

### Aaron Dearth Joins Board



Aaron J. Dearth was sworn into office as a new Board Supervisor at the August Board meeting. He is completing the term vacated by Kyle Bailey, who resigned his position. Aaron is a lifelong Richland county resident and he and his family reside in Bellville. He is dedicated to supporting his community and is excited about the opportunity to serve on the Board. Please join us in welcoming Aaron!

### Board Supervisor Candidate Nominations Sought

The Richland Soil & Water Conservation District Board is seeking interested, conservation-minded, local leaders to promote conservation of the county's natural resources through education, planning and technical assistance which are key to the success of the District. One Board Supervisor will be publicly elected by a special general election held during the District's Annual Celebration on November 7, 2019. Board Supervisors are elected to a three-year term as a public official, serve without pay and are granted certain authority under Chapter 901 of the Ohio Revised Code. Supervisors advocate for the District, participate in monthly board meetings, assist with programs and attend area and state meetings.

Anyone who is a resident of Richland County and at least 18 years old is eligible to run for Board Supervisor. Nominations of candidates for the Richland SWCD Board of Supervisors can be made 2 ways:

1. The SWCD Nominating Committee can make a nomination and submit the [SEL-4a](#) form by September 23, 2019
2. Nomination is made by a Richland county resident seeking nomination with ten valid signatures on the [SELF-5](#) form by October 3, 2019. Signatures must be from individuals who are eighteen years of age or older that own or occupy land within Richland County.

Nomination forms and more information may be requested by contacting Erica Thomas, Richland SWCD Administrator, by calling 419-747-8686 or email [thomas.eric@richlandswcd.net](mailto:thomas.eric@richlandswcd.net).

### Fall Pond Fish Sale

It's time to order fish for your pond!

Choose from among a selection of Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Bluegill, Channel Catfish, White Amur and Fathead Minnows.



Orders and payment are due by Friday, October 4, 2019.

Pick-up is Friday, October 11, 2019, from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Cost: \$1.00 each other than White Amur (\$14 each) and Fathead Minnows (\$6.00 per 100, minimum order of 100)

Total minimum order: \$20.00

If pay by credit card, please add 4% processing fee

Details and an order form may be found on our [website](#) or by calling 419.747.8686.

## Save the Date!



Save the Date for our [Annual Celebration](#) on November 7. Our guest speaker this year will be Guy Denny.

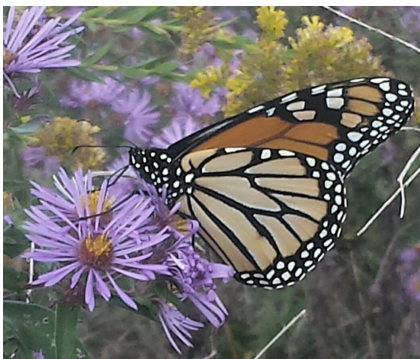
Guest Speaker, **Guy Denny**, is an interpretive naturalist, writer and photographer with a wealth of knowledge about the natural history of Ohio. Mr. Denny retired as Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves after a 33 year career of public service.

He is author of several booklets and articles on Ohio natural history. His most recent publication is the Prairie Penninsula which he co-authored with Cleveland photographer Gary Meszaros.

Currently, he serves as President of the Ohio Natural Areas & Preserves Association which he helped establish in 2011, and is Secretary-Treasurer for the Outdoor Writers of Ohio. Denny also serves on the board of The Friends of the Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden.

Mr. Denny established his 22 acre prairie in Fredericktown with native plants. In his captivating program, **Tallgrass Prairies of Ohio**, he will discuss why we have prairies in North America, the different types of prairies in Ohio and how you can create your own prairie.

## Monarch Meanderings



My 4 year-old daughter and I have spent the last month watching an amazing natural phenomenon. In that time, she's asked a multitude of questions, as 4-year olds do, such as, where did that come from, what is that, how does it do that, and my personal favorite, "Woooooow." Additionally, this wow-inspiring event has been taking place in our very own kitchen. No, we were not cleaning out the Tupperware containers of food that get stuck in the back of the fridge...we were watching the transformation of a monarch caterpillar to a butterfly; from 'the very hungry caterpillar' to the 'my, oh my – a butterfly!'

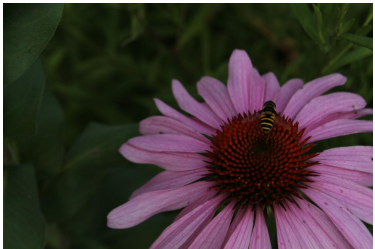
The Monarch butterfly has been in the spotlight these days, as biologists and natural resources professionals around Ohio strive to create and restore habitat to improve pollinator numbers, including monarchs. Nationally, monarch butterflies have declined by 90% in the last 20 years. Honeybees and some species of native bees have also suffered concerning declines. Given that 1 in every 3 bites of food is thanks to pollinators (AND that many wildlife species depend on fruits and seeds from plants), significant losses of pollinators could have a major impact on terrestrial life. E.O. Wilson, a renown naturalist and biologist, said that "Insects are the little things that run the world." Too true, Mr.

Wilson, too true.

The good news is that we can help by creating habitat for pollinators. The better news, is that habitat both large and small, can help. Would you like to convert several acres to pollinator habitat? Wonderful. Do you have a small flower bed in the backyard that can be planted with native wildflowers? Terrific. The even better news, is that there are ways to help if you aren't able to create habitat. The opportunities to learn, participate in citizen science projects, inspire youth, and get involved in other ways, are numerous. In fact, starting in October, Richland SWCD will be asking county residents to collect Common Milkweed seed pods to help the monarch butterfly. Milkweed plants are critical to monarchs as they are the food that fuels the very hungry caterpillars to transform into beautiful butterflies. Milkweeds are also an important source of nectar to many species of pollinators. What happens to the seed pods after they are collected? The seeds are removed and then made available in seed packets with the goal of seeding more milkweed across Ohio (this pod collection takes place across Ohio). Visit or call Richland SWCD for ways to help pollinators on your land and ways to get involved.

Thanks to Marne Titchenell, Wildlife Program Specialist, OSU Extension and School of Environment and Natural Resources, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Resources for contributing this article.

## Pollinator Festival Highlights



Thanks to everyone who took time out of their weekend to visit us at the [Pollinator Festival](#) the first weekend of August. We gave away 89 packets of milkweed seed with planting instructions, pollinator posters and water bottles. It was a great opportunity for us to be asked questions about pollinators and our services. Don't forget that we'll be collecting milkweed seed pods in October! If you picked up milkweed seeds, please let us know how they are doing

after you get them established.

Congratulations to the winners in the pollinator poster giveaway: [Jim and Vonda Gerbasi](#), [Marcia Kinnard](#), [Scott Milligan](#) and [Jason Mok](#). Thank you to USDA-NRCS for providing the posters and for volunteers who helped that weekend: [Craig Bridges](#), [Sheila White](#), [Jim and Janice Reed](#) and [Marilyn Roe](#).

[Click here for photos from the weekend.](#)

## Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes and the Ohio River.

Here are things we can do to make sure that there is "Only Rain Down the Drain".

Never dump anything down a storm drain or into a ditch:

1. Compost yard waste
2. Take unused and unwanted paints and hazardous chemicals to an approved hazardous collection site.
3. Periodically look for leaks under your vehicle and recycle your motor oil, anti-freeze, Transmission fluid and other hazardous chemicals.
4. Check and maintain your septic system, have it pumped regularly.
5. Plant grass seed or mulch bare spots in your yard



Learn more about managing stormwater at [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

## Great Time at the Richland County Fair!

We're not sure if it was the great weather, programs, exhibits or winning personalities of ourselves and our partners, but we had a lot of visitors at the Nature Park this year during the [Richland County Fair](#). If you stopped by to visit, say hello, get information, watch a program or take in the live entertainment, we appreciate it. We gave away water bottles, the remaining milkweed seed with planting instructions and Miracle-Gro donated by Scott's.

We would be amiss if we didn't thank [Alta Florist and Greenhouse](#) for letting us borrow the plants and [Fender's Fish Hatchery](#) for supplying the fingerling fish for the pond. Thanks to them, the pond looked great!

We can't have a contest without prizes and appreciate [Meijer](#) donating the prizes again for this year's Fish Contest. The first place winner was [Brian Stull](#), second place winner was [Sarah Smith](#) and the third place winner was [Jacob Brinley](#). Thank you to everyone who entered the contest.

Matt Wallace, Richland SWCD Ag Technician demonstrated the [Rainfall Simulator](#). Commissioner Darrel Banks and Congressman Troy Balderson and provided a presentation on [ponds](#).

At the last minute, we also decided to have a Rain Barrel giveaway. We actually gave away two Rain Barrels and the winners were randomly drawn from all of the entries. We know the winners, [Ted Togliotti](#) and [Nancy Wiechowski](#) are looking forward to using the rain from their barrels!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in our booth: Linda Collins, [Frank Shipley](#), Chris McQuillen, [Don Karger](#), [Mark Meinzer](#), [Barb Keller](#), [Marilyn Roe](#), and [Michael Silka](#)

## Manure & You Workshop Well Attended

Thank you to everyone who attended the [Manure & You Nutrient Management Workshop](#) on August 20. Seventy-two people attended. We discussed the benefits of manure, soil testing and Nutrient Management plans. The importance of keeping manure and other nutrients on agriculture fields was stressed. The [local producer panel](#) shared their why they feel Nutrient Management Plans are important. Participants could also earn CCA and CLAM credits.



Thank you to our [partners](#), [speakers](#) and sponsors for providing an informative day!

**Partners:** [USDA-NRCS](#), [Ashland and Richland Counties](#) and [Ashland](#), [Crawford](#), [Huron](#) and [Richland Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#), and [ODA](#).

**Speakers:** Jason Hartschuh, [Clark Hutson](#), [Terry Mescher](#), [Matt Wallace](#), [Erica White](#) and [Jason Ruhl](#)

**Sponsors:** [Centerra Co-Op](#), [Country Metals](#), [East of Chicago](#), [FCBank](#), [Fackler Kubota Tractor](#), [Farm Credit Mid-America](#), Ohio Farm Bureau - [Crawford](#) and [Richland](#) Counties, [OSU Extension-Crawford County](#), [Putt Farms](#)

## What's Happening in the Watersheds?

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!

### OSU & NCSC Involvement Fair

Thanks to volunteer, [John Sutter](#) for helping at the OSU and North Central State College Involvement Fair. They welcomed [students, staff and faculty](#) back to campus and shared our Citizen Science Volunteer opportunities. Small rain gauges and manure emoji pencils were given away.

### Upcoming Activities

**September 2:** Office closed for Labor Day

**September 13:** Richland County Land Judging

**September 17 to 19:** [Farm Science Review](#)

**September 24:** [Precipitation Monitor Volunteer Training](#) 1:00 p.m.

**October:** Milkweed Seed Pod Collection

**October 4:** [Fish orders due](#)

**October 11:** Fish pick up

**November 7:** Annual Celebration

### Other News

[Richland County Tire Amnesty Day](#)

[Naturalist on Duty series](#)

[4th Street Pop-Up Project Survey](#)

[Eastern Hellbender at Lowe-Volk Nature Center](#)

#### **SWCD Staff**

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**Theresa Sutter, Community Relations Coordinator**  
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#### **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 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.

**Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician**

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**NRCS Staff**

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**Derek Benner, Wildlife Biologist**

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**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](#).

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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:



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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.