

FREE SEEDLINGS

Once again this year, the District will be providing schools with free tree seedlings for their students. These seedlings are given so that every student in the county has the chance to plant at least one tree in their lifetime.

The District promotes tree planting and will gladly do a short "tree" program for your students which will include parts of a tree, tree needs and tree planting. To receive a free tree seedling for each of your students – give the District a call before Jan. 1st – seedlings will be available in April.

RICHLAND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATOR'S NEWSLETTER

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FALL
2005
EDITION

District's Board Of Supervisors:

Ken Burrer
Roger Cook
Jerry Schumacher
Wayne Weirick
Charles Winger

Additional District Staff Members:

Tim Brandt
John Hildreth
Matt Christian
Bonnie Thomas
Tony Studer

Mobile Classroom - Coming Soon - We Need Your Help!

Over the summer the District's Board of Supervisors reaffirmed their commitment to environmental education by expanding their programming!

The board is developing a MOBILE CLASSROOM! This unit will be heated and air-conditioned and will be set up to plug into your school. It will house an elaborate "Soils Profile" display and a newly designed "Groundwater Flow Model" that they purchased from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil. Other current programming will also be available from this handicapped accessible trailer. If you are planning a family night, etc., the District would love to show off this unit there too.

We need your students' help with the trailer logo. **WE ARE STARTING A LOGO CONTEST.** The winning logo will be displayed on the trailer. If you have an artistic student that would like to submit a logo - give us a call for more details.

In addition to the new programming, the District is also continuing to offer their traditional classroom programming to you. Once again this year, all programming is FREE OF CHARGE – all necessary supplies will be provided – all you have to do is provide the students and join in the hands-on learning experience. The District offers programming in soils, water quality, and current environmental issues, and they have a variety of models that make learning fun. We are currently booking our fall and winter programs.

The District's programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, marital status, religion, national origin, or handicap

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Fall Winners

September was a very busy month for the District – not only did the District hold its annual meeting and banquet, but it also hosted both a Land Judging and a Forestry Contest.

Nearly 200 high school students participated in the District's Land Judging contest, which was held at the Roger Faulk Farm. Participants got down into the soils pits and judged the soils. Crestview High School was the overall winner by winning both the Agricultural and Urban portions of the contest. Top individual winners in the ag portion were Kyle Burnhart from Crestview, Jordan Brown of Crestview placed second, and Kory Prunner, also of Crestview, received third place. In the urban portion of the contest, the top individuals were Mike Sloan of Crestview, second place was Brian Catron of Shelby, and third place was Zack Kinnard of Lucas. The District would like to thank Roger for agreeing to host this event and would like to thank Shelby, Clear Fork, Lucas, Crestview and Plymouth schools for attending the event!

The Richland Rural Life Center was this year's host of the "Forestry Contest," where students as far away as Dayton participated.

Local forestry professionals John Jolliff and Marty Michel, conducted informative sessions in the morning, covering tree identification, timber cruising and general forestry knowledge. Students were then asked to put their knowledge to work later in the day. Local schools participating in the contest were Shelby, Clear Fork, Pioneer Career Center, Buckeye and South Central Schools.

Charles Winger, Richland SWCD Board member, presented the top five participants with trophies. Trophy winners were: first place - Taylor Barker of Shelby; Second place - Forest Wetzels Franklin; third place - Matt Miller of Shelby; fourth place awards went to Amanda Wetzels of Franklin; and Joey Gotter of Clear Fork won the fifth place trophy.

The District would like to thank the Richland Rural Life Center board for allowing us to use their facility and our volunteers for the day – Barbara Bell, Ed Maglott and Marge Kochheiser for all of their hard work!

Workshop Series – Earn College Credits!

The District is part of the Richland County GREET Committee, and they have a great continuing education opportunity for you!

The Greater Richland Co. Environmental Education Team is a group of local environmental professionals that hosts a wide variety of activities tailored to make your job a little easier. Currently the team is offering educators, like yourself, an opportunity to earn college credit through Ashland University (at discounted prices) while attending fun, hands-on workshops that will give you new ways to teach your content standards.

This workshop series begins the end of January - so call the District today to find out more information!

"Calling All Artists"

The District is currently looking for all artists, ages preschool through high school, and is now kicking off two programs tailored to use our youth's creativity in promoting the wise use and care of our county's natural resources!

By participating in these programs, youth will have an opportunity to receive recognition for their talents and possibly earn some money too! The District's first opportunity is a **POSTER CONTEST**. This contest is for students k-12. The contest is broken into five age categories and is sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation District's Auxiliary. Entries will be judged by our District staff and the winners will be submitted to the area, state, and national levels of the contest. The state and national winners will win **\$\$\$\$\$**. Posters are due to our office by April 1st. To receive more information, give the District a call.

The second creative opportunity is the District's **BAGS FOR TREES PROGRAM**. This program is a great opportunity for preschoolers and elementary students to promote the wise use of our natural resources. Participants help promote the District's soil erosion and reforestation objectives by decorating grocery bags with environmental pictures. These grocery bags are provided by the Hawkins Market on Park Avenue, Cornells in Shelby, and Kroger on both Lexington Avenue & Park Ave. West. After the students complete their works of art, these two grocery stores will distribute them to their customers. Bags will have the artist's name, age and school, or group name on them. Why not get your students creative juices flowing and participate in these programs – call the District for information. Participation registration deadline is Dec. 31st.

In the Spotlight

The District recently recognized one of our county's educators as their "2005 Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year"!

This year's recipient has invited the District into her classroom numerous times over the years so they could share their Enviro-scape Model, Groundwater Flow Model, etc., with her students. She has also taken advantage of the GREET Committee's workshop series and has earned continuing education credits through Ashland University.

This year's recipient, Kathy Kranch of Mansfield's Prospect School, was the District's guest at their recent annual meeting and banquet – and she received a plaque for her outstanding commitment to environmental education. Congratulations Kathy!

The District offers a wide variety of FREE Opportunities for Classrooms & Civic Groups! Call today to find out more!!