

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News

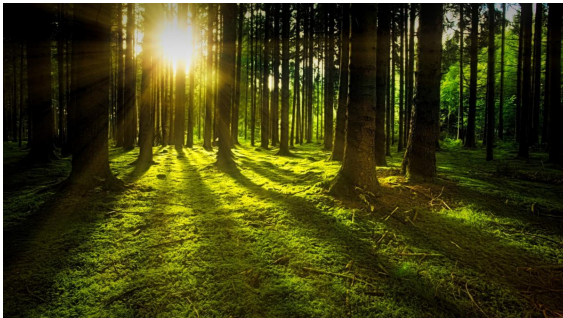
April 2020

Best Volunteers

This week we recognize our Volunteers during National Volunteer Week who give so much of their time, resources and expertise to support the mission of Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. Volunteers report precipitation, monitor lakes and streams, photograph events and help with office and event-related projects. A project volunteers recently helped with was removing milkweed seeds from their pods. They packaged the seeds with planting instructions and they'll be given away in the Fall. In honor of our volunteers, we are holding scavenger hunts to win Richland SWCD swag and sharing daily thank you messages on our social media pages with #BestVolunteers. Thank you to our 75 volunteers who help us throughout the year and have been doing so since before 2014. To learn about how our volunteers assist the District, please visit our [volunteer](#) page on the website or contact [Theresa](#).



Individual Acts of Conservation



Earlier in the month we launched the Individual Acts of Conservation. Even though we may be socially distancing and staying at home, conservation measures we take as individuals can still make a big impact when combined **Together**. To participate, click on the [Individual Acts of Conservation](#). Thank you to our

friends at Cuyahoga SWCD for allowing us to share.

Ohio Native Plant Month

Last year Governor DeWine passed House Bill 59, declaring April to be Ohio Native Plant Month. This is the first annual event and a website was created to bring attention to and share information about native plants and their many benefits. Some of the website is still under construction, but the majority is complete. To find out more about native plants and resources, please visit the [website](#). Our stormwater theme this year is Trees-Reduce and Clean Stormwater which happens to fit well with the Native



Plant Month challenge to plant 100,000 native trees. Learn more about the challenge [here](#). If you want additional help identifying native trees, take along the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) [Trees of Ohio](#) Field Guide on your next walk around your yard, neighborhood or woods. The tree pictured in this article is a Bur Oak sourced from ODNR.

Purchase native plants until June 5 through our Native Plant Sale. Details are on the [Rain Garden](#) web page.

Stormwater Awareness



Last week we celebrated Stormwater Awareness Week. On a National level, this week takes place in the fall. However, we decided to celebrate in April because stormwater management is particularly important this time of year due to Spring rains and potential runoff. We originally planned to hold a Rain Garden and Barrel Workshop, but due to health and safety concerns the Workshop has been re-scheduled for October 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Longview

Center. Please mark your calendars and watch for more details. You can also purchase native plants through our Native Plant sale until June 5. Details are on the [Rain Garden](#) web page.

In spite of the postponed workshop, we shared informational posts on social media and wrote an article on what we can do at home, work and in agriculture fields to help manage stormwater and runoff. We are sharing a portion of the article [here](#). Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

Soil and Water Stewardship

Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators? is the theme of this year's National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The 65th year will be celebrated from April 26 to May 3 and is the longest running conservation event in the nation. On planet Earth there are more than 100,000 species of insects, including bees, flies, moths, butterflies and beetles that work hard as pollinators. There are also over 1,000 species of other animals such as birds, reptiles and mammals, including bats that pollinate plants. Pollinators are an importance part of our community. To learn more, please visit the NACD [website](#).

The Food We Eat

- Pollinators:
- Provide an ecosystem service that enables plants to produce fruits and seeds
 - Affect 35% of global agricultural land, supporting the production of 87 of the leading food crops worldwide.
 - Affect crops that are valued at over \$24 billion in U.S. (\$277 – 577 billion worldwide)



Upcoming Events

April 22: 50th Anniversary Celebration of Earth Day

April 24: Arbor Day

June 10: [Family Fun Festival](#) (As we approach June 10, please check to make sure Family Fun Festival is still taking place)

July 9: [Manure & You Nutrient Management Workshop](#) (As we approach July 9, please check to make sure Manure & You Nutrient Management Workshop is still taking place)

SWCD Staff

Erica Thomas, District Administrator
419-747-8684
thomas.ERICA@richlandswcd.net

Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician
419-747-8077
herrold.dan@richlandswcd.net

Jordan Keller, Urban Technician
419-747-8688
keller.jordan@richlandswcd.net

Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator
419-747-8685
sutter.theresa@richlandswcd.net

Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician
419-747-8687
wallace.matt@richlandswcd.net

NRCS Staff

Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist
419-747-8691
jason.ruhl@oh.usda.gov

Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist
567-280-6058
dbenner@pheasantsforever.org

Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Aaron Dearth, At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 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 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](#).

RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906
419.747.8686 | 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, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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.