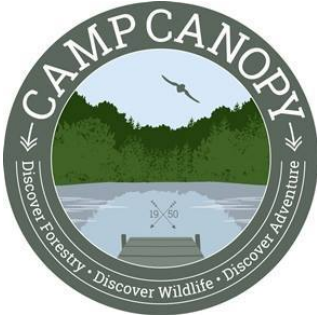


Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News February 2020

Camp Canopy Scholarships Available



Where can you find classic summer camp activities like campfires and swimming, along with activities centered around forestry and wildlife? Camp Canopy, sponsored by the Ohio Forestry Association, offers that kind of experience to high school students.

Please help us spread the word that Richland SWCD is sponsoring two full-tuition (\$375 each) scholarships to the Camp. The week-long, residential camp dates are June 7 to 12, 2020, at FFA Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, Ohio. A one-page essay on why the applicant wants to attend the camp and how it will benefit their future must be submitted with the scholarship application. The scholarship recipients may be asked by the Richland SWCD Board of Supervisors to provide a short report and/or presentation at a Richland SWCD event with photos highlighting their camp experiences.

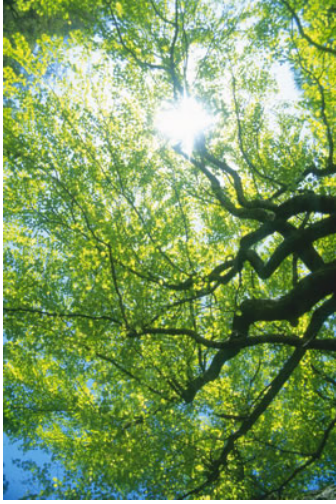
Applications and statements are due in our office by **April 6, 2020, at 4 p.m.** Camp Canopy is a great opportunity for students to learn about Ohio's forests, wildlife, conservation, tree identification, ecology and more.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Camp Canopy. For more information about the scholarships and a scholarship application, please visit our [website](#), [click here](#) or call us at 419-747-8686.

Tree Seedling Sale April 3 & 4

The Tree Seedling is back again this year and will be at Clear Fork High School, Planktown Market and the Nature Park at the Richland County Fairgrounds, April 3. If there are seedlings left over, you can purchase them April 4 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Nature Park. Unfortunately, Arborvitae are not available due to a supply shortage. We're sorry about this and hope to have them next year. Seedlings are purchased on a first-come, first-serve basis, unless you are buying 30 bundles or more. Please call 419-886-2601 (Clear Fork High School) or Jim at 419-564-3881 by March 15 for orders larger than 30 bundles. Bundles are 8 seedlings at \$10 each. To purchase left-over seedlings, please call Jim at 419-756-3881. At the sale, you will meet some of the Clear Fork FFA students and all proceeds benefit the program. For more details including Friday times of the sale, tree species, tree packs and bluebird houses, [click here](#). Thank you for supporting Clear Fork FFA programs!

Trees Benefit Soil and Water



Forested watersheds provide quality drinking water to more than 180 million Americans. There are many considerations that are required to produce clean water including trees. You may not even know how much water that comes from a forested area. Any guesses? Well, it is actually 75 percent of the worlds available fresh water comes from forested watersheds and wetlands. Imagine the impact that may have on the clean drinking water supply for that area if for some reason the forested area that has always been there disappears. We need to help encourage the conservation of these forested areas so they may continue to provide reliable,

safe clean water.

Source: [Arbor Day Foundation](#). Find out more, [here](#).

The Importance of Stormwater Management

When it rains, it pours, and when it pours, we get lots of runoff. This is especially true for urban areas with lots of impervious surface. Urban areas have little vegetation where stormwater can re-infiltrate and naturally filter off stormwater pollutants gathered from the landscape. This naturally filtered stormwater ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers. Most urban areas have separate storm sewer systems where the primary focus is to capture as much runoff as possible and rapidly transport it to the nearest stream through a network of underground pipes. Downstream flooding and stream bank erosion is often reported in highly developed areas. This runoff does not usually get treated and can damage aquatic ecosystems. The goal of stormwater management is to store, infiltrate, evaporate and reduce the flow of stormwater runoff to storm sewers and surface waters which will ultimately improve water quality. Some methods to accomplish this include pervious surfaces, bioretention, green roofs, rain barrels, and rain gardens. Please contact Richland SWCD for more information on stormwater management and attend our Rain Garden and Rain Barrel workshop on Apr. 14. [Click here](#) for Workshop details.

Pastures for Profit Grazing School - April 1, 2 & 4

We're not fooling you...The first session of Pastures for Profit Grazing School will be held **Wednesday, April 1**. Additional sessions are **Thursday, April 2** from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Longview Center and the Pasture Walk on **Saturday, April 4** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at a Richland County Beef Cow-Calf and Goat Operation.

[Register here](#) by **March 25, 2020**.

Participants who attend all 3 sessions will receive a grazing stick at the Pasture Walk and a completion certificate. The resource notebooks and grazing sticks are provided by the Ohio Forage and Grassland Council.

Cost: \$50 per person includes Workshop, Resource Notebook and Dinners

\$20 per person includes Workshop and Dinners

Please note online registration payments are with credit card and you will be charged convenience fees. No refunds are available due to the cost of workshop materials.

School agenda available [here](#).

What are Interns Hayley and Will Up to?

Hayley: While I have been at Richland Soil and Water Conservation District as a MS4 intern, I have been exposed to many tasks a MS4 person performs. I have been specially focused on the townships within the MS4 boundaries which include Madison, Washington, Mifflin, and Springfield. I have been assisting the MS4 technician, Dan Herrold, in those townships with surveying the stormwater sewage system and uploading the data into GIS ArcMap.



Test tube with broth

Test tube after 24 hours

Another task I have been assisting with is surveying the Waters of the State for outfalls, non-outfalls, and potentially IDDE (illicit discharge detection and elimination). In general, illicit discharges include any discharge into a storm drain system that is not entirely composed of stormwater. The exceptions include water from firefighting activities and discharges from facilities already under an NPDES permit. Illicit discharges are a problem because, unlike wastewater, which flows to a treatment plant, stormwater generally flows to waterways without any additional treatment. Illicit discharges often contain pathogens, nutrients, surfactants, and various toxic pollutants. (Source: EPA)

When a potential illicit discharge outfall is discovered, we take a sample to test for IDDE. For this test, you must place 1 milliliter of your sample inside a tube of coliform test broth and place the tube in an incubator for 24 to 72 hours at 36 degrees Celsius. If there is detection of illicit discharge, the broth will turn from red to yellow (see above photos.) In the case shown in the photos, the sample tested positive for illicit discharge. The next step is to share the findings in a report to the health department, so they can start finding the point source and work on getting the problem resolved.

Will: Even though I have only been here for a few weeks, I have gotten the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the environment and how to aid in restoring it. Since working for Richland SWCD, I have had the chance to survey the rivers of the county, help create permits to ensure that home and business owners are up to code and co-exist safely with the environment, and helped put together a handful of other small projects that relate to environmentally friendly hobbies and interests. The biggest portion of my job however is dedicated to creating a 9-Element plan that will improve the Headwaters of the Black Fork, and although I may not finish the project while I am here, I am extremely glad that I got to be apart of something so interesting and cool.

USDA-NRCS Wetland Deadline is March 27

USDA-NRCS announces assistance available to restore and protect Ohio's Privately-owned land for wetland habitat.



The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) utilizes the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component of the program. Applications for ACEP-WRE are accepted on a continuous basis. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the ranking and funding deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2020 funding. The application deadline for this year is **March 27, 2020**.

Through ACEP wetland reserve easements, NRCS helps landowners restore and protect wetland ecosystems. Wetlands are one of nature's most productive ecosystems providing many ecological, societal and economic benefits.

For the full press release, [go here](#). Contact Jason Ruhl, Richland/Ashland District Conservationist at 419-747-8689, Ext. 3 or via [email](#) for more details. This information is also available on the [website](#).

Precipitation Monitor Volunteer Update

Precipitation Monitor Volunteers continue to add rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain amounts to the Water Data Map. With the radical fluctuations in temperatures we've been having, we never know what we'll find in the gauge! See the amounts volunteers have been reporting in our 8 watersheds on the [Water Data Map](#). Thank you, volunteers! The next [Precipitation Monitor Volunteer Training](#) will be held May 14.

Additional Upcoming Events

February 24 and 25: Professional Development, office closed

February 28: [Deadline for CRP General Sign Up](#)

March 12: [Raising Richland](#), 5 to 9 p.m.

March 20: [Deadline for EQIP General Sign Up](#)

March 20: [Deadline for WLEB EQIP General Sign Up](#)

April 14: [Rain Garden & Barrel Workshop](#), 6 to 9 p.m.

April 17: [Order by Date for Pond Fish Sale](#)

June 10: [Family Fun Fest](#)

July 9: [Manure & You](#)

Other Events and News

Farm Bureau [Farmers Share Breakfast - Shelby High School](#), February 29, 7 to 10:30 a.m.

[OSU Syrup and Salamanders](#), February 29, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

[Soil Health Symposium](#), March 5, Kehoe Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Soil Health, Cover Crops and How to Do It Right, March 10, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Planktown Market Basement, RSVP to Gerald Hurst at 419-687-0169

Gorman Nature Center, [Breakfast with the Birds](#), March 14, 8:30 a.m.

[When to Feed and \(Not\) Feed Birds](#)

[Want to Help the Bees? Leave the Dandelions Alone This Spring](#)

[Fertilizer Applied Years Ago Still Affects Lake Erie](#)

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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 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](#).

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.

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"