



Preble County Historical Society, Inc.  
7693 Swartsel Rd. Eaton, Ohio 45320

### Press Release

**RELEASE: ASAP**

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## **Adopt-a-Plant for Preble County's Wetland in conjunction with the May 2 Herb Faire!**

The Preble County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Institute of Environmental Sciences at Miami University (IES), will be hosting a program to promote the current wetland restoration project at the Preble County Historical Society. Community members can participate in this project to help develop the wetland by purchasing and planting native wetland plants at the site.

**When:** Sunday May 2, 2010 from 10am-6pm. **Where:** Preble County Historical Society, 7693 Swartsel Rd., Eaton, OH (accessible off St. 122, 6 miles SE of Eaton, 1 mile NW of Gratis).

The IES students have developed a master plan for future wetland programming, titled *Historic Wetland Education*. Outlined in the master plan is the continuation of the wetland development, including the purchase and planting over 4600 wetland type plants. YOU will have the opportunity to purchase some of the plants to help establish the wetland. Moreover, the best part of the day ... YOU will have the chance to plant YOUR plants in our wetland! Come prepared with boots and gloves and join in the fun by helping to restore the wetland! Price of the plants is only \$5 each, and \$3 for children! By purchasing the plants, you will be playing an important role in establishing the new wetland! Certificates of participation will be presented to all who participate. IF you don't want to plant YOUR plants, Preble County Boy Scout Troop 107, as well as other scouts and community volunteers, will be hand to help plant!

What is a wetland? A Wetland is a body of shallow water there varies in depth from three feet to one inch. The water fluctuates often from water flowing into and away from the water. It dries up due to seasonal variation. Many of the plants and animals must be adapted to live in both wet and dry environments. There is a great diversity of plants and animals here due to the unique habitat. Some fish and amphibians use wetlands for laying eggs and juvenile stages of life. Birds use wetlands for stops on long migrations. The society's wetland is manmade for conservation purposes. We hope to see an increase of wildlife and decrease of land erosion as reduced erosion and accumulation of nutrients is key in a wetland habitat. A wetland provides many environmental benefits: provides wildlife habitat, decreases land erosion, reduces accumulation of nutrients, helps to control flooding, filters surface run-off. Prairie grass, trees, and shrubs remove carbon dioxide in the air we breathe. *Wetlands are also a place of beauty.*

**Plant Cost:** only \$5 per plant for adults, \$3 per plant for children (cash or check only!) Group rates available! ***What a great opportunity for corporate business sponsors to support this project which will benefit our local environment for future generations!*** Appreciation certificates will be presented to all participants! A special donor recognition board will be mounted at the Historical Center listing all participants' names!

For individuals who choose not to wade in the mud to help plant, local Preble County Boy Scout Troop 107, guided by Scout Master Rob Taulbee, as well as other scout troops and community volunteers will be on hand to plant!

Also, partnering with the Society in this wetland project: Institute of Environmental Science at Miami University, Twin Creek Watershed Coordinator Monica Rakovan, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Preble Soil & Water

Conservation District, JFNew Native Plant Nursery, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, Bill Shindeldecker & Sons, Preble County Historical Society Board of Trustees and Society Members, as well as many dedicated community volunteers.

The Adopt-A-Plant program will be held in conjunction with the *Herb Society of PCHS* Annual **Herb Faire on May 2**, which begins at 12 noon.

The Herb Faire will host educational programs, enjoyable music, and good food! There will be something for everyone's interest on May 2. Presentations and programs begin at 12 noon with a guided *Medicinal Trail Hike* along the Aukerman Creek Trail. At 1 pm, Master Gardener Judy Shillinglaw will present "*Dill-Herb of Year*". "*Composting with Worms*" will follow at 2 pm, presented by Peggy Branstrator. Peggy is Senior Lecturer in Biology at IU East, Richmond, IN. She has taught a wide variety of courses including zoology and earth science, as well as biology. Mrs. Branstrator did her undergraduate work at Earlham College and taught HS biology and general science in Cincinnati before getting her MS in Biology from University of Cincinnati.

At 3 pm, "*Those Extraordinary, Ordinary, Garden Herbs! Let's Make a Tea, Tincture, Tonic, and Salve!*", a delightful program presented by Janelle Foust, will show & tell how to make healthy and delicious teas, tinctures, salves, and tonics from our yard and garden plants. Janell is a florist, herbalist, Therapeutic Touch™ and Reiki. Owner and founder of Lavender & Roses Herbarry and Florals. Janell has studied at the Dominion Herbal College, British Columbia in 1998 & 1999. In 2000-2001, at Rosemary Gladstar's the Art & Science of Herbalogy. Served an Internship with an Amish herbalist, Soloman, from Southern, Indiana. In 2003, studied at Rosemary Gladstar's Advanced Herbal Training. In 2008, completed Reiki 1 & 2 with Sally Garrett, Earthlight Energies, Tarpley, Texas. In 2009, completed Therapeutic Touch level 1 & 2 Ottawa, Canada and interned with Trish Rolls, Touching Lives with Care, Montreal, Canada practicing the modalities of Therapeutic Touch™ and Aromatherapy in health care facilities for geriatric care, palliative care, Alzheimer's & hospice care. And the exciting journey into the green continues ~~~~~

To complete the educational programs about the many uses of herbs, at 4 pm begins, "*Dill'icious, Cooking with the Herb of the Year*", a fun hands-on cooking demonstration by Herb Society members Caroline Crowell and Andrea Seaborn.

The Herb Plant Sale will be the highlight of the day! Herb Society members hope to entice garden enthusiasts to think beyond the ordinary Thyme and Basil plants. Cooks and gardeners alike will be interested in trying new unique flavors and aromas to add a little spice and adventure to recipes and flower beds. In addition, aromatic scented geraniums and Everlastings will be available, which can be dried for beauty and pleasure long after the last frost. The best part of this year's herb offering is that the plants are being *grown in Preble County*! Herb Society members will be on-hand to assist customers in selecting the right herb plants for their gardens. Visitors can sample a variety of tasty herb dips and teas.

*Just for Kids:* Herb Society member, Wendy Aker, will present children's hands-on fun and educational gardening program throughout the day. "**KIDS DIGGIN' IN THE EARTH**" will involve kids of all ages in hands-on activities to acquaint them with the pleasures and benefits of gardening and being more environmentally responsible. By transplanting vegetable and flower plants that compliment each other, they'll learn about the cycle of planting, growing, harvesting, including collecting the seeds, and later returning the plants in the fall back to compost and the earth to begin the cycle again next year. A variety of easy to implement gardening and environmental tips will be offered throughout the event.

The Miami Valley Re-enactors will demonstrate Native American campfire cooking with herbs. In addition, traditional woodworking demonstrations of split rail fence making, wood shaving horse will also be demonstrated. See how pioneers tackled some of their tedious tasks!

The *Preble County Citizens for Green Living* group will be available during the day to answer questions about their mission: To raise awareness, educate, encourage, support ourselves, and our community, through various endeavors of the need and means to live more Green and Earth-Friendly to ensure a safer and cleaner environment now and in the future.

In addition, for your listening enjoyment, *Calamity Rain* and the *Oxford Gourd & Drum Ensemble* will entertain visitors during the spring afternoon. For your dining pleasure, a lunch stand will be available on site offering sandwiches, side dishes and homemade pies!

If you have any questions regarding this unique Adopt-A-Plant program, or the Herb Faire, please contact the Historical Society at 937-787-4256, or by email: [preblecohistsoc@brecnet.com](mailto:preblecohistsoc@brecnet.com).

***Take part in restoring our environment! Purchase, Dig, and Plant on Sunday, May 2 at the Preble County Historical Society's Adopt-A-Plant!***