in diameter from two to four inches. Shiitake's have a delicious rich, smoky flavor that has become very popular in the U.S. in recent years. We think landowners will enjoy this new feature! Remember, this sale only happens once a year! The deadline to order is February 27th.



Education...



“Dig It” The Secrets of Soil Coloring & Poster / Essay Contest:

Teachers and students get ready! This year's theme for the 1st grade coloring and 5th grade poster/essay contest is “**Dig It**”: **the Secrets of Soil**. In partnering with the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and the Soil Science Society of America we are delighted to bring this new and exciting program to your classroom. These contests are open to all 1st and 5th grade aged students in Athens County and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place county winners will receive a monetary award for their efforts. Contact Teresa Caldwell @ 740-797-9686 ext 106 or email teresa-caldwell@oh.nacdnet.org to schedule a classroom presentation or to receive a copy of the rules of entry for the contest. Deadline to enter is March 27, 2009.

Check out the Smithsonian Museum website at <http://www.forces.si.edu/soils/> for information on the “Dig It” exhibit.



Join the Team ~ 2009 Envirothons

Calling all High School (and Junior High) Science Teachers and Students! If you've never participated in an Envirothon before, now's your chance to see why so many others do! This outdoor, fun, team event reinforces academic content standards, teaches life skills, and builds camaraderie among your students. Teams of 5 compete in the areas of **aquatic ecology, soils, forestry, wildlife & current environmental issues**. The 2009 issue is “**Biodiversity in a Changing World.**”

2009 competition schedule...

Multi County Envirothon: Thursday, April 2 (Sr. & Jr. High School) at Lake Hope State Park, Vinton County

Area 5 Envirothon: Tuesday, April 28 at Highlands Metro Park, Delaware County

Ohio Envirothon: June 7-9 at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Knox County

National Canon Envirothon: August 2-8 at the University of North Carolina in Asheville, North Carolina.



So you want to go to camp ... Scholarships to Conservation Camp are available to Athens County Youth



The **Ohio Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Camp** will be held June 14-19, 2009. **Two** scholarships are available this year to attend the week long event. One will be open to all Athens County high school students and will be presented by the Athens SWCD.

A second scholarship will be available to Nelsonville-York students only and is sponsored by Meadowview Tree Farm in memory of Autumn and Othmar Stone. This camp has a reputation for giving its participants an exceptional opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that involve land, forest and wildlife management issues. Application forms are available through the Athens SWCD office and are due in the Athens SWCD office by April 1, 2009.



Attention: Athens County Photographers! 2009 All Athens County Photo Contest



Are you a camera buff? Do you know one? The Athens SWCD is sponsoring an All Athens County Photo Contest in 2009. This contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages who reside in Athens County. Photos will be accepted between now and July 24, 2009. We are looking for photos taken of Athens County scenes and events in all seasons, so look through the photos you may have already taken on past outings or grab your camera and see what you can capture in the next few months. There are three categories for this contest and the appropriate forms and releases must accompany each photo entered. There is a limit of three photos per contestant. An overall winner will receive a monetary award. The Athens SWCD plans to print a 2010 calendar using photos from the contest. Contact Teresa Caldwell at (740) 797-9686 or by email to teresa-caldwell@oh.nacdnet.org for details and guidelines.

Technical...



Improve Your Sheep & Goat Production Skills

A small ruminant production school for sheep and goat producers will be held in Athens County. The school will be held at the Athens County Extension Office meeting room and will run from 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm, beginning on January 27th and continuing February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. OSU Extension, Athens County and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association (OSIA) are sponsors of the school. Topics that will be covered at the small ruminant production school include: ethnic marketing options, meat goat breed selection, producing for the commercial sheep market, marketing considerations/direct marketing, sheep breed selection, current issues in sheep and goat production, carcass evaluation, and pulling it all together/matching animal to pasture production.

COST: \$25 includes registration, speaker fees, handout materials and refreshments. Make checks payable to "Athens County Extension".

Pre-registration is requested to the Athens County Extension office by Friday, January 23rd. For more information contact Rory Lewandowski at the Athens County Extension office by phone (740) 593-8555 or by email lewandowski.11@osu.edu.



'Passport to Fishing' Workshop



It may be cold and snowy but it's not too early to work on your fishing knowledge and skills. Once again, the Athens County Bassmasters, the Athens SWCD, the Division of Wildlife, and Lake Snowden/Hocking College will sponsor a 'Passport to Fishing' workshop. It is free and open to all youth 15 years and under. Participants will be introduced to the sport of fishing, how to tie knots, how to cast, when and where to fish, how to handle fish, as well as boating and fishing safety. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 10:00 - noon at the Market on State (formerly University Mall)**. Lunch will be provided for participants after the workshop. Pre-registration can be made by calling Athens SWCD at (740) 797-9686 ext 106 or by email to teresa-caldwell@oh.nacdn.org. To register please include each youth's full name, age, address, the name and phone number of parent or guardian. **Registrations will be accepted through February 7, 2009.** Space may be limited so please get your registration in early.

ATTENTION GRAZERS...

A beginner's Grazing School will be held April 14th, 16th & 23rd from 6:30 - 9:30 pm, and April 25th from 10:00 - 2:00 pm. Look for details in our next newsletter.



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Advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by the Athens SWCD/NRCS

Up Coming Events...

Jan 19 - Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed

Feb 10 - Athens SWCD Board Mtg

Feb 13 -16 - GBBC bird count

www.birdcount.org

Feb 16 - Presidents' Day - Office Closed

Feb 21 - Winter Owl Walk (740) 698-6373

Feb 27 - Tree Sale Order Deadline

Mar 4 - Wildlife Diversity Conf.

www.wildohio.com

Mar 7 - Bluebird Workshop (740) 698- 6373

Mar 10 - Athens SWCD Board Mtg

Mar 18 - Multi-County Envirothon

Mar 27 - Scholarship Application Deadline

Mar 27 - Youth Contest Entry Deadline

April 14 - Athens SWCD Board Mtg

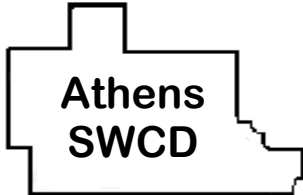
April 30 - May 3 - EECO Conf.

www.eeco-online.org

Beef Production School Offered

OSU Extension, Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation have teamed up to offer local beef producers a four session learning opportunity titled *Managing Dynamic Change in the Beef Cattle Industry*. Topics will include business realities; herd profitability; heifer development; feeder calf marketing; working with feeder calf marketing alliances; and trends, habits and change in the industry.

The school will be held February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Alexander High School with meals served each night by the Alexander FFA. Cost of the school is \$50.00 for the first participant from a farm operation and \$25.00 for each additional farm operation participant. For additional information, contact Rory Lewandowski, OSU Extension - Athens County at 740-593-8555 or the Ohio Cattleman's Association at 614-873-6736.



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**2009 Wildlife Packet
Brochure Enclosed**