



Conservation Summit

Fall Newsletter 2009

Autumn Landscaping Tips

SWCD to Host 63rd Annual & Program Planning Meeting

The Summit Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting its 63rd Annual & Program Planning Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at the Coventry Oaks Pavilion in the Firestone Metro Parks, 40 Axline Drive, Akron.

Interested county residents and stakeholders are invited to attend this very important meeting which will begin with a supervisor election at 8:30 a.m. A breakfast buffet will be provided at 8:45 a.m. with a short program to follow.

The voting process will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. See Summit SWCD Election Procedures for more information.

In addition to the supervisor election, there will be a very important program planning session held where participants can provide input for the Summit SWCD's 2010 programs and workshops. The public input is very helpful

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Now that autumn is officially here, it's time to start thinking about what to do with all of those colorful leaves that will soon be falling everywhere. Even though your community may offer leaf pick-up services, you might want to consider the option of recycling those leaves right on your own property. This would be beneficial and cost saving, both for you and your community, and would keep yard waste out of our waterways and landfills.

Instead of raking your leaves onto the curb for pick-up, simply rake them onto your lawn. This will keep the leaves out of the storm drains, and away from waterways, where they would add excess nutrients to the water. Nutrients (organic materials) added to streams and rivers cause algal blooms. These algal blooms cover the surface of the water preventing sunlight from penetrating to the lower layers. The plants living in the lower zones die because they cannot use photosynthesis to make food. This die-off affects the fish and other organisms that depend on these plants for food. When the algae eventually decompose, the decomposers use up all the available oxygen, so that there is none left for the fish and other aquatic inhabitants. This process creates a "dead zone." You can see how important it is to keep our waterways cleaner and healthier by restricting these extra organic materials from entering them.

Leaves can also be left on the lawn and mowed or chopped up and incorporated into your turf. You can use a mulching mower to mow over and combine your leaves and grass clippings and then use these organic materials as a

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Annual Meeting Election Procedures



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Summit County residents attending our annual breakfast meeting this year will be able to participate in the annual supervisor election.

Upon arrival at the breakfast meeting on November 18, 2009, (see Annual Meeting article for full details on the meeting) attendees will immediately be directed to the election registration table where election officials will find your name in the election registry. Voters will sign next to their name to verify their eligibility, obtain a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth, where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box.

This year's meeting will commence at 8:45 a.m. with a full breakfast buffet. Registration and voting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 9:30 a.m.

This year we have two very qualified candidates running to fill one position on the Board of Supervisors. Running as the incumbent is Brian James, a local civil engineer, homebuilder and developer. The other candidate is Auggie Ruggiero, a Project Ecologist and wetland specialist with URS in Cleveland. Please check out their biographies for more information.

County residents and landowners who cannot attend the Annual Meeting have

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to the district staff and will provide guidance for district programming and the delivery of services to the residents and communities of Summit County.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the district office at (330)929-2871 to make your reservation. You may also email the district at staff@summitswcd.org with your information.

The registration deadline is Friday, November 13, 2009. For more information, contact the SWCD office at (330) 929-2871.

two other options for voting for SWCD board members. They may call or stop by the district office to request an absentee ballot or they can cast their vote at the office, during regular business hours and between the dates of October 28th and November 17th. Voting ends on November 17th at 4:00 p.m.

If you would like more information regarding these proceedings, please contact our office at (330) 929-2871.

layer of mulch on your plantings, and top-dressing on your lawn and garden. Mulch is a layer of material placed on the surface of the soil to conserve moisture and restrict weed growth. Mulching also adds nutrients, modifies soil temperature and helps maintain good soil structure. A layer of mulch can prevent erosion by protecting the soil surface.

Leaves can be combined with grass clippings and woody materials to make compost, which is a free soil-enhancement that can be used on your landscape. Before you start, check your local ordinances to see if backyard composting is allowed in your community. For best results, mix high-nitrogen materials like clover and fresh grass clippings with high-carbon materials like dried leaves, in a ratio of three parts leaves to one-part grass clippings. Adding wood chips, twigs, and branches allows air to get into the pile and adds a nice fragrance. Rainwater provides moisture and turning the pile allows oxygen to enter. You can use a simple pile, a barrel, or a frame built from old lumber and bricks. Other materials that you can add to your pile are: cardboard rolls, eggshells, gray cardboard boxes, sawdust, vacuum cleaner lint, clean paper, fireplace ashes, hair, shredded newspaper, vegetable trimmings, fruit scraps, (microwave tropical fruit scraps because they may contain non-native micro-organisms,) coffee grounds and filters, fur, tea bags, wool and cotton rags. You do not want to add: Black walnut leaves and twigs, egg yolks, meat scraps, dairy products, oils and grease, pesticides, and pet waste. The more you turn your pile, the sooner it will become useable compost.

If you choose to re-cycle your leaves along with grass clippings, you can protect your landscape from the ravages of winter and can look forward to spring by creating a healthy environment for spring planting. You will also have the satisfaction of knowing that you have had a positive impact on the water quality of our streams and lakes in Northeast Ohio, now, and in the future.

Candidate Biographies

Brian James P.E. (1998 - Present, currently Chair) is a local civil engineer, home builder and land developer. After receiving an Associate Degree in Surveying and Construction Technology and a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Akron in the 1980's, Brian worked as a design engineer for GBC Design (then Giffels, Bergstrom & Fricker) and then as Allotment Engineer for then Summit County Engineer Paul Swanson during the early 1990's. While employed by the County Engineer, he played a pivotal role in developing new standards in erosion control and storm water management. During the late 1990's, Brian served 6 years on the Board of the Home Builders Association of Greater Akron where he chaired committees such as the Environmental and Land Use committees. Brian and his family reside in the Highland Square neighborhood in the City of Akron.



The Remediation and Restoration of Haley's Ditch, Part 2

by Leonardo Sferra, PE, GPD Group

Note: This article is the second of several installments tracking the progress of the remediation and restoration of Haley's Ditch.

The first article in this series, published in the Summer Newsletter, introduced the remediation and restoration project that the Lockheed Martin Corporation had undertaken within a 1,800 foot reach of Haley's Ditch. The drainage corridor, located north of the Akron-Fulton Airport, had been contaminated by the erosion of PCB-laden fire-retardant materials applied to the shell of the blimp Airdock when it was constructed in 1929.

The project, just underway at the time of the first article, involves the coordinated efforts of two teams: the remediation crew headed by ARCADIS, and the RiverWorks restoration crew composed of EnviroScience, Inc., GPD Group and RiverReach Construction. Lockheed-Martin's goal for the project included the remediation of contaminated soft sediments and bank soils present in the stream and the restoration of the broader area surrounding Haley's Ditch to recreate a functional stream valley, floodplain and riparian corridor as a foundation for ecological recovery.

Progress on the project has moved along smoothly in the last three months in spite of extraordinary periods of late summer rain and more soil excavation than originally expected. Nonetheless, significant work has been completed. The teams have found that bypass pumping, in conjunction with the creation of temporary bypass ditches, has been effective in controlling water on site and providing dry conditions for the restoration construction activities.

The remediation team is presently working in the north zone, the last of the three project zones, and anticipates completion of its task by mid November 2009, including final clean-up and demobilization. To date approximately 1,800 truckloads of contaminated soil have been removed from the site and transported to appropriate disposal locations.

The restoration team has completed restoration of

approximately 600 LF of the south zone, including the installation of over 200 trees and shrubs and the installation of 1.25 acres of upland, floodplain and wetland seed mixes. Native plant species are being used in the restoration and include Red Maple, Tulip Poplar, Sycamore, Sweetgum, White Pine, American Elm and several varieties of native Dogwoods. The team is awaiting only a culvert replacement by the City of Akron in order to finish up that zone. The restoration amenities will also include a walking trail and work has begun on establishing the trail alignment through the south zone.

Meanwhile, the regrading of the middle zone is proceeding at a good pace and is expected to be complete by November 10. As part of this project a 20-inch diameter water line was relocated deeper under the restored Haley's Ditch



Forming new channel in the middle zone

channel to better protect it from freezing and eliminate the possibility that it might be exposed by erosion.

The present schedule for the restoration activities anticipates completion of all grading and restoration planting in both the south and middle

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Biographies

Auggie Ruggiero – is a project ecologist with URS in Cleveland, Ohio, whose responsibilities include wetland delineations, Section 401/404 permitting, habitat evaluations, endangered species surveys, wetland mitigation feasibility studies and monitoring, and report writing. He has conducted aquatic and terrestrial habitat surveys throughout northeast Ohio and eastern New York as well as threatened and endangered species surveys in eastern New York for the Northern Harrier, Indiana Bat, Karner Blue butterfly and Blanding's turtle. Mr. Ruggiero has conducted wetland delineations throughout Ohio, New York, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia and Kentucky for various public and private entities and oversaw Section 401/404 permitting aspects for residential and commercial development projects throughout northeast Ohio. He has a BS in Zoology from Kent State University.



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zones of the corridor this fall. The goal for the north zone will be to complete grading activities and install temporary erosion control features, including erosion control fabrics, silt fencing, check dams and temporary seeding by the end of this construction season. The restoration team will return in the spring to install restoration plantings and clean up in the north zone.

When completed, this project will open up land for public access, which has been enclosed by fencing for a long time. Lockheed Martin relocated fencing and light poles along Landon Street on land owned by IRG, formerly owned by Goodyear Corporation, to make this possible



Stream Restoration in the South Zone



Stream bank protection and planting in the South Zone



South Zone seeding and mulching

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