

Denise Tenison has been a long-time volunteer with Richland SWCD. She volunteers as a Precipitation, Lake and Stream Monitor.

Denise was born in Mansfield. She and her husband of 34 years, Denny, live outside Lexington not far from Clear Fork Reservoir. They met through the Mid-Ohio Bikers bicycling club in Mansfield. They have two adult children, Andrew (Dublin, OH) and Christina (currently in Oxford, OH).

Now retired, Denise worked as an educator. She served in several positions including, third grade teacher, elementary curriculum coordinator, and K-3 reading teacher. She earned degrees from Miami University, The Ohio State University, and completed additional coursework at Ashland University.

As a lifelong learner, she continued learning by joining the Mid-Ohio Mineral and Fossil Club (formerly the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society), volunteering with the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD), and becoming a member of the

Mansfield Power Squadron (boating club) and taking as many boating courses as offered.

Prior to 1998, they could be found bicycling or sailing on the Clear Fork. Denise even conducted lake monitoring for the District at that time while on the reservoir. However, in 1998 the family began traveling and camping in a motor home and sailing was put aside. They have traveled across the United States numerous times to ever changing locations, as well as Canada.

Denise began lake monitoring for Soil & Water again after purchasing kayaks. She has been joined by her husband, Denny, and her daughter Christina, on her volunteer activities. She and Denny now kayak out to two sites on the Clear Fork to collect data twice a month. She also developed an interest in daily precipitation monitoring in 2015 and lastly began stream monitoring, with this being her second season. She collects data at four different sites on the Black Fork outside of Shelby each

month. All data collected from volunteers across Richland County is entered into the computer for easy use and reference.

Denise encourages others who might be interested to volunteer and shared, “Theresa Sutter from Richland Soil and Water has made volunteering painless, efficient, and even fun!”