



Sustainable Delaware NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Cleaning 1

MTSO Going Green 1

Spring Cleaning 2
—cont'd

Greener Lawn 2

MTSO—cont'd 3

SDO Update 3

Web Articles 4

Calendar 4

Spring Cleaning?

“Keep Delaware County Beautiful” Can Help!

What are you going to do with all that stuff? Whether your garage is packed or the basement needs to be cleared, there are probably quite a few items that must go. But where do they go?

This is a process that can make us feel anxious. As you go through items, determine whether you are going to sell, donate, recycle, or trash them. If you are going to donate an item, make sure it is worth donating. Please do not dump broken items on a charity. The last thing a charity needs is to have to pay to throw away unusable donations. We see this all too often and the charity and those it serves are cheated. In Delaware, the Common Ground Free Store accepts in-season clothing. Goodwill accepts all different kinds of items. The Salvation Army and Volunteers of America will accept gently used furniture and take requests for pick-up.

Delaware Creative Housing accepts furniture

and adaptive equipment such as wheelchairs and other special-needs devices. If you are unsure, call ahead before dropping off items. As you sort, you may come across things such as old hardware, tools, leftover shingles, bricks, or pavers. If you remodel or update your home, consider donating to ReStore instead of tossing such items away! ReStore is part of Habitat for Humanity and donations are resold. Proceeds from the sale of donated items benefit Delaware County’s Habitat for Humanity program. They accept old sinks, bathtubs, and light fixtures. ReStore can also pick up large items.

continued on pg. 2



MTSO Is Going Green!

Genesis 1:28 commands man to subdue the earth and to rule over animals and plants. This “man above nature” doctrine served as a guiding principle for centuries. In addition, religious people were often absorbed with the issue of personal salvation and the afterlife and ignored the gradual degradation of the environment. “The entire creation has been groaning and suffering agony” (Romans 8:19-23), but the churches remained silent. A 1986 essay by Nelson J. Moore therefore asked the legitimate question, “Did Christianity Cause the Environmental Crisis?”

Today, the landscape has changed. Modern theologians maintain that Genesis 1:28 has been misunderstood and misapplied. They emphasize that we do have a moral responsibility to care for the world. Religions are increasingly ready to embrace environmental stewardship and sustainability. Many churches, synagogues, and temples have created “earth care” or “creation care” programs that emphasize responsibility for God’s creation and its creatures. Dominion is out, stewardship is in.

continued on pg. 3

Spring Cleaning - cont'd

Last year, ReStore received a grant from the DKMM Solid Waste District to purchase a paint shaker, buckets, and lids. ReStore accepts useable latex or water clean-up paint. Collected paint is sorted and mixed together with other latex leftovers and sold in five-gallon buckets.

Do you have old televisions or computers taking up room? These items are definitely recyclable. Best Buy has a free recycling option for computers and monitors, CRT televisions less than 32 inches, and flat-panel televisions 60 inches or less. Closer to home, several organizations have drop offs in the spring. Some accept televisions for a small fee.

Finally, there are those items that no longer have a useful life. Old mattresses and other furniture that are not worth donating must be disposed of properly. In some parts of Dela-

ware County, you can ask your waste hauler for a bulk item pick-up. This is not an option for Delaware City residents. Delaware City Public Works will only pick up solid waste that fits in the toter trash can (tip cart). They will not accept items left on the curb. If this is not an available service, which includes Delaware City residents, then these items can be taken to the Delaware County Solid Waste Transfer Station at 888 US Rt. 42 North. There is a minimum charge of approximately \$20, so it makes sense to load everything and take it all at once.

Delaware residents have many opportunities to reuse and recycle. For more information, visit the Delaware General Health District's website at www.delawarehealth.org.

"The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the reverse."

— Herman E. Daly

Towards a Greener Lawn



We all would probably like our lawn to be a rich green, thick coat of grass, without a dandelion or weed in sight. Something like this can be accomplished through a variety of implementations. However, it is important to understand what changes will improve the look of your lawn without being harmful to you and your family.

Most people mow their grass because weeds begin popping up or the grass starts looking uneven. If the grass looks evenly cut and there are no weeds present, most homeowners will forego mowing. The majority of lawn mowers have adjustable decks that will allow grass to be cut at longer lengths. If you set the deck of your mower so the grass will be cut about 3-4" long, it can maximize your time between mowings. Leaving grass a little longer can also reduce the number of weeds in a yard. The weeds now have to compete with the

grass for nutrients and sunlight. The longer grass will use more nutrients and block some of the sunlight from the unestablished weeds. Lastly, the longer grass can benefit stormwater by slowing down the rain water traveling across your lawn.

Fertilizer and pesticide companies advertise perfectly mowed, weed-free, dark green lawns. To achieve such perfection, chemicals are applied with strong warnings against walking on the lawn for a period of time. If these chemicals are applied prior to it raining, those chemicals can enter the nearby waterways and harm aquatic life. There are also times when applications get on sidewalks or curbs. It is a good idea to sweep the residual application into your lawn prior to the next rainfall event. Instead of using harmful fertilizers, try mulching your grass clippings to provide extra grass nutrients with a mulching lawn mower. Using this mower can also help save time that would be spent bagging grass clippings or sweeping them off of a sidewalk or driveway.

MTSO is Going Green! - cont'd



Saint Francis of Assisi went even further when he spoke of a kinship and partnership with animals and plants whom he called brothers and sisters. He may well be considered the patron saint for the modern environmental movement.

The Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), located just south of Delaware on 3081 Columbus Pike (US Rt. 23), is a shining example of that new path. Under the leadership of President Jay Rundell, the school is going green. A four-page draft document entitled "Educational Dimensions of the Sustainability and Land Initiative" creates the framework. It places sustainability in the context of social-justice issues such as food insecurity and lack of wellness. Physical and spiritual health are linked, and effective ministry cannot practice one without the other.

MTSO has taken several steps to make the entire campus sustainable. Every single masters degree (Divinity, Coun-

seling Services, Practical Theology, Theological Studies) and the Doctor of Ministry degree will henceforth include sustainability components. The school just appointed Dr. Timothy Eberhart as assistant professor of theology and ecology. In his classes, students read Wendell Berry and Bill McKibben and discuss food production and climate change. Several of his syllabi can be found on MTSO's website.

The physical campus is also being transformed. A campus steward (Kyle Cunningham) now oversees buildings and grounds. And the school is constructing two large, 96-foot-long hoop houses and starting a two-acre organic farm on the south side of the Kleist Manor Apartments. Dunn Dining Hall is becoming a farm-to-table operation. MTSO's manager of farm and food is Tadd Petersen, who was raised on a family farm and has a deep background in organic farming. He envisions a full-scale, diversified vegetable farm with produce such as potatoes, carrots, and turnips as well as strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries. Twenty new hives of bees will be brought in for pollination. At this point in time, there is no mention of farm animals, but it is a possibility for the future since MTSO works in collaboration with nearby Stratford Ecological Center, where they do have livestock.

MTSO might be the first theological school in the U.S. to embrace sustainability lock, stock, and barrel, but it won't be the last to do so because, for more and more students, it is important that their schools are eco-friendly.

Sustainable Delaware Ohio Update

This past November, Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) celebrated its fourth birthday. In those four years SDO has grown and worked with a wide variety of organizations in doing many projects for our community. These include tours, river clean-ups, purchasing and installing bike racks, showing movies and helping to educate our community on sustainable ideas and practices. Recently there have been some big changes for SDO, the first of which is we are now a registered nonprofit association with the State of Ohio. We are currently working towards 501(c)(3) status, which will help to provide opportunities for SDO to continue and do more positive work within our community.

Another important change is that SDO now offers the opportunity to become a dues-paying member. Membership dues are used to continue to provide and improve the connections and work we have done to date. The membership rate for an individual is just \$10 per calendar year. Checks can be made out to Sustainable Delaware Ohio and mailed to 1401 Curve Rd. Delaware, 43015 or you can go to our website at www.sustainabledelawareohio.org and click on the Add to Cart button to pay by credit card. Dues can also be collected in person at any of the monthly SDO meetings, held the second Saturday of the month at the Delaware County Library in downtown Delaware.





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Our Mission: Sustainable Delaware is a non-profit group of residents focused on promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability for the Delaware community through awareness, advocacy and action.

Have a comment, idea or article for the newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

Please email us at:

info@sustainabledelawareohio.org

Visit us on the web at www.sustainabledelawareohio.org and our Facebook group: Sustainable Delaware Ohio



Interesting Articles on the Web

Wild Ones – native plants, natural landscapes

<http://www.wildones.org/>

What's riding on your child's school journey?

<http://www.greenlivingonline.com/article/whats-riding-your-childs-school-journey>

7 tips for green spring cleaning without toxic chemicals

<http://www.treehugger.com/cleaning-organizing/7-tips-green-spring-cleaning-without-toxic-chemicals.html>

5 Ways to Bring More Bike Lanes to Your Community

<http://www.shareable.net/blog/5-ways-to-bring-more-bike-lanes-to-your-community>

Low-Tech Magazine

<http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/>

Which is greener, a gas or an electric stove?

<http://www.treehugger.com/kitchen-design/which-greener-gas-or-electric-stove.html>

How to Plant an Iroquois Garden

<http://www.notechmagazine.com/2013/02/how-to-plant-an-iroquois-garden.html>

The solar envelope: how to heat and cool cities without fossil fuels

<http://www.lowtechmagazine.com/2012/03/solar-oriented-cities-i-the-solar-envelope.html>

Upcoming Events

For more upcoming events and details see the SDO calendar on our website at <http://www.sustainabledelawareohio.org/Events.html>

04/04/14	6p—8p	First Friday—Start Here!; Historic Downtown Delaware
04/05/14	9a—11p	Organic Gardening for Kids; Stratford Ecological Center
04/06/14	9a—11a	Organic Gardening for Adults; Stratford Ecological Center
04/07/14	6:30p	Movie “Plastic Planet”; OWU Schimmel-Conrades Science Center, room 163
04/12/14	9:30a - 11a	Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
04/22/14		Earth Day
04/25/14	6p	Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office
04/25/14		Arbor Day
04/26/14	9a—1p	Household Hazardous Waste Collection; Morrow County Fairgrounds
04/26/14	12p—3p	Earth Day Festival; Blue Limestone Park
04/27/14	2p—4p	Over a Barrel; Gallant Farm Preserve
05/02/14	6p—9p	First Friday—Walk a Mile in Her Shoes; Historic Downtown Delaware
05/10/14	9:30a - 11a	Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
05/11/14	12p—4p	Second Sunday Open House; Ohio Wildlife Center
05/20/14	9a—1p	Cheese Making; Stratford Ecological Center
05/30/14	6p	Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office