



# Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

April 2019

## Congratulations, Volunteers!



Through our partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), our volunteers are also considered NRCS Earth Team Volunteers. Based on number of volunteer hours, volunteers were recently awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Awards.

To celebrate these wonderful awards, a [reception](#) was held in honor of volunteers on April 16 at the Longview Center. Volunteers were thanked for their time and dedication and refreshments were served. They received pansies donated by Alta Florist and Greenhouse and NRCS and the District gave them Norway spruce seedlings.

We also shared the news that Erica Thomas and her daughter, Mary, painted a beautiful [Volunteer Tree](#) on the office wall with each leaf designated with a name of a volunteer. Please stop in the office to see the tree when you have a chance. You won't be disappointed.

Thank you Alta Florist and Greenhouse for donating the pansies, Mary Thomas for taking photos throughout the evening and DRM Productions for taking the group photos. We are grateful for these strong partnerships..

Thank you, volunteers, for everything you do on a daily basis for the District and for supporting our mission. You help paint a picture of what is happening in our watersheds, which is an invaluable service. We appreciate everyone who joined us in thanking and celebrating our volunteers and for receiving these prestigious awards.

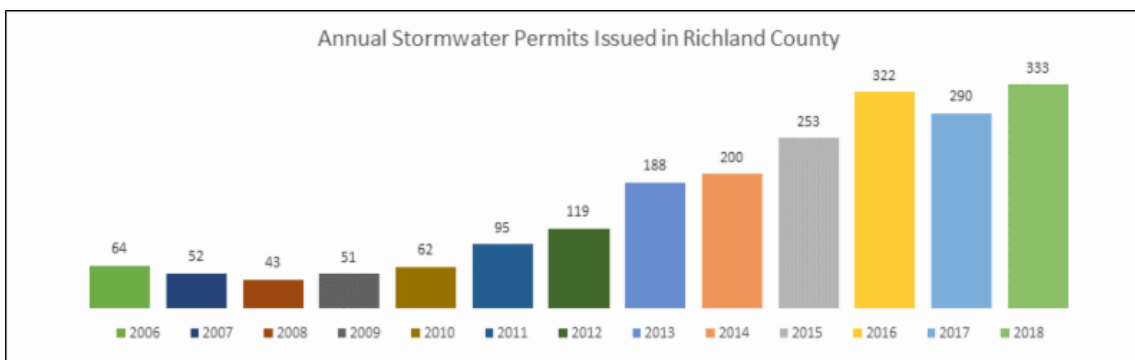
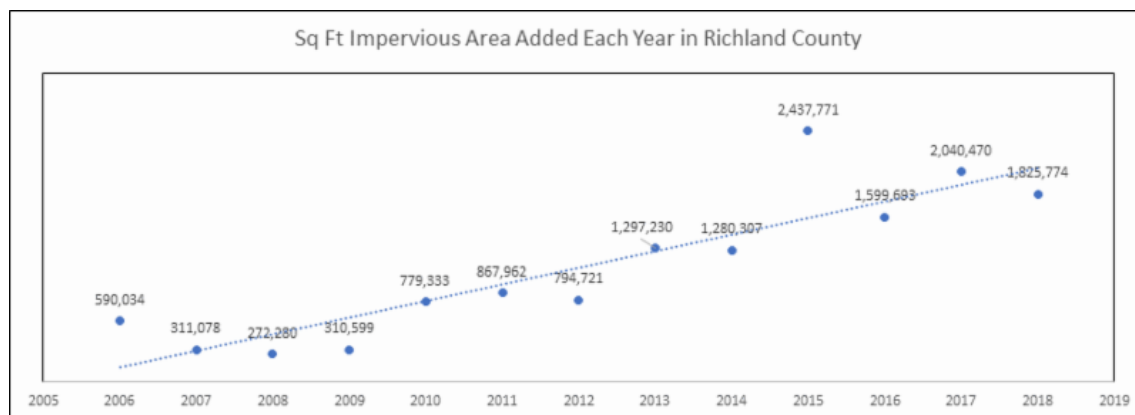
## Tree Seedling Sale

[The Clear Fork FFA Alumni Tree Seedling Sale](#) was held April 5 and 6. Over the course of the event, 9,075 seedlings were sold, which is the largest number of seedlings sold since Clear Fork FFA Alumni became involved in the program. Thank you to everyone who purchased seedlings. Proceeds benefit the Clear Fork FFA program. Thank you to Jim Shisler, Clear

Fork Alumni President, for coordinating the sale and to volunteer, Craig Bridges, for taking photos.



## Stormwater Permit Activity



The two graphs illustrate stormwater permit activity since the District began administering the stormwater management and sediment control regulations in the unincorporated areas and the Village of Lexington in Richland County. The purpose of the regulations is to reduce stormwater and erosion impacts from earthmoving and/or construction activities.

As you can see, the number of stormwater permits has continued to increase almost every year and the amount of impervious surface created has changed almost in pace with the stormwater permit activity. Impervious surfaces are areas that are not able to absorb runoff. Examples of impervious surfaces are rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, and roads. An ideal situation is to have the water runoff onto soil so that contaminants and pollutants can be filtered before entering streams, lakes and rivers.

If you are considering an earth moving project, come to our office for a storm water permit prior to starting your project. We'll discuss your project with you and guide you on how to keep sediment from leaving the site and to handle stormwater in a way to promote water infiltration into the soil and not create a drainage nuisance to neighboring properties. Click on [I Have a Project](#) to find out what documents you need to bring with you to get a permit.

Permit office days and hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Commercial projects may make an appointment. Please [contact us](#) if you have questions about obtaining a stormwater permit.



## Rain Barrels & Tree Seedling Planting

Thank you to American Heritage Girls Troop OH0377, co-led by Erica Thomas, for taking time out of their Saturday to [paint barrels](#) for a Rain Barrel program we're exploring. Rain barrels help with stormwater management and as we progress we'll keep you posted. Thank you to Richland County Solid Waste Management Authority for letting us use the collection building to paint the barrels.

The same day they painted the barrels, the Troop [planted Norway Spruce Tree Seedlings](#) at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Thank you, ladies!

## More Help for Western Lake Erie Basin Farmers

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced a new [Ohio Working Lands](#) program funded by SB 299 to assist Western Lake Erie Basin farmers with improving water quality. In Richland County, these programs apply to farmers located in the Upper Sandusky Watershed.

The [Small Grains program](#) is a voluntary program that encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to plant small grains such as wheat, barley, oats or cereal rye on eligible cropland. This program promotes the planting of small grains not only for the conservation benefits, but to provide livestock producers with a longer time period to land apply manure and nutrients. As the "working lands" name implies participants can plant and harvest small grains, land apply manure, and plant a cover crop to receive a cost-share payment to help offset operating costs. Livestock producers are encouraged to work with neighboring grain farmers that are able to utilize manure as a source of nutrients for their crops.

Applications for the [Hay Buffer program](#) are accepted **through May 1**.

## Pond Fish Sale

In spite of a rainy day, fish pick up went well on Friday. Thank you to everyone who ordered fish for your pond. Over 21,000 fish were bought. Richland County ponds will be full this year! Thank you to volunteers Craig Bridges and Jim Shisler for helping with pick up. If you have questions about your [pond](#), let us know.



## Log Jams and Other Debris Removal

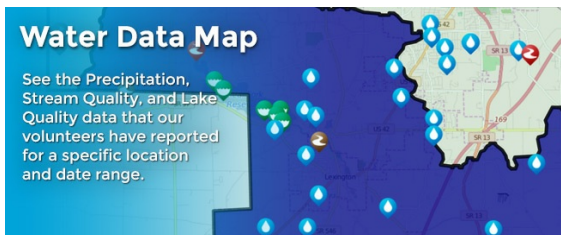
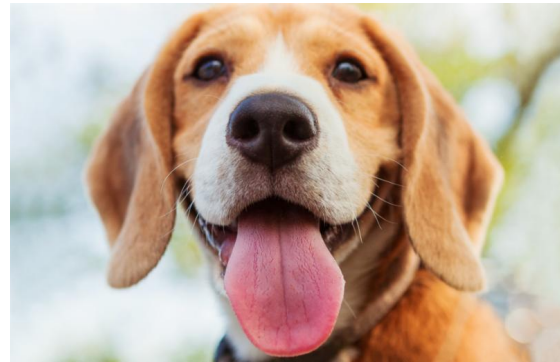
We often get questions about where the responsibility falls when it comes to removing log jams and other debris. We think the [Stream Debris and Obstruction Removal](#) guide will help clear up a lot of the mystery. However, please call our office if you have additional questions.





## Don't Forget to Pick up Pet Waste

Don't forget to pick up your pet waste. If left on the ground, it could carry bacteria to our lakes, rivers and streams. Learn more about how you can help keep our waterways through [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).



## Water Data Map

In addition to being able to see what precipitation amounts we're getting throughout the county, the [Water Data Map](#) will soon have new data from lake and stream monitors. In May, volunteer training will be held for Lake, Stream and Precipitation Monitors and shortly thereafter, they will begin to put results on the Water Data Map. We welcome your involvement in these great citizen science opportunities that help show how land use effects our watersheds. The May training dates are below. If you are interested in volunteering for these or other opportunities, please contact [Theresa](#).

## Soil Testing Program Suspended

We have temporarily suspended our soil testing program until we receive a new procurement card due to the county changing financial institution that issues the cards. We can pay for testing by check, but due to financial security measures we have in place, this delays the process quite a bit.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may pose, but are hopeful that we will resume our soil testing program soon. We



will notify you, when we can accept soil samples again. We appreciate your patience.

## Upcoming Activities

**April 28 to May 4:** Soil and Water Stewardship Week

**May 1:** Applications due for [WLEB Hay Buffer](#) program

**May 4:** [Lake Monitor Volunteer Training](#), 9:00 a.m., Charles Mill

**May 14:** [Stream Monitor Volunteer Training](#), 3:00 p.m., our office

**May 15:** [Precipitation Monitor Volunteer Training](#) 10:00 a.m., our office

**May 27:** Memorial Day observed. Office closed

**November 7:** Annual Celebration-**Save the Date!!!!**

## Other News

[Beware of falling Ash trees](#)

[Tips to transition your seeds started indoors to your garden](#)

[Keep storm drains clear](#)

[Hear the differing beats of Woodpeckers](#)

[The benefits of cover crops and no-till farming](#)

### **SWCD Staff**

**Erica Thomas, District Administrator**

419-747-8684

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**Dan Herrold, Urban Technician**

419-747-8077

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**Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator**

419-747-8685

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**Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician**

419-747-8687

[wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net](mailto:wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net)

### **NRCS Staff**

### **Board Supervisors**

Brian Alt, Chairperson

Kyle Bailey, Secretary

Fred Cooke, Treasurer

Lanny Hopkins, At Large

Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

### **NEW!!!**

To be more efficient in answering and

**Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist**

419-747-8691

[jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov](mailto:jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov)

**Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist**

567-280-6058

[dbenner@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:dbenner@pheasantsforever.org)

managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office.

Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

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RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906  
419.747.8686 | [www.RichlandSWCD.net](http://www.RichlandSWCD.net)

See what's happening on our social sites:



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant or an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#).

Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability or veteran status.