



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News December 2021

Healthy Water + Healthy Soil = Healthy Savings



Producers, time is running out to take advantage of the H2Ohio program. The final sign-up period for the Richland County H2Ohio program is scheduled for this spring. We encourage you to attend an H2Ohio informational breakfast to learn more about the program so you don't miss this opportunity. Incorporating H2Ohio conservation programs will benefit soil and water health in Richland County and beyond.

Join Richland SWCD for free pancakes and information on the H2Ohio farmer incentive program at a pancake breakfast in December or January at two locations. The breakfasts are free, just bring questions and your appetite! Delicious maple syrup donated by OSU at Mansfield will top the pancakes.

Dates:

December 16, 7:30 a.m. Bloominggrove Auction House, 1091 Free Rd, Shiloh

January 13, 7:30 a.m., Jefferson Township Hall, 115 Main Street, Bellville

Please RSVP to [Evan](#) or 419-774-7890. RSVPs are encouraged, but not required. Don't miss these flippin' good times! Click [here](#) for the flyer.

H2Ohio information is found on the [website](#), or by [emailing](#) or calling Evan.

25,000+ Acres Set to Improve Water Quality Through H2OHio Program

The H2Ohio program was launched by the State in 2019 to help increase and preserve Ohio's water quality. Under the direction of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the H2Ohio program pays farmers to adopt cropland conservation practices that aim to reduce the over application and runoff of nutrients, primarily phosphorus, because of the algae blooms it is causing in Lake Erie. By voluntarily adopting the program practices and agreeing to manage and plan their nutrient



applications, Richland County producers are simultaneously benefitting themselves and the environment, including the health of the Lake Erie ecosystem.

H2Ohio first kicked off in 14 counties in North West Ohio, that are part of the Western Lake Erie Basin, to address the algae blooms in the Toledo area. The program was expanded this year to the 10 additional counties that make up the Western Lake Erie Watershed, including Richland County.

Funding was provided from the Ohio Dept of Agriculture to hire a new technician at Richland SWCD for the H2Ohio program (Evan Stern) to coordinate the program in conjunction with Jordan Keller. Numerous in person and virtual meetings were held.

So far, 33 producers have enrolled in the program, which represents 25,311 acres, or in other words, 1 in 4 acres that are eligible for the program.

16 of the 18 eligible townships are enrolled.

In total, H2Ohio is bringing \$500.000 to Richland County.

More producers have expressed interest for the final sign-up period that will be offered in the spring. Farmers must have a complete and approvable nutrient management plan to apply. Contact [Evan](#) or [Jordan](#) or call 419-774-7890 for more information.

Board Supervisor Election Results

The results of the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission Board Supervisor election was announced at the November 4 Annual Celebration. Candidates were Lanny Hopkins, Jean McClintock and Mike Temple. We appreciate their interest in the District and running for a position.

Lanny Hopkins was re-elected to a three-year term and Jean McClintock was elected to her first three-year term. Both terms begin January 1, 2022, and they will join other Board Supervisors Brian Alt, Fred Cooke, and Robert McConkie Jr.

Board Supervisors are interested, conservation-minded, local leaders who promote conservation of the county's natural resources through education, planning and technical assistance which are key to the success of the District. Supervisors advocate for the District, participate in monthly board meetings, assist with programs and services, and attend area and state meetings.



If you are interested in running next year for a Board Supervisor position, please contact [Erica](#) or call 419-747-8684. To learn more about Board Supervisors, visit our [website](#).

Kingwood Center Gardens is Cooperator of the Year



Kingwood Center Gardens was named the Cooperator of the Year and received their award at the Annual Celebration. Brenda Nelson and Lindsay Rossi West accepted the award on behalf of Kingwood Center.

Commendations for their conservation work and stormwater management practices were extended by

Senator Mark Romanchuk, Representative Marilyn John and Commissioners Banks, Mears and Vero.

Known for its historic mansion, beautiful gardens, woodland trails, and ponds, conservation and education efforts have been cultivated throughout the years at Kingwood. They have incorporated rain gardens, rain barrels, native plants, bioretention areas, silts socks and more. To learn more about Kingwood's commitment to conservation, please watch the [video](#) that was shared at the Annual Celebration.

The District extends their sincere thanks to Kingwood Center for being an exemplary steward of the land.

Ella Hafenstein Named Volunteer of the Year

At the Annual Celebration held on November 4, Ella Hafenstein was announced as the Richland SWCD 2021 Volunteer of the Year. Ella volunteers in a variety of capacities in the office, at special events and with special projects.

In honor of Ella being named the Volunteer of the Year, Richland SWCD created and shared a video at the Annual Celebration of her contributions to Richland SWCD and our



community. To learn more about Ella's contributions to the District, watch the [video](#).

To recognize Ella's volunteer efforts with Richland SWCD, a Red Maple tree was purchased by Richland SWCD. The tree was planted at Community Park with assistance from Todd Ward and his staff at the Lexington Parks Department and has also pledged to maintain the tree in the coming years.

Ella's Volunteer of the Year award was also recognized with commendations from Senator Mark Romanchuk, Representative Marilyn John, and Richland County Commissioners Darrell Banks, Cliff Mears and Tony Vero.

Thank you, Ella!

Volunteers Make a Difference



Volunteers were also recognized at the Annual Celebration. We are fortunate to work with an exceptional group of volunteers who help us carry out the Mission of the District. Volunteers help with office projects, at special events, take photos, scan and edit historical photos and documents, manage data and assist the MS4 Technician. Precipitation, Lake and Stream Monitor volunteers

post their data on the District's website on the Water Data Map which provides a real-time picture of what is happening in our County's 8 watersheds. Today, we have 81 volunteers and as of the Annual Celebration, they have contributed approximately 2,500 hours, which has saved the General Fund approximately \$25,000.

Thank you volunteers!

Milkweed Seed Pod Collection a Success

Thank you Richland County for your efforts to collect [milkweed seed pods](#) this fall. As many have noted, the season got off to a late start due to the warm weather. However, your patience paid off and we had a large collection that more than filled the collection container.

Pete Holmes, a volunteer and a women's correctional facility in Ohio will remove the seed and silk from the milkweed pods. The seeds will be returned to us and other volunteers will re-

package the seeds with planting instructions so we may distribute them.

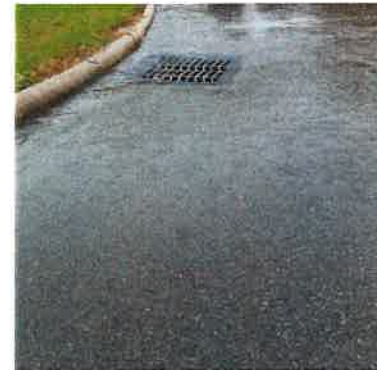
Thank you for supporting the Monarch Butterfly through Richland SWCD and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.



Only Rain Down the Drain: Keep Storm Drains Clean

This month's [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) tip is what to do with your fall leaves. Anything that goes down a storm drain goes directly into our waterways. Here are a few tips:

1. Never dump anything down a storm drain or into a ditch.
2. Debris and pollutants can damage storm drains, back up natural waters and be very costly for repairs or clean-up.
3. It can cause flooding and back-ups.
4. Natural materials like grass and leaves should never be swept or dumped into a storm drain or storm ditch. They produce extra nutrients as they break down that pollute our waterways.
5. Remove pesticides and lawn fertilizer from hard surfaces with a broom or other dry method so they do not get washed into our storm drains.
6. Was your vehicles on your lawn, this will allow the dirt and soap a chance to soak into your lawn before getting washed down a storm drain. The surfactants that are in car wash soap can cause harm to aquatic life, polluting the water and endangering human health.
7. Make sure you take petroleum based products like used motor oil, antifreeze and other vehicle fluids to be properly disposed of at a waste facility made for those types of wastes. Make sure you take pool chemicals, herbicides, paints and medications to the proper facilities to be disposed of properly. All of these can cause major damage to our environment if not disposed of properly.



To find out more about Only Rain Down the Drain and the MS4 program, contact [Dan](#) , call 419-747-8077 or visit the MS4 page on the [website](#).

Season of Giving is Underway



If you are looking for gifts for a gardener or someone interested in conserving water, we have a few ideas for you.

A gardener cannot have enough gloves and we are sure they are going to like the Atlas gloves for their durability and comfort. Priced at \$5.00 + tax they won't break your budget.

Seeds may be a little scarce in the coming year, but don't worry, we have you covered. Pun intended! The different seed packets are suitable to a variety of conditions. Packets available for sale are Woodland Edge, Rain Garden, Butterfly Hummingbird, Native Short Grass and

Wildflower Mix, Pollinator Partnership Native Seed and Septic Field. Each seed packet covers 250 square feet. They cost \$16 + tax.

How about a gift that conserves water and prevent stormwater runoff? We recommend a rain barrel. We have two styles available. One is is blue poly plastic 55 gallon drum with diverter kit. It is \$70.00 + tax.

The second style is a 50 gallon barrel with diverter kit that comes in two colors, granite or charcoal. The decorative top may be flipped over and planted. The cost is \$100 + tax.

If purchasing these items by credit card, please add a 3% convenience fee.

To learn more about these products, please visit our [website](#) or call 419-747-8686.

Stars, Pollinators and Milkweed, Oh My!



The Native Star Workshop began with a program on native plants and pollinators by Noah Cable, Pheasants Forever. He brought examples on native plants and answered a number of questions. Thank you, Noah, for being our guest speaker.

After Noah's program, Erica Thomas instructed participants in how to

create their star ornament. The silk and seeds were removed from the pods first and then creativity flowed! The ornaments turned out well and yarn donated by the late Randy Moritz's husband, Fred, along with natural materials, added the finishing touches.

Benefits of Cover Crops



Why do people plant cover crops and what are they? Cover crops have strong root systems and hold the soil in place which prevents erosion and runoff into streams, lakes and rivers. They are often planted after the garden or field is harvested to over-winter. Come spring they may be left in the ground, mowed down or incorporated into the soil before planting. Cover crops may be inter-seeded among warm weather plants and crops, too. Examples of cover crops are radishes, covers and rye. They are great for soil and water health.

If you plant cover crops and will display a cover crop sign, please let us know . The signs don't take up much room and you can pick the sign up at our office or it may be delivered. We'll take a photo of you with your cover crop and sign like Roger Baird shown in the photo. Thanks, Roger! The idea behind the signs is to promote cover crops throughout the county. If you are interested in a sign, please contact [Theresa](#) or call 419-747-8685.

Preserve your Farm Through the Farmland Preservation Program

The Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP), also known as the Farmland Preservation Program, allows for landowners to put their farms into an easement that ensures farms remain permanently in agricultural production. The Farmland Program supports the food and agriculture industries, which are Ohio's largest industries.

We are accepting applications for the next enrollment period until January 31, 2022. For more information on the program, contact [Matt](#), call 419-747-8687 or visit the [Farmland Preservation Office](#).

Important Dates

December 16: [H2Ohio Pancake Breakfast](#), 7:30 a.m., Bloominggrove Auction House. Free, RSVP encouraged, bot not required

December 17: [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Enhancement \(ACEP-WRE\) Application Deadline](#).
Protects wetland through the purchase of easements.

December 24 and 31: The office is closed in observance of the Holidays.

January 13: [H2Ohio Pancake Breakfast](#), 7:30 a.m., Jefferson Township Hall, Free, RSVP encouraged, but not required.

January 14: [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\) Application Deadline](#) Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities.

[Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\) Application Deadline](#)

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits

[Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCP\) Application Deadline](#)

Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

January 18: Open Enrollment period for [Farmland Preservation Program](#) begins.

January 31: Applications due for [Farmland Preservation Program](#)

SWCD Staff

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NRCS Staff

Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson
Fred Cooke, Treasurer
Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary
Jean McClintock begins her first term in January, 2022.

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.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.

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

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.

Richland Soil and Water Conservation District | 1495 W. Longview Ave, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906

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