

# Conservation News

Newsletter of  
the Defiance  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

Summer 2015

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## ***Open House Scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>***

Please join us for our second annual Open House on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Evergreen Lane Office Complex located at 06879 Evansport Road, Defiance. Defiance SWCD invites the community to visit and see the many ways we serve Defiance County residents by promoting the wise use of our natural resources.

The staff, Board of Supervisors, and prospective Supervisors will be present to talk and answer your questions.

The Open House will be a family friendly event with complimentary grilled sandwiches, (grill courtesy of Fairview Young Farmers), sides, and soft serve ice cream. A youth pedal pull sponsored by the Tinora Young Farmers will take place at 4:30 p.m. There will also be educational displays and activities including Joe Blosser's extensive display of wildlife mounts.

The District Board of Supervisors' election will commence at 3 p.m. and will conclude at 6 p.m. to elect two District Board of Supervisors.

For more information, call or visit the District's website at [www.defiance-county.com/swcd](http://www.defiance-county.com/swcd).



We  
hope to  
see you  
there!

## ***Notice of Election for SWCD Supervisors***

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of two Supervisors of the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code, at the District's Open House on Monday August 10, 2015. Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- At the SWCD's Open House, (3 p.m. to 6 p.m. voting time) on Monday, August 10, 2015.
- At the SWCD office between July 20-August 10, 2015 during normal business hours.
- Vote absentee by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the SWCD office.

Please take advantage of one of the above opportunities to vote. Contact the District with any questions you may have regarding the election.



Tree cookie art, one of many kids' activities that will be available at the Open House.

Supervisor Candidates



**Terry Behnfeldt** and his wife, Deb, live at 29364 Coressel Road, in Adams Township. They have a son, Samuel Behnfeldt and a daughter, Stephanie Schaublin and three grandchildren: Jordon, Alec, and Ella. Terry is a Reiser Realty Agent and sells Brodbeck Seeds. He has been involved in agriculture for 39 years and farms 170 acres and raises Dorset sheep. He has been a board member of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for 10 years, a Jewell Grain Company board member for 12 years, a member of Sons of American Legion Post 454, and a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family. His conservation practices include quail strips, water control structures, white ash stand replacement, VRT fertilizer, and conservation tillage.



**David Etchison** and his wife, Bonnie, live at 25923 Banner School Road in Adams Township. They have two sons and one daughter: Jason, Brian, and Kelli. David is a retired ODOT Training Officer and is currently the Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at Defiance College. He has been involved in agriculture for 45 years and farms 1,000 acres. David is the past President of Tinora Young Farmers, a past trustee and usher at St. Johns Lutheran Church, a past 4-H advisor, and is on the Adams Township Zoning Commission. His conservation practices include quail strips, CREP along ditches, tree plantings, wind breaks, and no-till farming.



**Roger Zeedyk IV** and his wife, Tracy, reside at 09074 Huber Road in Mark Township. They are the parents of two sons: Preston, 17 and Zach, 16. Roger farms approximately 1,250 acres. His crops consist of corn and soybeans. Roger also has a custom manure application business. Roger is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fairview Young Farmers, and the Farm Bureau. Roger's other interests include spending time with his family and hunting with his two sons. Roger utilizes filter strips, controlled drainage structures, cover crops, variable rate fertilizer application, no till, and has participated in the CSP program. He has served as a Supervisor for Defiance SWCD for the past three years.

**Powell Creek Update**

The Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Program continues to offer producers the ability to participate in whole farm management plans with 95% cost share available for the implementation of practices that address identified resource concerns such as grassed waterways, blind inlets, and grade stabilization structures. As part of

the plan, a site visit will be performed that will take a broad look at factors affecting soil, water, air, plants, and animals to give a comprehensive view and prioritization of potential management activities.

Opportunities also exist for the installation of saturated buffer systems as well as standard vegetative buffer areas. Time is running out quickly. Please contact Jason Roehrig at (419) 782-1794 for more information.



***Nutrient Reduction  
Targeted in Platter Creek***

Defiance SWCD has recently been awarded a 319 Nonpoint Source grant for \$366,492 to implement best management practices in the Platter Creek watershed.

The goal of this grant is to establish 6,000 acres of cover crops, 4,000 acres of variable rate fertilizer application, 4,000 acres of gypsum with no till, 10 grade stabilization structures, and three saturated buffers. Although these goals are very ambitious for a small watershed over a three-year period, we look forward to seeing measurable water quality improvements when the practices are accomplished.

It is estimated that with these practices installed there will be a reduction of about 34,554 pounds of nitrogen, 11,633 pounds of phosphorus, and 4,065 tons of sediment entering into the Maumee River every YEAR! This will be a significant contribution as the entire Western Lake Erie Basin works to reduce nutrient inputs to Lake Erie.

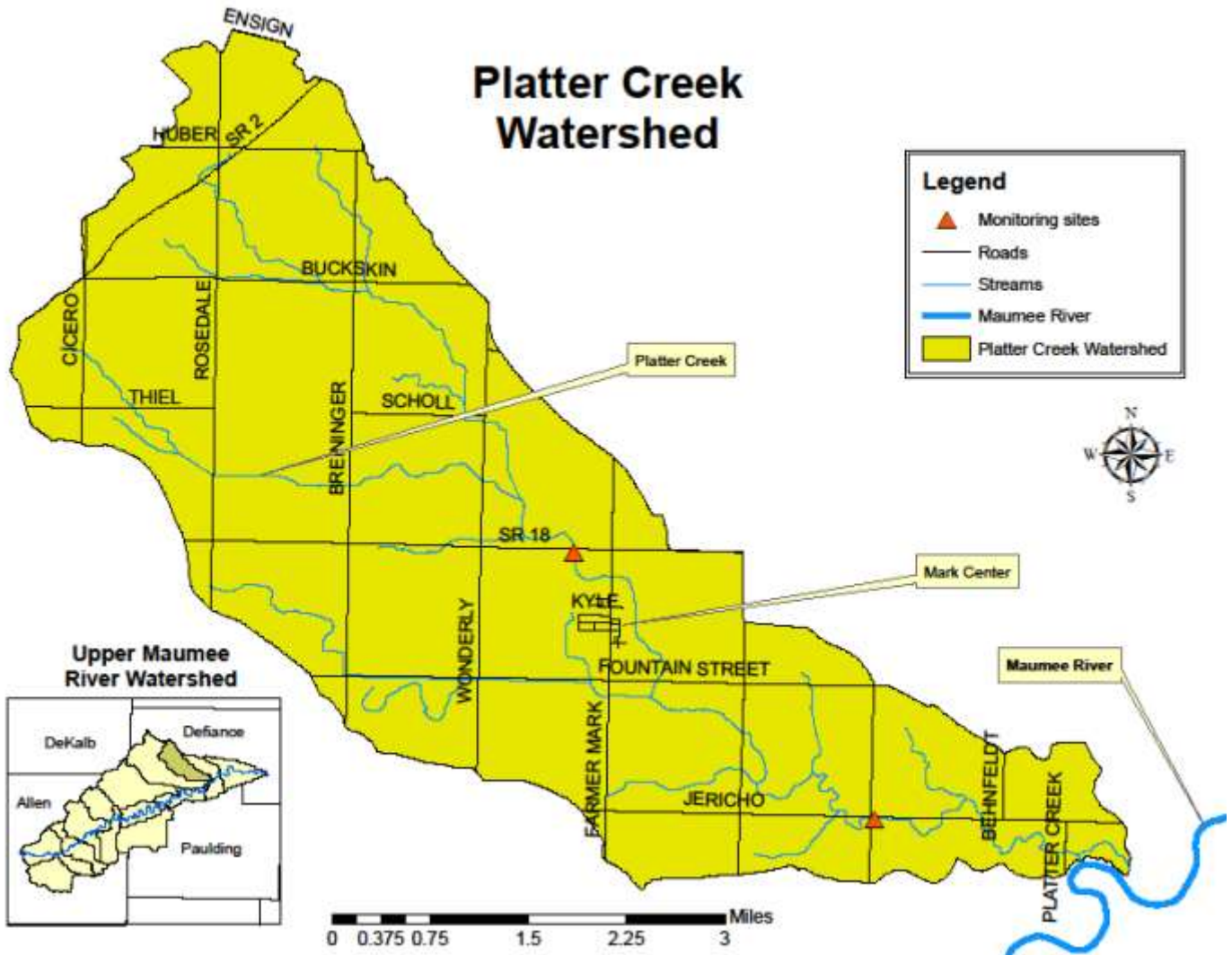
Monitoring stations have already been sampled for one year at two locations within the watershed (see map

PRACTICE	COST SHARE
Cover Crops	Up to \$30/acre
Gypsum with No Till	Up to \$20/acre
Variable Rate Fertilizer	Up to \$12/acre
Grade Stabilization Structures	Up to \$750/structure
Saturated Buffer	Up to \$3,000

below). As practices are adopted, it is expected that the water quality results will improve. Additional sampling locations may be considered to measure improvements.

Interested landowners and operators should call the Defiance SWCD to apply. Acres enrolled in another cost share program for the same practice are not eligible. Currently, this program is only available for acres within the Platter Creek watershed (see map below).

The cost share rate for each practice will be 50-75% of the bills submitted with the maximum amount of reimbursement listed in the chart above. Please contact Stephanie Singer at (419) 782-1794 for more program information.



**Penney Nature Center Tree Planting**

This spring and summer, the SWCD staff was busy planting over 8,000 trees and shrubs at the Penney Nature Center to meet forested wetland restoration objectives. To increase survival rates, over 6,500 tree tubes were also installed. The tubes are essential to protect from deer browse and rodent gnawing, as this has been a serious problem in getting trees established. Tree mats were also fitted around many trees to reduce competition from other plants.

A very appreciative thank you goes out to the groups that helped plant trees and contributed to the success of the Penney Nature Center! Thanks to Fairview FFA, Patrick Henry High School, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, and Bethlehem/St. Marks’s Lutheran Church for making the planting a success!



Fairview FFA



Patrick Henry High School



Bethlehem/St. Mark’s Lutheran Church



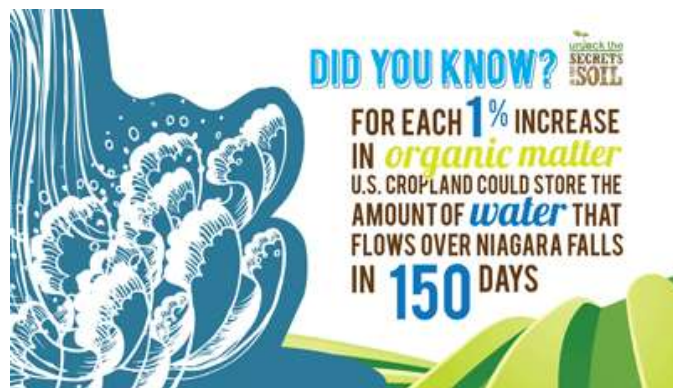
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church

**Cover Crops: Now is the Time**

Now is a great time to consider cover crops on your farm. After this extremely wet season our soils can use some extra care, especially on preventative planted acres.

Cover crops are an excellent long-term tool for improving soil productivity and protecting water quality. They provide erosion control by reducing the impact of raindrops that would otherwise be hitting bare soil and detaching soil particles. Cover crops can also increase soil organic matter, improving soil tilth and productivity. This increased organic matter improves water infiltration, water holding capacity, and facilitates crop emergence and root growth. Certain cover crops are very efficient at

scavenging excess nutrients which permits the recycling of some of the nutrients taken up for the following year’s crop. Call our office today to discuss options.



**SWCD Office Hours**

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors typically holds its regular monthly meeting (open to the public) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. Any changes to this date/time will be posted in the local newspaper.

The Defiance SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.



**Kids Outdoor Science Camp and Black Swamp Educators' Extravaganza**

It was another great year for District education programs. The Kids Outdoor Science Camp had 96 children attend with 34 from Defiance County. Fairview Young Farmers and Three Rivers Conservation Club sponsored each camper from Defiance County with a \$40 scholarship. The campers spent four days at Camp Palmer focusing on rocks and geology with a "Camp Underground" theme. Sadly, this will likely be the last year for Kids Outdoor Science Camp due to the fact that the coordinator from Wood County will be retiring.



Bill Grimes uses the outdoor classroom at Camp Palmer to teach campers about the important functions of soil.

The Black Swamp Educators' Extravaganza was held June 16-18 in Perrysburg. Twenty-five teachers were in attendance with four Defiance County educators attending this training and bringing fresh ideas back to teach our youth about natural resources.

Mark you calendar for the 2016 Black Swamp Educators' Extravaganza to be held June 21-23. The theme will be "Life on the Edge" and will use the very popular *Project Learning Tree*, *Project WET*, and *Ohio Project WILD*.

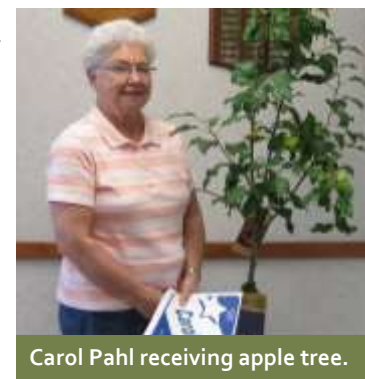
**Land To Lake Conference**

The Conference on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Defiance College was a great success! Forty-three people attended this informative event to hear speakers on Lake Erie research, green infrastructure, agriculture programs, outdoor recreation, history of the rivers, water monitoring, and economic opportunities that tie to natural resources. Due to high river levels, the local leader and family canoe trips were postponed until August 14 and 15. Thank you to everyone who presented and to those who attended this informative event!



**Word Search Winner**

The word search winner for the Spring Edition of *Conservation News* is Carol Pahl from Defiance. Carol received a potted apple tree for submitting the completed word search. Her puzzle was randomly drawn from well over 100 puzzles submitted. Congratulations!



Carol Pahl receiving apple tree.

**Education Specialist, Bill Grimes to Retire**

The District Board of Supervisors and staff would like to congratulate Bill Grimes on his upcoming retirement from the Education Specialist position with the District on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Employed with the District beginning in 2005, Bill, a retired teacher from the Northeastern Local School District, has continued to demonstrate his genuine desire to educate children and adults about science, conservation, and history.

Bill's enthusiasm and dedication have allowed him to successfully plan and host/cohost a myriad of programs including the District's Sixth Grade School Tour, Farm Fair, Black Swamp Educator's Extravaganza, Kids Outdoor Science Camp, Woodland and Wildlife Workshop, Area I Envirothon, Poster and Photo Contests, Penney Nature Center education programs, as well as his very popular portrayals of Johnny Appleseed.



Bill Grimes portraying Johnny Appleseed at Auglaize Village.

In addition to the above programs, Bill presented to over 129 Defiance County classrooms annually, educating thousands of students each year. He and his wife Margaret have also spent many volunteer hours at the Penney Nature Center tending to trails, signage, and landscaping.

Thank you Bill for your 10 years of impeccable service to the District and the community. We wish you and your family the best in your travels around the country and in all of your future endeavors!

*CONGRATULATIONS!*



## Upper Maumee Watershed Tributaries

Data collected monthly May 2014- April 2015

Percentage of monthly samples that met water quality standards\*

Stream	Total Suspended Solids [ Clarity of Water ]	Nitrate [ Excess causes algal blooms and other water quality problems. Sources are fertilizer, faulty septic tanks, and wastewater treatment plants. ]	Soluble Reactive Phosphorus	Total Phosphorus	Overall Grade
Gordon Creek 1	55%	55%	82%	55%	C
Gordon Creek 2	64%	55%	82%	55%	C
Marie DeLarme	64%	55%	91%	82%	B
Platter Creek 1	45%	55%	73%	64%	C
Platter Creek 2	64%	36%	55%	0%	D
Snooks Run	64%	73%	27%	18%	D
Sulphur Creek	27%	36%	0%	0%	F
Zuber Ditch	36%	27%	0%	0%	F

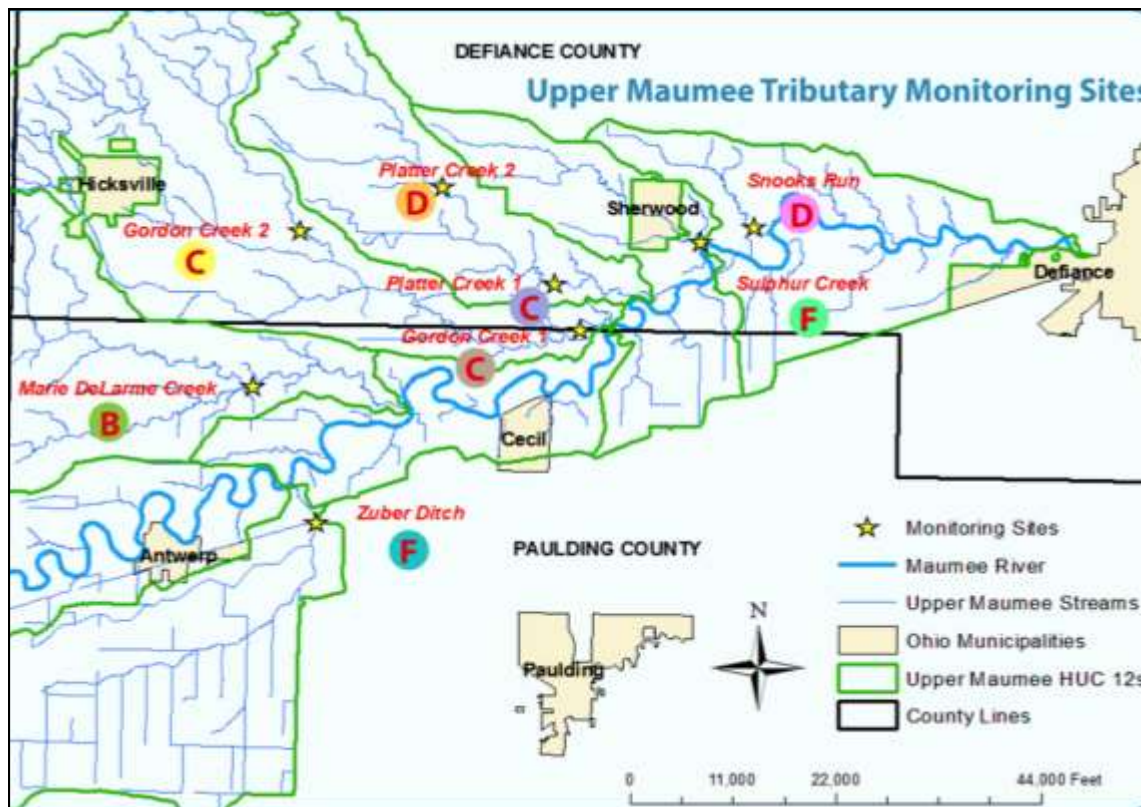
\*Water Quality Standards set by the Upper Maumee Watershed Action Plan, 2014. Total suspended solids measured streamside with the Ohio Sediment stick. Also measured stream side: pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature. Nitrate, Soluble Reactive Phosphorus, and Total Phosphorus along with other soluble nutrients measured at Heidelberg National Center for Water Quality Research. The Upper Maumee Watershed Action Plan and a more details on data collected can be found at [landtolake.com](http://landtolake.com)

### Why is this report card important?

Measuring the water quality on the tributaries is essential to understand the difference between the pollutant load on the Maumee River coming from Ft. Wayne and the large watershed up stream and the potential pollutant load coming from our local watersheds. Quantifying the nutrient levels on our small

streams allows us to focus on projects in designated areas and measure improvements.

The data was collected on a monthly basis by local volunteers and the water samples were analyzed at Heidelberg National Center for Water Quality Research. This project was funded by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.



### What can you do to help?

1. For rain water- 'Slow it down, spread it out, soak it in!' whenever possible
2. Follow the 4 R's of fertilizer use; Right Time, Right Source, Right Place and Right Rate
3. Plant a rain garden and install a rain barrel
4. Inspect and pump out your septic tank every 3-5 years
5. Support green community projects and treatment plant upgrades
6. Get involved- Visit [LandtoLake.com](http://LandtoLake.com)



**Pollinator Word Search**

Three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants and about 35% of the world’s food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects. See more at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/#sthash.n8rVn6CF.dpuf>. Complete and return the puzzle to the District office by August 21, 2015 for the chance to win a jar of locally produced honey.

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Agriculture  
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 Birds  
 Butterflies  
 Conservation



Disappearing  
 Environment  
 Flies  
 Flowering  
 Food  
 Food Supply  
 Habitat  
 Hardworking  
 Honey



Local Heroes  
 Insects  
 Less Seed  
 Mammals  
 Moths  
 Natural Resource  
 Pesticides  
 Plants  
 Pollen



Pollinator  
 Production  
 Protection  
 Reproduce  
 Reptiles  
 Species  
 Stigma  
 Sustainable Future  
 Travel

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Conservation News

## Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

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Tom Beck

Roger Zeedyk IV

Jeff Hange

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Terri Agler

Ben Gerken

Tyler Miller

Stephanie Singer

Bill Grimes

Michael Hesterman

### Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock

Ed Walters

Josh Limber

Dave Sines

### NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder

Lori Shank

Mike Boff

Dean Houchen

## *Upcoming Events!*

- **August 10** – District Open House and Election at Evergreen Lane Office Complex from 3-7 p.m.
- **August 14** – Local Leaders Canoe Trip on the Maumee River. Registration required.
- **August 15** – Public Canoe Trip on the Maumee River. Registration required.
- **August 22-29** – Defiance County Fair: [www.defiancefair.com](http://www.defiancefair.com)

More information about events at: [defiance-county.com/swcd](http://defiance-county.com/swcd).

Be sure to visit our Facebook page and like us to receive event updates and conservation tips!



About 8,000 trees and shrubs were planted this year at Penney Nature Center to restore 20 acres of forested wetlands. To protect these trees from damaging deer browse, about 6,500 tree tubes were installed (pictured right). In addition, ground mats were installed to limit plant competition.

