



Sustainable Delaware NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Go Native 1
- Paint Disposal 1
- Paint cont'd 2
- Waste Sludge 2
- Go Native cont'd 3
- SDO Update 3
- Farmer's Markets 4
- Calendar 4

Go Native: Plant Local

Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from the full article, you can go to our website for the full article under Articles at: <http://www.sustainabledelawareohio.org/News.htm>

Wondering what to plant this summer? How about buying some native plants? According to Wildflower.org, native plants are defined as 'plants that naturally existed before human introduction.' There are advantages to growing native plants. Buying native plants is cost-efficient and water is saved because the plants are naturally adapted to Ohio's climate. Native plants are less susceptible to pests and diseases so less pesticide is used, less fertilizer is used because they are tailored to grow in Ohio's soil, and these plants provide great habitat for native wildlife such as birds, moths, and butterflies.

Planting a non-native or exotic plant can be risky because you may not know if what you



Invasive species the Common Reed.

are planting is considered invasive. In Ohio, there is no law to prevent nurseries from selling these noxious plants. According to Invasive.org, an invasive or exotic species is one that "...including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material, is capable of propagating that species, which is not native to that ecosystem; and whose introduction does or is

continued on pg. 3

Paint Disposal 101

Paint hasn't been accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Days since 2009. One reason was cost. Residents brought in about 47,000 gallons of paint in 2000 and 2002 and 35,000 in 2008 for disposal. Most of that paint was not usable, and the expense of disposal with a licensed contractor was prohibitive. The Delaware-Knox-Marion-Morrow Solid Waste District (DKMM) had to find ways to cut costs, so it was decided that the responsibility

of paint disposal go back to the resident.

When a resident calls about what to do with paint, the first thing I ask is if the paint is oil or latex, how much there is and if it is usable. Usable latex paint can be taken to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. They require the cans be in excellent condition, free of rust, with a label and at least half full.

continued on pg. 2

Paint Disposal 101 - cont'd



Paint disposal using kitty litter to dry it out.

“Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things...I am tempted to think...there are no little things.”

-Bruce Barton

Truck dropping off sludge at the digester.



ReStore will sell the paint and the proceeds will benefit Delaware County's Habitat for Humanity. As with any charitable organization, please follow their guidelines. Giving bad paint to a charitable organization defeats their effort and the people they serve.

If the paint cannot be donated, then it must be dried. Once paint is dried it is no longer a hazard and can be safely thrown away. There are types of waste paint hardeners, but kitty litter works just as well. Simply pour the kitty litter into the paint can and place it out of the weather and out of the reach of children and pets. Oil based paint may take longer to dry and requires proper ventilation, but it will dry. To dry larger

amounts faster, consider drying paint in smaller batches using plastic lined boxes.

Once you have disposed of your old paint, plan ahead before you buy more. Calculate the area to be painted and buy only what you need. Do not buy five gallons when two will do. Properly store leftover paint used for touch ups by tightly securing the lid and storing the container upside down.

For more information, please visit the Delaware General Health District's website at www.delawarehealth.org

Article by: Jenifer Way-Young, Coordinator, Keep Delaware County Beautiful, Delaware General Health District

City's Plan for Sludge Helps Environment

City officials have come up with a way to dispose of sludge from its wastewater plant that will save money for the city and help the environment. The City is contracting with Ringler Energy of Cardington, Ohio, to transport sludge from the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility on Cherry Street to Ringler's on-farm digester in Morrow County where it is anaerobically digested into highly efficient renewable energy.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural process that breaks down organic materials in the absence of oxygen and produces bioenergy. Farmers have been using forms of anaerobic digestion for years. Ringler converts waste sludge into renewable energy; electricity and compressed natural gas

(CNG) as well as a natural fertilizer product. They will use electricity from the digester to heat their livestock pens and farm buildings, with the excess being sold to the utility grid, and will use the CNG to run its truck fleet.

Sludge is the solid matter produced in wastewater treatment and it can add up, especially for a City the size of Delaware. In 2012, the City transported for disposal 6,250 wet tons of sludge. The City will pay Ringler \$35 per ton for hauling and digesting, a \$9 per-ton savings from a year ago, and over the course of a year expects to save \$55,000.

For more information on Ringler Energy: http://www.quasarenergygroup.com/pages/profile_ringler.pdf

Go Native: Plant Local - cont'd

likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health’.

An example of one invasive species that is problematic in Ohio is the Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. This tree is similar to the native sumac, *Rhus* sp., which have composite palm like leaves. According to Kathy Smith, Extension Program Director from the Forestry School of Environment and Natural Resources for The Ohio State University (OSU), the Tree of Heaven was initially used for landscaping and soil stabilization. These trees grow rapidly and thrive in a wide range of conditions, so they out-compete native trees. It also is allelopathic, meaning it produces a chemical that prevents other species of plants from growing. Furthermore, one plant produces 300,000 seeds a year, and getting rid of them is tricky; exposure to their sap may lead to health problems such as inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) and other troubling symptom such as shortness of breath, chest pains, and fever.

Getting rid of invasive plants costs taxpayers money. The more people become informed about this problem, the easier it will be to mitigate. Thirty-one percent of Ohio is forested, with 86% of Ohio’s forests owned by private land owners. It is vital that private citizens become involved and get rid of these plants.

For further information, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources presents a list of plant and

animal species that are invasive. In addition, *Invasive.org* provides resources on how to properly get rid of invasive species. People with smart phones can also download a free application to take pictures of invasives with GPS coordinates. The data is then sent to the OSU Forestry and Natural Resource Department. Growing native plants helps increase seed production, which allows natives to be better competitors against the ever troublesome invasive species.

In Delaware, there are two local places to buy native plants and both are conveniently close to each other. Scioto Gardens is located on State Route 37, three miles west of Grady Hospital, and Riverside Native Trees is on River Road, five miles southeast of Delaware. Both nurseries have websites worth perusing. Scioto Garden’s website has a more personal feel and has useful information such as making a rain/bog garden. It also provides a full list of plants including useful symbols indicating which plants smell nice, are edible, have medicinal use, and more. Riverside Native Trees’ site is straightforward and easy to navigate. It shows what trees and shrubs are available along with a nice interactive map on the native species range in Ohio. Alas, the two nurseries do not provide landscaping services, but both offer helpful advice and recommendations. Comparing the two companies, each have a remarkable story of how their business formed and both provide unique experiences for customers and are worth checking out.

“What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Silly Dogwood shrub.



Sustainable Delaware Update

This year, Sustainable Delaware’s Board of Directors has been busy updating our governing documents and organization. Sustainable Delaware Ohio has recently completed paperwork with the State of Ohio, registering our name as a trade name, and we are now a state recognized nonprofit association. The Board would like to thank everyone in Sustainable Delaware for their participation and look forward to many great events.



Sustainable Delaware Ohio

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

Editor: Matt Vogt

Contributing Authors:
Hong Nguyen
Jennifer Way-Young
Matt Vogt

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 on Facebook at Sustainable Delaware Ohio



Farmer's Markets

The Original Delaware Farmers' Market - May 18 through October 19 : Delaware County Fairgrounds
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

Downtown Delaware Farmers' Market - May 25 through October 26 : Historic Downtown Delaware
Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm and Saturdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Powell Farmers' Market - May 11 through October 12: Parking Lot of 50 S. Liberty St., Powell
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

Sunbury Farmers' Market -May 25 through October 19: Sunbury Town Square
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

The Delaware County Community Market - Open year round: 222 East William St., Delaware
Mon.-Fri. 10 am - 6 pm; Sat. 10 am - 4 pm; Sun. 12pm - 4 pm (summer)
Sun. 12 pm – 3 pm: Eastside Farmer's Market

Upcoming Events

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

- | | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| 6/5/13 | 6:30p -8p | Sustainable Delaware Board Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch |
| 6/7/13 | 6p | First Friday: Artful Spaces Tour; Downtown Historic Delaware |
| 6/8/13 | 9:30a -11a | Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch |
| 6/8/13 | 9a – 1p | Household Hazardous Waste Collection; Whirlpool Corp, Marion |
| 6/9/13 | 12p – 4p | Ohio WildLife Center Open House; Ohio Wildlife Center, Powell |
| 6/22/13 | 1p -3p | Farm to Fork: Cooking with Seasonal Ingredients; Stratford Ecological Center, limited spaces |
| 6/28/13 | 6p | Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office |
| 7/5/13 | 6p | First Friday: Chalk it Up!; Downtown Historic Delaware |
| 7/10/13 | 6:30p -8p | Sustainable Delaware Board Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch |
| 7/13/13 | 9:30a -11a | Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch |
| 7/13/13 | 9a – 11a | GAPS Workshop for Urban Food Producers; Godman Guild, Columbus |
| 7/14/13 | 12p – 4p | Ohio WildLife Center Open House; Ohio Wildlife Center, Powell |
| 7/26/13 | 6p | Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office |
| 7/28/13 | 9a – 4p | Downtown Powell Street Market; Downtown Powell |