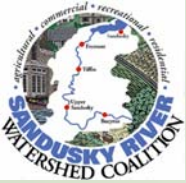


Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

Watershed News



Starting New in 2007 with A New Watershed Coordinator

September 11 is a date that sticks in the mind of many Americans but in 2006 it also marked a change in the Sandusky River Watershed. Chris Riddle, Watershed Coordinator, left to join the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

With his departure a Watershed Coordinator was needed and on November 20, 2006, I, Cindy Brookes, filled that position as your Watershed Coordinator.

I join the Sandusky River Watershed with past watershed experience in the early 1990's at Indian Lake. Since that time I spent many years involved in family businesses and the family farm.

Being able to utilize my college degree received from The Ohio State University in Agriculture Education and Agronomy was a major factor in wanting to work with a watershed group. My degree will also assist in dealing with the highly agricultural setting the Sandusky River Watershed provides.

Continuing the effort of the Sandusky River Watershed Coal-

ition (SRWC) is my main goal. While improving in the area of fundraising and public involvement is the goal of mine and every watershed coordinator.

"Building bridges" can be done not only over our waters but within our society and that is essential for a group such as the SRWC. My job as coordinator involves constructing these "bridges".

Living on the banks of the Honey Creek helps me to realize not only what my job is as an employee of the SRWC and WSOS but my responsibility as a citizen to help sustain the natural resources that we breath, drink and utilize each day.

I would like to welcome everyone to get involved in anyway possible. If you have any ideas feel free to contact myself or any Steering Committee member. Ideas are always needed in finding ways to achieve our

ultimate goal and every idea can be built upon to be a great idea.



Spring Meeting Part of Winter Cover Crop Meeting

Each year we hold several meetings to inform you as members about what we are doing within the Sandusky River Watershed. Currently one of the highlights is the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for the "Upper Broken Sword Stream Habitat Improvement". This grant encourages the use of cover crops along the Upper Broken Sword.

We are joining forces with the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District by holding the Spring Meeting at the District's Winter Cover Crop Meeting (Meeting announcement on page 2).

By holding the Spring meeting in conjunction with the Winter Cover Crop Meeting we can not only share with our members the usual updates

about what is happening in the watershed but will allow you to see and hear about the great things that are actually on the ground.

Mark your calendars for March 20th from 6-8 p.m. and join us at the Crawford County Conservation League, 3477 SR 98, Bucyrus, Ohio.

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Winter Cover: Making it Work on Your Farm



Tuesday, March 20th

6:00 - 8:30 PM

**Crawford County Conservation
League**

3477 SR 98 Bucyrus, Ohio

Topics Covered

- **Soil Health Benefits**
- **Nutrient Cycling**
- **Utilizing Cover Crops**
- **Seeding Recommendations**
- **Impact on Runoff and Peak Flow**
- **Corn after Corn: Why, When, Where, What and How??**
- **More...**



RSVP Crawford SWCD (419) 562-8280

3111 SR 98, Bucyrus Ohio

Before March 16, 2007

Sponsored by: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Crawford SWCD/NRCS, OSU Extension and the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

2007 Membership Drive is Getting Started!

The 2007 Membership Drive is going well despite the late start. So far we have reached 27% of our \$15,000 goal with only 25 memberships received. A list of current members is in the next column, if you don't see your name it is never too late to join.

To help reach this goal the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition Steering Committee has re-structured a committee to assist in this important endeavor. The Development Committee is currently focusing on the expansion of membership and has been creating a larger database to campaign from.

Late last year, Chris Riddle made it easier to contribute by adding a link to our website. When you visit the website in the left hand column there is a box allowing you to select your membership level or to make a contribution. It allows for installment payments as well. Take advantage of this feature by a click of your mouse.

2007 Memberships

Mink

City of Fremont
City of Tiffin

Small Mouth Bass

David and Bonnie Wolfe

Walleye

D.P. & Lynda Weininger
Jim & Marcia Bailey
John & Susan Crumrine
Julie Ward
Village of Republic
Norwalk Concrete Industries
Don & Carolyn Miller
Clouse Construction Corp.
City of Fostoria
City of Upper Sandusky

Damselfly

Tom Kashmer, Green Creek
Wildlife Society
George & Madelyn Fruth
Tom & Connie Fishbaugh
Gerry Brookes
Roger Wise
Seneca Caverns

Damselfly (con't.)

Village of New Washington
Izaak Walton League

Sycamore

Kevin & Veronica Reinhart
Wyandot County Farm Bureau
Chamber of Commerce of
Sandusky County
Village of Lindsay

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

**JOIN NOW
BY A CLICK OF YOUR
MOUSE!**

Visit our website at
www.sanduskyriver.org

Home Sewage Treatment System Replacement Program Extended Through December 31, 2007

The 319 Grant from Ohio EPA for the Home Sewage Treatment System Replacement has been well received with 133 total systems approved for replacement. The grant allows for 169 systems to be replaced with cost share dollars. The grant was to be completed on June 30, 2007, but due to the fact that there are 50 systems approved and not yet installed we have received an extension which gives time for those installations. The additional time also allows the opportunity to accept new applications.

Other changes in the program have occurred due to the

Ohio Department of Health Home Septic Regulations that changed as of January 1, 2007. If you are installing a Mound, Drip Irrigation or Peat Bio Filter System the cost-share for replacement with these systems is up to a maximum of \$6,000. If you live in a county allowing repairs to your existing system the cost-share level still may not exceed the \$4,000 maximum.

We are still accepting applications. Contact your local health department if you or someone you know would like to have more information on how to participate in this program.



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Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Working Together For Healthier Streams.

Sandusky State Scenic River Access Sites

The Sandusky State Scenic River was the second river in Ohio to be designated as such in 1970. It flows 130 miles from its source in Crawford County to the Muddy Creek/Sandusky Bays. It is the longest of Ohio's rivers that are within the Lake Erie basin. The river is 'L' shaped, flowing to the west before heading north. There are several scenic river access sites that are open to the public for canoeing, fishing and hunting.

Indian Mill is located in Crane Township, Wyandot County at river mile 76.4. This 6.15-acre site is located across the river from the Indian Mill Museum. The Wyandot County Commissioners cooperatively manage a portion of the site, which includes a picnic area and seasonal restrooms.

There are three access sites in Seneca County. Hecks Bridge is part of the larger Howard Collier State Nature Preserve, which has 301.88 acres. This area was the first scenic river property to be purchased in the state, and the second property to be developed and opened to the public. It is located in Seneca Township at river mile 54.3. The preserve has a mile and a half of hiking trail and a public hunting area. The Defiance Moraine runs through the area, which makes for some topographic relief.

St. Johns Bridge is also located in Seneca Township at river mile 50.2. This 1.04-acre site is where the former St. Johns Dam stood. The river has fully recovered within two

years after the removal of the dam that impounded 8.5 miles of river. A three-year research project documented many facets of the river and its habitat before and after the dam removal.

The last access area in Seneca County is the Abbott's Bridge site located in Pleasant Township at river mile 32.1. This is a new area that opened in late 2006, and is a result of mitigation by the Seneca County Engineer for the Abbott's Bridge construction project. There are 32.11 acres at this site that feature a concrete canoe ramp for easy access to the river. This property adjoins the Steyer Nature Preserve of the Seneca County Park District. Two tracts of the Steyer Preserve were purchased using Clean Ohio Grant funds in which Scenic River License Plate funds were used for the match (\$65,000).

Lastly, Wolf Creek Park at river mile 23.2 in Ballville Township, Sandusky County. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) owns the area, but leases it to the Sandusky County Park District. The site includes a concrete canoe ramp, picnic areas, campground, restrooms and drinking water. This was the second scenic river property to be purchased in the state, and the first to be developed and opened to the public. There are 90.26 acres here.

Scenic River Manager Robert Vargo and SQM Coordinator Anne Coburn-Griffis can be contacted at 419-981-6319. Take time to spend time on your scenic rivers.