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Free Seedling Trees!

The Licking Soil and Water Conservation District is once again offering free seedling trees to non-profit and service organizations along with schools.

Don't forget that I am also available to do a short presentation (~ 15-20 min) about trees then I give each student a free tree. Contact me at licking-swcd@hotmail.com or 740-670-5336. **Trees will be available April 16, 2007.**

3rd Grade Environmental Poster Contest:

Licking County SWCD is currently hosting a county wide third grade poster contest. Students in the third grade or youth ages 7-9 are encouraged to participate. This year's theme is "Today is the Day to be a part of Conservation's Power." Posters must be individually hand drawn on 8-1/2 x 11 white paper. The participant's name, club/group/school, grade level, age, and advisor/teacher name and number should be neatly printed on the back. All completed entries need to be received by the Licking SWCD no later than **April 6, 2007**. Prizes will be awarded to the top two individuals. A pizza party will be held for the first place winner's class, club or group. **Questions:** Contact Lindsey at licking-swcd@hotmail.com or 740-670-5336.

Youth Scholarships!!

Each year the Licking SWCD offers two \$500.00 scholarships to Licking County high school seniors and two \$500.00 scholarships to Licking County residents who will be completing their final year at college.

Visit our web site www.lickingswcd.com or click on the direct link (<http://www.lickingswcd.com/scholarships.html>) for more information and to receive an application.

Deadlines are as follows:

High School Application Due: April 27, 2007

Final Year at Collage Application Due: June 29, 2007.

Questions: Contact Lindsey Grimm at licking-swcd@hotmail.com or 740-670-5336.

2007 Envirothon Teams will be competing

The Envirothon competition is a hands-on contest that consists of high school teams of five students competing for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science, conservation and natural resources management. The teams exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on four universal testing categories (soil / land use, aquatic ecology, forestry and wildlife) and a current environmental issue. Area teams will compete on April 24th at the Tri-County and May 2 at the Area Envirothon! Join me in supporting our local teams! Currently there are teams from Granville, Johnstown-Monroe, and Heath!

If you would like more information about the Envirothon please feel free to contact me, Lindsey at licking-swcd@hotmail.com or 740-670-5336.

Earth Day is April 22nd!

Did you know that Senator Gaylord Nelson and many grassroots supporters started the event in 1970. They wanted to bring national attention to the tough issues facing our environment. Today, people still expose environmental issues and celebrate the importance of our natural resources on Earth Day. To learn more check out the following link: www.epa.gov/earthday .

Arbor Day is also celebrated in April!

People in Nebraska started celebrating Arbor Day in 1872. Since then, the observance has spread throughout the United States and many parts of the world. Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 27th (last Friday in April) and gives people a chance to appreciate the benefits trees provide. To learn more check out the following link: www.arborday.org .

Volunteering Opportunities Still Available

In the last issue of the “An Apple for Conservation” I had mentioned that the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District Office are looking for volunteers. That offer still stands!

If you have any High School Students interested in starting a Natural Resource Career Please encourage them to job shadow or complete an internship with a Natural Resource focused company. The District is always welcome to those that want to learn more than what is taught in the classroom. Currently we can offer unpaid internships.

We are still looking for dedicated individuals to volunteer a few hours at the Natural Resource Area located at the Hartford Fairgrounds. This summer the Natural Resource Committee will be constructing a prairie and a rain garden, planting trees and developing an interactive educational program/area for fair goers. This would be a great opportunity to achieve some community service hours/credits for your students as well as great resume builders for students looking to go into a conservation, environmental, natural resource or agricultural field. Interested Contact Lindsey: licking_swcd@hotmail.com.

Plans to kick off the stream team

Also mentioned in the last issue of “An Apple for Conservation” was a piece seeking interest with a stream monitoring program. The response was outstanding. The District has pursued this opportunity and plans to kick off training events the end of April/Beginning of May. If your class would like to learn more about how you can participate please contact me at 740-670-5336 or email me at licking-swcd@hotmail.com.

FYI: Good Teacher Info

You may or may not already have this... but I thought it was good info to pass on!

K-12: Science related information from ODE

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>

****Gr K-8: Test Blueprints for Grades 5 and 8 Science**

Test blueprints for these tests are available on the ODE Web site (search key words "achievement test blueprints"). Test blueprints contain information about individual tests, including the number of test items and the number of points tested for each content standard. In addition, test blueprints identify the number of different types of test items: short-answer, multiple-choice or extended-response. Test blueprints for the other achievement tests are also available on this Web page.

****Gr K-8: Half-length Practice Tests for Grades 5 and 8 Science**

Half-length practice tests for the five new test areas are available online (search key words "achievement practice tests"). Practice test materials include administration instructions, scoring keys, and exemplar papers for constructed response items. The complete operational test forms administered to students in May 2007 for these new tests will be released on the ODE Web site in July 2007.

WILD School Sites Grants now open

I just wanted to let you know that the application period for WILD School Sites grants is now open. The grants are \$500 each and there are twenty grants total. The grant period runs January 1st--May 31st, or until we run out of grants. You can find all the information you need on our website at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/resources/wildschools/default.htm> Please be sure to carefully read the grant guidelines if you are interested in applying. And don't hesitate to email or call Jen Dennison (Wildlife Education Coordinator) if you have questions about a project or its eligibility.

We also have a series of WILD School Sites workshops coming up across the state. So if you are thinking of beginning a site and don't know where to start, check out one of our workshops! You can find them on our website at

http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/workshops/projectWILD_workshops.htm

Contact Jen Dennison, Wildlife Education Coordinator with ODNR-Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE or 614-265-6316 (phone), 614-827-5828 (cell), 614-262-1171 (fax).

jen.dennison@dnr.state.oh.us, www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife

Workshops to be held

1. Tree Planting Workshop for Landowners: A "working" landowner workshop on tree planting will be held in Delaware County at the following place and time. Participants will be able to get some hands-on tree planting experience if desired.

What: Tree planting workshop (w/ current EAB information also being presented)

Date: April 28, 2007 (probably from around 9am to 1pm)

Location: Stratford Ecological Center, Delaware, OH Visit (www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org) for directions.

Questions Contact: Jeff Dickinson is the Director of the Stratford Ecological Center, and he is the primary organizer of this event (contact: office: 740-363-2548; Email: farmscaper@msn.com).

2 & 3. Food, Land and People Workshop - June 26, 2007 & Project WET – June 27

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Mt. Gilead State Park, Mt. Gilead, Ohio

Registration for AU credit will be done the first day of class and the cost is \$157.00. Those not interested in credit, may do only one day. Contact Marilyn Weiler at mapleturn@redbird.net, 419-768-2579, or Mt. Gilead State Park, 4119 State Route 95, Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338.

Project Food, Land, and People is a K-12 interdisciplinary activity program that features food, fiber, and soil resources. It includes global economic and cultural implications and the guide presents over 100 activities with background information and references. The cost is \$28.00. Contact Marilyn Weiler at mapleturn@redbird.net, 419-768-2579, or Mt. Gilead State Park, 4119 State Route 95, Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338.

Project WET is a water education program and is also K-12. It is sponsored by OWEP (Ohio Water Education Program) and free added information will come from Healthy Water, Healthy People and Wonders of Wetlands. The WET guide is \$22.00. Contact Marilyn Weiler at mapleturn@redbird.net, 419-768-2579, or Mt. Gilead State Park, 4119 State Route 95, Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338.

4. Women in the Outdoors – Saturday, June 9, 2007

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Johnstown Community Sportsman’s Club

The Johnstown Community Sportsman’s Club is sponsoring a “Women in the Outdoors” event Saturday, June 9, 2007 at the club located at 7357 Sportsmans Club Road, Johnstown, Ohio 43031. For additional information call Cheryl LaRosa at 614-337-7440 or Nancy Novatney at 740-6809-8006. Early Bird Registration Ends: May 6, 2007. Cost for Early Birds is \$45.00; Regular Registration Fee is \$50.00. Get a flyer at www.lickingswcd.com

5. Pasture to Plate Teacher Workshop – June 19 and 20, 2007

Registration is limited to the first 25 participants! Contact Deb Bigelow, Knox Soil and Water Conservation District at 740-393-6724. Registration Deadline is May 31, 2007. Workshop will be located in Knox County. Mt. Vernon Nazarene University is offering one semester hour of graduate credit for the workshop at a cost of \$200.00.

The workshop will focus on food production from the time the seed is planted in the soil until it is supplied to the consumer. You will receive the Food, Land and People curriculum guide and do activities from this resource so you know how to use it when you go back to your classroom. We will correlate the activities to the Ohio Content Standards and the workshop will address all age levels.

6. “Run for the Hills... For Great EE Learning Experiences”, August 7-9, Atwood Lake Conference Center. Sponsored by Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District and Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

You will automatically receive registration materials, and one semester hour of college credit from Ashland University will be available for approximately \$165 to those who attend all sessions and complete the required assignment.

Online registration will be available beginning Monday, April 16. Just go to www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater/ and click on the “Run for the Hills” logo. NOTE THAT THE

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 15! After that date we will release the unreserved balance of the sleeping rooms. Don't be disappointed – register early!

Questions contact Jeanne Russel, Division of Soil and Water Conservation District at 614-265-6682 or by email at jeanne.russel@dnr.state.oh.us.

Reminder....

As always don't forget that I provide **FREE Class presentations!**

Lindsey Grimm
Education / Information Specialist

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