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August 27, 2018

Dear Soil and Water Friend,

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Celebration on November 8. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the Board Supervisor election and live music provided by guitarists Robert Cox and Greg Moore of Doctor Robert - FSGP. A buffet dinner will be catered by Ontario Event Center. Harvey Webster from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is returning as our guest speaker. We're sure his program on Ohio Birds of Prey will be as fascinating as his program he provided on Eagles in 2014. We will also announce the Conservationist and Volunteer of the Year recipients. The cost for is \$20.00 per adult; \$15.00 per volunteer and \$10.00 per child, 16 and under. Please join us for this wonderful evening!

We're taking orders for the [Fall Pond Fish Sale](#). Order and pay by October 12 and pick up on October 19 at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

We're teaming up again with the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative to collect Common milkweed seed pods from October 1 to November 8, 2018. Deposit your milkweed seed pods in the yellow and green container that will be located outside our office door. Here are some tips to help you in your collection effort:

- * Make sure that before you collect the pods, that you become familiar with Common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- * It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown.
- * If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be harvested.
- * Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture.
- * Put the date and county collected on the bag when you turn them in.
- * Keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to our office.

If you have any questions, contact [Theresa](#).

We had a great week at the Richland County Fair! Thank you to our [volunteers](#), [visitors](#) and [partners](#) for helping make it a successful week.

The Wood I.D. contest sparked a lot of thought and conversation. Thank you to everyone who participated and Meijer for donating the prizes of a leaf blower, bird feeder and food and camp chair. The first place winner was [Mike Frazier](#). Second place winner was [Tom Gano](#) and the third place winner was [Levi Thompson](#).

Volunteers are reporting on Precipitation and what is happening in our lakes and streams. See their findings on the [Water Data Map](#). Thank you, volunteers!

Before winter, consider having your [soil tested](#). We soil test lawns, landscaping and gardens. The cost is \$50.00 per test and the sample is sent to a certified lab. If amendments are needed, we will provide recommendations.

How may we help you? Please [let us know](#).

Other News:

[8 Ways to Jumpstart a Great School Year with a Dose of Vitamin N](#)

[Unlock the Secrets In the Soil](#)

[Don't Mow, Help the Monarch Butterflies](#)

[Summer Season Extension Using Shade Fabric for Cool Weather Crops](#)

Community:

Ohio Bird Sanctuary, [Avian Encounters](#), September 1.

OSU-Mansfield, [Bee the Power for our Food](#), September 11.

[Naturalist on Duty 2018 Schedule](#), Ashland University Black Fork Wetlands Environmental Studies Center, September 15 , Birds and Bird Banding

Malabar Farm State Park, [Heritage Days Festival and In the Spirit of Friends Antiques and Primitives Show](#), September 29 and 30.

Your friends in conservation,

John, Matt and Theresa



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



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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.

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